

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 10/13

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	762 (+21)	36 (+0)
Harper Woods	347 (+4)	36 (+1)

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Board votes to censure Pangborn

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — In spite of a strong recommendation from an attorney to vote down a resolution to censure his client, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education voted 6-1 in favor of censuring Trustee Cindy Pangborn. Pangborn cast the dissenting vote.

The meeting was held in-person at Brownell Middle School's multipurpose room Oct. 12 — the first in-person meeting since March. While attendance was restricted to 160 total participants to allow social distancing, the meeting was sparsely attended.

The resolution, presented for review and discussion at the Sept. 28 meeting, was revised to reflect Pangborn did not place, but "cooperated with a 501(c)4 in placing an ad maligning our high school administrators, our schools and intentionally included misleading information."

Farmington Hills attorney Michael Schwartz addressed the board on his client's behalf during public comments before the vote. Schwartz represented Monica Palmer, the petitioner during the Sept. 16 hearing to approve language for a petition to recall board President Margaret Weertz and Trustee Chris Lee. Palmer, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident, also is listed as

See CENSURE, page 4A



SPECIAL REPORT JoAnn Matouk Romain Mystery

Nearly 11 years ago, Grosse Pointe Woods homemaker JoAnn Matouk Romain went missing. The car she drove was found at St. Paul Catholic Church, where she had attended Mass. Based on what her family believes is scant evidence, Grosse Pointe Farms police immediately came to the conclusion the short, 55-year-old walked across Lakeshore Road in freezing temperatures and committed suicide by drowning in the frigid water of Lake St. Clair. Her family has never accepted the suicide theory. On Oct. 19, Netflix's "Unsolved Mysteries" will look at the JoAnn Matouk Romain case. See the first of our three-part series on page 8A.

Council meeting Zoom bombed

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A new way of going about meetings brings a new risk of issues, which the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council experienced at the beginning of its monthly meeting Monday, Oct. 12.

This was the city's seventh council meeting via Zoom since April, held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the first time a meeting has been "Zoom bombed," a term that refers to an unwelcome, disruptive intrusion by internet trolls.

Just minutes after the

See BOMBED, page 5A

New DPW building operational

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — For the last two weeks, the City's public works department has been moving vehicles and materials from its temporary locations to its new 25,000-square-foot facility, which is now operational and complete, aside from some landscaping work and install-

ing new fencing. The prior home base for the City's DPW was a 5,000-square-foot building built in 1964. With only 11,000 square feet of usable space including the yard, it was far too small to store the department's materials and vehicles, City Manager Pete Dame said, leading to outdoor storage with damaging effects. Leaving road salt in the

elements led to it becoming crusty and hard, while the back half of vehicles not covered by carport canopies rusted quicker.

Due to lack of room, many materials and vehicles had to be stored in locations such as the parking lot behind CVS, the pump station, under the cell tower and even

See DPW, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

"Nature morte avec pot au lait, melon et sucrier" sold for \$28,650,000.

Social district sees successful start

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — One of Michigan's first social districts and the lone district in the Pointes has shown early signs of success.

Since launching in the Park in September, the city is enjoying positive feedback from restaurants and bars that took advantage of a Michigan bill designed to boost patronage at alcohol establishments economi-

cally impacted by health and safety restrictions.

"Everybody that I have talked to about it at the restaurants is excited that we're the first in the Grosse Pointes," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

The Park also is just the second social district opened in Wayne County, following Belleville, he said. The Bricks Pizzeria, O'Flaherty's and Red Crown are the first three establishments that took advantage of the bill

passed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, letting them sell alcohol that can be consumed outside their premises. Businesses eligible to join the Park's social district must operate at Kercheval from the city of Detroit's boundary between Alter and Wayburn to Nottingham, on the north and south sides of Kercheval, continuing to Charlevoix; from the city of Detroit between Alter and

See SOCIAL, page 2A

Sold! Painting proceeds to support Ford House endowment fund

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Mark Heppner watched with optimistic anticipation for the bidding to begin.

The president and CEO of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, like others tuned in to the Oct. 6 Christie's auction,

watched from home as the event streamed live from Rockefeller Center in New York. Up for sale to the highest bidder — and what was meant to be the darling of the night, Heppner said — was an original Cezanne watercolor painting, "Nature morte avec pot

See SOLD, page 3A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Mark Orr
Home: Grosse Pointe Park
He has a successful career in real estate and coaching high school baseball.



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2A | NEWS

SOCIAL:

Continued from page 1A

Wayburn on the north side of Charlevoix to the west side of Nottingham is the remaining area.

Three more establishments are working to secure permits through the state in order to participate, so the Park could have six businesses in the social district by the end of 2020, Sizeland said. O’Flaherty’s purchased heat lamps to further expand its service as the weather chills, he added.

“We’re hoping to extend it as long as we possibly can, but obviously it’s a spring and summer opportunity more than other times of the year,” Sizeland said.

Park public safety has reported no criminal incidents related to activity in the social district, he added. City council noted in July that the initiative could be immediately canceled if business operators and patrons didn’t behave responsibly when they unanimously voted to begin the effort.

Further celebrating the district’s early success, a winner of the logo design competition will be announced by the end of October, Sizeland added. Three



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

This social district notice is placed next to Red Crown, one of three businesses currently participating in the district.

finalists have been chosen in the contest to create imagery that will be displayed in signage identifying the area and reproduced on cups and possibly souvenir items.

“We had very talented contestants and it was exciting to see their work,” Sizeland said.

An announcement of the winner had originally been scheduled by the end of September,

but the finalists were asked to complete additional tasks.

Sizeland said the winning design will be key to further engaging the city and encouraging residents to visit the district.

“I wanted it to convey something that would make them proud and make them want to share with their family and the rest of the community,” he said.

Woods hosts first scarecrow contest

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — It was a symbol of autumn before it became a popular Halloween costume, but the scarecrow’s history dates to centuries ago.

The Egyptians were said to have used the earliest form of scarecrow to protect wheat fields and the Japanese used similar mannequins to preserve rice crops. The Woods Parks and Recreation Department has something else in mind for the legend of the scarecrow since recently announcing a community design competition: lots of fun.

Through early November, Woods residents and businesses are asked to design their most eye-catching creations and display them outside their homes and buildings.

“It is our first city-wide scarecrow contest and our hope is that we can make it an annual

thing where families and businesses keep participating,” said Nicole Gerhart, recreation supervisor.

Born in response to a lack of recent community events, including several popular outings the city administration canceled amid public health concerns, the competition invites wide participation.

“With COVID, many families are looking for something to do,” Gerhart said.

Participants may enter their scarecrows in the categories of scariest, happiest or most creative and are asked to photograph their entries and email the images to lfpassistant@gpwmi.us by Sunday, Nov. 8. Entries should include the family or business name responsible for the submission, the address where it’s displayed and the name of the scarecrow, if applicable. Local businesses are being solicited to donate prizes for the winning

entries, Gerhart said. Although “scariest” is one of the categories, entries should be family-friendly.

While it’s not a Halloween activity, the scarecrow contest incorporates the holiday’s costume and visual aspects, and is geared toward getting Woods residents out into neighborhoods to view the displays. The ease of access to old clothing and other items often used for scarecrows should help encourage participation, Gerhart said.

“We were trying to find something that would be family-friendly and that wouldn’t involve much cost,” she said. “Scarecrows consist of hay and old clothes, things people usually have around the house.”

Additional information is available by contacting the Woods Parks and Recreation Department at (313) 822-2812.

DPW:

Continued from page 1A

in Neff Park, while vehicles able to be stored in the DPW yard had to go through multiple maneuvers one at a time to leave the site. It took at least 15 minutes just to get employees onto the roads, Dame said.

“The whole idea behind the public works facility was to have a building that could function properly to hold everything related to public works,” he added.

The new facility not only is equipped to hold the vehicles in an enclosed space, enabling them to last longer by not being exposed to the elements, but also will allow the City to purchase and store materials such as water pipes and dirt in bulk, saving time and money.

“The other main differ-

ence with being inside is if we’re called for a water main break in the middle of the night or we call out the crews to salt the streets, you won’t hear the beeping of the trucks in reverse as they’re being backed out of the facility or as the front-end motor is loading the salt from where it’s stored into the trucks,” Dame explained. “The noise will be contained in the middle of the night so that the neighbors will have less impact from living near a public works facility.”

The facility also will bring a better work environment for DPW employees.

The old building housed only a small maintenance bay, a couple offices and small lunch room.

“They did not have a locker room or showers,” Dame said, “so if they were working in the



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

A view of the building from the mezzanine over the offices. There is a space for every city truck to park.

sewer pits, fixing up broken sewer lines all day, they had no way to wash up after a day’s work.”

The new facility holds offices for the supervisors, separate locker rooms and bathrooms, and a break room that doubles as a training room.

“It essentially allows the department to function like a public works department should,” Dame explained.

As part of a similarly large-scale project, the City’s public safety department moved into its new facility on Mack

Avenue in late August.

“These projects all started six years ago, spanning the course of three mayors,” Dame said. “You can imagine the feeling is one of great relief that the day is finally here to be in these two major new facilities and using them and operating in a way that these two departments deserve to be operating.”

“There’s a great deal of pride that the employees in public safety and public works have for their jobs and they do an excellent job,” he continued, “but now they have

the tools and facilities to be able to do them more efficiently.”

The public works department may hold an

open house next year during National Public Works Week, so residents may see the facility.

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Plows are lined up in their new spaces.



All of the city’s DPW vehicles fit into the new enclosed space.



Shelving will be installed on this mezzanine, situated over the new offices.

Car enters lake at Provencal

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A 44-year-old Chesterfield Township woman's vehicle ended up in Lake St. Clair near Provencal and Lakeshore at approximately 10:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

The lone occupant of the vehicle, the woman had gotten out into the four-foot deep water and was walking out farther into the lake when offi-

cers from Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores arrived on the scene.

Two Shores officers, James Tassie and Jason Rengert, entered the water wearing personal flotation devices and were able to help the woman to shore from around 100 feet out.

"This is yet another example of the dedication and service our officers in GPS provide every day," Shores

Director of Public Safety John Schulte said via email.

The driver was then transported to a local hospital in good condition, according to Schulte.

"The car wasn't that far out, but it was out far enough that they called for the dive team to make sure there was nobody else involved," Farms Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen explained.

After breaking out the front passenger-side window, the dive team located a child's seat, but after finding the woman's cell phone, which was still operational, were able to confirm with her husband the kids were with him.

It is unknown whether intoxication or drug use were involved at this time.

"Nothing was found to indicate that," Jensen reported.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE FARMS PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Public safety officers work to remove a car from Lake St. Clair last Thursday night.

SOLD:

Continued from page 1A

au lait, melon et sucrier," offered from the Ford House collection.

Around 280,000 people from around the world tuned into the auction. With the bang of the gavel, the Cezanne sold for \$28,650,000 — setting a world auction record for a watercolor, the auction house said.

While pleased with this result, Heppner said making the decision to part with the painting was difficult.

"It's never really an easy decision for any organization, no matter who they are, to part with any asset, no matter what it is," Heppner said. "Our board made that decision long ago ... for the long-term sustainability of our organization. ... They gave serious consideration entertaining the sale of this painting. It's not something any organization should take lightly. They were thoughtful, they did their due diligence. I'm proud of the board for making a sound decision and moving forward and following through.

"And Christie's was great to work with," he added. "They couldn't have been more wonderful."

Initially, the sale was meant to be part of Christie's traditional spring auction event, Heppner said. The onset of COVID-19 canceled said auction and the auction house began strategizing how to move forward.

"Christie's was really innovative and creative," Heppner said. This summer, "they mounted the first international — with four locations, Hong Kong, London, New York and Paris — online sale. I sat in on it to watch and observe. ... It was interesting to see what they did. They said it exceeded

their expectations and it's what we needed to feel confident to move forward with this sale."

Prior to the auction, the painting was sent to Hong Kong and London before returning to New York to draw up excitement for the piece.

"I wanted to be very optimistic," Heppner said, explaining that Ford House interviewed three auction houses before deciding on Christie's and all three estimated the painting's value between \$20 million and \$27 million.

"It hit right where they said," he noted. "The board was very happy, felt fortunate, grateful. Being the optimist always, I was hoping for \$30 (million) to \$35 million, but I certainly wasn't disappointed."

While Heppner hasn't been given information on the buyer, he said Christie's plans to inquire whether the painting's new owner is comfortable being named. If not, it's possible Christie's will release a statement regarding the country in which it will reside, as well as whether it will be part of a private collection or for public display.

For more than 80 years, "Nature morte avec pot au lait, melon et sucrier" was a fixture at Ford House. It was painted between 1900 and the artist's death six years later. The still life belongs to a group of watercolors that represent the culmination of Cezanne's life-long study of painting, the auction house noted.

It was one of more than 200 works of art collected by the Fords when they lived at the Grosse Pointe estate.

"Edsel and Eleanor did collect," Heppner said. "They evolved into very dedicated art collectors, but they were more patrons of art. They supported local art, individual artists, art institutions like the DIA. ... It was

part of the life of who they were. They were very much not just about collecting, but about being philanthropic with art."

When the Fords lived in Grosse Pointe Shores, they had no idea their home would become a National Historic Landmark or that their art and art objects would be so treasured, Heppner explained.

"That's not what they were trying to do," he said. "They collected what they liked here and now. A lot of it was given away to family."

Many of the pieces throughout Ford House are reproductions of artwork the Fords donated to the Detroit Institute of Arts, sold or gave to family members, Heppner said.

And while there's plenty of beautiful art still displayed at Ford House — including a Matisse hanging on the second floor, "which we have no plans to sell," he said — auctioning the Cezanne was for the betterment of the Ford House legacy.

"All proceeds go to the existing endowment ... for the future of Ford House," Heppner said.

When Eleanor Ford passed away in 1976, she set aside \$50 million for an endowment to support the estate in the future.

"Eleanor had the foresight to do that," Heppner said. "She also expressed her desire to leave the estate for the betterment of the community."

"She did not want it to be a burden on the family or the community," he added. "The last thing Ford House wants to be is another institution with its hand out to the community, not that there's anything wrong with that. We want to solve our own issues if we have issues. This is a private operating foundation. ... The vast majority of our

revenue comes from one source and that is the endowment she set up."

With the auction behind him and the endowment enriched, Heppner said Ford House is looking forward to the opening of its new visitor center and administration building — projects that have been delayed several times since ground broke in 2017.

"When these buildings are done, there will be nothing like them in the community, in southeast Michigan, in the state," he said. "They'll be a crowned jewel for their quality, craftsmanship, detail and artistry."

A wet spring and early summer in 2019, coupled with delays in the delivery of materials, postponed construction even before the pandemic struck this spring, causing more interruptions.

"We planned that we would have been in the buildings already," Heppner said. "2020 was to be this launching pad for reintroducing, reimagining the new Ford House. ... We want to be community partner and asset to the community, not just behind stone walls. The buildings were going to launch us into all this attention. Now the attention has been moved to spring 2021. Schedules are tightening up. If all goes well, we'll be in the buildings as early as mid-April or into May."

The structures are 75 to 80 percent complete, Heppner said. Most of what's left is interior work — flooring, carpeting, paneling, moving in furniture, installing exhibitions — and landscaping, which won't happen until spring.

"We need to get this community excited and proud for what we've done," he said. "It's going to be unbelievable. ... We're so excited for Ford House and for everybody."

DTE repairs sidewalk where woman injured

A temporary section of sidewalk near Maryland in the Park has been secured after a woman's leg sank several inches into the ground beneath it.

Brandie Paling was rescued by several public safety officers after her leg was submerged to the knee around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, during a walk with her two children.

Paling's social media post described a casual stroll before she stepped into the temporarily filled area where underground DTE Energy line replacement was being completed.

"Thanking God it swallowed me and not my kids," Paling's post read.

Medics with buckets and shovels responded immediately, rescuing Paling who suffered minor injury.

She thanked the "awesome police and

paramedics" in her post.

A DTE spokesperson said weather contributed to the incident.

"We were deeply concerned when we learned that a resident was injured on a temporary sidewalk recently installed by a third-party contractor working for DTE," said Colleen Creagh Rosso. "DTE worked closely with the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Works to secure the site and investigate. We found that recent heavy rains damaged the temporary sidewalk and we worked quickly to make repairs. Because the safety of our customers and employees is our top priority, we've inspected all temporary sidewalks in the area and determined that they were not similarly impacted by the storm."

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

The Week Ahead

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Round Robin Pickleball Bash at Patterson Park. Registration begins 9:30 a.m., tournament play follows 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$20. Call (313) 822-2812, Ext. 200.

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods residents-only hazardous waste drop-off, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the public works yard, 1200 Parkway Drive, at Marter.

MONDAY, OCT. 19

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

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

TUESDAY, OCT. 20

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21

◆ Mini Halloween Boofest at Osius Park, 6 to 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 24

◆ Halloween in the Park, 1 to 4 p.m. Sign up for a time slot at the Lavins Activity Center. Cost is \$10. Call (313) 822-2812, Ext. 200 or 201.

◆ Hill Mortgage hosts a shred party in the municipal parking lot behind Kercheval on The Hill, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Limit of 50 pounds per customer. Call (313) 636-3700 or email jkaleta@hillhomeloans.com.

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No Appointments Necessary for Oil Changes

4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Orr exudes positivity in life

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Long-time Grosse Pointe Mark Orr has spent a lifetime giving back to the community.

The high school baseball standout grew up on the east side, graduating from Finney before accepting an athletic scholarship to Western Michigan University to play outfield on the baseball team.

He was presented a choice to either play professional baseball for the Detroit Tigers organization or go to college. Tigers scout Bill Lajoie discovered the high school baseball phenom, drafting him in the fifth round at No. 112 in the mid-1970s.

"I had a choice to make," Orr, of Grosse Pointe Park, said. "I could

keep a signing bonus and who knows what happens if I don't make the big leagues, or accept my college scholarship, go to Western, play baseball and earn a degree.

"It was a tough decision, but thanks for my family and coaches for talking it through with me, I decided to play college baseball."

He played for the Broncos, had a good college career and earned multiple degrees at the end of that chapter of his life. He once hit four home runs in the first game of a double-header, which was a moment in time that he will never forget.

Orr earned three degrees at Western, mass media communications, business management and physical education/sports management. He

also earned secondary education certification in all majors and finished with a 3.46 grade point average as a student-athlete.

He graduated from college and threw his hat into the real estate business. He has worked at Sine and Monaghan Real Living in Grosse Pointe Farms the past number of years.

He hit a home run in that category as his real estate talents have done him well. He met his wife of more than 30 years, Jan, who has been part of a one-two combination with Orr during the successful game of life.

Orr never strayed far from baseball. He coached as an assistant at Grosse Pointe South under head coach Dan Griesbaum, where they won a state champion-

ship, then moved to Grosse Pointe North to coach at the freshman and junior varsity level.

During his time coaching at North and South with his manager, Jan, at his side, his teams have won more than 250 games.

"Jan has been a tremendous help, organizing the teams, and I coach them," Orr said.

They are the keystone combination that is the catalyst for success. The support they give each other is what drives their successful balance of life, he said.

Jan had a successful run with her involvement in Grosse Pointe hockey, using her management skills to the fullest.

Orr also coaches on the side, giving individuals lessons on baseball fundamentals. He loves the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK ORR

Mark Orr and his wife, Jan, at a recent visit to the Dirty Dog Jazz Café.

game and this is his way to stay connected. He is also the owner of Double Play Sports/Pro Am Baseball.

"I've been fortunate to balance my career in real estate and coaching baseball," Orr said.

He doesn't have any children, but he says the players he coached through the years have been a nice substitute.

"I've coached some great kids through the

years and met a lot of wonderful families," Orr said.

He stepped away from coaching at North and is kind of in free-agent mode. He has listened to some coaching offers, but nothing has wowed him.

Orr is a motivational speaker, mentor and successful team builder. His winning percentage of more than .750 is evidence of that.

Get Your Pink On

Sponsored by Ascension St. John Hospital, Get Your Pink On took place Oct. 1, and highlighted the importance of women's health. Physicians gave presentations on breast cancer screening, the importance of vitamin D and the genetics-breast cancer link.

Goodie bags, drawings and retail specials also were part of the event. Top, Julia Hoffmann, Maureen Hennessy and Christine Trempus gathered in The Village with the goodie bags they received after attending a physician presentation. Bottom, Sharon Campbell, an 18-year cancer survivor, exits Next Door Art & Gift Gallery through pink streamers.



Left, Dr. Cynthia Browne, a radiation oncologist, talks about the importance of vitamin D for respiratory and immune health.

Below, the Anthony L. Soave Family Mobile 3D Mammography truck was parked on Kercheval during the event so women could get mammograms.

PHOTOS BY
RENEE LANDUYT



CENSURE:

Continued from page 1A

the record-keeper for the Taxpayers for Grosse Pointe Schools, a 501(c)4 formed Sept. 2 that paid for the advertisements in question.

"I am here today because I have come across a resolution that apparently was authored by a person who is a member of this board and that resolution seeks to censure my client,

Cindy Pangborn, for actions that she did not engage in," Schwartz said. "In fact, looking at the resolution as it was there does not even appear to be any evidence whatsoever that my client engaged in any action involving a Taxpayers for GP Schools publication of advertisements that appeared in the Grosse Pointe News and other media. Under these circumstances, it seems to me that there is a significant problem here to have brought such a resolution seeking to essentially denigrate my client where

there is no basis for doing so.

"It seems to me you have a number of choices, one of which would be to deny it and vote it down, which I think is the appropriate situation given the fact there is no proper foundation for this motion in the first place," he continued. "The other one is to approve it. If you were to do that, you would bring dishonor not only upon yourselves but upon this school district. And so, therefore, I am suggesting to you in the strongest of means to take this motion

— this resolution — deny it and allow this board to get on with the business at hand and not engage in this type of activity."

Prior to the discussion on the motion, Pangborn asked what action would be taken if the resolution passed.

"The action is that your censure is on the record, that you've been disciplined by the rest of the board members," Weertz said. "That's the action. There's no further action."

"So it's a form of embarrassment," Pangborn said. "It's a form of discipline," Weertz clarified.

Pangborn read a signed and notarized affidavit Schwartz passed out to her fellow board members.

"The problem with this resolution is that the accusation never happened," Pangborn read. "I never placed the ad in the Grosse Pointe News. I didn't pay for it, I don't belong to nor have I cooperated or had any involvement with the nonprofit 501(c)4. I had nothing to do with any involvement in the placement or creation of the advertising in question. I support our teachers, the staff and the administrators at all our buildings who have worked tirelessly to support our students and who have been put in an impossible position by the district administrators. Based on this information — and there is no proof of the accusation

— I would like to call the question."

Board members shared their thoughts during a roll call vote.

"I understand that it's uncomfortable to have a discussion like this," board Treasurer Judy Gafa said, "but I'll take an hour if I have to to defend our administrators and our schools because they work hard. I'll also take an hour if we need to to defend the teachers who work so hard. To have an ad like that placed in the paper is so awful, is so disgusting. ... It's worth a half-hour of someone's time to stand up and do the right thing. Sometimes standing up and doing the right thing is not easy, but at the end of the day, I'm going to do it."

"This is a sad day in Grosse Pointe public schools," Weertz said. "I don't take any pleasure in having to do this. We have employees that we must not involve in name-calling in the newspaper. That was demeaning and we won't stand for it. I won't stand for it. Each of you can decide on your own what you stand for. But I stand for our principals and our staff. We have never had this type of campaign before."

"I was initially going to vote 'no,'" Trustee Joseph Herd said, "the reason being I think everyone should have second chances, but I asked a question a couple of weeks

ago. And the question was, 'Mrs. Pangborn, were you aware that your picture and name were going to be in the ad?' And you said yes. ... I believe that you know that as Americans we all have a right to express our opinion, but not in every position. And when we take on particular positions, then we are not able to do what others who are not in that position do. Because of that, I thought about it and I came to the conclusion that you said you were not aware of what was in the ad, but that ad disparaged our teachers and our administration to the point of where I think that in our positions, we have to be extremely responsible about what we lend our names to."

"Freedom of speech is one thing, but libelous statements are another thing," Lee said. "If I saw an ad like that with my picture and my name, I would raise holy hell to stop it."

"I'm not happy about my 'yes' vote," Secretary Christopher Profeta said. "I attended the last meeting with an open mind and what I heard was you say that you coordinated on artwork. I heard other people on the ad say they saw the message. That to me is my reasoning for my 'yes' vote."

Secretary Kathleen Abke did not comment, but voted in favor of the resolution.

Grosse Pointe News

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City of Grosse Pointe

Harassing communications

A member of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education received political literature with handwritten profanities on it in her mailbox Thursday, Oct. 8.

Reckless driving without license

After driving through a red light at Jefferson Avenue and Lakeland Street, a 15-year-old Detroit girl was arrested for driving without a license at 9:37 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.

Stolen credit card

A 46-year-old Detroit woman reported her boyfriend, a 49-year-old Detroit man and known drug dealer, for stealing her credit card while she was in the hospital Friday, Oct. 9, and charging \$634.95 from a convenience store.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

More stolen political signs

A 2020 presidential election sign was stolen from a Lothrop Road yard Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Another political sign was stolen from a Vendome Road yard between 10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, and 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Identity theft

A 64-year-old Farms man discovered he was the victim of identity theft Thursday, Oct. 8, when Wayfair contacted him regarding an outstanding balance of \$821.20, which he did not authorize.

Not a picky renter

When an appointment was made to rent any car for any amount of money Thursday, Oct. 8, employees at an area car rental service had raised suspicions.

The 18-year-old Detroit man then tried to use a fake Michigan driver's license to rent the vehicle and was arrested for fraud.

Suspicious filmer

A 24-year-old Macomb Township man was reported to public safety by the owner of a business in the 100 block of Kercheval Avenue Friday, Oct. 9, when he was seen with a camera on his lap filming people eat, including a group of girls around the ages of 12 to 14.

The man was advised he will be charged with trespassing if he returns to the business.

Gas vendetta

A petroleum transport employee was filling fuel holding tanks at an area gas station at 7:55 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11, when a man, suspected to be a 29-year-old from Detroit, drove onto the grass and backed over the fuel supply hose to get to the air pump.

When asked what he was doing, the driver said he didn't see the hose, but then proceeded to drive forward, running it over again.

Wrong way

After being seen traveling the wrong direction on eastbound Mack Avenue at 1:29 a.m. Monday, Oct. 12, a 34-year-old Detroit man was pulled over and arrested for operating while intoxicated.

A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content was .22 percent.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Operating while intoxicated

After being stopped on Lakeshore Road for improper lane use and striking the curb at 12:53 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, a 20-year-old Chesterfield man was arrested for operating while intoxicated, second offense; driving while license suspended; not having

insurance and minor in possession of drug paraphernalia.

While a preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be .073 percent, he admitted to smoking marijuana and taking pills before driving.

New vehicle, old plate

A 37-year-old Grosse Pointe man who was pulled over for an improper plate at Lakeshore and Oxford roads at 4:52 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, stated he had just purchased the vehicle at the end of September and was taking it home after getting work done on it.

The plate belonged to another one of his vehicles, for which he was arrested in addition to not having insurance.

No insurance

A 39-year-old Ferndale man was arrested for not having insurance at 10:14 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, after he was pulled over on Lakeshore Road and Fontana Lane for having no license plate.

Drawing attention

When pulled over on Lakeshore Road at 2:28 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, for speeding 48 mph with hazard lights flashing, LEIN showed the 39-year-old Detroit man's vehicle had no insurance.

The man then provided a false name and date of birth before being arrested for not having a license or insurance.

Speeding without insurance

A 19-year-old Hazel Park man traveling 58 mph at Lakeshore and Clairview roads at 9:12 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, told officers he just purchased the vehicle and had not had a chance to insure or register it, for which he was arrested.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Driving while suspended

A 27-year-old Detroit man's vehicle was impounded after he was stopped for disobeying a traffic signal while traveling north on Harper near Allard around 2:20 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 11.

He was cited after his driving record showed 21 suspensions.

Retail raid

A suspect is sought after taking several cases of beer, dishwashing detergent and paper towels from a supermarket in the 20400 block of Mack around

4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, without paying.

The man was described as white, heavy-set, around 50 years old and wearing a blue shirt and khaki shorts. He was last seen fleeing in a black Honda with no license plate, traveling north on Mack.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Stolen equipment

A \$1,500 concrete saw was stolen from an unlocked work trailer in the 1200 block of Wayburn between 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, and 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9. The tool is described as orange and white in color.

Stolen bikes

Two bikes valued at a total of \$850 were stolen from an unlocked garage in the 1000 block of Nottingham between 1 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9. Also stolen from a rear porch were two duffel bags containing miscellaneous tools.

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

BOMBED:

Continued from page 1A

meeting began, and during a presentation by a representative of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, unknown voices slinging profanity and vulgar sentences overtook the proceedings. The meeting was shut down by city administration moments later.

"They came in all at once and you know we've had a pretty successful run of meetings, so I think that we're so used to our residents behaving," Assistant City Manager and City Clerk Derrick Kozicki said. "... The names were normal and then they weren't normal and then I was trying to end the meeting as quickly as possible."

The council meeting was then slowly restarted as city administration let participants in one at a time to verify each person.

"We apologize, everybody, for that interruption," Mayor Louis Theros said, as the meeting resumed around a half hour later.

An additional precaution included muting each participant who was not a co-host — co-hosts are typically members of council, city staff and those presenting — without the ability to unmute themselves. During public comment portions, residents were unmuted one at a time after being verified.

"It appears when I was trying to turn the doorbell on, I accident-

tally clicked the 'allow participants to unmute themselves' (button), so I think that was our cause," Kozicki said, referring to a Zoom feature that alerts hosts when participants show up to meetings late, so city administration will notice they're there and let them in.

Due to the Open Meetings Act, the city posts the passwords to Zoom meetings on its website, which allow anyone access.

"I'm surprised it took that long for that to happen," Councilman Neil Sroka said.

Zoom bombing is illegal and punishable by fines and imprisonment, according to the Department of Justice's U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Michigan. Such charges could include disrupting a public meeting, com-

puter intrusion, using a computer to commit a crime, hate crimes, fraud and transmitting threatening communications.

"You think Zoom bombing is funny?" asked Matthew Schneider, U.S. Attorney for Eastern

Michigan, in a press release in April. "Let's see how funny it is after you get arrested. If you interfere with a teleconference or public meeting in Michigan, you could have federal, state or local law enforcement knocking at your door."

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Survey detects 'Trombly effect'

The comprehensive education survey done for the Grosse Pointe News shows, along other highlights, that an unfortunate divergence is building between the two ends of the school district.

The deepest opposition to recent changes — closing two elementary schools and moving fifth graders to the middle schools — comes from the end of the district encompassed by ZIP code 48230. The changes, in response to declining enrollment, took effect this fall.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System is made up primarily of ZIP codes 48230, which covers the cities of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Park, and 48236, which covers the remaining Pointes. (The district also includes part of ZIP code 48225 in Harper Woods; unfortunately, numbers there are too small to yield significant survey findings.)

The differences between the two ends of the district mostly show up among those expressing dissatisfaction with the way things are, well beyond issues involved in school reconfiguration.

For example, twice as many people (29 percent) in 48230 think educational quality has gotten worse over the past two years than people in 48236 (14 percent). Almost half (47 percent) of those in 48230 think the district has done only a fair to poor job of handling its finances, compared to a bit more than a quarter (28 percent) in 48236.

Although only a small percentage of respondents gave the district an overall grade of D-F, the numbers were markedly higher (17 percent vs. 4 percent) in 48230 than in 48236. Fewer respondents in 48230 believed they had supported past bond issues, as well.

Similar disparities occurred when respondents were asked to rate administrators and the Board of Education, but not teachers, who got high grades from everyone.

And of course the issue of closing Trombly Elementary School in Grosse Pointe Park was decisively less popular in 48230, where that school is located. Respondents in 48230 also favored a board recall 48 percent to 31 percent, with 21 percent undecided. Those in 48236 opposed it, with 33 percent for, 46 percent against, and 21 percent undecided.

Notably, the two ZIP codes did not demonstrate major differences when respondents were asked about potential scenarios for reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. But even then, more respondents (41 percent) in 48230 thought the district's actual response was fair to poor, than those (27 percent) in 48236.

Keep in mind that these breakdowns involve high margins of error; still, the differences are big enough to be considered significant.

And seen as a trend, rather than individual gripes, they suggest that district dissatisfaction is more concentrated in the ZIP code that includes Trombly. (Those respondents even seem to register the highest opposition to closing Poupard Elementary School, at the opposite end of the district.)

All of which sets the stage for an election in which five of the seven seats on the Board of Education are up for grabs. The survey makes it pretty clear that the community making up the district is split almost in half over the issue of closing schools — and prefers, in all areas, to keep fifth graders in elementary school — with opposition heaviest in the Park and the City.

That makes it harder to envisage where consensus might emerge or which candidates' platforms and skills might help the district come back together. The survey, conducted by EPIC-MRA, a survey research firm out of Lansing, seems to demonstrate that respondents unhappy about one set of decisions have become increasingly skeptical of almost all other aspects of school district management.

And the geographic disparity, as shown in the difference of opinions in the two ZIP codes covering the Grosse Pointes, adds another layer of complication. It suggests the next Board of Education, if it is to succeed at all, will need to represent and embrace this broad range.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Staff photographer Renee Landuyt believes this perfectly coifed tree on Ballantyne in Grosse Pointe Woods, when its foliage is full, looks like the hairstyle of the famous painter and TV host of "The Joy of Painting," Bob Ross. One of his famous quotes is, "The secret to doing anything is believing you can do it." Those are good words to live by.

OUR VIEW

G.P. entering peak fall colors

You don't need to head way up north to see great fall color. According to the County Road Association of Michigan, you need only go as far north as Lakeshore Road near the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House to have a lovely drive once the leaves change.

No doubt that stretch of road is nice, although for some reason the road association describes it as lying between Eight Mile and Marter roads — not realizing, as most Pointers know, that Eight Mile never reaches Lakeshore. Perhaps they meant Vernier Road.

In any event, talking only about county roads sort of misses the point around here. Admittedly, the rest of the county stretch of Lakeshore through Grosse Pointe Shores and into Grosse Pointe Farms remains a beautiful — if less tree-lined — drive. But the real showstoppers around here each fall are city streets.

The Pointes practically glow when the light is right. Street after street offers a canopy or a curtain or a tunnel of color. Don't tell anyone, but the best of the best is Berkshire Road in Grosse Pointe Park, both above and below Jefferson, according to a somewhat

prejudiced expert: Brian Colter, forester for both the Park and the City of Grosse Pointe.

The Pointes' big advantage is diversity of species, Mr. Colter says, which results in a variety of colors each fall. Yellow is the most common around here, followed closely by red; maples are the most common tree — 38 percent of the inventory in both cities where he works.

Throughout the Pointes, trees number about 60,000, and that diversity has become a necessity as various tree diseases and insect infestations move through the region. Even those precious maples may be under threat if the Asian longhorn beetle makes its way here, Mr. Colter said.

The area is entering peak color right about now, he said.

Although not necessarily related to the timing of the best color, the Pointes have their own, slightly warmer microclimate to thank for an additional boost in what can grow here. And hopefully that microclimate will give Pointers, this year, a chance to drive — or stroll — through day after luminescent day.

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.

Crossroads dinner canceled, donations needed

To the Editor:

We are sorry to have to announce that the special pre-Thanksgiving dinner at the Crossroads Soup Kitchen has been canceled this year due to concerns of spreading COVID-19.

Each year, since 1997, we have served a complete turkey dinner to approximately 1,000 needy men, women and children thanks to the generosity of hundreds of our neighbors, friends and family.

You have donated the turkeys, provided funds needed to purchase the rest of the meal, transported supplies, worked in the Soup Kitchen, offered encouragement and prayers, and have been the ultimate sup-

port group for this bigger than life annual project.

We really could not have done it without you. But, please keep your energy and enthusiasm in your back pockets as we are expecting to return next year, better than ever. In the meantime, please do not forget the neediest of our neighbors.

According to Forgotten Harvest, right now, "In the city of Detroit, over 57 percent of children under the age of 18 live in poverty." That means that one in two children in our own backyard are food insecure. And, that doesn't even address the incidence of hunger among adults. However, we can do something about these tragic statistics.

Please consider donating the cost of a turkey

— the turkey you would have purchased if our Soup Kitchen dinner was going to take place this year. Whatever you would have spent on that donation can be turned into food for a family.

Every day of every week, Crossroads of Michigan sees clients who are in need of many things, but food is the No. 1 request. Last year, Crossroads' daily outreach program distributed 226,224 pounds of food, one bag at a time.

This year the situation has worsened due to the increase in unemployment and restrictions resulting from the pandemic.

Donations can be made by check, or electronically. Visit the Crossroads website at crossroadsofmichigan.org to donate online through PayPal. Or, mail a check to Crossroads of Michigan, 2424 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit 48208, and please memo: Thanksgiving. If you prefer, a check made out to Crossroads of Michigan may also be dropped off at our home at 266 Lewiston Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, 48236.

Thank you for your generosity now and over so many years. We look forward to making a dif-

ference with you, again, in the Soup Kitchen next year. Until then, please pray for Crossroads, all those who are in need, and stay well.

YOLANDA AND CHARLIE TURNER
Grosse Pointe Farms

Roundabout a good idea

To the Editor:

I quite like the idea of turning the horrible Moross/Mack intersection into a roundabout or rotary or whatever we decide to call them.

I have driven on them here and in other countries and find them the most efficient way of moving traffic, once you get used to them. They avoid unnecessary starting and stopping as well as being more aesthetic, in that the center provides an opportunity for sculpture or plantings.

And while I'm on the subject, I think that the placing of stop signs at the tiny Wayburn/Kercheval traffic circle defeats the whole purpose of its design. They are totally superfluous and merely add to the general sign clutter of which we have way too much already in my opinion.

KURT SHUCK
Grosse Pointe

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I SAY By Mary Anne Brush

Somewhere still in time



I was looking through old photos the other day and came upon one of my parents. They're at that age I hold them perpetually in my mind now that they're gone.

They're sitting on the back terrace together, unraked leaves littering the bricks. My father is still robust, slim but not yet frail, wearing a plaid flannel shirt and work pants. My mother is in a blouse, pair of slacks and heels — her uniform

whether she's teaching school or driving to the grocery store. She's reading the New York Times, legs crossed. My dad is leaned over, elbows resting on his knees, his hands together at some task, two buckets at his feet.

Whoever took the picture has caught their attention, as my mother has lowered the paper and my dad has turned his head to face the camera. They're both smiling.

I shared the photo with my siblings, for nostalgia's sake. My sister thinks our dad was peeling apples to make applesauce. It would be the right time of year, evidenced by the gathering of rust-colored leaves at

their feet and the hint of gold behind the pines. One bucket would be for the peelings, the other for the bared apples.

We had an apple tree out back and every other year or so it would yield a crop. They were not apples you were tempted to eat. They were small and misshapen, shrunken and knotty and puckered with holes, but to my father, they were a treasure trove.

He never touched the apples on the tree, but would gather them from the ground to make batches of lumpy applesauce that was never, no matter how much sugar he added, sweet enough. He enjoyed the process, though — peeling the

apples, boiling them for hours and then mashing the pulp. The smell would fill our house.

I wish I knew what was in the pages of the newspaper my mother was reading that day. Did she share the news with my father? Did he listen, or was he distracted by reflections unrelated to whatever troubling headlines disturbed the world that day?

The light on my mother's face indicates the sun was setting in the pasture behind our house, casting a long shadow across the bricks, but igniting the trees. There's a rectangle of light along her ankle and my father's forehead. I can feel the heat of that sun. I see the veins on my

dad's hands, recall their coolness and strength and the warmth of my mother's hands.

It's a moment of stillness that won't last. My mother will soon refold the paper, restoring the sections to their proper order, and my father, his work complete, will gather his buckets. She will head to the kitchen to tie on an apron and prepare dinner, the NPR theme music on the radio heralding the arrival of more news for her quiet intellect to absorb.

He will retire to his study to grade the student papers stacked on his desk or roll a plain sheet of paper into his IBM Selectric typewriter. The erratic clack of the keys

will be followed by the silence of his pencil or pen — a careful notation here, a quiet crossed-out word there.

Somewhere in the house, there are children. Reading upstairs in their bedrooms, doing homework at the kitchen table, watching TV, or playing outside with friends. Summoned indoors by the dinner bell, they bring with them the scent of dry leaves and the evening's chill.

The table is set and the candles are lit. There's a dog curled in the corner of the dining room and a cat perched on the buffet. My father takes his seat at the head of the table. At his back, behind the glass of the French doors, the light is fading, a pale glow behind black trees.

The day is over and another one yet to begin, somewhere still in time.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1945

75 years ago this week

MORE ON STREET FIRES: It all depends on where you sit ... or rather where you live when you start that fire to burn autumn leaves. The Park recently announced that anyone who burned leaves on the street would be prosecuted. It was said the fires spoiled a lot of new pavement last year. Now the subject has come up in the Farms and the story is entirely different. "The more

they burn, on the streets or elsewhere, the more we like it," said Murray Smith, Farms engineer. "We don't have to clean them up and haul them away or pull them out of the sewers."

Obituaries: Margaret V. Belfrey, Mrs. Charles L. Frederick

1970

50 years ago this week

CITIZENS CIRCULATE PETITIONS AGAINST RINK: A citizen campaign fighting the erection of an indoor hockey rink by the Grosse Pointe Hockey Association at Elworthy Field is gaining momentum. Leaders of the campaign told the News that some dozen petitions opposing the proposal are currently being circulated in the City.

Obituaries: Carter Sales Jr., Claire Ballard, Russell A. Alger Jr., Joseph B. Hester, Clifton M. Bayliss, Gilbert J. Hatie, Frank I. Bowles, Alexander G. Ashley, Edna M. Meissner, Catherine Donovan, Phyllis M. Hoag, Byron Birks Phillips

1995

25 years ago this week

SANDERS CLOSES VILLAGE STORE: Despite efforts over the past couple years to keep Sanders in the Village afloat, the restaurant/confectionary closed its doors last weekend. Sanders, which has been at the same location since 1935, almost closed in 1987 and again in 1994. The store hasn't been profitable for several years, Sanders Systems President James Braiser said.

DEBATE RENEWED OVER CLOSING CAMPUSES DURING LUNCH: Will the actions of a few unruly students

affect all who attend public high school in Grosse Pointe? Ever since the mid-1970s, when the Grosse Pointe school district opened the high school campuses for the lunch period, the issue periodically surfaces as to whether the campuses should be closed. This year is another one of those times.

Obituaries: John G. Sauer, Margaret Boehr Canty, Irene M. Leithauser, Mary Hays Gilmore, Wesley Jeffrey, William R. Olmsted, Jean Caulkins McDaniel

2010

10 years ago this week

BIKE PATH GETS COUNTY FUNDING: Wayne County Parks and Recreation is providing \$70,000 of the \$100,000 cost of a bike route project encompassing the five Grosse Pointes. Exercising by bicycling to work, school and shopping districts is Move More, the second component of a three-part Live Well in Grosse Pointe initiative cultivated by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen provided the impetus to supply a majority of the project's funding.

Obituaries: Ralph Louis Wilgarde, Michael Hessheimer, Gladys Elizabeth Kopp, Joanne H. Jocque, Aileen Lorraine Meininger

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The JoAnn Matouk Romain Mystery

The crazy, but true story of a Grosse Pointe family's search for answers in a suicide that most likely wasn't

By Scott M. Burnstein
Special to the Grosse Pointe News

Part one of a three part series

The sky-borne messages began appearing seven years ago and haven't stopped since.

As soon as metro Detroit shakes off winter and descends into spring, planes start appearing in and around Grosse Pointe towing banners with questions posed to a local businessman and his police officer cousin regarding a suspicious death in their family circle.

Many believe it was a cold-blooded murder, but officially, it's considered a suicide. Those crying foul play have made certain their feelings are widely known and have let the lurid accusations fly, both by way of the inflammatory air-flown messages and through the federal court system.

"Did you think you could get away with it?" one message read.

"Bill and Tim, why won't you take a polygraph test?" read another.

"Your time is up #handcuffs," read the most recent message that flew over Labor Day weekend.

The story of JoAnn Matouk Romain's Jan. 12, 2010, death reads like it was ripped from a "Law & Order" script.

In fact, Netflix's successful reboot of the 1980s and '90s NBC true-crime property, "Unsolved Mysteries," is diving into the Matouk Romain case for its second batch of episodes, set to air Oct. 19. The show fielded more than 25,000 tips in the days after the first slate of a half-dozen episodes landed in July.

"Your head spins looking at all the facts here; it's hard to tell who the good guys are and who the bad guys are," said retired FBI agent Bill Randall, a private investigator who was retained by the Matouk Romain family. "Things are as muddy as I've ever seen. It can drive you insane."

The following — based on thousands of pages of court records, deposition testimony, private investigation reports, dozens of interviews and a collection of exclusive sources in government, law enforcement and the underworld — is an in-depth look at the Matouk Romain case, which though declared a suicidal drowning remains open to this day.

A troubled timeline

On a late, freezing-cold January night in 2010, Michelle Romain was at her mother's home in Grosse Pointe Woods when, she recalls, there was a knock at the door from the police. An officer from the Grosse Pointe



COURTESY PHOTO

JoAnn Matouk Romain

Farms Public Safety Department was there to inform her that her mother, JoAnn, had gone missing from their family's church parking lot off Lakeshore Road. It was 9:25 p.m., she says.

The police officer told the daughter that the 2008-model Lexus SUV her mother, JoAnn Matouk Romain, was driving was found abandoned in the St. Paul's Church parking lot. He ran her license plate and ended up at her doorstep.

To Michelle Romain, something immediately felt amiss in the explanation. The Lexus was registered in Michelle Romain's name, not her mother's; so why weren't they asking about her safety and whereabouts?

The official police report asserts an officer didn't come across the car until 9:50 p.m., more than a half-hour after an officer, according to Michelle Romain, came

looking for the wrong person. The license plate wasn't put through the Michigan Department of Motor Vehicles database until 9:58 p.m., so the police wouldn't have had an address to check out until a half-hour after the officer had arrived at Michelle Romain's door, if the daughter's timeline is correct.

Yet, according to time-stamped records Michelle Matouk obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, the Coast Guard received a call at 9:30 p.m. requesting a water search for Matouk Romain. Coast Guard helicopters, divers and boats arrived on the scene before 10 p.m. and engaged in an all-hands-on-deck type search.

JoAnn Matouk Romain wasn't found for another two months and eight days. Her body was finally discovered floating in another country in late March 2010.

The conflicting time-

line was the first in a long line of factors in the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of the 55-year-old devout Catholic and homemaker and mother that don't make sense and have resulted in allegations of a wide-reaching conspiracy to cover up a crime that remains, dubiously yet officially, ruled a suicide.

"Things don't add up and that hits anybody looking into this with an objective mind right off the bat, you don't have to scratch deep here to see the injustice," says Matouk Romain estate attorney Keith Altman. "It's like the old Occam's Razor theory, when faced with a situation, the simplest explanation is usually the correct one. Knowing everything we know about JoAnn and the situation that night, there's no reason to believe she went into the water, that she ever would want to kill herself, but that's the immediate conclu-

police declared Matouk Romain dead of a suicide the very same night she vanished by the water 10 years and 10 months ago. Actually, according to the department itself, the case was determined a suicide within minutes of arriving on the scene, with nothing to go on but a car that was left parked at St. Paul's.

Detectives theorized that Matouk Romain entered the icy water and drowned herself. They claim there were women's shoe footprints leading from the parking lot to the water embankment; however the crime scene photos showed no such indentations in the snow. Her daughters and the private investigators retained to work the case for the family doubt 4-foot-10, 165-pound mother of three would have been able to navigate herself into the water on the jagged, rocky terrain, let alone wade or swim the approximately 400 yards of frigid Lake St. Clair to where the water would be over her head in order to drown.

There was no body for going on three months, but the police in Grosse Pointe Farms insisted she killed herself by going into the water due to a mental illness she had no history of.

Family members hounded the police to look for their mother throughout January, February and most of March 2010, but they were continually rebuffed. The case became a game of hot potato and moved from the Farms, where she went missing from, to Grosse Pointe Woods where she lived, to the Michigan State Police. The FBI took a cursory look at the case by interviewing JoAnn Matouk Romain's daughters and an eyewitness.

On March 20, 2010, Matouk Romain's frozen body was found by Canadian fishermen. It was floating in the Boblo Island side of the Detroit River. A Canadian autopsy found no evidence of foul play.

The story stood: It was a suicide. But was it?

A private autopsy conducted by a pathologist at the University of Michigan said otherwise and showed her death to be a "dry drowning," a condition that occurs in 1 to 2 percent of drownings, according to WebMD, where vocal cords spasm, close up and shut off the airways. There was no water in her lungs, which could also mean she was dead before she even hit the water.

Crime-scene expert Sal Rastrelli, hired by Matouk Romain's family to analyze the case, disputes the notion that the currents in Lake St.

Grosse Pointe Farms



DRONE PHOTO BY JACK RYAN/SKYVIEW AERIAL PRODUCTIONS

This view from St. Paul Catholic Church, where JoAnn Matouk Romain attended Mass the night she disappeared, shows where she had parked the 2008 Lexus she was driving and the route she allegedly took to get to the seawall, according to police.

Clair that winter at the location police claim she entered the water would have been strong enough to push her to Canada (where she was eventually found almost 11 weeks later). He also questions how her body was in such good condition.

“The water in that area was much shallower than usual that year, and there was no current at the time she’s alleged to have entered the water,” he said. “JoAnn could not have been on the bottom of the lake for three miles, traversed the Detroit River for another 23 miles, without damage to her clothes or body. There would have certainly been damage; her body would have been tumbling and bouncing off submerged objects.

“The fact that her body was frozen would have meant she stayed on the water’s bottom until the weather got much warmer. The lack of damage to the body indicates she didn’t travel very far, certainly not 30 miles. And it’s very unlikely that her body would have ended up near Boblo Island, considering the currents and the fact that she would have most likely gotten trapped on one of the aforementioned objects. I believe her body got into the water at a completely different site.”

Haunting questions

Who would want to do harm to the docile and devout JoAnn Matouk Romain, a homemaker known for mothering the whole neighborhood and frequently attending church services?

According to some, it was members of her own family. Members about whom she had voiced concerns to several people in the weeks leading up to her going missing. One family member who, if you believe an eyewitness account from the night Matouk Romain vanished, was spotted at the scene of her disappearance.

And what did her estranged husband, David Romain, who is currently married to his ex-wife’s best friend, know?

Why did the cops close the investigation, for all intents and purposes, before even opening it, declaring it a suicide immediately with no sign of a body or reason to think she was suicidal? Why didn’t the feds get involved, considering the circumstances or when the body wound up in a different country?

These are the haunting and disturbing questions that still remain unanswered a decade later. And, from a law enforce-

ment perspective, it doesn’t appear that there is any sense of urgency in finally getting to the bottom of things.

No search warrants were sought. No grand juries were convened. The frustration is palpable.

“The fact that we’re more than 10 years removed from JoAnn’s death and that it’s still officially ruled a suicide and there hasn’t been a full-blown local and federal investigations into what should have been viewed as a kidnapping and murder all along, is inconceivable to me,” Solomon Radner, another Matouk Romain estate attorney says. “I literally can’t believe it. It’s outrageous.”

Family feud

Woods Wholesale Fine Wine & Spirits in Grosse Pointe Woods has been a staple for residents in the Pointes for more than a half-century. Located on Mack Avenue just north of Vernier, the quaint-looking liquor store was opened by William and Louise Matouk, in 1954 and became known as a friendly stop for any Pointers planning a party or hosting a family dinner.

The Matouks were Syrian and settled in Grosse Pointe Woods to raise a family. The couple produced five children: Bill, Rosemary, JoAnn, John and Kathy. The eldest siblings, Bill and Rosemary, followed their parents into the family business and went to work at the wine shop. The Matouks built a fortune in rare wine — selling and trading vintage bottles of cabernets, muscat and pinot noir to and with the Pointes’ elite — and purchasing real estate.

JoAnn Matouk married Dave Romain in 1980 after meeting him through her sister Rosemary Matouk-Hage’s husband. Romain co-owns Empire Foods, a wholesale food distributor company. His family was from Lebanon. The newlywed couple nested near JoAnn Matouk Romain’s parents in the Woods and had three children, two girls and a boy: Michelle, Kellie and Michael.

By all accounts, Matouk Romain looked after a calm, happy home. Trouble began brewing immediately following the Matouk siblings’ parents being out of the picture.

William Matouk died in 1988. Louise Matouk passed away in 1994, leaving the store and an estimated \$20 million estate to be divided amongst her five children, according to court documents.

Problems arose almost instantly.

A battle over the estate erupted. The early seeds of a nuclear meltdown in peace and civility were firmly planted within days, possibly even hours, after Louise Matouk’s death 26 years ago, per court records and interviews with the family. Distributing the assets from the will devolved into an all-out war, rife with animosity, allegations of theft, deceit, signs of sabotage and piles of contentious litigation.

Bill Matouk and Rosemary Matouk-Hage were given Woods Wholesale Fine Wine & Spirits, and the eldest son, Bill, was made executor of the estate.

According to civil court filings, JoAnn and John Matouk never received their fair share of the estate and accused Bill Matouk and Rosemary Matouk-Hage of stealing millions.

JoAnn and John Matouk filed a 1998 lawsuit, and by the beginning of the 2000s had settled for \$600,000 apiece in back payment.

Court records in the civil suit allege Bill Matouk and Rosemary Matouk-Hage forged JoAnn Matouk Romain’s signature on documents allowing her inheritance to be put into the stock market. Bill Matouk was removed as executor of the estate and replaced with attorney George Haddad, a family friend of William and Louise Matouk. JoAnn Matouk Romain declined to pursue criminal charges against her siblings.

Bill Matouk declined to go on the record for the story. Rosemary Matouk-Hage did not return phone messages.

The bitterness of the dispute lingered through the next decade, with icy tension marking relations between the siblings, some of which had been bubbling under the surface since childhood, according to people familiar with the Matouk family dynamics. John and Bill Matouk had been bickering rivals since their days as kids.

Some point to jealousy. “They never had a good relationship,” says one

family friend. “The resentment that exists there was there long before their parents passed away and their sister ended up dead. It was jealousy and resentment from Day One.”

John Matouk’s attorney, Robert Davis, puts it more bluntly:

“John was a football star and Bill was shaped like a football, that’s about the only thing those two have ever had in common.”

What is known for certain is that while Bill Matouk took over the store from his parents, John Matouk set off to make his own mark as an entrepreneur. And he encountered a tremendous amount success.

At least, early on.

In the 1990s, John Matouk founded Remtech, an environmental clean-up company, and made a small fortune of his own from the contracts he secured as the nation’s economic welfare boomed. He was named to Crain’s Detroit Business magazine’s prestigious “40 under 40” list in 1995. But John Matouk had demons of his own that arose in the years after his initial successes.

A series of bad, ill-timed financial investments, several fallouts with business partners and friends and a severe downturn in the U.S. economy of the late 2000s, put him on the ropes. Rumors of unpaid gambling debts surfaced. He was indicted and convicted of a \$25,000 check-kiting scam out of Wayne County Circuit Court.

“The tide turned quickly against John,” claims one mutual acquaintance of the brothers. “He was riding high for a bit, then a lot of dirty laundry got aired and bridges were burned.”

John Matouk blames his brother, Bill, and his cousin, Tim Matouk, a longtime police officer in the area who has worked for multiple departments through the years, for his misfortune.

“All of my business problems have come by way of Bill and Tim Matouk,” he says today. “They poisoned the well, told lies, pulled strings and turned people against me.”

The spite continued to grow and manifest well after the dispute over the will had been settled.

JoAnn Matouk Romain and John Matouk claimed in their lawsuit related to

the will and estate that Bill Matouk and Rosemary Matouk-Hage went to the family house and took bundles of cash their mother had kept hidden and put it in their pockets, neglecting to share the loose currency with the other three siblings. The fingers never stopped pointing after that.

Besides a trip to Florida, where the Romain and Matouk families vacationed separately, but met for a few meals in the winter of 2006, communications were, for all intents and purposes, broken off. Between 2007 and the end of 2009, Matouk Romain didn’t speak a single word to Bill Matouk or Rosemary Matouk-Hage.

That all changed approaching the end of 2009 when Matouk Romain called Bill Matouk and told him she wanted to speak to him about their cousin, Tim Matouk. They met at the store on Dec. 30. Matouk Romain drove herself.

Bill and Tim Matouk, the latter at the time a Harper Woods police officer assigned to the COMET drug task force, were close. Tim Matouk and Matouk Romain were not.

And it was pretty clear, at least by the conclusion of 2009, why. Maybe not the exact reason, but the distaste Matouk Romain held for Tim Matouk was intense and becoming more and more public. She was terrified of him and let people know. A line in the sand had been drawn and the cousins were on opposite sides.

A metro Detroit native, Scott M. Burnstein is an author, investigative reporter and historian who has published six books on the subject of organized crime. He has his law degree from University of Illinois-Chicago and does frequent talks and national media appearances related to mob activity in North America. His work can be read at gangsterreport.com and in The Oakland Press-Macomb Daily.

Tips on the Matouk Romain case may be sent to burnsteinscott@gmail.com

This investigative story was made possible by a Journalism Emergency Relief Fund grant from Google News Initiative.

Part two of the three part series will appear next week.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Woods Wholesale Wine was opened by William and Louise Matouk in 1954 and operated by siblings Bill Matouk and Rosemary Matouk-Hage.

Monday night live at the board meeting

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

The regular meeting of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Oct. 12, held in Brownell Middle School's auditorium, was the first in-person meeting since March 9, after which the governor's executive order required public meetings to be held virtually due to the new coronavirus. All board meetings have been conducted virtually since April 13.

Effective Oct. 9, up to 500 people are permitted to attend indoor social gatherings in Region 1, which includes Grosse Pointe.

GPPSS limited attendance to 160 people, including board members, administration and support staff, to allow social distancing. All present were required to wear face masks and maintain six feet from anyone not living in the same



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Mason Elementary School Principal Roy Bishop updated board members on the first cohort of students' return to the school building for face-to-face learning.

household, according to instructions on the district website.

The meeting opened with a report on the first day of students' return to elementary school buildings. Monday marked the first day of a hybrid roll-out, with Young 5, first- and sec-

ond-grade students beginning in-person instruction on alternating days in two cohorts.

On Monday, Oct. 19, third and fourth graders will join the younger students in the elementary school buildings and fifth graders will have the opportunity to

learn the ins and outs of the middle school buildings before they are joined by sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students.

"Today, I had the opportunity to visit all seven schools," said Jon Dean, deputy superintendent for educational

services. "I wandered into over 40 teachers' classrooms and I want to tell you what I saw. First, I think I saw a lot of smiles. I put 'I think' there because we were all wearing masks ... I saw lots of staff members having really positive interactions with

each other, excited to see their kids. It was kind of a unique time because it was the first day of school, but these cohorts and these kids and these teachers have been together (online) for about five weeks now."

Mason Elementary School Principal Roy Bishop shared his perspective on the students' excitement to be back in the building and the support he received from the community.

"It was very refreshing today to be able to have kids within a building, to see the interaction between a community, between our staff, between our students," Bishop said. "... To have half the amount of students we normally have, we had a chance to be able to build more relationships, to be able to go deeper on some of the content. ... I had one student say to me, 'Thank you for letting me come today.'"

Redlin case proceeds to jury trial

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

An employment discrimination case against the Grosse Pointe Public School System filed nearly four years ago will be tried in front of a jury after both parties were unable to reach a settlement.

In *Redlin v. GPPSS*, Debra Redlin, an assistant principal at Parcels Middle School, filed a complaint Nov. 15, 2016, in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan Southern Division, alleging she was discriminated against due to her gender and sexually harassed in violation of Title VII and Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act during the 2014-15 school year while an assistant principal at Grosse Pointe South and was transferred to Parcels for the 2015-16 school year as retaliation for filing a complaint. She also alleged discrimination for taking leave under the Family Medical Leave Act.

After discovery, the district filed a motion for summary judgment

on all claims and Redlin dismissed her sexual harassment claims in her response to this motion.

On May 10, 2018, Senior U.S. District Judge Bernard A. Friedman ruled in the district's favor, dismiss-

ing all claims and Redlin Act retaliation claim, stating Redlin "has not shown a genuine issue of material fact as to Defendant taking any adverse employment against her after her FMLA leave."

The ultimate question, according to the opin-

ion, "is whether the evidence presents a sufficient factual disagreement to require submission of the case to the jury, or whether the evidence is so one-sided that the moving parties should prevail as a matter of law."

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To show discrimination, Redlin needed to demonstrate she was a member of a protected class, was qualified for her job, suffered an adverse employment decision and "was replaced by a person outside the protected class or treated differently than similarly situ-

ated non-protected employees." Once this was demonstrated, the burden shifted to the defendant to articulate some legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for the adverse employment action.

never asked to resign or transferred," the court wrote. "The explanations given for the difference in treatment suggest pretext, inasmuch as the explanations do not rationally explain the difference, and a jury could reasonably reject the stated reasons and find that the difference in treatment was motivated by gender discrimination."

Similarly, the court concluded the district's stated reasons for its adverse employment actions against Redlin did not justify the disciplinary actions and that Redlin provided "sufficient evidence from which a jury could reasonably reject" the defendant's explanation, creating a "genuine issue of material fact as to whether Defendant's reasons were pretextual."

After affirming in part and reversing in part the district court's grant of the defendant's motion for summary judgment, the appeals court remanded the case for trial by jury.

The parties did not reach a resolution during a May 13 telephonic settlement conference with a magistrate judge. A trial date has not been set.

Parties may request

the magistrate judge's additional involvement in settlement discussions in the future, according to court documents.

Given the priority of criminal cases over civil in the federal court system, Redlin's attorney, Robert Palmer, doesn't expect the trial to take place before late 2021. "We are perfectly prepared and ready to go to trial whenever the court system figures out when to do it in the middle of this COVID age," he said, "but we've also contacted the school system on numerous occasions to try to talk about resolutions and have been unable to get any kind of concrete offer or position."

"In the meantime, Debra is doing a fine job over at Parcels," he added. "The settlement conference was in May," Mark McInerney, attorney for the school district, confirmed. "It did not settle the case. It left open the possibility of settling the case. Nothing is scheduled at the moment. There is no trial date. That is the last step in the process that there will be a jury trial, but nobody quite knows when that is going to happen."

"I haven't given up the notion that it might settle," he added, "but we're also ready when the time comes to go to trial."

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Foundation hopes to 'Paint the Town Purple'

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

There's a smattering of purple ribbons decorating trees and front doors throughout the Grosse Pointes.

It's the hope of one Grosse Pointe family that curious passersby stop and ask what those ribbons represent.

"Paint the Town Purple" is the first fundraiser for the newly formed 501(c)3, The Audrey Eckert Foundation. Named for the infant daughter of Grosse Pointe Farms residents Robert and Raleigh Eckert, the foundation not only bears her name, but also raises funds in her memory.

"Audrey was born in May with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which is a condition where only the right side of the



Audrey Eckert wears her "signature" purple bow.

heart is working," Raleigh Eckert said. "She was born at CS Mott (Hospital), who has the best team in the world to treat hypoplastic left heart syndrome. She was also diagnosed with Jacobsen's Syndrome, which caused a lot of complications."

While at Mott, Audrey underwent three open-heart surgeries before she was three weeks old. She passed away June 6.

In an effort to raise awareness of both HLH and Jacobsen's Syndrome, as well as to honor "the amazing team" who

treated Audrey at Mott, the Eckerts formed The Audrey Eckert Foundation. During their stay at Mott, Eckert explained, the pandemic made it impossible for family to visit.

"These doctors and nurses and staff became our families," she said. "We wanted to do something to honor them. And once Audrey passed, we knew we wanted to do something for other families like ours."

The foundation will fund research for Jacobsen's Syndrome, a rare chromosomal disorder. So rare, in fact, there were only 200 documented cases, Eckert said. Audrey was case 201. A second goal of the foundation is to partner with CS Mott to create a

See PURPLE, page 4B



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADISON DETTLINGER

Purple ribbons are being sold by the Audrey Eckert Foundation to raise awareness of hypoplastic left heart syndrome and Jacobsen's Syndrome.

Group revisits, resuscitates overgrown block

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Last week, more than 2,000 volunteers partnered with the Detroit nonprofit Life Remodeled to participate in its annual Six Day Project. Among them, a group of nearly 30 Grosse Pointe residents put their effort and energy into revitalizing the block of Quincy, between Collingwood and Boston.

"The neighborhood is possibly halfway vacant lots where houses have been torn down, probably a few more that should be torn down and some other occupied houses," said Sue Acton, coordinator of outreach ministries at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. "The neighborhoods Life Remodeled chose this year are blocks that had



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE HUELLMANTEL

Grosse Pointe volunteers socially distance for a group photo with Life Remodeled CEO Chris Lambert, center.

been cleaned up in previous drives, but had overgrown trees and shrubs and grass that needed cutting. It's overwhelming for the few people left on the block to handle everything."

This year's team was onsite the afternoon of Oct. 8. This is the fourth year a group from Memorial Church has participated, though the local effort extends beyond the church and

includes members of Grosse Pointe Rotary Club and Christ Church Grosse Pointe, among others.

This was the first year Grosse Pointe Farms resident Jane Fox participated. She co-chaired the event with Julie Huellmantel of Grosse Pointe Park.

"It was very rewarding and in my opinion, the event went very well," Fox said. "We had volunteers in age from a teenager to a couple in their 80s. Everyone found their niche where they were comfortable working on the block."

Huellmantel, who has been a team leader four years, said she was pleased with the way the event turned out.

"Despite the reduced number of participants, it was still a great day," she said.

Acton said some of her regular volunteers passed on this year's event due to concerns over COVID-19.

Precautions were taken, she assured, adding she was encouraged by the nearly 30 who did volunteer.

"Life Remodeled is an amazing organization," she said. "The way they could pivot to do a COVID-safe event is amazing. They did 50 blocks over this week."

Some changes made to ensure health and safety included skipping the group sign-in and having online registration only; skipping a lunch and offering only afternoon work hours; sanitizing tools at the end of each day; wearing masks and gloves; and staying 10 feet apart.

"The tools were set out on the corner of the block you're working on," Acton said. "They'd all been cleaned from the day before. ... We were asked to pick one tool to use for the day, too."

"Our group was assigned one block," she added. "The job was to spread out and get things

done in a safe way."

"Since there were 26 of us working in a big block area, staying 10 feet apart was not a big problem," Fox said. "We each had sanitized tools we used to tackle a specific job, whether it was mowing or weeding or picking up trash or trimming or clearing out debris from around a house."

Fox said Life Remodeled representatives checked on volunteers throughout the day, offering water and making sure everyone had the equipment they needed.

"They were very willing to accommodate our needs," she said.

Though the team spent the day mowing lawns and clearing brush, Acton noted they didn't need to clear away loads of garbage like in years past, when neighborhoods were used as dumping grounds for old tires and other unwanted items.

"That feels good," she said.

Huellmantel noted while last year's scope included clearing out alleyways in the blocks surrounding the Durfee Innovation Society, where Life Remodeled is headquartered, this year, the plan involved front yards.

"On the block, we had 10 to 12 houses," Huellmantel said. "Six of them had people living in them. We wanted to make sure the people living there felt safe. We cleared brush from the street all the way to the

See REVISIT, page 3B



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE ACTON

Left, volunteer John Mozena mows a lawn. Right, volunteer Holly Cory takes a break with fellow workers, Mike Huellmantel and Julie Huellmantel.

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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.

Joseph J. McDonnell

Joseph Jerome "Jerry" McDonnell, 66, passed away Friday, Oct. 9, 2020.

The eldest of seven children, he was born April 2, 1954, to Joseph J. and Nancy McDonnell.

Jerry is survived by his adoring wife, Rebecca (nee Forbes); loving children, Jane (Ted Watts) and Joseph J. "Jerry"; beloved grandson, Irving; and loving mother, Nancy. He will be dearly missed by his siblings and their spouses, Lee Ann Harkaway (Paul), Patricia Convertino (the late John), Cathleen Diehl (John), Timothy (Andrea), Sheila Roarty (John) and Michael (Jill); mother-in-law, Jane Forbes; and sister-in-law, Nancy Leonard (Robert). Jerry also was uncle to 21 nieces and nephews to whom he always showed genuine interest in what they were studying or doing at work.

A lifetime resident of Detroit's east side, Jerry attended St. Clare of Montefalco grade school. He graduated from University of Detroit Jesuit High School, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School.

In his 40-year legal career, Jerry represented railroads in all aspects of personal injury litigation at law firms Durkin, McDonnell, Clifton & O'Donnell PC and Gallagher Sharp LLP.

Jerry's greatest love was spending time with his family and doting on his grandson.

His numerous interests included hunting and fishing, music, film, cooking and bread baking.

A private graveside service will be held at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

Memorial contributions may be made to Loyola High School at loyoladetroit.org; or U of D Jesuit High School at uofdjesuit.org.

Susan Ruth Stewart Brenner

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Susan Ruth Stewart Brenner, 73, passed away Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, at home surrounded by dear friends, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born Jan. 14, 1947, in Detroit, to James and Ruth Stewart (nee Scheldenbran), both now deceased.

Raised in Harper Woods, Susan graduated from Harper Woods High School. She pursued her passion for teaching and earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

Susan returned to Harper Woods and became a fourth-grade teacher. She was dedicated to her students' success and always strived to help each student reach their full potential. She remained

a teacher to many people even after she retired.

Susan loved adventure and traveled to many places in the U.S. and Europe. She also loved collecting memorabilia from her travels, as well as angels and antiques. A great animal and nature lover, Susan enjoyed spring-time visits by backyard ducks, monarch butterflies and her precious dogs that predeceased her, Buffy and Maxi.

Susan's friends said she will be remembered for always lending a helping hand where needed and her contributions to society will be greatly missed.

Susan was the loving wife of the late James Brenner.

A funeral liturgy was held Oct. 14, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Susan's name may be made to Detroit Dog Rescue, P.O. Box 806119, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080; or Almost Home No Kill Shelter, P.O. Box 250602, West Bloomfield, MI 48325; or I Heart Dogs Rescue and Animal Haven, 22415 Groesbeck Hwy., Warren, MI 48089.

Evelyn E. Livingston

Evelyn E. Livingston (nee Dowd) passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, at home. The youngest of 11 children born to James Patrick and Sarah Dowd (nee McHugh), she was 93.

She was predeceased by her parents and siblings, Gerald, James, John, Thomas, Eleanor Hawthorne, Kathleen, Margaret, Geraldine, Sister Winifred, IHM, and Helen Flanagan. Evelyn is survived by her loving children, Kathleen Cucchi (Robert), Maureen Moseley (Douglas), James P. Livingston, John M. Livingston, William E. Livingston (Jill) and Timothy J. Livingston; and grandchildren, Robert Cucchi Jr. (Vanessa), Devon Moseley (Joey Fandel), Kevin Moseley, Patrick M. Livingston, Timothy J. Livingston, Colleen Livingston and Casey D. Livingston.

Evelyn faced her fair share of adversity throughout life, her family said. She relied on her Catholic faith and placed her trust in God to see her through. She also faced life's challenges head-on with no excuses. Her greatest achievement was raising her six dearly loved children.

Evelyn was a volunteer for many charitable events. Active with the Bon Secours Ladies Auxiliary after she retired, Evelyn worked alongside classmates from her days at St. Clare of Montefalco grade school.

A lifelong resident of Detroit's east side and a true "east sider," Evelyn never met anyone who did not know someone

she also knew. She was a great conversationalist and loved to socialize. She also possessed a quick wit with an Irish charm and dazzled everyone. Her family said she will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, Oct. 9, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org; or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, cskdetroit.org.

Patricia Dow Ashurkoff

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Patricia Dow Ashurkoff died Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020, in Ashburn, Va., due to complications from a fall. Born in 1936, she was the daughter of Douglas and Mary Louise Dow and grew up in Detroit's Indian Village neighborhood.

Trish was afflicted in childhood by Perthes disease — a bone disorder affecting the hip joints — and spent four years using crutches and wearing a brace. Because of her discipline with this regimen, Trish not only recovered, but became a gifted athlete. She played varsity lacrosse and captained the girls swim team at George School, in Bucks County, Pa. In summers, she swam at the Detroit Boat Club, where she was an interclub champion and joined the coaching staff. A University of Michigan graduate and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority member, Trish joined the faculty and coaching staff at Grosse Pointe University School and introduced and coached girls lacrosse.

She met her husband, Peter Ashurkoff, when Peter came to Detroit for his work with General Motors Co. Introduced by Peter's Princeton roommate and later Grosse Pointe Farms mayor, Joe Fromm, the couple was married at Mariners Church in 1958. They lived in Grosse Pointe Farms with their children, Stephen and Cathy, until Peter's transfer to Mexico when GM opened its Toluca plant.

Trish and Peter returned to Michigan when Peter joined the engineering staff at GM's Buick division. Together they raised their family in Grand Blanc and Trish served throughout the community. A board member of the Grand Blanc Library and community leader with the Flint Environmental Action Team, Trish also continued as an educator through her service as a substitute teacher at Grand Blanc High School. She and Peter relocated to Ashburn to be closer to their children and grandchildren after they retired.

Trish is survived by



Joseph J. McDonnell



Susan Stewart Brenner



Evelyn E. Livingston



Patricia Dow Ashurkoff



Christina P. Frederick



Richard James Martin

her husband of 62 years, Peter; children, Stephen (Ellen) of Ashburn, and Cathy Parnell (Terry) of Cocoa Beach, Fla.; three grandchildren; and brothers, Bryden, Peter and Stuart Dow. She was predeceased by her sister, Caroline Dow Dykhouse.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Muriel E. Brock Campaign, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; or uls.org/giving/sure-foundations/muriel-e-brock-campaign.

Christina P. Frederick

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Christina P. Frederick, 71, passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 5, 2020. Born Nov. 5, 1948, in Detroit, she was a loving daughter of Philip and Penelope Williams.

Christina graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1966. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and history from Eastern Michigan University and taught many years in the St. Clair Shores public school system.

Christina proudly served as a member of the Bon Secours Nursing Care Auxiliary and volunteered at Ascension St. John Hospital. She enjoyed music, sewing and cooking.

A devout member of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Clair Shores and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit, Christina sang in the choir in her youth and attended church each Sunday for the Divine Liturgy throughout her life. She also was an active member of the Assumption Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Christina was the adoring wife of Robert Frederick. She and Robert were married in 1992; all of her family, nieces and nephews served as wedding attendants. During the couple's many loving years together, they traveled throughout Europe, North Africa and Mexico and enjoyed visiting family throughout the U.S. Christina especially enjoyed visits with her stepdaughters, Michelle Frederick and Karla Edelman, and visited her family in Texas and California as often as possible.

Christina was an extraordinary aunt and loved being with her 13 nieces and nephews. She always had treats for them at home and enjoyed taking them out for lunch and ice cream. She also was loving godmother to Alexia Vader and Alexia's daughter, Penelope.

Christina is survived by her loving husband, Robert; stepdaughters, Michelle Frederick and Karla Edelman (Michael); step-grandchildren, Matt, Anna and Lauren; siblings, Katherine Kotsis (the late Harry), Georgia Carson (the late George), Dorothea Williams and John Williams; 13 nieces and nephews; and 24 great-nieces and great-nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Philip and Penelope Williams, and brother and sister-in-law, George and Anne Williams.

A private funeral service was held Oct. 7, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Burial took place at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Richard James Martin

Richard James Martin, 85, passed away peacefully Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Born and raised in Detroit, Richard graduated from De La Salle Collegiate High School in 1953.

Richard had a strong work ethic even as a young man. He loved to tell stories about caddying for Henry Ford II at the Country Club of Detroit, where he worked to help support his family during his high school years.

Richard began a four-year apprenticeship at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 58 after he graduated high school. This launched his lifelong career in commercial electrical contracting and 67-year membership in the IBEW. He served the electrical contracting industry in numerous ways for decades. Hired as an electrical estimator by Motor City Electric Co. in 1984, Richard rose through the ranks to become chief estimator and then vice president of estimating. Using his talent for building relationships and negotiating deals, Richard played an integral role in making MCE the

No. 1 electrical contrac-

tor in Michigan. The MCE team assisted in the construction of many iconic Detroit landmarks, including Comerica Park, Ford Field, Little Caesars Arena and other prominent city sites.

In 1994, Richard was elected chairman of the National Electrical Contracting Association's Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, which oversaw construction of a new training center; here he mentored young electricians to join the industry he loved. He also served on the board of the NECA and remained an active member for many decades. Considered a legend in his field, Richard enjoyed the friendship of many industry colleagues who describe him as loyal, honest and a true gentleman.

He and his loving wife of 60 years, Shirley, raised five children. Together, they traveled the world; their favorite trips were to Japan, Egypt and Greece.

Richard was an avid hunter and fisherman, and in recent years enjoyed relaxing with his family at their cottage on the south channel of Harsens Island.

Richard was predeceased by his wife, Shirley, and brother, Roy Martin. He is survived by his children, Renee Seago (John) of Grosse Pointe Shores, Debora Murray (Patrick) of Grosse Pointe Shores, Kelly Marshall (Brett) of Grosse Pointe Shores, Dr. Rich Martin, D.O. (Melissa) of Hood River, Ore., and Susan Martin of Holland; 12 grandchildren, Kristina (Ryan), Meghan (Danny), Kelly, Michael, Ryan, Catherine (Nathan), Robert (Susie), Sarah (Matt), Kristin, Jennifer (Alex), Matthew and Christopher; three step-grandchildren, Patrick Jr. (Christy), Kristine (Matt) and Meredith; 14 great-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 12, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Donations in Richard's memory may be made to PIME Missionaries, 17330 Quincy St.,

Detroit, MI 48221; or De La Salle Collegiate, delasallehs.com/alumni/support-de-la-salle.

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Wilma Y. Marone

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Wilma Y. Marone (nee Osborne), formerly of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away peacefully Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020, surrounded by her family. She was 91.

Wilma was the beloved wife of the late Richard; loving mother of Justin Marone (Judy), Susan Jones (the late Bob), Rick Marone (Sheila), Louise Gates (Chris), John Marone, Michael Marone (Nicole) and the late Ann Marone; dearest grandmother of 11; and great-grandmother of two.

Her loved ones noted that she will be remembered for her love of family.

Wilma enjoyed listening to classical music, attending plays and gardening.

Wilma will lie in state Friday, Oct. 16, from 10:30 a.m. until time of the funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Ambrose



Wilma Y. Marone

Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, followed by interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery, 18430 Utica Road, Roseville. Due to COVID-19 precautions, face masks must be worn, social distancing will be observed and attendees' temperatures will be taken upon entry.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, thecapuchins.org; or the National Shrine of St. Jude, shrineofstjude.org.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.



Noel Stephen Mermer

Noel Stephen Mermer

Former Grosse Pointe resident Noel Stephen Mermer died Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020, at his home in Charleston, S.C., after a long battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Born March 16, 1967, in Grosse Pointe, he was 53.

Noel was publisher and co-founder of the Charleston City Paper. While his business accomplishments were notable, he will be remembered most for being a loyal and supportive father, husband,

brother, son and friend, his family said.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Noel moved to Atlanta, where he found his calling as a newspaperman at the alternative weekly, Creative Loafing. He soon was promoted to publisher of a new Creative Loafing in Savannah. At 26, he was the company's youngest publisher and relished the role. Despite his young age, Noel's uncanny ability to manage multiple deadlines, work within a strict budget, inspire co-workers to deliver more and constantly close deals was obvious.

Noel moved to Charleston in 1997, where he realized his dream of starting and owning his own newspaper, the Charleston City Paper. He touched many lives in his role as publisher more than 20 years. His family recalled Noel telling his City Paper family, "Back to work!" His many co-workers considered him

a personal mentor as well as a boss. They also recalled he enjoyed telling friends and acquaintances, "Not too late tonight," when he left a social gathering. Noel also was well known for saying "Let's take the high road" in difficult situations. He touched countless people's lives, from family and friends to co-workers. People always knew where they stood with Noel, because his bravery and honesty allowed him to say exactly what he was thinking. He also had a big personality that lit up every room.

Noel married Christine in 2003; they were soon blessed with two sons, Noel and Bennett. He loved taking his sons deep-sea fishing and watching them play their favorite sports. An incredible dad, he cherished every moment with his boys and ensured they share his determination, compassion, generosity and humor.

Noel is survived by his wife, Christine; sons,

Noel and Bennett; sister, Sheila Mutz (Bryce) of Atlanta; nephews, Bryce and Blake; and in-laws, Suzanne Boren of Mt. Pleasant and Cecil Boren (Cindy) of Greensboro, N.C. He was predeceased by his father, Noel, in 1992; and his mother, Carolyn, in 2017.

A funeral service was held Oct. 10, at St. Michael's Church in Charleston. A recording of the service may be viewed at youtu.be/J2tV5gm25kc.

A Celebration of Life service will be held in Grosse Pointe at a later date.

Noel's family intends to establish a nonprofit organization to assist future ALS families with the costs of caregiving and travel.

Arrangements were handled by J. Henry Stuhr Inc., Charleston.

Share a memorial message with the family at jhenrystuh.com.

REVISIT:

Continued from page 1B

houses. Now, the police can look down the street and see all that's going on."

Huellmantel noted the few residents on the block clearly are caring for their properties.

"Their homes are beautiful," she said. "They have gardens that are beautifully kept," but it's the abandoned homes and vacant lots that are eyesores.

She said many of the residents came out to thank volunteers for their efforts.

"One of my favorite

parts is when the community members are also out there working," Huellmantel said. "Of all my mission work, I enjoy the most working hand in hand with the people we might be helping."

Fox agreed. "It was heartwarming to work together to make such a difference on this block," she said. "At one point I spoke to a woman who was trimming in her own yard and took such pride in her property. She had mowed the vacant lot adjacent to her well-kept home. She was appreciative of what we were doing on the block as it would help the value of her own property financially and visually as well."

Since 2011, Life Remodeled has worked to intentionally bring together a diverse group of volunteers to complete large-scale revitalization projects and encourage collaboration, partnership and unity.

"This year more than ever, we've seen the lack of unity as a country affect our everyday lives," said Chris Lambert, Life Remodeled founder and CEO. "Life Remodeled has been

working to bridge people across divides to help transform each other's lives since our founding 10 years ago and in this current climate, we need activities like the Six Day Project where we can work together in a safe way while still making a significant impact."

Acton said she's been pleased with a lot of the volunteer efforts at Memorial since the onset of the pandemic. The church saw nearly 20 volunteers help unload food donations for Forgotten Harvest last month and is looking for more help.

"We have other 'Unpack the Truck' events coming up at St. John Presbyterian," she said, "on the third Friday for the next three months."

Sign-up is available on the church's website, gpmchurch.org.

Additionally, volunteers are needed to help donate meals for Cass Community Social Services' homeless population. While the annual Shelter Week event has been canceled, Cass is still doing its best to find shelter for those who need it. In turn, local churches are

asked to feed them.

"Our church members still will donate meals, which we would have done anyway," Acton said, "and we're having a cereal drive. We're hoping to donate 300 meals. It's Oct. 30 and 31. Cass would appreciate the help."

Lastly, Memorial also participates in food and sandwich drives for the newly formed nonprofit, 313 Calling, for which volunteers are needed.

"We're doing the best we can to keep people volunteering," she said.



Co-chair Jane Fox takes a break from trimming bushes.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE ACTON

Diane Strickler, foreground, and her socially distanced co-volunteer, Dick Allison.

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4B | FEATURES

Diversity is the topic for LWV Oct. 22 meeting

By Margaret Freundl
Guest Writer

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe has invited Dr. Alexander Riegel to lead its virtual program, "Weaving the Fabric of Diversity," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22.

The LWV is soliciting partners in the community to promote its national and local position for social justice. Dr. Riegel will address articulating a positive vision of diversity as the foundation of a new understanding of our

common humanity. He also will discuss the historical narratives that determine the present state of our society and which can determine the future state if no action is taken.

Dr. Riegel has served as minister of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church since 2015. He also is certified in conflict resolution and mediation. He served on the executive committee of the Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods NAACP Branch and is working with Grosse Pointe churches to bring social

justice issues and outreach ministries to the forefront. Under his leadership, the Unitarian Church began a one-year educational program in 2019, to motivate its congregation to work harder toward anti-racism and social justice.

Advanced registration for the live event is required through the League of Women Voters GP website, lwvgrossepointe.org/events/oct-22-speaker/.

Freundl is a member of the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL FLORIAN

Know where, when, how to vote

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe shares the following dates and information for the Nov. 3 election:

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 — Deadline to register or update voter registration online. Michigan's new Voting Rights law allows eligible Michiganders to register and vote up to and on Election Day. Note: After this deadline has passed, registration must be in person at the city clerk's office, with documentation of identity required and proof of no fewer than 30 days of residency in the city or township where wishing to register and vote.

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020 — Recommended date for mailing absentee ballots to ensure the ballot arrives in time to be counted Nov. 3. U.S. postage is required to submit an absentee ballot by mail. Note: A recent judicial ruling in September allows for absentee ballots postmarked by Nov. 2 to be counted if they arrive within 14 days after Election Day.

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, 5 p.m. — Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail. Voters are advised to submit their application much earlier than this date to avoid the potential for mail delays. Voters can request an absentee ballot be sent to them by mail by completing an application online or downloading an application from the city clerk's website to complete and return to their local clerk's office by email, mail or in person.

Monday, Nov. 2, 4 p.m. — Deadline for voters to submit, in person at the clerk's office, a written request to spoil their absentee voter ballot and receive a new

ballot.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. — Polls open to vote in person. Voters have the right to vote if in line by 8 p.m. The voter will be asked to show a photo ID when he/she checks in to vote. If the voter doesn't have a photo ID, he/she can still vote. The poll worker will ask the voter to sign an affidavit before that explains why there's no voter ID. All voters, including voters with disabilities, have access to a Voter Assist Terminal in all polling places. This helps the voter mark a ballot; once the ballot is marked, it is counted in the same fashion as all other ballots. Voters are encouraged, but not required, to wear a face covering while at a polling place.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m. — Deadline to return completed absentee ballots to a local approved absentee ballot drop box or the clerk's office. Clerk locations and hours may be found at the local clerk's website or michigan.gov/vote.

The League also wants all residents to know where the approved ballot drop boxes are located. All five Grosse Pointes have drop boxes outside the respective municipal buildings, available 24/7 and up to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Harper Woods has an indoor ballot drop box available during business hours.

Additional information may be accessed at michigan.gov/vote website. The Oct. 6 recorded LWV program, "Making Your Mail-in-Ballot Count," also may be accessed at the lwvgp.org website or Facebook page. In addition, vote411.org is an excellent resource for voters to view what's on their ballot. Visit [youtube.com/watch?v=-T7hSEKVCnk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T7hSEKVCnk).

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PURPLE:

As October is International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, the foundation started its first fundraiser Sunday, Oct. 4. The organization is asking people to purchase purple ribbons to tie around a tree or hang on their front door, Eckert said, "to raise awareness of the foundation and of pregnancy and infant loss. We hope families who have lost children or have had miscarriages will drive around Grosse Pointe and feel less alone."

In the first five days of "Paint the Town Purple," the foundation raised more than \$5,000, for which the sisters are grateful.

"People all over Grosse Pointe are supporting us," Eckert said. "It feels like Audrey is with us when we do that, when the community comes together to support their own."

The color of the ribbons holds significance as well. While Audrey was alive, she was hooked up to several machines and could not wear clothes, but, "she was born with a full head of hair," Eckert said. "To claim her as our own, we put hair bows on her. ... My husband and I decided a long time ago her favorite color is purple."

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Tennis

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Time to amp it up

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The No. 1 seed and host University Liggett School boys tennis team earned a regional championship last week.

In a different format due to concerns for having too many people at one venue, the Michigan High School Athletic Association broke up the usual eight-team regionals and broke them in half.

In addition, each team played dual matches instead of competing against the field.

The Knights earned a first-round bye, and



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

ULS captains, from left, William Cooksey, Vince Maribao, Tarun Jarial and Alec Leonard, pose with the regional trophy.

played Armada in the title match and won 7-1 to advance to the state finals.

At No. 1 singles, Neil Murphy, subbing for William Cooksey, lost 6-1, 6-0, but Sebastien Courtright, George Anusbigian and Gerry Sherer were victories,

6-1, 6-1 at No. 2 singles, 6-1, 6-1 at No. 3 singles, and 6-0, 6-0 at No. 4 singles.

The duo of Vince Maribao and Tarun Jarial won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles, while the No. 2 doubles team of Tommy Ugvan and Alec Leonard won 6-2, 6-0.

The No. 3 doubles squad of Bennett French and Campbell Marchal won 6-0, 6-0, and the No. 4 doubles team of Rocco Scarfone and Brendan Connors won 6-0, 6-2 to complete the district title victory.

ULS improved to 11-4-2 overall.

Golf

SOUTH & NORTH

Great day for both

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North took to the golf course last week to compete in their respective regional tournaments.

For the Blue Devils, they won their Division 1 regional with a 346. Farmington was a distant second at 375 and Livonia Stevenson was third at 391.

The regional was played at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

The Blue Devils were led by Audrey Becker, who was the medalist, posting a 76.

Gia Cavaliere was next with 89, followed by Elli Richter with 90, Jennifer Crowley with 91 and

Alston Smith with 92.

Each of the Blue Devils finished in the top eight in the final standings.

North played a Division 2 regional tournament at Farmington Hills Golf Course in Farmington.

South Lyon, Port Huron Northern and Farmington Hills Mercy advanced to the state finals.

The Norsemen finished seventh with a 416.

Evelyn Stahl finished as one of the top three individual scorers from a non-advancing team. Stahl fired 90 to make the state finals as an individual.

Other scorers for the Norsemen were Ana Todesco with 106, Rita Shemmai with 109 and Samantha Lucido with 111.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Title is in

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys tennis team claimed its first Division 1 regional title in a few years last week, beating Dearborn Edsel Ford 8-0 and Chippewa Valley 8-0.

In the regional final against the Big Reds, the host Blue Devils lost a total of one game in all eight of the flights.

The four singles players, Connor Stafford, Corbin Ifkovits, Luke Holowinski and Owen Sanford, each won 6-0, 6-0.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAKE DISCHER

Coach John Willard, far left, poses with his Grosse Pointe South boys tennis team after winning a regional title.

In doubles, the squads of Jacob Harris and Jackson Marchal, Alex Prather and Blake Discher, and Will White and Will Sine, also won 6-0, 6-0.

The No. 4 doubles

team of Adam Chugh and Joe Brennan won 6-1, 6-0.

Against Edsel Ford, the Blue Devils won each match in straight sets and lost a total of five games.

Stafford, Ifkovits, Holowinski and Sanford won in singles, while Harris and Marchal, Prather and Discher, White and Sine, and Chugh and Brennan won.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen win title

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's boys tennis team put together its best effort of the season last week, cruising to a Division 2 regional title on its home courts.

The solid play in the regional is what head coach John Van Alst gets from his student-athletes each and every season.

They play a tough regular season, improve and let it rip in the regionals.

The Norsemen beat Port Huron 8-0 in the semifinals and dispatched of L'Anse Creuse 7-1 in the title match.

In the win over Port Huron, Simon Stallings won 6-1, 6-1 at No. 1, and it was Alex Muawad winning 6-0, 6-1 at No. 2.

Sahith Nannapaneni won 6-3, 6-0 at No. 3, and

James Moussiaux won 6-1, 6-1 at No. 4.

Mitchell Mills and Ben Zoia won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles, and the duo of Kaiden DePascale and Connor Tubbs took a 6-1, 6-2 win at No. 2 doubles.

At No. 3 doubles, Simeon Nelson and John Mueller won 6-4, 6-1, and Ethan Molitor and Ethan Michalski earned a 6-0, 6-4 win at No. 4 doubles.

In the title match, Stallings, Muawad and Moussiaux won their singles matches in convincing fashion.

The doubles team of Mills and Zoia won a tough three-setter, winning 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, and DePascale and Tubbs earned a 6-4, 6-1 win at No. 2 doubles.

Nelson and Mueller won 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 at No. 3 doubles, and the final

win came from the No. 4 doubles squad of Molitor and Michalski, 6-2, 6-2.

The Norsemen improved to 4-6 with the regional sweep.

Next for the Norsemen is the Division 2 state finals Thursday, Oct. 15, through Saturday, Oct. 17, in Midland.

The format is the same in the finals as it was in the regionals.

Teams play dual matches and seeded.

This is an attempt to have less people at the events, and social distancing with mandatory wearing masks is in place.

The Division I finals are held in Novi, with Division 3 held in Holland and Division 4 held in Kalamazoo.

MHSAA info

Note that if an outdoor

Swimming

RIVALS

South's depth key

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's girls swimming and diving team defeated city foe Grosse Pointe North last week, 140-43.

The Blue Devils' depth was too much for the Norsemen as they won 10 of the 12 events.

The Norsemen's victories came from Shayla Andrews, who won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle with times of 26.09 and 57.18.

As for the Blue Devils, they won the opening event, the 200-yard medley relay, as Brooke Lezotte, Phoebe Handwork, Sophie Schuetze and Olivia Yoo posted a time of 1:54.02.

North's Maggie McSkimming, Ava Macgillis, Sophia Vitale and Andrews placed third with a time of 2:02.96.

In the 200-yard freestyle, South's trio of Yoo, Isabella Gelle and Hayden Barry placed first, second and third with times of 1:58.06, 1:59.79 and 2:00.73.

For North, Diana Muccioli was fifth at 2:06.53.

South's Schuetze won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:14.94.

In diving, South swept the event with Caroline Rogers, Ava Rogowski and Alayna Okonowski earning 175.05, 154.9 and 122.25 points.

Yoo also won the 100-

yard butterfly with a time of 58.82. She was followed by South's Schuetze and North's Muccioli, who had times of 59.70 and 1:06.06.

Following Andrews in the 100-yard freestyle were South's Bedsworth, Julliana Pilutti and Ella Pazuchowski, who had times of 58.14, 58.95 and 1:00.94.

South also swept the 500-yard freestyle as Gelle, Barry and Sophia Kapla posted times of 5:18.88, 5:22.57 and 5:22.93. North's Ava DeCoste was fourth with a time of 5:41.86.

The Blue Devils won the 200-yard freestyle relay with Bedsworth, Pilutti, Pazuchowski and Gelle won with a time of 1:46.36, while North's Muccioli, Sophia Vitale, Andrews and Victoria Treder took second at 1:48.06.

Lezotte, Klepp and Clark swept the 100-yard backstroke, turning in times of 1:01.88, 1:02.87 and 1:03.27. North's McSkimming was fifth with a time of 1:08.66.

It was South's Handwork winning the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:11.94, and North's Macgillis took second at 1:13.62.

In the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, South's Yoo, Schuetze, Pilutti and Barry won with a time of 3:50.02, while North's Muccioli, Treder, DeCoste and Macgillis finished third at 4:06.49.

Field hockey

RIVALS

Blue Devils edge ULS, claim title

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Rivals Grosse Pointe South and host University Liggett School girls field hockey teams finally played their game last week that was originally scheduled for Aug. 31.

A division title and No. 1 playoff seed was on the line as the two teams entered the game as the top two in the Michigan High School Field Hockey Association Division 2 East standings.

It was also the third game in three days for the Blue Devils.

After the Blue Devils and Knights each had the

better scoring opportunities in the first two quarters, they played an equal third period with no score.

The Blue Devils caught a break early in the fourth quarter. A scramble in front of the Knights' goal was whistled as a penalty stroke for the visitors.

With 13:36 left, senior Kathryn Skupien scored, lifting the Blue Devils to a division-clinching 1-0 victory.

South head coach Jessie Rouleau couldn't be any prouder of her squad, which stayed unbeaten with the close victory.

After the goal, each

team fired shots that just missed their mark. Each team had good chances to either tie in the case of the Knights or add to their lead in the case of the Blue Devils.

Of note, the Knights played the game without their top forwards, who missed the game due to COVID-19 concerns.

In other games last week, South beat Hartland 2-0 and Ann Arbor Greenhills 3-1, while ULS lost 1-0 to Dearborn.

Grosse Pointe South improved to 6-0-1 in the division and 9-0-1 overall; ULS dropped to 4-2 in the division and 5-2 overall.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South girls celebrate after taking a 1-0 lead over University Liggett School.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen put best foot forward in win

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls field hockey team stretched its winning streak to four last week, beating visiting Clarkston 6-0.

The Norsemen scored four quick goals in the first quarter, and put their game on cruise

control for the remaining three. They dominated the game from the opening whistle.

Ashlyn Senter led the way with two goals, while Erin Murphy, Anneliese Lechner, Rachel Mellon and Ella Maltby had a goal apiece.

With the play predominantly in Clarkston's zone, life was easy for

goalkeeper Lucy Driscoll.

The following evening, the Norsemen traveled to Brighton and lost 1-0.

Grosse Pointe North is 2-3-1 in the Michigan High School Field Hockey Association Division 2 East standings and 5-4-1 overall with one week left in the regular season.

Football

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils upset CV

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's football team put itself in position to win an improbable Macomb Area Conference Red Division title after its stunning 21-17 road win over Chippewa Valley last weekend.

With one game left in the division, the Blue Devils are 3-1, tied with Macomb Dakota and Sterling Heights Stevenson.

This weekend, the Blue Devils travel to Stevenson, while Dakota is on the road at Romeo. With a win over the Titans, the Blue Devils would at least clinch a share of the title, or win it outright with a win and if the Cougars lose to the Bulldogs.

After winning four straight MAC White crowns, head coach Tim Brandon has his team believing they can make it five in a row after jumping up to the one of the toughest divisions in the state, the MAC Red.

It didn't look good in the first half against the Big Reds as the home team grabbed a 14-0 lead. The Blue Devils offense was stuck in neutral.

In the second half, the gear was put in drive as junior Will Johnson scored on a 14-yard run to make it 14-7.

Senior Bennett Smihal kicked the extra point.

Egan Sullivan ran 9 yards for a touchdown to tie it at 14 after Smihal's PAT, but the home team kicked a field goal to take a 17-14 lead midway

late in the third quarter.

The Blue Devils drove the length of the field and scored the go-ahead TD on another Sullivan run. This one was from 5-yards out with 2:25 left in the game.

Defensive coordinator Chad Hepner's squad went to work after that, thwarting another drive to seal the victory.

The defense held the explosive Big Reds to only 17 points, three in the second half.

They forced the Big Reds into four turnovers. Seniors Luke Srebernak and Max Gavagan each had an interception.

Sullivan had 80 yards rushing on 18 carries to lead the offensive charge. Johnson had 37 yards rushing on four carries.

Grosse Pointe South is 3-1 overall.

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GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen at .500

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North football team is back at the .500 mark after crushing host Warren Cousino 30-10 last weekend.

The Norsemen started out with a bang as Kennard Williams ran the opening kickoff back 95 yards for a touchdown. Mike Zontini kicked the extra point and just like that is was 7-0.

"It was an explosive run, that's the first KOR for a TD in the past 3 years," head coach Joe Drouin said. "We saw some things on film and thought we could catch them with an onside kick following our first score. Cousino recovered and had a nice 47-yard drive to score tying the game at 7."

The Norsemen responded with a 41-yard field goal by Zontini. That gave the visitors a 10-7 lead.

"From that point on the story of the game was our defense," Drouin said. "The defense stood

strong, only allowing 108 yards the remainder of the game and a late fourth quarter field goal. (allowing 155 total yards).

"We added Taiwan Jones to our coaching staff and the players have really responded to his coaching style. Some defensive players had to step up and fill in at positions this week."

Drew Hill led the defense with 14 tackles, two timely tackles for a loss, and a forced fumble.

Johnny Bonnell seven tackles, including one for a loss. Ben Bania, Tim Cleland and Colin Duffy all added to the defensive stops. Hunter Abdelloui stood strong on the defensive line.

"Hunter is your typical noseguard, a cloud of dust follows him around and he loves it," Drouin said. "He has a motor and is always around the ball carrier."

Offensively, the Norsemen had 204 total yards with Joe Plieth throwing for 116.

Plieth and Zontini, (four catches for 57 yards and a TD, hooked up for a

30-yard TD. "Plieth had a nice little Patrick Mahomes moment with an improvised shovel pass to Williams for the two-point conversion," Drouin said. "Kevin Shubnell worked with Joe's footwork this past week and it made a difference in our passing game. We added offensive weapon Kyle Armbruster to the mix this week as well. Kyle might be the fastest kid in the school and at 6'1" he makes for a nice passing target."

Armbruster had four catches for 46 yards, while Williams had 151 total yards with a 14-yard TD and a two-point conversion reception, plus the kick return for a score.

Ethan LaCroix added to the scoring with a 6-yard run. Colin Duffy helped the offense with a 30-yard run.

Grosse Pointe North is 2-2 in the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division and overall.

Next is a 7 p.m. home game Friday, Oct. 16, against Warren Woods-Tower.

Volleyball

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN SULLIVAN

Senior night

University Liggett School volleyball team captains, Allie Mulder and Rosie Bracken, helped the Knights beat Detroit Cristo Rey 25-11, 25-10, 25-13 last week. The Knights evened its conference record at 2-2. Head coach Dan Sullivan noted that Kennedy Campbell led the team in kills and Elle Quinlan was solid as the new libero.

SOUTH & NORTH

South splits; North falls

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

For the second time in five days, the Grosse Pointe South volleyball team squared off against division foe Utica.

The Chieftains earned a five-set win the first meeting, and this time around the Blue Devils were on the losing end of a 25-23, 24-26, 25-19, 25-20 setback.

Head coach Janeil

DiVita and her Blue Devils knew this would be a tough match against an evenly matched foe.

It was as neither team could get much separation on the score board in the first two games with each team winning 49 points.

The Blue Devils fell a step behind in the third game and never could catch up, leaving them trailing two games to one.

They fell into a big hold in game four, trailing 14-5, but battled back cut it to 20-15 and had momentum.

The Blue Devils just couldn't sustain the charge and the Chieftains scored five of the next 10 points to win the Macomb Area Conference White Division contest in four games.

South rebounded to edge host Marysville in

five games to improve to 2-3 in the MAC White Division.

North results

As for Grosse Pointe North, it lost 25-15, 25-18, 25-22 to division-leading Fraser.

Brynn Spicher, Mary Schaden and Lauren Lefebvre each had five kills, while Lindsey Brewer and Shailee Simon had four service aces apiece.

Soccer

NORTH, SOUTH & ULS

Playoff push

Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South are making changes to what was once a loaded schedule.

Last week, the Norsemen beat visiting Orchard Lake St. Mary's 3-0 on senior night.

Chris Valice scored the first goal with only 2:28 left before the half to give the home team a true 1-0 lead.

They made it 2-0 in the first couple of minutes of the second half when John Latiff scored on a penalty kick, and with 11:53 left, Tom Sheffield

gave the Norsemen an insurmountable three-goal lead when he tallied.

South came back from a 2-1 halftime deficit to beat L'Anse Creuse North 4-2 last week on senior night.

Senior Max Simonson scored two goals to lead the Blue Devils.

In the second half, junior Emmett O'Keefe tallied the tying goal at the 38:53 mark of the second half, while junior Nick Litsas had the eventual game winner in the second half.

RIVALS

South edges North in girls

Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South are making changes to what was once a loaded schedule.

Changes have been made thanks to the cancellation of dozens of weekend invitations.

Last week, the rivals ran against each other and the Blue Devils edged the Norsemen 26-30.

It was the largest meet to date in the state with more than 100 runners competing.

South was led by the 2-3-4 finish of freshman Kloie Roy, sophomore Grace Winger and senior May Eger. The three finished within 22 seconds of each other

with times of 22:00, 22:02 and 22:22, respectively.

Sophomores Anna Czech (6th) and Marrin Harris (11th) sealed the win for South. Other Blue Devils in the top 20 included Dianne Dollison (12th), Morgan Braddock (18th), Ava Carr (19th) and Miranda Barba (20th).

"This was a tremendous competition for the GP community," South head coach Steve Zaranek said. "More than 100 girls from our two high schools raced, competed well, and displayed wonderful sportsmanship. The event was very inspiring."

"South and North have very similar teams. We need to rely on team depth. The girls from both teams understand the value of pushing each other and supporting one another."

North boys

The Grosse Pointe North boys cross-country team traveled to Highlander Invitational last weekend, finishing seventh.

Senior Preston Navarre won the race with a season-best time of 15:47. Sophomore Alex Agius finished 18th in the race in a new personal-best time of 17:16.

Rounding out our scoring was junior Max Kluge with a time of 18:29; freshman David Rochon at 18:31 and junior Paul Ciaravino at 18:34.

Also competing for us were sophomore Charlie Bomgaars and junior Ryan Spiteri, who had times of 18:35 and 19:25.

"We are looking forward to racing at Lake St. Clair Metro Park for the Pre-Regional meet on Oct. 21," head coach Diane Montgomery said. "Our team goal, of course, is to finish in the top four and qualify for the Region Meet on Oct. 30, at Chandler Park Golf Course."

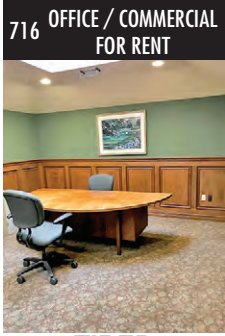
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by Linda Thistle

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King Crossword

Solution for last week's puzzle 10/8/20

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

ACROSS

1 Recede
 4 Petrol
 7 Potato
 11 Settled down
 13 Mischief-maker
 14 Cautious
 15 "Bye"
 16 Neither partner
 17 Rice or Tyler
 18 Ledge
 20 Dispatch
 22 Mary — cosmetics
 24 Half a wet-weather pair
 28 Game like pinochle
 32 Hoosegow
 33 Valhalla VIP
 34 Dog's foot
 36 Burrito cousin
 37 Fifth-day Christmas gift
 39 Paraphrase
 41 Impressionist?
 43 Feathery neck-piece
 44 List-ending abbr.

DOWN

1 Comestibles
 2 Mediocre
 3 Small snack
 4 Martini ingredient
 5 Out of control
 6 Parsley serving
 7 Brightly marked butterflies
 8 Skillet
 9 Samovar
 10 Coloring agent
 12 TV news pundits, often
 19 Online info page
 21 Once around the track
 23 "Uh-huh"
 25 Gumbo need
 26 Membership
 27 Advertise strongly
 28 Drill
 29 Fix a manuscript
 30 Galvanizing stuff
 31 Listener
 35 "Charlotte's —"
 38 Collection
 40 Weep
 42 Tall and slender
 45 Kegler's pathway
 47 Morning co-host Kelly
 48 Rip
 49 Quest
 50 TV drama that spawned "NCIS"
 51 Expert
 52 Energy
 54 Pistol

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