

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 12/29			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	1,922 (+44)	45 (+0)	
Harper Woods	607 (+25)	39 (+0)	

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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 81, NO. 53, 20 PAGES  
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COURTESY PHOTO

James and Patricia Anderson

## Pointers of the Year: Jim and Patti Anderson

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Small towns mean a big deal to James and Patricia Anderson, the Grosse Pointe Shores couple who recently received the Max M. Fisher Award for Outstanding Philanthropist.

Both hail from small communities — he's from Algonac, she's from Vassar — and consider their current hometown a

little piece of heaven. Jim's first taste of the big city occurred when he attended Wayne State University. He fell in love with the area, living in St. Clair Shores for a time before moving to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1972.

After he and Patti met in 1980, and married in 1982, they moved to their first home in the Shores, on South Edgewood.

"Then to Fordcroft, Michigan, and finally to Harper Woods, Michigan, a

See **POINTERS**, page 2A



ILLUSTRATION @SEPS LICENSED BY CURTIS LICENSING, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

This illustration by W.M. Meade Prince graced the Jan. 1, 1928, cover of *Country Gentleman* with an enthusiastic "Happy New Year!" And we do likewise, wishing all our readers a happy, safe and better New Year in 2021!

2020 IN REVIEW

## New beginnings abound in the City

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The City saw a year of both completion and new beginnings in 2020, as departments fi-

nally moved into the new public safety and public works buildings and The Village was accepted into the Michigan Main Street Program, while work began to explore the creation of a historic district,

implement recommendations from the Mack Avenue Improvement Plan and achieve a redevelopment-ready community certification.

This is the year in review:

**January**

◆ City architects present fleshed-out plans to renovate the public safety building on Maumee into the new courthouse. The

See **CITY**, page 9A

2020 IN REVIEW

## Park posts busy year despite shutdowns

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Considerable time was spent discussing plans for the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery, both in person and virtually as the city shut down amid concerns over the spread of COVID-19. Funds to help businesses recover from losses associated with the statewide shutdown are made available and community members boost their efforts to lend support as well.

This is the year in review:

**January**

◆ City council delays approval of the Park's master plan draft or distribution to surrounding communities in a 4-2 vote. Members Michele Hodges, Aimee Rogers Fluit and Vikas Relan express concerns the community may have additional input and that goals significant to the city's development may not have been sufficiently addressed in the document.

◆ While plans to build the \$25 million Jefferson Avenue arts facility announced last year are

See **PARK**, page 10A

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## Assistant city manager post created

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — Effective immediately as of the council meeting Tuesday, Dec. 15, Shores interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk has been promoted to assistant city manager.

The news follows the

hiring of Stephen Poloni, who will start as the city's new manager Jan. 25, 2021.

"I think with Steve coming in to manage the city and me as his assistant, we make a great team," Krolczyk said.

As assistant city manager, Krolczyk will serve as a bridge between

Poloni and the department heads, while assisting with the day-to-day duties of running city hall.

"My goals are to meet or exceed, obviously, all the premium services to all our residents and to make sure that city hall

See **POST**, page 3A

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**2020 Pointers of INTEREST**

The Grosse Pointe News congratulates our 2020 Pointers of Interest.

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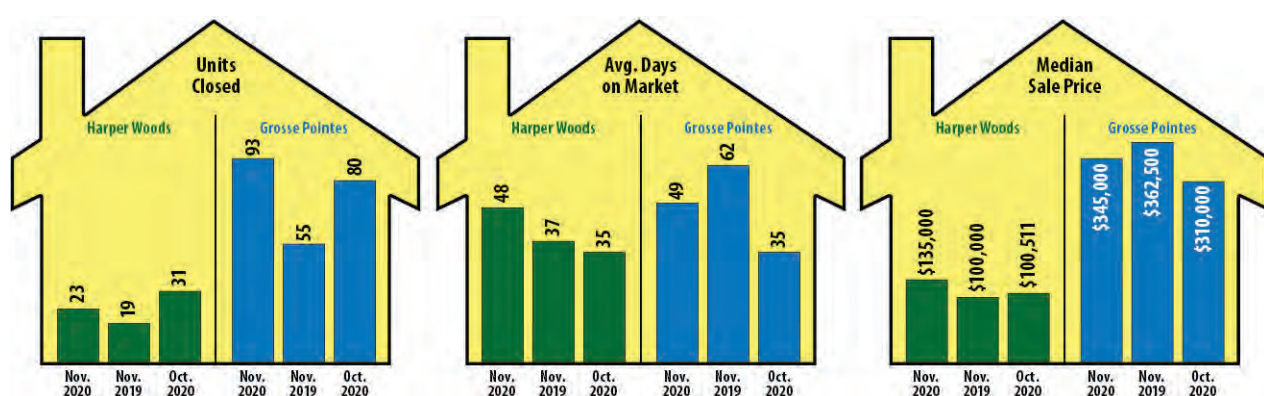


# Markets continue to show high demand

November 2020 housing data recently released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors shows the housing markets in Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe both continue to be in high demand. A year ago, sales were constrained by low inventory. This year, while the number of homes for sale is half what it was last year in both communities, sales are expected to equal last year despite the real estate industry in Michigan being pretty much shut down for two months.

Additionally, the demand for affordable housing has never been

higher, fueled by ultra-low interest rates and millennial household formation. This demand also is prevalent as it relates to the affordable luxury of the Grosse Pointes, where the 2020 year-to-date median sale price is up 6.8 percent over last year. In Harper Woods, the year-to-date median sales price is 14.6 percent. With inflation at less than 3 percent, this is clear evidence that home buying for first-time home buyers is probably as good a long-term investment as any, especially when leveraged using a mortgage. It also suggests that while interest rates are now being



talked about as being this low into 2023, the appreciation in home prices will considerably impact what buyers can purchase the longer they wait.

Finally, owner-occupied residential real estate remains the best

long-term investment for those who own it. To make sure those who own a home get the best price for it — not necessarily the highest — it is imperative that, having had the wisdom to buy, you must work with a local market expert when

selling. If you want to buy a home, the same is true: a trusted professional who knows the market is equally valuable. Regardless of whether you are buying or selling your first home, or you have done it before, working with an

industry professional is an absolute must to maximize the opportunity and a member of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors is best positioned to help.

— Courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

## POINTERS:

Continued from page 1A

then to Lakeshore south of the yacht club, then to Lakeshore north of the yacht club,” Jim said. “We’ve had five homes in Grosse Pointe.”

The couple opened their current home, the former “Art Van House,” in summer 2019, for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society’s annual gala. The sold-out event drew hundreds of guests through their 27,000-square-foot, chateau-style estate, built in 1991 for Mary Ann and Art Van Elslander.

When the couple moved in two years ago, it was rechristened “Anderson Villa” — a tribute to a coupling that nearly didn’t happen.

“We met on a blind date,” Patti said. “I almost didn’t go on that date. But here we are, 40 years later.”

Patti brought three children into their marriage, “so he had an instant family,” she laughed. “He had to work hard.”

Hard work has never been a stranger to Jim, who founded the data analytics company Urban Science in 1977. His work ethic, however, was instilled long before then.

“I was riding around Algonac with my older brother,” he recalled. “I was 5 or 6 years old. He had graduated from the University of Detroit with an engineering degree. I asked him, ‘Why engineering?’ I will always remember what he said: ‘When you have an engineering degree, you can always find a job.’”

“So I went to engineering school,” he continued. “I was not from a family of significant means, so I couldn’t afford to go away to school. When it came time for college, I went to Port Huron Junior College, which is now St. Clair County Community College, and I worked at a hardware store.”

Eventually, he made his way to Wayne State, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in engineering, but he wasn’t the only small-town kid dreaming of a college degree.

“I was going to be the first one (in my family) to go to college,” Patti said. “My father died my sophomore year of high school. He didn’t leave any insurance money, so we sold the house, the car, the boat. My church friends helped me find a one-bedroom apartment and I started working at a drug store in Grand Blanc.”

The job allowed her to take classes at Baker Business College, which eventually got her a job at General Motors as a secretary. She went on to have a family and logged more than a decade at GM, then found herself a single mother for five years.

After that fateful date in 1980, Jim entered the picture and the couple went on to have a child of their own. With four children between them, they also have 10 grandchildren.

“I tell people I wake up every morning thinking I’m one of the luckiest guys on earth,” Jim said. “I say that because I was born in America. Only in America does everyone get a shot at the gold ring. I know that to be true, because I got that shot.”

Jim kicked off his

career on the faculty at Wayne State while pursuing his master’s degree, “which led to an unusual situation — not only creating my business, but meeting my wife,” he said.

As a researcher at Wayne State, he helped develop computer mapping capabilities. A student overheard him talking about his research.

“She worked at GM in a department that evaluated dealership locations,” Jim explained. “They would draw a map illustrating the locations of luxury car buyers in relation to luxury car dealerships. This was done by hand. Back then, that meant if there were 36,000 luxury car buyers in Chicago, the new employee would have to place 36,000 dots on the map by hand.”

“This young lady heard me talking about computer mapping at Wayne State,” he continued. “She asked her boss, ‘Why don’t we use computers for this?’ He told her they tried, but it could not be done. She told her boss she knew someone who could.”

“That’s how I got the opportunity to transfer the technology I’d been using into a big application. It was a unique opportunity to start a business. Through contacts in that business, I also met Patti.”

“I look back in my life and say thanks for these great things that happened to me and what caused that to happen,” he continued. “I’m thankful we can live in a small town — Grosse Pointe Shores — and still have access to all the positive things about a large town like Detroit. We want to have as best as we can the services the large town offers within the

advantages of living in a small town.”

As such, the Andersons recently gifted \$5 million to Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe for the creation of a hybrid surgical suite, as well as to maintain equipment and provide continuing medical education for employees.

“We believe in supporting the Grosse Pointe community and its businesses and Beaumont is part of that community,” Jim said.

They also formed the James and Patricia Anderson Engineering Ventures Institute at Wayne State University, meant to advance Wayne State’s role in contributing to the growth and revitalization of Detroit, as well as help it become a top university with regard to entrepreneurship and innovation.

“When I hear young people say, ‘I’d like to start a business, but ...’ or ‘I’d like to invent something, if only ...’ all I hear is ‘I can’t do that’ or ‘I won’t do that,’” Jim said. “A lot of young aspiring engineers at Wayne State came from a similar economic background like I did, but they don’t have angels watching over them to start a business. I started my business with \$1,000 and a lot of sweat equity. What it takes is a can-do attitude.”

“In my world, problems are things that haven’t been solved before,” he continued. “Getting in business doesn’t take a lot of capital to get started. A lot of younger people that haven’t had the exposure can go to college. Our goal with the Anderson Institute is to show them the path of entrepreneurship and the real-world experience of how to start a business without capital and turn it into a global business with smart and hard work. If they can embrace a can-do attitude, couple that with what entrepreneurship teaches you — to solve what hasn’t been solved before and invent a solution — embed it in computer software and get it up on the internet.

With the right education and right attitude, you’ve got opportunities today to do 10 times what I’ve been able to accomplish.

“America is the land of opportunity,” he added. “I want to help fulfill that promise to the next generation, because 1) the country has been good to me and 2) it makes for a very strong future for the country — the success of our children, our grandchildren and generations beyond. Invention is what makes America what it is, but there’s a lot of competition out there around the world. To remain, you need a lot more inventors inventing our future. I want to contribute to that. It’s our way of saying thank you to America.”

Another way the Andersons say thank you is through their support of the military. They’ve set up college funds for wounded soldiers and their families, among other similar ventures.

“I believe that only in America you have a shot at the gold ring,” Jim said. “If it wasn’t for America, I wouldn’t have had that shot. And if it wasn’t for the brave men and women of the U.S. military, we wouldn’t have America. We all have an obligation to do what we can do to help them.”

Jim shared his experience meeting retired Col. Gregory D. Gadson, an Army veteran who lost both legs and the partial use of his right arm while serving in Iraq.

“Someone in that meeting asked him what he would do with the rest of his life; he said he didn’t know,” Jim recalled. “It struck me that this guy needed help. Believe me, they never ask for it. One person had the boldness to ask, ‘If you had to do it all over again, would you still join the Army?’ Of course, he said yes.

“These people are so committed to us and we often take them for granted,” he continued. “Patti and I developed a unique feeling that we owe our veterans our support. When we can do

it, we should help them when they need support, because of what they did. That’s what makes America what it is. I’m forever grateful for America and whatever makes America what it is, including our veterans.”

The Andersons also have gratitude for the communities in which they live and work and the country they love. Giving back to those areas, “is something I think we should all do as an expression of thanks for all we’ve received in those places,” Jim said.

When he’s not at the helm of Urban Science, which brings in more than \$200 million a year, employs nearly 900 people and has 18 offices around the world, Jim is captaining yet another love of his life — sailing.

“I have an addiction to boats, to life on the water,” he said. “Patti likes the small town of Charlevoix; I like the harbor of Charlevoix.”

Living by his father’s advice — “The length of a real man’s boat measured in feet should always exceed his age measured in years.” — boating has long been a passion.

“When we first met, he asked, ‘Do you like boats?’” Patti recalled. “I had a boat when I was 13 years old. ... So I said, ‘Yeah, I like boats.’ That first summer we took a boat trip up north. ... (Since then) we’ve seen some marvelous places.”

The couple has traveled 70,000 nautical miles together over the years.

“That’s more than twice around the world,” Jim said. “We’ve stopped at 128 ports on the Great Lakes.”

Though the weather has put an end to boating season, winters are made for earning — to support the next boating season.

Currently, work is conducted remotely as a precaution.

“With COVID, everybody’s scrambling to make sure everything’s OK,” Patti said. “I just want to make sure we’re safe. Jim has 400 people working for him just in Detroit. He has to stay healthy.”

Added Jim, “For us, the challenge of not being together is not nearly as big. We’re able to work quite effectively wherever we are.”

The couple has considered retirement: “We’d like to be serious about that,” Jim said. “It will happen, sooner rather than later.

“The problem is, the boat keeps growing.”

### Grosse Pointe News

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# Woman charged for threatening Board of Canvassers chair

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

Katelyn Jones, a 23-year-old former resident of Olivet, Mich., was charged with threats of violence through interstate commerce the morning of Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Jones reportedly threatened Wayne County Board of Canvassers Chair Monica Palmer, a Grosse Pointe Woods Republican, on multiple accounts due to Palmer's vote in November regarding election results.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, Palmer

initially voted against certifying the presidential election results in Wayne County. At 7:46 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, Palmer received multiple threatening text messages, beginning with, "Damn it was not hard finding all of your information disgusting racist b\*\*\*\*."

A second anonymous text accused Palmer of being a terrorist, saying, "I don't tolerate people like you, in fact I consider you to be a terrorist and do you know what happens to terrorist Monica???"

Later, two photos of a

deceased, bloodied and nude woman appeared on Palmer's phone, followed by a picture of Palmer's own underage daughter and a message asking her to imagine the mutilated woman in the picture as her daughter.

Further threats to Palmer and her daughter appeared via Instagram, including comments on multiple pictures: "Your Daughter is beautiful" and "Hmmm I'd be a shame if something happened to your daughter at school."

The FBI was able to track the messages to Jones via her

phone number and Instagram account affiliations. Though her driver's license shows a permanent address in Olivet, she was residing at her mother's home in New Hampshire.

The FBI secured a search warrant and encountered Jones at the New Hampshire residence, where she waived her rights and answered questions from the agents. Jones told the FBI she made the threats out of anger because Palmer was "interfering with the election."

"The allegations in this case should make all of us dis-

gusted," U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider said. "There is simply no place in Michigan, or in the United States, for chilling threats like this to people who are simply doing what they believe is correct."

Jones is set to appear virtually in court at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13. If convicted, she could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

While Palmer provided a copy of the court filing and a press release, she did not comment on the case.

## City receives unmodified audit opinion

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The City has continued its long streak of clean opinions with its 2019-20 fiscal year audit.

"The books and records were in great condition and we were able to issue a clean opinion with no internal control observa-

tions," Plante Moran Partner Joe Kowalski said.

The City's revenue has remained fairly consistent this year, with property taxes accounting for the biggest portion.

"It is worth noting that locally raised revenue and the state shared revenue has decreased a little bit," Plante Moran

Auditor Jake Talarek said of the city's general fund revenue. "Because of COVID, the state was sending out a little less money, but it wasn't a significant decrease and next year they're expecting that to remain pretty consistent despite the impact of the pandemic."

While the City's taxable value dropped signifi-

cantly in 2009 from \$400 million, it has been slowly increasing since 2014, with this past year reaching \$364 million and 2021 anticipated for \$384 million.

"With our projections of just say 2 percent after that, you don't get back to the \$400 million until 2023," Plante Moran Auditor Spencer Tawa

reported, "and that's 14 years that it took from 2009 to 2023 to get back to that taxable value that you had."

For the first fiscal year in several, the City made a contribution to the pension fund in 2019-20. The more than \$100,000 contribution also is the first in consecutive contributions, of various amounts, the city is projected to be required to pay into the pension plan in coming years.

While the actuarial evaluation shows the City's pension plan is fully funded, the audit determined it to be 85.66 percent funded based on the way the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires the city to report on financial statements.

On the other hand, the City's other post-employment benefits, or retiree healthcare, plan is only 6.2 percent funded, as the

City incorporates a full year of retiree healthcare expenses in the annual budget each year.

"The OPEB plan is not as well funded as the pension plan," Talarek said. "That's OK, because the city has taken more of a pay-as-you-go approach, where (with) the pension plan, the expenses are getting paid out of the pension plan."

"(With) the OPEB plan, the city's been paying for these benefits for the retirees as they become due," he continued, "so the city's just incurring those expenses as they go, which has been pretty consistent year over year."

After applying for grants from the state this year, the City has received a little more than \$300,000, Tawa reported, but the grants were received after June and therefore will be reflected in next year's audit.

## Gift of thanks at Christmastime

An anonymous donor from Grosse Pointe Shores donated Mack Avenue Grille gift cards to MedStar drivers so they could have a hot meal Christmas Eve. The donor presented 30 gift cards to MedStar ambulance drivers; MedStar matched those 30 gift cards and donated another 30.

Pictured, from left, are Louie Ropotos, co-owner, Mack Avenue Grille; Christie Vidor, EMT; Tom Newland, paramedic; Kolby Miller, CEO MedStar; Sydney Jovaisa, EMT and paramedic student; Harry Kurtz; and Grosse Pointe Park and City Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Planning commission comments on dog park

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The dog park continues to be a discussion point among Grosse Pointe Park committees. Though there are a select

few who are speaking out against the park's construction, the latest Park city council meeting lasted around five hours with many comments regarding the park.

At the Park planning

commission meeting Tuesday, Dec. 22, Commissioner Michele Lindsay, who serves as vice chair, clarified the situation to Park residents.

"As a planning commission, we can't retroactively undo a vote that city council has already made," she said. "The dog park is something that has been discussed in our 2019 master plan, so it's part of that planning process. But the city council has already voted on a location, so the planning commission can't intervene."

The park already has been voted on and

approved, both for its happening and its location. City Manager Nick Sizeland has encouraged concerned patrons to continue the dialogue with him so he can ease any unrest, but the finalizations of the park will proceed as planned.

As for the next master plan, the city has asked for two additional services — a parking study and recreation master plan — to aid in the development project. There will be a public visioning session in 2021 to allow the public's voice to be heard regarding how the future of the Park will look.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Tom Krolczyk has been named assistant city manager in Grosse Pointe Shores.

## POST:

Continued from page 1A

runs like a Swiss watch, like it always has," Krolczyk said. "... Going forward, I think we've got a great team in place."

The 15-year building department administrator was appointed as the city's interim city manager in November 2019, following Mark Wollenweber's retirement.

"He was asked to step up and run the city as interim city manager and for the last year, he has been selfless in his commitment to making sure things ran smoothly," said Matt Seely, the coun-

cilman who made the motion, which received unanimous approval. "He put in unprecedented amounts of extra time and care and I think that we owe him a great debt, because the city ran very well the last year under the condition of not having a permanent city manager."

Krolczyk credits Administrative Assistant Lynn Michaux with being an integral part of running the city during the period as well.

Along with his new position, Krolczyk will continue handling his daily duties of the building department, elections, marina and city website.



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## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, JAN. 4

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation meeting, 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 5

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Tree Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park TIFA Board meeting, 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.



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# 2020 Pointers of INTEREST

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Rosalie Lochner  
January 2



Judy Barker  
January 9



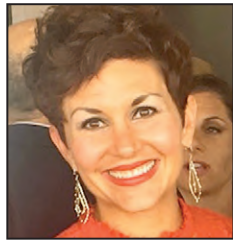
Kristen DeVoight  
January 16



Dr. Mike Lowe  
January 23



Steve Zaranek  
January 30



Michelle Stackpoole  
February 6



Christina Pitts  
February 13



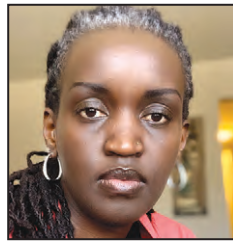
Robin Heller  
February 20



Lisa Santi  
February 27



Kristina Kaiser  
March 5



Nadia Nijimbere  
March 12



Julie Baumer  
March 19



Mary Lamparter  
March 26



James Anderson  
April 2



Elisa Gurule  
April 9



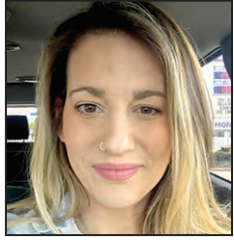
Donna Schneck  
April 16



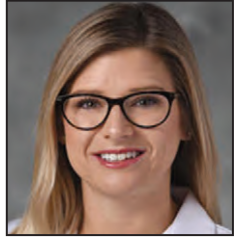
Keith Bellovich, D.O.  
April 23



Michelle Boggess-Nunley  
April 30



Carly Copus  
May 7



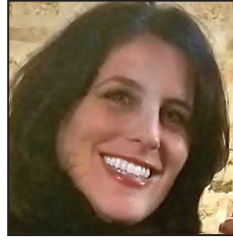
Nicole Brouyette  
May 14



Alex Shaheen  
May 21



Gail Marlow  
May 28



Christina Miano  
June 4



The Rev. Jeffery Baker  
June 11



Shiva Maralani  
June 18



Amanda Amine  
June 25



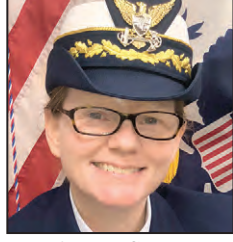
Amanda York  
July 2



Bryan Grose  
July 9



Luke Kirtley  
July 16



Stacey Crecy  
July 23



Adam Steiner  
July 30



Bettye Wright  
August 6



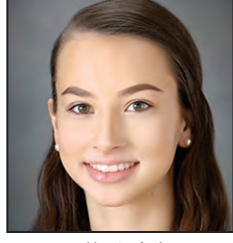
Greg Solecki  
August 13



Ken Van Dellen  
August 20



Brian Kirkendall  
August 27



Ally Saigh  
September 3



Amanda Roraff  
September 10



Ruth Azar  
September 17



Fatima Beacham  
September 24



Victoria Burton-Harris  
October 1



Ellen Switalski Miller  
October 8



Mark Orr  
October 15



Jeffry Bauer  
October 22



Nate Schwarze  
October 29



Brenda Brieden  
November 5



Jay Ritchie  
November 12



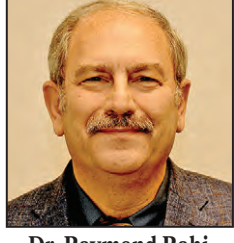
Dante Collins  
November 19



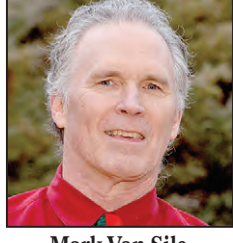
Robert Schultz  
November 26



Brad Foster  
December 3



Dr. Raymond Rahi  
December 10



Mark Van Sile  
December 17

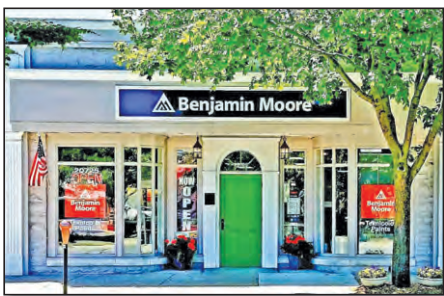


Randall Tallerico  
December 24

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# War Memorial to pay annual fee in lieu of taxes

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The Grosse Pointe War Memorial received final site plan approval in August for improvements to the campus, including the new addition of a center for arts and culture.

In a PILOT, or payment in lieu of taxes, agreement passed unanimously by city council during the meeting Monday, Dec. 14, the organization will be granted a reduced permit fee in exchange for paying the city an annual fee, essentially in lieu of taxes.

The War Memorial is a

tax-exempt organization and therefore, does not pay city property taxes, but does occasionally use city services such as public safety.

The permit fee, estimated at approximately \$160,000 based off the projected construction costs, will be reduced to \$50,000.

Called a win-win situation by City Manager Shane Reeside, The War Memorial will begin paying the city on an annual basis, starting with \$7,500 in 2021.

“This is a way to provide ongoing revenue to the city to help offset city costs,” he said.

The amount will

increase annually, compounded at 2.5 percent, for as long as The War Memorial continues as a nonprofit at its location.

Under this agreement, the Farms should regain the value of the total permit fee in less than 15 years with interest, according to city administration.

“I think it’s a neat way to benefit The War Memorial to make us all continue our good relationship with them, I hope, and at the same time provide us with a little revenue stream in the future,” said Lev Wood, councilman and chairman of the budget and audit committee.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



## Special deliveries

On Christmas Eve, Grosse Pointe Farms residents and a few businesses dropped off food for the six on-duty officers plus one firefighter working on the holiday. They received pizza, Polish food, snacks, cookies and other desserts. From left, Farms Fire Specialist Larry Stocking, Public Safety Officer Colin Roden, PSO Paul Reygaert and PSO Kris Desmadryl.

For four years, residents in Grosse Pointe Park have brought public safety officers a meal on Christmas Eve, Christmas morning, New Year’s Eve and New Years Day, so they have something hot to eat before they go on patrol during the holidays. Meals were delivered at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. shift changes. Officers received side dishes, desserts, snacks, pizza, sliders and mac and cheese. Allison Baker brought the six Grosse Pointe Park officers working Christmas Eve two large pans of macaroni and cheese. From left are PSO Ryan Nelson, PSO Brady Baetens, Sgt. Steven Thiel, Baker, Lt. Colin Connaire and Sgt. Michael Miller.

### City of Grosse Pointe

#### Stolen engagement ring

A diamond engagement ring, valued at \$3,500, was stolen from a dresser in a 55-year-old Grosse Pointe resident’s Neff Road home between Dec. 25, 2019, and March 5, 2020. Caregivers from a St. Clair Shores caregiving business were in the home during the timeline.

#### Bumper cars

A 42-year-old Grosse Pointe man was seen driving into the bumpers of two different parked cars near Mack Avenue and Washington Road at 11:09 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23.

A witness said the hit and run looked intentional, but the man denied the accidents and said he had only pulled up behind the vehicles, thinking there was enough space to park.

#### Christmas Eve gone wrong

After officers were called to help an underaged girl who was unconscious, around 20 teenagers were discovered with liquor bottles in a home in the 300 block of Lakeland Street at 1:03 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 24.

None were wearing masks and several were slurring their words.

The unconscious girl, who has had several con-

cussions recently and has a history of seizures associated with alcohol use, was transported to Ascension St. John Hospital.

The other teenagers were picked up by their parents and guardians, while the homeowner, who said she didn’t realize so many kids had come over, will be contacted by the court for violation of the open house party ordinance and the MDHHS order regarding indoor gatherings.

— Laurel Kraus

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

#### Grosse Pointe Park

##### Don’t go green

A resident of the 1000 block of Wayburn reported his green recycling can was stolen.

The resident presumes the can went missing between Sunday, Dec. 20, and Monday, Dec. 21.

##### Car egged

Sometime between Friday, Dec. 18, and Sunday, Dec. 20, a resident in the 700 block of Barrington became the victim of an anonymous

“egging.”

The resident reported his 2019 Mazda 6 was parked in his driveway. It sustained minor scratches due to the “egging.”

#### Cruising through a 30

At 9:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, a 55-year-old Taylor resident was stopped at Mack and Balfour for driving 54 mph in a 30 mph zone.

The officers who stopped the resident arrested her for operating while intoxicated.

#### Porch pirates caught

The culprits involved in stealing packages from residents’ porches have been caught.

On Saturday, Dec. 19, one Eastpointe man and two Detroit men were arrested for seven package larcenies and charged for multiple crimes in both jurisdictions.

Evidence of thefts from both Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit also were recovered.

#### Old times gone

A resident of the 1400 block of Maryland noticed her cassette deck/stereo, valued at \$300, was missing from her attic.

She believes it was a theft that occurred sometime during November or December.

— Kate Vanderstelt

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

#### Grosse Pointe Woods

##### Mid-morning nap

At 11:46 a.m. Monday, Dec. 21, officers were dispatched to Mack and Vernier where they found a 30-year-old St. Clair Shores man slumped over the wheel of his blue GMC Sierra pickup truck.

Officers found an uncapped syringe on the driver’s lap. He admitted to using heroin within the last hour, leading to his arrest for operating under the influence of

drugs. He was transported to the hospital for blood tests.

#### Caught lying

The suspect from last week’s Kroger retail fraud was arrested at 5:40 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12.

Officers located the driver, a 62-year-old Eastpointe man, at Mack and Vernier. He claimed he did not steal anything and his license was suspended. The driver was arrested and had warrants out for him in four different jurisdictions.

Found in his pocket were a pair of wire cutters. A confirmed stolen bottle of wine was found on the floor of the truck.

— Kate Vanderstelt

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

#### Grosse Pointe Farms

No crimes to report per dispatch.

— Laurel Kraus

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

#### Grosse Pointe Shores

No crimes to report per dispatch.

— Laurel Kraus

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

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## 6A | OPINION

## Grosse Pointe News

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## OUR VIEW

Out with 2020,  
in with 2021

It's time to kick 2020 to the curb and most people will do that happily. Yes, the year had its pluses — babies were born, many families grew closer as they worked and schooled at home, dogs getting long walks looked pleased with every step.

But it was also a stressful time as the COVID-19 pandemic heightened the uncertainty of what comes next. Almost nothing could be planned, whether it was daily schedules or events like weddings and, sadly, even funerals. And yes, people in the Grosse Pointes lost loved ones, endured days in the hospital and long recoveries, or faced long stints of isolation, either because of exposure to the new coronavirus or by making every effort to avoid it.

That means 2021 has to be better and many of the signs are in place:

◆ **Vaccinations.** The development of a successful COVID-19 vaccine, by two different companies no less, amounts to the near-miraculous. Staffers at the hospital systems that serve the Grosse Pointes began getting the first of the two-shot sequence in mid-December. Members of fragile populations, such as those in nursing homes, and essential workers are next in line. The hope is that by late spring or early summer, everyone who wants the vaccine will have gotten it and life can return to something like normal.

Of greatest importance to most people, that means being able to be with family and friends. Singing "Happy Birthday" as a digital group may lead to hysterical laughter, but it's a poor substitute for the real thing. No one will ever take hugs for granted again.

Given that some people resist vaccinations, full community coverage may never be complete. And many questions remain unanswered, including whether repeat vaccinations will be necessary. But that still leaves plenty of room for a more normal life.

◆ **Return to school.** Most public school districts in the area, including the Grosse Pointe Public School System, have had more off days than on. For in-school teaching, most also have resorted to hybrid systems with half the students in the buildings at any given time in order to ensure proper distancing. And in the Grosse Pointe district, high schoolers have never gotten back into their classrooms.

It's still months ahead, but by mid-2021, hopes for a regular 2021-22 school year should be realized. And with another summer of construction upgrades to buildings within the district, even more students will return to new and improved environs.

◆ **City projects.** Several civic endeavors could bloom in 2021, including the joint effort of several Pointes and adjacent Detroit neighborhoods to make improvement plans for Mack Avenue. Likewise, the New Year can unleash the potential for Main Street Grosse Pointe, as The Village shopping district gets further discussion and as plans gel for the program.

Also, with Grosse Pointe Farms becoming the latest community to pass a road millage, much needed street repairs will continue in the majority of Pointes. And here's a New Year's resolution: The Pointes need to keep the pressure on Wayne County — and every other government entity that can possibly help — to take care of the crumbling seawall along Lakeshore Road.

◆ **Preserving the positives of 2020.** Not everything was awful, amazingly enough. Neighborhoods came together, culminating most recently in great holiday displays like the Advent calendar windows on Audubon in Grosse Pointe Park. Residents walked more than ever. Virtual meetings and town halls sometimes led to more participation, not less, in civic affairs. Innovative merchants and restaurateurs perfected their offerings for curbside delivery.

With vaccines and a few selective carryovers, 2021 should be an enormous improvement on the miseries everyone endured in 2020. So take time to celebrate and have a very Happy New Year!



## Pure Grosse Pointe

Dan Curis, owner of the newly reopened Big Boy restaurant on Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods, texted this photo to Grosse Pointe News Publisher John Minnis with the note, "Sometimes it's better just to do things yourself."

## GUEST VIEWS

## Civic leaders usher in 2021

For this, our final issue for the year 2020 — a year many will gladly relinquish — Grosse Pointe News owner Sean Cotton invited the mayors, police chiefs and clergy of the five Grosse Pointes to send in their thoughts on 2020 and looking forward to 2021. We thank all those who sent letters and we happily share them with our readers in this space.

Not time to rest  
on laurels

Mayor Louis Theros

Grosse Pointe Farms

I wanted to thank the Grosse Pointe News and new owners Sean and Nancy Cotton for giving all the mayors the opportunity to provide some of our thoughts as we wait to herald in a new year. Thus, I thought I'd share an updated version of a letter I wrote to Farms residents last month.

In the last three months, Michigan has experienced an increase in COVID-19 cases. Based on the numbers in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, a hearty thanks to all of our residents for doing your best to protect yourselves and your neighbors. For the most part, the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have done better at protecting themselves and their neighbors from COVID-19 than other areas in Michigan. However, now is not the time to let our guard down. We cannot rest on our laurels.

Following the state's and Wayne County's guidelines protects us from the spread of this virus and helps protect those most vulnerable. I remind my two sons that my parents, their grandparents, grew up and attended school while living in Nazi-occupied Greece for six years. They sacrificed a lot during those years, so I tell my boys that one year of wearing a mask, consistently washing and sanitizing their hands, and being a bit more careful in what they do is not too much to ask. So, as we go about our daily routines and patronize our local stores, continue to be mindful of one another.

And not in any way to get political, because everything from the virus itself to vaccines has become political, I just want to say that our neighbors are not defined by their views on COVID-19 or the signs on their lawns.

We are defined by our actions and the grace with which we treat each other. Someone may strongly disagree with someone else's views, which candidates they support or the actual COVID-19 rules being promulgated by the state or county; but if they follow rules that merchants must follow to keep their doors open for business, or those governing our everyday activities, then we are on the same team. Actions not opinions define us and I trust all of you in this fight.

While many say we are all in this boat together, we are all not quite in the same boat. Some continue to work while others have been laid off or had their businesses closed or substantially limited. I urge all of us to shop local, especially when it comes to our local restaurants. For those fortunate to be working, I ask you to help those not as fortunate.

Thank you to the businesses in our communities for observing CDC guidelines to keep their workers and customers safe while keeping their doors open for us. And a big thanks to the municipal employees for the great job they have done during these trying times.

Finally, we will all be celebrating holidays this month and that will be the perfect time to reflect on the things we can be thankful for even during these most difficult times. Indeed, we have a lot to look forward to, especially now with the rollout of multiple vaccines and hopefully an end to the pandemic.

See LEADERS, page 7A

## 'Are we there yet?'

Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak

City of Grosse Pointe

The pandemic has begun to feel like an endless road trip with the kids in the back seat asking, "How much longer?" Unfortunately, we don't know the answer. And while we would all like to pull the car over, hop out and stretch our legs, we can't let our guard down with COVID-19 for a minute without incredible risk. Every time we think the worst is behind us, the number of cases spikes yet again.

It can be frustrating for everyone, but — whether you are behind the wheel or in a passenger seat — we are all in this together.

Fortunately, in the City of Grosse Pointe we were able to preserve many of our community traditions and events — with modifications — through the summer and fall. As we adapted to changing circumstances, the resiliency and creativity of our community members and our City staff have continued to impress.

The City has made significant progress despite the pandemic. City council has set realistic goals for the coming year, which will help us not only stay responsive to changing conditions but also be ready to move forward quickly when circumstances allow. Plans to revitalize The Village through the Michigan Main Street program are well underway, and we are turning our attention to the second stage of the Mack Avenue Revitalization Plan now that Phase I has been completed.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, we were able to finish up construction of our new public safety and public works buildings and move into those facilities. Our staff also made a tremendous effort to keep our parks and pool open through the summer; handled the annual financial audit remotely; and smoothly managed the November election process — no small feat with a record number of votes cast, including an all-time high of absentee ballots.

Like everyone else, through these difficult months — and especially when COVID-19 cases spiked this fall — I have had moments of discouragement. Yet every time I start to feel low, something happens to lift my spirits. Most recently, it was in the form of Girl Scout Cadette Group 76501, a "small but mighty group," in the words of their troop leader. The four sixth-graders from Brownell — Makenzie, Kassiani, Helen and Elizabeth — invited me to their Zoom meeting so they could learn about local government as they worked toward their Democracy Badge.

It was a joy to spend time with them. The girls were well prepared. They asked good, nicely thought-out questions. They even asked appropriate follow-up questions based on my answers. They were lively, enthusiastic and incredibly engaged, and they followed up with handwritten thank-you notes.

The passion of these Girl Scouts strengthened my confidence that when it is the next generation's turn to take the wheel, we will be in very good hands.

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I SAY By Kate Vanderstelt

# Grosse Pointe: What I didn't know I needed



nally embraced it during my senior year. I loved the people around me. They took care of me and showed me how to lead a purposeful life.

Graduation hit in May of 2020 and apprehension abounded. My friends all went separate ways — not many of us had options due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I felt very alone. I retreated into my sister's house, which felt like a safe haven, but I knew it

couldn't last forever. I realized all of "my people" weren't around me anymore.

After what felt like a lifetime of job searching, I interviewed and received an offer as a staff writer with the Grosse Pointe News.

I was unsure of where I wanted to be, and I felt like I needed to pursue an adventure outside the state I had lived in the last four years. I did not want to feel like I was

settling or taking the safe bet by accepting a job just two hours away from where I currently lived.

I reluctantly accepted the job with the Grosse Pointe News. I knew it would be a good opportunity, even though it was not the big adventure I thought I wanted.

My situation at the time coupled with the pandemic pushed me into accepting this job, which has turned out to

be one of my biggest blessings in this season of hardship. I did not realize the reason I was missing Hillsdale was because I was craving a small-town, friendly and loving environment until I stepped foot right back in it.

Grosse Pointe is reminding me of my small-town college days where everyone was looking out for me. Every interview I have conducted thus far has led

me to another happy, smiling voice. Even Facebook groups are showing me how deeply Grosse Pointers care about their community.

Though graduating during a pandemic was difficult, I am thankful it showed me just what I needed at the time. I am beyond grateful to get the opportunity to dive into the community of Grosse Pointe and spend days to come cultivating a love for its people.

## LEADERS:

Continued from page 6A

In other words, keep the faith — in yourself and others. Like everyone, I will be thankful when the ball drops on 2020 and we can put it in our rearview mirror.

On behalf of our City Council, City Administration and our employees, I wish the best to all our neighbors in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

## Progress in Park

Mayor Bob Denner  
Grosse Pointe Park

Greetings from Grosse Pointe Park to all my fellow Grosse Pointers. As 2020 draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the challenges of the past year and to look ahead to the plans and opportunities of 2021.

The pandemic dominated the past year, but we did the best we could and we continued to make progress here in Grosse Pointe Park, as was the case across all the Pointes. This past year our residents benefited from the many innovative, COVID-safe programs that were developed by our Parks and Recreation Department. We also initiated a project to construct a new public service department garage on Mack Avenue at Wayburn. It is planned to open as an attractive and modern space in 2021. The A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery project, initiated and run by the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation, also gained momentum. It is expected to open on Jefferson Avenue at Maryland in 2022 as the new world-class home of the Grosse Pointe Theatre and the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra, as well as other Detroit-area performance groups, and include a gallery of exceptional art. These are just a few highlights that we can be grateful for in an otherwise highly challenging and unusual year of pandemic.

The New Year of 2021 offers hope and optimism for all of us for many reasons. The obvious benefit of a successful vaccination program will begin to restore our lives to patterns we all consider more normal, with less Zoom and more personal interaction with our family and friends. In Grosse Pointe Park we look forward to a full slate of programs in our two terrific waterfront parks and an active marina with somewhat lower and more manageable water levels. A busy year of projects across all our city departments is also planned, including the renovation of city hall at the Palmer T. Heenan Municipal Center.

As we enter the new year, we should all look forward to a new spring of opportunity, social connections and, most important, the fun and enjoyment of spending time with each other. 2021 will be what we make it. Every new year brings new promise and this year, more than most, is one we are looking forward to as packed with opportunities and uplifting memorable experiences. We all learned to value the simple things in our restricted lives of 2020, and we look forward to building on this truth for a terrific 2021.

Happy New Year to all my Grosse Pointe neighbors!

## Happy New Year, seasons greetings

Mayor Valerie J. Kindel  
Harper Woods

As the newly appointed mayor of Harper Woods, I would like to take this time to wish all the best for you and yours in 2021. As we reflected on 2020, we extend our sympathy and condolences to the many families who have lost loved ones during this year.

Although we have faced some tumultuous times during 2020, we can begin the New Year with bright thoughts and hopeful ideas, to make our Community

See LEADERS, page 8A

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1945

75 years ago this week

**FALLEN PLANE STILL MISSING:** The search for a small airplane which was seen to crash into Lake St. Clair off the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club at 5 p.m. Wednesday continued as the News went to press Thursday afternoon. Officials at the club reported they could still see the wings of the plane sticking up above the water when darkness fell. All efforts of the Coast Guard and police to locate the craft and its passengers were fruitless.

**CITY WANTS CREDIT FOR MORE BABIES:** City Clerk Norbert P. Neff, who, as clerk of the City municipal corporation, acts as registrar of vital statistics for the state and reports to Lansing, is highly displeased with the misleading figures on births and deaths which appear against the City. "Because there is no hospital in Grosse Pointe City, and because it is a well-nigh universal habit with the young mothers to have their babies in hospitals now," he says, "one might think from the figures recorded here that we were a decadent and dying municipality." The death reports are gathered in with accuracy, but the births to parents of City residents are reported from the municipalities in which the hospitals are located.

Obituaries: Dr. Henry Norton Torrey

### 1970

50 years ago this week

**SCHOOL GETS SURPRISE BEQUEST:** Helen E. Nurnberger died Dec. 23, but her strong belief in education lives on through her bequest of \$250,000 for a scholarship endowment fund at University Liggett School.

**ADDICT CLEARS UP 25 THEFTS:** A Detroit man who pursued a burglary career by robbing homes in Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties to feed a \$75-a-day heroin habit cleared up 25 burglaries and five attempted break-ins, all in the Farms, it was disclosed by Farms detectives. Detective Sgt. George Van Tiem and Detective Joseph Miller disclosed that they received information from a reliable source that James Patrick

McCarthy, 28, had been operating in the Pointe area since December 1969, and might be responsible for many home break-ins in the Farms.

Obituaries: Lois Waterman, Howard C. Nash, Julius A. Mikus, Leo A. Stephenson, Alice Elizabeth McKee, Herman E. Lade, Dr. Gerald Shortz

### 1995

25 years ago this week

**GPPL HAS BUSY FIRST YEAR:** Contract negotiations with two employee unions, setting a budget, fighting a lawsuit in Wayne Circuit Court and replacing a director were enough to keep a newly independent library busy in the last 12 months. The Grosse Pointe Public Library has been an institution serving the five Pointes and Harper Woods since the 1920s, but changes in state funding to schools forced the Grosse Pointe Public School System to spin off the library.

**POINTES CONNECTED BY NEW EXCHANGE:** They said in 1994 that adding the new (810) area code would take care of southeast Michigan's telephone needs for the next

20 years. They were wrong. Ameritech spokesperson Sara Snyder cautioned Grosse Pointers who have just gotten used to dialing (810) not to get too comfortable. In 1997, people living in the (810) area code zone will be split off into two zones, (810) and a new one, she said; in 1998, the (313) zone will be split.

Obituaries: Marco Santi, Olive Masters Haynor, Anna G. Piotrowski, Otis Roloson Wilcoxson, Robert Price Oldham, Waunita Rhea Harden, Matthew M. Saunders, George J. Richmond, Lucita Hamm Barlow, Charles Phillip Klingensmith, Roger Stewart Tuttle, Virginia M. Kelly

### 2010

10 years ago this week

**FARMS ATTORNEY EARNS HONOR:** Grosse Pointe Farms attorney Charles "Chip" Berschback was named one of metro Detroit's "Top Lawyers" for 2011 by DBusiness, a business journal published by Hour Magazine.

**GARDEN CLUBS DONATE:** Some 450 Grosse Pointe Garden Club members and guests attending the fundraiser at Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory on Belle Isle helped raise \$39,000 to repair the conservatory steps. Twenty local garden clubs were involved in the fundraiser.

Obituaries: June Marks Anderman, Mary H. Belanger, Edna J. Burns, Marjorie L. Chandler, Allen Fullton Edwards Jr., Barbara Ann Robertson, William Muir Taliaferro, Robert E. Thoreson, Anne M. Beever, Duane Clifford Stone

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will be considering the following proposed ordinance for a second reading at its meeting scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to be held remotely by Zoom. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend. The proposed ordinance is located on the City's website at [www.gpwni.us](http://www.gpwni.us).

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 8 BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, ARTICLE XVI - EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL GENERATORS, TO MODIFY SECTION 8-463 PERMANENT LOCATION, TO ALLOW SIDE YARD PLACEMENT BASED ON CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.**

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 12/31/2020

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## 8A | LETTERS

## LEADERS:

Continued from page 7A

a better place. We are working to revitalize Eastland Center, repave Beaconsfield Street, working with businesses along Kelly Road for improvements and revitalization. But most importantly, is to adhere to the needs of the Harper Woods residents. Because it takes each and every one of us to keep our City a great place to live, work and play.

I want to also thank the team that is working with me for the betterment of Harper Woods: City council, acting city manager, city clerk, treasurer, director of economic development, department of finance, director of public safety, police and fire, DPW, parks and recreation and library staff. This is the team that works tirelessly for our residents, so from all of us, we wish that 2021 will be filled with love, good health, prosperity, happiness and abundance.

## Positives to take away from 2020

Public Safety Director Stephen Poloni

Grosse Pointe/Grosse Pointe Park

We have all heard someone make the comment that they cannot wait for 2021 to begin due to the devastating events of 2020. As the director of public safety, looking back at 2020, it is obvious to see why someone would have those sentiments. COVID-19, civil unrest, contentious elections and quarantines are just some of the unsettling events of 2020. However, as the director of public safety, I see some positives to take away from 2020 that I believe will move us forward in the New Year.

The events of 2020 caused changes in how our public safety departments prepared and operated during a crisis.

We enhanced our abilities to coordinate with our mutual-aid cities as we responded to lawful protest marches, which all remained peaceful. We learned that through communication with our citizens and various organizations, we can break down barriers that may have existed and move forward in taking on those difficult issues.

Our departments responded to a pandemic with aggressive policies to assist the most vulnerable in our communities. We learned how our communities can come together during adversity as we observed how they supported our small business community and helped neighbors who were unable to help themselves. Our dedicated officers found ways to be a beacon of hope during this period of darkness. New types of outreach occurred as we performed or assisted with drive-by parties for birthdays, anniversaries and weddings. Officers delivered essential needs to our elderly residents who could not get out for themselves. We are proud of how our residents and businesses worked with us in complying with the many new mandates and have forged some new relationships.

I believe our public safety departments will approach 2021 with confidence, knowing that we had many successes in 2020 to be proud of and thankful for. I believe that confidence will be expressed by our officers to the residents and visitors we serve and will in turn provide a positive start to 2021.

## 2020 has posted bond and is gone!

Daniel V. Jensen, Director of Public Safety  
John E. Hutchins, Deputy Director of Public Safety

Grosse Pointe Farms

2020 was an unusual and challenging year for everyone and the Grosse Pointe Farms Department of Public Safety was not exempt. The pandemic presented many difficulties, requiring unprecedented changes in policies and procedures necessary to keep our residents and officers safe. Officers were instructed to wear masks, face shields if warranted, gloves and practice social distancing. The station was basically locked down, with only the most serious complaints/issues handled in person. This was extremely frustrating, not only to our residents and guests, but to department personnel, as the Grosse Pointe Farms Department of Public Safety has prided itself on being transparent and known as a community-based police department. Adjustments were made and only two sworn officers ended up contracting COVID-19.

Weddings, childbirths and sadly, funerals had to be kept to the most intimate setting to keep safe. The most significant outcome provided to the men and women of the public safety department during this pandemic was the incredible outpouring of support and love given to us by our residents and business community. Since February, there have been countless meals, cards, cookies and treats dropped off at our station, to the enjoyment and deep appreciation of all our personnel. Words cannot convey the emotions felt by all of us! To try and individually name all those who thought of us during these trying times would require a full page!

All the members of the Grosse Pointe Farms Department of Public Safety agree that these senti-

ments make serving and protecting our community an honor and a privilege! Again, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your love and support. God bless and may 2021 bring great health and happiness to this amazing community.

## Hope for a brighter 2020

John G. Kosanke, Director of Public Safety

Grosse Pointe Woods

As the year 2020 comes to a close, I would like to remind everyone that behind every cloud is a silver lining. While the world as we know it seemed to turn upside down during this past year, there is still hope to be had for a brighter future in 2021.

Everyone has been affected in one way or another by the tensions and necessary restrictions of life during a global pandemic. Worries have disrupted our thoughts as thousands have lost their jobs, stores and restaurants have been forced to close and travel has come to a halt. Wearing a facial covering or mask and keeping a distance of six feet from another person has become a way of life for people throughout the world. We look forward to a future when the nightly television news will be filled with stories of inspiration and good deeds rather than an endless stream of grim news reports.

The Grosse Pointe community has been supportive of all the local public safety departments during these trying times and have expressed their appreciation with cards, gifts of food and even yard signs. In turn, public safety employees have done their part to raise the spirits of birthday celebrants confined to their homes by doing drive-by birthday greetings in patrol cars.

Our officers are to be commended for their dedication to duty and protection of the community under the most difficult of circumstances. A recent bout of the virus within the department this month has temporarily reduced staffing levels, the result of which has been long work hours for employees still able to work. As the director of public safety, I can confidently say that I am proud of the hard work and diligence of each and every member of our department.

If there is one lesson to be learned from 2020, it is that we have learned to slow down and appreciate what is really important in life. We no longer take things or one another for granted. The day is coming when we can once again hug each other, gather around a table with a group of family and friends, go to concerts and sporting events, travel to new and exciting destinations and be free of hiding behind a mask in fear of an invisible terror lurking in the air.

Just as the fresh air of a new spring follows a dark, cold winter, a new year filled with peace and love is only days away. We must not lose faith that the future holds many blessings in store for all of us because as long as there is life, there is hope.

## Generosity in the Shores

John J. Schulte, Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores

As 2020 draws to a close, I am reminded of the continuous generosity of our residents here in Grosse Pointe Shores. In a year like 2020, with so much uncertainty about health, employment and family, residents who stepped up to assist us are too numerous to count.

As the chief of police and director of public safety, I would like to thank each and every resident for thinking of my officers as they came to work every day to serve and protect our beautiful community.

Hoping 2021 will be a year where we remember how fragile life is and help those most affected by the pandemic.

## Not our resolves, but God's in 2021

Pastor Randy Boelter and the members of Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool

Grosse Pointe Woods

In the face of the pandemic, you may or may not be making some New Year's resolutions for 2021, but what may surprise you is that God is! What are His resolves? Take heart!

GOD PROMISES TO FORGIVE OUR SINS. He made this resolution long ago and brought it to pass when His Son Jesus Christ was born in the flesh in Bethlehem, then suffered, died and rose again. Jesus has already paid the price for all sins: past, present and future. But God wants us to enter the New Year

BELIEVING Him when He says through His Son: "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven (Matthew 9:2)."

What else? GOD PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN AND LEAD US. "Be strong and of good courage. Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9)." God was with us through 2020 and He will be with us in 2021, for our Savior Jesus promises: "I will be with you ALWAYS." (Matthew 28:20)." This is certain ... even in troubled times!

And ... we can know that GOD HAS RESOLVED TO TAKE US TO HEAVEN. "I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:3)." We don't know if this will happen in 2021, for no one can know the exact time of His return (Matthew 24:44). But that is why God also resolves through Word and Sacrament TO GIVE US FAITH IN HIM. "By grace we are saved through faith as a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)."

Even through the most uncertain of times, God always gives us hope to look ahead! He wants us to receive what He has resolved to give us in 2021. Worship and hear His Word, for that is where God will give you the faith you need to believe that God keeps ALL His resolves and has good things waiting for you in Christ Jesus His Son.

Not our resolves, but God's resolves give us the confidence we need for 2021!

## New Year greetings!

The Rev. Jeffery L. Baker, Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E.

Grosse Pointe Park

We often hear the words "Hindsight is 20/20," but I want to share these words with you on today: "2020 is hindsight."

I've been waiting to share those words for many months as the year 2020 ends. The year 2020 held many challenges we have never seen or experience before. Individuals families, churches, businesses and governments worldwide have been impacted due to the global pandemic of COVID-19. I don't want to be a "downer," but I think it is essential to give a reminder that simply because the calendar has now flipped to Jan. 1, 2021 and a new year, that doesn't mean all our troubles are behind us. Have little doubt that 2021 will hold situations that will require us to look to a higher being for answers and solutions

As an individual I have strived to be faithful to God, my family, church and my community.

As we forge ahead into 2021, isn't it good to know that we can depend on God who never changes? "He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8)."

While 2020 may have left a few scars along the way in our lives, I pray that we as a people do not dwell on those things behind us. May we have the strength to look back and learn. But, look forward and be inspired that a better day is coming. An old negro spiritual saying is, "Trouble don't last always." In other words, "Weeping may endure for a night," but, if you hold out, "Joy will come in the morning."

We pray that we will not continue to go back, but to go forward and strive to make a better day.

The Apostle Paul in the Bible saw this as vital to continue growth in life: Philippians 3:13-14 ESV: "Brothers and Sisters, I do not consider that I have made it by my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lie ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize."

So, as we look and go forward in 2021, experience tells us that we have no idea all the New Year will hold. Yet, we can also rest assured that the same God who kept us and brought us through 2020 will keep us in 2021, if we let him guide and direct us.

In closing, there is a gospel song that has a line like this: "Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand."

Let's put 2020 behind us and do all we can to make 2021 a greater year.

## New Year New Stories



Morning Time



Break Time



Me Time



Any Time

## Grosse Pointe News

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## CITY:

Continued from page 1A

estimated \$598,038 project will turn the existing public safety apparatus bay into a courtroom, as well as create a reception area, offices, a prisoner holding area and more.

## February

◆ Maureen Juip is unanimously appointed by city council to fill the vacant seat left by Sheila Tomkowiak, who was voted mayor in November 2019.

◆ Village business owners, elected officials and city staff make the trek to Lansing to present the city's application for the Michigan Main Street Program, which would revitalize The Village.

## March

◆ 481 Republican and 1,521 Democratic ballots are cast in the election, with the volume of absentee ballots double that of the 2016 presidential primary. The Wayne County Art Institute Authority Millage is renewed.

◆ City hall and municipal court close to the public Tuesday, March 17, as COVID-19 cases reach Michigan. Essential city services continue.

◆ The Neighborhood Club closes its building, along with all programs and activities, in response to the pandemic.

◆ Neff Park remains open for its normal operating hours, while the bathhouse, office and playground are closed.

## April

◆ Blue ribbons are tied around trees on Beaumont Hospital campuses and in the surrounding communities to show support for healthcare workers amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

◆ Public safety officers deliver Easter baskets to seniors who live alone in the community.

◆ An employee of Kroger in The Village passes away due to COVID-19.

◆ Grosse Pointe community members line up in cars with signs thanking healthcare workers and drive by Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe during shift change. The procession is led by public safety.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League donates \$10,000, split equally between Ascension St. John Hospital's COVID-19 Fund and its Associate Hardship Fund.

◆ The Beaumont Health System kicks off the largest serological study in the country, to look at antibodies and the possibility of immunity to COVID-19.

◆ A 450-foot Tiger Dam is installed along the length of Neff Park in anticipation of high lake levels.

◆ Through ongoing efforts, the Grosse Pointe Boat Club is getting close to providing more than 400 meals to Grosse



FILE PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Pandemic panic led shoppers to clear out the shelves at stores throughout the Pointes this March, including these at Trader Joe's in The Village.**

Pointe frontline workers during COVID-19. The food is purchased from local restaurants.

◆ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau temporarily suspends field data collection and extends the self-response deadline to Oct. 31.

## May

◆ Around 170 Farms, Park and City employees receive COVID-19 testing at Windmill Pointe Park.

◆ A resolution is adopted allowing businesses in The Village and commercial areas on Fisher and Mack to expand into publicly owned sidewalk and street space in order to maintain social distancing.

◆ Flooding leads to Lakeshore and Neff Park temporary closures.

◆ Health and safety restrictions won't stop LGBTQ residents and their supporters from making their presence known in the Pointes. Welcoming Everyone GP, or WeGP, launches a campaign for what might be its most ambitious and innovative Pride Month celebration yet.

## June

◆ Kercheval Company LLC offers its 23 tenants in The Village rent forgiveness or reduction.

◆ Council passes a resolution condemning racism and racial injustice, while supporting diversity and inclusion. The City is the first Pointe to do so.

◆ The Village is accepted into the Michigan Main Street Program. For the next five years, the program will focus on attracting new residents, business investments, economic growth and job creation.

◆ A warming center building to be built at the Grosse Pointe Rotary Tot Lot is announced.

◆ Second quarter permit parking holders in the City have their permits extended into the third quarter if they have not already requested a refund, since permits



**Rising water levels at Neff Park led to new docks being built on top of old docks in May.**



**The Rotary Tot Lot in the City of Grosse Pointe officially reopened in August after months of being closed for remodeling.**

were not used during the shutdown.

## July

◆ Council votes to eliminate PEG fees, which eliminates a 1.15 percent Comcast fee and a 2 percent AT&T fee from residents' bills.

◆ The Neff Park pool temporarily closes after a lifeguard tests positive for COVID-19.

◆ The City begins to explore the potential of creating a historic district or districts.

## August

◆ The newly re-imagined Grosse Pointe Rotary Tot Lot opens.

◆ Another lifeguard tests positive for COVID-19, leading to the second temporary closure of the Neff Park pool.

◆ Voter turnout in the August election shows 1,516 absentee voters and 445 in-person voters.

◆ Eight members are

appointed to the new Main Street Grosse Pointe Board.

◆ The marina at Neff Park is officially named the Dale N. Scrace Marina in recognition of the former mayor's 28 years of service to the City. He was integral in the renovation and rehabilitation of the marina in 2004.

◆ The new public safety building on Mack is dedicated and opens, as the department also rolls out an advanced police simulation training program.

## September

◆ The historic preservation district research process begins with the authorization from council to create a historic dis-

trict study committee, the designation of areas within the city to be included in the study and the execution of a professional services agreement with Kidorf Preservation Consulting to create a historic district if approved by council.

## October

◆ The Mack Avenue Corridor Improvement Plan releases its finalized recommendations for the section between Cadiuex and Moross.

◆ Non-union city staff are given the opportunity to cash out one week of vacation time, as a one-time 2020 pandemic exemption to the employee handbook.

◆ The new public

works building is operational.

◆ The Warner Bros. movie "No Sudden Move" films in the City for two days.

## November

◆ Council makes a resolution honoring long-time city attorney John Fildeew.

◆ The municipal parking structure, along with Lots 2 and 3, are set to receive replaced and updated pay systems.

◆ Restaurants are now allowed, on an annually permitted basis, to continue with the expansion of dining areas into sidewalks and parking lots.

◆ A voter turnout record is set within the city, with a 79 percent turnout rate for the presidential election.

◆ Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe reinstates visitor restrictions as COVID-19 case counts rise in the Pointes.

◆ City hall closes to the public for the second time since the pandemic began Wednesday, Nov. 18, as COVID-19 case counts continue to rise in the area.

◆ The City is set to be the first Pointe to implement public electric vehicle charging stations.

◆ The minimum unit size in the City is lowered to 500, 600, 700 and 900 square feet for studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units, respectively.

## December

◆ As the 50-year lease agreement for Elworthy Field between the Grosse Pointe Public School System and the City is set to expire, a 10-year extension is agreed upon by both parties.

◆ The first results of Beaumont Health System's large-scale serological testing study shows masks protect against exposure to COVID-19.

◆ Beaumont employees begin receiving administrations of the Pfizer vaccine Thursday, Dec. 15. Dr. Nick Gilpin, medical director at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe, is the first Beaumont Health employee to receive the vaccine.

◆ The City announces its 2021 road construction will largely focus on Rivard.

◆ The City continues to pursue becoming a Redevelopment Ready Community.

◆ Appointments are made to the historic district study committee, with the first public meeting anticipated for January.

◆ The City gets to work on exploring zoning implementations recommended by the Mack Avenue Corridor Improvement Plan.



**The City of Grosse Pointe's new public safety building opened for use in August.**



**Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods police chiefs kneel in solidarity during a Black Lives Matter march in the City of Grosse Pointe this June.**



10A | NEWS

PARK:

Continued from page 1A

underway, concerns expressed by some community residents persist. Councilwoman Lauri Read says an appraisal of the property and other matters first should be addressed; several residents express similar concerns.

February

◆ City council unanimously votes to discuss possible discipline toward City Attorney Dennis Levasseur after three citizens complain of unprofessional behavior by a lawyer. The council verbally reprimands Levasseur, who read a statement expressing remorse, but members are compelled to delay any formal response.

◆ Not satisfied with the amount of information provided by city leaders, several residents plan to organize a community discussion about the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery undergoing development.

◆ Following the installment of a traffic technology device designed to improve safety at two local intersections, the Detroit company promoting the innovation announces the Park as its national pilot city. Thanks to a grant from NextEnergy, the Park is able to activate a SmartCone at Kercheval and Nottingham, as well as St. Paul and Somerset.



St. Ambrose Catholic Church's Fr. Tim Pelc blessed Easter baskets with a squirt gun in April.

March

◆ Mayor Robert Denner agrees to consider adding his name to a growing list of mayors who've endorsed expanding LGBTQ rights to education, employment, housing and public accommodations as part of the 1876 Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

◆ The first cases of COVID-19 in Michigan are discovered March 10. Citing guidance issued by the state of Michigan, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Department of Health and Human Services, several area institutions announce their temporary closure.

◆ Restaurant owners are among the small businesses feeling the impact of preventive



A new bus turnaround was created near city hall in January.

measures recently announced by the state of Michigan, in the wake of an ongoing health emergency. Gov. Whitmer extends the same public caution that preceded temporary school closures to include eateries, bars, coffee shops and fast food franchises that are required to temporarily close their dining rooms.

◆ 814 Republican and 3,523 Democratic ballots are cast in the election. The Wayne County Art Institute Authority Millage is renewed.

◆ Park city leaders begin moving forward with a transition to replace former City Attorney Dennis Levasseur with interim City Attorney Thomas J. Howlett. Complaints against Levasseur hastened a transition that had been contemplated earlier, according to

Mayor Robert Denner. ◆ The long-awaited, but increasingly debated, arts center is projected to open during fall 2022, the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation announces. The public charity charged with developing the \$25 million facility, has secured construction and architectural firms to complete the building and design, along with fundraising leaders to manage resources.

◆ A handful of Grosse Pointe residents take it upon themselves to fill the silence of vastly empty streets with the sweet sounds of music. Musically inclined residents conduct pop-up porch concerts every evening at 6 p.m., weather permitting.

April

◆ Mark Rieth, owner of Atwater Brewery, transforms his Detroit bar and

distillery into a hand sanitizer distribution hub. Rather than cut staff to brace for a loss of revenue, he develops Atwater Spirits Hand Sanitizer as a new business opportunity during the pandemic.

◆ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau temporarily suspends field data collection and extends the self-response deadline to Oct. 31.

◆ As city council prepares to resume sessions in coming weeks, advocates hope an ambitious community proposal will soon make its way onto the agenda. The Citizens' Recreation Commission wants to improve four parks by adding amenities that make Chene-Trombly, Sweeney, Lake Front and Ghesquiere parks more family-friendly attractions.

May

◆ Having been turned down for financial assistance available to struggling small businesses, Mimi's Bistro launches a GoFundMe campaign to generate \$25,000. Customers contribute equipment to the restaurant and make generous gestures.

◆ A 30-foot stretch of sidewalk on Yorkshire draws quite a bit of attention when homeowners Karl and Liz Koto declare the space "The Ministry of Silly Walks," requiring passersby to "commence silly walking immediately" while passing their house. An influx of walkers, recorded on their Nest doorbell camera, find space on the cou-

ple's Instagram account.

◆ Health and safety restrictions won't stop LGBTQ residents and their supporters from making their presence known in the Pointes. Welcoming Everyone GP, or WeGP, launches a campaign for what might be its most ambitious and innovative Pride Month celebration yet.

June

◆ A sailboat owner is hospitalized after suffering significant burns in an explosion aboard the vessel in pier four's marina at Windmill Pointe Park. The cause of the explosion is investigated.

◆ The Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods branch of the NAACP hosts a virtual forum with city officials to discuss police policy after the death of Minneapolis man George Floyd at the hands of a uniformed policeman ignited international outrage, including demonstrations in Grosse Pointe Woods, Park and City.

◆ Red Crown stages its grand reopening in the restaurant's parking lot, which has become an expanded patio.

◆ A pair of 4-3 city council votes help clear the way for a new Department of Public Works building on Mack. A previously tabled agenda item addressing Northwest Tax Increment Finance Authority's budget amendments, which would support the DPW's relocation from its aging Jefferson facility, is approved by a margin of one.

July

◆ City council unanimously passes a measure designed to help boost patronage at its bars and restaurants. Citing a bill signed by Gov. Whitmer allowing alcoholic beverages to be sold for carry-out, the members establish what will be one of Michigan's social districts.

◆ A new regulation designed to enforce professional guidelines for conduct among city employees and elected officials goes into effect, following a unanimous vote to approve an ethics ordinance that will address potential allegations brought against Park staff or other representatives.

August

◆ Businesses that have been struggling due to statewide shutdowns and related economic challenges since the spring can get a financial lift from the Tax Increment Finance Authority. City council approves a \$50,000 TIFA budget, leading to TIFA's endorsement of a reopening program designed to aid shops and establishments in recovering from loss of revenue.

◆ Election statistics from Tuesday, Aug. 4, show a pandemic will not

See PARK, page 11A



Grosse Pointe Park hosted Chilly Fest in January.



Grosse Pointe Park resident Beth Kurta hosted a socially distant concert on her lawn in August.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
Virtual Info Nights for the Grosse Pointe Public School System

- ◆ Kindergarten and Young Fives Thursday, 1/7/21, 6:30pm
- ◆ Middle School Info Night Tuesday, 1/12/21, 6:30pm
- ◆ High School Info Night Thursday, 1/14/21, 6:30pm

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FILE PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Park hosted Camp Wind-Y-Mill in September.



**PARK:**

Continued from page 10A

stop Grosse Pointers from exercising their right to vote. Voter participation is on track with primaries in recent years, but there is a shift in balance as absentee ballots outnumber those going to the polls.

◆ Former Park resident Bob Bashara, who was serving two life sentences related to the 2012 death of his wife, Jane Bashara, dies in prison. No cause of death is released at press time, but he had been reported to be in ill health.

**September**

◆ Almost a year after city council passed a proposal to develop a dog park recreation site at Patterson Park, administrators recommend a location to build the attraction.

◆ Citing his relocation to Macomb County, Councilman Daniel Grano announces his resignation after serving 15 years on city council.

◆ Visionary artists can win a \$100 gift card and at the same time help the city win recognition for an ambitious commercial initiative. The Park's Social District Logo Contest calls for submissions of full-color or black-and-white renderings of graphics that represent the newly formed business zone to promote local bars and restaurants.

◆ A Park man faces federal charges after the U.S. Department of Justice announces the shutdown of an international crime ring involving drug trafficking and the illegal shark fin trade. Terry Shook is among 12 defendants and two businesses indicted for a range of offenses, including mail and wire fraud conspiracy, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances and money laun-

dering conspiracy.

**October**

◆ One of Michigan's first social districts and the lone district in the Pointes shows early signs of success. Since launching 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 economically impacted by health and safety restrictions.

◆ Giving away money isn't a problem grant makers usually encounter, but more than half of \$50,000 earmarked this summer to help neighborhood businesses reopen remains available.

**November**

◆ One of the most unusual general elections in American history leaves a largely positive voter participation imprint on the Pointes. Large numbers of absentee ballots are attributed to local residents, combined with same-day votes that are cast despite an ongoing worldwide health emergency. Of the 5,171 Democratic votes cast in the Park in the general election, 4,097 are absentee. Of the 2,848 Republican votes cast, 1,711 are absentee.

◆ Darci McConnell is named the newest member of city council, following a unanimous vote by six members charged with replacing former member Daniel Grano. McConnell, selected from a field of 15 candidates, is believed to be the first Black council member in the Park's history.

◆ City halls across the Pointes are returning to procedures put in place in March, as COVID-19 case counts in the area continue to rise. Municipal buildings close to the public following the announcement of state restrictions for 21



A boat explosion caused quite a stir in Grosse Pointe Park in May.

days.

◆ Officials working to launch the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manogian Art Gallery contract Michigan construction firms to build the \$25 million facility.

PCI One Source Contracting and The Dailey Company form a joint venture to manage the project, scheduled to open its doors in 2022.

**December**

◆ A 21-year-old Detroit man is arrested after flee-

ing the scene of an accident at Kercheval and Wayburn that damaged the landmark sculpture, "The Sails of Two Cities," installed between Detroit and the Park.

◆ More than 30 Park families will see meals added to their tables this

Christmas thanks to the Food for the Holidays program, which ties into the Grosse Pointe Public School System's Adopt-a-Family program. The initiative's goal is to stimulate work for restaurants while feeding families in the Park.



A Grosse Pointe Park family declares their sidewalk "The Ministry of Silly Walks," to create some fun in April.



Cycling Santa brought smiles to faces throughout Grosse Pointe this holiday season.

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# Grosse Pointe News HOLIDAY PHOTO Contest

*Christmas 2020 was like no other. Yet Grosse Pointers found ways to keep the spirit of the season alive. Our photo contest entries are solid proof of our resilience, creativity and humor.*

*No matter how challenging or crazy this year was, the Grosse Pointe community enjoyed the holidays and made wonderful memories that will carry us all into a brand new (and hopefully better) year ahead.*

**Congrats to the winners, and thanks to all who shared their special moments with us. A very happy and healthy 2021 to everyone!**



**A Quarantine Christmas**

The winning Krausmanns, including Ken, Kari, Joey, Charlie and even Mazie the dog have perfected the art of togetherness at the holidays.

Photo by Chelsea Groustra



**The Abraham Family**

A family portrait to remember.

Photo by Adam Abraham



**Dogsitting**

At Grandma's, the watch for Santa gets real.

Photo by Sherri Smith



**New Traditions**

The Mocerri Family of GPW had an outdoor Christmas, complete with a bonfire, after a day of helping others.

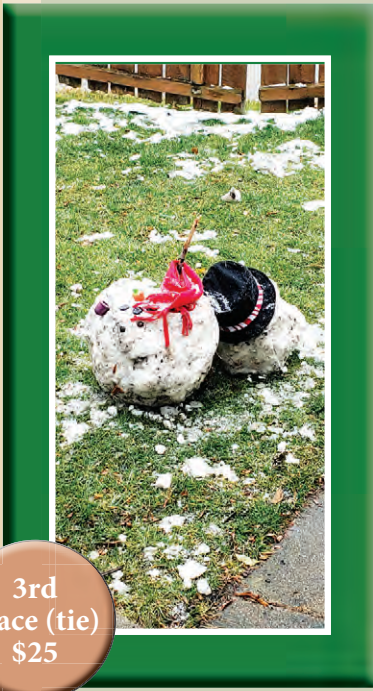
Photo by Pat Mocerri



**Mr. Fluff of Grosse Pointe Farms**

This adorable Bernese Mountain dog can't wait to get his paws on all his presents.

Photo by Anna Gorenflo



**Official 2020 Snowman**

The Murray family shows their sense of humor with this snowman that says it all.

Photo by Gigi Murray



**Perfect Holiday Princess**

Isabella Morra strikes a fancy pose in her own fashionable way.

Photo by Angela Morra



**We are Family**

Evans, Rania, Christos and Penelope Routsis wish all a Happy New Year!

Photo by Rania Routsis



**Evergreen Memories**

Francesca Morra drives home a pint-sized family tree to decorate.

Photo by Angela Morra



**Little Sweetie**

Eleanor Reno gets a first taste of Christmas.

Photo by Emily Lindenbaum



**In the Swing**

Marc and Kimberly Reno take a stroll in Grosse Pointe Park, with little Eleanor along for the ride.

Photo by Emily Lindenbaum



**Santa Claws**

Crystal Lowe and Eugene Strobel celebrate the season with a fuzzy pal.

Photo by Crystal Lowe



# FEATURES



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# It's a girl!



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Detroit Zoo recently welcomed Binti to its pride. She's the first lion cub born at the zoo in 40 years.

## Detroit Zoo welcomes first lion cub in 40 years

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The Detroit Zoological Society recently welcomed the newest member of its family: Binti, a female lion cub.

She made her public debut at the Royal Oak facility Wednesday, Dec. 23, just days before Christmas; it was her first time outdoors and she spent it romping around with her aunt, Amirah.

"This was the first day she got to spend the day outside," said Scott Carter, chief life sciences officer. "It was exciting for the staff to see and exciting for the people who were able to come out."

The event proved especially exciting because Binti, which means "daughter" in Swahili, is the first lion cub born at the Detroit Zoo since 1980.

Her birth was a long time coming largely due

to the Detroit Zoo's rescue efforts the last few decades. Lions typically are rescued from private ownership and often bad situations. One lion the zoo took in was found in a Detroit drug house, another in an abandoned home in Detroit and a third from a junkyard in Kansas.

"The exotic pet trade is rampant in this country," Carter said. "We recognized for years a big problem with private ownership."

Private ownership of lions, tigers and other big cats is dangerous for humans and often compromises the animals' welfare. The DZS helped develop federal legislation to end the big cat trade; the Big Cat Public Safety Act is an important effort to curb the problem in the U.S., Carter said.

Now down to just one rescued lion, the zoo is shifting its focus to breed-



Amirah keeps watch while her niece, Binti, naps.

ing as part of the Species Survival Program, or SSP, which is a cooperative breeding program to ensure genetically healthy, diverse and self-sustaining populations of threatened and endangered species in zoos accredited by the

Association of Zoos & Aquariums.

"They exist to genetically and demographically manage species over a long period of time," Carter explained. "In zoos, we have much smaller populations that can't move around on

their own. ... Animals are born at one zoo and when they mature, go to another zoo."

Two years ago, lioness sisters Asha and Amirah came to the Detroit Zoo from the Buffalo Zoo as part of the SSP, to breed with Simba, a male lion who once lived with the royal family of Qatar. He was added to the Detroit Zoo in 2013.

Though she made her debut last week, Binti was born Sept. 10. Complications during labor forced DZS staff to perform a cesarean section on the first-time mom.

"She went into labor and we noticed she was having problems; the labor wasn't progressing," Carter said. "So we made the decision to intervene, which is not an easy decision to make, because we know it's risky because of what happens to cubs."

Asha's cesarean section took five hours. Binti was one of four cubs in the litter; the other three were stillborn.

Binti spent her first month under constant

care of DZS staff. She lived in an incubator and was bottle fed daily. To prepare her for life with her future pride, the recorded sounds and scents of the adult lions were introduced into her incubator. As her strength improved, she was moved to a larger space and began eating solid foods.

With further development and acclimation, Binti began spending time in the lion habitat's indoor area near the adult lions.

"They can all see each other, but they can't be with her," Carter said. "They interact through mesh doors."

Binti's aunt, Amirah, showed the friendliest interest in the cub; less than two weeks ago, they began living together, Carter said.

"Asha recovered well from the cesarean section, but she doesn't recognize the cub as hers," he added. "She did not show as much interest as Amirah did."

Asha's life-saving surgery and recovery meant the normal bonding process could not occur. Socialization, especially with other female lions, is critical to Binti's social development, which should happen with time.

"We're not in a hurry" for Binti to physically interact with the rest of her family, Carter said. "We need to be careful and wait until we see the right sights. Then we'll begin the process of adding another adult."

Though Binti is sure to be "the star of the zoo," according to one guest who attended her debut, she may not be visible to regular visitors just yet.

"Because of the weather, it's probably not



Binti had fun running, jumping and rolling outdoors when she was introduced to the public Dec. 16.

See CUB, page 2B

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# AREA ACTIVITIES

## Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

- ◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, South Lake High School, 21900 Nine Mile, St. Clair Shores.

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

## Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following virtual programs:

- ◆ Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays.

- ◆ Mother Daughter Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4.

- ◆ Family Dance Party Pop Up! 6:30 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6.

- ◆ Tween Writing Group, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11.

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

## Gilda's Club Lake House

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

- ◆ 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, Gentle Mat Yoga.

- ◆ 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, Women's Gathering.

- ◆ 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, Chair Yoga.

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

## GPAA

The deadline for the Grosse Pointe Artists Association's next exhibition, "The Challenge: Try Something New," is Monday, Jan. 11. Artists are asked to find new inspiration or work in a new medium for this show, featuring juror Chuck Duquet. Visit [grossepointeartcenter.org](http://grossepointeartcenter.org) for details.

## Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting virtually at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13. Rabea Nunley of Just the Beginning Health & Wellness presents "Healthy New Beginnings." Visit [grossepointerotary.org](http://grossepointerotary.org) for information. Those who wish to join the meeting via Zoom should email [grossepointerotary@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointerotary@gmail.com).

## Toastmasters

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

## NAMI

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

# Sweet Sunrise

## Rotary donates cookies to frontline workers

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

A partnership between the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club and Johnny B's Cookies in St. Clair Shores put a lot of smiles on healthcare workers' faces last week.

Rotarians purchased the cookies — 2,500 in all — and Johnny B's co-owner Susan Muer completed the order, preparing 500 bags for donation to Ascension St. John Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe.

"Susan Muer was a real angel," Rotarian Dennis Hyduk said. "We called her Monday last week and needed them by Saturday. That's 2,500 cookies she had to bag for us. And this is a busy time of year for her. But she appreciated the order."

This is not the first time Muer's cookies have made their way to Sunrise Rotary events. In the past, she has donated cookies to the organization's annual Grosse Pointe



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

**On Dec. 22, the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club donated 500 bags of holiday cookies to frontline workers at Ascension St. John Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe in appreciation for all their work during the pandemic.**

Run, as well as to Rotary-hosted brunches at St. Charles Church in Detroit.

Most recently, Hyduk's Knights of Columbus club hosted a ham sale; Sunrise Rotary members

purchased 20 hams, 14 of which went to needy families at Peace Lutheran Church in Detroit.

"Susan donated cookies to those families as well," Hyduk said. "It was a joint venture."

Sunrise Rotary is no stranger to helping frontline workers. This cookie donation was its third effort since the pandemic started.

This spring, the club donated thousands of masks to workers at Ascension St. John Hospital, Henry Ford Hospital and Beaumont Grosse Pointe. They also purchased \$500 in Girl Scout cookies for Ascension St. John nurses.

"We felt these people need to be recognized for all their work," Hyduk said. "Frontline workers have been working the last nine months, day in, day out. We thought, how about giving them a treat? Why not cookies? They were very grateful for that. And we wanted to patronize a local business."



This rush order was prepared by Susan Muer, co-owner of Johnny B's Cookies in St. Clair Shores.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Three-month-old Binti plays with her aunt, Amirah, during her first day outdoors at the Detroit Zoo.**

## CUB:

Continued from page 1B

going to be warm enough for her to be outside," Carter said, noting 40 degrees or warmer is more ideal for outdoor activity.

Currently, reservations are required to visit the Detroit Zoo and all guests must wear masks. There is an attendance cap to insure social distancing, Carter added.

For more information or to make a reservation, visit [detroitzoo.org](http://detroitzoo.org).



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

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... and she said, "Sounds good!"

# Romance in the neighborhood

This has been a year of unconventional occurrences, from birthday parades to front lawn concerts. The engagement of one Grosse Pointe Woods couple follows suit.

David Ball and Claudine Fets met nearly four years ago, when they moved into houses across the street from each other on Lochmoor about two weeks apart.

One spring day, Ball saw that his new neighbor had received a delivery of three yards of top soil to level her front lawn, so he grabbed a shovel and decided to help. The two exchanged small talk and, in the months ahead, began to hang out, go for walks

and have a few laughs about their brief attempts at online dating.

Eventually, Fets asked Ball to dinner at Cafe Nini, "just as friends," and afterward they jumped into a Lyft and went to Vicente's Cuban Cuisine. There they shared salsa dance lessons — and their first kiss.

Fast forward to the day after Thanksgiving 2020, when Ball got down on one knee at Western's Tree Farm in Appleton, and proposed to Fets between a row of Douglas firs. She said, "yes," then later surprised him with a balloon display on both of their lawns.

The couple plan to wed next spring.

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### Curbside & Carryout Menu

#### NEW! FAMILY DINNERS

Feeds 4 to 6 people

-Entree Dinners-

- 1) **Chicken Breast Dinner:** Sautéed breast of chicken with sauce selection (Marsala, Tomato Mozzarella, or Piccata) Served with mashed potatoes and green beans. **\$50**
- 2) **Tomato Basil Penne or Alfredo Penne:** Served with green beans. **\$35**
- 3) **Classic Meatloaf Dinner:** Mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy. **\$60**
- 4) **Salmon Entree Dinner:** Oven roasted served with organic rice blend, green beans, tomato lemon butter sauce. **\$90**
- 5) **Meatballs al Forno Penne Bake:** House made meatballs with parmesan, baked with penne pasta and tomato basil sauce. **\$40**
- 6) **Chicken Mushroom Penne:** A Grosse Pointe Classic. Sautéed chicken breast, with garlic cream, mushroom duxelles, penne pasta, Parmesan. **\$55**
- 7) **Turkey Club Wrap:** Oven roasted turkey breast, lettuce, tomato, smoked honey bacon, lavash wrap. Served with house favorite smoked tomato soup. **\$45**

All dinners come with house bread, large garden salad with vinaigrette dressing, tomato, cucumber, red onion, blue cheese crumbles.

-Big Salads for Dinner- Feeds 8-10

- 1) **Chopped Salad** - Garbanzo beans, smoked bacon, red onion, hard cooked egg, tomato, blue cheese. Dressed with classic Hudson dressing. **\$30**
- 2) **Vegetable Grain Salad** - Mixed greens, grains, tomato, parsley, roasted cauliflower, garbanzo beans, baby kale, goat cheese, balsamic dressing. **\$30**
- 3) **Caesar Salad** - Romain greens, house Caesar dressing, parmesan, roasted red peppers, croutons. **\$25**

Add chicken to any large salad **\$20**

Add Beef Tips to any large salad **\$40** Add Shrimp to any large salad **\$50**

All for pickup only by 5pm end of day. Cut off for family dinner orders will be 3pm.

#### INDIVIDUAL LUNCHES & DINNERS

##### Soup/Salads

Smoked Tomato - \$5.00 Soup du Jour - \$5.00

Caesar Salad - \$9.00

Organic Garden Salad - \$9.00

Vinaigrette or creamy buttermilk dressing

Chop Salad - \$13.00

Garbanzo beans, smoked bacon, red onion, cucumber, egg, tomato, bleu cheese, tear drop peppers, Hudson dressing

Add Protein to Any Salad

Add Prime Sirloin - \$10.00 Add Chicken - \$6.00

Add Salmon - \$12.00 Add Shrimp - \$9.00

##### Sandwiches

Steak Burger - \$12.50

Served on a brioche bun with lettuce, tomato, onion & French fries

Southern Chicken Sandwich - \$13.50

Marinated breast, crispy fried, seasoned mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato, house sweet and spicy pickles, served on a brioche bun with French fries

Turkey Club Sandwich - \$11.50

Served with lettuce, tomato, bacon, mayonnaise & French fries

Grilled Cheese Sandwich - \$9.50

Served on white toast with a cup of tomato soup

Reuben Sandwich - \$12.00

Served on rye toast with swiss cheese, grandmas sauerkraut & French fries

##### Entrees

All entrees are served with a choice of soup or salad

Salmon Filet - \$22.00

Served with mixed grains, vegetables & butter sauce

Filet Mignon - \$24.00

Served with mashed potatoes, vegetables & mushroom gravy

Chicken Marsala - \$22.00

Served with mashed potatoes, vegetables & marsala mushroom sauce

Penne Pasta - \$11.50

Served with red or white sauce

Add Prime Sirloin- \$10.00 Add Chicken - \$6.00



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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.

## John Lawrence Higgins

John Lawrence Higgins, also known as "Higgs," passed away Monday, Dec. 21, 2020, in Newburgh, N.Y., due to COVID-19. He was 65.

Raised in Grosse Pointe, John graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1973. Together with the guys in his class, Higgs could always be found at a baseball diamond or cruising the streets in a friend's orange Mustang.

Higgs traveled to Northern Michigan University to follow his love of playing baseball; there he found his true love – baseball umpiring. He attended the Bill Kinnamon Umpire School in St. Petersburg, Fla., and began his umpiring career in the Gulf Coast League in 1977. He spent 12 years working in Minor League Baseball. Higgs did get to the Major Leagues for one game in 1991 — he worked home plate on opening day in Toronto. He also called five games at the start of the 1995 season. Higgs enjoyed umpiring so

much during his early years that he traveled to South America and Puerto Rico to umpire winter ball. He also was an instructor at the Kinnamon School, where he found another love, Anne Butler Montgomery.

John and Anne married and settled in Phoenix.

Higgs left umpiring and began a career in his second love — cooking. He attended the Scottsdale Culinary Institute and served as chef at a number of restaurants. He also ran the restaurant and catering facilities at Arizona's Bank One Ballpark and Sun Devil Stadium.

John was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Rosalie Higgins; brother, Brian; and sister, Peggy Staudt. John is survived by his siblings, Craig, Molly Brooks and Anne; many cousins, nieces and nephews; and an immeasurable number of friends.

Higgs' family said he touched many lives and everyone who knew him has a Higgs story; he will be missed by many, but not forgotten.

## Julie Louise Gardella

Julie Gardella passed away Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020, due to natural causes after a period of failing health.

A lifelong Grosse Pointe resident, Julie attended University Liggett School. She graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French in 1982. She loved all things French and spent her junior year abroad studying at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Julie earned a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University and began a career as a psychiatric social worker at Sinai-Grace Hospital. She worked long hours and was a dedicated advocate to the clients she served. Later in life, Julie was a full-time caregiver for her parents, George and Patti Gardella, and ensured the last years of their lives were comfortable.

A voracious reader, she read several books a week and loved spy novels, as did her father.



John Lawrence Higgins



Julie Louise Gardella



Edward Askin Skae Jr.

## Edward Askin Skae Jr.

Edward "Ned" Askin Skae Jr. passed away peacefully Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020, with his wife at his side. He was born April 13, 1946, in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Ned was predeceased by his parents, Jean Derrick Skae and Edward Askin Skae, and sister, Susan "Susie" Skae Cortner. He was a devoted and loving father to Allison Skae of Alexandria, Va., Sydney Millman (Peter) of St. Louis, Mo., and Jed Skae (Heather) of Chicago; and cherished "Cappy" to grandchildren, Henry and Heidi Millman. He also is survived by his wife, Catherine of Newport Beach, Calif.; and siblings, Anne Skae of Atlanta, Judy O'Brien (M.J.) of Roanoke, Va. and John Skae of St. Louis.

Ned attended Portsmouth Priory School in Portsmouth,

R.I., and Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Ill.

He had a strong passion for boating all over the world, especially in Harbor Springs, Lake Forest and Newport Beach.

His ambition and success in residential real estate left a legendary mark in Lake Forest and his love for lake life was cherished in Harbor Springs. Ned's fun-loving heart will always be the essence of his family.

Due to travel complications of the COVID-19 pandemic, a celebration of Ned's life will be held in spring 2021 in Lake Forest. Additional information regarding the celebration will be available in March 2021 at legacy.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ned's name may be made to the American Lung Association, action.lung.org; or a charity of the donor's choice.

## ASK MR. HARDWARE By Blair Gilbert

# Winter Watchman for vacationers

Are you going away for an extended period in the cold winter months? Here are a few tips for those of you who are leaving your house unoccupied more than a couple of weeks.

First, if you are only going to be away for a few weeks or less, I don't recommend turning the

furnace down any lower than you currently do at night. All you need is a cold snap with the furnace turned down a little too low to freeze a water line that is on an outside wall. The few dollars saved on gas is nothing compared to the cost of a broken water line in an

unattended home.

Here are my suggestions for the snowbirds who are going for months at a time:

◆ Get a Winter Watchman. For around \$25, this plug-in device will turn on a lamp if the house goes below the desired temperature set-

ting. I take the shade off a lamp and put a 150-watt bulb (the brighter, the better) in it and put it on a table near or in the front window. Keep curtains and flammables away. I set it to 50 degrees, because I don't set my house below 60 degrees, and if the furnace goes

out, the lamp comes on and alerts the neighbors and/or my house watcher that something is wrong.

This allows your house watcher to do "drive-bys" without having to come in all the time.

◆ Set the hot water tank control to 'Pilot.' This will disable the

burner, but the pilot will stay lit so when you return all you have to do is turn it back to 'ON.' It's easy and the water in the tank will stay lukewarm, but not hot, even when on pilot.

◆ Another consideration is the age of the hot water heater. After eight years, unfortunately, the newer tanks are getting "long in the tooth" and prone to leakage. With that in mind, I turn off the water valve supplying the tank and turn the gas valve off, also seeing as the tank is in a closed loop plumbing-wise. Actually, I advise getting all the good stuff off the basement floor when a water tank is older than eight years old. Or else, when it does fail, you'll have a reason to put all that gold you were saving out to the curb.

◆ Turn off the water main, but don't crank it to death to make it absolutely off. A leak at the main shutoff will allow water to the humidifier, but will greatly minimize water damage in the case of a broken water line. The main reason for not cranking it is the old gate valves are at an age where they are becoming fragile and there is no reason to cause a failure on the day you leave or return from vacation. My house has a ball valve on the main, so I leave it open just a crack so my humidifier runs all winter when I'm gone. A dry house is tough on wood flooring and furniture.

These tips should keep your house safe and reduce the effort of your friends while you are away.

Send your questions to Mr. Hardware, c/o Gilbert's Pro Hardware, 21912 Harper, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080; call (586) 776-9532; or email staff@mrhardware.com. For past "Ask Mr. Hardware" columns, visit mrhardware.com.

## Kenneth Nowicki, M.D.

Kenneth Nowicki, M.D., age 85, died peacefully on Christmas Day.

He was born on February 26, 1935 to Judge Adam and Lillian Nowicki (nee Piotrowski). He has one younger brother, Roger. They lived in the Detroit area of Seven Mile and Van Dyke until his family moved to 15908 Dublin Avenue, Birmingham, when he was starting high school. His father was a haberdasher, who returned to school to study law and become an attorney after his children were born. Adam also owned New Deal Grocery Store in Hamtramck. Kenneth worked at his father's grocery store between the ages of 15-23. Adam also became a successful real estate and landowner. As a boy, Kenneth was close to his Uncle Al Piotrowski, who predeceased Kenneth as did Kenneth's parents.

In 1953, Kenneth graduated from University of Detroit Jesuit High School with highest honors, receiving a Classical diploma. He received "The Classical Award" for achieving the highest average in Classical Course – four years of Latin and two years of Greek. In college he studied German. He knew Polish from the time he was a child as they spoke it in his home.

He matriculated to University of Michigan Medical School. In 1960 he graduated at the top of his class. He married Rose Marie Zalewski on November 20, 1961. She was a Registered Nurse. They met while working together at Harper Hospital.

He was drafted into the U.S. Navy January 1962. He was stationed in San Diego, where he served as a doctor for the U.S. Marine Corps. Even though his official rank was that of a Naval Lieutenant, he considered himself as a Marine because he served alongside them and had great respect for their duties. He was on board one of the ships that went through the Panama Canal to The Caribbean Sea to face down Russian missiles during the Cuban Missile Crisis where he continued to tend to the Marine Corp members' medical issues. During



the Missile Crisis, he was aboard one of the ships surrounding Cuba, his wife was pregnant with their first child.

He was discharged in August of 1964. He always quipped that the Naval officials asked him prior to his discharge if he wanted to sign on for more duty, but he told them, "No, I've had enough." He returned to the Detroit area with his wife and son where all of them lived with Adam and Lillian in Birmingham until the young family moved to Royal Oak. Their second child was born with a very severe disability. The Nowicki's were very devoted to their son and his care; Rose gave up her nursing career to care for her child. Eventually the Nowicki's moved to Bloomfield Hills where they settled for several decades.

He shared a story many times that when he was a very young doctor he was working at the hospital and the older doctors assigned him to a case of an extremely ill female patient. The older doctors had given up on her because they thought she was a lost cause, not worth their time. Additionally, she was African-American. They told him, "Go in there and just do what you can do," as if to suggest she was his experiment. He managed to save her life. Months later, she returned to the hospital specifically to seek him out and thank him.

After his time in the Navy serving the Marines, he spent the next three decades as a radiologist and nuclear physicist at Hutzel and Harper Hospitals. He became board certified in radiology and in nuclear medicine in its very early days. He was a partner at Reynolds and Associates. He and other members of his group x-rayed and examined an ancient Egyptian Mummy. He worked for several years as a professor at Wayne State Medical School.

When he retired in 1997, he was presented with a document from the hospitals declaring that during his career between July 1967-July 1997 he had interpreted a grand total of 281,891 radiographs.

He is survived by his brother Roger Nowicki, son Michael Nowicki (Karen) and son Charles Nowicki.

He enjoyed movies, live theatre, concerts, opera, art fairs and spectator sports, most especially the Detroit Lions. He was a life-long and very devoted fan.

He enjoyed gardening and absolutely delighted in his extensive Christmas decoration collection. He liked going to his condo in Long Boat Key, Florida and traveled to various parts of the U.S., but he particularly loved Northern Michigan.

As his wife's health declined he became her devoted care giver until her death in 2016. After a 2017 auto accident which greatly affected his overall health, he moved to Lakeshore Senior Living where, "Everything is just how I pictured it would be in my final years." He was able to relax in his apartment and enjoy the view.

He died on Christmas Day surrounded by his loved ones and a small portion of his extensive and beloved Christmas decorations.

A funeral Mass was celebrated December 30, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for any contributions to be made to the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliot St., Detroit, MI 48207, www.solanuscenter.org.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN ANN SALADA

The Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver braved the cold Christmas Eve to offer worship to drive-up congregants.

## Christmas Eve outdoors

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church in Grosse Pointe Farms hosted two outdoor services Christmas Eve. Drive-in worship took place at 5 and 11 p.m., and included live music with guest musician Dennis Carter. Attendees also celebrated the Christmas Star with the lighting of sparklers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NIH

## Bell ringers

The staff of Northeast Integrated Health once again rang bells for The Connor Creek branch of the Salvation Army for the 2020 Red Kettle Campaign at Village Market on Saturdays in November and December. Pictured from left are Josh Garmo, Village Market; Jacob Garmo, Village Market; Mark Garmo, owner of Village Market; Sherry McRill, president and CEO of Northeast Integrated Health; Marnie Schaden; Lt. Pam Boateg, Conner Creek Salvation Army; and Lt. Henry Boateg, Conner Creek Salvation Army.

## ASK THE EXPERTS

By Built to Thrive

# Setting and achieving goals

**Q: How do I teach my child to set and achieve their goals?**

**A:** Research shows that 92 percent of people never reach their goals. Helping children learn how to set goals is critical for building social and emotional intelligence. Goal setting teaches them to take responsibility for their actions and fosters a positive attitude toward completing tasks.

It is not necessary to jump right into a New Year's resolution with your child; children need to start setting their own realistic goals at a very basic level. Using small activities your child enjoys is where goal setting should start. Children need to experience goal setting with small achievable tasks so it becomes natural to use the process in broader goals later. They also can learn how to analyze and re-evaluate when they fall short of achieving their goals and seize the opportunity to try again. Try this fun game to teach your child about goal setting:

**Balloon Toss:** Blow up a balloon. Tell your child you are going to work together to keep the balloon from hitting the ground. Each person has to take turns hitting the balloon to the other, one player cannot hit the balloon two times in a row and it may not hit the ground. After a practice round, ask your child to set a goal: "How many times do you think we can hit it before the balloon hits the ground?" Make sure it is your child's goal, not yours. Have your child write their goal down, as this promotes accountability; people are 42 percent more likely to achieve goals that are written down. Brainstorm possible obstacles and plan what you might do if the obstacle arises; you are 72 percent more likely to achieve goals if you share

them with someone else. Play the balloon game again and, if the goal is reached, set a new goal. If the goal is not reached, talk about what happened and what to do differently next time. Sometimes kids want to give up, say they don't like the game or get angry because it's hard for them.



What happens if your child wants to give up?

1. Remind him/her of the purpose and the goal.
2. Celebrate the small achievements so far — really focus on the effort.
3. Use the word "yet." We didn't reach the goal yet; what could we do differently?
4. Model positive self talk.

Setting realistic goals and working to achieve them promotes resilience and teaches your child a valuable life lesson.

*Built to Thrive* was developed by elementary school teacher Brenda Ban and clinical psychologist Dr. Susan Lilienfeld. Through extensive research and planning they have created a program that promotes social and emotional intelligence through structured play-based activities. *Built to Thrive* works with individuals, groups and school systems. For more information, visit [builttothrive.weebly.com](http://builttothrive.weebly.com)

The Family Center is a nonprofit organization that provides resources and preventive education to empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges. The Family Center is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit [familycenterweb.org](http://familycenterweb.org) or email [info@familycenterweb.org](mailto:info@familycenterweb.org).

# Worship Service

**Grosse Pointe UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
An Official Welcoming Congregation

Join us online for Sunday morning worship  
<https://gpumc.info/SundayWorship>

Learn more about us by visiting our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/GrossePointeUMC](http://www.facebook.com/GrossePointeUMC)

Rev. Dr. Ray McGee  
[www.gpumc.org](http://www.gpumc.org)  
313-886-2363

**ST. PAUL** EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
Sharing God's grace through Christ, we love, pray, rejoice and serve. All are welcome!

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Visit [stpaulgp.org](http://stpaulgp.org) and scroll to Quick Links  
Select Our Youtube Channel or Our Facebook Page

375 Lothrop at Chalfonte Grosse Pointe Farms  
313.881.6670  
The Rev. Justin Dittrich

**Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool**  
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090  
[www.christthekinggp.org](http://www.christthekinggp.org)

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

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

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

**Randy S. Boelter, Pastor**  
*Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones*

**FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
800 Vernier Road (Corner of Wedgewood)  
(313) 884-5040

9:30 am - Worship Service  
9:30 am - Spark Church  
11:00 am - Worship Service

Service on youtube at FEELC-GPW and on our facebook page First English Lutheran Church.

Rev. Sean Motley, Senior Pastor  
"Go Make Disciples" ~ [www.feelc.org](http://www.feelc.org)

**Grosse Pointe Congregational Church**  
(United Church of Christ)  
[www.gpccong.org](http://www.gpccong.org)

**Sunday 10AM services are on Zoom Meeting online and phone**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4105997963>  
415-762-9988, then enter 4105997963  
**AND with a Drive-in service in the parking lot**

**Saint Ambrose Catholic Church**  
15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230-1302

Masses  
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

(313) 822-2814 • [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)  
• [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) • [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish)



6B | FEATURES

# Help for the holidays

An effort between Grosse Pointe Park City Council members, community leaders and generous donors resulted in 60 families in need receiving meals this Christmas.

The Food for the Holidays gift card initiative, in collaboration with the Grosse Pointe Public School System's Adopt-A-Family program, also benefited participating Park restaurants.

Resident Karen Pope reached out to the school district, who identified 37 Park families in need. Councilwoman Darci McConnell reached out to restaurants to see who would sell gift cards specifically for this program.

"The community came together to support the program by purchasing gift cards that were set aside for donation," McConnell wrote via



Defer Elementary School Administrator Dineen Krotche receives Food for the Holidays gift cards from Grosse Pointe Park councilmembers Darci McConnell and Vikas Relan.

email. "Those purchases boosted the bottom line of restaurants in the Park that have been impacted



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIKAS RELAN

Pierce Middle School Principal Sara Dirkse receives Food for the Holidays gift cards from Park councilmembers Vikas Relan and Darci McConnell.

by stay-at-home orders issued due to COVID-19. At the same time, we were also able to get a lit-

tle help over the holidays to 60 families in need. I'm extremely proud of what happened as a result of everyone coming together."

tified by The Helm and the remaining 12 will go to displaced service industry workers, McConnell said.

"My hope is that this will serve as a pilot for something we can build on during the winter," she added, "and I look forward to collaborating with residents, my col-

leagues and interested organizations in making that happen."

Participating restaurants included Atwater in the Park, The Bricks Pizzeria, Buscemi's, Cabbage Patch Café, The Charlevoix, Marge's Bar, Mimi's Bistro, Park Grill Mediterranean and Red Crown.



First place, 383 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms — The Ansel Adams Award.



Second place, at Lakeshore and Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms — The Griswold Award.



Third place, 1528 Roslyn, Grosse Pointe Woods — The Gingerbread Award.

## Coalition contest winners

The Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods coalition selected several winning entries for its 2020 Holiday Lights Contest. Nominations were judged on originality, creativity and the use of the holiday theme. Of all entries, 10 finalists were selected, but only the top three, plus an honorable mention, were awarded.

The top displays received a commemorative trophy, cash prize and "bragging rights," and were highlighted on the coalition's Facebook page.



Honorable mention, at Moran and Charlevoix, Grosse Pointe Farms — The Grinch Award.

**GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY**

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313-884-1551

20542 Harper (Lennon and Harper)  
**(313) 884-1551**  
[www.gpaas.org](http://www.gpaas.org)

Meet **Sprite** Female kitten, 2 months old, Tortoiseshell. Very loving young kitten.

Meet **Toby**  
Male, about 4 years, Jack Russell Terrier. Energetic boy looking to play.

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WITH AGE APPROPRIATE SHOTS,  
READY TO GO HOME!

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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

PHONE: 313-882-6900 EXT. 1

FAX: 313-882-1585

WEB: GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

**DEADLINES**

Please call for holiday deadline dates and times, subject to change.

**CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS:**

TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M.

**CLASSIFIED WORD ADS:**

TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M.

**PRICING**

Prepayment is required. We accept credit cards, cash and check.

**FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS**

Given for multi-week scheduled advertising, with prepayment or credit approval. Call for rates or for more information. Phone lines can be busy on Monday and Tuesday. Please call early.

**WORD ADS:**

12 - 25 words for \$25.35; additional words are 30¢ each. Abbreviations are not accepted. **BORDER ADS STARTING AT:** \$26.00 per column inch

**CLASSIFYING AND CENSORSHIP**

We reserve the right to classify each ad under its appropriate heading. The publisher reserves the right to edit or reject ad copy submitted for publication.

**CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS**

Responsibility for classified advertising errors is limited to either a cancellation of the charge or a re-run of the portion of the error. Notification must be given in time for the correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility for the same after the first insertion.

**Help Wanted**

**200 HELP WANTED GENERAL**

**CAREGIVERS WANTED!**  
Seeking caregivers for immediate work in Grosse Pointe and the surrounding areas. Full and Part time positions available. Please call (313)881-3390 or email your resume to: [Jackie@comfortcarehomecare.com](mailto:Jackie@comfortcarehomecare.com).

**CDL-A Drivers**

Wanted 3 months minimum experience, excellent pay, benefits, sign on bonus, 401K, dedicated routes Romeo and Wayne dispatch. Call Kirt (586)752-4529 Ext 1032

**EDWIN Paul Salon**

is hiring a part time cleaning person. 2- 3 days a week. Cleaning duties only. Must be able to work Fridays 9- 4. Great job for a student. Call (313)885-9001 Thank you.

**DON'T FORGET-**

Call your ads in EARLY!  
Classified Advertising (313)882-6900 x1 Grosse Pointe News

**200 HELP WANTED GENERAL**

**Office Assistant** with alarm system experience (fire and burglar) preferred for Grosse Pointe area. Part time with opportunity for full time 9am- 5pm. Multi- tasker, good customer service skills, must be proficient with computer (windows, word, excel, etc.). We will train individual on industry specific billing software and database. Perform other office tasks as needed. Send resume to: [radaralarms5620@gmail.com](mailto:radaralarms5620@gmail.com)

**WE are looking for sub- contractors** that can install fences. We pay \$10.00 per foot for 6' tall privacy fences, \$8.00 per foot for 4' tall wood and aluminum fencing plus \$5.00 per foot for 4' tall chain link fence. If you have your own truck and tools that would be a bonus. (313)821-8812

**210 HELP WANTED RESTAURANT**

**IRISH COFFEE Bar & Grill** now hiring **ALL POSITIONS** Apply in person 18666 Mack Avenue Grosse Pointe Farms

**302 CAREGIVER**

**InnHomeCare CAREGIVERS** available in the privacy of your own home. Best prices guaranteed. Now accepting new clients. **586-215-6777** [office@innhomecare.net](http://office@innhomecare.net) [www.innhomecare.net](http://www.innhomecare.net) **NOW HIRING**

**304 GENERAL**

**Grosse Pointe resident available for multi- tasking.** House cleaning, organizing, cooking, errands, companionship, doctor's appointments. Negotiable prices for Seniors. 26 years experience in elder care. Covid compliant. Carole, (313)623-1287

**211 HELP WANTED MANAGEMENT**

**HELP WANTED**

The Grosse Pointe News seeks to fill the following positions:

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Must have minimum two years editing/management experience or five years reporting experience. Bachelor's degree minimum required.

**CIRCULATION/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MANAGER**

Experience in both circulation and classified advertising departments required. Knowledge of Circulation Pro and Advertising Manager Pro software preferred.

Send resumé and salary requirements to: [publisher@grossepointenews.com](mailto:publisher@grossepointenews.com)

**ASURE SALE THE CLASSIFIEDS**  
Grosse Pointe News  
**313-882-6900 ext. 1**

**Merchandise**

**400 ANTIQUES / COLLECTIBLES**

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**DIRECTV** Switch and save! \$49.99/ month. Select all- included package. 155 channels. 1000s of shows/ movies on demand. FREE Genie HD DVR upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 mos! Call 1(844)975-3287

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**Animals**

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**500 ANIMALS ADOPT A PET**

**Spirit** German Shepherd (F) 7yrs Looking for Love Sponsored by: **Michele Ullery** [gpaas.org](http://gpaas.org) • 313-884-1551  


**500 ANIMALS ADOPT A PET**

**Elsa** Calico Tabby (F) 1yr Companion Seeking Quiet Home Sponsored by: **Linda Behringer** [gpaas.org](http://gpaas.org) • 313-884-1551  


**500 ANIMALS ADOPT A PET**

**Lady Shadow** Gray SH Beauty (F) 11yrs Cuddly Lap Lover Sponsored by: **Anonymous** [gpaas.org](http://gpaas.org) • 313-884-1551  


**500 ANIMALS ADOPT A PET**

**Arthur** Handsome Black SH (M) 5yrs Sweet, FIV+ Sponsored by: **Cathy Sigurdson** [gpaas.org](http://gpaas.org) • 313-884-1551  


**500 ANIMALS ADOPT A PET**

**Indy** English Pointer (F) 4yrs Friendly, Loves Dogs Sponsored by: **Terry & John Minnis** [gpaas.org](http://gpaas.org) • 313-884-1551  


**Property For Rent**

**714 LIVING QUARTERS TO SHARE**  
**LOOKING** for a working professional roommate. Complete sunny 2nd floor, fully furnished, share kitchen, utilities included, Grosse Pointe Park. \$675/ month. (313)469-6977


**Property For Sale**

**803 CONDOS / APTS / FLATS**  
DO you have a student going to college in Detroit? Stop wasting money on rent and spend the same amount or less on a waterfront condo they can keep all four years and beyond! <https://matrix.realcomonline.com/matrix/shared/5GhkcxqhQQ1Gd/8900JEFFERSONAVENUE>  
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Grosse Pointe News

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Some classifications are not required by law to be licensed. Please check with the proper state agency to verify license.

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**TO PLACE AN AD** CALL 313-882-6900 ext 1  
Grosse Pointe News

**911 BRICK / BLOCK WORK**

**HOME MASONRY SOLUTIONS**  
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•Porch Repair Rebuild  
•PowerWashing  
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•Door Sills  
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**20% off Chimney Work** "Rebuilding Metro Detroit Brick by Brick" [Homemasonry solutions.com](http://Homemasonrysolutions.com)  


**920 CHIMNEY REPAIR**

**MADISON Maintenance** specializing in restoration of chimneys, porches, houses, brick walls, tuck pointing, all masonry. Grosse Pointe resident. Free estimates. Licensed and insured. [masonrygp88@gmail.com](mailto:masonrygp88@gmail.com) (313)885-8525 Cell (313)402-7166

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**UNWANTED Items- Moving- Hauling- Recycling** Red Baron Enterprises, LLC is available for any hauling/ moving needs. Any salvageable goods will be donated or recycled. [RedBaron Enterprises.com](http://RedBaronEnterprises.com) (313)408-1166

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**ITS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS** Grosse Pointe News (313)882-6900 ext. 1

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A quiet home is a relaxing home! Blown in Cellulose Insulation is GREEN, cost and energy efficient. Red Baron Enterprises, LLC will insulate your home. [RedBaron Enterprises.com](http://RedBaronEnterprises.com) (313)408-1166

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**Read the FINE Print** See The Classifieds  
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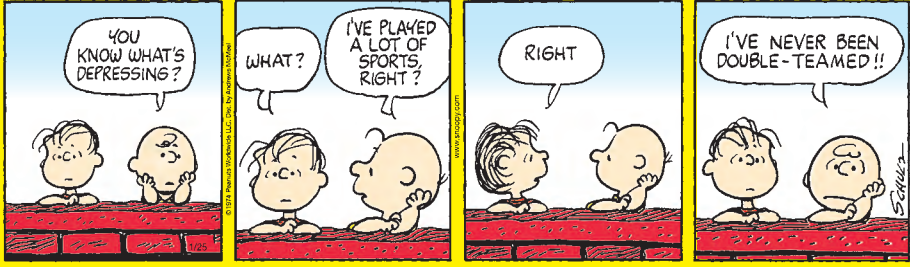
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# Comics and Puzzles

## Peanuts



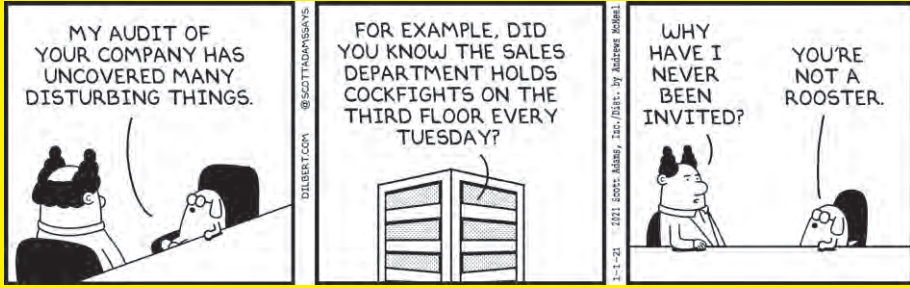
Charles M. Schulz

## Garfield



Jim Davis

## Dilbert



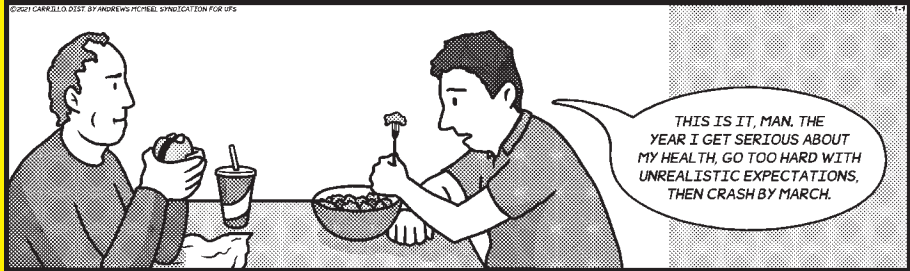
Scott Adams

## Over The Hedge



Michael Fry and T. Lewis

## F Minus



Tony Carrillo

## Marmaduke



Paul & Brad Anderson

## Ziggy



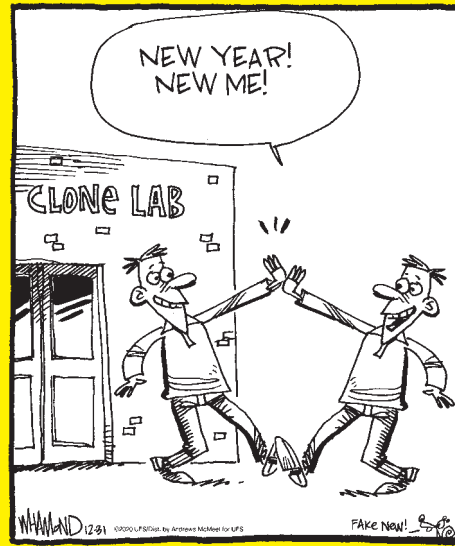
Tom Wilson

## Wumo



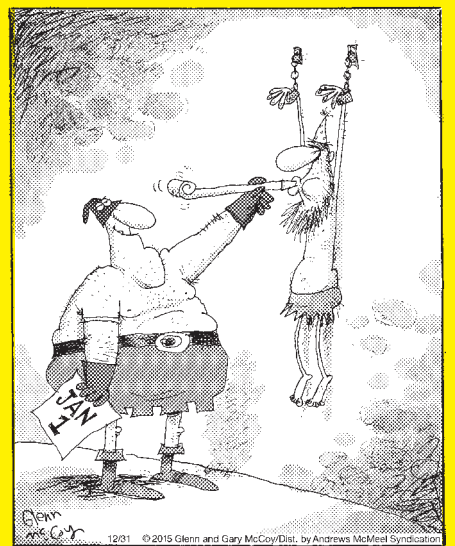
Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

## Reality Check



Dave Whamond

## Flying McCoys



Glenn McCoy

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 25, 2020

### ACROSS

- 1 As easy as \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Winter jacket
- 9 Free TV spot
- 12 Cow's call
- 13 Clothing designer Fisher
- 14 Tweet feature that lets people vote
- 15 Cooking spray brand
- 16 Enroll at a foreign university (see letters 7 to 5 in this answer)
- 18 Nearly vertical, as a slope
- 20 Comfy shoe, informally
- 21 Main artery
- 22 Circus entertainer
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_ Domini
- 26 Latin pop star who sang "Anything for You" (8 to 6)
- 30 Takes over
- 31 "I'm not really excited"
- 32 Iowa liberal arts college
- 34 Vacates after a seat?
- 35 Faux \_\_\_\_\_
- 36 Guitar neck features
- 38 Undivided
- 39 "The Greatest" in the ring
- 40 Polish's language family
- 41 "Odyssey" characters? (7 to 4)
- 45 "\_\_\_\_\_ in the Sky With Diamonds"
- 46 King Lear's second daughter
- 47 Say "Bravo!," say
- 50 Stadium cheer
- 52 Carnivorous aquatic mammal
- 55 Wasn't involved with at all (6 to 3)
- 58 Sch. in Charlottesville
- 59 "Madama Butterfly" solo
- 60 Runs in the laundry
- 61 Oil well apparatus
- 62 Champ or Major, for the Bidens
- 63 Speed for some ESPN clips
- 64 Drink often served in pints
- 10 Part of a venetian blind
- 11 Alan with six Golden Globes
- 13 Competitive "Fortnite" and others
- 14 Read for errors
- 17 Source of ruin
- 19 Run away with your love
- 23 Ill. neighbor
- 25 Unspecified degree
- 26 Auctioneer's second-to-last word
- 27 Many a meeting could be replaced by one
- 28 Animal detective of film
- 29 Tag line?
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_Magnon man
- 33 Top-left key
- 35 Umpire's opening call
- 36 Wine vessels
- 37 African capital on the Atlantic
- 39 Dog breeders' org.
- 40 Pronoun for an ewe
- 42 Princess of Avalor
- 43 Capital of Germany?
- 44 For the time being
- 47 Bloke
- 48 Loser to a tortoise
- 49 Menu for Cut and Paste
- 51 Customizable cookie
- 53 Wickedness
- 54 Fury
- 56 "NewsHour" network
- 57 Altar vow

### DOWN

- 1 What roadies lift
- 2 "We're all in the same \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 3 Words after "I can't hear you well!"
- 4 Deep hole
- 5 Graduate of a women's college
- 6 Start over on the ring
- 7 Purse accessories with jingly contents
- 8 Santa \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Like a "D" grade

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

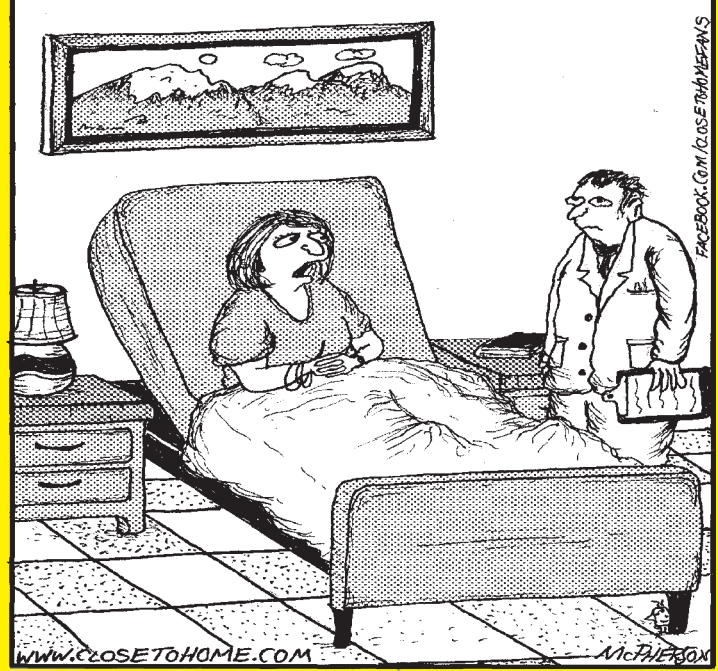
S	C	A	B	J	U	D	O	P	S	S	T			
W	A	R	E	S	A	F	A	R	O	T	O	E		
A	N	G	E	L	C	O	L	A	M	O	R	E		
Y	O	U	R	O	C	K	I	N	H	O	P	E		
S	E	E	T	I	A	G	I	N	A					
		S	H	A	L	L	W	E	D	A	N	C		
		S	S	E	E	I	R	E	D	O	N			
N	O	T	A	P	R	E	T	T	Y	S	I	G	H	T
A	D	A	Y	E	S	M	R	O	O					
P	A	S	S	R	E	C	E	I	V	E	R			
		H	E	E	L	A	I	R	D	E	A			
A	M	A	S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

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## Close To Home

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John McPherson

"Siri says that I SHOULD have my gall bladder removed, and Alexa says I SHOULDN'T, so I want you to break the tie, Dr. Sturk."

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## Backwaters by Prasanna Keshava

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18			19		20					21		
		22		23		24	25					
	26					27				28	29	
30						31				32		33
34					35			36	37			
38				39				40				
	41		42	43				44				
			45					46				
47	48	49			50	51			52		53	54
55					56				57		58	
59					60						61	
62					63						64	

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

### Previous puzzle solution

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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