

**COVID-19 CASES AS OF 11/16**  
 Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
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Harper Woods	1,691 (+74)	54 (+0)

(Increase 11/7-11/16)

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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 46, 30 PAGES  
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 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Aimee Fluitt steps down

By Kate Vanderstelt  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Two years after being elected to the Grosse Pointe Park City Council, Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt announced she would be vacating her seat, leaving open a partial two-year term, effective with her last council meeting Monday, Dec. 13.

Her announcement came after she ran an opinion piece in the Detroit Free Press Wednesday, Nov. 10, titled “Grosse Pointe Park council members lost election because of racist lies.” The article was posted at 12:41 p.m. and brought to a community page at 1 p.m. by



Aimee Fluitt

Fluitt, who said, “Let’s get this out of the way. I didn’t write the headline, but I said what I said. No, I won’t argue with you on Facebook.” The post yielded 180 comments.

The opinion piece *See FLUITT, page 3A*



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Filling the school administration building at 389 St. Clair will be 18 apartment units, with eight town-homes separately constructed on the property as well.

## 389 St. Clair rezoning, site plan approved

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — With the conditional rezoning of 389 St. Clair from single family to transition during Monday night’s council meeting, 18 apartment units and eight town-homes now are slated for the property.

After tabling the matter at the August council meeting, the developers, brothers Mark and Craig

Menuck of Curtis Building, returned to the drawing board to incorporate recommendations from city council and community opinion.

Changes made to their original proposal include reducing the number of apartment units from 23 to 18; eliminating and combining the smallest units to create units as large as 1,270 to 1,600 square feet; reducing the size of the building on the Notre Dame side to create setbacks of 9 feet instead of 5 feet; offering more parking spaces per unit than initially planned; and incorporating additional green space.

Plans include four one-bedroom, 13 two-bedroom and one three-bedroom apartment units, while all the townhouse units are more than 2,000 square feet.

The site plan of the development was deemed

consistent with the City’s master plan, according to City Planner John Jackson.

“While this site may not be identified on the future land use plan as multi-family or transition,” he said, “... (the site plan) talks about some of the goals and objectives that are included in the City’s master plan such as preserving local historic assets like the school

*See PLAN, page 9A*

## Park seeks two council members

By Kate Vanderstelt  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Grosse Pointe Park is searching for a resident to fill a two-year partial term on council in the vacant seat of Michele Hodges, who was appointed mayor in the recent election.

City charter mandates the vacated seat be filled within 60 days, meaning the council members must select a colleague by Tuesday, Jan. 4. If council members fail to reach a consensus, a special election will ensue to fill the seat.

“I believe it to be in the

best interest of all to avoid the cost and complication of a special election,” Hodges said at a council meeting Monday, Nov. 8. “We do need to achieve normalcy as soon as possible so that this community can heal and move forward.”

Councilman Vikas Relan expressed concern over rushing the decision, as it is a larger term than what was most recently appointed by council.

“This is for a two-year term, whereas (Dan) Grano’s term was (nine

*See COUNCIL, page 3A*

## Arson is cause of June Koi Nu Asian fire

\$5,000 reward offered for information

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Investigators have determined arson to be the cause of a fire that broke out in the rear of Koi Nu Asian after business hours at 10:42 p.m. Sunday, June 6.

“It’s a very rare crime in Grosse Pointe City,”

Public Safety Director John Alcorn, a more than 20-year veteran of the department, said. “I can’t remember the last arson we had, if I’ve even ever had one before.”

The suspicion was in officers’ minds from the beginning, he said, when

*See ARSON, page 8A*



FILE PHOTO

Arson is the cause of a fire that started in the rear of Koi Nu Asian Sunday, June 6.

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## Parking enforcement in City to be automated

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Attempting to skirt parking regulations in the City will be even more of a risk now, as council unanimously approved the purchase of new enforcement equipment during its October

meeting.

While the current system is nearly 15 years old, no longer supported by the manufacturer and running on an old version of Microsoft, the new system will allow the parking agent to use a mobile phone and portable printer to write tickets that are detected

from a car-mounted license plate recognition system.

This system uses parking permit records, the City’s mobile payment application and new payment stations located in municipal lots to determine whether a vehicle has paid.

Additional improve-

ments from the current system include ticket records being immediately synced with the city’s municipal court tracking system, as well as the tracking of parking lot usage from a parking management perspective.

“The intent isn’t actually to write more tick-

*See PARKING, page 3A*

ets,” City Manager Pete Dame said. “In fact, we don’t raise a lot of revenue from writing tickets and we don’t intend to change that.

“The goal of parking renewal enforcement is to ensure that people pay and follow the rules when they park,” he continued, “so the vast majority of revenues that

*See PARKING, page 3A*

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**Pointer of INTEREST**

*See story, page 4A*



**Nathan Martin**  
 Home: Grosse Pointe Woods  
 A lifelong creator finds interest in sidewalk astronomy



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# Schooled on vaccines

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — While new members of the city council proposed resuming in-person public meetings now that the pandemic is losing its bite, a senior member of the body volunteered ignorance of the city's COVID-19 vaccination policy.

"I'm wondering what our policy is as a city on vaccinations," said Councilman Vikas Relan.

Relan, a Henry Ford Health System employee, had been in office seven months when the Park began doing its part to distance individual members of the public from exposure to a virus

spreading from Wuhan, China.

Elected officials, including Relan, started holding council and commission meetings remotely over the internet since June 2020, some 19 months ago.

"Are council candidates required to be vaccinated?" he asked. "I don't even know if our city employees are required to be vaccinated."

A pending federal mandate requires employers of a minimum 100 employees to opt for vaccinations or weekly testing. The mandate does not apply to employees of less than 100 employees. Nor does it explain why someone

with 99 fellow employees is more at risk for COVID than someone having only 98.

Among the Park's total of less than 100 full-time employees, the public safety department has the most at 47.

Some employees are vaccinated, some aren't, according to City Manager Nick Sizeland. "We've had discussions with the unions," he said.

"Based on our size, I don't think the mandate applies to the city," Park City Attorney Jake Howlett told Relan at the Monday, Nov. 8, council meeting. "I don't think it's big enough in terms of the number of employees."

Howlett isn't aware of mandates applying to the Park.

"It's up to the city to mandate that for its employees," he said.

"That's what I was wondering," Relan said. "Where do we stand as far as the 100-employee limit that's going on nationally right now?"

"We are below," Sizeland said. "We're about 65 employees."

"This is the point: In-person meetings worked for a century in this town," said Councilman Max Wiener, among three new members and the mayor elected to office less than a week before the meeting.

Prior to the sidebar on vaccination policy, Wiener said he wanted the city manager to determine the feasibility of

resuming in-person meetings at city hall in time for the next regularly scheduled session, 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

"It's long overdue," Wiener said. "It's a return to normalcy. It's one of the most common things I was asked when I was going door-to-door (campaigning)."

The other four Grosse Pointes switched to protective, online COVID protocol in either April or May 2020, according to their respective meeting minutes. The City and Farms resumed in-person sessions in June 2021; the Shores in August and Shores in September.

"I find it odd that we have an expectation of businesses can handle this, but the city is not," Wiener said. "This is why we're pushing this over to the city manager to inves-

tigate our options."

Relan and the rest reached consensus that some form of remote viewing option for live meetings be retained for transparency and convenience.

Sizeland is expected to present a report for the Dec. 13 meeting.

Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt, prior to resigning two days later and writing a newspaper editorial calling voters racist for not supporting her preferred candidates, wants in-person council meetings to take place somewhere other than council chambers.

"A larger venue, where residents, if they want to attend, can spread out a little bit more than they could in council chambers, which are actually pretty, pretty cramped," she said.

# If you want something done right, have someone else do it

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A community organizer on the city council agreed to let others do her work of defining the measure of a task which, if allowed to burble open-ended, was expected to hamstring the municipal administration into stagnation at a time of year when the annual financial audit is due and tax matters face deadlines.

"One thing I'd like to put a motion on the table for tonight is that we direct city administration to take a look at the contracts that are currently in place between the city and — I guess any contract that we have in place," Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt said.

She said further, "I would like city administration to take a look at existing city contracts and ensure everything is as it should be with those

contracts and that they have been authorized by vote of council and that those contracts do not leave the city open to any kind of legal liability."

"What's the scope of this?" Councilman Max Wiener asked. "That's kind of an open-ended statement that would suggest a whole legal audit of all contracts for the city. That scope of that could be enormous. Do you have something more targeted in mind?"

With each request for clarification, Fluitt lessened her demand.

"I'm asking that the city manager take a look at the existing contracts," she said. "We keep stumbling across contracts that were made between other representatives of the city and, I'm not saying this city manager, but other representatives of the city that council was unaware of and were not authorized by council and that has opened us

up to legal liability and cost us thousands of dollars."

"Are we talking about contracts that are existing, ongoing contracts in which the city currently has an obligation?" City Attorney Jake Howlett asked. "Or, are we talking about going back in time to previously signed land transfers that we already have accomplished?"

"So, ongoing contracts where the city might actually be at risk," Fluitt said.

"I will reiterate," said Wiener, owner of three manufacturing operations. "I've dealt with international business labor contracts, situations where I had decades of ongoing supplier and customer relations. I strongly suggest this get tabled and then we refine the scope."

"We want to have the confidence of our residents that we are properly running city government," said Nick Sizeland, city manager since 2019. "Without having a clear definition or scope, I would be concerned that this could take quite a bit of time, especially now that we have a couple other tasks to work on."

The discussion occurred during the first meeting of the new city

council, Monday, Nov. 8.

Newly-elected Mayor Michele Hodges presided. New members of council consisted of Wiener, Christine Gallagher and Thomas Caulfield. Councilman Vikas Relan wasn't up for re-election and also was present. None of Fluitt's and Relan's preferred incumbent candidates nor challengers won additional or initial terms.

The council united to table the question until Sizeland provides scope at the Dec. 13 meeting.

Mark Wollenweber, the former manager of Grosse Pointe Woods, Shores and St. Clair Shores, former consultant to the state treasury department regarding cleanup of Flint's financial troubles and presently interim manager of Huntington Woods, tried to put Fluitt's ranging goal into perspective.

"It's a huge job," Wollenweber said. "I would see hundreds if not thousands of contracts, for a whole variety of things, all of which are potentially regulated differently."

He commissioned a forensic audit of the Woods a number of years ago.

"One of the firms had FBI white collar crime

expertise as a principle of their firm," Wollenweber said. "That's the kind of expertise you're going to need to look at all these things. It would be a huge undertaking and a potentially horrifically expensive task to hire an outside firm to look at all these things."

Not all government contracts are one-on-one. Many are convoluted.

"Under some purchases requiring competitive bids, the state gets bids for the cities," Wollenweber said. "When purchasing as a consortium, such as with road salt, it is a complex process to go back and determine how something was selected."

Fluitt resigned two days after the meeting. She promised on social media to spend a month explaining why. She additionally wrote an online op-ed claiming racist voters failed to support her like-minded candidates. But the new council didn't dismiss her contract query as a parting shot from someone who did get her way.

"I'm not opposed to what we're discussing, but we have to refine this," Wiener said. "Otherwise, it can degrade."

Fluitt was unable to openly explain her motives because they developed from a closed council session involving a contractual matter about which attendees are bound not to speak publicly.

The Open Meetings Act allows public bodies private discussions about such things as personnel evaluations, collective bargaining agreements, the purchase or lease of real estate, specific pending litigation, confidential employment applications and more.

"We've had a few incidents in the last, just recent months of unauthorized city contracts," she said. "It was closed session, which should be

respected. But the city did have a large liability because of an unauthorized contract that was made."

## Oops

Fortunately for those curious about the amount of the unspecified large liability, Councilman Relan couldn't keep quiet.

He said, "We should mention that we did get sued for the sum of \$1,000 on that. So, it's not —"

Mayor Hodges cut him off: "I think we should be careful about the closed session content Member (Relan). Attorney Howlett, please stop us if we breach any professional requirements."

"Discussions on the settlement were part of a litigation, closed-door sessions, so we should not discuss any details of that," Howlett said.

"We've learned from our closed-door session that we need to review some contracts because we have the potential to be damaged, um, financially pretty harshly," Relan responded. "Sorry about that."

## Oops again

Less than five minutes later, Relan asked Sizeland about the closed session:

"Nick, I thought during our closed-door session we did ask to get review of some of those contracts again. I know we discussed it. I brought it up in that closed-door session that we should be reviewing all our contracts —"

"Council Member Relan," Howlett interrupted. "If it's discussed in the closed door, we can't talk about it (in public)."

"OK. Well," Relan said. "I agree with everyone that's talking today. We should allow (Attorney) Jake and (Manager) Nick some time to come up with a plan, maybe identify

See RIGHT, page 3A

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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, December 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers/Court Room of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center. The proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the Municipal Center, 2025 Mack Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend.

**An Ordinance to Amend City of Grosse Pointe Woods Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, Officers and Employees, To Add a New Division 5 to Create the Office of Assistant City Administrator.**

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 11/18/2021



# Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods form country's first joint Crisis Intervention Team

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTE AND HARPER WOODS** — In one scene, officers must convince a potentially suicidal fellow man in uniform to accept help. In another, they're talking down a woman threatening to jump off a bridge because of a domestic dispute.

These advanced simulations, acted out by certified instructors, took place on the final day of voluntary 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training, attended by 15 officers from the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods last week at the City of Grosse Pointe public safety building. CIT training covers mental illness, substance use, adolescent issues, trauma-informed policing, self care, verbal de-escalation and developmental disabilities, making officers more comfortable with facing these situations on the job.

With 100 percent of officers in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods now trained in mental health

**In this scenario, a woman threatens to jump off a bridge because her husband has substance abuse problems and is cheating on her. On the bridge, instructors Arnold Wicker and Andrea Smith play the roles of husband and wife. Trying to deescalate the situation are City of Grosse Pointe Detective Mike Narduzzi, City PSO Drew Prueter and Grosse Pointe Shores PSO Jeff Roybal. On the far left is Gino Villareal, CIT staff member, watching and listening to the officers' response.**



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUTY

**Grosse Pointe Farms PSO Paul Reygaert leans in the driver's window to talk to a distraught Detroit Police recruiter who, in this scenario, is overwhelmed with the pandemic and other life struggles. Leaning in the passenger side window is Grosse Pointe Park Officer Ronald Loosvelt.**

first aid, this CIT training, in which 20 percent of a department's officers are required to be certified, is the second step to completing the One Mind Campaign through the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which focuses on training officers for interactions with individuals who have mental health conditions.

Working toward this goal, the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods combined to form the first

joint Crisis Intervention Team in the country, with 20 percent of the officers from the six departments combined now certified.

"If I'm working and I don't have an officer that's trained in crisis intervention, I can call the Farms, the Park or the Shores and they can send that officer over to help us and vice versa," City of Grosse Pointe Director of Public Safety John Alcorn said. "... If we did it, just Grosse Pointe City, we have 23



people, so 20 percent of that is 4 or 5 people. We automatically have access to more people than that by doing it all together."

Aside from the advanced training simulations toward the end of the week putting the officers' new skills to the test, the volunteers were put into peer groups to share something they're having a hard time with, which was intended to get officers used to talking about personal problems and understand they don't have to hold them in. They also had a self-care portion, where a personal trainer was brought in for workouts, and tried exercises such as experiencing an auditory hallucination.

"We have them do an exercise where they use the non-dominant hand to try to trace a picture," added Andrea L. Smith, director of workforce training and program development with Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, "so they can see what it's like having a disability where you know you want to do it a certain way, but you just can't."

Hosted speakers also included a 36th District Court judge speaking about specialty courts, a representative of the prosecutor's office detailing not guilty by reason of insanity cases and a psychiatrist, who provided information about warning signs to look for on pill bottles such as whether the quantity matches the count or whether the color and shape match the look on the bottle.

It's great training," City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Officer Steve Mukavec said. "... It's interesting, you get a lot of information, it's fun at times (and) the time has

gone by fast."

With the training now complete, the officers have received a three-year certification through CIT International — the

DWIHN's program was awarded as the best CIT program in the nation this year — but will continue to have ongoing quarterly continuing education.

## COUNCIL:

Continued from page 1A

to 10 months)," Relan said. "So two years is a lot more substantial. Doing it this way, very rapidly, doesn't give the residents a lot of say. It puts it in the hands of us six (council members), which, I just throw it to you guys, is that something we want to do, or do we feel the residents should elect someone (via a special election) for two years?"

Confirmed by Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt's question, City Clerk Jane Blahut estimated a special election would cost the city between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

At the Nov. 8 meeting, council decided to create an application deadline of 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1. A special meeting likely will be held the first week of December to interview applicants and allow for selection by council vote at its regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Dec. 13.

As it stands, interviews will take place via an internal process, likely

with City Manager Nick Sizeland and Blahut developing and delivering the questions to candidates during a public special meeting, where council and the public will be able to hear candidates' answers. Fluitt expressed interest in involving the League of Women Voters, something council did the previous time they were tasked with filling an open seat. Consensus of council decided on an internal process for the sake of efficiency.

A second seat vacated by Fluitt, who announced her resignation from city council via Facebook Wednesday, Nov. 10, has not yet officially been addressed by council, though it is possible the selection process will be combined with what has been outlined to fill the first vacancy.

To be considered for open council seats, applicants must be a resident of the Park a minimum of two consecutive years and a registered voter within the city. Applications may be found via the city website, Facebook or directly at bit.ly/3niqfDF.

## The Week Ahead

### TUESDAY, NOV. 23

- ◆ Woods Aglow, 7 to 9 p.m. at city hall, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, NOV. 25

- ◆ Thanksgiving Day; Municipal offices closed.

### FRIDAY, NOV. 26

- ◆ Municipal offices closed.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, 10 a.m.

## FLUITT:

Continued from page 1A

started, "Last week, Grosse Pointe Park voted for its own version of the Big Lie. In a concerning rejection of transparency and progress, the Park accepted fear: fear of change; fear of our neighbors; fear of 'outsiders.'" The piece continues to depict her opinion on the recent election that occurred — an election she says was racist and based on lies.

Fluitt posted her resignation letter to the community on her council-designated Facebook page later that day at 5:39 p.m.

"When I ran for council two years ago, it was because I wanted to be more politically engaged," the post said. "I had time. I had questions about the arts center. And I knew we needed a daycare. The more I talked to residents (and knocking on strangers' doors was seriously uncomfortable for me),

the more passionate I became."

Fluitt announced to the community her family will be relocating to Virginia at the close of 2021, due to her husband's job transfer, which will bring the Fluitts closer to family. She said these factors outweighed the commitment to her council term.

Her announcement came to Facebook due to its "time sensitivity," Fluitt said in her post, rather than waiting until her last council meeting

Monday, Dec. 13.

"I know the mayor is making new committee assignments," she said. "We're asking for applicants for her vacant position and it seemed fair to announce that there will actually be another vacant seat by the end of the year. It may encourage more people to apply. (Truly, it is an incredibly frustrating but also very rewarding position.)"

Fluitt declined requests for comment about her time on council and decision to resign.

## PARKING:

Continued from page 1A

our parking system garners is not from our tickets. It's from people paying 25 cents at a time and as long as there's a threat of getting a ticket, that's the important thing, not how many tickets we write."

Noted for being a time-saving system, the automatic license plate

recognition software eliminates the need for parking agents to check multiple databases each time a ticket needs to be written; allows the parking agent to make rounds more quickly by simply driving through a parking area to identify potential violations; and eliminates complaints with the current system that the city's municipal court does not have same-day access to tick-

ets written.

"These efficiencies free up time to provide other customer service and parking lot maintenance duties," Public Services Director Pete Randazzo said. "... (The system) also can check excessive length of time of parking without physically chalking the tires, which is now no longer allowed by courts."

The system also "continues the city's broad

goal to (automate) as many operational functions as possible, reducing manpower requirements," Randazzo said.

Using funds budgeted from the parking fund capital projects account, the project cost through Tannery Creek is an initial payment of \$49,250, followed by \$18,000 per year and \$10,500 annually for full maintenance coverage.

## RIGHT:

Continued from page 2A

tify priority or departments to look at. We don't need to do everything right away, but we need to start getting that."

"I'm certainly open to

letting the two of you make a more formal scope that we can work within," Fluitt told the manager and attorney. "Maybe you'll be able to explain to me what it is that does not need to be included and is less important."

"I don't think I was suggesting leaving anything out," Howlett said. "It was more just understanding what's there to begin with."

"We have exhausted the conversation," Hodges said. "I caution my colleagues about dis-

cussing anything that did occur in closed session. I have confidence in our team and they are working diligently to improve our processes and to ensure that our exposure is minimized both with current and past contracts."



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# Sights from the sky: A creator's journey into astronomy

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

As a child, Grosse Pointe Woods resident Nathan Martin's mother invested her time in folk art, and his dad taught him how to fix things. The two influences combined to lead him on his journey to be a creator as an adult.

"Growing up, my dad would tear everything apart and fix it," Martin said. "I got that back from him and (learned) that the first step is to take it apart without breaking it. And if you can do that, maybe you can fix it. And don't be afraid to just jump into things. And then also, the biggest thing is, find somebody who knows something about it and ask questions and you can pretty much teach yourself anything."

Martin's experience in creating and building things is expansive and includes lots of wood-working projects, among other things.

Recently, Martin's project portfolio expanded when he developed a curiosity about the sky.

"Over COVID," Martin said, "I had seen some videos about 'sidewalk astronomy' — taking telescopes and setting



A view of the moon through Martin's home-built telescope.

them up, showing them to people and showing them the stars and (things) you can't just see with your natural eye. I got really interested in it."

Martin took the childhood lessons from his parents and hit the books, videos and internet trying to learn more about sidewalk astronomy, specifically how to build his own telescope. He came across a reflective mirror on eBay and

got to work crafting.

Within about four months, Martin had his very own telescope to share with family, friends and neighbors, complete with a collapsible box system which allows it to be easily transported.

Before it was taken on trips, the first step was to set it up in the yard and let friends and neighbors stop by to see what the night sky brought through the

lens.

"I didn't create it so much (out of) personal interest," Martin said. "I created it more just to share with other people and to share that experience. And I will say it's been super enjoyable because every time I can line that telescope up and show somebody a close-up of the moon or the rings of Saturn, the reaction is always, 'Wow, this is amazing!' (or) 'Whoa, I can't



The telescope is made to be collapsible, allowing it to be transported easily for future trips to dark sky parks.

believe this.'

"So it was really to create that and then to have it so I can spend time with my family and friends and neighbors and just value that."

So far, between setting it up in the yard and bringing it to his daughter's Girl Scouts troop, Martin said he thinks he's shown over 100 people various wonders in the sky through his home-built telescope.

Of bringing the community together, the telescope has been doing its job. Martin said one day when the telescope was set up outside, his sky-viewing crew attracted a neighbor from the block over

who was out for a walk with his two young children. Rather than the quick walk he was supposed to be on, he ended up being away from home for an hour for an impromptu "star party."

"His reaction was, 'I cannot believe I ran into you guys doing this,'" Martin said. "This is the coolest thing I've ever seen.' It's just fun to share that."

Avid backpackers and campers, Martin plans to take the telescope on camping trips with his wife and two daughters next summer. They hope to hit some dark sky parks where they can take full advantage of the beauty the telescope can capture.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN MARTIN

Grosse Pointe Farms

Stop Here on Red

A 37-year-old Grosse Pointe woman was cited for not having insurance after she was pulled over at 1:46 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, for failing to obey the 'Stop Here on Red' sign at Kercheval Avenue and Hall Place.

Back from the future

When officers asked a 64-year-old Detroit man if he had been drinking after pulling him over at

Lakeshore and Moran roads for drifting back and forth in a lane at 7:29 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, he said he had shots at 9 p.m.

A preliminary breath

test showed his blood-alcohol content to be .025 percent, but when multiple pill bottles were found in the vehicle, he ultimately was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs.

Frantically resisting arrest

While off duty in a personal vehicle at 2:38 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, an officer observed a vehicle driving up to 60 mph on Moross Road and into the oncoming traffic lane multiple times to go around other vehicles.

After suddenly pulling into the parking lot of a business near Mack Avenue and Moross Road, an 18-year-old Shores man was seen running from the vehicle before returning to it as the officer was taking down license plate information.

The man, who appeared frantic and was twitching and talking quickly, began to fight officers as they attempted to search him for weapons, breaking one officer's finger in the process and being unsuccessfully tazed. Officers then were able to secure him in the

back of a vehicle.

Upon a search of his vehicle, a semi-automatic pistol was found.

The man was transported to an area hospital and charges are being sought for operating under the influence of drugs, resisting officers, concealed weapons and reckless driving.

Surprise move

A 70-year-old Farms man reported Friday, Nov. 12, he received notification of a change of address he had not filed.

See REPORTS, page 5A

# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

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## REPORTS:

Continued from page 4A

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

## Counting bills

A 28-year-old Harrison Township woman was pulled over at Moross Road and Kercheval Avenue at 2:14 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, for speeding 50 mph.

With a strong smell of alcohol coming from the vehicle as the officer requested her driver's license, the disoriented woman opened her wallet and bypassed her license to grab a handful of money, proceeding to count and organize it.

She was arrested for operating with a blood alcohol content of .17 percent or more.

## License suspended

A 22-year-old Detroit man was arrested for driving while license suspended, having an expired plate and defective equipment, after being pulled over at Mack Avenue and Moross Road at 6:03 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, for a broken headlight and taillight.

— Laurel Kraus  
Report information about these and other

## Grosse Pointe Shores

No crimes to report per dispatch.

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## More coins

A red coin purse containing \$45 was taken from an unlocked car parked in the 1000 block of Somerset at 9:28 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8.

The victim saw a white car she believes may have been involved leaving her driveway.

## Flat tire

A resident in the 1000 block of Maryland awoke to discover her car's front driver's side tire had been cut and flattened overnight, sometime between 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, and 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 8.

## Smash and grab

Park public safety got involved when Detroit

dispatch was searching for multiple Dodge Chargers involved in "smash and grabs" in the area.

An officer saw a newer model black Dodge Charger, complete with tinted windows, speeding down Jefferson in the Park at 2:07 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. The officer followed the Charger from a safe distance and notified the Detroit Police Department when it reached Jefferson and Chalmers.

## Rear-ending injuries

According to a witness, a 43-year-old Detroit resident was speeding down Mack and rear-ended another car at Audubon at 6:17 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13.

When Park officers arrived on scene, Detroit EMS was tending to one of the drivers.

The Detroit driver sustained the only injuries and was taken to the hospital.

Evidence at the scene indicated the Detroit resident was intoxicated. Investigation into an operating while intoxicated charge is ongoing.

— Kate Vanderstelt  
Report information

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

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Not licensed driver

A 20-year-old Detroit man was stopped on Allard near Bramcaster for driving 39 mph in a 25 mph zone.

When the 2011 Ford was pulled over, the Detroit man admitted he did not have a license.

He was issued citations for license never acquired, speeding and no insurance. The Ford was turned over to a licensed passenger.

## Bad lot

A driver parked in a parking lot in the 20000 block of Mack has complained of multiple accounts of destruction to her car.

Most recently, she parked her car behind a business at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, and when she returned at 10 p.m. she found her rear window broken out.

The previous week she reported her car had been keyed. She further noted the vehi-

cle had been keyed on the passenger side Aug. 30.

All incidents occurred when her car was parked in the same lot.

## Mistakes that cost

A resident in the 2300 block of Stanhope parked her car for the night at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, and got in it the next morning around 8:45 a.m. to find someone had rummaged through her glovebox and center console.

The resident reported forgetting to lock her car doors that night.

Missing are an Igloo lunchbox, loose change and two pairs of prescription glasses.

## Hopping the block

A car parked in the 2300 block of Stanhope around 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, was gone through overnight, which the owner noticed when she was driving her son to school the next morning.

She noticed items normally in the center console were scattered around the interior of the car.

Missing is a handbag

decorated with zebra handles and an African mask.

The resident does not know if her car was locked.

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

## City of Grosse Pointe

## Skipping a step

An unknown black male, wearing a red hat, black jacket and black pants, walked out of a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval Avenue at 9:28 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5, with a shopping cart of items he had not purchased.

## Foiled getaway

A 64-year-old Detroit man was pulled over and arrested at 6:39 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, after employees saw him drive away with \$394.40 of stolen items from a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval Avenue.

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

## Chamber snowman contest

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce invites interested business owners to participate in sharing holiday cheer by showcasing a snowman in the front window.

A \$50 entry fee includes a foam block to carve out a snowman.

How it is decorated is up to the individual. Awards will be handed out for the top three snowmen in each category: Most Creative, Funniest and Most Traditional.

The name of each snowman and the business where it is located will be listed on the cham-

ber's Frosty Map of Snowmen, to help increase foot traffic throughout the holiday season. Viewing begins Friday, Nov. 26.

For more information, contact the chamber at (313) 881-4722 or email [info@grossepointechamber.com](mailto:info@grossepointechamber.com).



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6A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Pointes united in all maps — except one

We have good news and bad news: The Pointes are united in all 15 proposed final redistricting maps — except for one.

Last week, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission approved 15 maps for 45 days of public review before it makes its final decisions Dec. 30.

In all the proposed congressional and state Senate maps, all five of the Grosse Pointes are in the same district.

This is especially good news since previous maps had Grosse Pointe Park in a separate state Senate district than the other four Pointes. In the final proposed maps, the Park will be in the same state Senate district as its sister cities, as it should be.

Harper Woods also is included with the Pointes in the congressional and state Senate maps, but not in the state House maps.

For state House, we are pleased to report, all the Pointes are in the same proposed district in three of the four final proposed maps.

However, one map, Pine V5, still had a portion of Grosse Pointe Woods — south of Huntington Boulevard and west of Mack — in a different state House district than the rest of the city. This will not do.

We urge residents to go online to michigan-mapping.org and tell the commission to ditch proposed map Pine V5 and keep all the Pointes and all of Grosse Pointe Woods in the same state House district.

This is an instance where we do not want the exception to be the rule!

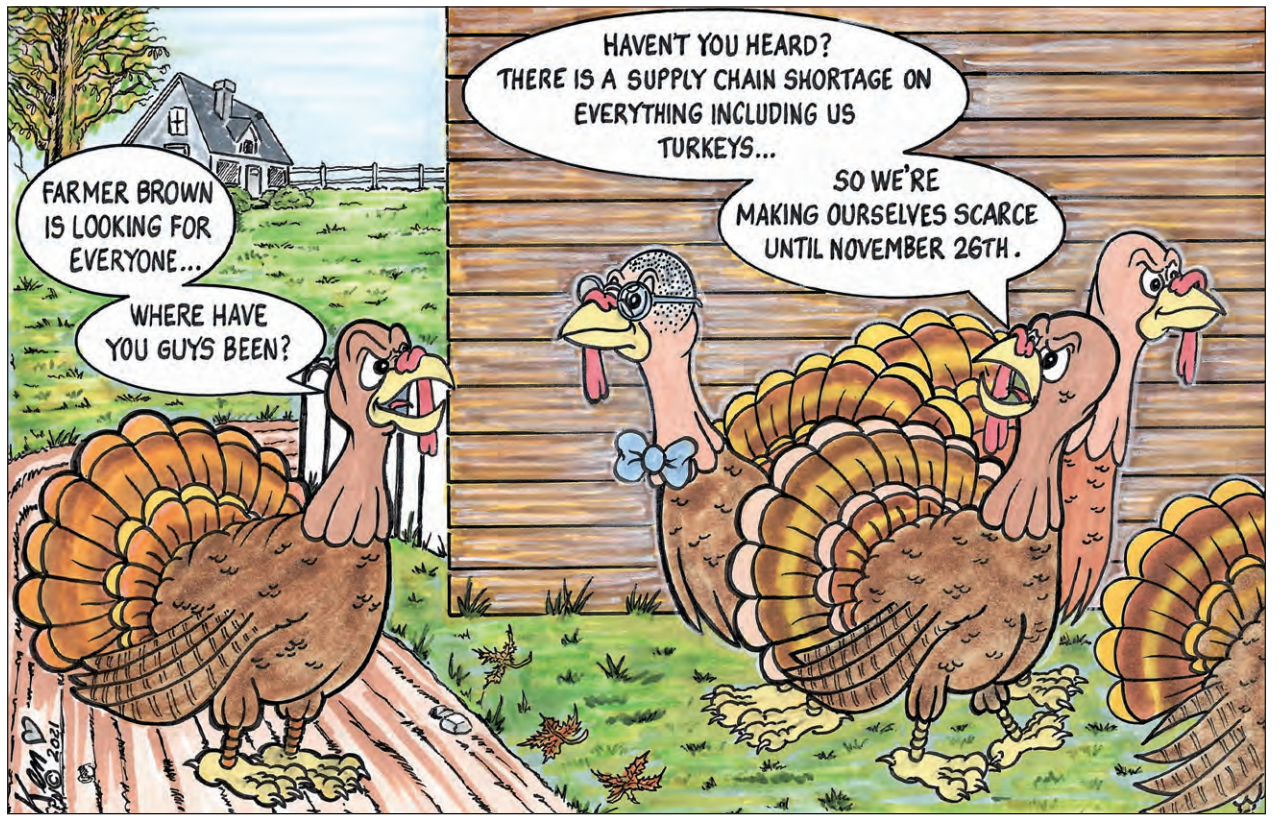


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Susan Acton

Secure MI Vote proposal makes voting more difficult for many Michigan voters

Voting is our foremost democratic process. Many people throughout history have fought for the right of specific groups to vote.

A citizen-led proposal in Michigan threatens to derail decades of progress. Secure MI Vote has received approval of its petition by our state's Board of Canvassers to enact legislation that would take away Election Day voting options, make absentee voting less accessible and gut funding for election administration in Michigan.

In short, it would make voting harder for many people.

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe, along with other local Leagues and the League

of Women Voters of Michigan are working hard to educate voters on the security of our elections. Here is what we know. The proposal comes after the 2020 election, when we heard claims of fraud and that the presidential election results are unfair or incorrect. However, we know those claims are false because multiple audits, court cases and a report by the Michigan Senate Oversight Committee has affirmed our election was fair and secure.

In Michigan, registered voters who don't have their photo ID at the polls can verify their identity at their polling location by taking an oath and signing an affidavit. Thanks to this security feature in Michigan's current voter identifica-

tion law, more than 30,000 registered voters who did not have their photo ID at their polling place were able to perform their civic duty and vote in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections.

The proposal eliminates this option and others that make voting more accessible to all, particularly black and brown communities, seniors, youth, people with disabilities and rural voters.

The proposal also includes an appropriation that, if approved by the Michigan Legislature, would prevent a vote of the people from overturning the law, further denying voters of Michigan a voice on this issue.

We know what voters want because they told us in 2018, when they

overwhelmingly approved Proposal 3 providing the constitutional amendment to enhance the voting opportunities yet maintain the integrity, widely expanding voter access with the creation of no-reason absentee voting, among other measures that made voting more accessible to eligible voters.

Our state already has safeguards for elections. Not only is the proposal unnecessary, it disenfranchises voters from participating in the democratic process which so many people have fought for. We cannot go backwards and silence the voices of voters in Michigan.

Susan Acton is the president of the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe.

Wayne County vaccinations\*

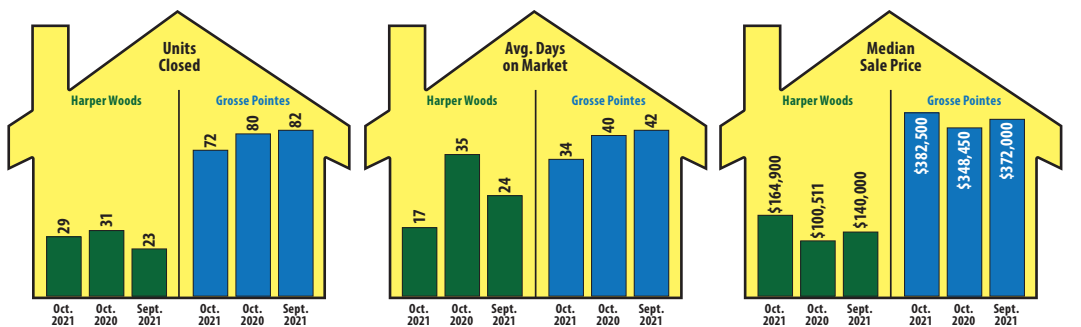
As of 11/16	Initiation**	Completions***
Vaccinations	680,833	620,642
% of residents 5+	67.4	61.4
5-11 years old (%)	6,367 (7.0)	14 (0.0)
% 12-15 years old	49.9	45.4
% 16-64	70.9	65.0
% 65+	90.0	84.1

\*Excluding Detroit \*\*1 of 2 doses \*\*\* 2 doses or J&J

GUEST VIEW By Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

Exercise good judgment when pricing a home for sale

October housing data recently was released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors for the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. In Harper Woods, median sale price continues to climb and days on market is dropping sharply. The increase in sale price and the frustration many buyers have had with multiple offers are evidenced as the number of sales has declined. With interest rates continuing to remain



low, however, this data makes it clear that waiting to buy simply means paying more for a home that could have been purchased now. And while the percent of asking price remains strong, sellers are finding it is not as easy to properly price a home.

In the Grosse Pointes, market conditions for sellers remains strong as shown by all the indicators above, with closed sales off only slightly, prices up, days on market down and percent of asking price remaining strong although slipping back to the normal range of around 97 percent. Inventory, however, has dropped significantly, which is going to make house hunting for buyers more difficult in the short term. The next few months will tell if the percent of asking price is going to remain around 97 percent. If it does, sellers will need to exercise good judgment when pricing their home.

Next, a word of caution to those looking to sell.

While readers may not live in a municipality that requires a certificate of occupancy by the city, where one is required they are not available with 24 hours notice and, if not available, can disrupt plans for moving. Recently we met with some city officials who advised that city inspections should be ordered before making your home available to buyers. We would like to encourage this practice.

Finally, the market is indicating there are going to be some nuances to buying and selling, which will make the counsel of a well-informed Realtor who knows the specifics of the market very important. Do you have a Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors agent?

Grosse Pointe News HOLIDAY DEADLINES

In observance of Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2021  
Our Retail Advertising deadline will be NOON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021  
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LETTERS

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

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



I SAY By Renee Landuyt

# Strange facts: Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving wasn't always a national holiday. A woman named Sarah Josepha Hale made it happen. Hale promoted her campaign to make it a holiday by writing Thanksgiving-themed poems and publishing editorials and recipes for fall, fare such as sweet potato pudding and pumpkin pie, in the hopes of making people want a day where they could eat all of these foods together. Hale then wrote a letter asking President Abraham Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. After Hale campaigned for years,

President Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November to be the official national holiday called Thanksgiving.

"Pardoning" a turkey (not sure what their crime is or why they need pardoning) is said to have begun by President Lincoln giving a stay of execution to a turkey in 1863. President John F. Kennedy pardoned a turkey stating, "Let's keep him going." President Richard Nixon sent his turkey to a petting zoo.

The official "pardoning" became an annual tradition in 1989. With animal rights activists protesting nearby, Bush quipped, "reprieve," "keep him going" or "pardon": it's all the same for the turkey as long as he doesn't end up on the Presidents' table." George H.W. Bush formalized the turkey pardoning tradition by stating, "But let me assure you, and this fine tom tur-

key, that he will not end up on anyone's dinner table, not this guy — he's presented a Presidential pardon as of right now — and allow him to live out his days on a children's farm not far from here."

The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.

Thanksgiving leftovers actually inspired TV dinners because the company Swanson overestimated the demand for turkeys by a few hundred tons, so they took inspiration from airline meals, ordered 500,000 aluminum trays, piled in the leftovers and created the first ever TV dinners.

Coincidentally, the busiest day for plumbers is the day after Thanksgiving, according to Roto-Rooter.

There are three towns in the United States named "Turkey." These towns can be found in Texas, Louisiana and North Carolina.

Butterball answers

more than 100,000 turkey-cooking questions via its Butterball Turkey Hotline each November and December. The most common asked question is, "My turkey is still frozen. What do I do?"

Here are some other questions they have gotten in the past: "I left my turkey in the car overnight. Is it OK to eat?" Another caller said, "I left my turkey in the snow overnight and now I can't find it. What do I do?" (Seriously?)

Another caller to the hotline, when asked by the operator what state her turkey was in, replied, "Florida." (Um, yeah, the operator meant fresh or frozen).

Yet another caller (Who are these people?) called to say she rinsed her turkey with dish soap and now the bubbles wouldn't stop.

A first-time dad wanted to know if the turkey that had been thawing in the fridge while his wife

was in the hospital giving birth would be OK. The operator asked him how many pounds it was and the dad said, "The turkey or the baby?"

One lady asked, "Is the turkey carcass safe to use as a Santa sled for the kids to play with?" (Insert eye roll.) "How do I make gravy?" asked one man, which wouldn't have been weird if he wasn't rolling a suitcase down the sidewalk to his mom's house with a fresh-from-the-oven turkey in it.

A caller who'd put a 16-pound frozen turkey in the hot tub called to ask how long until it was ready to eat. (OK, I don't eat turkey, but I would say eating it without toxic Jacuzzi chemicals would be the way to go.)

Oh, well. Whatever your question or dinner choice, remember this day is all about being grateful and giving thanks.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1946

75 years ago this week

**SHORES PLANS NEW SEWER:** Prescott G. Brown of the engineering firm of Mason L. Brown and Sons is preparing tentative plans for a sanitary sewer system for the Grosse Pointe Shores village, which it is expected will meet all of the objections which the state health authorities have repeatedly lodged against the village. The plans call for a sanitary line along the lake front which will collect all the sanitary sewage which has heretofore gone into the lake and divert it into the big interceptor, whence it will be sent for treatment to the Detroit sewerage treatment plant.

three boys and three girls, and charged all with illegal possession of alcoholic beverages. In addition, the three boys and one girl were charged in warrants with malicious destruction of property over \$100. The four caused thousands of dollars in damage to windows of about 40 stores, starting south of the Municipal Building to Moross Road. Two of the boys, one with a BB rifle and the other with a pellet gun, fired indiscriminately at windows as they drove by in a car.

*Obituaries: William Charles Tost, Douglas M. Colton, Dr. Edward Norman Tisdale, Kenneth M. Lander, Elorion Plante, Murdena A. McCallum, Charles E. Vernier, Martha Bell Fulton, Edyth Marshall*

Patterson Park ice rink, which began construction late last year, had its first tryout last weekend. The rink, which has its own refrigeration unit, should extend the skating season in the park until sometime in March, City Manager Dale Krajniak said. The rink was built with a \$210,000 donation by the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation.

*Obituaries: Julie McNair Chamberlain, Cosimo M. Minardo, Arthur M. Anzmann, William J. McBrearty, Julie Ann Rea*

### 2011

10 years ago this week

FOUNDATION HONORS RETIRING

**SUPERINTENDENT:** During a recent Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education dinner, retiring superintendent Suzanne Klein was honored with a gift and a fund established in her name. Foundation President Robert Bury spoke of Klein's 41 years of service and contribution to the school district and foundation.

### 1971

50 years ago this week

**VANDALS DAMAGE 40 STORES:** Woods police arrested six 17-year-olds,

### 1996

25 years ago this week

**RINK GETS TEST TRYOUT:** Grosse Pointe Park residents who like ice skating will be pleased to know the

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*\* Ask For Kevin Crowther*

STORE HOURS:  
MON-SAT 10-5

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, December 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers/Court Room of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center. The proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend.

**An Ordinance to Adopt Article XVII Solar Energy Systems, Chapter 8, Buildings and Building Regulations, Sec. 8-501 To Eliminate the Requirement that Panels be Located Within 4 Feet of Any Peak, Eave or Valley, To Provide That The Installation of the Solar Energy System Shall Comply with the Michigan Residential Code, and To Provide for Appeals to the City Council.**

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 11/18/2021

# BLACK FRIDAY

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# Christmas tree comes as a gift

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — With Christmas six weeks to come, the spirit of giving is planted at Windmill Pointe Park.

The municipal Christmas tree was installed Monday, Nov. 1, and will be decorated for a lighting ceremony to be held after Thanksgiving on a date to be determined. It stands 25 feet tall.

"It is the biggest Christmas tree in my 27 years with the city," said Brian Colter, Grosse Pointe Park city forester.

A resident donated the tree, a nearly perfectly pyramidal blue spruce. A contractor harvested, transported and placed it in the park for free. A second tree contractor decorated it Friday, Nov. 12, at no charge.

Park residents Robert and Stephanie Rogers were being edged out by their 28-year-old, ever-growing evergreen, but



"The tree had gotten so large it presented problems to the landscape and roof of the house," Rogers said. "Instead of cutting it down and throwing it out, we thought we'd give it to the Park."

"On Nov. 1, Arbor Pro came over with a crane and cut it down for free," Colter said.

Another tree contractor which recently completed its first tree maintenance task with the city offered to decorate the Christmas tree at no charge.

"To show our appreciation for the Park giving us work, we're donating decorations for the holiday tree at Windmill Pointe," said Ron Klein, a certified arborist with SavATree, a national company branching into the Pointes.

"We're putting on a minimum of 1,000 LED lights," said Noah Holtkamp, SavATree plant healthcare specialist and Park resident.

"I'm going to use a different color combination to perk it up," Klein said. "We're going to make it pop."

"They install everything and at the end of the season, pack everything away," Colter said. "If any lights go out during the holiday season, they come and maintain it."

The company's décor services feature holiday lighting at the Denver Botanic Gardens for more than a decade.

"Cities out west have us decorate their entire city parks," Klein said.

The Park's tree stands in the center of a garden a few feet inside Windmill Pointe Park's inner gatehouse.

"It looks nice," Robert Rogers said. "They put it to good use."

He doesn't plan to replace his former spruce, so in 28 years the Park must fend for itself when it comes to a Christmas tree.

A feature of the tree is masting in the crown.

"This year, fruit production was really high," Colter said. "Some years are heavier than others. It's called a masting



PHOTOS BY BRAD LINDBERG

**A blue spruce that a Grosse Pointe Park resident donated for decoration as the city Christmas tree at Windmill Pointe Park shows masting, the high production of cones in the crown. Scott Douglas, of SavATree, strings the first of at least 1,000 lights.**

year."

There are various notions about bursts of fruit production.

"Some people theorize it's a sign of environmen-

tal stress, so trees are trying to reproduce," Colter said. "That requires the plant to expend a lot of energy and resources to produce fruit."

# The Village lights up for Christmas

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The annual Village Tree Lighting returns Friday, featuring carols sung by the Grosse Pointe South Choir, hot cocoa provided by the Grosse Pointe Boat Club, s'mores, warming fires, glow sticks, reindeer and a special guest for holiday photos.

The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19,

with the tree-lighting ceremony commencing at 6 p.m.

"We are also lighting up the clock arch in the center of town ... and encouraging our businesses to light up their storefronts as well," Main Street Grosse Pointe Director Cindy Willcock said, "so that as people come to The Village in the evenings,

especially because it gets dark so early, it's warm and inviting and it really has that holiday spirit and feeling."

The City of Grosse Pointe Foundation — also sponsoring the event along with the city's parks and recreation department — has donated \$5,000 this year to replace the Christmas lights and ornaments in The Village.

"The City of Grosse Pointe is hoping to wel-

come everyone in the community as we turn on the lights that evening," said former mayor Christopher Boettcher, who is on the foundation board of trustees.

As for the theme of the new decorations, it's a surprise.

"There'll definitely be some noticeable changes, so people should come down and check it out in person," Willcock said.

— Laurel Kraus



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**The Village Christmas tree, located at Kercheval and St. Clair, will light up for the season at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19.**

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## ARSON:

Continued from page 1A

they entered the business to fight the flames and found a stainless steel countertop on fire, which immediately hinted at the use of an accelerant.

"If you've ever seen a movie where somebody makes a fancy drink and they pour some high alcohol content liquor across the bar and they light it on fire for effect, it mimics that," he explained.

Upon putting out the

fire, officers noted the smell of gasoline and found a brick wrapped in a T-shirt that was used to break in.

Video footage from the camera system inside the business of what appears to be an unknown male pouring a suspected accelerant at different spots inside, as well as confirmation that gasoline was used to start the fire, sealed the deal.

"We've been working under (the arson) ruling for quite some time now," Alcorn said. "Oftentimes when firefighters go into a fire, their initial observations can be really helpful in determining cause and origin and this was the case."

An arson team brought

into the investigation — made up of special agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Michigan State Police and the Detroit Fire Department, and working in conjunction with City of Grosse Pointe Detective Sgt. Joe Adams, who is the officer in charge of the case — is releasing the video of the suspect to the public.

It is expected to be posted on the ATF Facebook and Twitter pages this week. A \$5,000 joint reward from ATF and Crime Stoppers is encouraging community members to view the video and bring forward information that leads to the identification and

prosecution of the man filmed.

"We're still waiting on more results from the crime lab," Alcorn said, "but we're hoping that the community will take a look at this video and might be able to identify him through that."

The arson team still is investigating what the motive for the crime may have been.

Notably, the four City officers who successfully fought the fire in June — Sgt. Chris Cotzias, Sgt. Mike Herrgott, Officer Dean Turk, who also served as an evidence technician on the scene, and Officer Jacob Gentile — have been nominated for unit commendations through the department.

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# South performs 'Almost, Maine'

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

Despite the pandemic still limiting total normalcy, Grosse Pointe South High School's Pointe Players are taking the reins on this season.

"We're not letting (the pandemic) slow us down anymore," Director Meaghan Dunham said. "It had to for a while, but now it's like, 'No, the world has to go on.' We're done taking a back seat to a pandemic."

South will present their rendition of "Almost, Maine," a depiction of nine love stories all containing their own magical twist, starting Thursday, Nov. 18.

The play, written by John Ciani, is a popular production to put on currently due to its friendliness with COVID guidelines — typically only two actors appear onstage at a time, with one scene containing a maximum of three.

With a mask mandate in effect at area public schools, Student Director Alice Walsh said that has been the most difficult COVID-related setback leading up to the production.

"One struggle is kind of



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, Alex Cline, as Pete, and Nicole Volger, as Ginette, sit on a bench, rehearsing the prologue of "Almost, Maine."

Left, Lilly Geer holds Avery Barbour's hand to her heart in Act One, Scene One of the play, titled "Her Heart."

the masks because you can't hear people as well," Walsh said, "but we've kind of just been working around that, working on more announcement and projection. Everyone is really determined, so that kind of helps."

Determination and passion have been a leading theme throughout the play's production.

"They're a young group, but they work so hard," Dunham said. "And they know that the expectations are high. ... They feel privileged to be here. They know that the kids who graduated last year got nothing and they know that they're only

going to have now so many opportunities.

"I think that maturation process of whatever happened to all of us a little bit during COVID," Dunham added, "I think there's been real growth and there's real focus in that room and they care about what they're doing. Every time they do it, it's better."

Students have taken a lead on almost every aspect of production, from directing to artwork. Two seniors, Ethan Harr and Walsh, took on roles of student directing, with Walsh giving up her acting role in the play to direct and Harr still play-

ing his while directing.

Three students — Xander Lindsay, Lukas Baer and Aliana Ritter — created such phenomenal artwork to represent the show, each ended up taking the form of the poster, program and T-shirt, respectively, for the play. Senior Abe Neds-Fox even composed original music to accompany the performance.

"I think everyone's kind of excited and happy to be back in the groove of things," Walsh said. "... I think this is the most familiar feeling we've (gotten) in a long time. Everyone's really excited and dedicated and every-

one's really determined to have a great comeback, I guess you could say."

Dunham said for anyone interested in attending the play, they can expect nothing short of greatness.

"We don't do high school theater," she said. "There is no cracking up; there's no breaking. We are in 200 percent. The choices that they're making, the work that they do in rehearsals with me and with their production team, I would put our shows up against any college production I've ever

seen."

The show premieres at South's auditorium at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, with two shows following at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, and Saturday, Nov. 20. Tickets are available for purchase at the door and cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Cash and check only will be accepted.

Masks must be worn in the school. Attendees will be seated in every other row and encouraged to remain three to six feet apart from others not in their family group within their row.

## PLAN:

Continued from page 1A

building and also providing alternative housing types and styles."

A demonstrated demand for the use, Jackson said, can be seen in the fact there are nearly 1,400 houses in the City that are occupied by only one or two people, while there are only 554 one-bedroom and two-bedroom units in the City.

"The fact of the matter is, the houses are larger than the population is demanding," he said.

The planning commission, comprised of city council members, unanimously recommended approval of conditional rezoning Monday, followed by city council unanimously adopting the rezoning, as well as the proposed site plan.

However, the conditional rezoning will be revoked if the developers do not meet agreed-to benchmarks, such as sticking to a maximum of 18 apartment units and eight townhomes; limiting the building height to 35 feet as measured to the midpoint of the roof; keeping front yard setbacks the same distance as other homes on Notre Dame, which is approximately 25 feet; and keeping the side yard setback to the south a minimum of 9 feet and to the north a minimum of 22 feet.

The developers also will be required to conduct a pressure test on the existing water main to ensure adequate water pressure to the existing neighborhood and new development, covering 100 percent of any improvements deemed necessary by the City, which could include replacement of the water main along either Notre Dame or St. Clair.

"The change in the zoning is conditional upon them building the project exactly as you approve it on the site plan," City Attorney Charles Kennedy told council,



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

These signs opposing the apartment development were placed along the stretch of St. Clair between Jefferson and Maumee.

"and there are time limits compliant with our zoning code for them to be able to do that."

Said time limits include a requirement for the developer to get permits within one year, start construction within six months after that and complete construction within two years.

"I have complete confidence in our ability to manage this process and work with the developer and get what we need," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. "... The best practice for old buildings is adaptive reuse, not to fill hundred-year-old buildings and not to put up cheap homes so we look like a subdivision. That's what would happen here."

Within the packed council chamber Monday night were many residents opposed to the development, some of whom have put up lawn

signs stating so.

"If you want to build apartments, do it in a different zoning," said St. Clair resident Steve Cavera. "Don't do it in the middle of this residential community. It's the wrong place, not necessarily the wrong idea. To those of you in the audience who want more rentals, I don't disagree with you, (but) pick the best spot for it. This is not the best spot for it."

Concerns of St. Clair residents opposed to the development included visitors to the apartments filling up on-street parking, the type of renters who could move into the City and an increase in traffic on the streets.

While a report by the Transportation Improvement Association indicated the apartments will generate 77 less vehicle trips per day than the current administration building use, the opposed resi-

dents strongly disagreed with the statistics.

However, some residents did support the development.

"The studies have shown that we need more smaller units for seniors and single professionals and these will appeal to single professionals with the rents that they're asking," St. Clair resident Kurt Shuck said. "Removing the old building, I think, will disrupt the neighborhood much more than keeping and rehabbing it."

"We have empty storefronts in The Village that

could stand some foot traffic," he added, "and this is only a couple blocks away and it's a perfect spot for it."

According to City Manager Pete Dame, a financial report found the development will generate \$227,000 in taxes annually, \$65,000 of which will go to the City. Currently, the City makes no taxes off the school-owned property.

"The proposed development would support property value," Councilman David Fries said. "It would enhance economic investment. It would provide empty nesters and young professionals a place to live and, finally, it would preserve 1906 and 1912

architecture."

Prior to the vote, multiple council members took the opportunity to tour a development in Plymouth where Curtis Builders similarly converted an old school building into apartments. All stated they were impressed.

"It's really remarkable how much charm the history of the building added to the character of that development," Councilwoman Maureen Juip said. "... (389 St. Clair) really is a building that contributes to the character of our Grosse Pointe City community and I am grateful that someone is willing to continue to give it a new life."



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# Coach Martin set for Feb. court date

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

A backlog of criminal cases is pushing the misdemeanor jury trial of a Grosse Pointe baseball coach into next year.

The case of 16 code violations and one charge of selling alcohol without a license stem from an incident March 28 in downtown Birmingham.

Routine legal maneuvering, a change in defense attorneys, an inability of the prosecution and defense to settle out of court and now a packed docket due to COVID-induced virtual hearings and resulting slowdowns mean a trial can't start until Feb. 21.

Adding to the scheduling crunch in the 48th District Courtroom of Judge Kimberly Small is reserving four or five consecutive days to accommodate the testimony of up nearly 20 witnesses, mainly for the defense.

"Because of COVID, we haven't been doing jury trials," Small said during the final jury pre-trial hearing of David Martin, Grosse Pointe North High School varsity baseball coach,

Tuesday, Nov. 16. "There's quite a few other criminal cases older than yours that I need to clean up and get through trial."

Martin faces 16 misdemeanors — one liquor, five building and 11 fire — related to operating or allowing the operation of an unlicensed music, dance and drinking hall. "We've tried to settle, but it's not happening," said Martin's attorney, Joe Cross.

"It sounds like you need a trial date," Small said. "You're telling me you need a full five days?"

"It all depends upon how long the witnesses list is, but I think it's going to be very long," Cross said. "There's a lot of testimony. Just to do the jury instructions for 16 counts is going to take a long time."

Cross anticipates presenting at least 10 witnesses.

Birmingham City Attorney Niccolas Grochowksi, anticipates questioning six to eight prosecution witnesses over one or two days.

"If you happen to manage to settle it, let me know as soon as you can," Small said.

# Audit provides report on district finances

Michael Hartt  
Staff Intern

The GPPSS annual audit was presented at the Nov. 8 Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting by the two Plante Moran auditors primarily responsible for it: Lisa Vargo and Michael Walsh.

From the presentation, it was evident the district's revenue and expenditures were fairly consistent from the 2021-22 school year back to the 2019-20 school year. However, Vargo pointed out the purchase of services as well as supplies and materials jumped significantly in the past year — by more than \$7 million — as school's were reopened with addi-

tional COVID-19-related cleaning measures and personal protective equipment.

Much of these costs were paid for by federal money, but some of the additional expenditures were offset by the fund balance. The fund balance decreased by approximately \$3.5 million, leaving the share of the fund balance of expenditures at 14.2 percent, down from the 18.2 percent the district saw in the 2020-21 financial statement.

Vargo said the district's fund balance was relatively healthy, but slightly below what the Michigan School Business Officials organization recommends.

"The MSBO suggests a range of fund balance from 15 to 20 percent

and at June 1, the fund balance is just over 14 percent for the district," Vargo said.

The \$3.5 million drop in fund balance was primarily caused by a formula relating to staff salaries that goes into effect when the fund balance exceeds 15 percent of the total expenditures. As a result of the 18.2 percent fund balance ratio in the 2020-21 school year, an additional \$2 million was allocated to staff this fiscal year. Vargo attributed the other \$1.5 million in fund balance use to one-time COVID-19-related costs, such as increased expenditures on services and supplies.

During board members' comments following the presentation, board member David

Brumbaugh asked about the impact the raises in teachers' salaries in their most recent labor contract and 407 student overestimation in enrollment would have on the fund balance going forward.

Both Deputy Superintendent Amanda Matheson and Superintendent Jon Dean responded, saying they are declining to give estimates because there is still so much uncertainty regarding the upcoming budget.

"Guesstimates end up getting you disappointment," Dean said. "Some of our biggest dollars we get are our grants (and) we do not know what those are (yet). We will have that (information) for you at the Dec. 13 meeting."

# BOE proposal seeks to end GPPSS mask mandate

Michael Hartt  
Staff Intern

Prior to the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Nov. 8, board member Lisa Pappas drafted and submitted a proposal that would release teachers, students and staff from the Wayne County Health Department mandate requiring masks in schools.

The proposal cited several reasons why the board should reconsider the current mandate. It stated that Wayne County remains one of the few counties in Michigan that is still mandating the use of masks in

schools and that the budget Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Oct. 1 includes provisions that prevent Wayne County from carrying out its mask mandate.

There was much debate throughout the meeting, both in the public comments and among board members regarding the legality of the situation.

One of the speakers during the public comments, Lisha Kilgus, believed not following the authority of the state budget signed by Whitmer could open GPPSS to legal liability.

"The board should consider that as state agents, you have a duty to uphold state law," Kilgus said.

"And relying upon a county school mask emergency order that since Oct. 1 of this year represents a violation of state law, GPPSS is potentially exposing itself to a liability for failing to uphold state law."

Other speakers, like Tom Torrento, a teacher and parent in the district, said he believes it is still too soon to lift the mask requirement, considering the recent availability of the vaccine for younger students.

"We are finally in a position for the majority of our students to get vaccinated if they wish," Torrento said. "I urge you to have the discussion if you must and make a plan, but

understand that we have waited this long and the right thing to do is give (the younger) families who wish to vaccinate the opportunity to do so before changing anything."

During the board discussion, most members expressed they were still uncertain of their opinion on the matter because they have not yet gotten a professional opinion from an attorney on the legality issue.

Superintendent Jon Dean indicated he would get an attorney's opinion for the board's review prior to the next meeting Nov. 22, when the proposal will be voted on.



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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lochmoor Club recently opened its new indoor sports facility, featuring a putting green, sand trap, TrackMan simulators and more, so members can practice their short games all winter long.

## Lochmoor Club debuts indoor sports center

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

In time for the turn of seasons, Lochmoor Club has officially opened its Lochmoor Athletic Center, where members can keep on top of their short game all winter long.

A grand-opening ceremony took place Thursday, Nov. 11, introducing members to the new facility, which includes four TrackMan simulators, an indoor golf practice facility and two tennis courts.

“Our members start playing as soon as they can get on the course, usually in March,” said Jenni Clark, marketing and communications director. “Now we have a 6,000-square-foot indoor practice facility with a giant putting green, big sand trap, wedge hitting stations. People can practice their short game all year long.”

The addition of four TrackMan simulators allows members to work on their long game, too,



Scott Orhan, president of the board at Lochmoor, prepares to swing at one of the four TrackMan simulators, which offer 82 courses worldwide from which to choose.

on a variety of golf courses around the world.

“We’re the only country club in Michigan with four TrackMan simulators,” Clark said, noting the technology can be used for multiple purposes, from winter golf leagues to longest drive

or closest to the pin competitions to winter lessons. “Lessons can happen during winter. If someone’s new at golf and intimidated to get on the course, they can practice indoors. You can get measured for golf clubs, too.

“... It’s an extension of

our golf course green,” she continued. “In the middle of winter, it’s still a green place to go and play golf. ... Now you can play Pebble Beach without buying a plane ticket or play St. Andrews without going to Scotland.”

Added Head PGA Professional Kyle Martin, “The TrackMan simulators feature game-changing technology that is used by the pros. These simulators give our members opportunities to enjoy golf in new, fun, social and even competitive ways — and experience play on some of the world’s greatest golf courses.”

The simulators also can be used to host parties, play video games, watch movies and enjoy other social activities, Clark said. Golf staff members are being trained to use the TrackMan simulators and will be on hand to



Kyle Martin, head PGA professional at Lochmoor, practices his chipping.

assist members who have questions while they get used to the new additions.

“We needed to differentiate ourselves from other private golf clubs in the market,” General Manager Tom Hauff said. “This is truly a one-of-a-kind facility in the Midwest. Even when we were in the process of building it, we drew 80 new members, of which I think around 75 percent joined because of the availability of golf year round. All of a sudden, the club becomes more valuable. You’re not paying dues in January for a club you can’t use.”

The athletic center was built on one half of the tennis house; two courts were repurposed, two remain.

“We still have a tennis facility; we still have a tennis program,” Clark said, noting pickleball also is still offered at the facility. With a fitness center, indoor tennis and now the addition of indoor golf and TrackMan simulators, Lochmoor is a club for all

seasons. “This is where people choose to spend their time and make their connections,” Clark said, noting generations of members who continue to be a part of Lochmoor. “There’s a lot of tradition in this club. A lot of friendships, fun and family gatherings. This will give those families and friends a new way of enjoying their time together.”

“We’ve essentially created a way for our members to experience four-season golf for the first time — something unique to us here in Michigan,” Lochmoor Board of Directors President Scott Orhan said. “The LAC gives golfers a place to practice and improve their swing and short game all year long. It’s very exciting to offer this kind of state-of-the-art facility to our membership.”

Lochmoor Club is located at 1018 Sunningdale Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods. For more information, call (313) 886-1010.



Blake Johnson watches Board Secretary John Donahue putt.

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## 2B | FEATURES

# Gilda's Club Metro Detroit names new COO

## Studvent oversees Lake House, Durfee, Royal Oak locations

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Following the retirement of Madeline Bialecki as executive director of the Gilda's Club Lake House location, Gilda's Club Metro Detroit hired Katrina Studvent as its chief operating officer of development and engagement.

In her new role, Studvent oversees three Gilda's Club Metro Detroit locations — the Lake House location in St. Clair Shores, its signature Clubhouse in Royal Oak and Gilda's Durfee at the Durfee Innovation Society in Detroit.

"My charge is to advance the mission of Gilda's members and to advance growth at Durfee and Lake House," Studvent said, "and increase philanthropy through individual and corporate donations."

Studvent started as COO the end of August.

Though new to her role, she's no stranger to Gilda's Club, having served as co-facilitator of Gilda's Women of Color Group from 2012-17.

She also brings with her a wealth of nonprofit

experience. After earning a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan, she began working with Susan G. Komen, first with Women Detroit Race for the Cure, then as executive director and chairwoman of the Komen Detroit Race for the Cure. From there, she served as director of Breast Cancer Special Programs with Karmanos Cancer Institute before serving as its chief development officer.

Studvent said she was attracted to Gilda's Club because of its expanded footprint.

"I was born and raised in Detroit," she said. "To know I'm impacting those communities — east and west sides — means a lot to me."

While some organizations scaled back operations during the pandemic, the population served by Gilda's Club "really cried out," Studvent said. "We actually excelled during this time. We were able to pivot support virtually to a larger audience. We're offering more online now than ever."

"It can be challenging

to be among others," she added. "... The attendance of our virtual support groups has increased, because we've made them accessible and easy to those who need those services."

Support is one of the four pillars of Gilda's Club, along with education, healthy lifestyle activities and social engagement. While pre-pandemic, the organization offered two to six lectures each month, now that everything is virtual, two to six lectures is a weekly offering.

"Members are one-on-one with top experts across metro Detroit when it comes to cancer care," Studvent said. "They can raise their hands and directly ask questions and get answers. Access to those individuals has been phenomenal."

Going virtual has been the biggest change among Gilda's Club offerings, Studvent said.

"We pivoted to 100 percent virtual programming for an organization that's been 100 percent in person for 25 years," she added.

Moving forward, she

said, her goal is to return to in-person programming in early 2022, while adhering to CDC and state guidelines, as well as any specific precautions necessary for those touched by cancer.

Programming also will be tailored specifically to the populations it serves. "Lake House and Durfee will speak to the needs of the individuals touched by cancer in those communities," Studvent said. "We really want to engage the community in what those offerings will be. We want to be in line with the communities."

Whether coping with the loss of a loved one, needing nutrition guidance after cancer, dealing with COVID-related anxiety or learning yoga to relieve stress, the community will select which programs it would like to see at each location.

"It's not us saying this is what we're going to offer," Studvent said.

"Many Lake House members have joined Gilda's Club membership," she added. "We call them members, but it's 100 percent free. Those members will help us

guide what we offer. And we'll use community engagement and participation in service groups. By any means necessary, we want to connect with the community."

Studvent, herself a cancer survivor, said she's a huge advocate for equitable health care and services.

"I was my own advocate," she said. "That's what I love about Gilda's. Their mission is simple. Everyone is provided support services throughout their journey. Whoever is in need of support, Gilda's is going to offer it. It doesn't matter where you live or your economic status. ... It's 100 percent free and available. That's equitable care. I want to make sure I live up to that mission."

Studvent said she's excited about the role she's taking on and not looking forward to returning to in-person services, Gilda's virtual programs aren't going anywhere. The organization recently received a \$75,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to help prolong



**Katrina Studvent**

its online offerings.

"(The foundation) has supported Gilda's over the years and I'm happy that support continues," Studvent said. "We had 15,000 visitors in 2020, including virtual. We offer more than 700 programs per year and we're providing programming five days a week. ... We are connecting with the community at a time that's impactful. Gilda's is a safe environment to connect in a meaningful way."

Gilda's Club operates through the generosity of others. Donations, supplies and other resources are always welcome. To make a contribution, visit [gildasclubdetroit.org](http://gildasclubdetroit.org) and click on the "donate" button or mail a check to Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, 3517 Rochester Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

## AREA ACTIVITIES

### AAUW

The American Association of University Women Grosse Pointe presents "Listen to

Women," a juried art exhibit featuring young artists shining a light on women's issues. The exhibit is open 9 a.m. to

3:30 p.m. weekdays through Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the Manoogian Art Gallery at University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods. An opening reception is planned from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18. An awards presentation

takes place 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. Find more information at [grossepointe-mi.aauw.net](http://grossepointe-mi.aauw.net).

### Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22410 Overlake, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28301 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, The Shores Church, 24905 Manhattan, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, Holy Innocents Church, 26000 Ridgemoor, Roseville.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, City of St. Clair Shores, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, City of Grosse Pointe Woods, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

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

### Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following programs:

◆ Tween — Tie Dye Tiles Kit, all day Thursday, Nov. 18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, via Zoom.

◆ Anime Club, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, via Zoom.

◆ 4th Monday Book Discussion, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 22, via Zoom.

◆ In Cold Mug Book Discussion, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, via Zoom.

◆ World AIDS Day — Remembering the Early Years, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, via Zoom.

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

### Ford House

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100

See EVENTS, page 6B

# Hollyfest

The Family Center

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for a holiday gala benefiting  
The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods

Enjoy a festive evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a strolling dinner, and music. Bid on a variety of exciting gifts and experiences during our live and silent auctions - Tickets on sale now!

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To purchase tickets, view or bid on auction items please visit:  
[familycenterweb.org](http://familycenterweb.org) or email: [info@familycenterweb.org](mailto:info@familycenterweb.org)

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# Warm up to the holidays with Hollyfest

## Strolling dinner, online auction highlight annual event

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Get a jump on holiday shopping while supporting The Family Center's mission to build resilient families and ensure a vibrant community during Hollyfest, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 778 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Hollyfest will be a bit of a hybrid event this year, with in-person and virtual components, Executive Director Jennifer Bingaman said.

The evening kicks off with a cocktail reception for sponsors at 6 p.m., then welcomes all guests at 6:30 p.m. for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

"This year we're doing a strolling dinner," Bingaman said, noting cocktail tables and six- and eight-top tables will be available. "We'll have dinner stations, so you can eat when you want and with whomever you want. We thought it would be a fun way to get those who attend to mix with each other."

The event features silent and live auctions, both of which are accessible online at familycenterweb.org. Bids currently may be placed on items in the silent auction, which is open to anyone, whether they attend Hollyfest or not.

The silent auction closes at 8 p.m. Dec. 2, at which time a live auction featuring five items takes place.

"We are super excited to have Marie Reinman as our auctioneer this year," Bingaman said.

Among the live auction items are the use of an apartment in Umbria, donated by Rich and

Nancy Solak; a Scottish dinner for six; and a weekend at The Homestead in Glen Arbor.

"For the silent auction, we also tried to do some interesting experiences," Bingaman added. "We have two private shopping events — one at Capricious and one at Village Palm. We have pet portraits by Sarah Stahl."

Other items include a meditation package, a round of golf at Country Club of Detroit and a wine package, among others.

Hollyfest also will include a target appeal, funds from which will be focused on teen mental health.

"In the last year, our community has seen an increase in mental health emergencies, alcohol and drug addiction, and isolation particularly in older adults and new parents," Bingaman said. "Providing free, locally based programs and resources that educate families has never been more important."

"This year our primary focus is working with middle and high schools in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods to help address the teen mental health crisis," she added. "Kids spend eight hours a day at school, so supporting counselors and teachers in their school environment is vital. We are helping fund chill rooms, participating in wellness days and providing mental health support for teachers and staff."

Bingaman noted the growing popularity of chill rooms — spaces in schools where

students struggling with anxiety, depression or an emotional component are welcome to relax, decompress and ease the pressure.

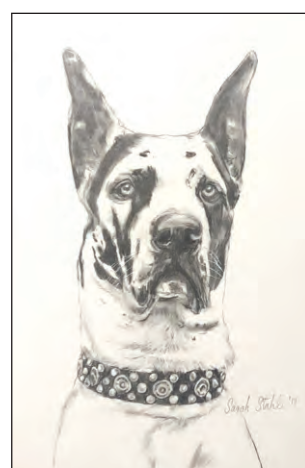
"A lot of counselors and teachers spend their own money out of pocket to support these spaces," Bingaman said. "There's not usually a budget for that. We're trying to build long-term partnerships with them to have those spaces funded."

The physical spaces themselves aren't the only beneficiary, Bingaman added. Counselors work with students on finding ways to self-regulate and decompress in healthy ways, not just when they're in a crisis.

"They're learning strategies they can employ the rest of their lives," she said. "... It's all about broadening our reach. South had over 700 visits to their chill room last year. When you think about the impact you can make, it's pretty incredible."

Tickets to the Hollyfest, as well as sponsorships, are still available online at familycenterweb.org.

"We have had a record-breaking response to our sponsorship opportunities this year, including a \$10,000 hallmark sponsorship from Henry Ford Health System," Bingaman noted. "They were motivated by our community wellness programs and teen mental health initiatives."



COURTESY PHOTOS

A private shopping event at Capricious, dinner and a show courtesy of Bronze Door and Grosse Pointe Theatre, pet portraits by Sarah Stahl and a week in Umbria are among the auction items up for bid.

### Having an impact

"Hollyfest is our signature fundraising event and its success directly impacts our ability to deliver on our mission," said Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of The Family Center. "Here are some of the ways we helped the community last year."

- ◆ Recorded 16 virtual programs and four podcasts. More than 2,300 people have watched and listened to this content.
- ◆ Provided mental health programs and services for students, teachers and staff at Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and Harper Woods high schools.
- ◆ Hosted more than 200 people at in-person meditation and yoga classes in the tent on the lawn at The War Memorial.
- ◆ Created a crisis hotline card that is distributed to all local high schools. The card includes a QR code that leads to a page on The Family Center website featuring hotline details, plus articles and videos from The Family Center's Association of Professionals.
- ◆ Established the resiliency hub on The Family Center website as a one-stop shop for supporting families during the pandemic, including a dedicated COVID resources page with information from local, state and federal sources.

## Detroit Goodfellows honor James B. Nicholson as Goodfellow of the Year

The Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit honored Grosse Pointe Farms resident James B. Nicholson, president and CEO of PVS Chemicals Inc., with the Edward H. McNamara Goodfellow of the Year Award during its 31st annual Tribute Breakfast on Nov. 12. The virtual event was broadcast live by News Talk 760 WJR — The Voice of the Tribute Breakfast.



James B. Nicholson

Paul W. Smith, a past Goodfellow of the Year Award recipient, hosted the event, which included the award presentation and an in-person roundtable discussion with Nicholson, Detroit Police Chief James White, Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington and Community Foundation

for Southeast Michigan President Mariam Noland.

The Edward H. McNamara Award is presented to distinguished and noteworthy individuals who have significantly contributed to the community.

"Throughout his many years in Detroit business, James B. Nicholson has been actively involved in many civic and nonprofit initiatives," said Daran Carey, president of Detroit Goodfellows. "As a committed Tribute Breakfast attendee, we are thrilled to now have him as the honoree."

The event, created by former Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara, draws support from prominent Detroit and Michigan business and political leaders to raise funds to help Detroit Goodfellows in its mission to ensure "no kiddie without a Christmas."

Revenue raised benefits the Detroit Goodfellows' 2021 fundraising goal of \$1.1 mil-

lion, which will help provide 30,000 holiday gift packages containing clothing, books, candy and toys for needy children in Detroit, Highland Park, Harper Woods, River Rouge, Hamtramck and Ecorse. It also will provide a dental program for children through the

University of Detroit Mercy Dental School, scholarships through Wayne State University, a free shoe program and summer camperships.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent year-round to: The Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, P.O. Box

44444, Detroit, MI 48244-0444. Donations also may be made using the organization's secure website: detroitgoodfellows.org.

The annual Tribute Breakfast was sponsored by DTE Foundation, ABC Student Transportation and MGM Grand Detroit.

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## 4B | FEATURES

# OBITUARIES

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

## John V. Sheoris

Longtime Grosse Pointe resident John V. Sheoris passed away peacefully Friday, Nov. 5, 2021. John was born to Greek immigrants April 18, 1927, in the Bronx and raised in the Sunnyside neighborhood of Queens in New York City. He was 94 years old.

John was the epitome of what it means to be a member of the Greatest Generation. John's parents recognized his passion for drawing and fostered his talent so he was able to test into Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan. He later interned in the summer at an architectural firm in Manhattan and at age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a mechanic in World War II. He resumed his education when the war ended, first graduating from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and then receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from Yale University, using the GI Bill and scholarships he had earned.

John and his wife of 68 years, Phyllis, met through their church choir. The couple married in 1952 in New York City and moved to Grosse Pointe in 1959.

Upon moving to Grosse Pointe, John joined Harley, Ellington and Day and was responsible for the design of (originally known as) the Detroit Bank and Trust building in Detroit and the Maccabees Mutual Life building in Southfield, among others. He later joined Smith, Hinchman & Grylls and directed their health facilities division. While there, he was responsible for the design of major local, national and international hospitals and health facilities in Detroit, Rochester, Montgomery (Ohio), Georgetown (Washington, D.C.), Taipei, Taiwan and Nurnberg, Germany.

John was an avid scholar and dedicated to the continuing evolution of architectural theory and practice. He lectured, advised and sat on design juries at some notable universities, including University of Detroit, University of Michigan, Texas A&M, Yale and Columbia. He later received the Cooper Union Citation, the highest honor given to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields. John finished his career as a tenured professor at Lawrence Technological University and in 2001 was conferred the position of professor emeritus.

In 1973, John was honored as a Fellow by the American Institute of Architects for his outstanding contribution to the profession. In 2002, he received the Presidents Award from the American Institute of Architects, AIA Michigan, and in 2008, was bestowed the AIA Detroit Gold Medal for his notable contributions to the American Institute of Architects Detroit and for outstanding achievement in the profession.

Although never far from his drafting table, John was equally passionate and committed to his local community. He was a member of the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club, served on the long-range planning committee of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and served on the Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission for 23 years.

John was a decades-long member of Bayview Yacht Club and for fun raced his sailboat, "Kukla," on weekends and participated in many Mackinac races.

Finally, John was a committed family man and good friend, dedicated to helping in any way he could, which often involved a sketch or drawing.

John is survived by his children, Dede (Ira) and William; and grandchildren, Stephen and Melanie. He was predeceased by his parents, Vasilios and Afrodite; and sister, Georgia.

A funeral service was held Nov. 10, at Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Queens, N.Y., and John was reunited with his wife, parents and sister at nearby Mount Olivet Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 21800 Marter Rd., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.

## Daniel Joseph Nowak

Daniel Joseph Nowak, 65, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021, at Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit.

Daniel was born in Detroit, to Herbert J. and Elizabeth "Betty" M. Nowak (nee LaLonde). He was raised with his two brothers, Michael (Lucinda) and Patrick (Nichole Verheye-Smith), in Harper Woods.

Upon graduation from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1974, Dan pursued his passion for music, audio and video. "Dan The Sound Man," as he was known, was one of the live sound engineers for the Detroit band, Adrenalin.

Dan's employment positions included senior broadcast video engineer/tech manager at Fox Sports national and regional networks (Big Ten, Speed, FSN) MLB, NBA, NHL, NCAA, NFL; senior broadcast video engineer/tech manager at ESPN/Disney/ABC Sports/ESPN Regional; front of house engineer at Showco/Clair Brothers; sound engineer Genesis tours in 1978, 1981 and 2007; senior broadcast engineer, Professional Bowlers Tour at FOX Sports; self-employed freelance video/audio engineer; and engineer at PMTV, providing truck production packages for sporting events nationwide.

Dan was an ambassador for the White Shepherd breed. His beloved Sammy was the model for the Disney movie "BOLT," though he had to keep that detail under wraps; it was awesome when he publicly

shared it. Dan had four White German Shepherd dogs, Zeke, Samantha (Sammy), Hagar and Marina.

Dan is survived by his wife, Betsy Anne Sutton Nowak; and son, Christopher LaLonde Nowak.

The family will plan a celebration of Dan's life at a later date.

## Theodore Hambleton Eaton

Theodore "Ted" Hambleton Eaton passed away peacefully Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, surrounded by his family at home in Beverly, Mass.

Ted was born Oct. 25, 1949. An exceptional husband, adored father and cherished friend, Ted saw the good in every person he met. For friends, family and acquaintances, Ted could be counted on to provide a listening ear, the warmest hug and a world of encouragement. He made those around him believe they could do anything; he was an incredible blessing.

He inspired his loved ones with his deep faith. Throughout his more than three-year journey with cancer, he never gave up hope. He found peace and shared it with others, through quiet moments of prayer.

His wife, Helen, was the love of his life. He fell in love with her the moment he saw her and always told his kids there was nobody else in the world like their mom.

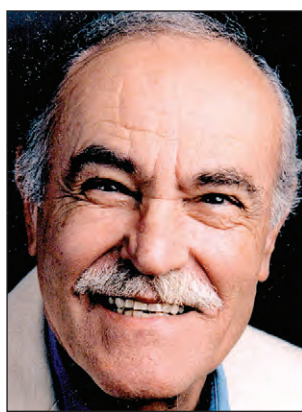
Helen and Ted spent their weekends exploring the outdoors of New England. They would "get in the car and go," often with no specific destination in mind. They had a growing list of secret spots along the coast of Maine and in the White Mountains where they loved spending time together.

His kids were the light of his life. Even as they entered their 30s, he insisted on using their childhood nicknames and calling them every day to tell them he loved them. He never missed a cross-country race, tennis match, baseball game or Sunday afternoon surf session at Good Harbor Beach. He encouraged every one of their dreams. He was over the moon to be an integral part of the recent weddings of his son, Alex, to his wife Laura, and his daughter, Annelise, to her husband, Jake.

In addition to his wife, children, daughter-in-law and son-in-law, Ted will be deeply missed by his sister, Ann "Abbe" Eaton, of Ann Arbor, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. His life was brightened by many cherished friends, including his dearest friends, Bert Breer of Sudbury, Mass., and Rose Mini of Beverly, Mass.

A native of Grosse Pointe, the only child of Berrien and Betty "Gussy" Eaton, Ted was a graduate of Phillips Academy Andover and Lake Forest College.

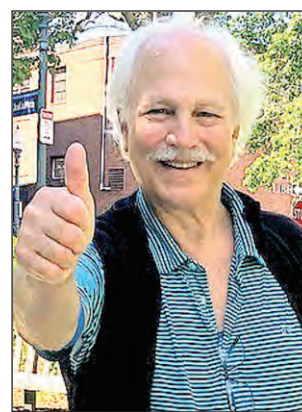
His loved ones will remember him in sunsets at Lanes Cove, summer afternoon swims on West Beach, snowy weekends



John V. Sheoris



Daniel Joseph Nowak



Theodore H. Eaton



Thomas Andris



Dorothy E. Landers



Paul Joseph Yascolt

in Jackson, N.H., and every time The Beach Boys play on the radio. He will be incredibly missed.

A celebration of life took place Nov. 13, in the Kaiser Chapel at Gordonville Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ted's memory may be made to the Boston Rescue Mission, brm.org.

## Thomas R. Andris

Thomas R. Andris of Grosse Pointe Park passed away Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Detroit on July 14, 1941, the son of the late Thomas G. and Barbara Andris.

Tom was a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School. He lettered as a football fullback and broke the school record in shot put. Tom attended Michigan State University Honors College and earned his undergraduate degree in just three years. He then received a full scholarship to Stanford University for his MBA.

Tom was adventurous, down to earth, had a generous heart and a radiant, welcoming smile. He loved long conversations about religion, politics, travel, history and business. He ran 25 marathons and visited 70 countries in his lifetime.

Tom was a man of deep and abiding faith in God. He had a great love of God, family, his little dog Gracie, his country, world travel, serving at church, dancing, golf, running marathons, handball, travel planning for friends, world history, Bible study, trivia, music, gardening, animals, raising pheasants and MSU football.

But above all else, he loved his family — the most important part of his life.

Mr. Andris retired after more than 40 years as CEO and president of Arrow Uniform, a family-owned business started by his father. His employees were his second family. Mr. Andris was a business leader who helped to shape and significantly grow the uniform service industry through innovative uses of technology and data. He was an active member of the Young Presidents Organization, Country Club of Detroit, SAE fraternity, Grosse Pointe Jaycees and Cornerstone Schools. He lived a full and blessed life, full of love and purpose.

Tom is survived by his loving wife, Denise; loving children, Debbie Caputo (John), Marc Andris (Veronica), Noelle Russow (Dan Waller) and Steve Andris (Jenny); stepson, Justin Peruski; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Catherine, Rachel, Lauren, Allie, Gabby, Jacob, Ethan, Scarlett, Ava, Bella, Faith, Sam, Ashley, Katelyn and Andris; as well as nephews, Fred and Tom G., and many dear close friends and caring extended family. He was predeceased by his beloved daughter, Amy Rohland; and brother and business partner, Bob.

The family will host a celebration of life service in spring 2022.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grace Community Church, gracewired.cbchurch.com/goto/giving; or St. Paul Catholic Church, stpaulonthelake.org/donate.

The family requests favorite memories of Tom Andris shared at ahpeters.com.

## Dorothy E. Landers

Dorothy "Dot" E. Landers (nee Carnahan), 90, of North Andover, Mass., passed away peacefully at home Monday, Nov. 1, 2021.

She was the beloved wife of the late Dr. James W. Landers, with whom she enjoyed 48 years of marriage.

She was born May 10, 1931, in Crawford, Neb., and was the daughter of the late John G. and Mabel E. (nee Miller) Carnahan.

Dot grew up in Orella on the prairies of north-west Nebraska where she attended a one-room schoolhouse until she attended high school in Crawford. She attended Chadron State College as well as the University of Nebraska, receiving her degree as a medical technologist, a field she worked in several years before becoming a full-time homemaker.

She and her husband moved to the Detroit area in summer 1953, and lived and raised their family in various suburbs before retiring to Hilton Head, S.C. in the 1990s. Dot lived independently until her death, residing in Hilton Head until late 2019, when she moved to a retirement community in North Andover, Mass.

Dorothy is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth Landers of Ayer, Mass., and Rebecca Porta

(Lawrence) of Blountville, Tenn.; son, James Landers (Jeaneane) of Rochester, Mich.; grandchildren, Rebecca Jones, Josh Christian, Rees Porta, Nick Porta, Katie Keeler, Emily Landers and Aaron Landers; step-grandchildren, Katelynn Tew, Michael Nixon and Madeline Nixon; and 12 great-grandchildren, in addition to many nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was predeceased by her husband, James, in 2001, and her brothers, Ansel, Kenneth, Jack, Robert, Richard and James.

A memorial service takes place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 10 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders, donate.doctorswithoutborders.org; or the All Saints' Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, allsaintschelmsford.org.

A joyous celebration of Dorothy's life will take place in Rochester, Mich., in summer 2022.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Blake Chelmsford Funeral Home, under the care of Funeral Directors Paul A. Hardy Jr. and Jennifer Hardy. Sign the online guestbook at chelmsfordfuneralhome.com.

## Paul Joseph Yascolt

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Paul Joseph Yascolt, 70, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Paul was born Aug. 21, 1951, in Midland, to Cecil and Ilah (nee Goodfellow) Yascolt, both now deceased. He graduated in 1969 from H.H. Dow High School and was employed as a millwright welder with Chrysler Corp., in Detroit.

Paul served as an usher at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and volunteered at the Iroquois Christian Lutheran Church food pantry.

He is survived by his wife, Barb Yascolt; daughter, Laura Yascolt; son, Matt Yascolt (Jessica); and grandchildren, Miles, Carson and Dianna. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Yascolt; and brother, Steve Yascolt.

Memorial contributions in Paul's honor may be made to the American Stroke Association, stroke.org.

See OBITS, page 5B



## OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

## Jerome "Jerry" Tocco

Jerome "Jerry" Tocco, 59, was born Dec. 26, 1961, and died Monday, Nov. 8, 2021.

Jerry was a loving husband to Cheryl and father to Jerry and Michael. He also leaves behind many loving family and friends.

Jerry attended Austin Catholic and Bishop Gallagher high schools. He then attended the University of Michigan, playing football under Bo Schembechler. He was an economics and math major and completely devoted to THE University of Michigan.

Jerry was a real estate investor. He enjoyed many years coaching Red Barons football and Little League baseball in Grosse Pointe Woods. He attended Crosspointe Christian Church many years and gave his heart to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jerry served his Lord by organizing the church golf outing the past eight years.

A funeral service took place Nov. 16, at Crosspointe Christian Church in Grosse Pointe Woods, followed by entombment at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in memory of Jerome, to Academy of Dreams, a school for adults with special needs, 18303 Common, Roseville, MI 48066.

## Mary Louise Fishwick

Mary Louise Fishwick, 65, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, with her loving family at her side. Mary fought stage IV breast cancer bravely and relentlessly for five years, remaining prayerful and hopeful — and impossibly strong, even during her final moments.

Mary was born to Adele (nee Wójcik) and James Fogarty on May 26, 1956, in Detroit and grew up happily in Royal Oak, the second of three children. She attended Guardian Angels Catholic School, Royal Oak High School and Madonna University, studying children's literature and English composition.

Mary wed her devoted husband Wesley Fishwick in 1994. She is survived by Wesley; their children,



Jerome "Jerry" Tocco



Mary Louise Fishwick



Marie Pierre Brady



Neil Arthur Madler



Geoffrey Miller

Brooks Hoste (Matthew Guinta), Emily Yandura (Jeffrey), Nathan Hoste (Emily), Leah Fishwick and William Fishwick; and her adoring grandchildren, Oliver and Maxwell. She also is survived by her younger brother, David Fogarty (Linda). Mary was predeceased by her parents and older brother, Jim Fogarty.

Multi-talented, creative and entrepreneurial, Mary founded several businesses, including Heaven Sent Originals, which offered bespoke Christening gowns, each individually handmade by Mary, who was an exceptional seamstress. This led to a small shop within Cherubs in the Attic, an independent artists' market, and was followed by Mary's largest venture, Duets Gallery, Gifts and Gourmet in Utica. Duets was a unique shop bursting with original artwork, consignment antiques, gourmet coffees, food items, home décor and all manner of treasures. Mary oversaw every aspect of the business for more than two years before selling her stake to a business partner.

After moving on from Duets, Mary invested in her education, pursuing her degree at Madonna University. Her passion for education, history and the written word ultimately led to her career in museum administration at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. Mary was a key leader in the institution, researching, writing, training and directing docent tours for adults and children alike. She always was excited to tell her family and friends whatever new and fascinating stories she had uncovered about the Ford family and their estate, and involved her family in many Ford House activities.

Her professional accomplishments aside, Mary was perhaps most proud of her family. Her children, their spouses and her grandchildren

were truly the light of her life — and as the family grew, Sunday dinners became all the more joyful and memorable. She had a knack for making birthdays and holidays incredibly special; even when she warned her children they would have "a smaller Christmas this year," the room would end up overflowing with beautifully wrapped gifts. She wanted those she loved to have everything they could ever desire.

Mary was spiritual and faithful, believing deeply in the healing power of prayer. Even amidst multiple and increasingly complex challenges with cancer and its treatment, Mary never let go of her faith. She and her family believe she was the recipient of a healing miracle during an extraordinary experience at the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit.

In remembrance of Mary's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to the Solanus Casey Center, solanuscenter.org.

## Marie Pierre Brady

Marie Pierre (nee Wayne) Brady, 78, passed away Thursday, Nov. 11.

Marie was born April 3, 1943, in Detroit, to Evelyn and Peter Wayne, both now deceased. She graduated from Marygrove College prior to attending Wayne State University for her master's degree. She taught in the Grosse Pointe Public School System at Ferry Elementary School, then later served as a long-term substitute in the Grosse Pointe school system well into her 70s. She was well-regarded for her proficiency as a substitute math teacher and tutor; teaching was a true passion. Mostly she was known for her warm smile, kindness and concern for others and positive outlook while demonstrating perseverance.

Marie had a lust for life; no one had a fuller dance card. In addition to the joy of engaging in all

manner of social activities, she enjoyed golf, skiing, tennis, walking, water aerobics and gardening. She was an avid reader and film enthusiast, enjoying a wide range of genres. With a generous and giving spirit, Marie extensively volunteered her time with many local organizations, notably including Tau Beta Association, Junior League of Detroit and the Fontbonne Auxiliary at Ascension St. John Hospital. She also served as president of the Board of Trustees of The Grosse Pointe Academy.

Marie loved to play bridge and mahjong with her dear friends, which also involved much conversation and many laughs. She was a member of Questers, an active parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and loved to travel. Highlights included trips to China, the Holy Land, Europe and family vacations in Harbor Beach and Harbor Springs.

More than anything, Marie enjoyed spending time with her family and was particularly proud of her eight grandchildren, never missing opportunities to be with them and show them off.

She was the cherished wife of the late Edmund M. Brady Jr.; daughter of her late parents, Peter H. and Evelyn Wayne; beloved mother of Edmund III (Holly), Meghan, Timothy (Michelle) and the late Katie Brady; proud "Bapa" and Grandma of Blake, Brady and Hayden Hishmeh, Alex, Henry and Franny Brady, and Parker and Blair Brady; and loving sister of Peter H. Wayne III.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation begins at 9 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fontbonne Auxiliary, stjohfontbonne.org; The Grosse Pointe Academy,

gpacademy.org; or the International Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia Foundation, iwmf.com.

## Neil Arthur Madler

Neil Arthur Madler, loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully at age 93, on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, surrounded by his family. They shared recent vacation pictures and stories, laughing and reminiscing together until he peacefully went to the Lord.

Mr. Madler was born June 27, 1928, in Detroit, to Arthur and Leona Madler, both now deceased.

He is survived by his brother, Dennis Madler; daughter, Christine Starr; her husband, Ron; their children, Kelly and Michael Starr; Kelly's husband, David; and their children, Hudson and Avery. He also is survived by his son, Preston Madler; his wife, Lauri (nee Enders); their children, Katherine Villa and Christopher Madler; Katie's husband, Mark; and their sons, Elijah, Caleb, Micha and Malachi.

He was predeceased by Virginia Madler (nee Kirton) in 2018, his loving wife and high school sweetheart of 70 years.

Neil spent his 44-year professional career at General Motors Design. He headed up its photography department and recently was honored by the naming of the Neil Madler Photographic Archives at the GM Tech Center in Warren. His amazing skills had him taking pictures as an official photographer for many events, such as the Soap Box Derby, Gold Cup Hydroplane Races and Indianapolis 500. He traveled the world for work and pleasure with Virginia at his side.

Neil and Virginia were residents of Grosse Pointe Woods more than 50 years. He was always very active in the commu-

nity. In Kiwanis, he ascended to the rank of lieutenant governor. He also served as an elder at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Neil was a long-time member of the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club, Senior Mens Club and Grosse Pointe Garden Club.

Neil was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting, fishing, kayaking and camping across North America. He passed these skills onto his children and grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

There will be an informal memorial service at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 22, at Independence Village of White Lake, 935 Union Lake Rd., White Lake; (248) 360-7235.

## Geoffrey Miller

Geoffrey R. Miller, 47, passed away suddenly Saturday, Nov. 13.

He was the beloved husband and soulmate of Lisa Miller, cherished son of Judith Miller and the late Gregory Miller and dear brother of Gregory Miller (Shay).

He also is survived by his grandmother, Ruth Miller; brother-in-law, David Anusbigian (Nayomi); sisters-in-law, Susan Beckman (Brian), Amy Brueckman (Jamie) and Julie VanElslander (Scott); nieces and nephews, Tyler and Shelby Miller and Nadia, Jacob and Samantha Anusbigian; and many aunts, uncles and dear friends.

Geoff will be missed tremendously by all who knew and loved him.

A funeral service takes place at noon Friday, Nov. 19, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation takes place from noon to 2 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, ahasso.heart.org.

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## 6B | FEATURES

## 'Sailing on Ice' photography exhibit to open at Ford House

The pluckiest of Midwest sailors can be found on the Great Lakes in the dead of winter sailing on hard water and photographer Gretchen Dorian's passion is capturing this unique sport.

Ford House is opening an exhibition of her work called "Sailing on Ice," in the Teague Gallery inside the new Visitor Center at 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Dorian is a maritime photographer based in Northern Michigan. The native Grosse Pointer photographs iceboat racing competitions around the world. Her photographs have been published in Wooden Boat Journal, ESPN Magazine, SAIL, Sailing World, Lakeland Boating, BOAT US, Great Lakes Scuttlebutt, Michigan BLUE and Outside Bozeman Magazine. Online publications include the Wall Street Journal, TRAVERSE Magazine, Sailing Scuttlebutt, Sailing Anarchy, HARKEN and Seahorse of the UK.

"Gretchen Dorian's photographs explore the power, speed and elegance of iceboat racing, as well as the determination, tenacity and camaraderie of intrepid iceboat sailors," Ford House Director of Education Sheila Ruen said. "Lake



COURTESY PHOTO

**One of Gretchen Dorian's photos, which are on display at Ford House.**

St. Clair hosted many iceboat sailors in the early 20th century, including Edsel Ford. We found a 'Life Magazine' photograph of Edsel racing his '999' iceboat on Lake St. Clair, having reached speeds up to 94 mph."

Sunday, Nov. 21, visitors also will be able to stop by to see a real iceboat. World champion iceboat racer Ron Sherry will have one of his boats on display outside the Visitor Center from noon to 4 p.m.

"Sailing on Ice" will remain on view through March 20. It is free and open to the public during Ford House Visitor Center hours, Tuesday through Sunday.

Visit [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org) for hours and admission information.

Ford House requires masks inside all buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

## Woods branch preps for construction

## Closure begins Nov. 21; construction begins Dec. 1

Construction plans for the Woods branch of the Grosse Pointe Public Library begin Wednesday, Dec. 1. To prepare for the renovations — which include an interior refresh of finishes, furniture and fixtures; new layout and circulation desk; audiovisual room converted to a lounge space with an area

for the Friends book sales; new state-of-the-art makerspace in the lower level; and an improved and enhanced outdoor courtyard — the last day the Woods branch will be open to patrons is Sunday, Nov. 21.

After the branch closes at 5 p.m., patrons will be able to choose between

the Central and Ewald branches to pick up materials. Items that are on hold that can't be picked up by Nov. 21, will be rerouted to either Central or Ewald. Patrons with hold items will receive either an email or phone call to explain where to get the items.

Central and Ewald branches are open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The book drop in the Woods building will not be available for use during construction. There are drive-up book drops in the Central and Ewald parking lots. The drive-up book drop in the Grosse Pointe Shores municipal parking lot also is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Construction is anticipated to take five months to complete.

For additional information, call (313) 640-4775.

## 20th anniversary pipe organ concert planned

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Parish, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods, presents its 20th anniversary pipe organ concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19.

"The concert will include performances by Dr. Ronald Prowse, who actually played the dedication recital 20 years ago; Matthew Jakubisin, former music minister here at Star of the Sea and now the director of music at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Grand Rapids; and myself," said Glenn Miller, music minister at Star of the Sea. "Also, noted Grosse Pointe soprano Angela Theis will be singing. Angela is a member here at Star and also is an artist with Michigan Opera Theatre and performs internationally."

Miller said the program will include a wide range of music, in celebration of the church's exquisite pipe organ.

"The Star organ is sig-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Our Lady Star of the Sea's concert celebrates the 20th anniversary of its pipe organ.**

nificant because it is of the highest quality,

entirely handcrafted by noted Canadian organ

builder Karl Wilhelm," Miller said. "The Star organ was built in 2001, and was designed exclusively for Star of the Sea. Its tone is a perfect match to the acoustics of the Star church and its elegant case — of solid white oak — features carvings which illustrate the waves of the lake, complimenting the architecture of the church. The organ is well known amongst organists throughout the region and state because of its quality, and is regarded as one of the finest in southeastern Michigan."

Star of the Sea's pipe organ was the gift of the late Peter and Connie Cracchiolo, founding parishioners of the church.

The concert is free and open to the public. Freewill offerings will be accepted.

For more information, call (313) 884-5554.

— Jody McVeigh

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## EVENTS:

Continued from page 1B

Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:

◆ Starry Lights, Thursdays through Sundays, Nov. 18 to Jan. 9.

◆ Opening Reception: "Sailing on Ice," an exhibition featuring iceboat photography, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21.

◆ Holiday House Tours and Grounds Pass, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, Nov. 26 to Jan. 9.

For tickets and information, visit [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org).

**The Helm**

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

◆ The movie, "Breakfast at Tiffany's" is shown 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19. Cost is \$2 for members, \$3 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Breakfast is served 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 2. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

◆ The movie, "The Tomorrow Man" is shown 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3. Cost is \$2 for members, \$3 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Fireside Chat with the Housing Experts, "Living in Your Home Longer," 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, with senior real estate specialists Donna O'Neill and Mimi Koppang.

◆ Beaumont cooking demonstration, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday,

Dec. 8, with registered dietician Nancy Weis and Chef Dan Kellogg.

◆ Toolbox for Stress, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, with certified yoga instructor Kathy Housey.

**GPT**

Join Jef Fisk for an evening of amusing music and thoughtful fun at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Cabbage Patch Saloon, 15130 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. Admission is \$25. All ticket proceeds benefit Grosse Pointe Theatre. For tickets, visit [gpt.org/footlights](http://gpt.org/footlights) or call (313) 881-4004.

**Men's Club**

The Grosse Pointe Men's Club hosts its next meeting at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23. Kenneth McIntyre speaks. To reserve a seat, call (313) 550-9661 or (313) 720-4310.

**Rotary**

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1. Joella Bush, executive director of Gianna House, speaks. 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).

**Healthy GP**

Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods meets via Zoom at 8:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Its mission is to reduce substance abuse among youth and across the community, as well as promote optimal mental health through action, education and collaboration. Those interested in attending meetings should email Sasha

Murphy at [smurphy@careofsem.com](mailto:smurphy@careofsem.com).

**Alliance Francaise**

The Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe is an organization that promotes French culture through monthly activities for members. The group seeks members for its new membership year, which begins in September. It also offers French lessons for adults at Assumption Cultural Center, from September to May each year. Detailed membership and French classes information may be found at [afdegrossepointe.org](http://afdegrossepointe.org).

**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 at 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month, at St. James Church, 170 McMillan, Grosse Pointe Farms. There is no cost to participate. Call Lisa at (805) 450-1994 or email [lisajonesmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:lisajonesmentalhealth@gmail.com).

**Lakeshore**

Lakeshore Senior Living hosts the Facebook Live Q&A, "Ask the Therapist," from 1:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, and "Coffee Break Chat with Rachel," with Sales and Marketing Manager Rachel Nagorsen, 1:30 to 2 p.m. Thursdays. Call (586) 218-6228.



# LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

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## 'Feast for Your Eyes' delivers holiday spirit

The new exhibition in the Grosse Pointe Artists Association gallery at The War Memorial is compelling, said GPAA President Karen Pope.

"Feast for Your Eyes" has variety and excitement and exudes good cheer, she added.

The crowd-pleasing similarities between the exhibition and the pageantry of the upcoming holidays can be traced back to Alex Fedirko and Eric Schmitt, who juried the exhibition and are art directors for The Parade Company, creators of Detroit's award-winning Thanksgiving Day Parade, now in its 95th year.

"This is their busiest time of the year, putting the final touches on the floats, so we are very grateful that they made time for us," GPAA Exhibition Chairman Jerome Patryjak said. "And the show they put together is truly a sumptuous visual feast."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM KLEIN

Alex Fedirko discusses his own fine art.

On Thursday, Nov. 11, Fedirko talked to a full house at The War Memorial about his work as a fine artist in Chicago and Detroit, as well as his work with The Parade Company. He credited the art program in the Grosse Pointe Public School System for encouraging him, giving special credit to the late Gene Pulhar and Jack Summers at

Grosse Pointe South High School, and Ms. Rose, now Margaret Reese, at Brownell Middle School. Reese has art in the exhibition and was in the audience.

The show features a wide range of subjects, including elegantly dressed partygoers, gem-encrusted holiday symbols, whimsical farm animals and wistful puppy

dogs. When it came time to award prizes, Fedirko complemented all the entries and said it was difficult to select the prize winners. He also asked the artists to volunteer for The Parade Company's art team.

"We need talent like you," he encouraged.

Several artists immediately volunteered for future duty.

Award winners for "Feast for Your Eyes" are: Best of Show: "Winter Light: Camden Café" by Nancy Philo

Second Place: "Resplendent" by Vasu Tolia

Third Place: "Fields of Fun: Cow in the Field" by Kelly Vander Kley



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGARET REESE

Juror Alex Fedirko and his daughter, Greta Von, and his art teacher from Brownell Margaret Reese.

Honorable Mention: "A Feast for the EYES!" by Denise Carozza

Honorable Mention: "Winter's Beauty" by Margaret Reese

Honorable Mention: "Inspiration Pointe" by Will Schippert

Honorable Mention: "Magical Fantasy" by Nobuko Yamasaki

The show may be previewed online at [grossepointecenter.org](http://grossepointecenter.org). The gallery is open 2 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, through Jan. 6.

Tip for viewing the parade: Those who anticipate being stuck in the kitchen Thanksgiving morning can find the floats lined up near the Detroit Institute of Arts Wednesday night.

## Make the most of time together at Thanksgiving

As Thanksgiving draws near and menus are planned, travel arrangements shared and guest rooms prepared, life can get a little hectic. This time for family, football and feasting can be overwhelming — and gratitude sparse — the longer your to-do list. Finding ways to entertain those not familiar with the area only adds unnecessary pressure.

So why not take your out-of-town guests out on the town? Take a break from the kitchen and feast your eyes on some spectacular local sights. Leave prep work behind and work on making the most of your time together.

Following is a list of some of the goings-on around town in the coming weeks. Perhaps this sample of the many events and activities available in Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities will spark a few imaginative ideas of your own.

◆ Turkey Trot — Detroit. The largest turkey trot in the world, Detroit's Turkey Trot is a fun event that will earn everyone their turkey. Choose from the Mashed Potato Mile, the 5k Stuffing Strut or the 10k Turkey Trot. The Drumstick Double and Cranberry Combo also are options. Sign up ahead of time at [theparade.org](http://theparade.org). This just may become your next family tradition!

◆ Enjoy the crisp air and go for a walk. Maybe choose a destination: coffee in front of the fireplace at Morning Glory in Grosse Pointe Farms, or cocktails at Atwater, Red Crown or The Bricks in Grosse Pointe Park. Need some walking shoes or gear? Check out Ridge Crest in The

Village.

◆ Visit Santa at Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy — St. Clair Shores. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, Santa Claus will be at Whistle Stop to sing songs, perform magic tricks and read "Twas the Night Before Christmas." He also will, of course, be taking photos with his young guests. Visit Whistle Stop's Facebook or Instagram pages for details. Questions? Call (586) 771-6770 or email [info@whistle-stop.com](mailto:info@whistle-stop.com).

◆ The Grosse Pointe Santa Parade. This Grosse Pointe tradition continues at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26. The parade runs down Kercheval, starting at Lewiston in the Farms and going to Cadieux in the City. Anywhere along the route is the perfect place to watch the parade and sneak a peek at Santa himself. Sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, this is one Santa sighting you won't want to miss.

◆ Ford House — Grosse Pointe Shores. The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House always has something new and exciting to share, especially during the holidays. This year check out "Starry Lights," during which guests are invited to walk through the historic estate's pathways to experience a wintry, starry-sky-themed show of light and sound, featuring projected animations, interactive features and vintage home videos of the Ford family. Alternatively, guests are invited to take a tour of the spectacularly-decorated estate or get a grounds pass for a great daytime activity. Visit [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org) for details and to purchase tickets; reservations are recommended.

◆ Hit The Hill or walk The Village. There are so many wonderful restaurants and stores on The Hill and in The Village that offer fun shopping, dining and more. Get a jump on Christmas shopping or maybe score a holiday gift or two for yourself. Try Posterity Gallery for a great puzzle for the family.

◆ West Park for the win — Grosse Pointe Park. The West Park Winter Social returns from 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, on Kercheval between Lakepointe and Beaconsfield. This holiday spectacular includes live music, a holiday market, food trucks, craft beer and cocktails, fire pits and so much more. Walk the sidewalks, grab a cocktail or bite to eat and don't forget to knock a few items off that Christmas list at the Park's fabulous local shops, like Duffey & Co.

◆ Sports lineup — For those looking for more action, the Detroit Red Wings take on the St. Louis Blues Wednesday, Nov. 24, and go up against the Buffalo Sabres Saturday, Nov. 27, at Little Caesars Arena. Prefer the gridiron to the rink? The Detroit Lions take on the Chicago Bears in the annual Thanksgiving Day game Thursday, Nov. 25. Kickoff is at 12:30 p.m. at Ford Field.

◆ All that Jazz — Grosse Pointe Farms. Had enough of being on your feet? Take a load off, kick back and unwind with a cocktail while listening to smooth music in a great atmosphere. Catch Alvin Waddles at the Dirty Dog Jazz Café from Nov. 24 to 27.

Looking for more ideas? Visit [grossepointe-news.com](http://grossepointe-news.com) for a list of local events.

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# The Science Advice Goddess

by Amy Alkon

## Fossil fool

My husband died of a heart attack at age 75. On his phone, I saw several unsettling texts from younger women, alluding to improper liaisons and asking for money.

We often helped needy families, but I'm suspecting these women tempted and took advantage of a kind, caring old man, or whether he turned dirty old man (looking for something more exciting than his wife). Before his death, he started viewing pornography online and seemed not quite himself. Could this apparent change in personality point to dementia? Finding these texts has turned my grieving upside down. I'm often angry with him for possibly cheating on me. I'm not sure how to put this to rest in my mind.

— Perplexed Widow

Sadly, elderly men are often easy prey for young scamstresses. These women sexually tempt or even just flatter an old man out of his money -- all, "You remind me of that dude from 'Star Wars'!" -- mak-

ing him think of himself as a young, hot Harrison Ford (when the "dude" he actually resembles is Yoda).

I'm so sorry -- both about the death of your husband and the apparent death of what you believed about him and your marriage. But I'm hoping my frank exploration of what you do and don't know will help you make your way to peace of mind.

First, it is possible your husband's apparent behavioral changes were due to dementia. Dementia is not technically a disease but an umbrella term for "a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life" (per the Alzheimer's Association).

Symptoms include personality changes, memory issues, and impaired reasoning. "Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60 to 80% of dementia cases."

My friend Stef Willen wrote movingly in her McSweeney's column about the tragic thief of self that is dementia, explaining, "For most of my life,

my days with my grandmother had been spent hiking, identifying birds and having beers in small-town Colorado bars. ... I'd always thought she'd die of a swift heart attack, but death snuck in the back door and did a real hit and miss job.



None of us even noticed until the essential parts of her began to go missing."

Her grandma's doctor explained to Stef that her grandma's neurons weren't communicating.

Some were dead, and some weren't firing in the correct pattern. As Stef put it: "Apparently, who we are is an electrochemical reaction, and my grandmother had blown her circuits."

Dementia messes with the functioning of the brain's "prefrontal cortex

(PFC), the section just behind your forehead.

If you think of your body as a factory and your behavior as the workers, the PFC is the executive boardroom of you: in charge of planning, prioritizing, remembering, rea-

soning, and "inhibitory control" (professor-ese for resisting temptation). That last one, when the PFC's cells are in healthy working order, keeps us from just giving in to whatever impulse -- sexual, gluttonous, violent, or just rude -- flies into our head.

But let's back up a sec. You don't know whether your husband had dementia, as he was never diagnosed. Sure, you've pulled together disturbing fragments of information, and

they're pointing you toward a conclusion. But you can't know whether your conclusion is correct -- though I'm guessing you strongly suspect it is, because that's how our minds evolved to work.

Uncertainty -- ambiguous situations, partially answered questions, and other forms of mental untidiness -- fill us with anxiety and dread. This makes evolutionary sense -- survival sense -- because wanting these uncomfortable feelings gone motivates us to try to get answers and information. Knowledge we acquire (of possible lurking harms) really is power: power to take meaningful steps to protect ourselves.

However, our brain has a feature (that's also a bug!): a psychological mechanism in the left hemisphere -- named "the interpreter" by cognitive neuroscientist Michael Gazzaniga -- that works like mental grout.

When we're wading through ambiguities or spot inconsistencies in our behavior (or others'), the interpreter creates stories to fill in the blanks: stories that make us feel comforted, consistent, and

smart. Conveniently, no sooner does our mind spin some explanatory yarn than it turns right around and believes it, as if it were cold, hard fact.

Since you can never know the full story, it's pointless to torment yourself by rerunning painful bits of information and guessing. However, you could find comfort by using that crafty bugger, the interpreter, to your advantage.

Shift over to the story you do know -- the happy, loving times you two shared for decades -- and focus on that.

If you're gonna go in for torment, make it a healthier class of it -- like hot yoga (aka the commercialization of hot flashes paired with stretches easily accomplished by anyone who finds a wizard to turn them into a wire twist-tie).

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAmy@aol.com. @amyalkon on Twitter. Weekly podcast: blogtalkradio.com/amyalakon.

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## How to find a true mentor

Q: I listen to videos of "master class" presentations of successful people marketing their systems and methods for ways to make extraordinary amounts of money. But in their introductions, they always attribute their success to having met or connected to a person who had been willing to take them under their wing to teach them.

And of course, those mentors or champions didn't charge them. Perhaps those individuals took them in and taught them business because of family or social connections, but most people in the general public often don't have those family connections, or even relationships with businesspeople who are willing to genuinely help others.

I think mentors are important to someone moving ahead in an organization. But when my friends and I talk about

moving up and getting ahead, not one of us has ever met anyone who has gone out of their way to help us get there. Mentoring may have existed years ago, but it seems as if it's dead. Out of all the millennials with degrees, you can't tell me that none of us are worth promoting along the way, but it doesn't seem to happen. My friends and I have business degrees, and we have all had to find new jobs to better ourselves financially and workwise. People who become sales reps can obviously be measured by their sales, but when you're working on a team, it's not always clear how much a person contributes, especially since there are always certain types who promote themselves beyond their honest contributions.

How do we recognize and connect with bosses who will extend them-

selves to help an employee who cares about work and wants to develop a future at that company?

A: Mentors can be the critical factor to a person's success, which may be



why we see nepotism in certain industries, such as the entertainment industry.

Nepotism may be one of the keys to finding a mentor to enter a field, but if the person can't produce, he or she won't go far. While some companies have mentoring systems in

## At Work

by Lindsey Novak



place, most don't and that's where relationship-build-

reports as part of his or her job, but as you and your friends discovered, bosses may not have the time or the "heart" for it. Mentoring is a passion, no different than the person who chooses to hold a door for someone carrying a heavy package, or giving a driver the right of way when it's not required, or offering a neighbor with a physical disability, temporary or otherwise, a ride to the store. Mentoring is giving oneself for the benefit of another, so it will be up to you to develop the ability to recognize that personality type. This skill will serve you throughout life, not just in the workplace.

Everyone has run into people who promise everything and deliver nothing. You can't create a mentor,

but when you recognize a boss or supervisor willing to open up to you and help, those are the relationships you'll want to cultivate. Keep in mind a relationship, business and personal, is a two-way street. Don't expect anyone to give endlessly if you don't reciprocate in some way, even if all you can offer is extreme appreciation. A routine "thanks" won't cut it, but sincere gratitude can take you far.

Email career and life coach: Lindsey@LindseyNovak.com with your workplace problems and issues. Ms. Novak responds to all emails. For more information, visit [www.lindseynovak.com](http://www.lindseynovak.com). Copyright 2021 Creators.com.

## Son fears father may be victim of online scams

DEAR ABBY: My parents separated nearly 20 years ago. My father, who is retired, has been living alone for many years. I suspect he gets scammed for

money on the internet. I know for sure it has happened twice. I have talked to him about it more than once. He routinely forwards me emails to

check if they are legitimate. However, I think he falls for romance scams and is too embarrassed to tell me about it. He isn't going to be

unable to pay his bills or go into debt, but I'm still concerned.

Should I do more, even though it may be very uncomfortable for us both?--CONCERNED



## Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

SON IN NOVA SCOTIA

DEAR SON: If you think your father has fallen for romance scams in the past, you should have more discussions with him about how prevalent they are and what to watch out for.

Do not personalize it if you think it might embarrass him, but do mention the danger of sending money to someone he might know only online. Do some research. If you think this is what may be happening, forward your findings to him after the discussion.

years old and married. Every time we see my wife's family, her parents pressure me to buy a car. (Our old one got totaled.) We don't leave the house often except for exercise, and our daughter delivers our groceries to us.

Because I got sick of the nagging, I purchased a 9-year-old vehicle. When I brought it home, my wife began griping incessantly about my choice. She didn't like it and wanted to return it, so I did.

The next time we saw her parents, we told them we didn't need a

DEAR ABBY: I am 60 See DEAR ABBY, page 7C



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# The wines you want for Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving will be here before you know it, so the time is now to get your dinner table looking beautiful, house cleaned, meal planned and food ordered — along with everything else on your holiday to-do list.

Among the essential items listed should be wine — an important part of any celebration.

Instead of browsing the aisles and

randomly choosing a bottle, let Zack and staff at Village Wine Shop do the work for you.

Here they have suggested several wines perfect for your holiday.

Pick them up today and cross it off your list. These recommendations pair perfectly with Thanksgiving fare and won't break the bank.

Be sure to look through today's paper for even more special pricing on some amazing wine, beer and seltzers in sections A and D.

And if you really want to impress your host, bring a bottle of Caymus. Regularly \$93.99, Grosse Pointe News readers will get a \$17 discount on each bottle, bringing the price tag to \$76.99.

## Moncontour Vouvray Sec

Alcohol Percent :12.5  
Price: \$18.99

Vouvray is the perfect wine for the experienced wine lover and the person who might not drink very often, too. Bright and with pure fruit flavors and not too tart.



## Maximus Bourguignons Gamay/ Pinot Noir

Alcohol Percent : 13.5  
Price: \$12.99

This French blend is smooth, soft, and lighter bodied. The red fruit profile goes great with the sweeter notes of candied yams or sweet potatoes, the juicy cranberry sauce, and makes sure the turkey doesn't taste too dry.



## Moutard Blanc de Blancs

Alcohol Percent : 12.0  
Price: \$18.99

100% Chardonnay sparkler that drinks like a champagne for 1/3 the price!



## Shannon Ridge Petite Sirah

Alcohol Percent : 14.8  
Price: \$14.99

As fuller, yet soft style with creamy cassis, cherry, cranberry, and vanilla flavors.



## Pike's Road Pinot Gris

Alcohol Percent : 13.0  
Price: \$14.99

Perfect for the herbed stuffing and veggies. A Medium bodied white that's unoaked.



Call us at 313-821-1177. Village Wine Shop 15228 E Jefferson Ave, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230.

**Store Hours:**  
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10:00am-10:00pm

Saturday  
10:00am-10:00pm

Sunday  
11:00am-8:00pm



# Thanksgiving: Act 3 Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Thanksgiving stuffing is all about preference. In this case, I'll call it dressing since it's cooked outside of the bird.

This recipe is "rustic" because I prefer to tear, instead of cube, a rustic loaf of white bread and dry it out in the oven before. Lots of families, traditionally, leave the bread on the counter for a couple days beforehand. Any white bread will be a great choice.

Saltine crackers are a welcome salty addition which is why I don't add extra salt.

The sausage is a wonderful and needed decadence. Plenty of celery, onions, poultry season-

ing and butter round it out. I added lots of chicken broth to finish because nobody likes their dressing dry.

It's baked in the beautiful Emile Henry Lasagna dish that I found at Atelier in the Village (atelierrgp.com). Again, dressing or stuffing is a preference. I hope you use this recipe as is or as a guideline for whatever your family loves.

## Rustic Sausage Dressing

14 slices of white bread

1 sleeve Saltine crackers, crushed

1lb ground pork sausage (Bob Evans)

1 large onion, diced

2 cups celery, diced

3 tsp poultry seasoning

1 1/2 sticks butter

1 tsp pepper

7 cups chicken broth

1/4 cup fresh parsley

Preheat your oven to 225. Tear your bread into smaller chunks and add to a baking sheet.

Cook in the oven until dried out, about an hour.

In a large skillet, brown the sausage until it's almost done, about 5 minutes.

Add the onions, celery, butter, poultry seasoning and pepper. Cook the mixture for another 10 minutes until the vegetables are soft and the sausage is cooked through.

Once the bread is dried out, add to a large bowl along with the sausage mixture, crushed crackers, chicken broth and fresh parsley.

Everything is cooked at this point so taste for seasoning and adjust accordingly. Turn the oven up to 350. Add the dressing to a greased large baking dish, cover with aluminum foil and cook for 40 minutes.

Uncover and cook for another 20 minutes. For a crispier top, broil for 3 minutes after.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

# Shop local to put a turkey on the table

As the holidays approach, don't find yourself like Nora in "Christmas with the Kranks," frantically chasing the last hickory honey ham as it rolls through the parking lot.

Get your turkeys locally at the following places to conquer Thanksgiving dinner:

**The Village Market**  
Order ahead available.

**Fresh Farms Market**  
Order ahead available.

**Kroger**  
Order ahead not available, but plenty in stock.

**Trader Joe's**  
Order ahead not available, but plenty in stock.

**Farm Field Table**  
Order online with a \$50 deposit; per pound price is determined at pickup. Running low so get yours ASAP!

**Fairfax Market**  
Order ahead encouraged and available until Saturday. Call in and they will help.

With any questions, call each store and an available associate will be able to assist you in all your shopping needs.

## Atelier GP

the Art of Cooking & Entertaining

*the Registry*

17133 Kercheval Avenue  
313-264-1996  
atelierrgp.com

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-WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY-  
1 SEATING: 6:00PM-8:30PM (Performer plays from 7:00PM-8:30PM)

-FRIDAY & SATURDAY- 2 Seatings each night

1<sup>st</sup> SEATING: 6:00PM-8:00PM (Performer plays from 6:30PM-7:30PM)

2<sup>nd</sup> SEATING: 8:30PM-10:30PM (Performer plays from 9:00PM-10:00PM)

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# A Thanksgiving TABLE

*We ought to make the moments notes  
Of happy, glad Thanksgiving;  
The hours and days a silent phrase  
Of music we are living.  
And so the theme should swell and grow  
As weeks and months pass o'er us,  
And rise sublime at this good time,  
A grand Thanksgiving chorus.*

– Excerpted from the poem, “Thanksgiving”  
by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Is there anything more beautiful than the happy faces of those you love, gathered ‘round a holiday feast? Here’s some easy inspiration for lovely table settings and decor that reflect the beauty of the season.

Above, mixing eras and textures keeps things fun and not too formal. Ivory ribbed placemats, leather chargers, floral cloth napkins and brilliant fall flowers create a look that’s comfortably chic. Vintage Wedgwood bone china dishes provide the tradition. Napkins, Waterford glassware, candlestick and placemats are from The League Shop. Wine from Village Wine Shop.

At right, a petite wooden serving board and spreader from Small Favors make nibbling more elegant. A delightful hostess gift!





SETTINGS AS SUMPTUOUS AS THE FOOD



Smart entertaining is all about taking what you have and adding accessories to create a magical theme without adding stress.

The League Shop offers a variety of gorgeous plates, serving ware, glasses, table linens and so much more. If you love to entertain, you'll love The League Shop!

Beautiful glass pumpkins in unexpected colors glide from one holiday to another, and paired with tiny, fresh pumpkins stretch the decor budget. Fresh flowers and a sprig of rosemary give a relaxed, informal vibe. Swap the sprig for a lace napkin and white rose (below left) to take the look up a notch. Woven chargers make the beautifully simple plates stand out. Glass pumpkins, Waterford glass and plates all from The League Shop.

Above, vintage plates in brown and cream tones capture the spirit of Thanksgiving perfectly. Matching up great-grandma's precious heirloom dinnerware with new napkins and decor makes for a modern twist on tradition that everyone will enjoy.



Middle right, these fall serving pieces from Small Favors are ideal for autumn through Thanksgiving. Consider white to carry you through the whole year. Above, a woven ceramic bread basket is the perfect touch for warm Thanksgiving rolls. Also from Small Favors.

Left, some wine bottles are pretty enough to be part of your tablescapes! Village Wine Shop has everything you could want for entertaining with experts to help choose what's best for your menu.

PHOTOS BY ANNE GRYZENIA AND JILL CAVANAUGH

**The League Shop**  
16847 Kercheval Ave.  
Grosse Pointe  
313-882-6880  
TheLeagueShop.com

**Small Favors**  
17112 Kercheval Ave.  
Grosse Pointe  
(313) 887-1774  
shopsmallfavors.com

**Village Wine Shop**  
15228 E Jefferson Ave.  
Grosse Pointe Park  
(313) 821-1177  
thevillagewineshop.com



# 6C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT



From left, Paige Domzalski, Grosse Pointe Library Foundation project coordinator; Beth Vernon, foundation executive director; and Anne Prokop, committee member.



From left, Mary Lynn Martin, Central branch manager; Abby Ward, library board president; Jessica Keyser, library director; Mary Short, marketing and programming coordinator; and Peggy Kitchel, assistant director.



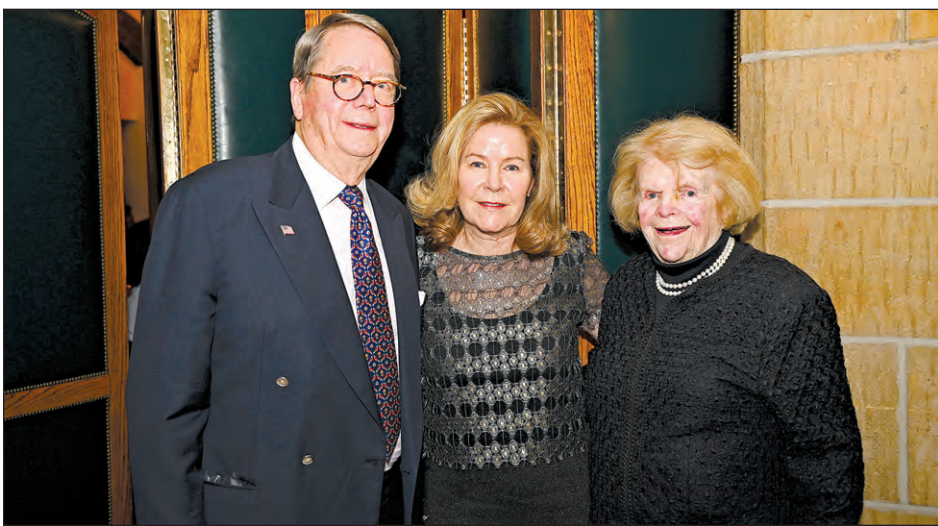
The Grosse Pointe Library Foundation hosted its annual Masquerade for the Stacks fundraiser Oct. 23. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live auction and entertainment rounded out the evening.



The Paxton Spangler Quintet entertained at the event.



A "Friday Night Lights" auction item included tickets to games for Michigan sports teams, a Steve Yzerman autographed Joe Louis Arena brick and more.



Signature sponsors, from left, George McMullen's brother-in-law, Franklin McCann; sister, Alex McCann; and mother, Judy McMullen.



Judy Gafa and Pam Paris, two of George McMullen's closest friends, prepare to bid on auction items to help raise money in McMullen's name.

## EVENTS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18

- » **Nonfiction Book Club**  
7-8 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)
- » **November GLLA Lunch and Leadership**  
12-1 p.m. Detroit. [events.anr.msu.edu](http://events.anr.msu.edu)
- » **The Paxton/Spangler Septet at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**  
6-8:30 p.m. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.
- » **St. Michaels Episcopal Church - Lunch, Laugh and Learn**  
12-1:30 p.m. 20475 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- » **Starry Lights**  
6-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.
- » **Tween - Tie Dye Tiles Kit**  
All day. Central Library, Grosse Pointe.

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19

- » **Annual Village Tree Lighting**  
5:30-6:30 p.m. St Clair Ave & Kercheval Ave, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230, USA Map, Grosse Pointe.
- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Golden State Warriors**  
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Digital Marketing Strategies For Small Businesses**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. MotorCity Casino Hotel, 9009 SE Adams St #1911, Detroit.

- » **Gary Allan**  
8 p.m. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St, Detroit.
- » **Greektown Casino Presents Gary Allan**  
8 p.m. Music Hall Center, 350 Madison, Detroit.
- » **Have A Great Day Doing Your Best Ever**  
7:30-9:30 p.m. Boll Family YMCA, 1401 Broadway St, Detroit.
- » **JD Allen Trio Feat. Eric Revis & Nasheet Waits**  
7:30-11:30 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.
- » **Light Up Beacon Park**  
5-11 p.m. Beacon Park, 1903 Woodward Ave, Detroit.
- » **SALSA Party & Free Class at La Casa**  
8:30 p.m. La Casa, 1502 Randolph St, Detroit.
- » **Sebastian Bach, Kaleido**  
7 p.m. Harpo's Concert Theatre, 14238 Harper Avenue, Detroit.
- » **Swinging Bells at Beacon Park**  
6 a.m.-11 p.m. Beacon Park, 1903 Woodward Ave, Detroit.
- » **Terence Blanchard Featuring The E-Collective With Turtle Island Quartet**  
8-10 p.m. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit.

### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20

- » **Billy Strings - Detroit, MI**  
8:30-11 p.m. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave, Detroit.

- » **Greektown Casino Presents Motor City Live "Tribute To Motown"**  
8 p.m. Music Hall Center, 350 Madison, Detroit.
- » **The House**  
1 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.
- » **Anime Club**  
Saturday, November 20, 2021  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
[grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)
- » **Kane Brown - Blessed & Free Tour**  
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Motor City Live - A Motown Tribute**  
8 p.m. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St, Detroit.
- » **A Night with Nas**  
8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit.
- » **The Olivia O'Brien Show**  
7 p.m. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E Congress St, Detroit.
- » **West Coast Takeover**  
8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit.

### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21

- » **Dave Meder Trio**  
7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.
- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Los Angeles Lakers**  
6 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.

- » **Grosse Pointe Chamber Music Concert**  
2:30-4:30 p.m. The War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- » **Living With Autism Workshop Sponsored by Henry Ford Health Systems**  
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Kercheval in the Park, Map, Grosse Pointe.
- » **Profs & Pints Metro Detroit: The Occult Origins of Science**  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Planet Ant Theatre, 2320 Caniff Street, Hamtramck.
- » **Sailing on Ice at The Ford House**  
1-4 p.m. 1100 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores.
- » **Sky Covington at Woodbridge Pub**  
7:30-11 p.m. 5169 Trumbull, 1970 Yemans, Detroit.
- » **VIP Petcare**  
10-11:30 a.m. Pet Supplies Plus, 23700 Greater Mack Ave, Saint Clair Shores.

### MONDAY NOVEMBER 22

- » **4th Monday Book Discussion**  
1:30-2:30 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)

### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23

- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Miami Heat**  
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Grosse Pointe Badminton Association**  
6:30-8 p.m. 20600 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- » **In Cold Mug Book Discussion**  
7-9 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)

- » **Mystery Book Discussion**  
7-8 p.m. Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)

- » **Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom**  
10:30-11 a.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)

### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24

- » **Alvin Waddles at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**  
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.

- » **Da Vu Vietnamese Thanksgiving**  
9 p.m. Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison St, Detroit.

- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. St. Louis Blues**  
7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.

- » **Freshly Baked Apple Pie Drive-by**  
2-5 p.m. Sunrise Assisted Living, 1850 Vernier Rd, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- » **Business Ownership, Entrepreneurialism and Business startup Detroit**  
7-8:30 p.m. Zoom. [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

- » **Greektown by Night**  
9 p.m. Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison St, Detroit.

- » **Mandingo**  
8 p.m. La Terraza, 8445 West Vernor Hwy, Detroit.

- » **Open Jam at The Blue Goose**  
8 p.m. BLEU, 1540 Woodward Ave, Detroit.

Check out the online calendar on our website for more details & registration links



# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer & Nora Nanny



Here at We Tried It, we — like everyone else — are knee-deep into holiday preparations. Holiday decor can be very costly and if it's not costly, it can look cheap. But with some elbow grease and know-how (Thank you, Lisa!), it doesn't always have to be.

For example, there's a beautiful pinecone wreath with a stunning blue velvet bow that was constantly flooding my Facebook feed.

At Serena & Lily, you can have that very wreath for between \$299 and \$500. \$500!? Instead of plunking down money for this beautiful wreath, why not make it?

This week's We Tried It is more of a "We Made It." To start the project, we purchased a wire wreath frame, pine cones, floral wire, ribbon and a glue gun.

Any size wire wreath



frame will work depending on the size of your front door. We used a 24-inch round frame. We were able to find all of the supplies at our local craft store, but you can also find the materials online.

Here's how we did it:

Step 1: Cut floral wire into 8-inch pieces and wrap them around the

bottom of each pine cone.

After twisting the wire onto the bottom of the pine cone, there should be extra wire hanging off that will be used to attach the pine cones to the frame.

Step 2: Attach pine cones in a circular fashion by twisting the floral wire onto the frame. Add smaller pine cones to fill



in any gaps.

Step 3: Use your glue gun to fasten the pine cones together in any areas that might need extra support.

Step 4: Make a bow to your desired size and attach it with the glue gun.

This wreath turned out every bit as beautiful as the

Serena & Lily wreath and it means more because it's homemade. It literally looks identical and the total cost of materials was about \$70.

We wanted a thicker wreath, so we ordered a lot of pine cones, but you definitely don't need as many as we used.

If we do say so ourselves, this gets five out of five

alligators. Try it today and send us your DIY photos.

Do you have something that you have made yourself you would like to share? Send the details to [media@grossepointenews.com](mailto:media@grossepointenews.com). You might just see it in the paper.

Wishing everyone a fabulous kickoff to the holiday season!



Overall Rating 5 out of 5

## Classic Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** My husband and I retired to Florida a few years ago, leaving our three grown children back in our hometown up north. We are having a wonderful life, and my husband is as happy as a lark.

I also should be happy. Everything here is great. The weather is beautiful. We are enjoying good health and have met some lovely people. We both do some volunteer work, so please do not assume we are selfishly wasting our lives.

The problem is our children. They aren't kids anymore, but each of them is in trouble.

One daughter is married and "no longer in love." She has a boyfriend.

Another daughter is living with a younger man I know she'll have to support for the rest of her life because he doesn't believe in work. She also

has his two teenagers living with them.

Another daughter is going through a miserable divorce. She has a son who surely will end up in jail again if he isn't there already.

I should be having the time of my life, but there is such a sadness around me that I fight it daily.

I don't know what to do, Ann. All these troubled adult children are getting the best of me. I try to hide my anxiety from my husband because I don't want him to be as miserable as I am.

What should I do, Ann? Please throw me a lifeline. -- Heavy-Hearted in the Palms

**Dear Heavy Hearted:** First, you should discuss with your husband what is going on with the children.

They're his, too, you know. It will help to have his support.

Next, you need some counseling to help you

cope with your anxiety. (An antidepressant could be a great help.)

Your counselor will explain that you are not responsible for the lives of your adult children.

It is time to let them untangle their own messes and grow up. It may be difficult not to become involved in their problems, but it could be the biggest favor you ever will do for them.

In the meantime, you deserve to enjoy your retirement years. Don't let your children spoil them for you.

**Dear Ann Landers:** My 21-year-old stepson lives with my husband and me. He is a good student at a nearby college and doesn't drink or do drugs.

He does, however, bring his girlfriend home frequently, and she stays until the next morning -- in his bed, I should add.

My husband doesn't see anything wrong with this, but I believe unmarried people should not be having sex, and they certainly should not invite their girlfriends to stay overnight when they are living in their parents' homes.

How can I convince my husband and stepson that this

is not appropriate behavior? -- Outvoted in California

**Dear Outvoted:** I agree that it is not acceptable for your stepson to invite a young woman to stay overnight in your home without your approval. But you are not going to change the behavior of a 21-year-old and shouldn't try. You do, however, have the right to say, "NOT IN OUR HOUSE." Tell your husband I said so.

**Dear Ann Landers:** I am a 60-year-old man who doesn't have any interest in anything or anyone. I'm bored with everybody I meet. I am bored with my job and bored with my life.

I grew up in an orphanage and am unable to show love because I never had any as a child. It is impossible for me to keep a relationship going. Either I lose interest or the other party does. I wish there were some way I could feel like I did 30 years ago, when I was full of ambition and looking forward to the future.

Is there any hope for me, or should I just resign myself to boredom for the rest of my life? Thanks for listening, Ann. -- Bored in Brooklyn.

**Dear Brooklyn:** You aren't bored; you are depressed. But you don't have to stay that way for the rest of your life. See a doctor, and ask for an antidepressant that will help you. Along with the medication, sign up for some talking sessions with a psychologist.

You also need to become involved in activities that will help you feel better about yourself. I'm talking about service to others. Be a volunteer. When you encounter people with real problems, yours won't look so serious. Don't delay. Get going as soon as you read this. And please write again and let me know how you're doing.

**Dear Ann Landers:** My husband's mother passed away four years ago. His father remarried not long after, but my husband hasn't taken to his stepmother very well. He never speaks to her unless he absolutely has to.

Although there never has been an argument or a fight between them, the tension is obvious, and it is uncomfortable for everyone.

About two months ago, I had a long talk with my father-in-law and let him know that his son wanted a closer relationship. The minute I opened

my mouth, his wife jumped in, made all kinds of accusations and stormed out. I admit I might not have been very diplomatic in my approach, but I figured it was best to be honest and lay my cards on the table. Apparently, that was the wrong thing to do.

I have apologized to his wife for being so frank, but I cannot change the way I feel. Now, the woman avoids us completely, and I think she is persuading my father-in-law to do the same. I am afraid I have made things worse, and now, I want to make the situation better. Any ideas? -- Lost in Louisiana

**Dear Louisiana:** It is said that distance lends enchantment, and in this case, I recommend it -- for a while, at least. Maintain contact, but don't rehash the argument. Let the situation cool down. Don't try to butter up the woman or be obsequious. Just be pleasant. Ignore the past, and let time do its work.

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). ANN LANDERS COPYRIGHT 2021 CREATORS.COM

## DEAR ABBY:

Continued from page 2C

car and we're happy without one. It made them very upset. Every time we have seen them since, they continue to pester me about it. What should I do about this infuriating situation? -- NO CAR IN ALABAMA

**DEAR NO CAR:** Understand that your in-laws probably mean well, but do not allow yourself to be dragged into an argument about your decision.

Tell them you do not wish to discuss it further and, if they persist, see them less often -- much less often.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a wonderful neighbor who loves to give me beautifully arranged bouquets of flowers. The problem is, although I appreciate her very much, I do not

enjoy receiving flowers because I don't like seeing them die.

My husband knows this. Also, I don't have enough room for all the vases. I'm not unappreciative, but I don't know how to let her know I no longer want flowers as gifts.

I would like to be as tactful as possible without hurting her feelings. Please help. -- OVERWHELMED IN ARIZONA

**DEAR OVERWHELMED:** Invite your generous neighbor to lunch and give her a small gift. (Candy, perhaps.) During the lunch thank her for her kindness and praise her for her flower arranging talent, but add that WATCHING THEM DIE DEPRESSES YOU, and to please stop.

Ask if she would like you to return her vases you have collected, and if she says yes, have

them boxed and ready to give her after the lunch. If she refuses your offer, find out if a neighborhood florist can use them. If not, recycle or toss them.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am engaged to "George," a wonderful man who has adult children. He and his ex went through a bitter divorce several years ago. His children mainly blame him, but he still tries to maintain relationships with them.

The younger two seem to have accepted it over time. His oldest daughter, however, is very close to her mother and still bitter. She's getting married and has expressed to him that she doesn't want him to bring any guests.

George and I have been living together for the last year, and it was never a secret that we were dating before then. I don't know how to feel about this. I have no relationship

with his children, but I would like to be there. How should I address this? -- LEFT OUT IN THE EAST

**DEAR LEFT OUT:** In plain English. Ask George how he feels about being expected to go unaccompanied to his daughter's wedding in light of the fact he has been cohabiting with you for a year.

(Is he expected to participate?) When you do, point out to your fiancée that if his daughter is allowed to dictate this, it will be only the beginning, because there will be other milestones from which you are also excluded.

**DEAR READERS:** Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without my sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear late mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,



We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.

We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.

We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.

We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service,

That Thy gifts to us may be used for others.

Amen.

Have a happy and safe celebration, everyone! -- Love, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



# Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
**"Army of Thieves"**  
 2021 - 2hr 7min

This Netflix film is a prequel to the movie "Army of the Dead". In my opinion, prequels are Hollywood's answer to a hit franchise that's simply run out of decent ideas for sequels.

I really didn't care for the first one, which was about a group of international robbers who devise a scheme to rob a casino in the middle of Las Vegas, in the middle of a zombie takeover.



gang, which includes Rolf (Guz Khan), a world-class getaway driver, Brad Cage (Stuart Martin), a macho, bodybuilding fighter, and Korina Dominguez (Ruby O. Fee), an expert hacker.

It's fun to see their backstories, which is told in quick vignettes. We get a glimpse into their childhoods and what made them who they are.

Against this backdrop, we learn of the zombie pandemic, which has just begun in America and is rapidly spreading. Since this story takes place in

Above, Matthias Schweighofer as Sebastian and left, Nathalie Emmanuel as Gwendoline Starr in the 2021 Netflix film "Army of Thieves"

Since I'm not a fan of the zombie genre, I was a bit leery when I heard about this one. However I was pleasantly surprised.

The story begins with Sebastian (Matthias Schweighofer), who's a bank teller by day, and an amateur locksmith by night. He's fascinated by a legendary locksmith Hans Wagner who built three impenetrable and uncrackable safes named after Richard Wagner's three operas in his Ring Cycle, the "Götterdämmerung".

When he posts a YouTube video describing the story behind these safes, he's immediately contacted by a world-renown thief, Gwendoline Starr (Nathalie Emmanuel). They meet in a coffee shop and she informs him she's part of a crack team with plans to rob each of the safes.

Sebastian is then introduced to the rest of the

Europe, the zombie story has little effect on them.

After their first successful heist, Interpol is alerted and a team led by Delacroix (Jonathan Cohen) and Beatrix (Noemie Nakai) is soon hard on their heels. Of course, they're depicted as the bad guys and we find ourselves rooting for the robbers.

Adding to the drama is the fact that Gwendoline is searching for true love, and she finds herself falling for Sebastian.

It's a stylish movie set against a backdrop of some of the most picturesque locations in Europe. And as you'd expect, the music of Richard Wagner figures predominantly in the score. It makes for a rousing ride!

It was refreshing to watch a heist movie that wasn't two hours of non-stop action. The director slowed things down occasionally to give the



viewer a breather. I especially enjoyed the sequences where the camera allowed us to view the inner workings of the safes, to witness the tumblers shifting and falling into place. It was almost like attending a sophisticated, beautifully choreographed mechanical ballet.

If you're in the mood for a fun, slightly offbeat heist film, be sure to put this one in your queue.

Currently streaming on Netflix.

★★★★☆

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your

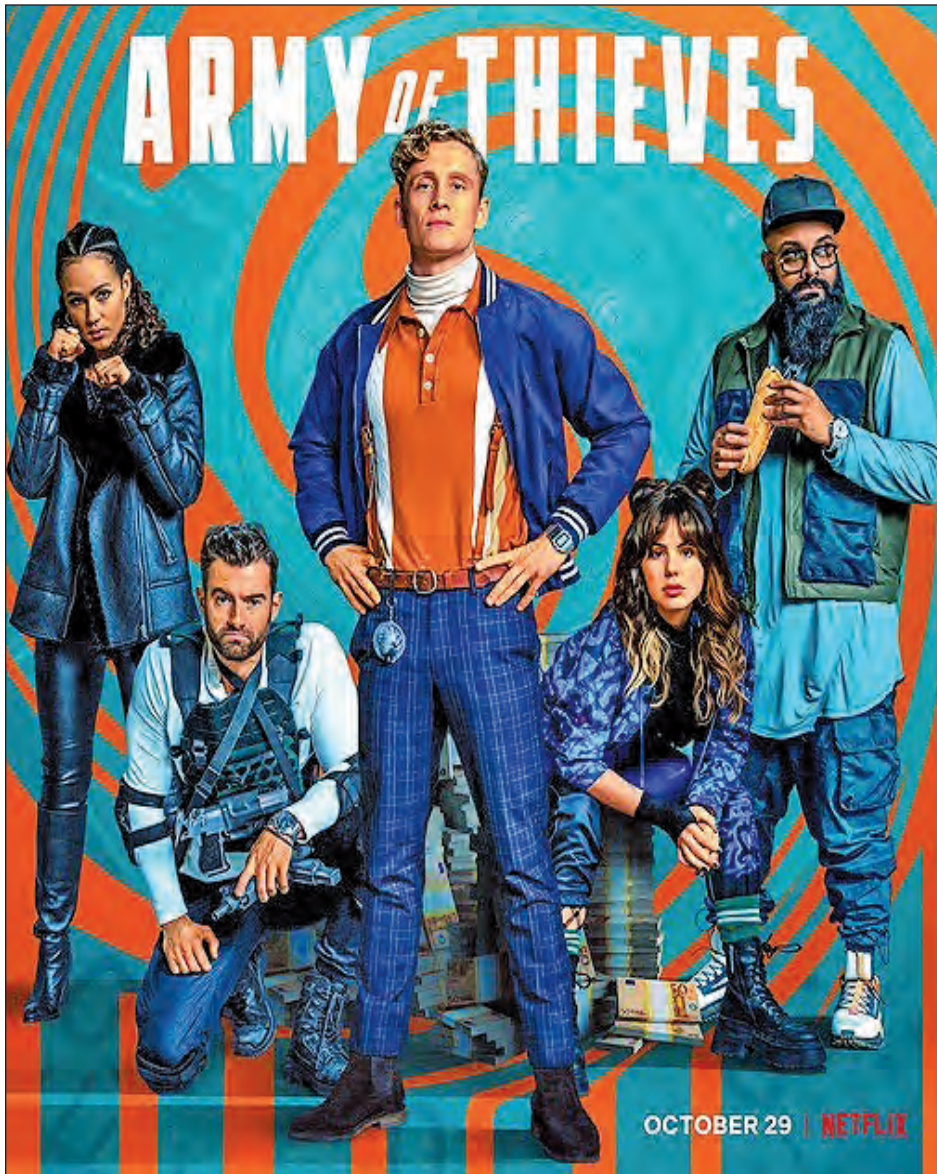
queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

About this column:

While I watch a lot of movies, this column will feature those I feel have gone under the radar and deserve more recognition. They'll include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix and Kanopy, as well as theatrical releases. For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com). If you have any recommendations, feel free to email me at [dominmark@yahoo.com](mailto:dominmark@yahoo.com). Also, if you're looking for more movies, be sure to check out my [blog](http://blogspot.com): [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](http://moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).



# Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Taurus.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021:

You are courageous in meeting life's challenges. You are intelligent, perceptive and imaginative. You have a penetrating insight into what makes people tick.

This year you might attain a higher consciousness by spending time alone in order to explore meditation, spirituality or prayer. In many ways, this is a year of learning and teaching for you. The latter part of this year is more exciting.

**ARIES**  
 (March 21-April 19)

A pleasant surprise might come your way today. A boss, parent, teacher or someone in authority might compliment you or offer you an opportunity. Someone will do or say something that makes you feel good. You might get a promotion. Tonight: You impress someone.

**TAURUS**  
 (April 20-May 20)

A surprise opportunity to travel somewhere for pleasure might come your way today. A romance or a friendly connection might be established with someone in another country or from another culture. Opportunities in publishing, medicine and the law might occur. Tonight: Be flexible.

**GEMINI**  
 (May 21-June 20)

Keep your pockets open, because gifts, goodies and favors can come to you today! This is a good day to seek out a loan or a mortgage, or perhaps a loan from a friend, because doors will open for you today. Note: Accept what comes your way, because this window of opportunity will be brief. Tonight: You're pleased.

**CANCER**  
 (June 21-July 22)

Relations with friends and groups will be successful today. Someone close to you (a partner, spouse or best friend) might help you. At the very least, you will enjoy good times socializing with others today, because something unexpected is pleasing. Tonight: Good times.

**LEO**  
 (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Relations with co-workers are pleasant today. People will be helpful to you. You also might have an unexpected chance to make where you work appear more attractive. Perhaps health news will please you, or possibly, some surprising and happy news that is related to a pet. Tonight: Enjoy.

**VIRGO**  
 (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

A fun invitation might come your way today, because unexpected opportunities to socialize or enjoy sports events or playful activities with kids are likely. You also might be surprised by an unexpected flirtation or even love at first sight. Tonight: Socialize!

**LIBRA**  
 (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Something unexpected will be a perk at home today. You might buy something beautiful for your home. Surprising family news might please you. You also might unexpectedly entertain at home. (Just in case, stock the fridge so you're ready for anything.) Tonight: Be a happy host.

**SCORPIO**  
 (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is a pleasant day! You will enjoy meeting new faces and seeing new places. Good news might please you. In particular, you will enjoy the beauty of your surroundings. You also will be pleased interacting with the people you encounter today. Tonight: It's all good.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Business and commerce are favored today, which is why this is an excellent day for financial negotiations. Something unexpected but pleasing to you might catch you off guard. You also might spontaneously shop for something that you like. Tonight: Count your blessings.

**CAPRICORN**  
 (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is a pleasant day! You will enjoy your encounters with others, because people are happy to see you. They might treat you or give you a gift. They will certainly be pleasant company. Meanwhile, you might spontaneously buy wardrobe goodies that you like. Tonight: You're happy.

**AQUARIUS**  
 (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This is a feel-good day! You're happy to be alive and in your own skin. Very likely, something that's private or going on behind the scenes will please you, perhaps in a secretive way. Whatever happens will give your world a boost, which is a lovely day. Tonight: Enjoy!

**PISCES**  
 (Feb. 19-March 20)

You might meet someone unusual today, especially someone who is artistic or creative, or working in the arts. A sudden romance might begin. Possibly a friend or a member of a group will do a favor for you, because your interactions with others will benefit you today. Tonight: Something pleases you.

**BORN TODAY**

Actor Owen Wilson (1968), actor Damon Wayans Jr. (1982), actress Allison Tolman (1981).

## Contract Bridge

IT'S ALMOST LIKE PEEKING

East dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K 4 2  
 ♥ 9 8 6 3  
 ♦ 8 5 4 3  
 ♣ 9 8

**WEST**  
 ♠ A J 9 7 6  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ J 7 6 2  
 ♣ 7 5 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ 8 3  
 ♥ A K Q J 7 5 2  
 ♦ Q 10 9  
 ♣ 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ Q 10 5  
 ♥ 10  
 ♦ A K  
 ♣ A K Q J 10 6 3

The bidding:  
 East South West North  
 1♥ Dble 1♠ Pass  
 4♥ 5♣ Dble  
 Opening lead — four of hearts.

During the bidding and play, the defenders can't help but give away vital information that can be used against them. All declarer needs to do is to draw the proper inferences from what he has learned.

Consider this deal where South winds up in five clubs doubled after the auction shown. East wins the heart lead and returns a heart, trumped by declarer with the ten as West discards a spade. South now has to devise a way to avoid losing two spade tricks.

Declarer already knows a great deal about the adverse hands. The play to the first two tricks showed that East started with seven hearts and West with one. Also, West must have the ace of spades for his double of five clubs.

However, West cannot have started with six spades because this would give East a singleton, and if East only had one spade, he would almost surely have returned it at trick two to obtain a ruff. West is therefore credited with four or five spades, most likely headed by the A-J. This leaves him with seven or eight minor-suit cards, probably divided 4-3 or 4-4.

Having gotten this far in his reasoning, declarer now puts his thoughts into action. He starts by cashing the A-K of diamonds, then leads a low club to the eight. A diamond is ruffed high, and another low club is led to the nine. South then ruffs dummy's last diamond and draws West's last trump.

The stage is set for the finale. West has four spades, declarer has three spades and a trump, and dummy has three spades and a heart.

South leads the spade queen, and West has no recourse. If he ducks, declarer continues with a spade toward the king. If instead West takes the queen with the ace, he must return a spade, and unless East started with the doubleton jack, South makes two tricks with the ten and king no matter which spade West returns.

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by Steve Becker

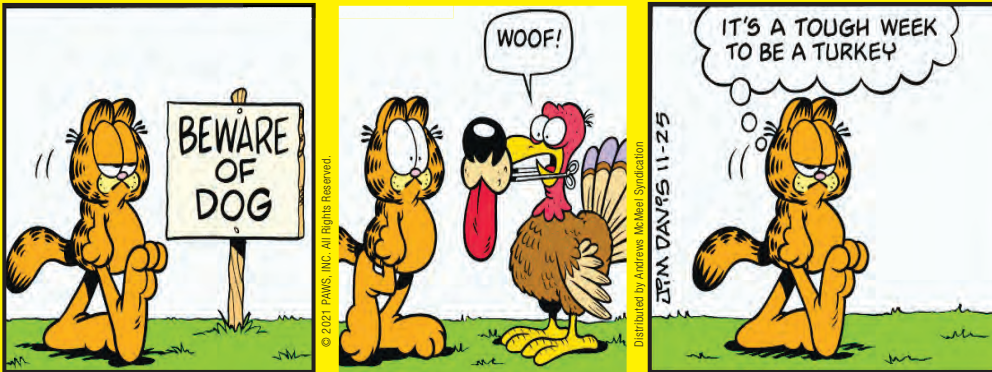


# Puzzles and



Garfield

Jim Davis



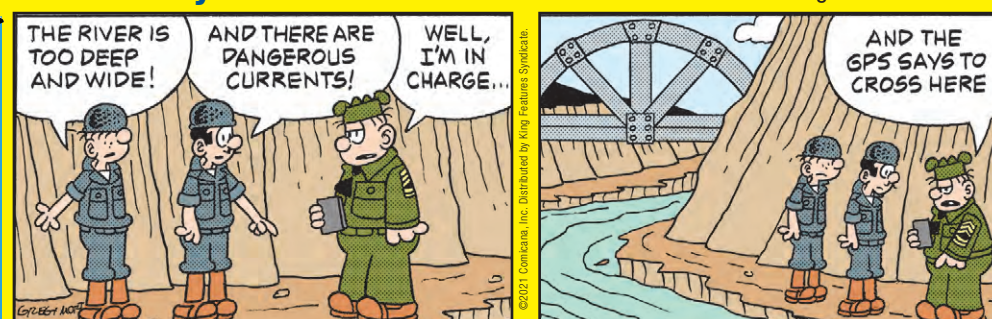
Dilbert

Scott Adams



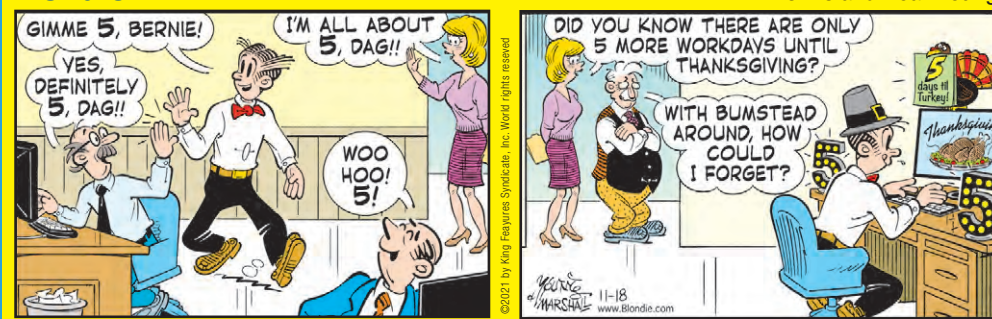
Beetle Bailey

Greg and Mort Walker



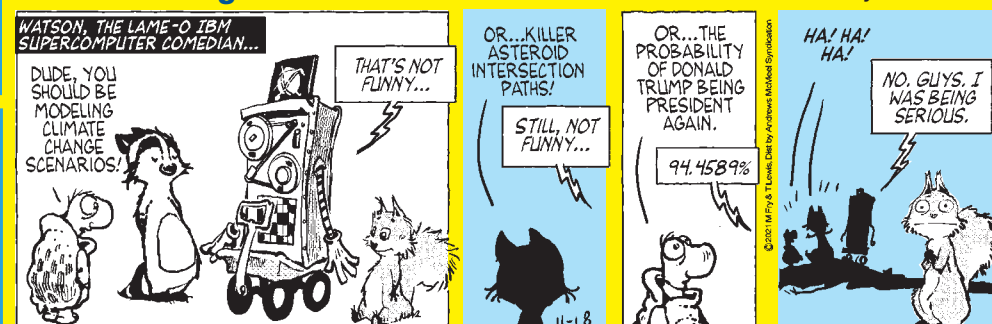
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



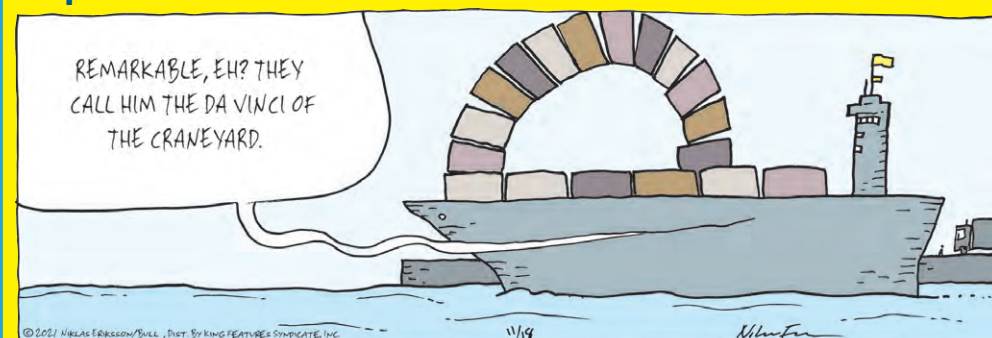
Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

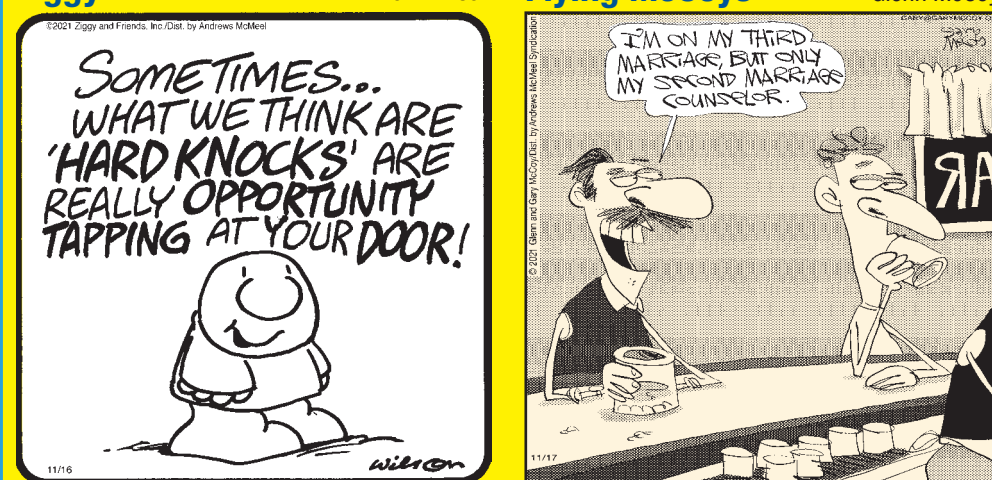


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

11/18

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 18, 2021

### ACROSS

- 1 Turn away
- 6 Dog food brand
- 10 Chunk of dirt
- 14 Exposures
- 15 Back end
- 16 Bee's home
- 17 Netflix program inspired by "The Twilight Zone," literally?
- 19 Not many
- 20 Abominable Snowman
- 21 "Raiders of the Lost Ark" snakes
- 22 Extremely Sacred
- 23 object
- 25 Horace by Sharon Olds
- 27 Alexa's device, literally?
- 33 Lead-in to "Saxon"
- 36 Two-way, like a door
- 37 Doc concerned with Lab safety?
- 38 Hecklers' shouts
- 39 Glasses, for short
- 40 Queen of the Greek gods
- 41 Inner ear?
- 42 \_\_\_ New Guinea
- 43 Propelled a rowboat
- 44 Quick, clever reply, literally?
- 47 Mysterious loch

- 48 Surface for some firewalkers
- 51 Pants part
- 53 Char on the surface
- 56 Boat part made of fabric
- 58 Some soup containers
- 59 Coming back from a breakup, literally?
- 61 "By yesterday!"
- 62 Toy blown on Makar
- 63 "Absolutely," in slang
- 64 Landform in a Willie E. Coyote cartoon
- 65 Inbox junk
- 66 Really worries

- 18 \_\_\_ Sutra
- 24 Angsty rock genre
- 25 Unpleasant obligation
- 26 "I" ball?
- 28 Full of life
- 29 Do better than
- 30 Lil Tjay song in which he gets honest about his past
- 31 \_\_\_ mortal
- 32 Slightly
- 33 They're often sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"
- 34 "High" time
- 35 Totally lose it
- 39 Puts into words
- 40 Might just pull it off
- 42 Second afterthought letters

- 43 Yoko who crafted the Imagine Peace Tower
- 45 Place to pamper pooches
- 46 Unit of land
- 49 Coffee order that might have art on top
- 50 Tendon
- 51 "Enter your Social Security number to win free AirPods!" e.g.
- 52 Opposite of difficulty
- 53 Scissors sound
- 54 Blues singer James
- 55 Throat-clearing sound
- 57 Red ink amount
- 59 Approves
- 60 UFO pilots, presumably

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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11/18

### It Goes Both Ways by Paul Coulter

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
51	52				53	54	55		56			57
58					59				60			
61					62				63			
64					65				66			



# Comics

## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



## Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



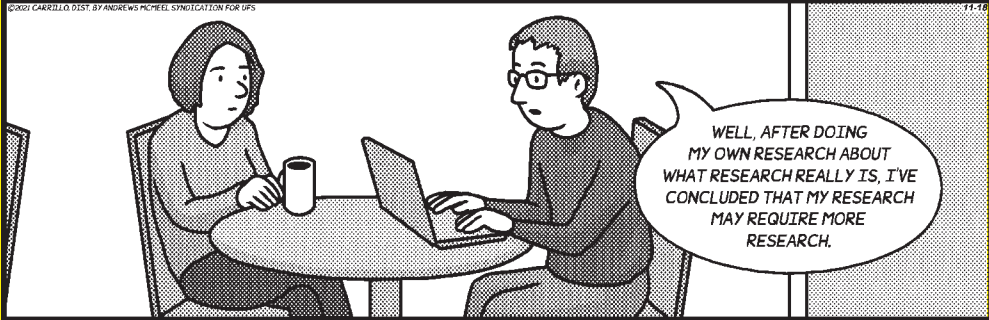
## Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



## F Minus

Tony Carrilo



## Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



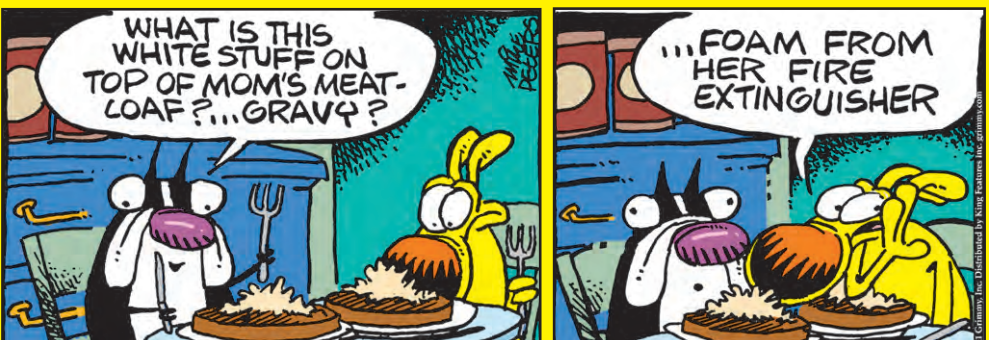
## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



## Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



## Reality Check

Dave Whamond



## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



## Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane

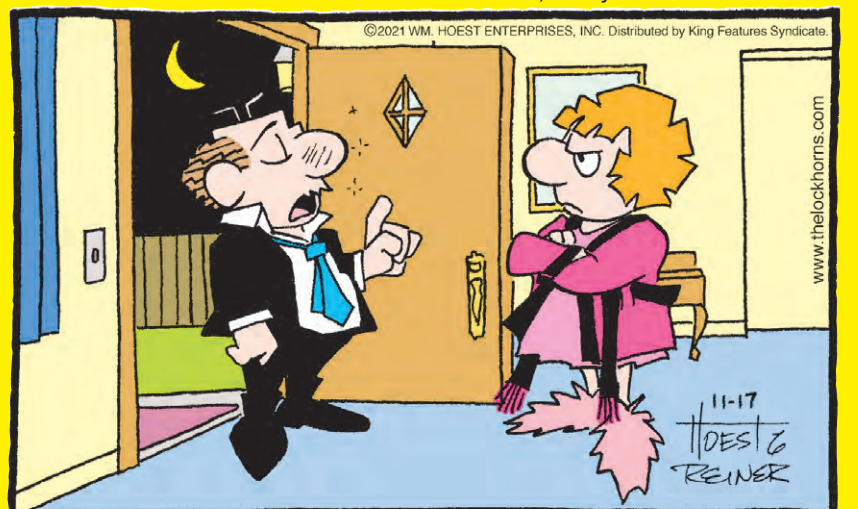


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Bill and Jeff Keane

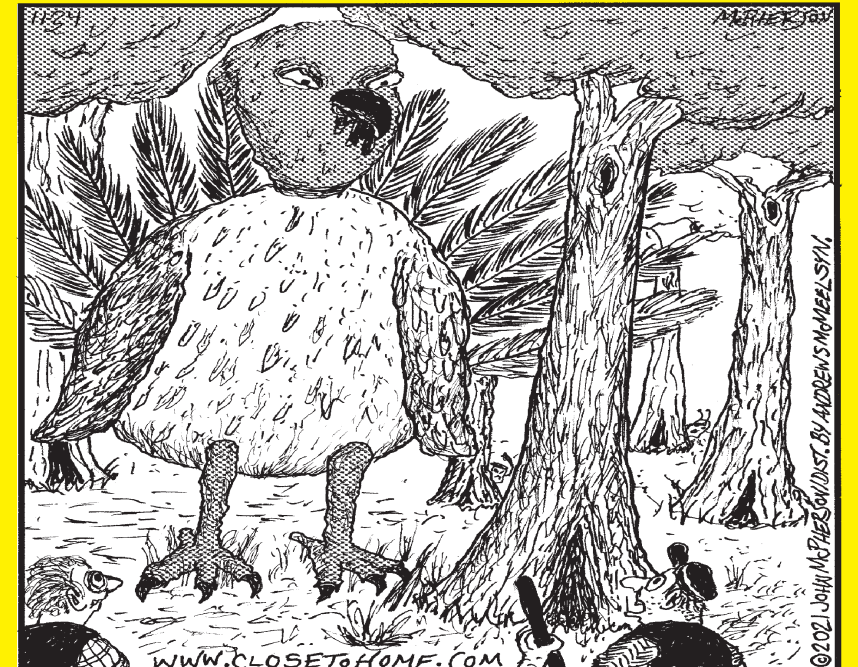
## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



## Close To Home

John McPherson



## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



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11-12

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"This is his second nap. He needed it after dreaming about chasing squirrels in his first nap."



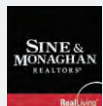
# SPORTS



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## South eliminated from regionals

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

After celebrating another district championship win this season, the Grosse Pointe South volleyball team entered the regional tournament last week looking to keep its dreams of collecting more trophies alive. The Blue Devils ran into Divine Child in the regional semifinals last Tuesday and ended up having their season ended by the Falcons in three sets.

Divine Child came out of the gate strong in the playoff match. South seemingly had no answer for the Falcons in the first

set as Divine Child was able to breeze through the opening game taking a 1-0 lead in the match with a 25-8 victory.

In the second set, South was able to pick things up and show the Falcons that the rest of the match would not be as easy as the opening set. The Blue Devils managed to be more competitive, but ended up going down two sets as Divine Child managed a 25-16 win.

Facing the potential final set of the season, South fought its hardest to keep the run alive in set No. 3. The Blue Devils held the lead at points and looked like they

could push the match to four sets and beyond, but the Falcons persisted and came away with the 25-19 victory to take the match in three straight sets.

Jada DiVita capped off her senior season with 14 kills and 12 digs. Mary Clare Hessburg finished with 16 assists in the loss.

The loss to Divine Child brings South's season to an end just short of a regional title. The season still brought plenty of success for the Blue Devils, who captured another district title earlier in the playoffs and ended the regular season as MAC White division co-champions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANEIL DIVITA

Jada DiVita and the South volleyball team were eliminated from the playoffs by Divine Child.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM GEBECK

Doug Wood and the University Liggett Knights hockey team begin their season on Thursday night.

## Knights ready to take ice with new coach

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The boys hockey program at University Liggett enters the 2021-22 season boasting a talented roster that includes a player some might consider the best in the state. Now behind the bench managing that lineup is a new head coach looking to continue the Knights' hockey tradition and get the best out of every single player who takes the ice.

Stepping in to take over the Knights this season is new head coach Colin Smith. Smith gained his coaching experience at the junior level and is taking up the job at Liggett knowing that helping his players help each

other can be a huge advantage.

"I want the kids to have a great experience while they're here and compete and grow not only as hockey players, but as men," Smith said. "I want the kids to coach each other so they grow together, whether it's a senior working with a senior or a senior working with a freshman, and just bond together to build us up."

Some of the players on Smith's new roster were familiar to him even before he officially joined the program at Liggett. Previously working with players around the area through private coaching, Smith got a glimpse of some of the talent he would be inheriting at the Knights.

"During the lockdown or when they weren't playing hockey, I ended up doing a lot of private lessons with each kid on the team throughout the summer, one-on-one, and got to know a lot of the boys before I even became the coach," he said. "I didn't really know what the team would be like. ... After our first few practices they've exceeded my expectations and I think we have a very talented group that can do a lot of big things."

Part of that talented group of players Smith believes he has is Doug Wood. During his junior season last winter, Wood scored over 40 points in less than 20 regular season games.

See KNIGHTS, page 3D

## Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Tom Sheffield has become one of the most prolific members of the Grosse Pointe North boys soccer team over the past four years. From his time playing club soccer with Eastside FC and Vardar to his years in the heart of the Norsemen's lineup, Sheffield has shown the characteristics of a true leader both on and off the field throughout his career.

That leadership came to the forefront this season when Sheffield was named one of North's senior captains. When it was time for him to fully step into that role, the senior remembered the upperclassmen before him who helped get him to the place he is today.

"We talk about leaving our legacy at North when we talk about our team," Sheffield said. "When I was a freshman I had a lot of senior role models and upperclassmen that I

looked up to. This year I tried to be that role model for them and the person they could talk to but also learn from in practice and games."

Sheffield and his fellow seniors on North's team

this year used the example from the older players before them. Being one of the senior leaders on a squad with plenty of younger players this season meant Sheffield had to help bring everyone together.

"Last year we lost a lot of really good seniors and it was a talented group, so it was a unique challenge we wanted to tackle this year as a team," he said. "I had to take on the role of bringing the underclassmen

together with the group. There were a lot of new faces in the locker room, so we had to bring everyone together with the same goals and ambitions."

This season, Sheffield was named a first-team All-State selection for Division 2 by the Michigan High School Coaches Association. The Norsemen got out to a rough start this season, but recovered from it to eventually win a district championship and make it all the way to the regional finals.

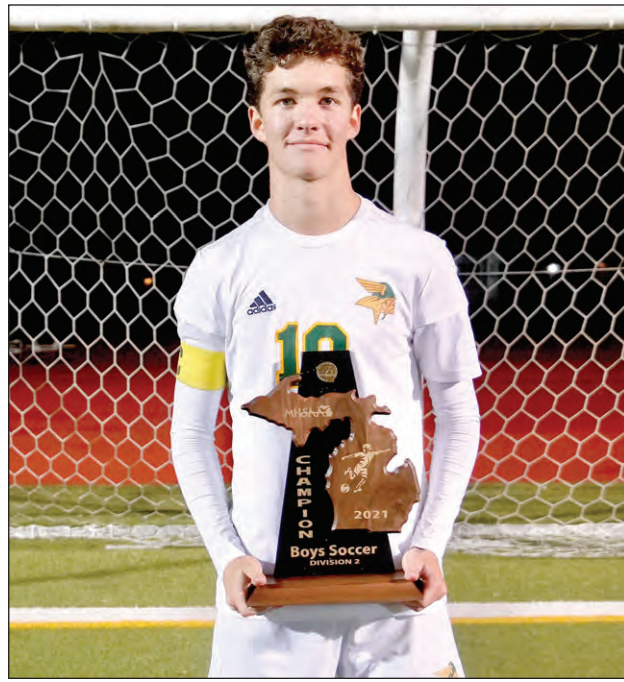
That recovery and eventual success for the season show how much fight North's team had this fall and Sheffield's own constant drive to compete proves that even

more. "Every time I step onto the soccer field I want to win. ... That drive really motivates me to play my best no matter what," he said.

The desire to win and compete makes Sheffield one of North's top scorers. Whenever he is on the field, the senior is constantly looking for opportunities to give his team the advantage.

"I'm very creative," Sheffield said. "I like to create chances for both myself and my teammates to try and score as many goals as we can. I'm also a true leader trying to help the guys around me get better, whether it's vocally or the energy that I bring to the game."

Sheffield's energy in games, practices and off the field is part of the glue that brought the Norsemen together this year. The senior captain truly embraced his role as a leader in a season that saw North have plenty of



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom Sheffield

great moments, especially in the postseason.

North's team this year found success from having great chemistry. For Sheffield, the way he and his teammates have bonded over the years was key to a great year for the Norsemen.

"We never let our grades or ages define us at all," he said. "When we stepped on the field in practices and games we

were a family. ... We had a lot of players who had been playing together since they were really young, so having that experience together and knowing each other outside of the soccer program really brought the team chemistry together."

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit [grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week](http://grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week).



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## 2D | SPORTS



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

North senior James Streberger made second-team all-state in Division 2.



Lucas Frye from South earned second-team all-state honors for Division 1.

# Pointes players earn All-State soccer honors

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

With the boys soccer season now wrapped up, it is safe to say the high school programs around Grosse Pointe had strong years on the pitch this fall. Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School all captured district championships and advanced to the regional championships in their respective divisions.

After all of that success and hardware added to the trophy cases this fall, it comes as no surprise that all three programs are represented in this season's All-State teams. Last week, the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association released its list of All-State honorees for the 2021 season, with nine players total from the Pointes selected across three divisions.

The Grosse Pointe South Blue Devils had four players receive All-State honors for Division

1. South finished the regular season as MAC White division champions and had an incredible postseason run that included wins in the district and regional championships.

Junior forward Lucas Frye was named second-team All-State in Division 1 for the Blue Devils. Frye was a focal point for South on the attack and helped the Blue Devils be successful in some of the biggest moments this season.

Three more Blue Devils were named honorable mentions on the All-State list. Seniors Michael Tengler and Nicholas Litsas received the honors, as did senior goalkeeper Michael Adams.

In a season that included a district championship and an appearance in the regional title game, the Grosse Pointe North Norsemen had a trio of players named All-State in Division 2. Highlighting that list is senior midfielder Tom

Sheffield making first-team All-State. Sheffield was a four-year player at North and a senior captain this fall.

North had another pair of seniors named among the second-team All-State honorees. Forward James Streberger and goalkeeper Jake Tedesco made the list.

The University Liggett Knights were one of the strongest teams in Division 4 throughout 2021. The Knights ended the year as Catholic League and district champions and were eliminated from the playoffs in an extremely close regional championship.

This season was especially memorable for sophomore forward Claudio Cavallo. Cavallo broke Liggett's single-season goal-scoring record and can now add first-team All-State to his list of accolades. Senior teammate Doug Wood also received an honorable mention in Division 4.

Grosse Pointe News  
High School **SPORTS**

**THIS WEEK'S GAMES\*  
HOME/AWAY/TRYOUTS**

**GROSSE POINTE NORTH**

**Friday, November 19**  
5:45 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. De La Salle  
@Fraser Ice Arena

**GROSSE POINTE SOUTH**

**Friday, November 19**  
12 pm Girls Varsity Swim & Dive STATE FINALS  
Away @Oakland University

5:30 pm Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Liggett @Liggett

**Saturday, November 20**  
12 pm Girls Varsity Swim & Dive STATE FINALS  
Away @Oakland University

5:30 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Cranbrook  
@East Side Ice Arena

**UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL**

**Thursday, November 18**  
5:30 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Gabriel Richard  
@Liggett

**Friday, November 19**  
5:30 pm Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. GP South  
@Liggett

**Saturday, November 20**  
2 pm Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Columbus Blue Jacket  
@Liggett

\*Check school websites for updates on playoff games



Liggett's Claudio Cavallo was named first-team all-state in Division 4. Cavallo broke the school's single-season goals record this fall.

Grosse Pointe News

**ATHLETE  
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Grosse Pointe News



# Youth can be strength for Norsemen hockey team

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

As people start to bundle up while the weather gets colder, it means high school hockey season is here. Players begin taking the ice this week, including the boys team from Grosse Pointe North, who are looking to quickly get up to speed.

The Norsemen return a few key juniors and seniors for the 2021-22 season, but the roster also includes sophomores and even freshmen who must quickly become acclimated to playing at the varsity level. Head coach Rob Blum is focused on getting everyone into the team's system so they can hit the ground running.

"The goal has been to get the new kids acclimated to what we want to do and the style we want to play," Blum said. "We lost I think nine kids from last year, so there's a lot of new faces and not too many returning players. So far it's been figuring out lines and conditioning ... just trying to prepare for a tough schedule and getting in the right mindset."

North has spent the offseason preparing tirelessly for the season ahead. Being in the MIHL conference that includes top competition such as U of D Jesuit, Catholic Central, Crosstown rivals Grosse Pointe South and more, the Norsemen

make sure their environment in practice can match what they are going to see on the ice throughout the season.

"We make sure our practices are really high tempo and high paced," Blum said. "There are no breaks when you play teams like Brother Rice and De La Salle and those guys. We've got to be ready and know what



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM GEBECK

**North's boys hockey team has a mix of veterans and young players ready to make an impact.**

we're doing and make sure we don't take shortcuts."

There are still a few names on this year's roster for the Norsemen that bring a valuable level of experience to the locker room while the younger players get up to speed. A couple of those names include Jacob Simcox and Curtis Cameron, a pair of junior defensemen expected to be anchors on the blue line for the Norsemen.

One place North benefits greatly from having an experienced presence this season is in net. Senior goalie R.J. Cassar returns and brings a

sense of reliability for the Norsemen at a key position.

"He's been with the team longer than I have since he's done all four years and he knows what to expect," Blum said about his senior net-minder.

North has experience in the net and with the defense on the blue line. When it comes to the

attacking chances on the attack can come from being stout defensively.

"It's going to be defense creating offense," he said. "I want to see the defense tightening up and then creating offensive opportunities. I think that's a lot different for kids who come from playing travel, where it's just going out and scoring on the other team. We're not going to out-score teams, so we need to tighten up on defense then bury our chances when we get them."

The Norsemen are going to be tested early this season. They opened Wednesday night with a road game at Brother Rice, then host De La Salle for their first home game of the season Friday. North even gets an early rivalry showdown with Grosse Pointe South on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

All of those early tests and even more strong competition throughout the season are going to create a benchmark for where North's program is. The young talent should develop throughout the year into a hopefully strong core, but Blum thinks the youth on this year's team should not be overlooked.

"We have a young team, but I think also a talented team," he said. "We're not going to use that as an excuse. It should be a strength for us and we're all just looking forward to getting started."

## KNIGHTS:

Continued from page 1D

Wood now enters his senior year with the Knights having the potential to be among the best players in the state. Hockey talent runs in the family for Wood. His dad set the state record for career scoring during his time at Liggett — a record that still stands today. But Wood's new coach thinks there is even more untapped potential when it comes to his game.

"His ceiling is so high, I told him he doesn't even know how good he can be," Smith said. "Offensively he's figured that part of his game out, but can work on the whole game and be a two-way player. If he can do that I think he's a front runner for Mr. Hockey. ... He's got a great head on his shoulders and sees the game well."

Junior forwards Jake Kolk and Ian Gudenau also will be looked at as key pieces of the offense to contribute in the attacking zone. The Knights also added to the program newcomer forward Stephen Wheatley, who will look to make an impact right away.

When it comes to players who can step up on the blue line, Smith sees senior Caden Ancona as a leader for the Knights on the defensive end.

"I watched him work in the offseason and do his off-the-ice training all summer and didn't know exactly what kind of hockey player he was, but was blown away by his hockey IQ

and his compete level," Smith said.

Liggett has no shortage of talented, experienced players in the lineup this year. But as many coaches will say, talent means nothing without hard work. It is the same way for Smith, whose doubts about his team's willingness to compete quickly were washed away.

"Tons of heart is another thing this team has that I was questioning when I first got here, but watching them dive in front of shots and the way they act on the bench has been huge," he said.

The Knights want to keep that level of energy and competitiveness going each time they take the ice this season. With other teams around the area boasting plenty of talent as well, Liggett wants to bring an extra edge into every game.

That edge is going to be the Knights' aggressiveness. Using speed and grit is how Liggett can get a leg up on the competition this winter.

"We will be an ultra-aggressive team and a fast hockey team," Smith said. "We want to be in your face, whether it's deep in the offensive zone or in our own end on defense blocking shots. Ultra-aggressive and physical and using our speed to take over because we're a great skating team. If you can skate, you've already won half the battle."

Liggett begins its new campaign this week hosting Riverview Gabriel Richard Thursday to open the regular season.

# Defense is key to success for South hockey

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

With the season ready to begin for the boys hockey team at Grosse Pointe South, the Blue Devils are ready for a year that includes new faces on the roster and the coaching staff. South's team has a mix of veterans and young talent all looking to make a splash this season and give their new head coach a strong foundation to build on.

Taking over the Blue Devils this year is coach Brandon Contratto. This is Contratto's first time being a head coach at the high school level, but South's new leader behind the bench has plenty of experience playing and coaching at the junior and collegiate levels. Getting to know his new team over the offseason, Contratto is excited for the challenges and opportunities coaching high school hockey can bring.

Contratto said he's looking forward to, "being able to help prepare them from the academic. A lot of coaches are more hockey focused than we should be sometimes and I'm a big proponent of the academic side, so being involved that way combines the age group I've always liked coaching along with the academic aspect that I got to see while being an assistant coach at the collegiate level."

Contratto is not the only one at South getting their first experience in

high school hockey in the 2021-22 season. The Blue Devils have seen some talented senior classes of players graduate the last couple of years, meaning it is time for some new faces to make an impact.

"They're eager to prove themselves and get going," Contratto said. "There's a lot of first-year high school players so there's a bit of a learning curve coming up to that level and playing against guys that are older than what you're maybe used to. But we have a core group of veteran upperclassmen that we expect to lead while some of the younger players get up to speed."

South's veteran and younger players face some tough tests in front of them. Even in his first season as coach of the Blue Devils, Contratto knows nothing comes easy playing in a tough conference like the MIHL.

Even with a tough schedule on the horizon this year, the Blue Devils' new coach is confident his team can show strong improvement throughout the season. Setting goals for individual skaters and the team as a whole is giving South a determined mindset going into the year.

"I want to see the personal development and growth with each player and they've set a lot of individual goals," Contratto said. "From a team perspective, our goal is to be a 750 win percentage and above.

That is a lofty goal, I won't lie, especially with how tough our schedule is. ... Finishing in the top third of the MIHL is the goal that we've put out there to the players."

The Blue Devils are looking to the veterans on the roster to lead the younger players and help the team achieve its goals. Expected to play a big leadership role for South this year is senior defenseman Jacob Spitz, who looks to have proven to his new coach that he can do it all.

"He's a versatile player who brings a lot of experience to the team across a lot of levels and is expected to help carry our team as a defenseman who can play either side," Contratto said about Spitz.

With Spitz helping anchor the blue line for the Blue Devils, South gets another boost on the defensive side by having an experienced presence in net. Senior goalie Dougie Cowan returns in net this year for South and will play a huge part in Contratto's new coaching style, which includes a defense-first mentality.

"Everything starts from goaltending forward," Contratto said. "Dougie has taken that role with a force and can really help carry us there."

Spitz and Cowan are among a few players taking on key roles as the veterans on the ice for this year's Blue Devils team. Having some of those important figures

being incorporated into the defense is huge for how South wants to play this year.

Defense is going to be the hallmark for South this season against some tough competition. Creating offensive chances from good defense and playing tough is how the Blue Devils want to show off just how hard-working they are.

"Definitely a defense-first mentality," Contratto said. "What we're really going to rely on is speed and our transition game as a whole. ... Spreading the ice and pushing the puck forward is something we're going to rely on, because we don't have as much experience so (we'll) use hard work and speed to create space."

Youth also can be seen as a strength for this

South team, because of how hard the young players are willing to work. Throughout off-season workouts and practices, Contratto has seen the young players already showing that they can step up to the challenge.

"So many of our young guys are playing roles that are beyond what you would normally see from a first-year guy or an underclassman because of the youth of our team and we kind of expect the world from them right now," he said.

South opened the season Wednesday night with a road game at De La Salle. The Blue Devils are on the road again Friday to take on Livonia Stevenson before returning home Saturday for their home opener against Cranbrook.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEAN THERRIALD

**Jake Spitz and the Blue Devils boys hockey team are ready to start the season with new head coach Brandon Contratto.**

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