

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 11/30			
Since tracking began in March 2020			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	4,829 (+204)	72 (+0)	
Harper Woods	1,813 (+75)	54 (+0)	
(Increase 11/22-11/30)			

**ED RINKE**

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line  
(Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)

(586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

No Appointments Necessary for Oil Changes

**FIND NEW ROADS™**

**2021 Chevy Blazer 2LT**

**\$229**  
per mo. 24 Months

**\$999**  
Down

Purchase a 2021 for **\$30,629** Stock #Z0CB63

**GMC** **BUICK** **CHEVROLET**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 48, 30 PAGES  
ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 86¢)
Your community newspaper since 1940
DECEMBER 2, 2021  
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Shores plans to appeal 2020 Census count

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — As the only Pointe to see a decrease in population in the 2020 Census results, Grosse Pointe Shores emerged from the count with a population of 2,570, a decline of 12.3 percent.

The smallest Pointe

now has announced intent to enter an appeal process with the U.S. Census Bureau and prove it was undercounted.

“It’s really difficult to get into that appeal process, but that’s what we’re looking at right now,” City Manager Stephen Poloni said, of the process anticipated to open in December.

“... We have to see what formula they would let us use to prove them wrong. That’s where the difficult part comes in.”

While data from park passes may not be accepted under the rigid appeal rules, he said, the city could end up conducting its own census count by reaching out to each resident of the roughly 1,050 homes

in the Shores.

“We haven’t started that process yet until we get a little more direction,” Poloni said. “... There are only certain ways they will accept data, so we’re waiting to find out what data we need to track to try to figure that out. Our hands are tied at this point until we get some direction from them.”

Without a successful appeal of the 2020 Census results, the current count could result in the city losing more than 10 percent of its state revenue funding, according to Finance Director/Treasurer Candace Giles.

For example, approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000 from the state would be lost in road

funding alone.

“For a small community like the Shores,” Poloni said, “especially when we’re already running a budget deficit, anything that adds to (it) just increases more of a deficit for us, so it is concerning to us.”

Adding to the concern is the fact the state cur-

See *APPEAL*, page 2A

## FEMA approves public assistance

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — President Joe Biden approved a Michigan Disaster Declaration in July for the June 26 rain event in Wayne and Washtenaw counties, bringing individual assistance to homeowners.

Four months later, public assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA — meant to assist in the restoration of community infrastructure to pre-disaster conditions — now has been granted to Wayne and Ionia counties following an initial denial and appeal by the state.

The program provides a 75 percent federal match for any eligible cost.

“Michiganders have already been through

See *FEMA*, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Sign of the season

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus brought smiles to the many faces lining Kercheval during the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce’s annual Santa Parade, which took place last Friday. For more photos from the event, see page 3A.

## Employee assistance enacted

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Grosse Pointe Park enacted an employee assistance program, effective Nov. 1, allowing all city employees, from full time to part time to seasonal, up to five confidential counseling sessions through CARE of Southeastern Michigan.

The employee assistance program was introduced due to the public safety department’s pursuit of certification through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation program, which requires such a program to be in place in the organization.

“It’s something that probably every organization in the country has except Grosse Pointe,” Park Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell said. “I’ve personally never worked anywhere, certainly in government, that didn’t have an employee assistance program.”

With the program, all city employees or their immediate family members have access to up to five counseling sessions, where they can discuss anything from depression or anxiety to divorce, life changes and more.

The program also allows for critical incident debriefings. In the event of traumatic accidents, officials with CARE of Southeastern Michigan will arrive at the scene and debrief

See *ASSIST*, page 5A

## Four of five Pointes seek accreditation

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK AND WOODS** — With the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department announcing its desire and the Woods department already in the process, four of the five Grosse Pointes have begun seeking certification through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

A process which typically takes around two years to complete, the Grosse Pointes are in

agreement that certification will enhance the departments and boost public trust.

“Most importantly, it’s going to push Grosse Pointe Park into the 21st century whether we like it or not,” Park Director Bryan Jarrell said at a council meeting Monday, Nov. 8. “... It’s forcing us to look at everything we do in the police department and reevaluate it.”

With the Park’s intent to apply discussed at its November council meeting, Jarrell said it will not officially apply until the spring, though the

department is making steps toward accreditation already. The department in the Woods has expressed similar plans.

“When you apply for accreditation,” Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke said, “the clock starts ticking. It’s a 24-month process. ... You don’t want to apply for a 24-month process and spend two or three months trying to get organized.”

For the Woods, the wait comes while it gets acquainted with a new data management system, required for seeking

accreditation. The policy management software, PowerDMS, will allow the department to edit policies and store all information on one platform.

“(PowerDMS) is going to help us also manage our paperwork and information better,” Kosanke said. “I’m really looking forward to that.”

Kosanke said once the department gets more familiar and comfortable with using PowerDMS, it will officially apply to the 24-month long accreditation program.

In the Park, the hold

See *SEEK*, page 3A

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

CALL (313) 343-5578

GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

Week Ahead . . . . .	3A
Opinion . . . . .	6A
Schools . . . . .	10A
Features . . . . .	1B
Obituaries . . . . .	6B
Sports . . . . .	1D
Classified ads . . . . .	4D

Pointer of INTEREST

Ryan Ermanni

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms  
Excellence in broadcasting  
through positivity and never giving up

See story, page 4A



**Home: Grosse Pointe Farms**  
Excellence in broadcasting  
through positivity and never giving up



PHONE: (313) 882-6900 ◆ FAX: (313) 882-1585 ◆ MAIL: 16980 Kercheval Ave., 48230 ◆ ON THE WEB: grossepointenews.com ◆ E-MAIL: editor@grossepointenews.com

**ED RINKE**

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line  
(Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)

(586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

No Appointments Necessary for Oil Changes

**GMC** **BUICK**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

**2022 Buick Encore Preferred**

**\$239**  
per month, 36 months

**\$999**  
Down

Purchase a 2022 for **\$24,029** Stock #B520099

**GMC** **BUICK**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

**ED RINKE**

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line  
(Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)

(586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

No Appointments Necessary for Oil Changes

**GMC** **BUICK**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

**2021 Sierra 1500 Crew Elevation**

**\$399**  
per month, 24 months

**\$999**  
Down

Purchase for **\$42,999** Stock #G514093

**GMC** **BUICK**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

# A paean to peons

## Fluitt: the hoity-toity did us in

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The resentment of defeat was as formidable as the crusty icing on day-old cupcakes.

Council members Aimee Fluitt and Vikas Relan were angry. Their chosen slate of candidates for council were either voted out of office or rejected in the Nov. 2 election.

The pair made it clear from the outset of the new wave's first council meeting Monday evening, Nov. 8.

Another burr under Fluitt's saddle was her failure to impact the new office-holders' choice of mayor pro tem. She wanted the appointment to go to a senior member of the council; not herself, she said, leaving her supporter Councilman Vikas Relan as the only legitimate solution.

Newly elected Mayor Michele Hodges instead nominated the top vote-getter in the council race, Thomas Caulfield.

Hodges considered three criteria to rate members best suited for the job, described in the city charter as acting mayor when the official mayor is unable to discharge duties.

"The points I considered are broad community support (and) the respect they had in the community," Hodges said. "The second factor was somebody management-minded and results oriented, who has prowess in the priority areas we're looking at, which is infrastructure and finance."

She characterized the third factor as freshness. "Someone who will give us a fresh start as a community, would have a new mindset and a disposition that will benefit us all," Hodges said. "For these reasons, I present Councilmember Tom Caulfield."

"So, I'll be voting 'no,'

and just want the opportunity to tell you why," Fluitt said. "I do not want the appointment, but I don't think it's appropriate to appoint someone at his very first council meeting. Certainly, none of us has a great deal of seniority, but two of us do."

Given that Council member Caulfield received the most votes and he clearly has the confidence of the community as well as your confidence, I support his appointment," Councilwoman Christine Gallagher told Hodges.

Caulfield, Gallagher and Max Wiener won first terms when voters replaced incumbent Darci McConnell and denied challengers Jeff Greer and Timothy Kolar. Hodges beat Councilwoman Lauri Read for mayor, making Hodges' seat vacant and open for appointment.

All but Fluitt voted for Caulfield as mayor pro tem, making the vote 5-1 with Relan's support. The term ends in 2023.

"It's an honor," Caulfield said.

Now that the former council contingent and their constituents, which Relan referred to as "our crew" in an Aug. 8, 2020 email to Fluitt, no longer constitutes a majority voting block on a supposedly nonpartisan council, he and Fluitt called for a new tone of kumbaya.

"Residents should give everyone on this council a clean slate to start fresh to be as impactful as possible," Relan said. "I don't think his appointment indicates the kind of bridge building, which is something that's been talked about a lot in the last several months," Fluitt said of Caulfield's elevation.

Two days later, Nov. 10, Fluitt quit.

She wrote in a social media post the decision had been in the works for a while and was ini-

tially scheduled for presentation Dec. 13. She promised more to say for a month. She'll do so having shed the accountability of office.

Fluitt followed through with an op-ed in the Detroit Free Press online edition blaming racist, lying, provincial Park voters for not voting her way.

She admonished residents, who suffered at least two rounds of serious basement flooding during monster storms last summer, for not caring enough about gay rights, supposedly not trying to hire a racial minority public safety director and wanting to ensure the residents-funded municipal parks remain open for residents and their guests only.

Fluitt didn't write about her ilk not responding to interview requests during the campaign, wanting questions submitted in writing only and at least one, McConnell, refusing comment unless tipped to what other sources in a story had to say.

Fluitt didn't write about the Grosse Pointe News acquiring municipal emails through the Freedom of Information Act to discover candidates publicly denying some matters of controversy while supporting them behind the scenes, such as reopening residential side street intersections at spots along the Detroit border.

She didn't write about supporters of her group threatening local businesses for promoting candidates she didn't like.

She didn't write about candidate Kolar, a state employee assigned at times to oversight duties in the Michigan Unemployment Agency, being upset about an article in which named and quoted sources criticizing his involvement with the abandonment of security protocols and loss of an estimated \$150 million in false claims.

Kolar's response on social media denied any fault, provided nothing wrong with the facts or timing of the story other than it was written and the Grosse Pointe News made readers pay to access it online

("Another GPN tactic," he wrote). He then praised the News for publishing his photo.

"I may be bias (sic) here, but that is a phenomenal picture of me," he wrote.

Nowhere does Fluitt mention her behind-the-scenes guide, Park resident Mary Rouleau, opposing Hodges' mayoral bid because she, Hodges, is female. Rouleau favored Read, a female.

There's no mention of McConnell raising the bulk of her campaign donations from outside the community but refusing to state to whom she is beholden. She then interviewed herself on the matter and posted it on social media.

Park residents submitting written comments to the council meeting, which is the only one in the Pointes still held remotely due to COVID-19 concerns, showed no guilt about what they perceive as the electorate getting things right.

To wit:

◆ "What means most to our residents?" wrote James Turnbull, criticizing the losers' lack of focus on local matters. "Examples are everywhere and not hard to see. Our residents value what makes our community special: schools, parks, businesses, home values and most of all, neighbors."

◆ "Now is the time for a reset, a commitment to nonpartisan management of our municipality," wrote Neim Fama. "Some may be upset with a nonpartisan approach to leadership, but true effective leadership must do what is in the best interest of our community rather than pursuit of self-interests."

◆ "The residents have spoken and elected common sense candidates to guide our city forward," wrote Karole and Tom Steen. "We have full confidence in their ability to address major issues, such as the budget deficit, regional flooding, lead (water) pipes (and) the marina."

Both Relan and Fluitt voiced regret about Read's failed race for mayor and admiration for her place as an archetype.

"(Read) inspired me to run for this role and I appreciate her dedication, honesty and integrity while she served," Relan said. "It really shined."

"My council role model has been Lauri Read," Fluitt said.

Yet, while Fluitt's

op-ed credited the former council with unearthing "some previous questionable city policies," she didn't mention Read's admitted conflict of interest.

Read, a nearly 4-year council veteran, said she didn't inform city hall of her financial ties to a municipal vendor because she wasn't obligated to reveal the conflict of interest.

"It was (the city attorney's) job to monitor and scrutinize all potential conflicts of interest," Read emailed her colleagues May 12, 2020.

The email is among correspondence and billing records gathered during an investigation and analysis by the law firm Howard & Howard on behalf of the Grosse Pointe News and also by the News independently.

Read was provided a copy of the Howard & Howard cover memo Monday, Oct. 25, the week before Election Day. She didn't respond to a request for a telephone interview that evening.

She soon posted a portion of the report online and issued a written statement citing incomplete coverage of the controversy last year: "Your paper published an opinion piece on this topic in June 2020 without an underlying story and without obtaining a legal opinion then."

That was then.

### 'This conflict'

When elected to council in November 2017, Read practiced law with the firm Keller Thoma, which represented Grosse Pointe Park on labor matters. Read specializes in workers' compensation and litigation, according to the company website. She became president in January 2020.

Her conflict of interest isn't alleged because she acknowledged it in the same May 12 message: "Upon learning of this conflict, I have instructed my firm that we are not to perform any legal work for the City of Grosse Pointe Park and we are not to bill for any work that may have been performed."

"I corrected the matter the moment it was raised to me," Read wrote in her response the last week of October this year.

Read had an important role last year in the council adopting an ethics ordinance.

Yet, as part of that process, she also successfully motioned for the elimination of a proposed clause in the municipal code of conduct requiring elected officials to sign a compliance clause, according to minutes of the July 13, 2020, council meeting.

As a result, council members weren't bound to "have the primary responsibility to assure

that standards are understood and met, and that the public can continue to have full confidence in the integrity of government. As a member of the Grosse Pointe Park City Council, I agree to uphold the Rules of City Council and Council Code of Conduct for elected and appointed officials adopted by the City Council and conduct myself in a professional manner."

The company for which Read worked since 2011 began representing the Park in "general legal matters" four months before she announced her council candidacy and 11 months before winning election.

More than three years into her term, in December 2020, Read indicated on a Park conflict of interest disclosure statement her roles as president and a shareholder of Keller Thoma. She didn't state the firm was doing business with the city, only that she was an employee.

The firm billed the city nearly \$37,000 from 2017 through 2019.

Park city charter forbids financial dealings between elected officials and contractors.

"No contract or purchase shall be made by the city in which any elective or appointive officer ... has any financial interest, direct or indirect, other than the common public interest," according to charter Section 5.9 (a).

The following clause reads, "An officer shall have a financial interest in a contract if he is an employee, partner, officer, director of the firm with which such contract is made."

Two later clauses state: "Any officer who knowingly permits the city to enter into any contract in which he has financial interest without disclosing such interest to the council prior to the action of the council in authorizing such contract, shall be guilty of misconduct in office."

### Off to work

Back at city hall, Mayor Hodges forecasted a busy future.

"This will be a year of focus and accountability because we have a lot to accomplish, with infrastructure at the top of the list," she said. "Our meetings will be efficient and well run."

Yet, she attempted to begin her first meeting as mayor in a lighter key. She asked the three new members plus two veterans to tell viewers what makes them roll with laughter.

"The Grosse Pointe News," Relan answered.

"And what makes you laugh, Member Fluitt?" Hodges asked.

"Um, (weak chortle), let's skip over that part," Fluitt said. "I'm gonna leave it at that."

Good friends deserve good wine!



Caymus Vineyards Wine  
\$76.99 (reg. \$93.99)  
While supplies last!

See our ad on page 7A for more great deals

**Forton's**  
Equipment Sales & Service

Snow Blower Repair and Tune Up  
Snow Shovels and Ice Melt For Sale

**Honda Snow Blowers For Sale!**  
(586) 775-7472  
21707 Harper Avenue  
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

**BELDING CLEANERS.COM**  
103 Years

Free Pick up & Delivery in the Pointes

**313-822-5800**

15139 KERCHEVAL, GROSSE POINTE PARK

**BUY CHAMBER CHANGE!** \$25, \$50 OR \$100!

**PURCHASE AT:**  
Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce  
106 Kercheval, GPF  
313-881-4722  
grossepointechamber.com

## APPEAL:

Continued from page 1A

rently has continued funding the Shores based on the 2010 Census numbers, Giles said.

"There is a possibility that we're going to have to pay all of it back," she explained, "and we don't really know what that looks like yet."

# Local shopping kicks off holiday season

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Grosse Pointers kept their money local this holiday season as they took advantage of local business sales the weekend after Thanksgiving, on Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Shop Local Sunday.

“By all indications,” Main Street Grosse

Pointe Director Cindy Willcock said, “things went well and it seemed like more people were out and shopping and supporting local businesses than last year, for sure.”

According to Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Boettcher, the

chamber highlighted many business members through social media, an effort she said reached hundreds of people.

“While we don’t have concrete numbers from our businesses on how well they did just a few days ago,” Boettcher said via email, “we continuously hear from our

members that 2021 has already turned into one of their best financial years yet. We’re extremely hopeful that the holiday season will keep the momentum up for them.”

Willcock emphasized shopping local shouldn’t be limited to just retail.

“Shopping local means going to your local res-

taurants and going to your local salons and other types of service businesses,” she explained, “whether it’s to get those services for yourself or buy gift certificates.”

To continue to support small businesses this holiday season, Grosse Pointers may purchase

“chamber change” from the Chamber of Commerce. These gift cards may be used at qualifying local stores. To find a list of stores or purchase “chamber change,” visit [grossepointechamber.com/members/chamber-change](http://grossepointechamber.com/members/chamber-change).

— Laurel Kraus and Kate Vanderstelt



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

## On parade!

The Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade took place from The Hill to The Village and included floats, banners, marching bands, clowns and more.



Parade-goers lined Kercheval during the parade, which has been a post-Thanksgiving staple in the Pointes for 46 years.



## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, DEC. 6

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

### TUESDAY, DEC. 7

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 10 a.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Park TIFA meeting, 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores special council meeting, 7 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Park DDA informational meeting, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 9

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Clockwise from top left, the Michigan 8-10 year old district champion Grosse Pointe Softball team; Redford Township Unicycle Club; Ghostbusters Detroit; St. Paul Girl Scouts; Fitzgerald High School’s Spartan marching band; and the Grosse Pointe Little League Softball state champions.

## SEEK:

Continued from page 1A

up is due to capital improvements required in the department’s building. While it waits for those improvements to be made, which likely will take until spring, Jarrell said, the department is starting to update old policies it foresees as being problematic. Such policies already found include a panhandling prohibition, which has been illegal to enforce since 2013, and an agreement penned in 1949, between the Grosse

Pointes and Harper Woods, about shared radio expenses, something which hasn’t been reviewed or updated since its inception.

“This forces us to take a good, hard look at everything we do, all of our practices, our policies and procedures and things like that so that we become current with today’s 21st century best practices,” Jarrell said.

“I’m excited for accreditation,” Kosanke said. “It’s going to be a lot of work, but we’re basically looking at our whole operation from A to Z and seeing what we do

well, what we don’t do well, what we need to change, what we need to fix, what we need to improve.”

Though Kosanke added he thinks the department is up to standard, he said this process will help identify things they are unaware of or missing.

The certification will cost the departments around \$2,700 initially, with a \$1,000 cost annually thereafter to keep the certification valid. This cost will not include any updates the departments may need to make to their equipment or

buildings to become accredited. While Kosanke said those costs likely will not incur in the Woods, as it has made many necessary updates over the years, Jarrell believes the Park may be looking at a much greater financial investment, possibly up to \$100,000.

The Grosse Pointes along with Harper Woods intend to work together throughout the process of seeking the accreditation certification. While the Farms intends to seek accreditation, the process currently is on hold due to transitioning leadership.



*Celebrate Life’s Special Moments*




**edmund t. AHEE jewelers**

20139 Mack Avenue | Grosse Pointe Woods | 313-886-4600

**aheer.com**

## 4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# Anchor, reporter and podcast host finds success through positivity

By Mike Adzima  
Staff Writer

With nearly two decades of working in media under his belt, Ryan Ermanni has made a career out of just being himself. From reporting on news and sports on television to hosting podcasts, the Grosse Pointe Farms native has never been afraid to let his personality shine.

Ermanni was raised as a sports fan and played on the football and baseball teams at Grosse Pointe South High School while growing up in the Farms. An athlete and a fan, sports were a passion for Ermanni as long as he can remember.

"I've always loved sports and growing up, sports was my life," he said. "I played sports, watched sports and read about sports — anything I could get my hands on, because I was just such a sports fan."

Despite a strong athletic career in high school, Ermanni knew playing major college or professional sports was not an option. He enrolled at the University of Michigan and pursued a degree in economics, but Ermanni still was left feeling unfulfilled.

While working a summer internship in finance during college, Ermanni found himself not enjoying his path. Fortunately, a chance came for him to get into a field that brought him back to what he loves.

"My junior year it was the 'Naked Mile' at Michigan, where every



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, Ryan Ermanni, right, and former University of Michigan football star Braylon Edwards co-host "The Bottom Line" podcast on the Woodward Sports Network. Right, Ermanni currently resides in Grosse Pointe Farms with his wife, Nicole, and their children, Lidia and Luke.

year on the last day of classes students would run naked through the streets," Ermanni said. "I wasn't running, but my friends were running so we went down to the route. There was a reporter from Fox 2 News there. Her name was Fanchon Stinger. I went up to her and said, 'I want to be a sports guy. Do you have any internships?' We exchanged phone numbers and connected and I got an internship."

The internship was a huge success for Ermanni. He was a jack-of-all-trades for the TV station and worked tirelessly doing whatever he could to gain experience. In the end, Ermanni left that summer knowing how he wanted to spend

his career.

"I went into that internship knowing nothing about television or the news or how to do sports television and feel like I came out with a master's degree," he said. "I learned so much that summer with those guys. ... No classroom could've taught me what I learned in those three months. It was remarkable."

Ermanni eventually found his way back to Fox 2 in Detroit years later and still is there now. He has worked as an anchor and reporter for news and sports and co-hosts "The Nine" morning show.

While he lives in the Farms with his wife, Nicole, and their two children, prior to returning to the area he spent a

couple of years as a sports reporter for 9 & 10 News in Cadillac. Ermanni followed that with a stint at Fox 36 in Toledo. When he got word there was an opening at Fox 2 in Detroit in 2004, he did whatever it took to return home.

"I called every day and knocked on doors and begged them to give me that job at Fox 2," he said. "I was so green and so determined to get the job. They ultimately hired me to be a weekend producer, fill-in reporter and fill-in anchor. I was on the air whenever they needed an extra body. The more you show you can do, then the more opportunities you get and I think I did a good job over the years and ultimately they allowed me



to do more and more and more."

Ermanni's attitude has been to never turn down an opportunity. It was how he was able to get into hosting morning news and how he found himself co-hosting "The Bottom Line," a podcast and radio show on the Woodward Sports Network, with former University of Michigan and NFL wide receiver Braylon Edwards.

Reporting the morning news on Fox 2 and hosting his podcast give Ermanni the chance to be himself. He has established a prominent career without having a journal-

ism degree, but simply through being genuine.

"I never took any broadcasting classes and I don't know if that's one of the reasons people seem to like me on television," Ermanni said. "I try to always be in a good mood and think positive. ... I truly believe that to be successful in this business you need one thing and one thing only and it's to develop a connection with the audience. If they don't have that connection with you, then they'll look for someone they can connect to. I feel so connected deeply to this place that I think it comes across on the screen."

## FEMA:

Continued from page 1A

enough with the unprecedented storms

this summer and the last thing they need is to be stuck with the bill for the cleanup costs," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a press release.

"That's why I've fought for every available dollar to lower the cost for communities and ensure that they get the much-needed assis-

tance to get back to normal."

Nonprofits eligible for funding include community centers, houses of worship, homeless centers, custodial care, museums, libraries and zoos, as well as facilities providing health and safety services of a government nature such as alcohol and drug treatment, assisted living and rehabilitation.

Requests for public assistance must be submitted in the FEMA

grant portal no later than Friday, Dec. 10.

With the majority of costs to the Pointes incurred in the current fiscal year, city officials are anticipating the funds to be reimbursed before the end of it: June 30, 2022.

"We're very appreciative of our federal officials and state officials for appealing the original denial, so that we can get this much-needed assistance," City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Pete Dame said.

Removal of flood-damaged goods can account for the most significant costs throughout the Pointes, with identified expenses including \$500,000 in the City, \$500,000 to \$750,000 in the Farms, \$900,000 in the Park and \$91,596 in the Woods.

Aside from cleanup costs, water levels damaged the parking lot lights' electrical system in The Village, as well as City vehicles; the large volume of water and pressure in the Farms sewer system damaged sewers and roadways; and the Farms' and Park's city halls, along with the Woods' detective bureau, saw damage.

"It's a relief to know that this unprecedented, unplanned amount of expenditure will be largely reimbursed by the federal government," Dame said. "\$500,000 is 10 percent of our annual operating budget, so we could not afford to take a hit like that."

The Shores did not apply for FEMA public assistance due to a lack of expenses caused by the flooding.

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2021

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

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

#### MOTIONS PASSED

- 1)To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held November 1, 2021, the Special Council meeting held November 8, 2021 and receive and file the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held November 3, 2021.
- 2)To receive and file the updated site plan submitted by Northpoint Development for the redevelopment of Eastland Center at 18000 Vernier Road.
- 3)To add to the agenda the Cross Connection Control Program Contract Renewal.
- 4)That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1)(1)That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:54 p.m.(2)approve payment to Oakland County Information Technology in the amount of \$6,782.25 for fees relative to the CLEMIS computer system utilized by the Police Department.(3)approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$6,265.20 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of November and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of two computers and accessories.(4)approve payment to SAFEbuilt LLC in the amount of \$35,824.00 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of October 2021.(5)approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$11,318.50 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks and also for lawn restorations at various residential homes.
- 2)To approve payment to L. Anthony Construction Inc., in the amount of \$23,067.38 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2021 Concrete Pavement Repair Project, #180-260.
- 3)Approve the transfer of \$51,050.84 for Miscellaneous City Services, \$24,955.00 for Special Pickups and \$2,267.00 for Meter Replacements (total of \$78,272.84) to the 2021 Winter Tax Roll as proposed and submitted by the acting Treasurer.
- 4)approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Harper Woods and the Technical, Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM), DPW Unit covering the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024, and further to authorize the Mayor and the City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 5)to approve the wage adjustments in accordance with the TPOAM - DPW Unit collective bargaining agreement for all Exempt/Administrative employees.
- 6)to accept the bid submitted by Creative Office Interiors in the amount of \$23,366.29 for the redesign and remodel of the Finance/Treasurers' area and further, that due to only receiving one bid, that competitive bidding be waived in accordance with City policy.
- 7)to approve the contract renewal dated November 11, 2021 from HydroCorp for their professional inspection services of backflow preventative devices for three years, in the amount of \$19,224.00, payable monthly (\$534.00) for the 36 month period.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Published: GPN, December 2, 2021

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

### Grosse Pointe News

USPS 230-400

PUBLISHED EVERY  
THURSDAY BY  
WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

16980 KERCHEVAL AVE.  
GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230  
PHONE: (313) 882-6900

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 16980 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

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

Advertising proof deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

**CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS:** Responsibility for display and classified advertising errors is limited to either cancellation of the charge for or a rerun of the portion in error. Notification must be given in time for correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility of the same after the first insertion.

THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Grosse Pointe News advertising representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper. Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.



### INSIDE POSTERITY GALLERY STOP BY OUR HOLIDAY MARKET & BAZAAR

LOCAL ARTISTS IN-HOUSE | CUSTOM GIFTS | FRAMING  
EXPERTS | PUZZLES | ARTWORK | AND MORE

December 2 | 12 PM - 8 PM  
17005 Kercheval  
Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 313.884.8105  
OR VISIT POSTERITYGALLERY.COM

## City of Grosse Pointe

## Road rage

When drivers of a gray Chevy Impala and a green Chrysler 200 became involved in a road rage incident at Mack Avenue and Lakeland Street at 5:25 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, a witness stated he heard a single gunshot, though an investigation proved inconclusive.

## Political flag theft

Three juveniles removed two political flags from the front of a building in the 17000 block of Maumee Avenue around 9:35 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20.

## Gun threat

An approximately 60-year-old white man with disheveled gray hair and driving a beige van pointed a small black gun at another vehicle as the two cars passed each other in the Washington Road and Charlevoix Street intersection at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24.

## Stolen 2012 Jeep Wrangler

An unknown suspect stole a locked 2012 Jeep Wrangler from a parking lot in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue between 4:30 and 5:50 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 25. Broken glass was found at the scene.

## Stolen merchandise

A 6-foot black man and 5-foot black woman with a facial tattoo stole an unknown amount of various merchandise from a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval

Avenue at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 28.

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

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Fake names

A 21-year-old Detroit man and a 34-year-old Detroit man were arrested for obstructing police after they were pulled over at Kerby and Ridge roads for driving while license suspended, as well as not wearing seatbelts, and gave officers false names at 12:40 p.m. Monday, Nov. 22.

## Responsible parent

Two hours after a hit and run on a vehicle parked on Charlevoix Street Wednesday, Nov. 24, the father of a 16-year-old Grosse Pointe teen reported his son was the one to strike the car.

The teen was issued a citation for leaving the scene of an accident.

## The grinch who stole ornaments

Four boxes containing 450 decorative Christmas ornaments the homeowner has been collecting since she was 11 years old were discovered missing from a Meadow Lane residence at 9:03 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24.

There recently were showings at the home, as it is in the process of being sold. The missing

ornaments are valued at \$100 a piece.

## Out of proportion

A 33-year-old Farms man was falsely reported to officers as being armed, when he attempted to get the biological father of his wife's daughter to leave his property by striking his vehicle at 1:45 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 25.

## Not as it appears

After driving through two red lights on Mack Avenue at 9:53 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, a 42-year-old Farmington Hills man was pulled over.

While the entire back-seat of his vehicle was filled to the window with empty cans and the front passenger seat filled with plastic and Styrofoam cups, it was determined the man was not intoxicated.

He was issued a ticket for open intoxicants and warned on the red light violations.

## Sleep-driving

A 70-year-old Harper Woods man's vehicle was seen sitting at the Mack Avenue and East Warren light for two cycles before rolling backward down East Warren and across the lanes until it came to rest over the curb at 10:52 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28.

Officers found the man asleep behind the wheel and, after waking up, he admitted to smoking marijuana at a friend's house before heading home.

The man was arrested for operating under the

influence of drugs and a concealed pistol permit violation.

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

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## ID and done

An officer stopped a 2016 Chevrolet for an expired plate as it was driving down Mack and Allard at 4:22 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23.

The 36-year-old Detroit resident only produced a Michigan ID.

Traffic warrants on the woman were shown out of Eastpointe, Detroit and Dearborn, and her license was suspended.

The Detroit woman was released after being cited for driving with license suspended, expired plates and no insurance.

## Lock it or lose it

A resident in the 19000 block of Raymond remembered leaving his wallet in his unlocked car overnight Friday, Nov. 26.

Around 1 p.m. the next day, he discovered his wallet, containing his driver's license, credit card and Social Security card, missing.

## A cooler around the corner

A 25-year-old Detroit man was seen driving his front-end damaged, silver sedan erratically at Helen and Van Antwerp.

When officers located the car, it was driving

down the center of the street between 2 and 5 mph, with the front bumper of the sedan dragging on the road.

He was pulled over at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, and an officer noticed the man's 6-year-old daughter in the backseat.

The Detroit man's speech was slurred and he had a hard time forming sentences. With bloodshot eyes and appearing disoriented, he told the officer he was just going around the corner.

He admitted to drinking "a cooler" earlier in the day, stating it had alcohol in it.

He failed a number of field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test showed his blood-alcohol content at 0.223 percent.

Though he presented a driver's license to the officer, a check showed the man to be currently unlicensed with six warrants out of Detroit and one warrant out of Grosse Pointe Park.

Upon arrest, a Breathalyzer test showed results of 0.24 and 0.25. The driver was issued citations for operating while intoxicated and child endangerment.

The 6-year-old girl was picked up by her mother from the station.

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

## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Too slow

A minor collision occurred on Lakeshore

Road at 3:35 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23, when a vehicle was rear-ended as it attempted to turn left, but did not completely exit the left-hand lane.

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Carjacking at gunpoint

A 26-year-old Warren man was arrested after he stole a resident's car at gunpoint on Beaconsfield and St. Paul at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26.

ONSTAR helped officers track the vehicle after it fled into Detroit. The suspect left the vehicle on foot and was captured in the area. The gun was located nearby.

He was arrested for several felonies, including carjacking.

## Power trip

A 29-year-old Grosse Pointe woman disregarded a red light and was stopped at Mack and Bishop at 2:29 a.m. Monday, Nov. 29.

When she was stopped, she was found to be intoxicated. Also in her car were two firearms.

She was arrested for operating while intoxicated and possessing a firearm while intoxicated.

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

# Legislators discuss future of the region, explore opportunities for collaboration

Legislators from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties met at the Tri-County Summit Friday, Nov. 12, at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. The group discussed issues facing the region, plus opportunities to work together.

The summit was particularly timely, as many of the sessions focused on infrastructure opportunities just days before President Joe Biden signed the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law.

"Partnering with our Macomb and Oakland legislative colleagues to host the summit is always very beneficial," Wayne County Commission Chair Alisha Bell said. "The



From left, Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chair David T. Woodward, Wayne County Commission Chair Alisha Bell and Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chair Don Brown.

COURTESY PHOTO

part of this renewed intergovernmental effort," Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chair Don Brown said. "We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues in Oakland and Wayne counties to invest in regional infrastructure, which will benefit residents and

See SUMMIT, page 8A

summit serves as a very important regional dialogue that identifies key priorities that impact each county both individually and collectively. We had a myriad of diverse speakers and panelists at the event, and we thank our private-sector partners who sponsored the event."

"It was exciting to be a

## ASSIST:

Continued from page 1A

officers involved. "There's a lot of tremendous advantages to it," Jarrell said.

Presented at the Park's November council meeting, the program will cost the city \$2,800 to cover all its employees for the year, Jarrell said.

**Oriental RUG IMPORTS**  
OF GROSSE POINTE

**HUGE INVENTORY OF FINE DESIGNER RUGS**

**Rug Cleaning & Repair**  
**Wall to Wall Carpeting**  
Installed to Perfection...Guaranteed

**19483 MACK AVENUE**  
GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MI  
**SHOWROOM: 313.884.2991**

\* Ask For Kevin Crowther  
**STORE HOURS:**  
MON-SAT 10-5

For the Happiest Holidays...

**BUY A \$50 GIFT CARD**

**GET A \$10 GIFT CARD FREE!**

ESTD 2013  
**RED CROWN**  
QUALITY EATS

15301 KERCHEVAL • GROSSE POINTE PARK • 313-822-3700  
WWW.REDCROWNGP.COM • INSTAGRAM.COM/REDCROWN\_GP

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
WED & THUR 12P-9P  
FRI & SAT 12P-10P  
SUNDAY BRUNCH 10A-2P

6A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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

SEAN COTTON: Owner  
JOHN MINNIS: Publisher  
TERRY MINNIS: Vice President  
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dan Jensen, congratulations upon retirement

After 44 years on the job, Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Director Dan Jensen announced plans to retire at the end of the year.

In his retirement, he joins past "chiefs" I have had the honor to work with since hiring in at the Grosse Pointe News in 1988. They include Director Jensen's predecessor, Bob Ferber; Dick Caretti and Bruce Kennedy in the Park and City, respectively; Jack Patterson in the Woods and Dan Healy and Gary Mitchell in the Shores.

Other honorable mentions include Dave Hiller, Chief Caretti's replacement in the Park; John Schulte and Steve Poloni, who both served in the Park and Shores; Bruce Smith in the Woods and Al "Skip" Fincham from the City and later city administrator in the Woods.

I am sure I am missing some of the greats in law enforcement in the Pointes. We have been very fortunate to have able leaders in our public safety departments, and our low and declining crime rates are testament to their service.

I first met Detective Jensen when I was a reporter covering the police beat in the five Pointes. He and fellow detective Mike McCarthy were always very approachable and helpful and fun to hang out with.

Lt. Jensen was a natural pick to fill Director Ferber's role upon his retirement. Where Director Ferber was brusque with just two words to sum up every negative situation, Director Jensen was always more thoughtful and forthcoming.

As an officer and director, Dan Jensen's career spans generations. I am sure as a patrolman he gave many a Grosse Pointe resident who had one too many "pops" or a wayward teenager a ride home. Those were more laidback, innocent times.

As the chief and director, he has seen a more serious, professional class of young recruits eager to make felony arrests. He reminds me of the sheriff in "The Sons of Katie Elder" who counsels his eager deputy to not go charging into the scene but to go in more "leisure like."

That's not to say Director Jensen couldn't get his hackles up, and I and the paper have been the target of his anger on more than one occasion. But that comes with the job.

We would like to wish Director Jensen a well-earned retirement with his wife, Laurie, and their many grand- and great-grandchildren.

Hope to see you around the Pointes, Dan.

Congratulations in the Woods

We would like to congratulate Frank Schulte for being named city administrator in the Woods.

Mr. Schulte began his municipal career over 40 years ago picking up trash in Grosse Pointe. Over 35 years in the City, he worked his way up to supervisor before taking the job as public services director in the Woods six years ago.

It's a rags to riches story, or in this case, rubish to administrator.

Wayne County vaccinations*		
As of 11/30	Initiation**	Completions***
Vaccinations	689,812	623,401
% of residents 5+	68.3	61.7
5-11 years old (%)	10,700 (11.7)	14 (0.0)
% 12-15 years old	50.4	45.7
% 16-64	71.4	65.3
% 65+	90.6	84.3

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

WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

Member Michigan Press Association, National Newspaper Association and Society of Professional Journalists

EDITORIAL (313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh: Editor

Mike Adzima: Sports Reporter

Alexis Bohlinger: Sports Writer

Laurel Kraus: Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt: Staff Photographer

Brad Lindberg: Special Writer

Kate Vanderstelt: Staff Writer

EDITORIAL Peggy Walsh-Sarnecki: Staff Writer

Michael Hart: Intern

PRODUCTION (313) 343-5573

Ken Schop: Production Manager

John Pigott: IT Manager

David Hughes: Graphic Artist

Mary Schlager: Graphic Artist

Donna Zetterlund: Graphic Artist

ADVERTISING (313) 882-3500

Shelley Owens: Advertising Manager

Paul V. Biondi: Account Executive

Julie R. Sutton: Account Executive

Melanie Mahoney: Administrative Assistant

MARKETING Olivia Monette: Marketing Specialist & Audience Development Manager

CLASSIFIED (313) 882-6900 ext 567

CIRCULATION (313) 343-5578

Kristin Martin Duus



25 years

David Hughes, right, was honored last week on his 25th anniversary with the Grosse Pointe News. Dave has worked in the newspaper's Production Department for all those years. His chief responsibilities are paginating the Classified advertising section, processing photos for publication in the newspaper and online and printing and laminating bookmarks to go with families' obituaries. Quiet yet hardworking, dedicated and capable, Dave is liked by all his coworkers. "I love working at the Grosse Pointe News" was his response when receiving the recognition from Publisher John Minnis.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

OUR VIEW

Mich. leads nation in surge

How did Michigan become the COVID capital in the United States?

Here in Grosse Pointe we are a pretty sensible lot. We presume most Pointers have been vaccinated. When shopping here, masks are the norm. What gives?

On June 24, we declared in this space: "Pointes reach herd immunity." Now, with the rise in cases statewide, perhaps we were premature.

As of Tuesday, 60.7 percent of Michigan residents 5 and older had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccines, compared with 66.7 percent 16 and older and 75.1 percent 40 and older.

In Wayne County, the smallest geographic area for which we can get numbers, 68.3 percent of those 5 and up have gotten at least the initial shot. That number rises to 90.6 percent for those 65-plus.

More good news is that 10,700 children ages 5 to 11 have already gotten their first dose, and more than half of those 12 to 15 have gotten a vaccine.

Disappointingly, though, the percentages of age groups getting vaccines in Wayne County are only

going up 10ths of a point per week.

On June 24, we reported 3,426 COVID-19 cases in the Pointes since we began tracking in March 2020. The number was up 11 cases from the week before. We also reported 65 deaths, up one over the week before.

Last week, we reported 4,625 cases, up 158 from the week before. Deaths totaled 72.

The good news is that deaths are increasingly rare as more people get vaccinated and treatments vastly improve. The bad news is the 158 new cases in just over a one-week period.

In the summer when we declared "herd immunity," cases were going up only a handful to a dozen cases Pointe-wide week to week. We have seen this triple-digit increase for weeks now.

On the heels of Michigan's COVID surge, we now have the omicron variant coming out of South Africa. It is too early to say how bad or benign it will be.

All we can do is vaccinate, get our boosters and socially distance and mask in public spaces indoors. Our collective health and safety depend on it.

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.

G.P. Santa Parade a crowd-pleaser

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Grosse Pointe Chamber Board of Directors and staff, we would like to thank the community for joining us for the 46th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, truly one of the largest crowds in its history.

Thank you to the individuals and groups who made it so much fun to watch and to our sponsors, who made this year's spectacular parade possible.

FROSTY SPONSORS Ascension St. John Hospital

Grosse Pointe News FROZEN SPONSORS Little Blue Book - Towar Productions Grosse Pointe Park Foundation

BLIZZARD SPONSORS City of Grosse Pointe Woods

Ford House Glitter & Scotch Grosse Pointe City Foundation

Grosse Pointe Moving & Storage

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

Henry Ford Cottage Kercheval Dance Lifetime Orthodontics McKenna Pointe Media Posterity Gallery Rossman, P.C. Sine & Monaghan The Hill Association Wayne County Community College CHILLY SPONSORS Aitken & Ormond Insurance American House Grosse Pointe Apple Baby Blossom & Décor Bolton - Johnston Associates Brieden Consulting Group Campus Shop Capricious Apparel - Shoes - Accessories Christian Financial Credit Union College Hunks Hauling Junk & Moving Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods Focus 313 Eyecare Grosse Pointe Lifestyle Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association Highbie Maxon Agney Realtors LaLonde Jewelers Nathan Steiner - Guaranteed Rate

Savvy Chic Boutique St. Clair Tooth Co. TCBY Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy

A special thank you to the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods police departments for their commitment in making us all safe while adding to the fun!

And lastly, a HUGE THANK YOU to Bill Bresser, who graciously provided his sleigh at the last minute, after Santoro Automotive and their elves worked round the clock rebuilding the engine and electrical system in time for Santa's arrival to the Pointes.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

JENNY BOETTCHER President Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Grosse Pointe Foundation

CRT-inspired initiatives

To the Editor:

Now that voters in Grosse Pointe Park and across our community have shown our elected officials they need to stop spending their time on special interest issues and focus on the issues that matter most to their constituents, it is time we do the same for our school board.

Grosse Pointe needs a strong public school system that is run by a board that doesn't cave to the pressures of special interest groups. A board that stays focused

on academic excellence and ensures a financially viable future for our district.

One issue I believe our community will keep a close eye on is the amount of CRT-inspired initiatives that are being pushed into our schools at an aggressive rate.

While our board has continuously stated that the Critical Race Theory is NOT taught here, that is a thinly veiled statement in attempt to cover up the CRT derivatives and liberal agendas that have been inserted in our school system.

Example 1: SEL, or Social and Emotional Learning.

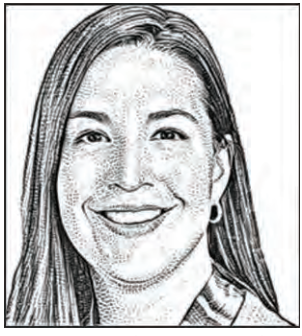
It is the foundation of the Second Step Curriculum package our board purchased in April 2020. As a GP tax-payer, I met with Lauren Kazee, who worked to develop SEL for the state of Michigan. She informed me that it was intended to create safe and supportive schools in the most under performing districts in the state. GP is a highly performing district and our residents are actively involved in supporting our students. The state does not mandate the use of this curriculum, so I do question why did our board purchase it?

Example 2: Politically Charged Teacher Training. Last week, our schools offered a professional development session that featured a 'Genderbread Person'. Here, the teachers were presented an "original

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Jody McVeigh

# Where does the time go?



This year has flown by.

Maybe it feels that way because of the stagnancy of 2020: the pandemic and the shut-downs and the resulting Groundhog Day effect.

Maybe it's because I'm getting to be the age when I'm starting to feel my age. Instead of a child who can't wait to grow up, I pray for the impossible: for time to slow down.

Occasionally I reflect on those carefree days of

my youth. Playing with neighborhood friends. My older brother and I relentlessly teasing our younger brother. Feverishly hunting and pecking over our family typewriter, cranking out episodes of my favorite TV shows one sheet of paper at a time. Enjoying weeks-long holiday breaks with no responsibilities, no commitments, no morning alarms.

I look back on this year and wonder what I did with my time.

Sure, I spent some of it with friends, though instead of sharing toys, we shared insight and advice about our common pathway through adulthood: the triumphs and tragedies, the loves and losses. I am so grateful for the meaningful friendships I have today;

people I cherish, respect and appreciate, who know exactly when to make me laugh or console me, know when to listen or when to be a shoulder to lean on, and somehow know the perfect advice to share at the perfect time — whether I want to hear it or not.

Playtime still has a place in my life, though not every day. It comes in the form of kneading Play-Doh while babysitting a friend's 2-year-old daughter, or playing catch with my 2-year-old grandson or hide-and-seek with his 4-year-old sister. Sure, it takes a little longer to lower myself down and pick myself off the floor these days, but after the toys are put away and it's time to cuddle, it's so worth the effort.

I was blessed this year to receive visits from both of my brothers. My older brother and his family spent two weeks this summer in Michigan. My younger brother was here in July and, as I type, is preparing to fly back to Seattle after his second trip home this year. I'm grateful to have relationships with both of them, but what I love even more is seeing the joy in Mom's eyes and in her smile when her boys are back in town.

For years I used to say that writing all day at work pushed my aspirations as a novelist into early retirement. But for the first half of this year, when I didn't have a commute and could spend an extra hour or two at my laptop before dinner, I started writing creatively again. I tossed

out the TV episodes decades ago, but I've got a few other works in progress. They've been on the back burner for years, but I have to say, diving back in to work on them this year has been a true joy. I realize the importance of creativity and following one's passions — and writing for pleasure has long been a passion of mine.

As far as having no responsibilities, no commitments and no morning alarms, well, such is the life of a grown up. And while I may not have gone on as many vacations as I could have (or should have) this year, I'm happy to have filled my days with things I love: friends, family, fantastical pastimes — all of my favorites from childhood.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1946

75 years ago this week

**TAXPAYERS DUE FOR BIG SHOCK:** The taxpayers of Grosse Pointe who have not been keeping close track of the various movements affecting their taxes are going to be in for a severe shock when they get the tax bills which will be mailed Dec. 1. By comparing the taxes they paid last year on school, census and township, they will discover that instead of the figure of \$16.94 per thousand they paid last year, the rate has jumped to \$22.62.

Obituaries: Mrs. Charles Henry Bredin

### 1971

50 years ago this week

**TEACHERS WIN A DAY'S PAY:** The first arbitration award in the history of the Grosse Pointe Public School System was issued. The case involved former Grosse Pointe Education Association president Stanely Smith and two teachers, William Raupagh and Donald Richards, who went to Saginaw to par-

ticipate in the picketing of the Reese School District. The board and administration maintain it is an unfair use of taxpayers' money to pay school employees for participation in strike activities; the GPEA maintains the three were attending a session on education association business.

Obituaries: Dr. Edwin Dittmer, F. Hamilton Kotcher, Katherine Fitzpatrick Farnam, Goldie I. Bolden, George C. Gray, Michael Hoffman, Julia E. Loranger, Dr. Michelle Skaff, Dr. Archibald L. Seiferlein, Arthur H. Ericson

### 1996

25 years ago this week

**OLD MEMORIES REKINDLED AT CADIEUX SCHOOL REUNION:** The pair of brick school houses on St. Clair in the City of Grosse Pointe haven't contained the sounds of giggling and shrieking school children in 60 years. And those children of yesterday, who did attend the first school in the Grosse Pointe Public School System, found a significantly different building when they returned to it for a special

reunion. In commemoration of the district's 75th anniversary, the administrative offices contained within the former school houses at 389 and 399 St. Clair were transformed into a "museum of school district history" as about 25 former Cadieux school students celebrated a class reunion.

**FIRST POLICEWOMAN IN CITY GRADUATES FROM FIRE ACADEMY:** City of Grosse Pointe's first

female police officer Lisa Monticciolo graduated Friday from an intensive fire fighting training program at the Macomb Fire and Emergency Services Training Center. Little did she know that on her first day back to work there would be a two-alarm fire and she would put into action many of the skills she just learned.

Obituaries: Margaret McLeod Hughes, Rebecca Brackett, Vera Eller, Gerald J. Hollerbach, Harold F. Schuknecht M.D., Lucille Webster,

Bernard Fountain, Ann Rogers Maynard, Sue Ellen Simonson, Susan J. Hubbard

### 2011

10 years ago this week

Obituaries: Ruth Cain, S. Sidney Newhouse, Ruth B. Arbaugh, George B. Catlin, Lucille Martilotta, John S. Barbour, Daniel Francis Berdenski, William H. Race, Fred A. Prince Jr., Helen Florence Williamson

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

concept" by its pronounced metrosexual. This site says it's an online resource for social justice, gender and sexuality and features highly political content.

The parents, and many teachers, who reach out to me, want our students prepared in math, sci-

ence, English. Your community doesn't want our children embroiled in your political agendas.

Grosse Pointe needs a strong public school system that is run by a board that doesn't cave to the pressures of special interest groups. Your community and its taxpayers are paying attention.

KATE HOPPER  
Grosse Pointe Farms

## TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY!

Dec. 3, 2021 ENDS OUR

## BLACK FRIDAY

Savings!

LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR!

\$25<sub>YR</sub>

Annual subscription, delivered weekly with 24/7 online access

Don't miss your opportunity to get the very best local news and information at this amazing price

## Grosse Pointe News

Subscribing is easy. Call, mail, visit [grossepointenews.com](http://grossepointenews.com) online or use:



Yes, send me a subscription to the Grosse Pointe News!  
Offer only valid for Residential Metro Detroit Locations

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: (313) 343-5578  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ or Mail Payment to:  
City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Grosse Pointe News  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 16980 Kercheval  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Grosse Pointe, MI 48230  
Provide for web access, email updates, breaking news and special offers. Email address will not be shared.

Check  Credit Card  Bill Me

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25.00 for 12-month print and online access



## VILLAGE WINE SHOP



STOCK UP SAVINGS!



Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon  
**\$76.99**  
reg. \$93.99



Bonanza by Caymus  
**\$16.99**



Meomi Pinot Noir  
**\$16.99**

While supplies last.  
SEE OUR BEER DEALS in today's sports section!

Village Wine Shop  
15228 E. Jefferson  
Grosse Pointe Park  
[thevillagewineshop.com](http://thevillagewineshop.com)  
(313) 821-1177

Only one website gives you access to 1,000+ local REALTORS® and a list of homes open for tour.

[www.gpbr.com](http://www.gpbr.com)

# Sweet treats coming to The Sugar Bar

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Pointers ready for sweets, treats and good times can soon welcome The Sugar Bar, a family-friendly coffee house and bakery, to the City in the new year.

While an official open date has not yet been set, The Sugar Bar is anticipated to open for business at 373 Fisher Road in January.

Named for its bar seating area where patrons can enjoy the sweets, The Sugar Bar menu will have a full line of bakery items such as doughnuts, muffins, cookies, brownies and other mini desserts, as well as offer “any coffee drink that you can imagine,” owner Vicky Valente said, including a full espresso bar, blended coffees, iced coffees, lattes, cappuccinos and nitro coffees.

Among other goodies set to make their way into customers’ hands are shakes, from old-fashioned to fancy, and breakfast sandwiches.

Featuring an interior theme of “comfy-cozy,” seating also will include



COURTESY PHOTOS

Valente’s past bakery creations are a preview of what’s to come at The Sugar Bar.

big, leather chairs, couch loveseats transformed into booths and a community table.

“My biggest hope is that everybody will feel welcome,” Valente said. “Like some place that’s just like home away from home.”

As a previous owner of a bakery, the Farms resident also brings more than 10 years of experience with coffee. Managing Caribou Coffee in The Village for around eight years was what sparked her love

for the area and brought her family to Grosse Pointe.

When Caribou turned into Peet’s Coffee & Tea, she managed that. Later, when Peet’s left, she moved to Starbucks.

“One of the things that I missed the most about being at the Caribou Coffee is the entire community would come and gather there,” Valente said. “... I got to know so many in this community that way, so when I found this location, I felt like I hit the jackpot, because

this would be so great to create an environment where everybody in the community would feel welcome to come.”

Her vision includes giving residents a place where they can relax and not feel rushed, as well as giving kids a place to do homework and hang out with friends.

“I just felt like right across from the high school was the perfect place,” she said. “It’s almost like being on a college campus and having that gathering spot.”



An artistic cousin of Valente’s designed and drew The Sugar Bar logo.

## SUMMIT:

Continued from page 5A

businesses throughout the tri-county area.”

“The Tri-County Summit helps provide a roadmap of where we can move as a region following the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal in Congress,” Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chair David T. Woodward said. “The decisions we make today will directly impact how well we position our region to economically compete on the global stage, while ensuring prosperity for all of our resi-

dents. I expect us soon to announce big plans to improve our water, lead the world on mobility and make sure we have the fastest, most accessible and affordable broadband for everyone. And we’re going to do this together.”

The event featured six sessions, including presentations and panel conversations about infrastructure, the environment, business and mobility. Participants included individuals from all levels of government as well as local media hosts. For more information about the sessions, speakers and moderators, view the event program at bit.ly/

TriCountyAgenda21. A recording of the event can be found at bit.ly/TriCountyVid2021.

“I enjoyed meeting with previously elected officials and our fellow commissioners from Oakland and Wayne counties to coordinate these efforts,” Macomb County Board Vice Chair Harold Haugh said.

“There are very few opportunities for the three counties to come together on a regular basis, so this summit was the perfect way to dig into issues that are impacting us regionally,” Oakland County Commissioner Eileen Kowall said. “Water and mobility challenges, for instance, do not stop at county borders and will require all of us to put our heads together seeking solutions.”

“This was a wonderful opportunity to work with our colleagues from Oakland and Macomb,” Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki said. “While we have many differences, we have more similarities that bind us together. We will continue the conversation and part-

ner on joint efforts that will benefit each county and the region.”

The Tri-County Summit first was hosted in 1998, to create a forum to identify common issues for coopera-

tive action. Previous topics have included mental health, criminal justice, transportation/transit, economic development and regional quality of life. Specific issues that have been

addressed together include home foreclosures, green infrastructure improvement, reports on the region’s economic outlook and the “Silver Tsunami.”

**Your Comfort Is Our Goal**

- Heating • Cooling • Humidifiers
- Air Cleaners • Rheem Air Conditioners

**Offering Generators**

**CALL TODAY FOR FREE QUOTE** **586-293-6883**

PriebeMechanical.com

**W.M. PRIEBE mechanical**  
since 1989 Heating & Cooling



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Books galore

Coreander’s Children’s Bookshoppe, 15118 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, had a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 18, with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. Along with children’s books, Coreander’s offers gifts, a cafe and an outdoor courtyard. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. It is closed Monday. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the store will be open until 8 p.m. Thursdays. Call (313) 514-7999. Pictured during the ribbon-cutting event are, from left, Jennifer Boettcher, chamber president; Alicia Nicholson, book seller; Judy Greiner, assistant manager; Michele Hodges, Grosse Pointe Park mayor; Shery Cotton, co-owner; Nick Sizeland, Grosse Pointe Park city manager; Jen Kendall, manager; Sean Cotton, co-owner; Nancy Cotton, co-owner; Teddy Cotton; Colin Cotton; Anna Pitera, book seller; and Regan Stolarski, chamber director of administration.

**22640 STATLER ST.**  
SAINT CLAIR SHORES

**WATERFRONT FOR SALE**

**TOMFINCHAM**

COMMUNITY CHOICE REALTY

**586.899.5565**  
T.FINCHAM@YAHOO.COM  
WWW.FINCHAMRE.COM

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK, MICHIGAN**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
**15115 EAST JEFFERSON, GROSSE POINTE PARK, MI. 48230**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS USE**  
**1475-1477 AND 1481 WAYBURN STREET**

PROPERTY OWNERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: GSR Properties, LLC has requested a hearing for a Special Condition Use within the R-D Residential District. The applicant wishes to erect a four-unit multi-family dwelling unit building on (2) lots located at 1475-77 and 1481 Wayburn Street.

This request will be heard by the Planning Commission at their scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Said hearing will be held virtually. Information regarding how to attend a virtual meeting can be found on the City’s website or by calling 313-822-1183.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on December 16, 2021. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to [building@grossepointepark.org](mailto:building@grossepointepark.org). If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Park building department. If you have any questions, please call 313-822-1183 or email [building@grossepointepark.org](mailto:building@grossepointepark.org)

GPN: 12/2/21



# Park honors beautified homes

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Grosse Pointe Park honored 25 homeowners at its annual beautification awards ceremony Thursday, Nov. 18, again held on Zoom this year due to the ongoing pandemic.

The 25 homes were recognized in respective sections of the city. The first area stretched from Wayburn to Somerset north of Jefferson, and included Beaconsfield and Nottingham south of Jefferson; the second, from Barrington to Westchester between Jefferson and Windmill Pointe Drive; the third, from Balfour to Cadieux, south of Jefferson; the fourth, from Balfour to Cadieux between Jefferson and Kercheval; and lastly, from Balfour to Cadieux between Kercheval and Mack.

The commission split the homes into these categories “so you’re not pitting a Wayburn home against a Harvard home,” Beautification Commission Chair

Kim Clextion said. “So everyone gets kind of equal representation that way.”

Two or three members of the commission were assigned to each area in the city and were responsible for nominating homes in that area. Final decisions on award winners were made by the end of July to allow for judging and photographs to occur before fall and winter took hold on the beauty of the homes.

Homes awarded included 1216 Maryland, 1356 Maryland, 1445 Maryland, 925 Beaconsfield and 1148 Lakepointe in the first area; 623 Westchester, 905 Balfour, 699 Balfour, 711 Barrington and 564 Lakepointe in the second; 630 Bedford Lane, 772/774 Harcourt, 815 Grand Marais and 855 Grand Marais in the third; 1072 Balfour, 1052 Berkshire, 1042 Audubon, 1012 Kensington and 1148 Three Mile in the fourth; and 1360 Three Mile, 1310 Harvard, 1409 Kensington, 1246 Devonshire and 1200 Devonshire in the fifth area. New in the last few years, cen-

ture awards were given to 1026 Yorkshire and 1052 Berkshire, both built in 1921. The award came to be when commission members realized many homes in the Park would be turning 100 years old throughout the 2020s. With a list from the city every year of the homes that turn 100 that specific year, commission members visit the 100-year-old homes and select two to three to receive a beautification award.

Winning homes received a framed picture of their home, a yard sign to label them as an award winner and a batch of homemade cookies, since an in-person feast could not be had.

“We are so fortunate to have people be so conscious of how they make their homes look so that we still continue to have a beautiful community,” Clextion said. “So anything we can do to encourage that, but I don’t know that Grosse Pointers need that much encouragement. I think they just appreciate when it is acknowledged.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe Park beautification award winners were given a yard sign in the shape of a flower to place in front of their homes this year.

# Woods rewards beautification efforts

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Commission commemorated residents and businesses alike for their efforts to beautify their properties at its 47th annual awards night, held at Lochmoor Club Wednesday, Nov. 10.

“The homes and businesses in our fair city are nice and wonderful to look at this year,” Mayor Arthur Bryant said. “I think the weather helped out and it just made it a spectacular growth year, and the colors are great and the grass never got brown.

“... We live in a beautiful city and everyone really does an awful lot to care for their property and make things look good,” he added.

This year’s residential awardees included Steve and Judy Armbruster at 1665 Fairholme; Robert Calhoun, a disabled United States Navy Veteran at 889 Blairmoor Ct.; Mark and Bonnie Centala at 1528 Huntington; Charles and Kathryn Esmacher at 1045 Marian Ct.; Jeff and Shelly Herbst at 790 Anita; Donna Kerry at 1497 Brys; Carolyn Kozlow and Richard Sterr at 1814 Hunt Club; Beth Lowry at 1381 S. Renaud; E. Hamilton O’Connor III and Christine O’Connor at 2146 Roslyn; Gabriela Palac at 1976 Norwood; Casey and Lauren Price at 1274 Vernier; Tefta and Edmont Shaska at 2144 Stanhope; Rob and Christy Stein at 1798 Hollywood; and Roger Steyer and Teresa DeSantis-Steyer at 807 Roslyn. John and Mary Karoutsos, at 897 Sunningdale, were awarded the renovation award for work done on their home.

Homeowners can be selected by the commission to win once every 10 years, out of 6,500 residences in the Woods. Winners were invited to dinner at Lochmoor Club and received a folder with an award certificate, an 8-by-10-inch photo of their home and a commemorative stake to post on their front lawn, marking them as a beautification winner.



Business beautification award winners.

Businesses honored at the reception were Closet Connections, Da Edoardo, Gratitude Salon, Licavoli’s Market, Moehring Woods Flowers, Salon Tresor, Spa in the Woods and The Big Salad. A business renovation award was given to the Verus Development Group for its work on Mack and Hollywood, bringing in businesses like Starbucks, Athletico and Estia to flock to the block.

Like residential honorees, business winners also received a certificate of achievement and an 8-by-10-inch photo of their business.

All winners were invited to take a picture with the mayor honoring their achievement, which will be sent to them.



Residential beautification award winners.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Mayor Art Bryant stands with a resident award winner, Robert Calhoun, U.S. Navy Veteran, when he came up to receive the photo of his house and the beautification certificate.

**HOLIDAY READY!**

**17114 Kercheval Ave.**  
**campusshopusa.com**

Follow us on Instagram  
**@thecampusshop**

**Family Fun For Generations**

(586) 771-6770 | Shop Online at [whistle-stop.com](http://whistle-stop.com)  
Mon-Sat 10-9 • Sun 12-6 | 21714 Harper Ave - 8 1/2 Mile, St. Clair Shores

10A | SCHOOLS



COURTESY PHOTO

## Donated cubicles in place at new administration building

The Grosse Pointe Public School System recently erected new cubicles — donated this spring from the We Are Here Foundation — at its new administration area at Grosse Pointe North High School.

The donation included 22 HON & Allsteel workstations valued at \$46,200 and one conference table with 10 chairs valued at \$1,200.

Staples stored the units until this fall when the new administration space was ready. Staples and the We Are Here Foundation have worked together more than 12 years and have donated 25 full truckloads of new office furniture to needy school districts.

Rich Van Gorder, GPPSS manager of building and grounds who retired Nov. 26, said he is thankful to have



COURTESY PHOTO

The We Are Here Foundation recently visited the Grosse Pointe Public School System administrative space at Grosse Pointe North High School to check out the newly installed office furniture it donated to the district.

worked with the We Are Here Foundation the past eight years with other school furniture donations.

The We Are Here Foundation, founded by Tom Cleaver, is an IRS-registered 501(c)3 nonprofit lake cleanup and youth education group. Its primary source of funding comes from donated boats, cars and corporate furniture.

## Turkey Trot tabulations

The 47th annual Pierce Middle School Turkey Trot took place Nov. 12. The half-mile race had 241 participants. Turkeys were awarded to first- and second-place winners in each grade level. Generous support for the event came from the Pierce Middle School PTO. Pictured are, front row from left, Will Crawford, Louisa Pellerito, Jack Stentz and Norah Brumbaugh; middle row, from left, Delinah Kokoshi, Paige Garbo and Everett Wood; and back row, from left, Myles Meldrum, Lauren Crawford, Julian Lancaster, Nadeem Hurani, Rhys Howell, Liam Wilson, Hadley Eszes and Vivian Ostrowski. Fastest boy's time of the day was Julian Lancaster with 2:44. Fastest girls' time of the day were Hadley Eszes at 3:05.10 and Vivi Ostrowski at 3:05.28.

Margot Murphy's photo illustration is titled, "Royal Jelly Stings." Her description reads, "Royal Jelly Stings: is a photo illustration about women's anxiety and outside pressures, or 'bee stings.' The model's exposed honeycomb brain is sticky with self hate due to society's expectation. She consumed the 'royal jelly' became a magnificent queen and now has an unwanted hive of drones surrounding her."

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Sasha Deimel titled her colored pencil piece, "Tennis Dreams." Her description reads, "This relates to the theme 'Listen to Women' because I am imagining my mother dreaming of playing in the U.S. Open in 2021. As a tennis player, she inspires me to be like her. She encourages us to 'listen to our dreams.'"



Mallory Childs titled her painting, "Black Women are Power," about which she wrote, "We tend to underestimate the power of Black Women. We have to realize they are the blueprint, the royalty and that they have paved the way for everything to come after them. They are powerful, determined, trendsetters and the creatives of the world. They deserve the respect and nothing less. Black Women are power, Black Women are royalty."

## Art show shut down

The American Association of University Women hosted its inaugural art contest, "Listen to Women," at University Liggett School, inviting students to create artwork shining a light on women's issues. An opening reception Nov. 18 welcomed artists and guests; however, the exhibit, which was supposed to remain open until Dec. 15, closed until further notice due to an increase in COVID-19 cases in the state.



Guests visited the exhibit Nov. 18.

*Holidays in the*  
**VILLAGE**  
• MAIN STREET GROSSE POINTE •  
*Your Hometown Downtown*

<p><b>Santa's Workshop</b> Saturdays 9:00 am - Noon 12/4, 12/11 &amp; 12/18 <small>17101 Kercheval (northeast corner at St. Clair)</small></p>	<p><b>Story Time</b> with special guest readers Saturdays 10:30 am 12/4, 12/11 &amp; 12/18</p>
<p>PHOTOS WITH SANTA SELFIE STATION ORNAMENT MAKING COLORING &amp; CARDS LETTERS TO SANTA</p>	<p><b>SHOP SMALL</b> Shop and Dine The Village for one-of-a-kind finds for everyone on your list all season long! <b>#SHOPSMALL WITH US</b></p>

❄️ **Free Parking Saturdays & Sundays in all surface lots\*** ❄️

Presented by:

SPONSORED BY:

Michigan's Premier Landscape Company  
**586-774-0090**  
[www.backerlandscaping.com](http://www.backerlandscaping.com)

 <b>DIEGO</b> Male, Chihuahua/Jack Russell/Papillon Mix, 2 Years Old. Santa's Fun & Energetic Little Elf.	 <b>RADAR</b> Male, Pitbull Terrier Mix, 2 Years Old. Can't wait for his own Christmas Tree to snuggle under.	 <b>SYDNEY</b> Female, Border Collie Mix, 3 Years Old. Sweeter than a batch of holiday cookies.	 <b>WALLY</b> Male, Pitbull Terrier, 1 Year Old. All he wants for Christmas is you.
---	---	---	---

**Adopt a PET**

Each of these featured animals are available for adoption through: [www.gpaas.org](http://www.gpaas.org)  
**313-884-1551**

We do Adoptions by appointment almost every weekday at: 20542 Harper, (Lennon & Harper) Harper Woods

# FEATURES



*Integrity. Heritage. Lifestyle.*  
2020 Top Producer at Higbie Maxon Agney.

Melissa Singh  
melissa@higbiemaxon.com  
313-886-3400  
313-289-9990  
higbiemaxon.com



2-3B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4-5B SENIOR LIVING | 6-7B OBITUARIES | 7B CHURCHES

## Taking the stage

### Grosse Pointe Theatre presents 'It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Show,' Dec. 10-19

Grosse Pointe Theatre is sure to bring holiday cheer and inspiration to audiences of all ages with its December production, Marty Bufalini's "It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Show," running Dec. 10 to 19, and featuring several local radio and television personalities who will serve as celebrity announcers during the performances.

Bufalini, whose voice is well known on the radio airwaves, combines his passion for old-time radio with his love for acting and directing to recreate a 1940s-style radio broadcast in a stage production, with patrons serving as the live "in-studio" audience. This unique production incorporates vintage music and live sound effects throughout the play, including the sound



Hobart Reynolds plays Uncle Billy and Sean Von Schwartz plays Pa Bailey, Sam and Bert in Marty Bufalini's "It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Show."

effects door once used in the live Detroit radio broadcast of "The Lone Ranger," which aired on WXYZ radio from 1933-54.

"It's a Wonderful Life," considered one of the greatest movies of all times, is a story about

George Bailey, who spent his life serving others in the small town of Bedford Falls. One Christmas Eve, when faced with a major crisis, George's discouragement reaches an all-time low and he feels his life is worthless. It takes Clarence, an angel working to earn his wings, to show George what an incredible difference his life makes in the lives of others. The theme of this beloved classic still resonates today.

"This is a show within a show, with the actors bringing to life the beloved characters from 'It's a Wonderful Life' movie produced and directed by Frank Capra, starring Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore and a host of other talent from that era," Bufalini said. "Our sound effects team recreates many of the sound effects live on stage to help tell the story in this fast-moving production. Although today's



Tim Reinman plays George Bailey and Wyatt Setty plays Clarence in Marty Bufalini's "It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Show."

#### Cast and Crew

Tim Reinman, Grosse Pointe Farms — George Bailey  
Anna Wendt, St. Clair Shores — Mary Bailey  
Hobart Reynolds, Grosse Pointe Farms — Uncle Billy and Mr. Gower

Wyatt Setty, Clawson — Clarence  
Arlene Schoenherr, St. Clair Shores — Mrs. Bailey  
Marty Bufalini, City of Grosse Pointe — Mr. Potter and Martini  
Lily Bufalini Bedra, St. Clair Shores — Zuzu  
Henry Berschback, Grosse Pointe Park — Young George and Bailey Kid  
Ellie Sahutske, Grosse Pointe Park — Young Mary and Bailey Kid  
Meghan Von Schwartz, St. Clair Shores — Violet and Bailey Kid  
William Giovan, City of Grosse Pointe — Joseph  
Sean Von Schwartz, St. Clair Shores — Pa Baily, Sam and Bert  
Isaac Brenner, Grosse Pointe Park — Freddie, Pete and Bailey kid

The live sound effects team includes Dante Bufalini, St. Clair Shores; Perry Calisi, Grosse Pointe Park; Liz DeFour, Detroit; and Charlie Rinderknecht, Grosse Pointe Park.

In addition to Director Marty Bufalini, additional crew members are:

Nick Marinello, Mount Clemens — producer and stage manager  
Gordon Richardson, Grosse Pointe Park — tech director  
Dan and Stella Woitulewicz, Detroit — sound co-chairs  
Eric Leszczynski, Grosse Pointe Woods — lights  
Mary Magyari, Mount Clemens — costumes  
Dennis Wickline, St. Clair Shores — set designer  
Patricia Ellis, City of Grosse Pointe — publicity



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DALE PEGG

Anna Wendt and Tim Reinman star in Marty Bufalini's "It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Show," presented by Grosse Pointe Theatre.

advancements in technology give us many forms of entertainment, back in the 1940s and earlier, the main sources of entertainment were radio and big-screen movies. Those living in major cities like New York and Chicago could watch a radio show performed live on stage. That is what our production will offer audiences who will see firsthand how storytelling was shared back in the Golden Age of radio.

"We have a great cast and crew and a terrific lineup of local broadcast celebrities who jumped at the chance to participate in this production," he added. "We're grateful to be able to bring this special holiday production to audiences."

Detroit media serving as celebrity announcers during performances will include:

◆ Kim Adams, host, 103.5 FM WMUZ — Friday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m. performance.

◆ Jay Towers, anchor, FOX 2 Detroit and host on 100.3 WNIC — Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. performance.

◆ Lee Thomas, anchor, FOX 2 Detroit — Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m. perfor-

mance.  
◆ Holly Hutton, co-host, 99.5 WYCD Detroit's Country — Thursday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. performance.

◆ Jason Scott, morning co-host, WWJ Newsradio — Friday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. performance.

◆ Alan Longstreet, meteorologist, FOX 2 Detroit — Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. performance.

◆ Alicia Smith, morning anchor, WXYZ-TV Detroit — Sunday, Dec. 19, 2 p.m. performance.

Following the 2 p.m. matinees Dec. 12, Dec. 18 and Dec. 19, there will be a behind-the-scenes talkback session with Bufalini, during which audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the production, recreating sound effects of old-time radio, what inspired this adaptation and more.

"We are thrilled to offer this inspiring classic to audiences and hope that families will kick off their holiday season by joining us at a performance," said Linda Zublick, executive director of Grosse Pointe Theatre. "As we reflect on the challenges of the

#### The details

◆ What: Marty Bufalini's "It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Show"

◆ When: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, Saturday, Dec. 11; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, followed by a talkback; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16; 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17; 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, followed by a talkback, and 8 p.m.; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, followed by a talkback.

◆ Where: Parcels Middle School auditorium, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Parking is free.

◆ Tickets: Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at [gpt.org/wonderful](http://gpt.org/wonderful) or by calling the ticket office at (313) 881-4004.

past nearly two years, we pause and give thanks to all those who continue to support Grosse Pointe Theatre's stage productions and educational programs. Your support makes a tremendous difference in the lives of those we serve."

Grosse Pointe Theatre has put several protocols in place for the health and safety of patrons. All audience members are required to wear face masks at performances, as there is a Wayne County mask mandate in place for the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Vaccinations are required for all cast and crew members. For the safety of its patrons, Grosse Pointe Theatre has made the decision to seat audience members in alternating rows to provide more distancing. Digital ticketing and ticketless check-in will allow for smooth entry into the theater with minimal contact. Doors will open 30 minutes before performances so patrons can take their seats right away to avoid a crowded lobby area.

"We have thoughtfully considered all details to ensure that our audiences have a safe and

See STAGE, page 2B



The live sound effects team — including Perry Calisi, Dante Bufalini and Charlie Rinderknecht, as well as Liz DeFour, not pictured — will recreate the sounds to help tell this 1940s classic holiday story.

Signature

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

96 Kercheval Avenue • On-the-Hill  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

[sir.com](http://sir.com)

313.888.8800

2B | FEATURES

# Lakeshore Optimist Club has 39th annual Youth Appreciation Awards

The Lakeshore Optimist Club's 39th annual Youth Appreciation Awards took place Nov. 11, at The War Memorial.

Twelve high school seniors representing Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett high schools were honored for their achievements in school and service to their communities. Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent for educational services in the Grosse Pointe Public School System, provided a keynote presentation to the honorees and their families. Highlights of each student's academic and community service were presented by David Franks, Lakeshore Optimist Youth Appreciation co-chair.

Four students were presented with certificates and scholarships for \$595, to be used toward college expenses, by Lakeshore Optimist Club President Deb Renshaw. All other honorees received \$100 gift cards



Above left, from left, Deb Renshaw, Lakeshore Optimist Club president; Maelisa Watkins, Grosse Pointe North High School; Drew VandePutte, Grosse Pointe South High School; Honor Wallace, University Liggett School; Keegan Barrabee-Walters, Grosse Pointe North High School; and Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent, Grosse Pointe Public School System. Above right, Roy Bishop receives acknowledgement of his participation from Deb Renshaw, Lakeshore Optimist Club president.



COURTESY PHOTOS

and certificates.

The scholarship winners were Maelisa Watkins and Keegan Barrabee-Walters from Grosse Pointe North, Drew VandePutte from

Grosse Pointe South and Honor Wallace from University Liggett School. Other honorees included Jacob Butler and Sean Guibord, Grosse Pointe North;

Lauren Griffin, Paul Wortman and Adam Yeloushan, Grosse Pointe South; and Alex George, Leo Muller and Avery Sikora, University Liggett School.

The Lakeshore Optimist club meets the second Wednesday of the month from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Reception Room. All are

welcome to attend for fellowship, guest speakers and to learn about the club's contributions to the community. Call Renshaw at (586) 940-3744 for more information.

## AREA ACTIVITIES

### GPAA

◆ The Grosse Pointe Artists Association welcomes entries to its "Favorites" exhibition. Deadline to submit is Monday, Jan. 3. Artist forums for the exhibition are planned at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe

Farms; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, via Zoom.

◆ The GPAA's exhibition, "Feast for Your Eyes," is open from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4.

◆ The GPAA offers its A Morning Out for seniors from 10:30 a.m.

to noon the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Its next session is Tuesday, Dec. 7.

◆ The GPAA offers open studio holiday hours, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 8 and 15.

◆ The GPAA offers "Black and White + One: a woodblock printing workshop with Nobuko Yamasaki," from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8 to 29. Deadline to register is Dec. 18, so materials may be ordered from Japan.

For more information, visit [grossepointeartcenter.org](http://grossepointeartcenter.org).

### Questers

Pettipointe Questers No. 243 and Fox Creek Questers will jointly celebrate the holiday season with a meeting Thursday, Dec. 2, at Lochmoor Club. Georgia LeDuc will present "Christmons," which are gold and white symbols honoring Christ that were developed from early Christian designs. Detroit area Quester groups meet monthly; there are seven groups on the east side of Detroit. The major objectives of Questers are to stimulate the appreciation and collecting of antiques and encourage the preservation of historical landmarks. For more information, email [pettipointequesters@gmail.com](mailto:pettipointequesters@gmail.com).

### Ford House

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:

◆ Starry Lights, Thursdays through Sundays, through Jan. 9.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Neighborhood Club Executive Director Stuart Alderman received a booster from Edith Daniels, R.N., during the vaccination clinic Nov. 23. See the Neighborhood Club's Area Activities entry for additional clinic dates.**

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

◆ Breakfast with Santa, Sunday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 19.

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

### Neighborhood Club

The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe, hosts free walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17. Appointments are not needed; vaccines are administered on a first-come, first-served basis. Adult, booster and pediatric doses are available. If getting a second dose or booster, proof of previous vaccination is required. Call (313) 885-4600.

### Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods presents New Parent Coffee Hour, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at The

War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Amanda Be, LMSW, will talk about feelings common to the transition to parenthood. Call (313) 447-1374 or email [info@familycenterweb.org](mailto:info@familycenterweb.org).

The Family Center presents Sing & Sign with Hummingbirds Music Together and Momcat's Signing Academy, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 10, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. This holiday program will support children's music and language development. Call (313) 447-1374 or email [info@familycenterweb.org](mailto:info@familycenterweb.org).

### Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 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.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, Freestar Financial Credit Union, 22522 E. 9 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

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

### Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following programs:

◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8, via Zoom.

◆ Thoughts to Action Discussion Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, via Zoom. The group will discuss Mia Birdsong's "How We Show Up: Reclaiming Family, Friendship and Community."

◆ Horror/Thriller Book Club, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, via Zoom.

◆ Motor City Underground: Leni Sinclair Photographs 1963-1973, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, via Zoom.

◆ DIY Gift Maker: Jewelry, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, via Zoom.

◆ Smash Bros Ultimate Online Tournament, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, via Zoom.

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

### War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America," the traveling version of a major exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The exhibition is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, until Jan. 8. The exhibit is free, but patrons must register for specific times to visit. Masks are required in the carriage house.

### The Helm

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

◆ 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

See EVENTS, page 3B



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALE PEGG

Marty Bufalini's "It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Show" includes cast members, from left, Anna Wendt, Lily Bufalini Bedra, Meghan Von Schwartz, Isaac Brenner and Tim Reinman.

## STAGE:

Continued from page 1B

enjoyable experience at the theatre," said Zublick. "Please join us for this special holiday experience."

Ticket subscriber packages and single tickets are still available for remaining produc-

tions and are available online at [gpt.org/tickets](http://gpt.org/tickets). Grosse Pointe Theatre's remaining 2021-22 main-stage season includes "Nonsense," "I Hate Hamlet" and "The Sound of Music." The Purdon Studio Theatre, Grosse Pointe Theatre's Blackbox theatre, will feature the play "Talk Radio."

TOP HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT EVERYONE WILL LOVE

**The League Shop**  
Gifts of Distinction

16847 KERCHEVAL | 313.882.6880 | [THELEAGUESHOP.COM](http://THELEAGUESHOP.COM)

Glitter & SCOTCH

WOMENS \* HOME \* ACCESSORIES \* MENS

Shop with us in store 16906 Kercheval Ave in the Village of Grosse Pointe, or online [shopglitterandscotch.com](http://shopglitterandscotch.com)

(313) 571-3607

# Author shares passion for pasta in fun, imaginative book

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The idea for her first book simmered on the back burner more than three decades before Cindy Ninni Grant finally put words to pages.

Since its release last year, "Oodles and Oodles of Noodly Noodles" has been shared with children ages 2 to 8 at the Neighborhood Club and Cranbrook Schools. Grant hopes it finds its way into classrooms in Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores as well.

"When I was in my late 20s, getting my master's degree in early childhood, I wrote my thesis on how to publish a children's book," she said. "Back then, the only way you could do it was by getting an agent. I had this idea in mind — a book with noodles. Thirty-five years later, after raising four children, teaching kindergarten, running a daycare for teachers' kids, I retired."

At the time, she left work to care for one of her four sons who had been hurt in an accident. When he was back on his feet, she considered going back to work part time. Another of her sons suggested she write that book she'd dreamed up so long ago.

"I started two summers ago," Grant said. "It took a year. ... I did 20 different manuscript ideas. I used



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, author Cindy Ninni Grant. Right, her first book, "Oodles and Oodles of Noodly Noodles."

four different editors (including Grosse Pointe resident Nikki Filippone). I joined writing groups online and filled two notebooks full of what I learned."

She took classes, too, including one on finding an illustrator. She found her match in Katie Weaver, who also raised four sons.

"That's how we became friends," Grant said, recalling how their friendship quickly grew. "Then I asked if she wanted to illustrate my book. She did a fabulous job."

So fabulous that "Oodles and Oodles" won the 2020 Kids Bookshelf Book Cover Design Award. The book also earned a gold level award honoring excellence from Mom's Choice Awards, a 5-Star Book Review from Reader's Favorite and was named a 2020 Story

Monsters Approved Picture Book Winner.

The story follows Charli, a girl obsessed with noodles, who uses her imagination to create an adventurous, fun- and noodle-filled day. Through its pages, she introduces readers to 18 "big" noodle words, as well as encourages them to use their imaginations.

"There are lesson plans on the website," Grant said. "Quite a few things can be developed that can be done in the classroom ... using language, math, art."

For example, during previous school visits, Grant has dyed cold noodles, made macaroni necklaces and formed sculptures using Play-Doh and noodles.

Additionally, the book includes a glossary of noodles and a spaghetti-and-meatballs recipe.



Two versions of the book exist: one with potty humor and one without, Grant said.

"Because I was a teacher and I always worked with kids, I know what kids like," she added, noting she tends to use the cleaner version during school visits, whether in person or virtual.

Though the book features a young girl, the inspiration for "Oodles and Oodles" was Grant's husband, to whom she's been married 40 years.

"He literally would eat noodles every day as a side dish," she said. "If he came home from work and there were no noodles, he would boil some."

Both her husband and their children, she said, have been tremendously supportive of her new endeavor.

"Oodles and Oodles" is the first in a series of stories featuring Charli. The second book, about belly buttons, will be illustrated again by Weaver. The third book is about spending the day with Grandpa.

"Everybody's saying they can't wait to see the next book," Grant said.

Grant, who wrote poetry in high school and has always been creative and imaginative, said this was her first time giving writing a try.

"I'm 64 and this opened up my eyes to a whole new world — and I'm loving it," she said. "I wake up every day and think, 'What am I accomplishing today?'"

"Oodles and Oodles" may be found on amazon.com or ninniauthor.com.



Sample pages from Grant's book.



## EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

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.

◆ The Artful Lounge, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, with Michelle Boggess-Nunley of On the Gogh Studio. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

◆ A plant-based Indian cooking lesson is offered from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, with instructor Dr. Lakshmi Saleem. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

◆ The Helm hosts its Holiday Party from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16. Cost is \$12 for members, \$18 for nonmembers.

◆ The movie, "The Holiday" is shown 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17. Cost is \$2 for members, \$3 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ One-on-one Technology Instruction, noon to 3:30 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month.

### Community Chorus

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus presents its 68th annual Holiday Concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at St. Clare of Montefalco Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. The fall 2021 singers will perform a variety of songs selected by Director Joseph Palazzolo, to help lead into the holiday season. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for ages 12 and younger. Tickets are available from chorus members or by calling Sandra Mengel at (313) 331-7728. Purchasing tickets in advance is rec-

ommended. The singers are all vaccinated and will be masked. Audience members will be seated in alternate rows of pews and must be masked throughout the one-hour performance.

### Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. Beth Konrad-Wilberding presents "Fake News & How to Tell Real News." 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).

### 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 [lisa.jonesmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.jonesmentalhealth@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. For more information, call (586) 218-6228.

### 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.

Let me help you organize your home

**Beth Llope**  
Owner

**Beth Llope ORGANIZING SOLUTIONS, LLC**

(313) 506-8697 | organization efficiency simplicity

[llopeorganizingsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:llopeorganizingsolutions@gmail.com)

**VILLAGE PALM**

A Lilly Pulitzer Signature Store

Women's, Men's & Children's Clothing

17131 Kercheval Avenue • Grosse Pointe  
In the Village

313-882-(PALM) 7256  
[shopvillagepalm.com](http://shopvillagepalm.com)

**FALLING FOR FASHION**

TRENDY. CHIC. STYLE.

SHOP EVERYDAY FASHION AND HOLIDAY READY LOOKS AT SAVVY CHIC

SAVVY CHIC

16822 KERCHEVAL | 313.466.3388  
[SAVVYCHICGP.COM](http://SAVVYCHICGP.COM)

## Great holiday giving for seniors who



At top, Le Pen comes in multiple colors to fit every mood or locale, from The League Shop.



Above, Scout makes perfect bags for packing small items. Several colorful styles and sizes are available at Small Favors.

Above, wine is the ideal gift to take to the beach house or cabin. The Village Wine Shop has an outstanding selection.



This personalized Laser Giftware wine case holds all the basics, and your favorite bottle, available at Posterity Art & Framing.



Corksickle is king when it comes to food and beverage travel containers! Shown is just one of the many festive patterns available at Small Favors.



Mouth-watering chocolate bark is an ideal travel treat for purse or duffel, from Chocolate Bar Cafe.



Above, a beautiful framed photo for the cottage keeps family close even while away. The League Shop offers a wonderful assortment of styles.

A pretty red poncho from Savvy Chic is a great layer to pack for changing climes when the sun goes down at the seaside or on the desert.

PHOTOS BY ANNE GRYZENIA

### WHERE TO SHOP:

Chocolate Bar Cafe at 20737 Mack Ave. • (313) 881-2888 / The League Shop at 16847 Kercheval Ave. • 313-882-6880  
Posterity Art & Framing at 17005 Kercheval Ave. • (313) 884-8105 / Prima Towels at info@primatowels.com • (313) 673-7009  
Ridge Crest Outfitters at 17125 Kercheval Ave • (313) 458-7850 / Savvy Chic at 17118 Kercheval Ave • (313) 466-3388  
Small Favors at 17112 Kercheval Ave. • (313) 887-1774 / Village Palm at 17131 Kercheval Ave. • (313) 882-7256  
Village Wine Shop at 15228 E Jefferson Ave. • (313) 881-1177



## Thoughtful gifts they're sure to take along

Retirement provides a chance for adults who have worked throughout their lives to take a step back, relax and enjoy the fruits of their labors. Modern seniors like to get up and go, and holiday shoppers can take that joie de vivre into consideration as they look for the perfect gift for loved ones who can't wait to or hit the open road.

- **Travel cases:** As seasoned travelers know, packing properly ensures a more stress-free journey. Having the appropriate case for toiletries, make up, shower supplies and small accessories keeps everything organized and worry-free. Scout bags are sturdy and attractive, and come in many sizes and styles. They're available at Small Favors.

- **Food and beverage carriers:** A well-insulated food and beverage cooler can keep travel snacks safe and make picnics by the shore a breeze. The Corksicle line has plenty of insulated hot and cold mugs, cups, bags and lunch boxes to choose from for your road warriors. Corksicle available at Small Favors. Add a few sweet treats as a surprise inside, like Chocolate Bar Cafe's Long Grove dark pecan caramel or cherry almond swirl chocolate bark. Who doesn't like a little comfort food on a road trip?

- **Beach essentials:** Put together a gift tote that makes spending time on the beach more enjoyable. A beach caddy stocked with sunscreen, towels, an umbrella, and flip flops will give beachgoers a head start on gathering seaside essentials. Village Palm has totes in beachy prints your travelers will love. Prima Towel offers beautiful Turkish towels that inspire thoughts of faraway places.

- **Decorative pens and stationery:** Make it easy for those traveling far to communicate with friends and fam-

ily back home in a traditional way. Decorative notecards, post cards or other stationery can be a great gift, paired with a really nice pen. Multicolor Le Pen are as fun to write with as they look and can be found at The League Shop. They also have stationary and personalized stationary services.

- **All-in-one wine and accessory case:** Whether staying at the beach house or glamping in a woodland cabin, having your wine tools at the ready is key to enjoying a glass of the grape under the stars. Posterity Art & Framing offer a line of Laser Giftware, featuring a beautiful leather wine gift case with room for a bottle plus all the accessories they'll need. Stock it with favorite wines from Village Wine Shop and let the relaxing begin!

- **Travel wear:** If you know your giftee is heading for warmer or cooler climes, it's fun to choose a wearable gift that will keep them comfortable there. Windbreakers and warm weather accessories are aplenty at Ridge Crest Outfitters. A fantastic sweater poncho is great to have on hand as the sun sets and the campfire begins. Poncho available at Savvy Chic.

- **Maps:** It might seem simple, but roadmaps can be an ideal gift for retirees. Roadmaps or atlases of their own country or a foreign country can help seniors plan their dream vacations. Seniors can study maps and create their own routes as they visit popular tourist attractions and find lesser known locales along the way. Sometimes its just more fun to go old-school with a real travel treasure map!

- **Lifetime pass to world-renowned parks:** All United States citizens or permanent residents are eligible for the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass, which provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites across the country. Those sites are managed by federal agencies like the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation, among others.

- **Golf course guide:** For the golf lovers on your list, give a guide to various courses throughout the state or region of the country, and your loved ones can plan trips around visiting each course.

Holiday shoppers can make the season bright for their favorite traveling seniors whether adventuring locally or around the world. Be creative and tailor gifts to their preferred type of travel. There are many local shops that would be happy to make exciting and memorable gift suggestions.

Small Favors  
GIFT GALLERY

---

**Gifts For Every Occasion**  
to help you  
*Celebrate Everything!*

17125 Kercheval Ave  
Grosse Pointe • 313-887-1774

[shopsmallfavors.com](http://shopsmallfavors.com)



## A dream realized Sculptor presents Pope with bust

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Estela Boudreau is still reverberating from her October trip to Rome.

The former Grosse Pointe resident, who currently divides her time between her condo in St. Clair Shores and her retreat center in Metamora, finally received a much-anticipated audience with Pope Francis.

She views the experience in three phases: anticipation, actual time and the aforementioned reverberation.

"The anticipation is coming from a year and a half ago, when it didn't happen," she said, recounting how COVID-19 shuttered her initial trip in March 2020. "That taught me the lesson of detachment. I was the happiest person on earth and then they took it away from me. But I learned if I don't get attached, I go on to God's plan, so let's see what God has planned."

The plan — to present Pope Francis with a bust that took her three months to sculpt — was merely delayed. Boudreau and her husband, Greg, were able to visit the Vatican this fall, several years after they first crossed paths with the Pope. During the chance encounter, Pope Francis blessed surprised guests at a church he decided to visit, the Boudreaus among them. The meeting was enough to inspire Boudreau, a longtime artist, to create the bust.

Nearly seven years and once canceled visit later, they made their way to Italy Oct. 5.

The Boudreaus rented an SUV — something large enough to transport the packaged bust — and when they reached the Vatican, were directed to a special entrance.

The SUV created "quite a commotion," Boudreau recalled, despite showing guards her invitation. Thankfully, the coordinator arrived and "everything dissipated."

They were ushered into a huge auditorium where the Pope was to host a general audience; the Oct. 6 audience was largely meant for the blessing of the sick. The Boudreaus took their seats near the stage with another artist, one offering a contemporary piece, as well as others hoping to receive the Pope's blessing.

"Then tons of people came in and were watching the ceremony," Boudreau said. "The Pope spoke about liberty. He spoke in Italian, so I could understand him quite well."

Boudreau, who hails from Argentina — as does Pope Francis — said the Pope was without a mask as he moved from guest to guest, greeting and praying over those in attendance.

"Popes usually offer their ring to kiss or they shake hands," Boudreau said, "but I had read, 'Don't be surprised if this Argentinian Pope gives a hug.' Argentinians are huggers and so am I."

Boudreau contemplated how she would interact with the Pope when it was her turn. She decided she'd ask permission to give him a hug.

"He's just a human being like us who needs love and support," she considered.

But as he neared, she froze. "His presence is so large. I was trembling the whole time," she said. "I froze; I didn't even know what language to speak."

When she found her words, Boudreau told him she was inspired to create the bust after he spoke the words, "Pray for me," during that chance meet-

ing several years earlier.

"I told him I remembered his words: Pray for me," she said. "I said, 'I used your words to inspire me.'"

"He pointed at my sculpture ... and said, 'Thank you for making me smiling.' That's when I was trembling. ... I said in Spanish, 'Your Holiness, may I hug you?' He said, 'Of course.'"

Boudreau described the Pope as being "very present" and her Oct. 6 audience as a new gateway.

"After this holy moment, I have another gate in my life to navigate," she said. "This was fulfillment of something beyond my will. It happened because of the will of God. My lesson is that I have no fear to face what God puts in front of me every day, because I know God is leading me."

Boudreau said she's happy to have a piece of her work in the Vatican "forever." But what warms her even more is telling others of her experience and soaking up the reactions they have.

"Those repercussions warm my heart and fuel my soul," she said. "When I hear the reaction of people — they get so excited and so happy for me — it's the spreading of love. I didn't know the Pope was so enormous for so many people."

Now back in Michigan after three weeks in Italy, including a visit to Florence — "Being a sculptor, I needed a dose of art in Florence," she said — Boudreau is putting the finishing touches on her next big project, a sculpture of another hero, Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

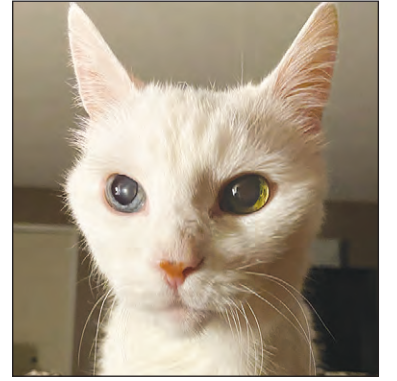
"It came so easy because when I researched what she'd done for women, I was enthusiastic."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ESTELA BOUDREAU

Top, Estela Boudreau, seated next to her husband, Greg, greets Pope Francis during an Oct. 6 audience at the Vatican. Above, the bust, in the foreground, as Boudreau greets the Pope.

## Benefits of pet ownership



COURTESY PHOTOS

Local adopted pets like Jessie, above left, and Sylvio, above right, offer more than just companionship for their lucky senior owners. To adopt your own furry friend, contact the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society at [gpaas.org](http://gpaas.org).

Pets offer companionship and unconditional love. While they are fitting for any family, seniors may find that having a pet is especially beneficial. The organization A Place for Mom, which helps match families with senior living residences, says pets provide a comfort system that produces measurable health results. Caring for pets and being around them can produce a chemical chain reaction in the brain that may help to lower stress hormones while also increasing production of the feel-good hormone serotonin.

This is not the only health benefit pets may provide. A recent study from the Mayo Clinic, which looked at 1,800 people between the ages of 25 and 64 who had healthy hearts, found that almost half owned a dog. Having a dog was likely to spur heart-healthy behaviors, like exercising with the pet, eating well and having ideal blood sugar levels.

Pets also provide emotional support and companionship that can help seniors - including those who may be divorced or widowed - feel more secure and happy. The National Poll on Healthy Aging found that, among respondents who had pets, 88 percent said their pets helped them enjoy life, and 86 percent said their pets made them feel loved.

Seniors considering getting a pet can explore the many benefits to doing so.

• **Reduce pain:** A 2012 study published in Pain Magazine found therapy dogs provided "significant reduction in pain and emotional

distress for chronic pain patients."

• **Feeling of purpose:** Caring for an animal not only stimulates physical activity, but it also can give seniors a reason to get up and go, which equates to a feeling of purpose.

• **Altered focus:** Having a pet can help seniors focus on something other than physical or mental health issues and preoccupations about loss or aging, according to New York-based psychologist Penny B. Donnenfeld.

• **Increased physical activity:** Pets require care, and that interaction can get seniors moving more than if they didn't have a pet.

• **Improved health:** Ongoing research from Harvard Medical School has found dog owners have lower blood pressure, healthier cholesterol levels and lower risk of heart disease than those who don't own a dog.

• **Stick to routine:** Caring for pets helps seniors maintain a routine. Having structure after retirement can be important to ward off risk of depression. Staying on top of feeding, grooming and other pet needs also can help prevent cognitive decline.

Pets bring many benefits to their owners' lives far beyond love. They may be the perfect remedy for seniors looking for a friend to assist with better health, enhanced quality of life and a greater sense of purpose.

Turns out that something cute and fuzzy can also be good for you!



### Licensed Assisted Living & Memory Care

We're a full-service community that supports your physical, emotional, social, health, and spiritual needs - AND your active lifestyle. Located on a 15-acre campus in a residential neighborhood, we have all the comforts of home.

Visit us today and get your questions answered.

We'll be proud to show you around!

Please call Maureen or Tammy to schedule your tour.

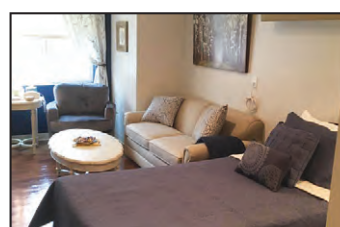


**Q. Frankly, I'm nervous about moving someplace new, what if I get there and I'm not happy?**

A. That is totally understandable. Moving to a new place is a big decision! We are so confident that you will be happy with your decision, **that if after 90 days you aren't satisfied, we will refund 50% of your payment.** AND, because we know you are going to love it at The Rivers Assisted Living, **if you decide to stay after 90 days, your 4th month is absolutely FREE!** Our offer is only one of the many reasons The Rivers Assisted Living is a great place to live.

We can't wait to be neighbors!

\*Program applies to Assisted Living and Memory Care only.



Grosse Pointe  
**The RIVERS**

900 Cook Road, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI  
**(313) 885-5005**

[theriversgrossepointe.com](http://theriversgrossepointe.com)

Maureen (313) 821-7072 or [mhennessy@theriversgrossepointe.net](mailto:mhennessy@theriversgrossepointe.net)  
Tammy (313) 821-7065 or [tkaleta@theriversgrossepointe.net](mailto:tkaleta@theriversgrossepointe.net)





**OBITS:**

Continued from page 6B

**Frances Little Schonenberg**

Frances Little Schonenberg, 92, of Mystic, Conn., passed away Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. A longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, Fran was born June 8, 1929, in Boston, Mass., to Margaret Norris Little and John Dutton Little. She grew up in the town of Andover, Mass. She graduated cum laude from Abbot Academy in 1946, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Michigan in 1950. After graduating, she worked as a reporter and editor, and in public relations in Connecticut, Montana and Michigan.

Her life changed in 1957, when she married John Schonenberg Jr. As Fran put it, "I had an instant family with John's two boys" (John III and Robert, from his first marriage). That family grew with the addition of two more sons, Eric and Mark.

Fran was predeceased by her husband, John Jacob Schonenberg Jr.; parents, Margaret N. and John D. Little; sister, Margaret Little Dice; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Alden Little; and son, John J. Schonenberg III. She is survived by her children, Robert and his wife Molly Schonenberg, of Westerly, R.I.; Eric Schonenberg of New Fairfield, Conn.; and Mark and his wife Mary Schonenberg, of Mequon, Wisc.; her brother, John D.C. Little of Lincoln, Mass.; brother-in-law, John Dice of Brunswick, Maine; grandchildren, Brianna, Laura, Mark Jr., Meghan and Hannah; great-grandchildren, Mabelle, Harry, Penelope, Brinnley and Wyatt; and many nieces and nephews.

Fran had a passion for helping her community and the environment. She was active in a variety of community organizations, including the American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters, Services for Older Citizens, Michigan Recycling Coalition, St. John Hospital Home Care Advisory Committee, Interfaith Center for Racial Justice



Frances Schonenberg



Vivian C. Balsler



Richard T. Heglin

and Detroit Area Agency on Aging. Fran, along with other like-minded Grosse Pointers, founded Grosse Pointe Citizens for Recycling in the late 1980s, which led to Fran being referred to as the "Recycling Queen." Fran also worked for a solar energy company and served on the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council. She was very proud of hosting a weekly cable television show, "The SOC Show," interviewing people on the topics she was passionate about — aging and recycling. In the summers, Fran spent as much time as she could with loved ones at her family's vacation home on Isle au Haut, Maine, which was built by her grandparents.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Fran's name may be made to the American Association of University Women, grossepointe-mi.aauw.net; League of Women Voters, lwv-grossepointe.org; or the University of Michigan, umich.edu/giving/.

Fran's family would like to thank the extraordinary staff at the memory care facility of Masonicare at Mystic for their loving and beautiful care of Fran these past three years.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**Vivian C. Balsler**

Vivian C. Balsler of Lake Orion, formerly of the Grosse Pointes and Hobe Sound, Fla., passed away peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021.

Vivian was born May 5, 1920, to her parents, Thomas E. Collins and Catherine C. D'hooghe. She married the love of her life, Richard W. Balsler, in 1945, and went on to have two sons, Richard W. Balsler Jr. (Julie) and Michael Thomas Balsler (Diane). Vivian also was a loving

grandmother to Richard W. Balsler III (Erica).

She leaves behind two step-grandsons, Michael and Christopher Deaton, as well as seven step-great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.

Vivian also was a wonderful aunt to many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her loving husband, Richard W. Balsler D.D.S., and brother, Thomas Collins.

Vivian was a lifelong resident of the Grosse Pointes and volunteered her time to many local charities. She was an avid golfer and gracious hostess.

A memorial of Vivian's life will be held at a date to be determined.

**Richard T. Heglin**

Richard T. "Dick" Heglin, 84, of Datarw Island, S.C., and Beulah, Mich., passed away Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, after an extended illness.

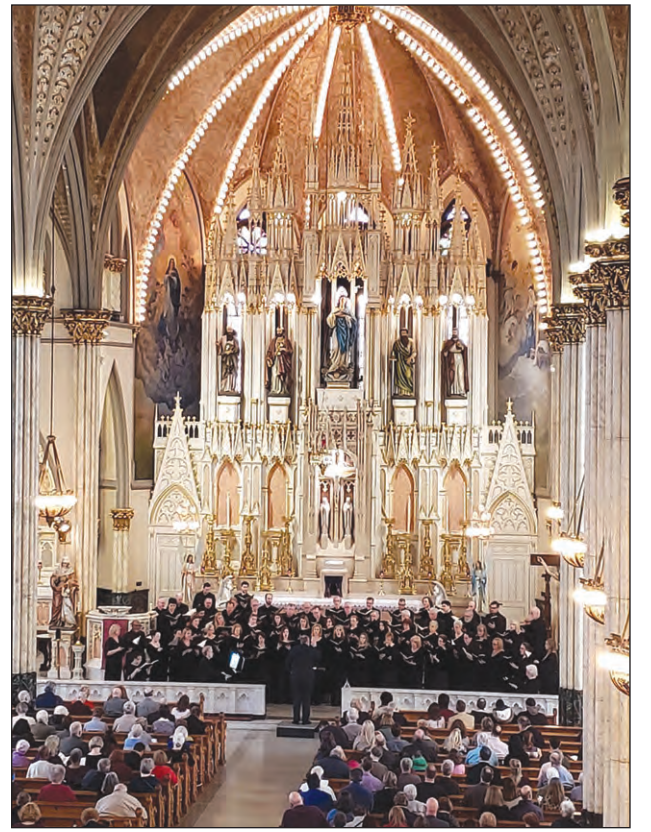
A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at Sea Island Presbyterian Church, 81 Lady's Island Drive, Beaufort, SC, 29907. A memorial service will be held in Michigan this summer.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 8190 Lincoln Road, Beulah, MI 49617. Visit [andersonfuneralhomebeaufortsc.com](http://andersonfuneralhomebeaufortsc.com).

**Detroit Concert Choir to perform at Star of the Sea**

The Detroit Concert Choir, under the direction of Michael A. Mitchell, presents a holiday concert, "A Joyful Noel," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students. Tickets



are available through Eventbrite, online at [detroitconcertchoir.org](http://detroitconcertchoir.org) or by calling (313) 882-0118. COVID-19 safety measures and protocols also are available on the DCC website.

**Grosse Pointe Symphony plays annual holiday concert Dec. 12**

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra presents the second concert in its 69th season at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Conductor and music director Joe Striplin will lead the orchestra in its annual holiday-themed program, which includes Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival," J.S. Bach's "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" and selections from the opera "Hansel and Gretel."

The orchestra also will perform two pieces composed nearly 200 years apart that each present a musical interpretation of a sleigh ride, albeit in vastly different musical styles. The first, Leroy Anderson's well-known 1948 classic, "Sleigh Ride," followed by "Schlittenfahrt" (sleigh ride), composed in 1753, by Leopold Mozart, who, in addition to being the father of Wolfgang Amadeus, was himself an accomplished composer.

The orchestra then welcomes



Kenneth Thompkins

Kenneth Thompkins, principal trombonist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, who will perform Leopold Mozart's "Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra."

The concert concludes with a Christmas carol sing-along.

Tickets are available at the door or at the orchestra's website, [gpsymphony.org](http://gpsymphony.org). Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for college students and free to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra's season continues this spring with concerts March 6 and May 29, as well as a summer concert on a date to be determined. Additional information may be found on the orchestra's website.

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra is 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing local professional and accomplished amateur musicians with the opportunity to perform the classical symphonic repertoire for the community at large.



Joe Striplin

**Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool**

Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090  
[www.christthekinggp.org](http://www.christthekinggp.org)

**SUNDAY**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
**MONDAY**  
7 p.m. - Worship Service  
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month  
**WEDNESDAY**  
10 a.m. - Bible Study

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

*Worship Service*



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

**Masses**  
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday — 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.  
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.  
Friday — Noon

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



ST. MICHAEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MI

*Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.*

*followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall*

20475 Sunningdale Park  
(313) 884-4820 [www.stmichaelsgpw.org](http://www.stmichaelsgpw.org)

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

9:30 am - Worship Service  
9:45 am - Spark Church  
11:00 am - Worship Service  
Everyone is Welcome!  
Amanda Onoro, director [preschool@feelc.org](mailto:preschool@feelc.org)

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

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN**

Sharing God's grace through Christ, we love, pray, rejoice and serve.

Rev. Krister Ulmanis,  
Interim Pastor

Sanctuary Worship  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Online Worship &  
Zoom Communion  
[www.stpaulgp.org](http://www.stpaulgp.org)

**All are Welcome!**

375 Lothrop at Chalfonte  
Grosse Pointe Farms  
313.881.6670

8B | FEATURES

# Metro area projects sweep MotorCities' eighth annual Awards of Excellence

The MotorCities National Heritage Area Partnership recently honored U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and seven finalists who distinguished themselves in the areas of auto and labor heritage with its eighth annual Awards of Excellence.

Winners in each of the three categories — revitalization, education and tourism — were announced during

Michigan Auto Heritage Day from the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum in Lansing.

The winner of the award for revitalization was the Fort-Rouge Gateway Partnership for the Fort Street Bridge Interpretive Park in southwest Detroit. The park, which opened in October 2020, remembers the Ford Hunger March of March 7, 1932, and the five workers killed — one of the most

significant events leading to the creation of the United Auto Workers union. The historic Fort Street Bridge, central to the march, was decommissioned in 2013, and a new bridge was built in its place. The FRoG partnership worked for almost a decade to ensure the history of the Hunger March, the significance of the former bridge and its importance to the region is now recognized at the park.

The winner of the award for interpretation and education was the Detroit Historical Museum for its "Body by Fisher" exhibit. The exhibit, which opened in August, explains the iconic company's complete history of building automotive bodies, including its founding by the Fisher Brothers, later acquisition by General Motors and its dissolution in the 1980s.

Finally, the winner of the award for heritage tourism is Ford House in



The "Body by Fisher" exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Representatives from the winners of the MotorCities 2021 Awards of Excellence, from left, Bill Pringle, assistant curator, Detroit Historical Society; the R.E. Olds "Big Head," as the event was hosted at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum in Lansing; Clare Pfeiffer, director of communications and engagement at Ford House; and Dr. Paul Draus, professor of sociology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and a member of Fort-Rouge Gateway Partnership.

Grosse Pointe Shores, for its new Visitors Center, which opened in May. The attraction's first expansion in more than 90 years, the 40,000-square-foot building offers a new restaurant, four event spaces, exhibition spaces, expanded program offerings and breathtaking views of Ford Cove.

Dingell was honored

with MotorCities' annual Milestone Award. She has been a stalwart supporter of MotorCities from its beginning, when she headed the General Motors Foundation. In that role, she helped secure the launch of the heritage area in 1998, and built a strong partnership with GM that continues to this day. After that, Dingell served

on MotorCities' Leadership Council and now chairs the group.

Since her election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2015, she has continued her support by sponsoring two reauthorization bills, culminating this year in H.R. 5044, a bill to reauthorize the MotorCities National Heritage Area for 15 more years.

# Smithsonian traveling exhibition coming to The War Memorial

The Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street, in cooperation with Michigan Humanities Council, presents "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America." The exhibition examines the nearly 250-year-old American experiment of a government "of, by and for the people," and how each generation since continues to question how to form "a more perfect union."

The exhibition opened Nov. 30, at The War Memorial and will be on view through Jan. 8. The exhibition will tour six communities in Michigan from Big Rapids through Grosse Pointe.

"Voices and Votes" explores the action, reaction, vision and revision that democracy demands

as Americans continue to question how to shape the country. From the revolution and suffrage to civil rights and casting ballots, everyone in every community is part of this ever-evolving story — the story of democracy in America. Exhibition sections explore the origins of American democracy, struggles to obtain and keep the vote, the machinery of democracy, the right to petition and protest beyond the ballot and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. "Voices and Votes" features historical and contemporary photos; educational and archival video; engaging multimedia interactives with short games; and historical objects like campaign souvenirs, voter memorabilia and protest

material.

"We are delighted to partner with the Smithsonian and Michigan Humanities' Museum on Main Street to bring this exploration of democracy in America to the greater southeast Michigan community," said Leah Celebi, vice president of curation, community and communication at The War Memorial. "Voices and Votes" not only allows us the opportunity to explore what it means to be an active participant in civic governance, but to also reflect on our journey as a society to amplify the voices of and advocate for the rights of historically marginalized American citizens."

Designed for small-town museums, libraries

and cultural organizations, "Voices and Votes" will serve as a community meeting place for conversations about democracy, the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens, participating in government and more. With the support and guidance of state humanities councils, these towns will develop complementary exhibits, host public programs and

facilitate educational initiatives to raise people's understanding about their own history, the joys and challenges of living rural, how change has impacted their community and prompt discussion of goals for the future.

"Voices and Votes" is based on an exhibition currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American

History called "American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith."

The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, state humanities councils across the nation and local host institutions. To learn more, visit [museumonmainstreet.org](http://museumonmainstreet.org).



experience  
**Capricious**  
apparel • shoes • accessories

74 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
313.458.8719

Holiday Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 10-5 • Thurs 10-7 • Sun 12-4



## Military grad

2nd Lt. Josh Duffy of Grosse Pointe Shores graduated from U.S. Marine Corp Officer Candidate School Saturday, Nov. 20. Duffy, a May 2021 graduate of Michigan State University James Madison College, will be based in Quantico, Va., where he'll continue training.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USMC OCS

**Viviano's ... For All Of Life's Celebrations!**

**VIVIANO**  
flower shop  
EST. 1937

send  
**peace & joy**

**800-VIVIANO • viviano.com**

• St. Clair Shores • Shelby Twp. • Chesterfield Twp.  
• Grosse Pointe Woods • Rochester

# LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

2C DEAR ABBY | 3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 6C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 7-8C COMICS & PUZZLES

## Vultures settle in South Africa after historic move by Detroit Zoological Society

For the first time ever, five vultures from the Detroit Zoo have moved to Africa as part of an important conservation program to restore South Africa's vulture populations. The five captive-born vultures, one lappet-faced vulture named Mrs. Nasty and four hooded vultures named Nelly, Fiona and Zeke, will live at VulPro, a nonprofit conservation organization based in South Africa. There they will live with other vultures and breed, and their offspring will be released into the wild.

VulPro is a leader in vulture rehabilitation and conservation, and has more than a decade of experience working with injured, non-releasable vultures to help bolster wild populations. To date, more than 40 captive-born vultures have been

released into the wild. "Nestling vultures stay with their parents at VulPro until they have successfully fledged and are able to feed on a carcass on their own. Then, they move to a large enclosure with other juveniles and wild-born rehabilitated vultures for a month," said Kerri Wolter, founder of VulPro. "When they're strong enough to forage and move widely, they're released to the wild."

"This is monumental as it will be the first time that African vultures are returning to their native continent from North America," Chief Life Sciences Officer Scott Carter said. "We are excited to work with VulPro on this groundbreaking initiative and help to restore these endangered species. We will be sharing updates from VulPro on Kassie,



Mrs. Nasty and Nellie at the Detroit Zoo.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Mrs. Nasty, Nelly, Fiona and Zeke, and look forward to someday showing the release of their

offspring in the wild in South Africa."

The process to get the vultures to South Africa was extensive. Obtaining the necessary permits from both the United States and South Africa took nearly two years due to pandemic-related delays.

Vultures are some of the most misunderstood

and under-appreciated birds in the world and also are some of the most at risk of extinction. Living almost entirely on diets of carrion (dead animals), these scavengers play a crucial role in the world's ecosystems.

In recent years, vulture populations in many places around the

globe have declined drastically as a result of human activities, including changes to wild areas and direct persecution. Lappet-faced vultures are classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature; hooded vultures are listed as critically endangered.



Pictured above, VulPro is a nonprofit conservation organization based in South Africa, where Kassie, Mrs. Nasty, Nelly, Fiona and Zeke have moved.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Don't miss out on Starry Lights

Illuminate the holidays with Starry Lights, a new winter light walk at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. The display includes an immersive and interactive display on the grounds of the estate. Guests are welcome to stroll 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 Edsel and Eleanor Ford's family. Among the fun is this LED screen, which looks like two frosted windows and allows people to wipe their hands over it as though they are clearing away frost. Snowflakes appear and a scene emerges with penguins and igloos, all of which last a few seconds before going back to the frosty display. Starry Lights at the Ford House runs Thursdays through Sundays until Jan. 9.

### GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY

All Our animals available for adoption at [gpaas.org](http://gpaas.org)

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

Meet Rocky  
Male Boxer, 4 years. Would LOVE a home for Christmas!

Cooper (6 years) Cosmo (7 years)  
Bonded Ragdolls, looking for a loving home together.

EASY TO DONATE TO GPAAS  
Amazon.smile!  
Kroger Community Rewards  
[www.gpaas.org](http://www.gpaas.org) (donate/wishlist)

Oodles of Cute Cuddly Kittens!

**Teknicolor PAINTS**  
A Paint Store And More!

Your neighborhood paint experts.  
20725 Mack Ave.  
313.924.5563  
[www.teknicolors.com](http://www.teknicolors.com)

Paint • Tools • Expertise  
Hours  
Monday - Friday 7am - 5:30pm  
Saturday 8am - 2pm

**Benjamin Moore**  
**Aura**

Aura Bath & Spa  
Waterbase Interior Paint  
MATTE FINISH

Aura® Bath & Spa has been specifically-formulated for optimum performance in high humidity environments

PREMIUM WATERBORNE BATHROOM PAINT

- Moisture-resistant paint formulated for humid environments
- Extraordinary hide for fewer coats
- Zero-VOC and low odor for a faster return to service
- Available in thousands of colors

**FREE PINT PAINT SAMPLE**  
ONE PER CUSTOMER  
MUST PRESENT COUPON  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER  
EXPIRES JANUARY 2, 2022

**10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE**  
WITH COUPON/NO COPIES • LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD • DOES NOT APPLY TO COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS OR CONTRACTORS  
EXPIRES JANUARY 2, 2022

© 2015 Benjamin Moore & Co. Aura, Benjamin Moore, Natura, Regal and the triangle "TM" symbol are registered trademarks licensed to Benjamin Moore & Co. Paint like no other is a trademark licensed to Benjamin Moore & Co.





# Bubbles for the holidays!

Holidays are fun, and nothing gets the party started like a fabulous sparkling wine.

It just screams fabulousness and makes any get together more festive.

Zack and Stacey at Village Wine shop have given us a wide range of options - all amazing choices - available for every budget.

You will be amazed at how good some of the more affordable Cavas and Proseccos can be!

So get over to Village Wine shop and be sure to include some sparkling for your next party - whether you are throwing it or attending and want to bring a nice hostess gift!

And remember, if you join the Village Wine Shop Wine Club,

you get amazing discounts on all of your wine purchases!

## Champagne Barnaut Bouzy

NV Blanc de Noirs Brut Quintessence du Pinot Noir Grand Cru The new release of Philippe Secondé's Quintessence du Pinot Noir is outstanding.

The wine was disgorged in September of 2019 and finished with a dosage of six grams per liter. The bouquet jumps from the glass in a refined blend of apple, peach, warm bread, a fine soil signature, gentle smokiness and a topnote of dried flowers.

On the palate the wine is crisp, full-bodied and still quite youthful, with a fine core of fruit, lovely focus and grip, a serious girdle of acidity,

elegant mousse and a long, very, very promising finish.

This is certainly drinkable today, but a few years in the cellar are really going to allow it to start hitting on all cylinders! \$59.99

## Billecart-Salmon Champagne Brut Rosé

A truly romantic champagne. With its subtle and gourmet aromas, this cuvée is a reference point amongst rosé champagnes. It will be a pleasant companion to your happiest



moments with its sparkling color, its amazing finesse and its great intensity \$93.99

## Baron-Fuente Brut Tradition

This cuvee is the perfect illustration of the Pinot Meunier grape variety from the Vallée de la Marne.

The variety grows alone on our superb river hillsides that define the Charly-sur-Marne area. The Pinot Meunier, King of Champagne, allows this Tradition Brut to express itself beauti-



fully. \$35.99

## Nino Franco Rustico

Prosecco - Nino Franco was founded in 1919 by Antonio Frano. The winery is located at the foot of the Prealps, in the Venetian region and proud to be one of the oldest wineries in Valdobbiadene.

Known for their Prosecco vine, the estate has been growing and evolving throughout four generations of producers.

It is straw-colored and bright, has a very fine, crisp, pleasant



aroma and a creamy, refreshing and balanced taste. \$24.99

## Naveran Brut Nature Vintage

Naveran Brut Nature is a vintage dated, estate-bottled organic Cava with zero dosage.

Proprietor Michel Gillieron Parellada's goal with this Cava is to show the purity and interal character of Penedés special terroir.

Xarello & Chardonnay contribute body, Macabeo

gives aromatic intensity and Paredada lends acidity to the wine.

\$17.99



# Holiday break

## Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

These lettuce wraps are a welcome change to all of the Thanksgiving leftovers that I have been forcing my family to finish. Eastern cuisine always seems to have a bunch of ingredients but it always comes together fast if you prep everything beforehand.

It's another great weeknight meal that's flavorful and fun. Lots of flavors, textures and crunch are happening here. The special addition is fried rice noodles. They cook in seconds and really are worth the effort. I sit and snack on them while I finish cooking.

The rice noodles have to be the thinnest you can find. I found mine at Village Food on Mack Ave. They are a bit tricky to make but after testing them out at least 4 times, I learned a few things. Make sure your oil is hot! Break the noodles in half and drop them in small batches. Then watch while they instantly grow, puff and crisp. It's such an added bonus and takes literally 3 seconds if the oil is hot enough. I pour out the excess oil and use the same wok or skillet to finish the dish.

I plated the wraps on the beautiful Bernardaud White Oval platter. The lettuce wraps were served with the new Caspari Christmas Pagodas napkins. They were perfect for cleaning lots of messy hands. All found at Atelier (ateliergp.com).

- 8oz finely diced mushrooms
- 1lb ground pork
- 1 tbsp finely grated ginger
- 3 cloves chopped garlic
- 5 oz finely diced water chestnuts
- 1/3 hoisin sauce
- 1/3 cup worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1/3 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp sriracha (optional)
- 1 cup chopped cashews
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 4 oz vermicelli rice noodles

- 2 cups canola oil
- 1 head of Lettuce (Gem or Butter work well)
- Add 1 2/3 cups of water to long grained rice that has been rinsed in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil then reduce to a simmer for 12 minutes.
- Shut the heat off and let sit until dinner is ready.
- Meanwhile, add 2 cups of oil to a large skillet or wok. You know the oil is hot enough if you put the bottom of a wooden spoon in the oil and see bubbles (350 degrees).
- Break the noodles in half and in very small batches, drop them in the oil. Watch them grow and turn white.
- Remove after about 3-5 seconds with slotted spoon to prevent browning. Place them on a plate lined with

paper towels to drain.

Remove the excess oil, saving 1 tbsp. Add the mushrooms and cook on medium high heat for 5-7 minutes or until all of their liquid has evaporated.

Add the ground pork, garlic and ginger and brown while breaking it up, another 5-7 minutes. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, mix together the hoisin, soy sauce, worcestershire, vinegar and sriracha.

Once the pork is cooked, add the chopped cashews, water chestnuts and scallions. Give it a stir and then pour in the sauce. Cook for another 5 minutes until the sauce tightens up a bit.

Serve on crisp lettuce leaves with rice and the meat. Top with the crispy fried rice noodles.

It's a great meal to do family style around the table so everyone can make their own.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

## Atelier GP

the Art of Cooking & Entertaining

*the Registry*

17133 Kercheval Avenue  
313-264-1996  
ateliergp.com

## Pork Lettuce Wraps with Rice Noodles

1 cup long grain white rice

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL SPECIALS!

Kennedy's IRISH COFFEE BAR & GRILL EST. 1980

TRY OUR NEW CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICH!

Best BURGERS IN TOWN!

or check us out on Doordash, Grubhub and UberEats

CALL for CARRY-OUT 313-881-5675

18666 Mack Avenue Grosse Pointe Farms 313-881-5675

Thank You Frontline Heroes! SEE MENU

UPSCALE DINING & JAZZ FAVORITES!

RESERVATIONS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

December 1 through December 3

**DAVE BENNETT**  
JAZZ CLARINETIST

December 4

**SKEETO VALDEZ & THE MIGHTY FUNHOUSE**

December 8 through December 11

**IAN FINKELSTEIN**  
JAZZ PIANIST

December 15 through December 18

**JEFF CANADY**  
JAZZ PIANIST

-TUESDAYS-  
1 SEATING: 6:00PM-8:00PM (Ron English plays from 6:30PM-8:00PM)  
-WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY-  
1 SEATING: 6:00PM-8:30PM (Performer plays from 7:00PM-8:30PM)  
-FRIDAY & SATURDAY- 2 Seatings each night  
1st SEATING: 6:00PM-8:00PM (Performer plays from 6:30PM-7:30PM)  
2nd SEATING: 8:30PM-10:30PM (Performer plays from 9:00PM-10:00PM)

Happy Hour Tuesday through Friday 3PM - 5PM  
LUNCH Tuesday - Friday 11:30AM - 3:00PM

CALL FOR SHOW TIMES AND RESERVATIONS  
(313) 882-5299

97 KERCHEVAL, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MI 48236  
DIRTYDOGJAZZ.COM

Open for Lunch Tue. - Fri. 11:30 - 3PM

# 4C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

## Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Lighting

Grosse Pointe Woods held their annual tree lighting Tuesday, November 23 on the front lawn of city hall. The Grosse Pointe North choir sang carols, there was hot chocolate, cookies and a visit with Santa in the Cook Schoolhouse.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Art Bryant, Grosse Pointe Woods mayor, gets a little help throwing the tree lighting switch from Grace Grey, Madison Listenbee and Gloria Brown.



Santa gets an escort to the tree lighting from Grosse Pointe Woods Director of Public Safety John Kosanke



Grosse Pointe North choir sings in front of city hall before the tree lighting



Surrounded by Grosse Pointe Woods council members, Santa gets a key to the city.



Grosse Pointe North choir sings carols next to the Cook Schoolhouse entertaining the people who were waiting in line to see Santa.



Michael Banaszewski asks Santa for something special for Christmas.



Families gathered to take photos of kids visiting Santa.



Santa's helper elves, Kaylee Thompson and Isabelle Shermetaro.

# EVENTS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 2

- » **Dave Bennett at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**  
6-8:30 p.m. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.
- » **The Family Center Presents: HollyFest 20th Anniversary Celebration**  
6:30-10 p.m. 788 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores.
- » **George Burton**  
7:30-11:30 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave., Detroit.
- » **Starry Lights**  
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores.

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 3

- » **2021 Impact Awards & 35th Anniversary Gala**  
6-11 p.m. 16th Floor at One Campus Martius, One Campus Martius, Detroit.
- » **Cirque Dreams Holiday**  
8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
- » **Claudia Oshry: Not Like Other Girls**  
7 p.m. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
- » **Dianne Reeves: Christmas Time is Here**  
8-10 p.m. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
- » **Live Blues at Beale St. Smokehouse & BBQ**  
7 p.m. Beale St. Smokehouse & BBQ, Detroit.
- » **Starry Lights**  
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores.

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 4

- » **The Aces - Under My Influence Fall Tour**  
7 p.m. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E Congress St, Detroit.
- » **Cabaret 313 - Carole J Bufford When the 60's Met the 70's**  
5:30 p.m. Detroit Opera House, 1526 ay St, Detroit.
- » **Chris Lane - Fill Them Boots Tour**  
7 p.m. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
- » **Detroit Beer History Walking Tour**  
12:30 p.m. 2515 Riopelle St., Detroit.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. New York Islanders**  
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **The Ford House**  
8 a.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores.
- » **iBartend Shake-n-Sip Cocktail Class**  
5-7 p.m. iBartend Downtown Detroit, 607 Shelby St., Detroit.
- » **Interlock**  
7-9 p.m. Boll Family YMCA, 1401 Broadway St, Detroit.
- » **Keys N Krates (DJ Set) at the Magic Stick**  
9:30 p.m. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
- » **Parcells Arts & Crafts Holiday Bazaar**  
9 a.m.-4 p.m. 20600 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.

- » **Parcells Arts & Crafts Holiday Bazaar**  
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Parcells Middle School, 20600 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.
- » **Reg Pettibone's Authentic Native American Program**  
3 p.m. Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater St., Detroit.
- » **Rocket Mortgage MAC Championship**  
12 p.m. Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit.
- » **Story of Our Sturgeon**  
1 p.m. Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater St., Detroit.
- » **Starry Lights**  
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores.

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 5

- » **Andrea Bocelli**  
7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Ceramic Holiday Sale**  
12-5 p.m. Sugar Hill Clay, 71 Garfield St., Detroit.
- » **Detroit Lions vs. Minnesota Vikings**  
1 p.m. Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit.
- » **Gerard Gibbs & ORGANized Crime**  
7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave., Detroit.
- » **The Hip Hop Nutcracker**  
6:30 p.m. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St, Detroit.

- » **Sip & Shop - A Ladies Night Out at Aretee Day Spa**  
2-7 p.m. 20559 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.
- » **Sky Covington at Woodbridge Pub**  
7:30-11 p.m. 5169 Trumbull, 1970 Yemans, Detroit.
- » **VIP Petcare at Pet Supplies Plus**  
10-11:30 a.m. Pet Supplies Plus, 23700 Greater Mack Ave., Saint Clair Shores.
- » **Starry Lights**  
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores.

### MONDAY DECEMBER 6

- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Oklahoma City Thunder**  
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Mother Daughter Book Club**  
7-8 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)
- » **Polo G: 'Hall Of Fame' Tour**  
7:30 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 7

- » **1st Tuesday Book Group**  
2-3 p.m. Central Library, Grosse Pointe.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. Nashville Predators**  
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Grosse Pointe Badminton Association**  
6:30-8 p.m. 20600 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.

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

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8

- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Washington Wizards**  
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Ian Finkelstein at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**  
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.
- » **Noah Jackson & Full Circle: Residency & Session**  
7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave., Detroit.
- » **Open Jam at The Blue Goose**  
8 p.m. BLEU, 1540 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
- » **Science Fiction Book Club**  
7-8 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)
- » **Thoughts to Action Discussion Group**  
7-8:30 p.m. Grosse Pointe. [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org)



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

# We Tried It!



by Pam Grand  
Guest Writer



You have a beautiful fresh Christmas tree. Here are a few tips to keeping it looking great until New Year's Eve.

First, be sure you have a stand that fits the size of your tree. Using a stand that isn't right for the tree can end up in disaster. Let the pros at Otherworld help

you: Bring your stand with you when you go Christmas tree shopping.

When you are ready to bring the tree into the house, make sure to give the trunk a fresh new cut no less than an inch off the bottom. Put the tree straight into the stand and after securing

the tree into stand, fill it with warm water. As with all cut flowers, adding sugar to the water is recommended.

At Otherworld, we sell a product called Prolong, which is great for trees and also works in floral arranging.

Start wrapping your lights from the bottom after checking to make sure the lights work off the outlet. Turn the lights off at bedtime. Continue to add water to the stand throughout the season.

Here are a few interesting facts about Christmas trees:

- For every tree harvested, three seedlings are planted for spring.
- Michigan is one of the top tree-producing tree states.
- Michigan ranks third among all states in the production of real Christmas trees, but grows a larger variety of Christmas trees than any other state.
- More than 100,000 people are employed in the tree industry.
- The average tree takes seven years to grow.
- We think Frasier firs are the

best tree for your Michigan home. Frasier's have a beautiful scent, sturdy boughs for ornaments, their needles don't fall off easily and there's a pretty silver cast on the soft needles.

- Christmas tree farms act as a gigantic air purifier. One acre of real Christmas trees con-

sumes about 500 pounds of carbon dioxide each year. That same acreage produces about 1,000 pounds of oxygen annually. Guess what: That's the same amount 18 people need to breathe in a year.

- The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia, in 1510.



**I spy a shiny penny and an old fashioned key,**

**A Campus Shop hat for you and one for me.**

**The biggest Great Lake and a wreath with a bow,**

**A jingle bell and Santa with a gift right below.**



**Find the hidden items, circle them, and send us a picture to [media@grossepointenews.com](mailto:media@grossepointenews.com) for a chance to win a Campus Shop hat or tee shirt!**

6C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT



Movie Junkie Mark by Mark Domin

MOVIE REVIEW 'The Current War: Director's Cut' 2017 - 1hr 42min

Manhattan, and eventually the world. He stubbornly decided that direct current (DC) was the wisest and most effective form of electricity to utilize.



Edison's loyal assistant Samuel Insull (Tom Holland) is another figure that played an important role in the showdown.

Several scenes impressed me. One is when Edison gathers a number of financiers to a dark field, which he lights up with a dazzling array of lights, to great effect.

The film was originally supposed to be released in 2017. However due to several issues, including a fight with the director who insisted it was being rushed and wasn't quite ready, it didn't come out until recently.

Currently streaming on Showtime and Prime Video.

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: My main focus is on films that I feel have gone under the radar and deserve more recognition.

For movie trailers, visit youtube.com. If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.



Above, Benedict Cumberbatch as Thomas Edison and below left, Tom Holland as Edison's assistant, Samuel Insull...



Sure he had 2,332 patents and was one of the greatest minds since Leonardo Da Vinci.

'The Current War' is a cleverly titled and finely crafted film about an interesting period of Mr. Edison's life.

This film covers the period from 1880 to 1893, when Edison was determined to electrify

mad, absent-minded genius—working long hours in his laboratory, to the detriment of his home and family life.

George Westinghouse is depicted as a ruthless competitor whose wealth and fame was built on his development of the air brake system for locomotives.

Other key figures in the battle are JP Morgan (Matthew Macfadyen) as well as the Serbian genius Nikola Tesla (Nicholas Hoult).



December 10-12, 16-19, 2021 TICKETS ON SALE NOW! 313-881-4004 or GPT.ORG



Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today until 9:15 p.m. PST. The Moon is in Scorpio.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today is a playful, light-hearted day!

Happy Birthday for Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021: You are a feeler. You are a naturally emotional person who is vibrant and has a sunny personality.

LEO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today it will please you to redecorate at home or do something to tidy up things.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is a good day to discuss how to share something, like an inheritance. Bosses and important people will be helpful, and you will enjoy schmoozing with friends and interacting with clubs and groups.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are supercharged about something today, which is why you're so persuasive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Enjoy warm relations with partners and close friends, as well as members of the general public; however, note that people are opinionated!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) 'Show me the money!' This is a strong day for business and commerce.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a lovely day at work, whether you work in a slave wage job or for yourself, because you have lots of energy!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today the Moon is in your sign lined up with fiery Mars.

friendly encounters with others, especially relatives and neighbors. Tonight: Enjoy schmoozing!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You might be wise to play things low-key today to see which way the wind is blowing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a great day to schmooze with friends and interact with groups, clubs and professional associations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) People notice you today. Do be aware of this. In fact, personal details about your private life might be under discussion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) This is a great day to make travel plans or talk to people from other countries, because you're eager to expand your horizons.

BORN TODAY Singer Britney Spears (1981), actress Lucy Liu (1968), actor Alfred Enoch (1988).

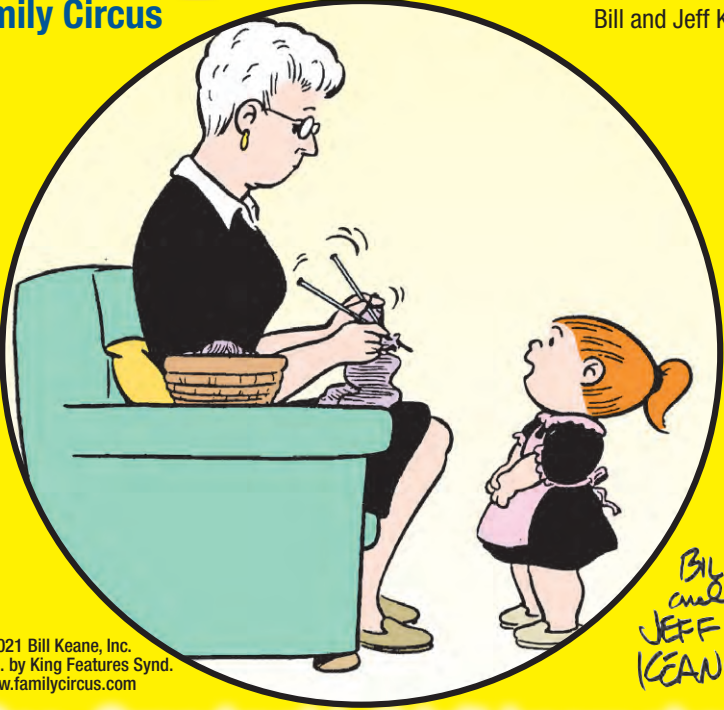
Contract Bridge FROM GLOOM TO GLORY South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ♠ A K J ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ 9 8 7 4 3 ♣ K 9 WEST ♠ Q 7 6 5 ♥ 2 ♦ — ♣ Q J 8 7 6 5 3 2 EAST ♠ 9 8 4 3 2 ♥ K 8 7 6 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ 10 SOUTH ♠ 10 ♥ A J 10 4 ♦ K Q J 6 5 2 ♣ A 4 The bidding: South West North East 1♦ Pass 3♦ Pass 3♥ 4NT(!) 5♦ 5♠ 6♦ 6♣ Pass Pass 7♦ Huddle Pass Dble 7NT Pass Pass Dble Opening lead — five of spades. This deal occurred at a national championship in Phoenix in 1962. East obliged with five spades, which West raised to six after South bid six diamonds. When this came around to South, he decided to chance seven diamonds. At this point, West was considering the possibility of sacrificing at seven spades when East doubled out of turn and then led the ace of trump. Naturally, the tournament director was called. He ruled that West was barred from the bidding, that North-South could still bid if they wanted to, and that the ace of diamonds was a penalty card that would have to be played at the first legal opportunity. South thereupon bid seven notrump! He realized he was dead at seven diamonds and thought he might have a chance in seven notrump with the aid of the penalty card. After East doubled again, West led a spade. Declarer finessed the jack, led the nine of hearts, which held, and continued with the queen. East covered, and South cashed the A-J-10. Declarer was hoping that East would show out of hearts and thus be forced to discard the ace of diamonds, but he had no such luck. South next played a club to the king and cashed the A-K of spades, but East continued to follow suit. Finally, South played a club to the ace, ready to concede the rest of the tricks for down four. But South's last chance now came home to roost when East turned out to have no more clubs! East had no choice but to discard the ace of diamonds on the ace of clubs, so South made the doubled grand slam!



# Puzzles and

## Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



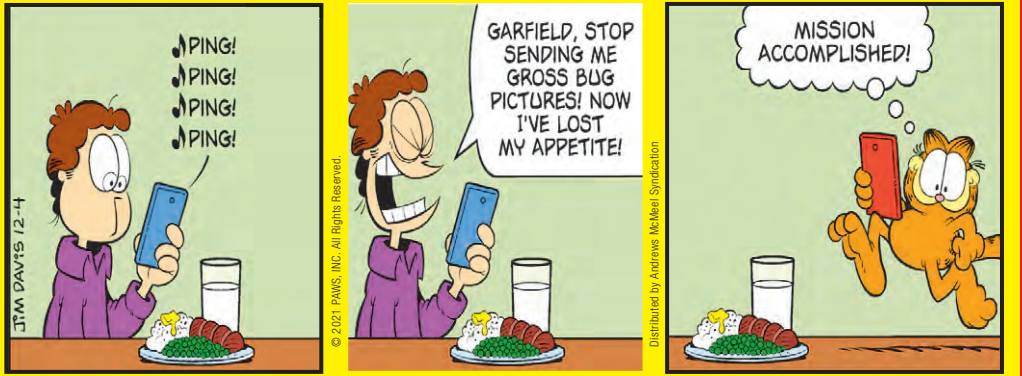
©2021 Bill Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

Bill and Jeff Keane

"Gee, Grandma! I didn't know chopsticks were good for sewing, too."

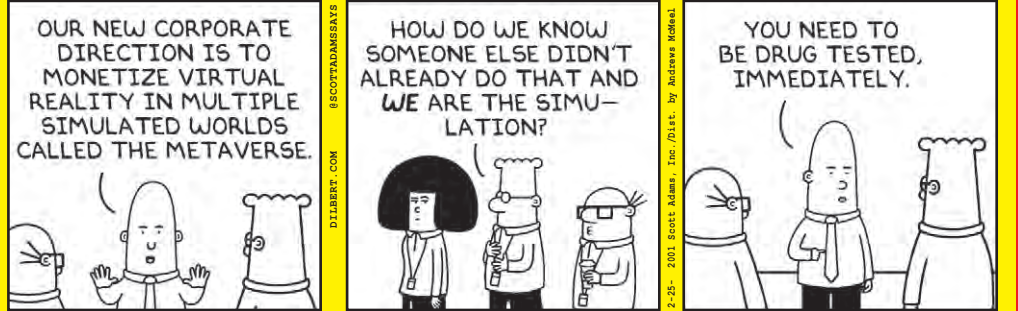
## Garfield

Jim Davis



## Dilbert

Scott Adams



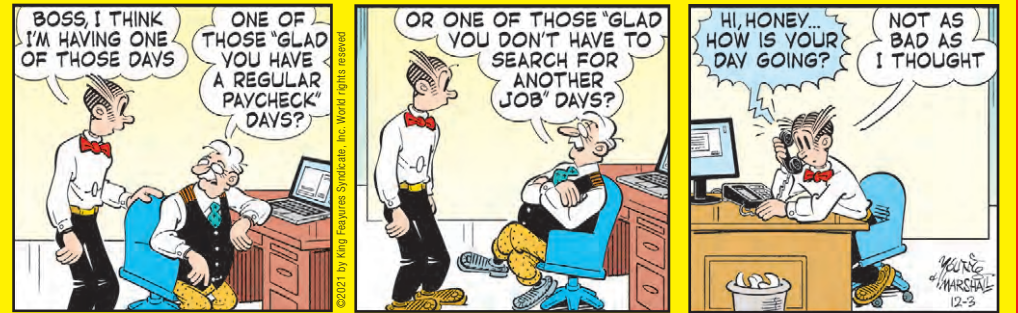
## Beetle Bailey

Greg and Mort Walker



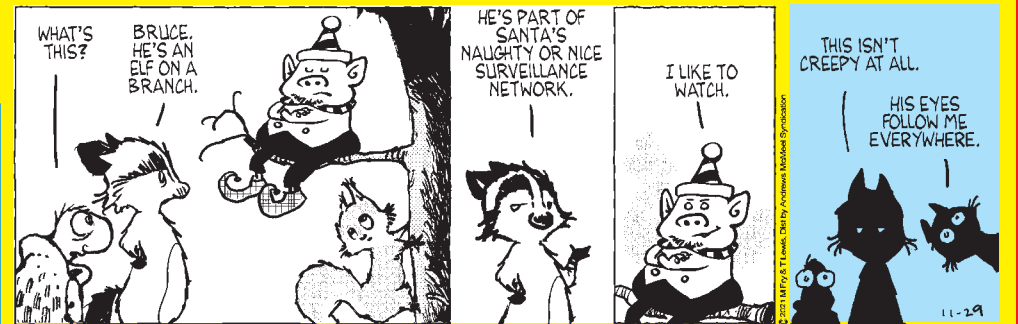
## Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



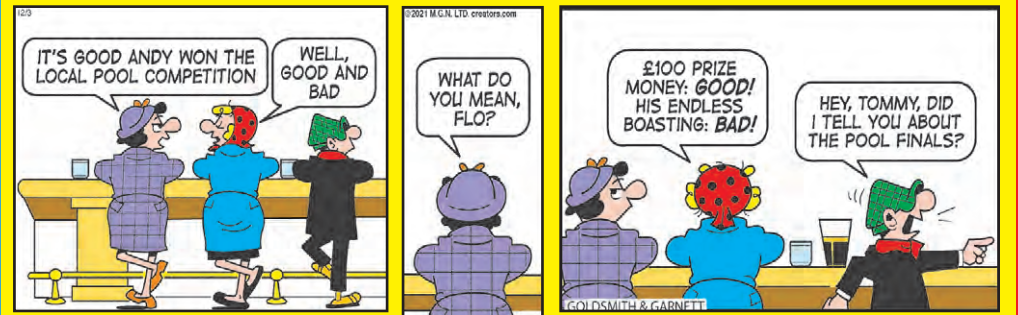
## Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



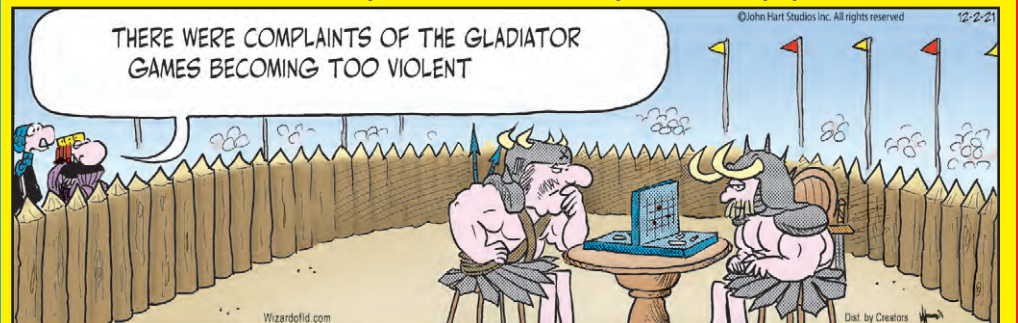
## Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



## Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



## Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

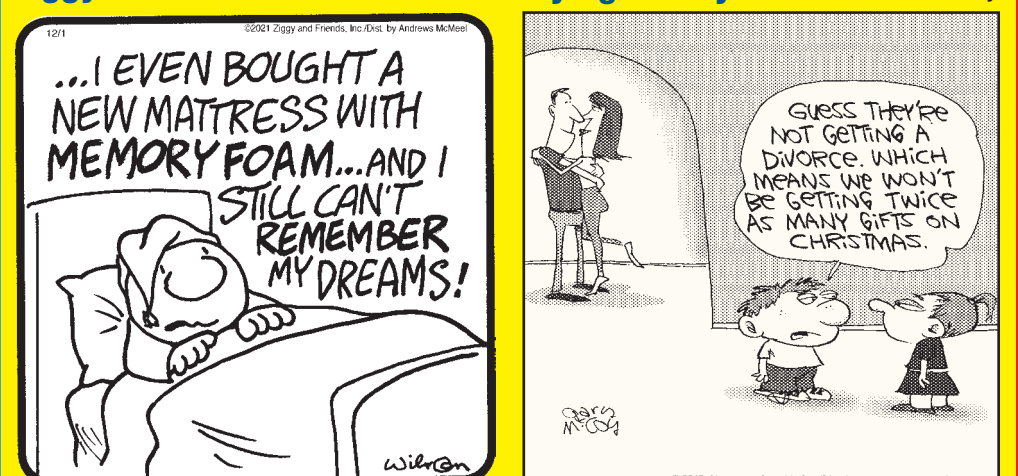


## Ziggy

Tom Wilson

## Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

12/2 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆  
© 2021 by Andrews McMeel Syndication 11/25 Solution

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 2, 2021

- ACROSS**
- 1 Analyze syntactically
  - 6 Emailed a dupe to
  - 10 Officials at Phillies games, briefly
  - 14 Let up
  - 15 Big name in chips
  - 16 Game on horseback
  - 17 "Like community government (Hint: Note the letters that bookend both words of each starred clue's answer ... and what these letters collectively spell)"
  - 19 Coffee maker sound
  - 20 All tied up
  - 21 All fired up
  - 22 Fills to excess
  - 23 Flushed
  - 24 After expenses
  - 25 Opposite of baja
  - 26 "All the other people"
  - 31 One who values actions over words?
  - 33 Broke bread
  - 34 Most eco-friendly dryer?
  - 35 "Just play along"
  - 38 Answered
  - 40 Cable network with a patriotic name
  - 41 What jowls do
  - 42 Charged particles
  - 43 "Spurring into action"
  - 48 Call to a mate
  - 49 Curved path
  - 50 Blond shade
  - 53 Late general Powell
  - 55 Adjective for a shoppe
  - 56 Chimney channel
  - 57 Smell from a trash bag
  - 58 "Receipts"
  - 60 Clutter
  - 61 Norse god associated with lightning
  - 62 Judges' attire
  - 63 (Check this out!)
  - 64 Baby beagles
  - 65 Steeple's tip
  - 10 Modernize
  - 11 Serious sermon subject
  - 12 Ballet bend
  - 13 Absorbs, with "up"
  - 18 Narrow street
  - 22 Ignore the alarm clock
  - 25 Penny, perhaps, in poker
  - 26 Moody music genre
  - 27 Rendition
  - 28 Crew member's implement
  - 29 Takes legal action
  - 30 5 p.m., say, for a workday
  - 31 Ponder (over)
  - 32 "No clue"
  - 35 Embrace
  - 36 A whole bunch of
  - 37 Thing in an incubator
  - 39 Captain's journal
  - 44 Craving that needs quenching
  - 45 Pace faster than a canter
  - 46 They may be marching
  - 47 Frosts, as a cake
  - 50 Cover story?
  - 51 Terrific
  - 52 "Siddhartha" author
  - 53 Hermann
  - 54 Provide for free
  - 55 Uplifting poems
  - 55 Diamond Head's locale
  - 56 Box office bomb
  - 58 Motor oil brand
  - 59 AARP members: Abbr.
- PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | U | R | L | I | L | A | C | S | H | U | T |   |   |
| C | A | S | A | E | R | I | C | A | T | A | C | O |   |   |
| A | G | E | D | T | A | P | E | R | T | I | L | L | S |   |
| M | E | D | I | C | S | D | A | L | L | A | S |   |   |   |
| C | O | N | D | O | D | I | T | T | O |   |   |   |   |   |
| W | T | A | B | O | N | E | G | O | F | C | C |   |   |   |
| A | I | R | C | I | T | Y | M | A | P | F | A | R |   |   |
| T | A | L | K | T | I | E | O | N | B | A | R | E |   |   |
| T | R | O | O | P | M | A | N | M | E | M | E | S |   |   |
| S | A | T | I | A | T | E | S | M | I | L | E | Y | S |   |
|   |   |   | P | S | I |   | A | S | L |   |   |   |   |   |
| B | O | O | K | O | F | M | Y | T | H | S |   |   |   |   |
| B | E | A | N | T | H | R | O | B | O | U | S | T |   |   |
| A | R | I | D | O | H | A | R | E | P | I | E | R |   |   |
| R | A | T | S |   | K | I | T | T | E | S | S | T | A | Y |
- © 2021 by Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

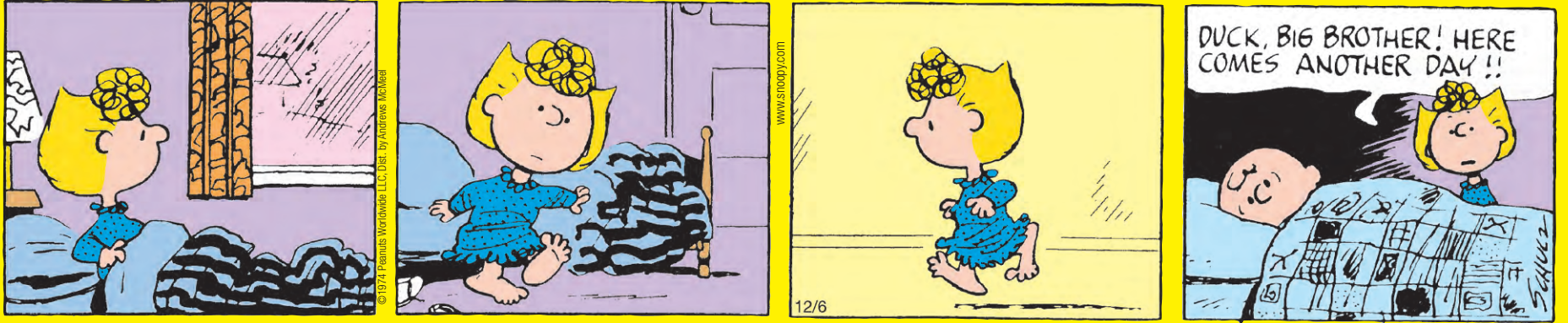
## Front and Back Legs by Paul Coulter

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				
40						41					42				
43						44					45	46	47		
						48					49		50	51	52
53	54					55					56				
57						58					59				
60						61					62				
63						64					65				

# Comics

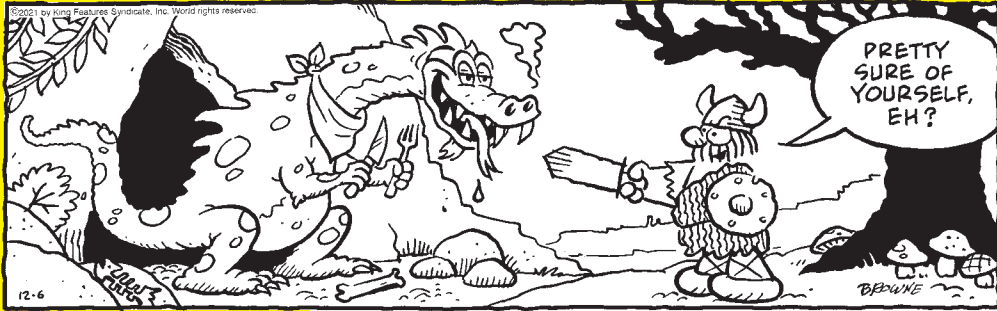
## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



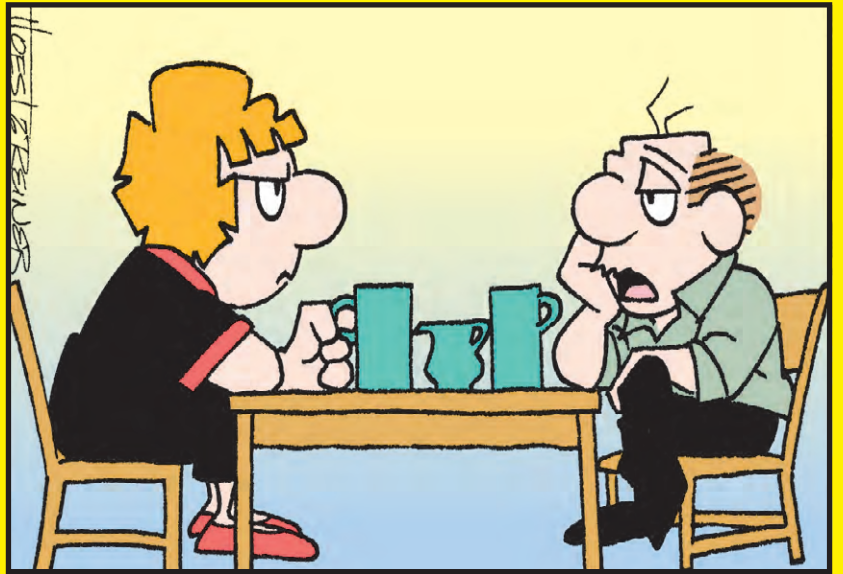
## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



## The Lockhorns

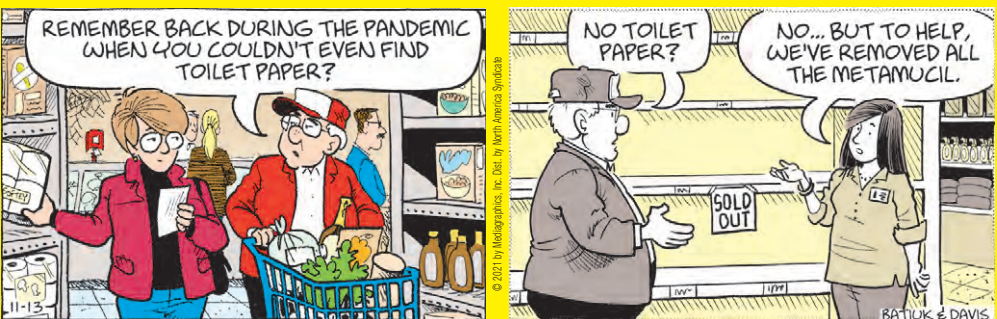
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"I'M JUST WAITING FOR AN EDGEWISE TO PUT A WORD INTO."

## Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



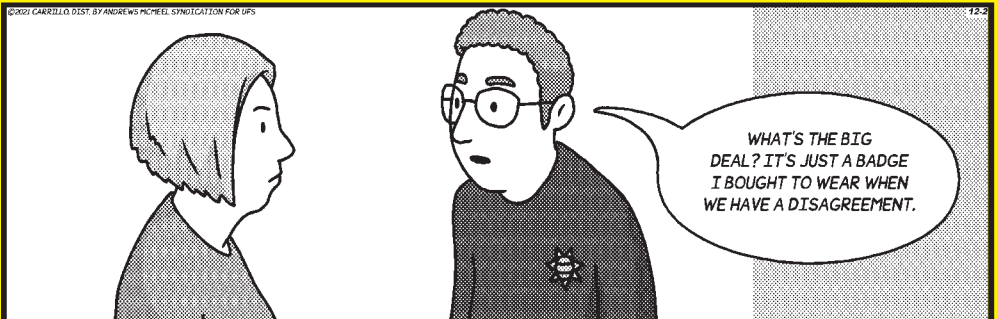
## Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



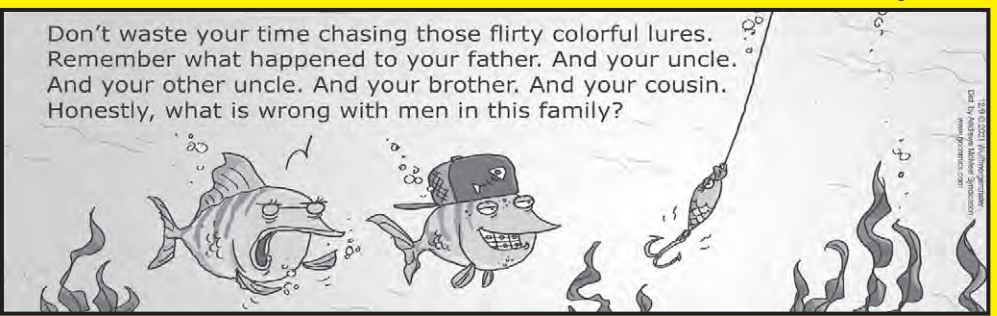
## F Minus

Tony Carrilo



## Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



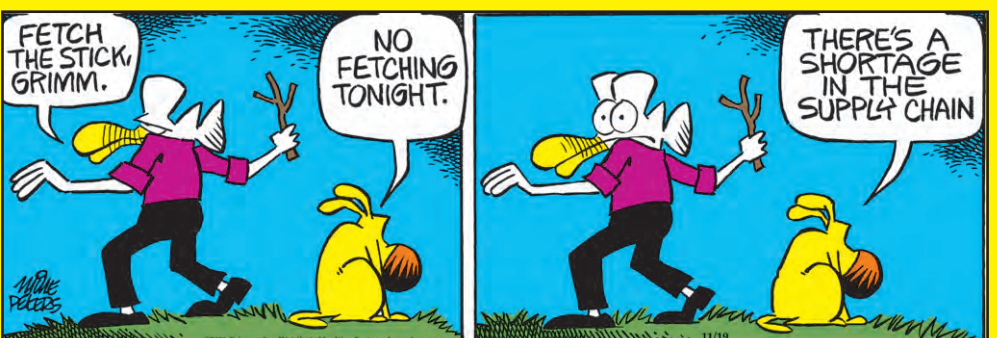
## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



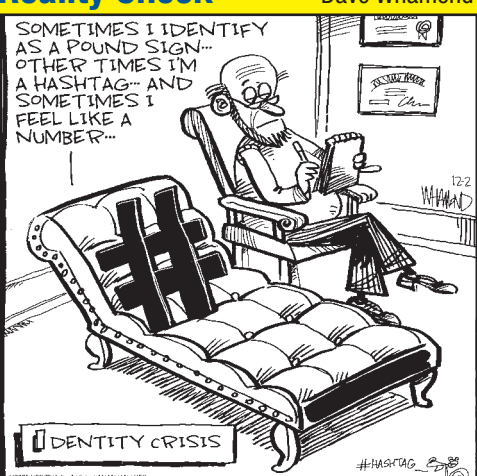
## Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



## Reality Check

Dave Whamond



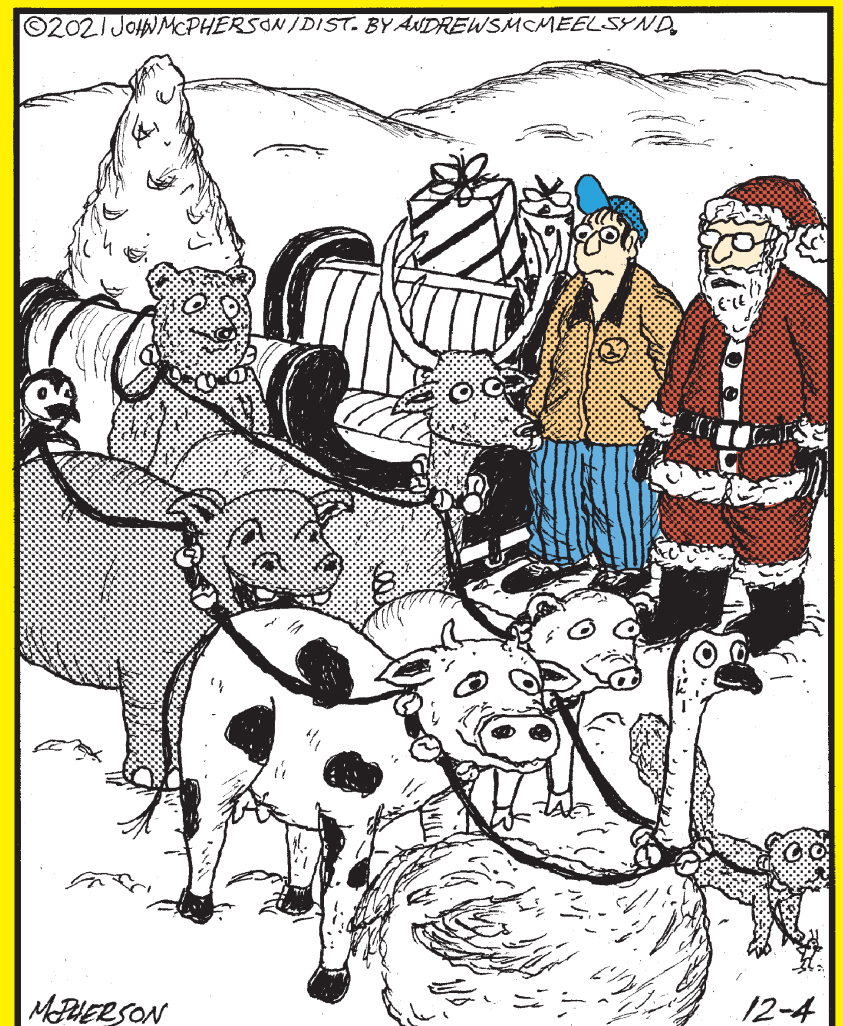
## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



## Close To Home

John McPherson



"Like a lot of employers this year, I'm having trouble finding qualified workers."

## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Wait! Marmaduke is checking for squirrels."

# SPORTS

SPORTS

**Ready for tipoff**  
Get ready for boys basketball season in the Pointes. PAGE 3D

2D GIRLS HOCKEY | 4D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## Knights see new standard for success

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School boys basketball team took a major leap last season. The Knights were able to capture a district championship, achieving a level of playoff success rarely seen by the boys basketball program at Liggett.

As a new season approaches, the Knights have expectations to maintain that sort of success and build on what they were able to achieve last year. With a mix of familiar and new faces on this year's Liggett squad, the Knights are getting prepared to face any challenge in front of them.

"The energy has been pretty high because there's been anticipation to see where things will end up after having a good year last year," Liggett head coach Solomon Spann said. "We have a new cast of players stepping into new roles or expanding their roles from last season and also some new faces, so it's been quite exciting to see how the new group is going to

gel together."

One veteran expected to be a major piece for the Knights this year is senior Alex George. Liggett is counting on George, entering his fourth season on varsity, to finish his career strong and help lead the Knights to another successful year.

"He's played a variety of roles," Spann said about the senior. "He's led the team in scoring and been a great leader, but also been the kind of guy who hasn't led the team in scoring throughout his tenure here. We expect big things from him."

In terms of newer names on the varsity squad for the Knights, Preston Barr is among those looking to make his presence known right away. His skill level and tenacity have Barr's coach hoping he can be an impact player for Liggett right out of the gate this season.

"I'm really excited to see what he brings to the table as far as his ability to play-make and shoot the basketball, along with his level of energy and wanting to

play the game at a very high level," Spann said.

Players like Barr bring a valuable level of play-making ability to Liggett this year. However, it seems as though playing on the

Knights this season because of their size advantage. Offense as a result of a strong defense is what Spann sees as Liggett's biggest focus.

"We want to look to

going to be our strength."

With the start of the 2021-22 season now just days away, the Knights are focused on mental preparation just as much as physical preparation. Winning a district championship and going on a playoff run last season brings some pressure with it to maintain and continue building on that level of success.

Final practices and preseason scrimmages are around the corner before the regular season begins for the Knights. Seeing how the team can handle the mental pressure of being back in big-game situations is still a question on Liggett's mind.

"Some of them will be in that scenario for the first time or haven't been in that scenario for a long time, so it'll be interesting to see where that leads," Spann said, "and it's the biggest area that's a question mark for us."

There is a bit of added pressure after last year's success, but it also sets a benchmark for where Liggett's boys

basketball program is and where it can go from here. The Knights want success like last season to become the standard and Spann already sees his players committing to that kind of mentality.

"The expectations of the kids is that they want that to be the baseline and want to get back to that area and see if they can take it a step further," he said.

"With the new cast of players coming in and new students coming into bigger roles, they've seen what's happened over the past few years with the growth. If they want to be a part of that, then we're happy to push that and have that be where we want to be as a program. ... As long as the kids buy in, which they have so far, we'll be there to lead them."

The Knights begin the regular season next Wednesday, Dec. 8, with a road game against Walled Lake Northern. Liggett then has its home opener a couple of days later Friday, Dec. 10, hosting Southfield Christian.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

**Head coach Solomon Spann and the University Liggett boys basketball team want to build on the success of last season when the Knights won the district championship.**

interior and using size and strength are going to be the biggest keys for the Knights going forward.

Defense and rebounding can carry the

score off of our defense and create transition opportunities," he said. "We're probably as big as we've ever been in terms of interior players, so that's probably

## Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Swimming is like second nature to Olivia Yoo. The senior from Grosse Pointe South High School has found happiness and success in the pool almost as long as she can remember and has turned that love for swimming into a decorated high school career and a future competing at the Division 1 collegiate level.

Yoo's journey in the sport began at a young age when she, like many others, learned to swim just as a basic skill. That basic skill evolved into a passion which quickly became the focus of Yoo's athletic dreams.

"My mom wanted to make sure I was good at swimming so I didn't fall in the pool, because I was kind of hyper," she said. "I tried a few different sports and out of all the ones I did, swimming was the one that just made me super happy. When I was 11 or 12, I started going to bigger meets outside of

Michigan and that's when it got more intense."

Over the years, Yoo has swam with clubs such as Grosse Pointe Gators and Pointe Aquatics and has been part of the girls swim team at South throughout her high school career. Swimming is a sport largely based on individual performance, but being part of a team can be valuable in many different ways that Yoo has seen during her time with different

teams. "You see it in your times, but also it's been huge in helping me grow as a team player and as a person," she said. "When I started doing high school swimming I had great captains always

teaching me how to be positive. I started thinking about how I want to be as helpful and positive as they are and I try to keep that mentality throughout the high school season. ... I had a race I didn't feel too good about, but the girls on my team were always trying to get my energy up and help me think more positively, so there's always a lot of support."

Having teammates alongside for support can provide a boost for any swimmer. However, a veteran like Yoo knows everything rests on her shoulders at the end of the day.

Perhaps one of the reasons Yoo has found so much success over her career as a swimmer is because of the level of focus she maintains. If sometimes the only thing stand-

ing between her and victory is herself, she does not often let it get in her way. "The time you set, it's not physically affected by other swimmers; you're doing it on your own," Yoo said. "Swimming,

you can just think about yourself and all you have to do is just swim straight and I really like that. The only way someone else affects your race is you looking at them and trying to stick with them."

This fall, Yoo completed her final season with the Blue Devils and made sure to leave a mark with plenty of strong performances as a senior. She achieved four first-place finishes at this year's MAC Red Division championship meet with individual wins in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard fly, as well as being part of winning relay teams in the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle.

Yoo carried that momentum into the Division 2 state finals a couple of weeks ago where she finished in third place or better in each of her events. She was a part of the second-place 200-yard medley relay squad and the second-place 400-yard freestyle relay team. Her best individual finishes came in the form of second place in the 100-yard fly and third place in the 200-yard freestyle.

This successful senior season was the culmination of years of hard work by Yoo and now it

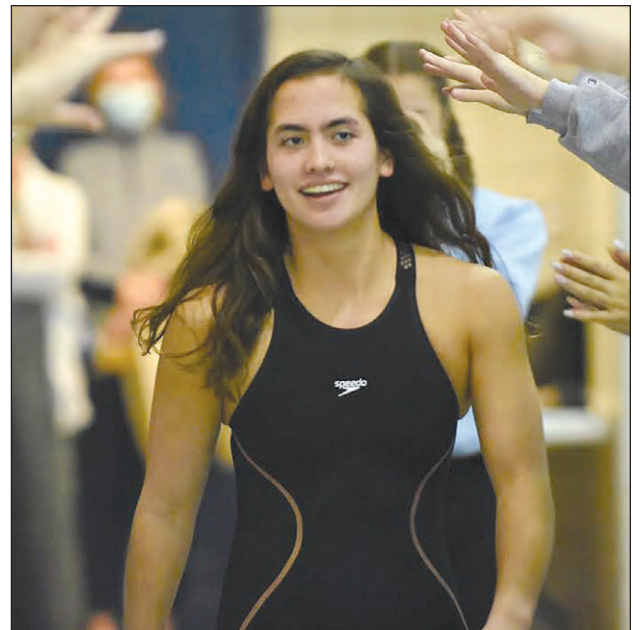


PHOTO BY TONY SMIHAL

**Olivia Yoo**

is time for her to prepare for the next level. Next fall, Yoo will join the swim team at the University of Pittsburgh, giving her the chance to swim alongside some of the best competition the country has to offer and continue her career in the sport she loves.

"In COVID, it was a lot of phone calling coaches and researching schools online," Yoo said. "After I did a visit to Pittsburgh, there were so many factors that influenced my decision, but I really loved it and wanted to go Division 1 and keep climbing."

Swimming also has become about more than just success in the pool for Yoo. Being part of the

sport has helped her feel like part of a community, which is something she has known for a long time she wants at the next level.

"When I was maybe in eighth or ninth grade, I was thinking how I don't want to stop swimming after high school because it's something that always helps me out socially or finding comfort," she said. "Like in high school it was new, but I had my swim team. ... In college, I want that too, and I've always felt like swimmers are the people who I really relate to and can connect to."

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit [grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week](http://grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week).

Grosse Pointe News



**Athlete of the Week**

**Olivia Yoo**

School: Grosse Pointe South  
Sport: Swimming

Sponsored by Joe Ricci Automotive





**313.806.7848 | [joericciauto.com](http://joericciauto.com)**

## 2D | SPORTS

# South baseball winter camp returns

The Grosse Pointe South baseball team has announced the return of its Holiday Hitting Camp. Second- through sixth-grade baseball players have the chance to participate in drills and learn from Blue Devils coaches and players.

Due to high demand, the team has added a second date for this year's camp. Enrollment is still open for the second edition of the camp

on Dec. 28 in the main gym at Grosse Pointe South High School. Players will be separated into age groups and rotate through various stations to work on the fundamentals of hitting.

The camp allows players to learn the proper mechanics behind hitting and gives parents ideas of drills they can do with their players at home to keep them learning and improving throughout the year.

The camp is directed by South baseball coach and two-time state champion Dan Griesbaum. Enrollment is limited and interested players and parents are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration information may be found on South baseball's website, [gpsouthbaseball.com](http://gpsouthbaseball.com). Masks will be required as the camp is taking place indoors.

— Mike Adzima



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

The University Liggett girls hockey team is led by six seniors as the Knights begin their journey of defending their state championship crown.

## Knights girls hockey off to strong start

By Alexis Bohlinger  
Staff Writer

The University Liggett School girls varsity hockey team is looking forward to another successful season coming in with a full lineup of 21 skaters, two goalies and a state championship title to defend. The season started Friday, Nov. 19, with a home game victory against Grosse Pointe South, with a final score of 7-1.

Liggett goals were scored by Ava Jacob (two), Natalia Dragovic, Elle Quinlan, Morgan Hamilton and Sofie Ancona (two). Allyson Doppke had assists on two goals.

The Knights' second matchup was a non-league game the following day against the Columbus Bluejackets 19U team. The final score was 5-3 in the Bluejackets' favor. The Knights saw goals from Jacob, Ancona and Maddie McKee.

The Knights are led by six seniors — Ally Doppke, Natalia Dragovic, Ava Jacob, Maddie McKee, Tori Roth and goaltender Logan Merriweather.

"With the benefit of

depth at every position, the girls continue to push one another at practice, creating healthy competition for ice time and roles on the special teams units," head coach Greg Paddison said. "It's no secret that our objective is to push the pace of play every game and we firmly believe that our combination of depth and conditioning will give us an advantage."

The team captains are McKee, Dragovic and Doppke.

"All three of these girls are in their fourth season with our program and have seen the ups and downs, experienced the thrill of victory and the pain of defeat," Paddison said. "Together, they provide the kind of communal leadership that I trust will set the bar for the upcoming crop of ULS players."

In preparation for the season, Paddison feels confident he has the right captains in place to lead the charge, each coming in with their own special set of skills.

"McKee is an absolute workhorse and the epitome of what it means to be a team first player," he said. "She leads by example and never lets any-

one else be the hardest working player on the ice. Natalia Dragovic is passion personified and our vocal leader. Natalia takes it upon herself to be a 'big sister' to our underclassmen, embodying the 'hockey family' concept I've been hoping to instill in my girls. Ally Doppke is a complete leader on and off the ice. Ally gives so much of herself to our program and is the model of reliability and accountability. She has maturity beyond her years and is a calming influence on the ice and in the locker room."

The Knights were looking forward to their next matchup against state semifinalists Livonia United on Nov. 30 at McCann Ice Arena.

When asked if the girls are bringing the same kind of intensity as last season, Paddison replied, "The coaching staff has been working hard to remind the girls that being on top means that we're going to see every opponent's best, every game. While our talent should be able to carry us through most of the season, it only takes one game, one slip up, for it all to end prematurely."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARE CONWAY HAYNER

The St. Clare of Montefalco JV 5th-6th Grade Girls Basketball team took home the 45th Annual St. Clare Thanksgiving Tournament Championship on Saturday after defeating St. Joseph's of Trenton in overtime.

Back row: Coach Clare Conway Hayner, Sofia Beachem, Keegan Price, Addy Brownsberger, Norah Brumbaugh, Micah Killebrew, Claire Tocco, Ava Beverly and Coach Milan Manriquez. Front row: Lauren Harris, Nadia Richardson, Emily Vassel, Cala Coyro and Luna Coyro.

Grosse Pointe News  
High School **SPORTS**

## HOME GAMES

**GROSSE POINTE NORTH**

**Tuesday, December 7**  
4 pm Boys Freshmen Basketball vs. Chippewa @gym  
5:30 Boys JV Basketball vs. Chippewa @gym  
7 pm Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Chippewa @gym

**Wednesday, December 8**  
Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Troy @East Side Hockey Arena

**GROSSE POINTE SOUTH**

**Thursday, December 2**  
5:30 Girls JV Basketball vs. Marian @Main Gym

**Saturday, December 4**  
5 pm Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Walled Lake @East Side Hockey Arena

**UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL**

**Thursday, December 2**  
6:30 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Detroit Country Day School @ULS Rink

**Friday, December 3**  
5:30 pm Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Lutheran North @Gym

Grosse Pointe News



*Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?  
Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put  
them in the running for Athlete of the Year.*

All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala – with top athletes winning scholarships!

Submit online at:  
[grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week](http://grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week)

Grosse Pointe News

# Blue Devils basketball looking to gain quick experience

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Change is a pretty regular thing for any high school sports program and is something the boys basketball team at Grosse Pointe South High School has had to deal with as the 2021-22 season gets closer. This year's Blue Devils team is going to look a bit different than last year in terms of new faces playing big roles, but that does not have South taking its eyes off of any major goals it wants to accomplish this winter.

A key word for the Blue Devils heading into the season is experience. Experience is something South's roster is lacking a bit in the eyes of coach Stephen Benard, which means plenty of hard off-season work has been needed to get inexperienced players mentally and physically ready for what lies ahead.

"There's a lot of new players and the returning players don't really have a lot of varsity experience," Benard said. "We did as much as we could

in the offseason to get them experience. We played some top teams and top competition in the summer, had a big fall program playing in a league and doing workouts, training and open gyms. Practices have been good because the guys are coachable and really want to be there. They're just lacking that experience."

One of the younger players on this year's South team expected to make an impact with a bigger role on varsity is Karter Richards. Offseason growth and constant effort have made him one of the standouts Benard sees as a player ready to compete.

"He'll be a sophomore this year and probably grew four or five inches," Benard said. "He's been putting a lot of work in and has a really good feel for the game and can shoot it."

The majority of the Blue Devils' core this season is made up of juniors. Perhaps the biggest name in the junior class is Anthony Benard, a

guard who has grown into a role as one of South's biggest playmakers and leaders on the court.

Coming into his junior season, Anthony Benard has seen his role on the Blue Devils change over the course of his young career. Now a playmaking point guard with shooting skills, his strong performance this season will be a major key to South's success.

"His role has changed every year," coach Benard said. "He's another kid who's got in the weight room and grown adding weight and strength. We're going to lean heavily on him this year, but his game is looking great right now."

The Blue Devils also will be looking for someone to step in and fill the gap left by Will Johnson. The senior will not play basketball for South this year as he is leaving for the University of Michigan in January to get started on his college football career.

"Obviously a loss for the program, but he gave so much as a great athlete and great team player and was a great kid to coach," Benard said.

South still is working to figure out what the starting lineup might look like this season. It could very well be weeks into the season before a solid rotation is decided upon.

That does provide some advantages. Benard sees his players working hard in every practice and workout, trying to prove they deserve spots in the lineup and can fill the bigger roles left on

this team. Building mental and physical toughness has been a main focus throughout the off-season to make sure everyone is ready to compete.

"We're solely concentrating on defense by getting tougher and playing smarter," Benard said. "I know who my top three or four guys are, but the rest is very competitive. We have tough practices because guys are vying for spots and it's going to reach a situation where our starting lineup in game one might not be the starting lineup in game three, four or five."

The goals of competing for a MAC championship and making a run in the playoffs still are very much the same for the Blue Devils going into this season. Youth and inexperience does not need to be an excuse and Benard thinks his players can accomplish big things once they're able to adjust.

"Our problem right now is really an experience thing," he said. "As the season goes on, the speed is going to slow down for them and the guys are going to be able to not react so much. Right now we react so much instead of anticipating. Once that clicks I think we can be a really good basketball team toward the end of the season."

The Blue Devils open the season Dec. 9, with a road matchup at Detroit Loyola before taking on Orchard Lake St. Mary in the CHSL vs. MAC Challenge the following Sunday. South has its home opener Dec. 14, hosting Waterford Mott.



PHOTO BY BRIAN MCKENNA

South senior Jake Spitz scores the first goal of the night for the Blue Devils in a 5-0 win over the Norsemen.

## Blue Devils shutout North

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

With the high school hockey season underway, the boys hockey teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools met on the ice Monday for their first crosstown rivalry matchup of the season. With fans of both sides packing the rink, this meeting belonged to the Blue Devils as they came away with a 5-0 shutout win over the Norsemen.

It was South's senior captain Jake Spitz who got the scoring started Monday night. Spitz put the Blue Devils in front with an unassisted goal just over 10 minutes into the game and his team did not look back after.

The first period ended with South ahead by just one. The Blue Devils built on their lead with a powerplay goal by River Kraus. Sophomore Hayden Crane was credited with the assist, his first of three points on

the night.

South made it a 3-0 game thanks to a goal from junior William Rauh. Crane added his name to the stat sheet twice more with two goals to bring the total to 5-0. The first goal for Crane was a short-handed goal, while his second was scored on the powerplay.

The win over North gives the Blue Devils their second victory in a row after defeating Trenton over the weekend. South took on Port Huron Northern Wednesday night then will enjoy a break before facing Salem on the road Dec. 11.

North looks to regroup from the loss when facing Eisenhower Saturday. The Norsemen also then get a few days off before returning home to host Romeo Dec. 10.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Junior Anthony Benard is expected to play a big role on this year's Blue Devils boys basketball team.

# Defense and adjustments key for Norsemen

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The boys basketball team at Grosse Pointe North High School is in its final preparations before taking the court for a new season in just a few days. This year's Norsemen squad returns with quite a bit of experience, but also has plenty of areas where adjustments need to be made.

Working through the offseason, there is a sense of anticipation for the Norsemen to get back to playing basketball. The new season is right around the corner and a bit of a return to normal seems to be giving North's players a boost of energy.

"Most of our guys are multi-sport athletes, so they never get out of game mode," said North head coach Andy Ayrault. "Coming off of a year where we haven't really been able to have fans or students in the stands, I think there's more excitement coming into this. We have a good returning junior class and some good seniors who are looking forward to performing this year."

The biggest loss this year for the Norsemen is Jordan Shepherd, who graduated after having an All-League performance in the MAC during his senior year last season. North's roster now includes plenty of

juniors with varsity experience but who are now expected to step into larger roles.

One of those juniors who can have a major impact for the Norsemen is Ayrault's son, Adam. Adam Ayrault had a breakout sophomore season last winter and also earned All-League honors in the MAC. With the jump he was able to make last season, his dad and coach thinks plenty of opponents will know his name this year.

"He averaged almost 18 per game last year and that's more than likely because nobody knew who he was," Ayrault said. "He was on varsity as a freshman, but he was skinny and wasn't used to the speed of varsity basketball. ... He's going to be a real impact player now both on the offensive and the defensive side."

Making an impact on the defensive side is going to be key for the Norsemen. If there is anything going against North this season, it is a lack of real big size. It may mean some adversity, but working to make adjustments is always part of the game.

"We've really got to defend some people better than we have," Ayrault said. "We're under-sized at the four and five positions so we might have to do things differently than other

teams. We don't have a 6-foot, 6-inch kid or 6-foot, 7-inch kid who can dominate in the paint, so we're going to do some other things defensively that we have to really concentrate on."

A lot of the focus for the Norsemen on defense is going to be on creating pressure. Being at a disadvantage when it comes to size just means North can make it up with an increase in intensity.

"We want to pressure teams more and force them into doing things they don't normally do," Ayrault said. "We have to play better pressure defense. Not necessarily going full-court press, but in the halfcourt we have to make people make mistakes."

North's style of play can be catered to its strengths. The Norsemen are by no means a small basketball team and are a talented group with plenty of potential.

The Norsemen have the chance to experiment with different styles and lineups based on matchups. With a diverse set of skills among his players, Ayrault sees he has the type of team that can adapt to any situation.

"Everybody's going to have to be able to play every position," he said. "We're not small, but we're not really big. We're kind of going to be playing positionless bas-

ketball where everyone can do a bit of everything. And this is a good group to do it with."

The season for the Norsemen begins Tuesday with a home matchup against Chippewa Valley. North has a stretch of four home games to open the season, ending with a rivalry showdown against Grosse Pointe South on Dec. 16.

Ayrault knows his team has had some struggles coming out of the gate in recent seasons. This year, he hopes his team can begin the year strong and prove to

the competition that they can play tough against anybody.

"In the past, we've started pretty slow but then hit our stride and when the new year rolls around it looks like a different team," Ayrault said. "I'd like to start the season a bit stronger. ... Last year in a condensed season we lost some of our games early on, but by the time we were comfortable, we beat MAC Red Division teams, which is a division above us. ... I think we're going to surprise some people with how good we can be."



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Adam Ayrault and the North boys basketball team take on Chippewa Valley on Tuesday to begin the 2021-22 season.

## VILLAGE WINE SHOP



### SALE on BEER & Hard Seltzer!

STOCK UP ON DRINKS for the holidays while you can...



HIGH NOON 8 PK \$15.99 (reg. \$19.99)



TWO-HEARTED ALE 12 PK CANS \$16.99



WHITE CLAW 12 PK \$14.99

Village Wine Shop

15228 E. Jefferson  
Grosse Pointe Park  
thevillagewineshop.com  
(313) 821-1177

