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# Grosse Pointe News

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## GP North clinic max cost at \$989K

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — A proposed clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School that was estimated to cost \$700,000 two weeks ago now has a maximum price tag of \$989,000 based on final bids from Turner

Construction. The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education discussed costs for the clinic and two other projects at its work session Monday, Dec. 12, and is expected to take a final vote at its regular meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at

Brownell Middle School. The board voted 5-2 at its Nov. 28 meeting to approve an interagency agreement with Corewell Health, formerly Beaumont Health, for the clinic. GPPSS will use sinking fund money to build out the clinic in a science lab not currently in use, while

Corewell will run the clinic with a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. When the clinic was discussed at both board meetings in November, the proposed cost was \$700,000. That figure also was used on an FAQ page regarding the proj-

ect on the district website. That page has since been updated to reflect the higher cost. Superintendent Jon Dean previously told the Grosse Pointe News that the \$700,000 figure was based on a design and development estimate Turner gave the district in August. He added that

as Turner received bids from its subcontractors, the cost increased. The cost for construction and oversight of the project is \$915,716. The district will put aside a contingency fund of \$73,262 to cover cost overruns. Any portion of

See CLINIC, page 8A

## Farms to hold 2nd master plan public workshop in January

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — While the Farms initially appeared to be cruising right through its master plan update process upon commencing the work earlier this year and compared to neighboring Pointes who also were in various stages of their own master plan updates, the city now is push-

ing back its timeline by months and adding a significant extra step to the process. This is the Farms' first major update since 2000, intended to guide the city for the next two decades, and city council has noted concern that the proper amount of time be allotted to ensure it's done right. In the spirit of allowing more time and opportunity for residents to get

involved and for every voice to be heard, a second public workshop will be held 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Pier Park community building. "The initial public workshop was really to get a broad participation on different ideas for consideration in the master plan," City Manager Shane

See PLAN, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Sleigh what? Only 11 days 'til Christmas

Including today, with just 11 days to go before Christmas Day, Santa has been hard at work putting the final touches on his Christmas tree at the North Pole. But before his annual trek around the globe Dec. 24, he's making one last pit stop to Grosse Pointe this weekend. The Jolly Old Elf will be at Santa's Workshop in The Village, 17101 Kercheval, at the corner of Kercheval and St. Clair, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 17. Families on the Nice List can get their picture taken with St. Nick, enjoy a story with a special guest reader, write letters to Santa, color and create ornaments and get silly at selfie stations throughout the workshop. The event is part of Holidays in The Village, a series of festive events sponsored by Main Street Grosse Pointe.

## More lots rezoned for parking

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — City council this week approved the conditional transformation of five more residential properties into parking lots on Wayburn next to the Kercheval business district. Council action nearly duplicated its authoriza-

tion in October to rezone four residential properties, two each on Wayburn and Maryland adjacent to the same business district. Two of the properties granted tentative rezoning this week — both side-by-side immediately north of Kercheval — are empty. The houses they once hosted were razed before current council

members won office. The other three properties are immediately south of Kercheval. They, also, are contiguous. The three houses they host were scheduled for demolition starting Tuesday, Dec. 13. Developers need the parking lots to support the operation of a three-

See REZONED, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

Parking spaces in the reconstructed Kroger lot were widened from 8 feet to 9 feet, 4 inches.

## Pay stations replace meters in Kroger lot

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — It's clear the situation is bad when The Campus Shop starts selling an "I survived the Kroger parking lot" T-shirt. Such had been the case for the Pointes' local grocery store at 16919 Kercheval in The Village, prior to its lot's recent reconstruction and recon-

figuring, which included double-stripping and widening each space from 8 feet to 9 feet, 4 inches. The changes to the lot, however, don't stop there. Replacing the long-standing metered system, three Luke II pay stations — two to the left of the Kroger entrance and one on the other side of the alley — were set to be in place and operational by

See KROGER, page 3A

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Section C

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**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



**Dr. Tom Graves**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms  
Pointer leads medical mission trips to Haiti and the Dominican Republic



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## Festive in the Shores

Grosse Pointe Shores hosted its annual tree-lighting event Nov. 27. It was raining and cold outside, but warm and festive inside city hall for the Lighting of the Village. The city thanked Santa Claus, Mayor Ted Kedzierski, City Manager Steve Poloni and his hard-working team, the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation and everyone who attended. From left, Christmas Carol, Laura Schroder, Santa Claus, Christina Morrison, Grosse Pointe Shores Councilman Donn Schroder and his granddaughter, Caroline Morrison, were all smiles at the annual event.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TED COULISH



Above, Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation representatives Mary Matuja and Rob Sattler served hot chocolate to guests. Left, Jennifer and Michael Koester, a Grosse Pointe Woods councilman, and their daughter, Kathryn, enjoyed their time at the event.

# Prospecting for goals

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The results of a goal-setting survey being compiled by TIFA Director Warren Rothe affords the prospect during this World Cup fútbol tournament of him mimicking that crazy Argentinean sportscaster and shouting “gooooaaaalll” each time he receives an exciting idea.

Or he could simply total the results for presentation soon.

“We had a community survey sent out,” said Rothe, also assistant city manager. “We asked TIFA board members to submit ideas. We want to be very intentional with getting our vision together over the next two or three years.”

Rothe intended to review the results during the Oct. 27 meeting of the Tax Increment Finance Authority, but the meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

Now he’s waiting until new board members Mary Distel and James Robson attend their first meeting in January 2023. Both were appointed by Mayor Michele Hodges Dec. 12.

“It will be appropriate (in January) to start talking about our budget for next year,” Rothe

said at TIFA’s last scheduled meeting of the year, Dec. 7, during which Chairman John Hughes’s absence was excused. “We thought it was best with new faces coming on board and the absence of our chair tonight to move that to early 2023.”

The purpose of the community survey was to compile from board members and the public a list of goals, which the board may adopt as objectives during 2023 and 2024.

“It appeared on the city’s Facebook page as well as our (municipal) website,” Rothe said.

“What kind of response did we get?” member Pier King-Piepenbrock asked.

“We got about 250 responses,” Rothe said. “It generated a significant amount of suggestions and comments.”

Board member Joe Tompkins wanted to see the raw data and comments.

“That will be available for you to review, absolutely,” Rothe said.

TIFA captures property taxes that otherwise would be sent to the county and state. Instead, local receipts are used to encourage economic activity within its namesake district bounded by Mack Avenue, Wayburn, almost to East Jefferson and to the alley shy of Nottingham.

## PLAN:

Continued from page 1A

Reeside explained, “and the second workshop now is really to present the results from the initial workshop and additional information that has been garnered through the process and give an opportunity to react to that and prioritize that information and add and delete items as appropriate.”

While the specific format is being finalized this month, it likely will include an initial presentation reviewing the master plan draft as it currently stands and lead into directed dialogue on its different aspects. Focuses of the discussion will be on identifying implementation priorities, along with key development and redevelopment sites for prioritization and planning focus, as well as

planning for the city’s character areas such as The Hill, Mack and Moross, Lakeshore and neighborhoods.

City administrators and McKenna, the consulting firm leading the efforts, anticipate making changes to the current draft based on the feedback received during the workshop.

This could look like, “modification of the draft,” Reeside said, “and trying to better prioritize some of the recommendations within the master plan.”

Residents who are unable to attend the second workshop are invited to provide their feedback on the project website — [mcka.mysocialpinpoint.com/gpf-masterplan](http://mcka.mysocialpinpoint.com/gpf-masterplan) — but also should keep an eye out for a potential virtual participation opportunity.

“We also are hoping to

have part of the workshop streamed online with an opportunity for those individuals to provide live feedback using their smartphones,” said Jane Dixon, associate planner with McKenna, via email.

While details still are being worked out, the streaming may take place on the city’s YouTube channel @cityofgrossepointefarms5745.

It remains unclear whether January’s public workshop will be the last opportunity for public comment on the plan before it goes before council for a vote.

“After the workshop, I’m sure there’ll be a cut-off period after that,” Reeside said.

A second public workshop was not initially in the plans for the Farms’ master plan update process, which pushes back its completion from the

originally anticipated January 2023.

As the upcoming 63-day public review period — required for master plan updates as a time to send out the draft to surrounding government entities for feedback — now will take the process through mid-March, Reeside anticipates the draft will go before Farms city council for final approval in April.

## KROGER:

Continued from page 1A

the end of this week.

Noteworthy for anyone dismayed over the loss of the meters, the pay stations accept not only credit cards, but nickels, dimes and quarters, as well.

“In addition, you can pay using the mobile app, Passport,” City Manager Pete Dame said, “but for the people who are more traditional (and) like to pay (via) parking meters, the pay stations are essentially the same thing as a parking meter, just all located in a single place. The only difference is you have to enter your license plate number.”

Users also can input their phone numbers, allowing the option to add money through their phones if they stay longer than expected.

While the stations are identical to those previously implemented in lots 2, 3 and 6, the City will run an informational campaign — including posted instruction sheets and city employees on site to run tutorials and answer questions — at the Kroger lot through the end of the year.

“It’s a very busy lot and people may not stay as long as they do in some of the other lots that already have this, so it’s a bit (of a) different dynamic,” Dame explained, “and people that shop in the Kroger may not be typically people that go to all of the other places in The Village. We draw from all over the Kroger, so there may be new people that aren’t accustomed to using these pay stations yet, so we’re going to have peo-

ple out there.”

Despite common misconception, Kroger owns the parking lot and was financially responsible for its reconstruction. However, the City operates and enforces it, which is likely where the confusion lies.

In return for these services, including plowing and salting the lot, the City collects the parking revenue and, therefore, shouldered the \$94,710 cost of the three new pay stations.

While repaving and restriping the Kroger lot was completed more than a month ago, around which time the parking meters also were removed — in the interim customers have been encouraged to pay via the city’s parking app — the delay in implementation is linked to the concrete shortage, which has been a roadblock in a number of local, and statewide, construction projects as of late.

“We’ve had the pay stations in storage for several weeks,” Dame explained. “We were having trouble getting a concrete person out there to dig it up and then to put the pads on which the pay stations sit. So it was either a concrete shortage or a shortage of concrete labor, one or the other.”

Come spring, Kroger will continue with improvements to the lot and include new cart corrals to the right of the entrance and the back corner of the lot, as well as fencing around the compactor and storage area.

Spring 2023 also is when resurfacing Lot 4, better known as the CVS lot, is anticipated to begin. The project is set to include a switch from meters to pay stations as well.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# Pointer lives out ‘the greatest of these is love’

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

If Dr. Tom Graves had a tagline for his life, it would come from a Bible verse in I Corinthians: “Love never fails.”

In treating each person he meets — from a Walgreens cashier to an elderly Haitian man — as someone he loves, he’s found a path through life similar to Scrooge from “A Christmas Carol” after the visits from the three ghosts: living for others, a concept that is scientifically proven to bring joy.

As a family physician in Chesterfield, Graves puts his beliefs into action by practicing what he calls the old-fashioned view of a doctor. During each physical, he checks “the sixth vital sign,” i.e. the health of one’s marriage.

The day before meeting with the Grosse Pointe News, he coached a young patient — one he incidentally delivered 34 years ago during his residency — through marriage problems and grief over loss of a loved one.

“The Bible says God is love,” Graves said, “so when we’re loving other people, we’re bringing God into the situation.”

Born at Cottage Hospital and raised in the Farms, the doctor is perhaps best recognized around the Pointes as president of the Haiti and Africa Relief Team, better known as HART.

The 501(c)3 was the brainchild of a St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church priest, Father Sama



COURTESY PHOTOS

**According to Dr. Tom Graves, love and joy are the twin engines that power the work of HART to bring the hope of Jesus to Haiti.**

Muma, and led its first medical mission trip to Haiti in 2010, just months after earthquakes that brought death toll estimates around 150,000.

After that first trip, Graves remembers feeling the country was beyond restoration and there was no way to make a difference. He never wanted to go back.

About a month later, a medical student who also had gone on the trip called Graves to say he didn’t believe their work there was done. Around the same time, the doctor received “the starfish email” that was going around: After a big storm washes tens of thousands

of starfish onto land, a little girl is running up and down the beach tossing them back in when a man comes along and says, “Honey, you’re not going to make a difference,” and she says, “I will for this one,” and tosses another in.

“I got that email and I believe that it was God telling me that’s Haiti,” Graves said. “Maybe I can’t fix the whole country, but I can really change life for some people and so it just refocused me and gave me the hope that we can make a big difference.”

And make a big difference they have.

Every year from 2010 to 2019 — sometimes two or three times a year — HART has led medical mission trips to Haiti, this year traveling to a sizable Haitian refugee population in the Dominican Republic due to political unrest in Haiti.

Among its slew of efforts, the organization has given medical and dental aid to more than 25,000 Haitians; built three churches; fed thousands of Haitians monthly since 2012; and created a Little Brothers and Sisters of Jesus program, which financially supports and educates 50 children who otherwise would be relinquished to orphanages because their parents can’t afford to feed them.

Much like how the scarlet thread of Jesus’ sacrifice can be found wound throughout the Bible, the presence of God is evident through

each effort HART has undertaken.

Its first place of worship was built when a Haitian priest insisted what the community really needed was not food or medicine, but a church, because it is their faith that keeps them going. One of the missionaries, who wasn’t particularly wealthy, was so inspired that he vowed to get the funds even if it took him 20 years. But within two years, the church was built aside from the \$50,000 roof.

This was mentioned during a Christmas concert at St. Paul on the Lake, after which a woman who had never before heard of HART came forward and said she felt God told her to build that roof. She now is a part of HART’s board and joins the mission trips each year.

Furthermore, it was within that church the community took shelter during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, resulting in not a single loss of life.

The growing line of people walking toward the clinic, he joined in. Through the help of a local priest, HART was able to find him a place to live and receive care.

“That was the one starfish,” Graves said, “that if that’s all we did, that was a great trip.”

Another year, Graves’ medical partner and his wife joined a trip and returned with more than they expected.

The couple met an eighth-grade boy who lived in a tin-roof hut the size of a shed and while adoption from Haiti wasn’t allowed at the time, they got him an educational visa and paid for him to attend the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. Today, he is studying to be a mechanical engineer and caddies at the Country Club of Detroit, where he earned the Evans Scholarship and recently was chosen as its national speaker.

However, Graves is careful to note the many ministries are not gifts

because we get healed through doing this and I mean that sincerely.”

The doctor’s favorite part of the ministry experience is the transformation he sees within those who take part, such as an atheist who began raising his arms during hymns by the end of one trip and Graves’ own daughter, who joined him on a mission trip when she was 16.

“She said, ‘I saw all these kids that had one shoe or no shoes, or they didn’t have pants, they’d be in their underwear,’ and she’s thinking about it and she said, ‘But they were so much happier than my friends at Grosse Pointe South who have iPhones and cars,’” Graves recalled. “And you could see her (understanding) that’s not what gives you happiness.”

“She’s (now) 28,” he continued. “In 12 years, I’ve never heard her say, ‘I need.’ Not once. Because she knows what need is.”

It was HART’s mission that played a large role in



**HART missionaries pray before each medical clinic that God would help them heal and bring the hope of Jesus to the people they serve.**

The priest said, “They all felt so safe,” Graves recalled, “and it just brought tears to my eyes that this church we built for their souls gave them a feeling of safety during storms too.”

Other efforts have come on a smaller scale, yet are just as life-changing.

One year, an 8-year-old boy showed up at the clinic alone and, through translators, the missionaries learned his parents were dead and his grandmother had died the week prior. Since then, he’d been sitting in his house alone, so when he saw

HART gives, but are gifts God gives, both to the Haitians and the missionaries.

To illustrate this, he recalled a year when the team itself was facing many struggles. One person’s son was doing drugs and another person was going through a divorce. The first day of the trip, Graves asked the Haitian community if they would all come and lay hands on the missionaries and pray for them.

“It was just beautiful,” he said, “because then it was acknowledging that it’s not us helping them, it’s God helping all of us,

how Graves now leads his life, as well.

“That was my story,” Graves said. “I did everything the world said. I became a doctor; I married a wonderful woman; I had kids; but you always have that feeling it’s not enough.”

“But it’s in giving,” he explained. “Science has shown that when we’re givers, we’re happy. In the Bible it says that it’s more of a blessing to give than to receive.”

Graves’ life, and the impact he leaves on others, also is deeply rooted

See LOVE, page 5A



HART brought bags of clothes, toys, balls and food to these orphans. “They are so joyful despite having so little,” Graves said.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

## Grosse Pointe Shores

### He was honest

A 52-year-old Detroit man told officers his driver's license was suspended when he was pulled over for speeding on Lakeshore near Oxford around 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9. He was ticketed for driving on a suspended license and his vehicle was impounded.

— Ted O'Neil  
*Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.*

## Grosse Pointe Woods

### Three strikes

A resident reported around 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, that the rear passenger window on her Kia was broken sometime overnight while parked in a lot at Harper and Stanhope.

The would-be thief left after seeing an anti-theft device on the steering wheel. The woman told officers it was the third time someone tried to steal the vehicle.

### Candid camera

An employee's vehicle was stolen from a parking lot at Ascension St. John Hospital between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10.

A security guard reported seeing the vehicle leave the lot with a smashed rear window.

### Bad choice

Two men were arrested around 2:30 a.m. Sunday,

Dec. 11, in the Stanhope and Arthur area after causing a disturbance when they were kicked off a party bus.

The first, a 26-year-old Ypsilanti resident, lunged at an approaching officer and hit him in the chest. After his arrest he was taken to Ascension St. John Hospital for observation with a 0.20 percent blood alcohol level.

The second man, a 21-year-old Detroit resident, was arrested on outstanding warrants and turned over to the Fraser Police Department.

— Ted O'Neil  
*Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.*

## Grosse Pointe Farms

### Leaving a mark

Shoeprints and writing — possibly initials — were discovered in the recently poured sidewalk concrete at the southeast corner of Fisher and Ridge at 8:22 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6.

### Beer run

After stealing a \$2.79 Budweiser from a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 11:20 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, a 63-year-old Farms man was asked to “co-browse” on his computer, at which point a window popped up saying someone was attempting to access his

computer.

### Stolen vehicle

retail fraud in the third degree and warned on trespassing. After a local car shop reported missing Friday, Dec. 9, a vehicle that had been turned in for repair, an investigation revealed the owner — a 52-year-old St. Clair Shores man — had picked up the car using a second set of keys and without paying the \$956.98 balance for the repair.

### Bad timing

When a vehicle stopped on Kercheval to turn onto Vendome at 1:16 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, the driver of a vehicle behind it bent over to pick up her cell phone and drove into the rear of the vehicle.

The 20-year-old Mount Clemens woman was found to be uninsured and using a temporary instruction permit. She was cited for driving while license suspended, not having insurance and failure to stop in an assured clear distance.

### Computer scam

While attempting to redeem earned benefit points off his credit union Visa card by calling the number on his monthly statement Friday, Dec. 9, a 63-year-old Farms man was asked to “co-browse” on his computer, at which point a window popped up saying someone was attempting to access his

computer. The window led him to click on the screen alert to block the action, after which fraudulent purchases were made on his Amazon account.

### Two for one

After driving into the American House building and leaving behind a bumper at 12:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, moments later a 28-year-old Woods man was responsible for a two-car accident at Kercheval and Lakeview.

He was found to have blood alcohol content of 0.28 percent and was arrested.

### Dirty dozen

Checking off his 12th citation for trespassing at a business at Mack and Moross, a 46-year-old Harper Woods man was reported for causing a disturbance, taking off his clothes and refusing to leave at 2:01 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.

The man is known to have mental health problems and was turned over to a homeless shelter/rehab center.

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

## City of Grosse Pointe

### Sneaky switch

A 45-year-old Park

woman stole approximately \$130 worth of various items from a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval Friday, Nov. 18, by switching price tags on higher priced items with those from much lower priced items.

A follow-up investigation led to her identification and arrest, after which she confessed and was cited and released.

### Double cashing

At the end of November, an investigation began into a suspect who had presented a \$1,158 payroll check to be cashed at a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval and then left with both the cash and check. She then cashed the check a second time.

Last week, detectives were able to identify and arrest the 30-year-old Detroit woman, who confessed and was charged by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

### On a roll

After someone entered the office at a Fisher business and stole \$390 the week prior, a juvenile was identified using video footage. Once arrested, the juvenile confessed to stealing money from the business multiple times.

### Embezzling

While working as a cashier at a business in the 16000 block of

Kercheval, a 61-year-old Detroit woman embezzled approximately \$1,000 over the course of six weeks.

She was arrested, at which time she confessed, and charged by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

### Fraud

After a Grosse Pointe woman and an unknown suspect exchanged emails regarding a business transaction, the suspect sent her a check for substantially more than agreed upon.

When attempting to cash the check Tuesday, Dec. 6, the bank advised the woman the check was illegitimate.

### Bumper cars

After crashing into two parked cars and causing damage to a third at Mack and Neff at 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, an 80-year-old Grosse Pointe man was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Brad Lindberg  
*Report information about crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.*

A friend of Graves donated a wheelchair for a young boy with cerebral palsy who cannot walk. HART missionaries brought it down for him. Before, he had to lie in his home all day on a dirt floor. Now, he can be wheeled out to where other children are.



COURTESY PHOTO

## LOVE:

*Continued from page 4A*

in his faith, one which wasn't always as foundational to him as it now is. “I've always searched for God, but didn't really know who He was,” he said, “and when I was 40 years old — I figure probably my life's half over — and I took a walk down Lakeshore and I was thinking, ‘God, I want to give you my life, but I just don't know how. If you want me, you have to

help me. I just don't know how to take that step, so to speak, to put Jesus on the throne in my life.”

It was then Graves met

a new friend through coaching baseball, a committed Christian, who took him by the hand and taught him how

to have a personal relationship with Jesus — “If we're going to call ourselves Christian, it starts with Christ,” Graves said — just as he now aims to do for others.

If there is one goal the doctor holds for the rest of his life, he said, it “is to have someone tap me on the shoulder in heaven and turn around and say thank you for helping me get here.

“... Living in Grosse Pointe, it's an affluent area and a lot of people have a lot, but there's suffering,” he added, noting it is not him but Jesus who saves. “Oh, they've got this nice car and good clothes, but each person is walking around with pain and I

want to help as many people as I can, help their pain and suffering and turn that to hope and joy and love, and then help them get to heaven.”

Anyone who wishes to contribute to one of HART's many ministries, or to the organization as a whole, may do so at hartfund.org.

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I SAY By Renee Landuyt



## Embrace the idea of giving all year

**H**oliday giving. Donations to charities. Picking a tag off a giving tree to donate a gift card or presents to a child or family. These are all wonderful things, but we need to do them more than just at the Christmas holiday. Need is something that's year round. It seems like many people only give at Christmas.

I'm curious why people don't think about giving as intentionally during the rest of the

year. Could it be because we're not getting inundated with emails as reminders like we do for Giving Tuesday? Why do we have to be prompted or reminded? We need to give year round. Not every day, but once in a while. It doesn't have to be monetary. It can be a one-time volunteer effort or a physical donation. Can you imagine how much good we could put out into the world if we all did this?

Not sure how to do that or where to start? Check out charity navigator.org.

Search for charities near you. Seek out an underdog charity, one that isn't as well-known or help out a charity that is different from the last

one you donated to.

If you donate items, make sure they are clean, not stained, not torn. Make sure none of the items are missing pieces and are in working order. Be mindful about it.

Volunteer one time to deliver for Meals on Wheels. Volunteer at a church's fundraiser or help with a food drive. Organize a food drive. You don't have to wait to find something charitable; find a need and fill it.

You can make a difference at Make-A-Wish Foundation by donating or volunteering.

Check with your neighbors to see if any of them could use help with something. Have a lemonade stand in the sum-

mer to raise money for a charity. A stand teaches children the importance of giving back.

Help an elderly neighbor by raking their leaves in the fall or with spring cleanup. Volunteer at a beach cleanup. Volunteer to walk dogs at a local shelter.

Here's a wonderful charity to consider: Pilots To The Rescue (pilotstotherescue.org). PTTR has a small prop plane that flies out of Essex County Airport in Caldwell, N.J., to overcrowded shelters on the East Coast that are about to euthanize cats and dogs. They pick them up and bring them to shelters that have room and help find "fur-ever"

homes for the animals.

In 2014, the soon-to-be founder of this nonprofit and his pilot buddy flew to North Carolina to rescue 10 dogs who were scheduled to be euthanized, giving them a chance for a loving home. In 2015, PTTR was founded and began its mission of flying last-chance animals to safety.

Another great charity is RedRover (redrover.org). They bring animals out of crisis, provide disaster services, financial assistance, emergency sheltering. They also have RedRover Relief Safe Escape Grants to provide housing for domestic violence survivors and their pets to find safety and housing.

Here is a way to help teens in foster care and those who age out of foster care at 18. Big Family of Michigan doesn't have a website, but you can reach them at (586) 415-6968. This local nonprofit serves the needs of children in the foster care system.

Get involved with the Michigan chapter of the Sierra Club (sierraclub.org/michigan), a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to protecting the wild places and the planet.

Choose a charity that sparks a passion in you. Every little bit counts.

Kindness is an action. It is a gift for all involved. When you put kindness out into the world, it comes back to you.

GUEST OPINION By Joseph Muzingo

## Rethink rental units in The Village

**O**n Dec. 19, the Grosse Pointe City Council is set to approve a huge apartment complex. It is a four-story behemoth, with 81 rental units, including over 30 one-bed-

rooms.

Yes, you read that correctly. Information on the project can be found here: Proposed Planned Unit



Development Application (grossepointecity.org). It is located at 582 St. Clair, just behind The Village.

Here are just a few of the reasons why I oppose the project and think you should too.

◆ **Lack of awareness.** Most Grosse Pointers are not even aware of this project, even though it is one of the largest this community has seen in many years.

Did you know about it?

Did you know it was this large and included dozens of small one-bedrooms?

Not a single friend, neighbor or family member I talked to was aware of it until this newspaper reported on it. If the community had been properly engaged, I am confident they would have rejected it.

◆ **The massive size and non-conforming character.** This will be the first large-scale apartment complex of its kind in Grosse Pointe. Although zoned for three stories, the City is allowing the developer to make it four.

The building will be more than 20 feet higher than the large parking structure across the street and even taller than Maire Elementary!

The renderings look like something more appropriate for Midtown Detroit or Royal Oak.

Speaking of which, has the City studied the impact these giant rental buildings have had on

See MUZINGO, page 8A

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

### To be fair

#### To the Editor:

I find it highly questionable that the owner of the Grosse Pointe News, and now a new board member, presents a three-column editorial knocking the decision to implement a health clinic. Perhaps it would be fair to have the other side equally represented on the editorial page. The insinuation that this was a helter-skelter decision is both flammable and irresponsible.

ANNE ROBERTS  
Grosse Pointe Farms  
Editor's note: Mr. Cotton did not write or "present" the editorial on the health clinic at North. The Grosse Pointe News editorial staff wrote and determined the content of the opinion piece in question. Of note, the content of our opinion pages are

developed and written by editorial staff members Anne Gryzenia, Jody McVeigh and Meg Leonard. Our opinion pages are intended to showcase opinions on news stories. We encourage readers to submit letters to the editor, which run on our opinion pages and our website, on any topic.

### Stunning performance

#### To the Editor:

A stunning concert by the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra was performed to a full house Dec. 4, in their 70th season of longevity. The Christmas concert performed by the orchestra and soloists was remarkable from the point of view of quality and performance and its positivity and enthusiastic response of the audience.

Beginning the concert was Christina Muresan,

violin, who performed beautifully the well-known Concerto No. 4 "Winter" by Vivaldi from "The Four Seasons." Next was Gary Smetanka, who narrated "Peter and the Wolf" by Prokofiev as sections of the orchestra represented the characters he introduced. After the intermission, Alice McAllister Tillman sang with extraordinary beauty Mozart, Schubert and Adam. Closing the concert, conducted by Joe Striplin, the orchestra played with rich and moving selections of classical Christmas carols.

The community is indeed grateful for the active presence of the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra bringing joy and unity to our community.

The next concert of our orchestra is Feb. 26, "The Spring Concert," that will feature Marina Stojanovska performing Beethoven's Piano

Concerto No. 1. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

LEONA FORBES  
Board of Directors  
Grosse Pointe  
Symphony Orchestra

### A taxpayer disservice

#### To the Editor:

I am in complete agreement that the approval of the \$700,000 taxpayer funded expenditure to tear out a currently viable Grosse Pointe North science lab to benefit Beaumont/Corewell is a travesty. I suspect any follow-up services suggested to the people off the streets or to the students WILL NOT be to an Ascension facility or practitioner. Appears to be a pretty sweet revenue stream business model at taxpayers expense.

Shame on the current school board.

ROB SZABO  
Grosse Pointe Woods

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By Meg Leonard  
Associate Editor

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under the tree.

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# Mason raising funds for new playground

Mason Elementary School is hosting a fundraiser collection drive in an effort to raise money for an updated playground with new equipment. The community is asked to help by donating

gently used clothing and other items during this and other upcoming collection drives.

Donations of used goods will translate directly into funds for Mason's PTO. Items

being sought include gently used or new clothing and shoes for all ages; accessories such as purses, wallets, scarves and belts; jewelry, including broken items; and toys that measure 18

inches or less in length. All items should be in clean and excellent condition and free of stains, rips, flaws or missing pieces.

Household items, bedding, pillows and sports

equipment will not be accepted.

A collection trailer will be available in the school's parking lot from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, and

Sunday, Dec. 18.

Additional dates will be added.

Mason is located at 1640 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods. For more information, call (586) 232-5313.

## BROMAN:

Continued from page 6A

applied for the grant but were denied funding, despite having more than the minimum number of points to qualify. As just two examples of better data, Perry Public Schools is 14 miles from the nearest concentration of medical services and district-wide has twice the number of economically disadvantaged students as GPPSS.

Board members must ask themselves, if we don't meet our user requirement, how quickly will the state revoke our grant in favor of a district that can actually demonstrate need?

As I did my deep dive into the grant application, trying to get complete facts, one more thing stood out. Something important.

Among the feedback from MDHHS was a comment asking whether, given the evidence, another grant model was more appropriate. Namely, the state's "E3 program," which provides "on-site comprehensive mental health services from mild to moderate severity of need."

It is clear from the data in the grant application and the comments from MDHHS, our critical need is not medical services.

A school-based clinic in Grosse

Pointe might be beneficial, but it isn't a critical need. "Might be beneficial" doesn't justify spending nearly \$1 million (or more) of taxpayer money from the sinking fund, when we should be able to address the critical need, access to mental health services, with equally effective solutions for far less money.

When the new board is settled in less than a month, board members should set budget parameters and goals for the administration focused on addressing the gaps and challenges associated with access to mental health services.

This grant is meant to provide medical services along with mental health services. The construction costs are fueled by the medical services component. The data simply doesn't support the need for medical services. That was MDHHS's assessment for the GPPSS health clinic and I agree.

Admitting you made a mistake is difficult, but fortunately a check hasn't been written and construction hasn't started. The board still has time to make the right decision based on the data: Abandon the million-dollar clinic and focus on addressing access to mental health services.

*William Broman is a patent attorney and engineer. He resides in Grosse Pointe Farms.*

## MUZINGO:

Continued from page 7A

those communities? What effect have they had on their crime, their schools and their environment?

Why green-light a project that is so out of character with the rest of Grosse Pointe, including the area around The Village?

City leadership says it must be huge in order for the developer to make money. They are not running a charity after all, Mayor Tomkowiak told us at the public hearing.

This is a red flag. If it must be so large to be profitable, then it is probably the wrong developer and the wrong project. Why can't a small condo complex, more in line with our community, be profitable?

◆ **What are the alternatives?** We are told this glorified dormitory (look at the renderings) will be perfect for seniors looking to downsize.

Are your parents going to be interested in moving from their home to a 600-square-foot, one-bedroom in a complex with 80 other tenants? We need something smaller, more intimate and easily accessible for our seniors. Not something more fitting for young singles.

I think we can do better for Mom

and Dad.

◆ **And, why rentals?** The City of Grosse Pointe already has the highest population density in all of the Pointes and the second lowest home ownership rate. Are we vying for last place? This complex is approaching 100 units and not one of them can be purchased.

◆ **Finally, how about a green space?** Does it have to be a construction project?

There are already plenty of multi-family units, condos and apartments in the City. Grosse Pointe needs a pedestrian-friendly "town square" to hold summer concerts and other events to attract people throughout the year. It would be a great spot for the Christmas tree.

I get the sense the City is settling. They want to put something — anything — on this site. Well, I would rather keep waiting for the right project rather than being stuck forever with the wrong one. We can do better. I hope you agree.

I encourage you to act now as time is running out. Voice your concerns, ask questions and get engaged on this project by emailing council@grossepointecity.org. Please do so in a polite and professional manner.

*Joseph Muzingo is a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe.*

## CLINIC:

Continued from page 1A

that money that isn't used will be retained by the district.

Robert Stempien of Plante Moran Cresa,

which reviewed the bids, said these figures are fixed in what is called a "guaranteed maximum price" agreement provided by Turner.

"This is indicative of the market," Stempien told the board. "It's a

matter of a labor shortage combined with higher material costs."

Stempien said, for example, bids for the HVAC system came back \$52,000 higher than estimated and plumbing was \$42,000 higher.

Work on the clinic will include a separate HVAC system, a separate sanitary sewer system, five sinks and two bathrooms, all of which are mandated by the state for a clinic to be located inside a school.

The clinic, which will be open to students and members of the public from the Pointes and Harper Woods, also will have a security system, with cameras, that

requires people to be buzzed in from the outside and a vestibule that requires North students to be buzzed in and back to the school.

Turner also offered a guaranteed maximum price of \$668,000 to make upgrades to the kitchen at North, including electrical upgrades, a new ceiling and installation of two coolers.

Stempien said packaging the projects together

made for better bid coverage and told the board's Facilities Committee last week it was not unreasonable to estimate that doing so lowered the cost of the kitchen bid by \$100,000.

The board last month approved spending \$153,000 on the coolers, which is included in the overall cost. A \$50,000 contingency also is included in the price and, like the clinic, the district will keep any unused portion of that money.

A third project the board discussed is a redesign of the entry plaza at Pierce Middle School, which Turner said has a maximum cost of \$352,000, including a \$26,000 contingency fund.

That work includes installing an ADA-compliant ramp and a secure vestibule, along with landscaping.

Money for the kitchen and Pierce will come from the district's bond fund.

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**Grosse Pointe News**

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**Grosse Pointe News**



**PARKING:**

*Continued from page 2A*

with meter revenue continuing to go to TIFA, not the foundation.

“Those deed restrictions are pretty dependable,” said Kevin Kilby, the TIFA board’s attorney.

TIFA captures taxes that otherwise would be sent to the county and state. Instead, local receipts are used to encourage economic activity within its namesake district bounded by Mack Avenue, Wayburn, almost to East Jefferson and to the Nottingham alley.

“Revenue from parking meters would be going back to TIFA or the city,” said Mike Stines, an attorney representing the foundation. “It would not come to us. After the proposed transfer, those revenues would stay with the governmental entity, whether TIFA or Grosse Pointe Park.”

“Essentially, this is a new type of project, a public-private partnership,” Rothe said. “That’s kind of a buzzword in government circles. We want this to be a model going forward, something well maintained, transparent and viable. We want to build something that lasts.”

He anticipates construction next spring if both parties are successful in getting a developing agreement in place.

As of now, the foundation would be responsible for landscaping, refuse collection, lawn mowing, maintenance of electric vehicle charging stations, and maintaining light poles and fixtures, plus maintenance of the driving surface.

TIFA doesn’t get away free. It is responsible for snowplowing, street sweeping, governing the hours of operation, the

cost of electricity for lighting, installation of pay stations and, at its discretion, establishing a permit parking policy for adjacent businesses and residents during off hours.

“All the revenue from those stations would be collected and retained by the TIFA to help pay for those costs,” Rothe said. The initial three years is considered a trial period.

“It gives a three-year timeline to filter out any bugs we may encounter along the way,” Kilby said.

“We have a foundation set up with the sole purpose to ensure that projects like this stay the way they were intended and designed,” Stines said. “The foundation will be soliciting donations in its mission to improve and enrich the business district area.”

“Because it is a public-private partnership, let’s see what kind of revenue it’s generating for TIFA to fund its obligations and how the foundation’s revenue stream is,” Rothe said. “At the end of the lease period, the foundation would have the opportunity to request title.”

He added, “As part of that requested conveyance, there would be some type of restriction on the use to ensure not only the maintenance obligations survive forever, but the use of the property is restricted to this community asset we’re building, a parking lot.”

Rothe hopes to have the draft agreement in time for the TIFA meeting Jan. 13, 2023.

TIFA’s second big project of the coming year is transforming a gravel parking lot behind Pointe Hardware into one mirroring the standards of the one involving the foundation.

**Pets and Bubbles Cafe opens Saturday**

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**DETROIT** — After working in child-care for years, when COVID hit, Eboni Pulliam saw an opportunity to delve into her second passion: a love for pets.

Her first boutique, Pets and Bubbles Cafe, will host its grand opening this Saturday, Dec. 17, at 18499 Mack, offering pet grooming and washing services, as well as supplies, apparel, collars and leashes.

It’ll also be “a good place to get your dogs some treats,” Pulliam said.

While largely focusing on dogs and cats, a selection for birds and hamsters will be available, as well.

“I want to do a lot of things with the community with dogs, so I want it to be more like a personal dog store for your pet,” Pulliam said,

“different from Petco and the larger stores where you come in and there’s so much going on. I want for your dog to know when they come, that they’re loved and they’re known.”

Beyond creating a personalized business model where each pet is recognized during their visits, she plans to incorporate birthday gifts and start a club where local owners can socialize, share ideas and organize dog park days.

Hours of operation at Pets and Bubbles Cafe will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week tentatively, although hours may be slightly shorter on Sundays.

“Walk-ins are welcome,” the owner said. “We’re actually going to start off where you can come and do self wash until we get enough groomers.”

Anyone who wishes to apply for a groomer position may do so by



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

**Pets and Bubbles Cafe at 18499 Mack will offer grooming services and pet supplies with a personalized touch.**

calling (313) 784-7470. “My hope and goal is to be in the community long term,” Pulliam said. “... Don’t be shy. Come on in and take a look around.”

Although not yet live, the website will be [petsandbubblescafe.com](http://petsandbubblescafe.com).

**DPW:**

*Continued from page 2A*

week at best.”

Rothe also is director of the Tax Increment Finance Authority, which is funding construction of the building through issuance of \$4 million in bonds.

“Our biggest project is the DPW building,” Rothe said.

Property tax receipts beyond baseline value from the authority’s district are retained to enhance and promote economic development in an area encompassing businesses and approximately 2,650 houses bordered by Mack Avenue, the western city limits, the northern boundary of the Jefferson Downtown Development Authority and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham. Roads in the area are Wayburn, Maryland, Lakepointe, Beaconsfield, Vernor, St. Paul, Mack Avenue, Charlevoix and Kercheval.

Some \$15.9 million in tax revenue is forecast to be retained by 2035, based on an estimated 2 percent annual increase in taxable values, according to the plan.

DPW is leasing the building from TIFA for \$1 per month.

Park officials anticipate the new building having a useful life of 50 years.

Work to be completed

this month includes installation of permanent fencing.

There is at least one more delay.

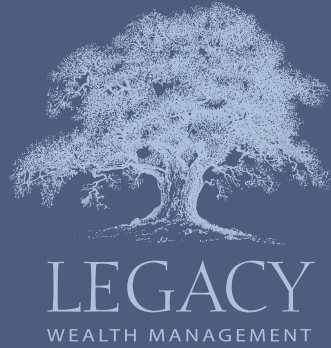
“All of our information technology consultant’s technicians are sick,” Rothe said. “The internet’s hooked up. We have a computer alarm system scheduled for Dec. 19. That’s really the last thing.”

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2B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4B OBITUARIES | 5B CHURCHES

## A taste of home Park woman shares French culture through food

By Jody McVeigh  
 Editor

The reason Marie Wallace came to the United States from France and a big reason she remains are about as far apart as her home country and current residence.

“I was 23 and a big Eminem fan,” Wallace recalled. “I loved hip-hop and Eminem. I wanted to write a screenplay; I’m a screenwriter. My dream was to come to Detroit, meet Eminem, give him my screenplay and he would produce it.”

Though she came close — she met Eminem’s manager, Paul Rosenberg, multiple times and, as a singer, worked with Luis Resto, who co-produced the rapper’s Oscar-winning “Lose Yourself,” from the film “Eight Mile” — she has yet to meet the man himself and her screenplay was turned down.

But the rejection turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Wallace at the time was starting a business that has since become a popular Eastern Market destination.

“I’m very passionate about French food, about food in general,” she explained. “I was disappointed when I tasted crêpes here. They’re not the quality I was used to (in France). I had crêpes all the time with my family; we made crêpes constantly.”

In 2008, Wallace mentioned to her husband she’d like to start a crêpe business, but the timing wasn’t right as she was busy raising their two sons.

“Then Good Girls Go to Paris Crêpes opened in Detroit,” she said. “It broke my heart. It was very popular and it got big. People were lining up for crêpes.”

“... When I got my divorce, I took my kids there and they said, ‘You should make your own,’” she added.

That’s exactly what she did. Using her own crêpe recipe and with her mother’s help, Wallace set about creating The French Cow crêpes shop.

“I started at Coffee & ... on Jefferson and Chalmers,” she said. “I was scared. I didn’t know if people would like it.”

She voiced her concerns to the cafe owner, who encouraged Wallace to give it a try.

“She kept saying, ‘Just do it,’” Wallace recalled. “So each month, I had a pop-up there.”

Though she had some success, the shop wasn’t enough to support her, so she landed a job at Selden Standard in Detroit, which helped her learn more about the industry.

“They hired me knowing I was starting my own company,” she said. “I studied a lot there. I learned about kitchen service. I learned the ropes through Selden. Two years later, I started at Eastern Market.”

Wallace said some customers were skeptical at first. Her savory crêpes, for instance, are made with buckwheat flour, so they come out darker.

“But that’s how we make them in France,” she explained. “Black is for savory, white is for sweet. Little by little, they began tasting them. They

say, ‘This is how they’re done in France? OK, let’s try it.’

“Now people are there before we even open, every time,” she continued. “We sell 200 to 350 crêpes, which is a lot. Now I have employees, two to four during the season. I started with just my mother.”

The French Cow currently is a fixture at Eastern Market on Saturdays, though during summer months, hungry patrons can find the shop there three days a week. The French Cow also handles catering requests.



“Anything where we can sell crêpes we are doing,” Wallace said. “I also make baguette sandwiches and sell them at Milwaukee Cafe near New Center.”

Among The French Cow’s most popular savory crêpes are the Pigalle and the Big Mack.

“The Pigalle is inspired from the Red District of Paris,” Wallace said. “It’s delicious, but also a little bit dirty. It’s Swiss cheese,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GERARD AND BELEVENDER

Marie Wallace is in her happy place making crêpes at The French Cow, a fixture at Eastern Market.

ham, caramelized onions, then I make a homemade cilantro-garlic sauce I put on top.

“The Big Mack has corned beef,” she added. “I named it after a cus-

winter.

“I try to do everything seasonal and strawberries are not in season now,” Wallace said. “I use the freshest ingredients. The market is an amazing place to find fresh ingredients all year round. So many people don’t know that Eastern Market is open all year. It’s one of the only cities in the United States that has that.”

Wallace currently is compiling a cookbook, “with crêpes and other things, picturing the authentic French way of living,” she said.

“I feel like sometimes Americans are infatuated (with France) for the wrong reason,” Wallace said. “They fall in love with Paris because of the Eiffel Tower, because it’s so romantic. They don’t dig deep into what the culture really is, of what the feeling of sharing food really is. It’s not that they don’t want to, but now I’m forcing them to. If I ever open a shop, it will be a real culture shock for them, because I will keep it authentic.”

“I would love to have my own place in Grosse Pointe Park,” she added. “I would love it to have a Parisian feel where peo-

ple can walk to it.”

Wallace said making crêpes helps her express her creative side, which knows no limits.

“I’m also a trained actor and screenwriter and a singer,” she said. “I love to decorate. I feel like crêpes may seem odd, but I create a lot when I’m coming up with a menu or decorating the booth creatively at the market. I am a content creator and a constant creator.”

Wallace put her creativity to use during the pandemic by writing the screenplay, “13 Weeks,” for which she is trying to get representation.

“It’s about two people who start a conversation during the pandemic, apart from each other, in different cities,” she said of the romance.

When she’s not peddling crêpes, Wallace, who has lived in Grosse Pointe Park since 2016, enjoys spending time with her two boys, ages 12 and 14, both students at Pierce Middle School.

Learn more about The French Cow on Instagram @thefrenchcow, on Facebook at The French Cow crêpes, by visiting thefrenchcowcrepes.com or emailing thefrenchcowcrepes@gmail.com



Grosse Pointe Park resident Marie Wallace brings an authentic Parisian food experience to Eastern Market with sweet and savory crêpes inspired by her hometown.

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2B | FEATURES

# Grosse Pointe Theatre calls for 10-minute play entries

Submissions accepted through midnight Dec. 31

Grosse Pointe Theatre is putting out a call for entries for its 2023 Take Ten, Ten-Minute Play Festival. All interested playwrights should submit their 10-minute play no later than midnight Dec. 31, for consideration in the 2023 festival.

This marks the ninth year of Grosse Pointe Theatre's playwrighting festival. According to creator and Michigan playwright Mary Lou Britton, participants don't have to be accomplished playwrights to enter; they just need a desire to tell the story in



Husband and wife team, Charlie and Elizabeth McQuillen, played a dog and a cat in the 2022 10-minute play, "The Last Word," written by Margie Reins Smith and directed by Arlene Schoenherr.

play form and develop a plot, characters and setting that can engage the audience. This year's play submissions need to incorporate "Seven" and "Five" within their play, as a way of recognizing Grosse Pointe Theatre's 75th anniversary. "Playwriting opens up another dimension to storytelling, connecting each character's experiences in a believable and

entertaining way — in this case, all in 10 minutes," Britton said. "We look forward to seeing this year's play entries and showcasing the best 10-minute plays next spring."

All 10-minute play entries must follow this year's criteria to be considered:

- ◆ All plays submitted must incorporate "Seven" and "Five" within their plot, in whatever creative context the writer chooses. The character(s) must have been affected by something that happened while they or another subject was absent.
- ◆ There is no fee to enter the competition; however, should a play be selected for performance as part of the Take Ten Play Festival, the playwright must



PHOTO CREDIT PATRICIA ELLIS

Pete DiSante, playwright and producer of the 2022 Take Ten, Ten-Minute Play Festival, with Mary Lou Britton, playwright and creator of the festival.

become a member of Grosse Pointe Theatre prior to the play performance. Annual membership dues are \$50.

◆ Entries will be judged anonymously by a panel of local and out-state judges.

◆ Playwrights may enter plays for consideration by electronically submitting a properly formatted script by midnight Dec. 31. Email submissions to playfestival@gpt.org.

◆ When submitting a play, the author's identifying information needs to be removed from the body of the play and all corresponding play pages. The author's name, address, email and phone number should only appear on the accompanying email cover sheet.

◆ Plays submitted that are not in proper manuscript format, are not a

suitable length, nor within the "Seven" and "Five" theme will not be considered.

◆ To maintain the format of 10-minute plays, set construction and prop requirements must be minimal; the action of the play should be continuous (without scene breaks); there should be only two to four actors; and there should be no special costumes, makeup or special effects required.

The playwrights whose 10-minute plays follow the above criteria and are selected by the judges to be "best in class" will have the opportunity to perform their plays at Grosse Pointe Theatre's Take Ten Play Festival, which takes place June 9 and 10, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

The exact timing and selection of winning plays will be announced at a future date at gpt.org. Tickets to the Take Ten Play Festival also will be available at gpt.org.

For more information, visit gpt.org/take-ten/ or email playfestival@gpt.org.

## 2nd annual Skating with Santa is Dec. 17

The second annual Saturday Skating with Santa, presented by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors Young Professionals Network, takes place Saturday, Dec. 17, at the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena, 20000 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

Skate sessions take place 5 to 6:30 p.m. and 7 to 8:30 p.m.

This free community event includes ice time and skate rental, photos with Santa, a hot cocoa bar, snacks and activities. Children with their own skates should bring

Elementary school students from the Eastpointe, Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe, Lake Shore, Lakeview, Roseville and South Lake school districts are invited to attend.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Parents and guardians are welcome to join their children on the ice. Helpers will be available for new skaters.

Guests should register in advance for a preferred time slot at gpbrc.com/skating-with-santa.

## AREA ACTIVITIES

### Ford House

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

◆ Mistletoe Mingle, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 and 29. Includes drinks light refreshments and a tour of the estate. Cost is \$45 for members, \$65 for nonmembers.

◆ Holiday Tea & Tour, noon, 12:15 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22. Cost is \$55 for members, \$75 for nonmembers.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

### The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of programs. To register or purchase tickets for the following, visit warmemorial.org:

◆ The Wine Counselor: Super Sparklers, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Cost is \$65.

◆ Bedtime Stories with Santa, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, and Sunday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$15 for children; adults are admitted free.

◆ Learn to Paint like Bob Ross, 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Cost is

\$75 and includes materials.

◆ Swingin' Into the Season, with the Scott Gwinell Jazz Orchestra, Wednesday, Dec. 21. VIP reception at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and concert at 8:15 p.m. Cost is \$98 for VIPs, \$85 for dinner and the concert, \$40 for the concert only.

### The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

◆ The movie "The Man Who Invented Christmas" is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes psychotherapist Frank Wilberding.

◆ Body Alignment, 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays for beginners and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Mondays for intermediate students. Gwendolyn J. Scales instructs this free class.

◆ Wise Guys conversation group for men, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays.

◆ Conversational French, noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays for beginners, and 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. Tuesdays and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays for intermediate students. Dr. Dib Saab instructs this free class.

◆ Reiki, 1 to 2 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Yoga, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Chair Yoga, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Guided Meditation, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays, with instructor Jonathan Itchon. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Grief Work support group, 2 to 4 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of each month, with psychotherapist Frank Wilberding.

◆ Enhance Fitness, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Wednesdays, with instructor Paul Clark. This program is free to members and nonmembers.

### Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, Recreational Authority of Roseville & Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

Register online at redcrossblood.org.

### Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit grossepointelibrary.org.

◆ 1,000 Hours Finale Celebration and Lantern Walk, 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 5th & 6th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ ArtLab: Nom Nom Cookies, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

See EVENTS, page 4B


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# Former newspaperman debuts historical fiction novel

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Century-old newspapers proved inspirational to former journalist Eric Pope, who last month published his debut novel, “Granite Kingdom.”

The former owner and editor of the Hardwick Gazette based the book on actual events he found in the northern Vermont newspaper’s archives; his characters and their circumstances are fiction.

“When my wife and I owned and edited the Hardwick Gazette from 1977 to 1986, I often consulted back issues of the newspaper to write stories about the town’s granite boom in the early 1900s,” Pope said. “... In the process, I found an extra set of newspapers from 1909 to 1910, so I had them bound. When we sold the newspaper, I took them with me.

“I wanted to write a book that brought that era to life and made the



Eric Pope

town’s rich heritage more accessible to modern readers. Those papers served as my main resource.”

The novel is set in 1910, when Hardwick was the largest producer of finished granite for construction, Pope explained. The protagonist, newspaper reporter Dan Strickland, investigates fatal industrial accidents at one of the village’s big granite producers and winds up caught between the grudges of business owners and the struggles

of climbing the social ladder.

“There was a fear of going to the poor farm,” Pope said. “That’s one of the themes of the book. Another theme is that the village was prosperous at the time. Now it’s a small rural town, but then most people were striving to gain or retain economic prosperity and security. The book is a lot about socioeconomic factors. Hardwick is a union town; the granite workers were very highly unionized.”

In addition to newspaper research, Pope read books from the era — including Upton Sinclair’s “The Jungle” and Mary Doria Russell’s “The Women of the Copper County” — to get a feel for business owners at the time. Most of them, he found, were terrible people.

“But that wasn’t the case in Hardwick,” he noted. “That was one of the points I wanted to make.”

Pope, who lives in Grosse Pointe Park with his wife, Karen, spent several years researching and writing “Granite Kingdom.” He hopes to pique the interest of history buffs and those looking for an early 20th century drama based partly in fact.

“All of the main events in the book took place, except for the actual plot,” Pope said. “The villain did not exist. But the murder on the front page (of the newspaper archives) did. It served as an entree to talk about Prohibition. ... There was a big debate going on in that era that led to Prohibition 10 years later. I created characters beyond the historical characters and gave them motivations.”

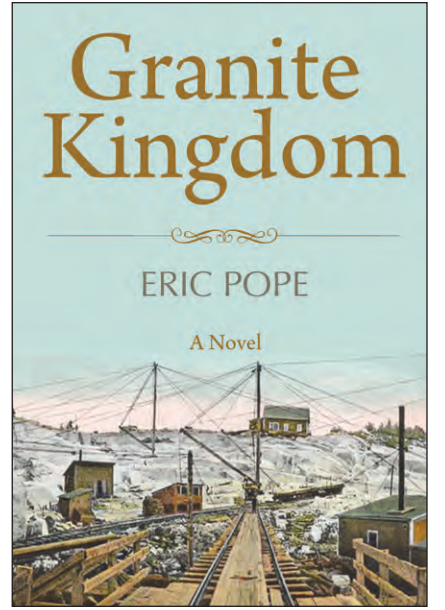
Following a mini book tour out East, Pope said “Granite Kingdom” was well-received, especially in Hardwick, after which the town in the book was patterned. He hopes to entice local readers to

check out his debut, which he described as an “inverted mystery.”

“The reader knows quickly who the villain is,” he said.

Though currently busy promoting “Granite Kingdom,” Pope has more to come. The Harvard University graduate, who spent most of his life writing for small and midsize publications before taking a position in public relations at Lawrence Technological University, also is preparing for the publication of his second book.

“I retired in 2016, to write a different book, about the father of Alexander the Great,” he said. “I wrote a paper on



COURTESY PHOTOS

Eric Pope’s debut novel, “Granite Kingdom,” is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [rootstockpublishing.com](https://www.rootstockpublishing.com).

him when I was 14. That book was just accepted to be published. And I have started a third novel set during the Revolutionary War, in New York City.”

“Granite Kingdom” is available online at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [rootstockpublishing.com](https://www.rootstockpublishing.com).

## Liggett alum on DisneyPlus series

Antonio Cipriano, who graduated from University Liggett School in 2018, is returning to television.

He plays the character of Oren on the streaming show “National Treasure: Edge of History,” based on the film franchise.

The first two episodes were released Wednesday, Dec. 14. The remaining eight will be released once a week through February.

“It’s exciting,” Angela Cipriano, Antonio’s mom, said. “We were all in LA last week for the premiere.”

Angela and her husband, Joe, held a watch party Wednesday night at Imagine Theater in Royal Oak for about 130 friends and family.

Cipriano, who grew up in the Shores, has made guest appearances on TV shows in the past and was a cast member in Alanis Morissette’s musical “Jagged Little Pill.”

Cipriano got his start with the Grosse Pointe Theatre’s Youth on Stage program.

“He’s been blessed to



Antonio Cipriano

be in the right place at the right time,” Angela Cipriano said. “We’re hoping this turns into a second season, but Hollywood is a crazy industry. You never know what will happen.”

— Ted O’Neil



## Authors to the Pointe

The Grosse Pointe Public Library featured two award-winning authors Oct. 29 — Pulitzer Prize-winner Isabel Wilkerson and veteran journalist John Gallagher — at its Authors to the Pointe event. “We’re honored to be able to bring two incredible authors to Grosse Pointe once again,” said Jessica Keyser, library director. “As non-fiction authors, their books tell the human stories of struggles, redevelopment and achieving the American dream.” Left, after getting her book signed, Grosse Pointe Farms resident Liz Martin speaks with author Wilkerson.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Left, John Gallagher, author, journalist and inductee in the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame, speaks to the audience. Right, Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, shows a copy of her book, “The Warmth of Other Suns,” to demonstrate how often she marks pages.

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**4B | FEATURES**

# OBITUARIES

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

**Sandra "Sandy" T. Belisle**

Sandra "Sandy" T. Belisle (née Schwartzberg), 88, of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

Sandra was born March 13, 1934, in Mount Clemens, to Ida Kurz and Frank Schwartzberg.

She maintained a lifelong interest in the world around her. Her perceptions and rich sense of humor ensured interesting and enjoyable conversation. In addition to being an avid reader and accomplished chef and baker, Sandy treasured watching films and attending theater with her daughter. Her passion and talent for gardening shone through in the beautiful yards she created and lovingly tended throughout her life.

Sandra was also a committed caretaker, as was clearly evident within her family, through her more than 20 years of work as a group home manager and in her dedicated support of animals and animal rescue. She adopted many pets throughout her life, with cats being her clear favorite. Although of quiet demeanor, Sandy deeply impacted all who witnessed her love of people, animals, artistic pursuits and the world in general. Her family's and friends' lives are richer for having known Sandy. She will be greatly missed.

Sandra was predeceased by her son, Randy Fox, whom she cherished. Sandra is survived by her devoted and beloved daughter and best friend, Stacy Belisle; dearest brother, Michael Bauer; loving sister-in-law, Karen Schaefer; and dedicated former husband, Ray Belisle.

The family will hold a private memorial. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Sandy's honor to Michigan Humane, michiganhumane.org/donatenow; Paws for Life Rescue, pawsforlife rescue.org/donate; or All About Animals Rescue, allaboutanimalsrescue.org.

**Charles "Chuck" Lee Steimer**

Charles "Chuck" Lee Steimer, 88, passed away Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022.

Chuck was born Dec. 1, 1934, to Susan and Charles, on a farm in Ohio. He moved to Michigan as a young boy. After high school, he attended General Motors Institute and excelled in a 30-year career at General Motors Photographic in Detroit. Although he was very talented and dedicated to his automotive career in filmmaking and advertising, his favorite career — in building, construction and remodeling — unfolded after retiring from GM. He found his true passion and worked until the age of 79.

Though his family filled his life with much joy and happiness, Chuck also enjoyed golf and bowling. Although he could boast a hole-in-one and a 300 perfect game, his love of tinkering and engineering were the interests of which he was most proud.

Chuck was the loving husband and best friend of Dee; dear father of Dawn (Randy), Terri and Marc (Rita); grandfather to Kari, Troy (Rachel), Vincent, Vanessa (Sherwin), Kristina (Julius) and Dalton; great-grandfather to Brooke, Taylor, Isabella, Maria, Lydia, Joelle and Julius; and brother of AnnaBelle Fluharty. He was predeceased by his mother and stepfather, Susan and Charles Loughin; father and stepmother, Charles and Pauline Steimer; sister, Barbara Sue Steimer; and brother, Joe Steimer.

Chuck's family would like to thank Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe and its staff for their unwavering, professional and compassionate care of Chuck during his frequent times of need.

Visitation already has taken place. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, michiganhumane.org/donatenow, or National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, nkfm.org/ways-to-give/donate-now/.

**Wilma Sue Auch**

Wilma Sue Auch, 90, passed peacefully in her sleep of natural causes Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, at home in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Sue, as she was known by family and friends, was born in St. Louis and moved to Grosse Pointe as a young child. She graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1950, then attended the University of Michigan. She was an art major and member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, class of 1954.

After graduation, she taught art at Center Line High School for several years. Her teaching career was short-lived. In 1956, she married the love of her life and soon changed her profession to homemaker and mother.

As years passed, her artistic interests were renewed when she took up ceramics in earnest. She spent many afternoons at Pewabic Pottery perfecting her skills and learning about techniques, glaze formulas and kilns. Eventually, she had her own booth at several local art fairs; her umbrella stands proved to be a popular item.

She also was an enthusiastic gardener when she was younger and a member of several garden clubs. She looked forward to annual garden tour trips that took the group to both public and private gardens at locales across the U.S. and Canada.

She had many varied interests and was an avid reader; she could skip the reviews, as good books were finished in a couple of days. She enjoyed traveling and time well spent with family and friends, her long-standing bridge group and participating in several organizations. Of note was her participation in the Detroit Alumnae Panhellenic Association and the Alpha Gam alumni group. She also had a key role in organizing her 50th and 60th high school class reunions.

Sue is survived by her brother, Michael; sisters, Linda and Francis; son, George W. Auch IV; many nieces and nephews; and



Sandra T. Belisle



Charles Lee Steimer



Wilma Sue Auch

her loving golden retriever, Abby. She was predeceased by her parents, Bernard and Wilma Martin; older sister, Patricia; and husband of nearly 63 years, George W. Auch III.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1309 S. Rochester Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48307, leaderdog.org/donate, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Funeral services are pending.

**Nancy Ann Wolfram**

Nancy Ann Wolfram, 76, passed away Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, at Ascension St. John Hospital.

Nancy was born July 17, 1946, in Detroit, to Sydney and Cecelia World, both now deceased. She graduated from Hazel Park High School in 1964, then earned a degree in education from Michigan State University, followed by a master's degree from Wayne State University.

Nancy taught high school English for 15 years in Warren and spent another 15 years as an English as a Second Language teacher at the St. Clair Shores Adult & Community Education Center. She also voluntarily tutored many students.

She enjoyed traveling with her family and friends, as well as cooking, antiquing and attending Stratford and Shaw festivals. She adored her rescued cats and the two dogs that were "gifted" to the family. She absolutely loved spending time with her two granddaughters, including planning tea parties when they were young and shopping with them.

Nancy was blessed with 46 years of marriage to her husband, Wayne Wolfram.

She is survived by her husband, Wayne; daughter, Elizabeth Stouten (Joel); and most dear



Nancy Ann Wolfram



Francis T. Paul LaGrasso

granddaughters, Emma Cecelia Stouten and Isabel Ann Stouten. She also leaves behind many beloved friends and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, michiganhumane.org, or the Dominican Literacy Center, dlcliteracy.org.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

**Francis "Frank" Thomas Paul LaGrasso**

Francis "Frank" Thomas Paul LaGrasso, 83, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, at his condo in Siesta Key, Fla.

Frank was a resident of Harbor Beach and formerly of Grosse Pointe. He was born Oct. 16, 1939, in Detroit, to Patricia and Joseph LaGrasso. He graduated from Austin Catholic High School and then attended Port Huron Community College. On Aug. 1, 1964, he married the love of his life, Joyce J. Wysocki, in Hamtramck. They recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

Frank dedicated a majority of his time working at LaGrasso Bros. Produce, a family corporation. After retirement, he loved being by the water and enjoyed spending time at his cottage on Lake Huron, where he drove his John

Deere Gators around his property. During cold Michigan winters, Frank spent his time on Siesta Key.

He was a member of the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club for a number of years and enjoyed being in the company of many friends. He loved playing cards with family and friends, going out to lunch, golfing at Gowanie Golf Club and having conversations with the people who surrounded him.

Frank is survived by his wife, Joyce J. LaGrasso; children, June M. LaGrasso-Lopiccolo, Frank LaGrasso Jr. and Joy M. Finazzo; brother, Joseph LaGrasso; sister, Catherine Gallette; sons-in-law, Brian Cichoski and Gerry Finazzo; daughter-in-law, Natalya LaGrasso; grandchildren, Victoria and Gabrielle Cichoski, Samantha Lopiccolo, Marina Aguin, Sabrina LaGrasso and Caitlin, Anthony and John Paul Finazzo; and his niece and nephews. Frank was predeceased by his parents and daughter, Dawn P. LaGrasso Cichoski.

A memorial Mass takes place Tuesday, Dec. 27, at St. Michael the Archangel in Siesta Key, Fla. A funeral Mass will be held Wednesday, May 17, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitors are welcome at 9:30 a.m., followed by the service at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Capuchin Community Services in Detroit, capuchincommunity services.org.

## EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

**Mini Picassos**

Mini Picassos, 21520 Harper, St. Clair Shores, offers a variety of classes and camps. To register, visit minipicassos studio.com or call (313) 283-6710.

◆ **Holiday Break Mini Art Camp**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Cost is \$48 and include snacks and drinks.

◆ **Art O' Fun with Ms. Lucy**, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 5 to Feb. 7, for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Cost is \$150 per artist.

◆ **Tuesday Drawing Class with Ms. Heather**, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 7, for students in first through sixth grade. Cost is \$160 per artist.

◆ **Toddler Art: Winter Edition**, 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 11 to Feb. 8, for ages 18 months and older. Cost is \$110 per child.

**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@careof sem.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 afdegrosse pointe.org.

**Toastmasters**

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

## GPPL bids fond farewell to longtime branch manager

In honor of the upcoming retirement of Pat McClary, manager of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch, the GPPL recently hosted a party at The Bronze Door. The establishment is located across the street from the Central Annex, a temporary pop-up location for the library while its Central Branch is under construction.

In honor of McClary's retirement and inspired by Central Annex library staff, The Bronze Door's head bartender, Ian Thomas, created a specialty cocktail for the retirement party. The "A Cozy Mystery" cocktail included vanilla vodka, crème de cocoa, a graham cracker rim and marshmallow fluff with a chocolate drizzle.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Assistant Director Darlene Hellenberg, retiring Woods Branch Manager Pat McClary, GPPL Executive Director Jessica Keyser, Circulation Manager Laney Corrado and Central Branch Manager Mary-Lynn Martin.

McClary, who was appointed manager of the Woods branch by Director Jessica Keyser in January 2018, has been employed with the

GPPL since 2005. She first was hired as a youth services librarian when the Ewald branch first

See GPPL, page 6B

# Crosspointe celebrates 125 years

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

From a new language to new names to new buildings, Crosspointe Christian Church has seen it all over the last century and a quarter.

But one constant remains. The message.

"We teach the Bible unapologetically," Pastor Matt Swiatek said. "We don't budge. When the culture shifts and there's truth to be had, people long for that."

Crosspointe has been celebrating its 125th anniversary all year, but its roots go back even further.

Immigrants formed the First Regular German Baptist Church of Detroit in the early 1860s, meeting in members' homes and rented facilities until a chapel was built in 1870 at the corner of St. Aubin and Mullett, just east of downtown between Gratiot and East Jefferson.

In 1897, 82 members were released with the blessing of the mother church to form the Third German-American Baptist Church of Detroit, which eventually would become Crosspointe. They changed their name and built the Newland Avenue Baptist Church in 1913, but quickly outgrew it two years later.

Burns Avenue Baptist Church was dedicated in 1915. Services continued in German until 1930, and the church hosted a weekly program titled "Echoes of Heaven" on Windsor's CKLW from 1938 to 1966.

By 1947, the congrega-



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Crosspointe Christian Church gather in their worship space to celebrate the church's 125th anniversary.

tion purchased property at the corner of Mack and Baseline, also known as Old Eight Mile, just a block inside the Woods from St. Clair Shores.

"They owned property on Vernier that they sold to buy this property," Associate Pastor Jason Coplen said. "There are stories about them being able to sell bonds to pay for construction. Apparently Time Magazine even did a story on how creative they were with the financing."

The cornerstone for Grosse Pointe Baptist Church was laid in July 1954, with the first services held Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955. The congregation voted to change its name to Crosspointe Christian Church in 2011, but remains affiliated with

the North American Baptist Association.

"The name 'Baptist' had some baggage attached to it," Swiatek said, citing the antics of Westboro Baptist Church. "People have this idea that you have to be rich and white to be Baptist. That's not true."

Soon after the name change, Crosspointe launched "A Heart for God's House," securing some \$840,000 in pledges to remodel and refurbish the three-level building.

"We're as healthy as we've ever been," Swiatek said, noting weekly attendance is around 600. "Changing the name was a very positive move."

Another factor that has contributed to the church's growth is stability. Swiatek has been on board since 2003, while

Coplen has been there since 2006. Associate Pastor and Student Ministry Director Nathaniel King joined in 2012.

"This church isn't based

around a personality, it's the people," Coplen said. "If something happened to us, the ministry would go on."

A staff of eight keeps everything else running

smoothly.

"We have a great staff," Swiatek said. "We couldn't do it without them."

Myriad activities, outreach programs, Bible studies and other offerings keep the church buzzing far beyond the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday services.

"People don't just come here once a week to check a box," Swiatek said. "They live out their faith through service. In this day and age, when it's all about us, we focus on loving God and loving people."

Swiatek, for example, recently returned from a mission trip to Macedonia and has served as chaplain for the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department since 2018.

King has led youth mission trips to Portugal, Costa Rica and Appalachia.

"We worked with a program down there (Appalachia) that pro-

See 125, page 6B

## Music at Memorial presents Christmas concert Dec. 18

The annual "Christmas Story" concert takes place at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, in the candlelit sanctuary at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The centerpiece of the concert every year is James Biery's musical telling of the Christmas story. A highlight of the program this year is a new carol called "Before the

Star," with words written by Marilyn Biery and new music composed by Broadway composer Paul Loesel.

The program also includes a variety of familiar carols for all to sing.

Thanks to several generous benefactors, the "Christmas Story" concert is free of charge and there are no tickets required.

For more information, call (313) 882-5330.

## The Christmas Season at St. Ambrose Catholic Church

### THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 17, 2022

Mass AT 4 P.M. ((••))

Sunday, December 18, 2022

MASSSES AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

### VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Saturday, December 24, 2022,

Mini Concert starting at 3:30 p.m. ((••))

Children's Mass AT 4 P.M. ((••))

### FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Mini Concert starting at 11:30 p.m. ((••))

MIDNIGHT MASS AT 12 A.M. ((••))

Masses on Christmas Morning

8:30 A.M. AND AT 11:15 A.M.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

Saturday, December 31, 2022

Mass AT 4 P.M. ((••))

Sunday January 1, 2023

Masses AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

\*\* ((••)) - Service will be livestreamed online at facebook.com/stambroseparish

St. Ambrose Catholic Church is located at 15020 Hampton Road between Wayburn and Maryland, one block north of Jefferson, just west of the Grosse Pointe Park City Hall. (313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net

## Worship Service

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Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090  
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

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(United Church of Christ)

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7:30 p.m. Celtic Christmas

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(313) 884-4820 www.stmichaelsgpw.org

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(Corner of Wedgewood)  
(313) 884-5040

9:30 am - Worship Service

11:00 am - Worship Service

Everyone is Welcome!

Amanda Onoro,  
director preschool@feelc.org

Rev. Sean Motley, Senior Pastor

~ "Go Make Disciples" ~

www.feelc.org



Join us as we celebrate the meaning and wonder of Christmas

- Dec. 18 Music Sunday: Appalachian Winter, 9:30 am
- Dec. 20 Blue Christmas service, 7 pm
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service, 9 pm
- Dec. 25 Christmas morning service, 11 am

View all services via livestream  
https://gpumc.info/SundayMorningWorship

Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church  
211 Moross Road, GP Farms  
www.gpumc.org  
313-886-2363



# Pointer cooks up another 'Chicken Soup' essay

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

Mary Jo Wyse doesn't always know when an idea for a heartwarming story will hit her, but she's now had her eighth essay published in the Chicken Soup series, "The Magic of Christmas: 101 Tales of Holiday Joy, Love and Gratitude."

"This was just something that stuck in my mind," she said of her latest inspiration. "Usually in the moment there's a lot of energy and then later I can reflect on it."

"The State of Virginia" is about Wyse's close relationship with an elderly neighbor, Virginia, their experience going through COVID together and the

death of Virginia's husband, Ron, at the onset of the pandemic.

Virginia, now in her early 90s, was the first neighbor to welcome Wyse and her family to Grand Marais Street when they moved to the Park in 2014.

"Here's my phone number," Wyse recalls in the story how Virginia greeted her. "If you need anything, I'm just two doors down."

Wyse also recounts how it wasn't too long before she did need Virginia's help. A humid August caused her bedroom door to swell, trapping her inside. Virginia and Ron came over and helped free her.

The story goes on to detail the growing friend-

ship between the two women, noting that despite their age gap, "Virginia didn't feel grandmotherly. Rather, she felt like what she was: a friend."

The two share a love of gardening and enjoy walks together, and were able to celebrate birthdays and exchange Christmas gifts outside while socially distanced.

The story begins and ends with Wyse and her daughter in Virginia's kitchen the day before Thanksgiving 2021, as Virginia and the girl made an apple pie, still masked but able to be inside together at last.

"Aside from the masks, it felt normal," Wyse wrote.

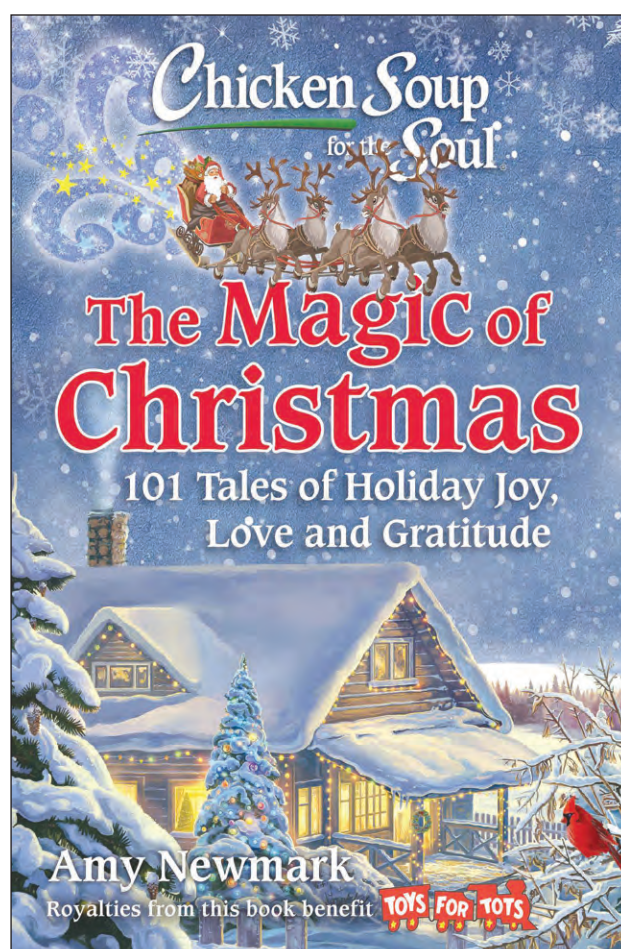
When they were finished, Wyse said she asked Virginia if she could give her a hug. Virginia smiled but declined, "I've made it this far. I'm going to wait until the numbers go down a little more."

"We did the same thing again this year the day before Thanksgiving," Wyse said. "We talked about how fun it was last year and how neat it is getting to read the story."

Wyse said she still hasn't been able to hug Virginia.

"We do air hugs," she laughed. "She is such a brave person and is smart about what she does. I respect that."

Wyse, a former English teacher, is a writer for



imom.com, which offers parenting and marriage advice.

The "Chicken Soup for

the Soul" series of books can be found on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

## A toast to Toastmasters

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

The local chapter of Toastmasters International, the second oldest in Michigan, is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

"It is such an invaluable organization," said Wendy Bradley, a past president of Northeastern Toastmasters who now is in charge of public relations for the group. "I've been a member since 1985, so basically half of

our existence, which seems crazy."

The group meets from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Wayne County Community College's complex on Vernier in Harper Woods.

"We have 20 members and about 15 show up each time," Bradley said. "We also have some who join via Zoom. There's a large auditorium there so we've been able to still meet and be socially distanced."

Founded in 1924, Toastmasters now has more than 280,000 members in 14,700 clubs across 144 countries.

"You can find one just about anywhere you go," Bradley said. "Visitors are always welcome if you're on vacation or a business trip and want to join in."

Bradley said the experience has helped in both her professional and personal lives.

"I joined when I was 27 after I started working as a school psychologist,"

she recalled. "I had to give presentations to foster parents and a colleague who was about the same age did such a good job projecting her voice during her presentations. I asked her how she learned to do that and she said it was Toastmasters. I knew I had to join so I could do as good a job as her."

Bradley said it also gave her confidence to become a lector at St. Lucy's

Catholic Church.

"I wouldn't be doing that if not for Toastmasters," she said. "Not only can it help in your professional life, but it prepares you if you're called on to deliver a toast or a eulogy or need to speak at some other occasion."

The ability to learn new things is another perk.

"Each meeting we have two or three people give

speeches on various topics you can learn from," she noted. "I've stuck with it all these years because of how much I get out of it."

Each meeting also includes time for sharing jokes and a topic or two to practice extemporaneous speaking.

For more information, visit toastmasters.org or call Bradley at (313) 720-8444.

## 125:

Continued from page 5B

vides lunch for kids every day in the summer," he said. "It's so poor, if it weren't for that program those kids wouldn't eat at all."

Summer Vacation Bible School and a day camp

are always crowded, and the Grosse Pointe Nursery School with more than 80 students has a waiting list.

"We've got families who don't even go to church here sign their kids up for our youth activities," Swiatek said. "Sometimes they enjoy it so much they do end up joining."

Crosspointe, which

engages members and others through several forms of social media, also recently started a podcast.

"We're excited to see what the future holds," Swiatek said. "We've had good momentum coming out of COVID and it's been great being back together during this celebratory year."

## GPPL:

Continued from page 4B

opened, then, six months later, moved to the Woods branch. There, she continued to work with youth and created after-school activities for teens before being assigned coordinator.

As a youth services librarian and coordinator, McClary worked with children in the Study, Tutoring, Enrichment and Programs, or STEP,

program she created. The program was created as a partnership with Parcels Middle School and hosted up to 80 students per night.

For her dedication and service to the youth in Grosse Pointe, McClary was awarded the Michigan Library Association 2016 Frances H. Pletz Award for Excellence in Service to Youth.

Prior to her time with GPPL, McClary worked at the Oak Park Library,

Detroit Public Library, Detroit Zoo and Detroit Mayor's Office.

She and her husband, Bob, who passed away in 2015, and their daughter, Catherine, moved from Detroit to the City of Grosse Pointe 22 years ago. McClary plans to remain in the community with her 2-year-old dog, Rizzo, and spend time with family and friends.

"I look forward to spending time and traveling to Hawaii and Europe with my grown daughter, Catherine, who has been living and working in the D.C. area for the past 10 years," McClary said, "and look forward to some peaceful time at the family cottage by the lake here in Michigan."

"I have enjoyed every minute working with my colleagues and library staff, serving our community," she added. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to have a role in the reimagining of the space in the Woods branch that improves access to so many resources including a new makerspace, Dream Lab, with changes that allow staff to be available to connect with patrons to help them when and where they are to find what they need. I am looking forward to what is to come. You never know what the future brings, but I will always be ready to serve my library and community."



Join Grosse Pointe Memorial Church  
this holiday season as we await  
the arrival of Jesus our Savior!

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

12:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service (Childcare available)

5:00 pm\*

Family Service (Childcare available)

7:30\* and 10:00 pm

Candlelit Service with Full Choir

Scan me!



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Bedford turns into Bedrock with the dinosaur clan on full display for the holidays throughout December.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Christmas display turns Jurassic in the Park

By Meg Leonard  
Associate Editor

If you just dino where to start the trek for your annual Christmas lights and display tour, a Grosse Pointe Park family's front lawn on Bedford is a guaranteed holiday sight for saur eyes.

In what could only be described as out-of-this-Jurassic world, Bill and Deanne Wehrmann's dino-mite holiday display has significantly grown in size from its inception in 2020. Prompted to create a family Christmas project during the shutdown that year, the homeowners modestly started with three blow-up dinosaurs. This year, it has grown to around "20-ish" characters to cover their front lawn, according to homeowner Deanne Wehrmann.

"Prior to that, we were your typical 'white lights and a wreath' family," she

said by email. "(In 2020), we knew we weren't going to be able to have friends and family over for the celebrations we normally have and we knew there would be lots of drive-by and waves for the holiday that year.

"So, we wanted to come up with something festive to put a smile on our friends' and neighbors' faces."

With young kids at home — their children were 14 and 7 at the time — the big blowup display was an activity the whole family could work on together while they were stuck at home.

"Our kids were in eighth grade and first grade at the time and it gave us a family project they could look forward to," Wehrmann said.

The family chose dinosaurs specifically because it provided a theme each child could get excited about. Her husband also



This little baby dinosaur started the Wehrmann family's Christmas display, which has now grown to nearly 20 creatures strong.

has enthusiastically embraced the theme.

"My husband, who likes to pretend he's a Grinch, basically looked at the three (dinosaurs) and said it looked too bare. Now, we are up to I think 18 this year (we added seven new this year) plus some

they intend to continue expanding every year. They have even adjusted their landscaping to make more room.

"The kicker this year was my husband literally removed a bush from our landscaping for a new dinosaur," Wehrmann said, adding her husband told her "it was the perfect spot and (I) don't like that bush anyway."

To further spread Christmas cheer, the Wehrmann family established an Instagram page, @dinosingp.

"I started (the Instagram account) a few years ago, but we are really using it this year," she said. "It's pretty much just our family following it, but again, it's been a great thing for my kids to work together on."

"We are creating backstories for each dinosaur and both kids have dinosaurs that they are adamant have certain names and traits," she added. "My husband doesn't know what the names are, so it's been fun for us to create the backstories and post them to surprise him each day."

But alas, what goes up with such great fanfare, also must come down and after Christmas, the display goes extinct.

"It's a family project to put them up over a few days and then we add and tweak (them) for the first few weeks," Wehrmann said.

"Not as much excitement to take them down from the high school sophomore, as you may expect."

ASK THE EXPERTS By Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW

## Recovering from disappointment

**Q: When what I expect doesn't happen, I have trouble bouncing back. How can I recover from disappointment more quickly?**

**A:** Fortunately, resilience isn't a finite strength we are inherently born with. It's something that can be developed with purpose and practice. With the many challenges we face — culturally, interpersonally, professionally, academically — it is important to develop the skills to respond constructively to disappointment.

When something does not go as planned, there are ways to reorient ourselves and move forward:

- ◆ Construct an amended goal. Identify smaller steps. Often, we abandon plans because they are too ambitious. Recover by simplifying, working on what you can control and executing on a smaller version for now.

- ◆ Know the difference between accountability and self-recrimination. Accountability involves taking stock of behavior and choices and what worked and what didn't. It allows a margin for error. Recrimination focuses on blaming and shaming and is not a productive self-assessment. Beating ourselves up leaves us with little capacity for objectivity, healthy risk taking or problem-solving.

- ◆ Critically assess what is getting in the way of getting back on track. Is it anxiety, vulnerability, boredom, thinking it's too much work or making assumptions about how it's going to play out? Take some time to figure out what may be holding you back.

- ◆ Practice self-compassion. Recognize that competency comes from how we choose to respond to challenges rather than performing perfectly. Setbacks are unavoidable when we are stretching ourselves and the way we navigate these struggles is how we develop frustration-tolerance, persistence, flexibility and confidence. It's how we endure the difficult moments

that shape us. Success often is in the struggle, not the outcome.

- ◆ Focus on what you can control. There always are factors that are out of our control, but there are facets of every situation we can control, even if it's simply how we respond or the way in which we talk to ourselves about a particular issue. When we have a negative reaction to an outcome or situation, it can be helpful to assess what we are responding to by asking questions like:

- Am I assessing the situation accurately or making faulty assumptions? Is perfectionism, anxiety or others' expectations preventing me from seeing things clearly?

- Is my reaction going to change anything or make it any more manageable or unmanageable?

- Is how I'm responding going to help me resolve the issue or prevent the situation from happening again? Could a different response produce a better outcome?

- What about this experience can I influence or improve— now or in the future — and what is not in my control?

- ◆ Finally, recognize progress. Scan for strengths: What are you getting right? What are you proud of? What small shifts have been made? What has been done well and where have you adapted? When we focus on growth and growing, we combat that negative internal dialogue and build muscle memory around our competencies.

Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW, is a licensed social worker with more than 25 years of experience providing individual, group and family therapy in the private and public sectors. Check out her blog at [marybethgarveytherapy.org/](http://marybethgarveytherapy.org/).

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges. Learn more at [familycenterweb.org](http://familycenterweb.org)

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# Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

## Gift planning tips to make giving easier

**Dear Gabby:** I can't keep all of the gifts I have purchased straight. They are squirreled away in various locations and I feel so anxious and disorganized.

Every single year I realize at the last minute that someone has 20 gifts and someone else has two.

What can I do to stop this madness? Help!

— **Feeling wacked out in the Woods**

**Dear Wacked,**

Fear not, this is not an

unusual problem nor an uncommon one!

You are doing a lot of work, and from the sounds of it this is just a logistical and logging issue. Here's our advice.

First, take inventory. Pour yourself a glass of wine or a mocktail and open all of the boxes and packages that were ordered online.

Pull out everything that you have purchased locally. Put them in piles according to recipient

and discard all of the empty boxes you possibly can.

Take photos with your phone and make a list — either on paper or in your phone notes — whichever is your preference.

If you have the time, this is the best time to do a big wrapping job. Now you have all of the data, so you can add as necessary.

Try to keep everything in one spot, and if you cannot, add into your

notes where everything is.

It's amazing how quickly we can forget.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and happy holidays (and don't forget to shop local!)

— **Gabby**

*We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to [advice@grossepointenews.com](mailto:advice@grossepointenews.com).*



## Classic Ann Landers

### Mom knows best

**Dear Ann Landers:** Too many people think it's OK to leave a child unattended in an automobile while they go into a gas station or post office for "just a minute."

Whenever I am tempted to do this, I remember the day I brought my first-born child home from the hospital. My

mother said, "Don't ever leave your child in your car anywhere you wouldn't leave \$1 million cash on the seat."

If you run this in your column, Ann, please use my name. It would be a wonderful tribute to my very wise mother, who passed away two years ago this Christmas.

— Vicki Villegas Westfall, Valley Springs, Calif.

**Dear Vicki:** Here is your letter and a very good one at that, I might add. It takes only a second to snatch a child. Your mother gave you excellent advice. I hope every mother who reads this will pay attention to her wise counsel.

**Dear Ann Landers:** For 10 years, I was a stand-up comic and moderately successful. After a show, I liked to chat, but some people didn't understand the show was over, or they had a joke to tell me. If I never again hear, "Three guys are in a bar," I will die happy.

I often ran for the exit the second my act was over. I hated doing that, because many people just wanted to say they enjoyed the show.

I know people are just trying to be friendly, but comics don't have the luxury of saying, "I've finished my gig," or they would appear rude and arrogant.

Life on the road is very lonely, but after accepting after-show dinner invitations a few times, I realized people didn't want to have dinner with me; they just wanted more entertainment.

So, folks, we love to talk with you after the show because you are often the catalysts for spectacular stories,



but please leave the jokes at home. — Stop Me If You've Heard This One in Rochester, N.Y.

**Dear New York:** Every comic who reads this is going

to bless you for what you have written. You sang their song.

ANN LANDERS  
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## Couple's divorce still a raw subject after 10-plus years

**DEAR ABBY:** My parents were married for 22 years. They separated in 2007, and by 2008 the divorce was final. While this was a good thing for both of them, the fallout from their marriage was intense. I won't dig into the ugly details, but they both had their faults, and it was rough.

Since the divorce, Dad has moved on. Sadly, he lost his wife of 13 years suddenly several months ago. Mom still blames Dad for every bad thing that has happened to her since the divorce, even though she chose to quit her job and go on disability, which severely limited her income and options. When Dad's wife died, Mom was

almost happy. She said she knew that same grief because of what she went through with the divorce. (It's NOT the same thing.)

I would like to invite Dad to holiday gatherings with the family this year, as he will be alone most of the time, but Mom refuses to come if he is there. How can I help her move on? — INCLUSIVE IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR INCLUSIVE:** Remember the adage, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink"? All these years, your mother has nursed her anger as though it was an infant. The only person who can help her "move

on" is herself, which she is clearly unwilling to do.

Ask your father how he would feel about joining the family during the coming holidays. You may find that he would prefer to avoid her and socialize with friends he and his wife cultivated during their marriage. But please do not allow your mother to dictate whom you can or cannot entertain in your home. If she wishes to stay away, that will be her privilege and her punishment.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband is hard of hearing. No matter what I ask of him or when we have a conversation, he denies I ever spoke to him, asked him to do anything, etc. When I suggest that he

may have a hearing problem and should see a doctor, he becomes angry, belligerent and denies there's anything wrong with him.

Our marriage has turned into one big fight. I have asked him to say, "I didn't hear you. Could you repeat that?" when he doesn't hear me, but that hasn't worked. He still flat-out denies that I said anything to him.

If I don't hear him clearly, I ask him to repeat what I didn't hear. How can I convince him that he needs a hearing aid before these fights end our marriage? — ON DEAF EARS IN WEST VIRGINIA

**DEAR O.D.E.:** This is a



## Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

problem you both should discuss with your husband's doctor, preferably before his next physical.

Sadly, his denial is shared by many who equate hearing loss with something to be embarrassed about. I can suggest a "Band-Aid" in the meantime, but without intervention, your husband's problem will progress, and he will find himself increasingly socially isolated.

For now, if you want his attention, TOUCH HIS ARM OR SHOULDER before asking him a question. That way he will have to pay attention.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

## We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I constantly feel like I'm dehydrated, especially in the summer. That's probably because my mom used to tell me a glass of water and a nap will cure any and all ailments.

Once the day begins, I tend to be super busy and sometimes even forget to drink a glass of water until almost dinnertime. Yikes!

When one of my friends told me she drinks WAY more water when she carries a large cup with her, I decided to try it for myself.

The Stanley Quencher 40-ounce tumbler is super popular right now because it comes in a ton of colors and holds 40 ounces of liquid. It keeps hot beverages hot for more than seven

hours and cold beverages cold for more than 11 hours or iced for two days.

It also fits in a standard-size cup holder. It comes with a screw-on, three-position lid and reusable straw. The cups look cool and serve a purpose, so I

decided I would buy one and see if it actually increased my water intake.

My Stanley cup came in a few days. Luckily, the website had just restocked and there were many colors available. The cups tend to sell quickly, so you



might have to check multiple websites to find them.

I washed the cup and filled it with ice water right away. I've used it for a few months and I have to say, I drink A LOT of water. I started drinking so much water, unintentionally, and feel like I

have so much more energy and focus because I am hydrated.

It's so much easier to stay hydrated if you have a water bottle or cup you like to carry around. I usually fill the cup in the morning and then again around lunchtime. I am able to monitor my water intake and make sure I'm drinking even when I'm stuck in meetings or running around with the kids.

I love this product and I know you will too. While the \$40 price tag can seem a little hefty for a water cup, this tumbler is worth it.

It is useful, effective and has truly changed one of my daily habits. It's hard to

believe a cup can do that, but it did. I'm giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators.

You can find the Stanley Quencher online at [stanley1913.com](http://stanley1913.com) or at various retailers through a Google search.

*We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at [media@grossepointenews.com](mailto:media@grossepointenews.com).*

5 Out Of 5



# A cocktail party must

## Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

For me, anything with puff pastry is a holiday party must. It's warm, comforting and absolutely delicious. You can't go wrong. I chose to use Cambozola for this. It's a cross between a brie and a gorgonzola. Cambozola is an Italian cheese that I ask for on toast every morning for Mother's Day.

You can't beat the creamy and subdued blue flavor. It's out of this world.

I paired it with fig jam and crispy prosciutto. The cheese and jam are not hard to find. I found mine at Village Food but Fresh Farms Market sells them both as well.

This is a two bite crowd pleaser. Think crisp and savory with just a touch of sweetness.

Cheers, Mombeau

### Puff Pastry Bites with Fig Jam and Prosciutto

- 1 pkg puff pastry
- 1 wedge Cambozola cheese
- 4 slices Prosciutto di Parma
- 1 jar fig jam

Start by thawing out your pastry on the counter. Make sure it sits out for at least a couple hours.

Once thawed, preheat your oven to 425. Unroll the pastry and spread some flour on your counter to prevent the dough from sticking. Roll the dough out to make it a bit thinner but not too thin.

Cut the dough into 12 equal squares. Place each square into a 12 cup muffin tin that has been sprayed.

Using a fork, poke holes in the bottom of the dough. This will help it to not puff up too much in the center.

While the pastry is cooking, dice the prosciutto and add to a saucepan over medium heat. Stir until crisp, about three minutes.

The fat from the ham draws out so you shouldn't need any extra oil.

Cube the cheese into half-inch pieces. Once the pastry is golden brown, take it out of the oven.

You may have to use your thumb to press the center down. Place a cube of cheese in each muffin cup and place back in the oven for five minutes.

To assemble, take each cup out and place on a platter. Add a dollop of fig jam to each one and cover the top with your crispy prosciutto.

Serve with a rosemary garnish for extra holiday flair.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

These cheesy, two-bite wonders will wow your crowd.



## Zinfandel

The passion that Zinfandel elicits in some people is hard to comprehend.

I recall when the amazing versatility of this grape was its greatest appeal to wine consumers.

It has been 20 years mostly gone. Today there exudes a mania for this grape that has its obsessive devotees seeking bigger, richer, more intensely flavored Zins than ever before.

It has been 20 years



White Zinfandel is often the very first wine someone tries. Today, close to 85 percent of the total Zinfandel production is White Zin!

It made a delightful dry near-pink wine, it made light sparkling wine, and best of all it made a light red wine that had all the charm of Beaujolais, the full-rich berry flavors of strawberry punch, and the crispness to work as a foil to pizza.

It was like Chianti with more fruit.

Those days are

since we first began to see this new style of Zinfandel replace the older, more restrained style. In his superb book, published in 1988, "Notes on a California Cellarbook," author Bob Thompson, a Napa Valley resident blessed with one of the world's greatest wine palates and keen-eyed sensibilities, wrote of

Thompson's thesis, that 14 percent to 15 percent alcohol was too much for Zinfandel, was wrong. It had to be a lot more than that!

And thus was born the 15 percent to 17 percent alcohol Zinfandels that we have among us today. These are massive, concentrated red wines laden with port-like scents. They have astringency from bow to stern, and the strength to remove rust from a 1949 Ford trailer hitch.

And worst of all, many of these wines sell for \$40 and more, mainly to those hardy souls who dote on such wines.

In the hands of the right people, Zinfandel still makes a lighter-styled red wine, which I discovered last week when asked to judge Zinfandels as a judge at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair in Santa Rosa.

Among the wines we evaluated were 52 priced no higher than \$25 a bottle, and what was evident was that at a price lower than many of the in-demand, high-alcohol wines, consumers still have a chance to buy some delicious red wines that have better balance than do their pricier counterparts.

Two regions of Sonoma County scored best in our double-blind analysis — Russian River Valley and Dry Creek Valley.

The late-harvest stuff of the latter 1970s was enough to drive many red wine drinkers to alternatives.

So great was the exodus from Zin-buying that most of the Zinfandel plantings in California at the time would have been torn out had not consumers discovered the (dubious) joys of sweet pink Zin — the infamous White Zinfandel.

By the mid-1990s, however, a few wine makers discovered that

Zin:

"A school of drinkers wants its Zinfandel inky dark, astringent enough to tan hides, and freighted with 14 percent or 15 percent alcohol, the sort of wine sometimes labeled Late Harvest.

Nothing, the anointed say, digs in and battles hot sauces and gamy meats on such even terms. Maybe the claim is true for linebackers and their spiritual kin, but I have fallen asleep too many times in my bear-knuckle stew to take pleasure from such stuff."

Thompson was right: Too much intensity makes for a rather clumsy wine experience.

And that is precisely what consumers believed in the early 1980s. Overcome by the weight and irked by too much alcohol, those who bought Zinfandel began to turn their backs on the dry red wines it made.

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The primary flavors of Red Zinfandel are jam, blueberry, black pepper, cherry, plum, boysenberry, cranberry and licorice.

The Best of Class Zinfandel among these wines was the delightful 2006 Alexander Valley Vineyards Redemption Zinfandel (\$24) with its superb strawberry-like fruit and peppery aftertaste.

I also loved the field-blended 2006 Forchini from Dry Creek Valley (\$23), the more claret-like 2006 Taft Street from Russian River (\$22) and the 2005 Mosaic Zinfandel (Russian River Valley) from the Francis Vineyard (\$24).

In fact, 36 of the 52 wines in the lower-priced class got medals, indicating that the judges appreciated the more restrained style of the wines.

To be sure, many of these wines topped 14

percent alcohol, but many also were well balanced and nicely made.

### Wine of the Week:

2006 Sebastiani Zinfandel, Sonoma County (\$15) — A stylish red wine with more balance and subtle nuances than overblown richness. Wine maker Mark Lyon has made here a lovely lower-alcohol (13.5 percent) Zin with the acidity to allow it to match nicely with pizza, one of the original goals of the wine.

To find out more about Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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

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VILLAGE PALM has the absolute prettiest patterns on their Lilly Pulitzer thermal tumblers. If you're looking for a gift she'll use every single day, this is it! Several lovely patterns to choose from for all-year happiness and hydration.

RIDGE CREST OUTFITTERS' soft blue Mizzen + Main quarter-zip pullover is the gift he'll want to live in, it's so comfortable (handsome, too.) Whether it matches his eyes or looks great with his dark (or light) hair, he'll look top-notch in this!

The countdown has begun...But there's still time to shop for gifts that will surprise and delight this Christmas. Whether you need something for that hard-to-shop-for cousin, your kiddo's favorite teacher, or a secret Santa pal, help is on the way! Take a peek at these irresistible gifts that will make you a true shopping hero.

# Time to amaze!

## SERVE UP HOLIDAY JOY TO YOUR HOSTESS, AUNTIE, TEACHER, SIS OR MOM



**THE LEAGUE SHOP** sparkles even more at Christmastime! Check out these super sweet mitten, tree and gingerbread man holiday serving trays. So perfect for the ladies on your list. Fill with treats or give them by themselves. They'll brighten every holiday table for years to come. (They're so cute, you might just need to buy an extra one for yourself.)

## WHO 'WOODEN' LOVE THESE PRETTY TRAYS?



## PINING FOR EVERGREEN?

Everyone's favorite holiday scent is available in a luxurious Himalayan candle at **DUFFEY & CO.** For those opting for an artificial tree, an evergreen-scented candle does the trick to bring that fresh pine Christmas aroma into the home. Even with a fresh tree, it can give a boost to the delightful smells of Christmas. Or choose from other favorites like grapefruit pine and sugared lemon. A yummy candle for your BFF will make you the best of the besties!



**THE LEAGUE SHOP** specializes in unique finds for the home that make last-minute gifting a breeze. This stylish handled serving board, above, has six cheese markers to make entertaining easy and presentation spectacular. The cheese markers have their own little storage sack for extra appeal.



This gorgeous wooden serving tray, left, and festive towel are the perfect gift combo from **THE LEAGUE SHOP**. Nice big trays like this one make hosting easier and also get lots of use on the daily for bringing treats to the TV room or patio. A big yes, please!



# 6C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

## DREAMING OF A LILLY CHRISTMAS

**VILLAGE PALM** is awash in great gifts for all the stylish femmes in your life. From clothing to sweet accessories like these dramatic wintry green tassle and charming snowflake earrings, right, to pretty makeup bags, below, with tropical prints that keep summer alive all year round, a Lilly gift will be forever appreciated.



## A HEAD FOR FASHION

**VILLAGE PALM** has headbands in holiday-friendly prints on deck for the fashionistas on your list. These look simply adorable on long or short hair, and add a bit of personality to every outfit. Perfect for parties and for staying active this winter.



## THE GIFT OF AHFFF

A **TAYLOR REESE** spa gift card gives your special lady something to look forward to this holiday season. Who doesn't want to be pampered and prettied after all the holiday rush? Pedicures, massages, facials and more, a TR gift card is every girl's secret wish!



## IT'S A WRAP!

**SAVVY CHIC** is known for having oodles of the hottest fashions, and this little wrap is proof. Soft faux fur goes around the neck for extra warmth and style this winter. Add a touch of sophistication to her stack of gifts! There will be compliments galore. Savvy Chic has lots of great ideas and fashionable finds like this.

## FAMILY PAJAMAS

**NEWPORT'S** got them! Let the photo opps roll! Deck out the whole fam, from mom and dad to the kids (and better get some for Grandma too.) Made by Duffield and Lane, they're soft and comfy, the patterns are fun – so what's not to love? Plus you'll be supporting a Michigan business, since Duffield Lane is based in Grand Rapids. Family fun was never so cozy.

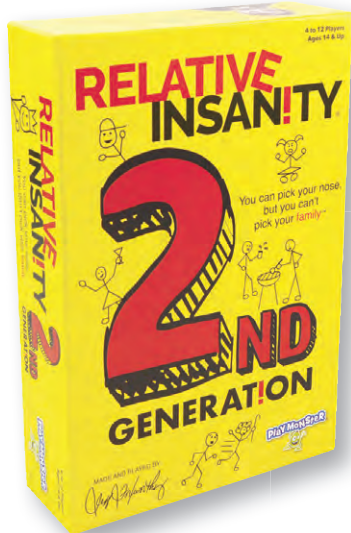


## A GIFT OF IMAGINATION

Books transport us to magical places as wide as imagination itself. **COREANDER'S CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOPPE** helps take your little ones there with books, plush animals and gift certificates that give joy and build knowledge for a lifetime. For the most treasured gifts, visit Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe and let the holiday glee begin.



## FAMILY FUN



**WHISTLE STOP HOBBY & TOY** makes Christmas more fun for kids – and for the whole family. The group card game *Relative Insanity, Generation 2*, gets the whole group involved in the good times. The funniest punch line gets the point, but every card will be different and hilarious.



## THE SCIENCE OF YUM

Is candy making an art or a science? Kids find out with this great kit from **WHISTLE STOP HOBBY & TOY**. They'll cook up some sweet fun as they learn a few cool chemistry basics.



## CHRISTMAS KICKS

Sweet star sneakers from **SAVVY CHIC** keep a touch of holiday glam all year round. So cute with casual wear this season, they'll be a welcome gift for your fashion-conscious giftee. Savvy Chic is stocked up with all the favorite trends you'll be proud to give (and maybe pick out a few things for yourself too, for all your hard work!)

## WARM AND FUZZY

Top marks for **GLITTER & SCOTCH**, because they know what a girl wants, what a girl needs. Especially snow bunnies and outdoor girls, who can stay warm and look absolutely adorable in this ultra-cool selection of feminine sweaters, pom hats and headbands. For a stylish gift she'll totally LOVE, you can never go wrong with Glitter & Scotch!



## HOT ACCESSORIES AND COOL SMELLS

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## YEAR-ROUND GIVING



## GIFT OF THE GRAPE

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# Comics

## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

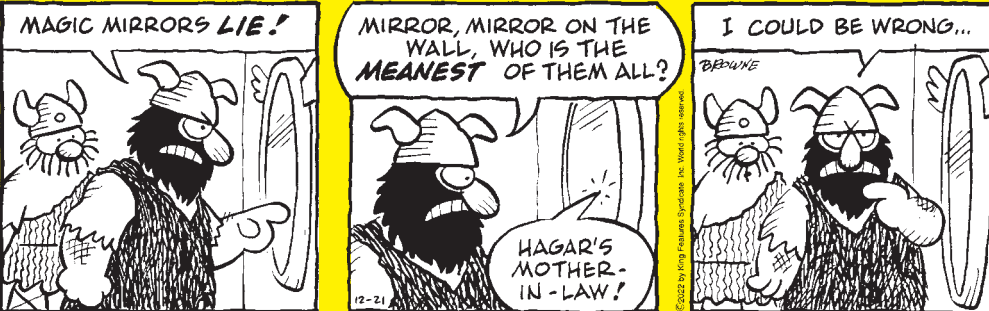


## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



## Crankshaft

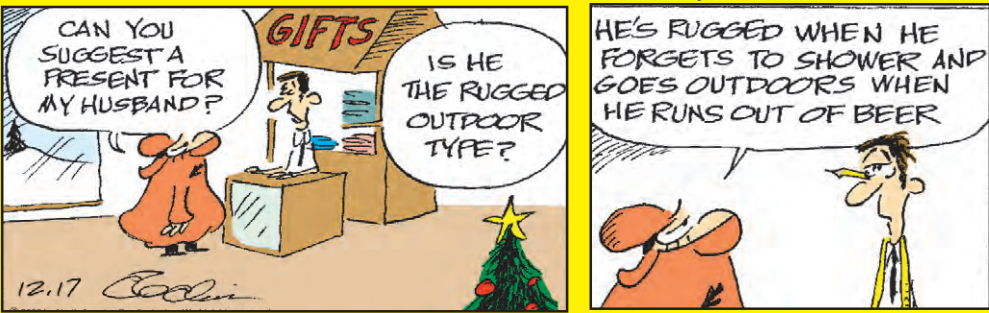
Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



## Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

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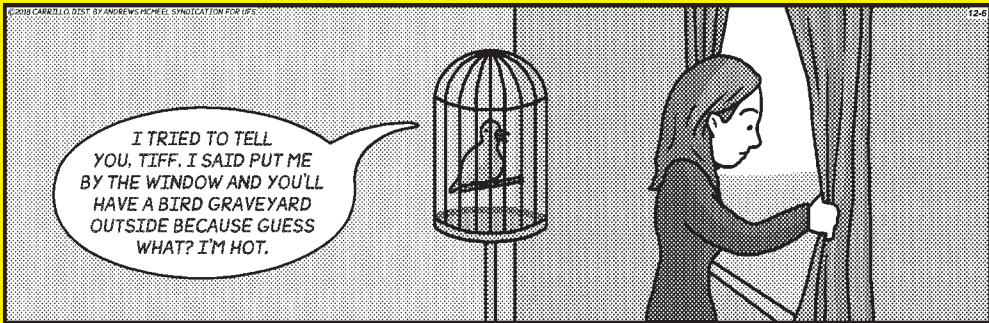
## Close To Home

John McPherson



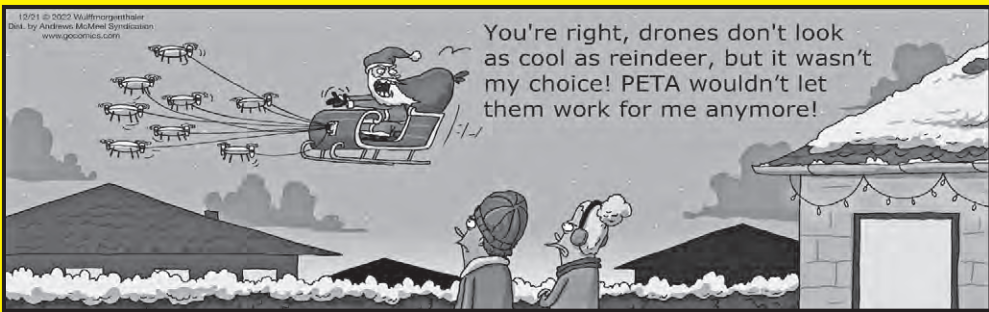
## F Minus

Tony Carrilo



## Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



"Isn't that neat? An Advent calendar that has your pills in each of the windows."

## Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



## Reality Check

Dave Whamond

## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Barfoo biscuits? Your heart is in the right place."

# SPORTS



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## WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

# Sharp skills, senior leadership key factors to hot start for Blue Devils girls hockey

By Meg Leonard  
Associate Editor

Led by a new coaching staff and strengthened by a core of eight seniors who have shared the ice together for years, Grosse Pointe South's girls varsity hockey team is off to a hot 5-0 start, thanks to a squad loaded with skill, experience and leadership they hope to take deep into a state championship run.

New head coach Alexis Bohlinger has taken over the reins at South after a six-year stint in the same role at Cranbrook. She brings with her an experienced staff, including defensive coach Jared DeHaven and forwards coach Sarah Russell, who coached alongside her for the Cranes.

South's girls hockey program has established itself among the state's top teams over the years, including two Division I state championships in 2015 and 2018, despite experiencing its share of head coaching turnover dur-



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENEE SHERRY

**South sophomore goalie Rosie Smith makes a diving save last season versus Livonia United. Smith has only given up two goals in five games this season.**

ing that time. Bohlinger sees her long-established synergy with her coaching staff as an asset she brings to the Blue Devils.

"One of the primary reasons I think I was asked to coach South was that I offered con-

sistency," Bohlinger said, who also is an assistant coach at Lawrence Tech. "I have been on the ice basically since September getting ready for this season. I view this primarily as my full-time job."

That commitment and

consistency will help gel a team of 21 players who thus far have taken a serious approach to their season, according to the head coach. She also said they have demonstrated an incredibly high hockey IQ, both in practice and games.

"They are taking this season very seriously," she said. "They come to practice, take a knee and listen to what (the coaching staff) says before we get started."

"They ask great questions. I have never seen this high level of ques-

tions out of high schoolers, which is so great, honestly," she added.

The team enters the season hoping for redemption from a devastating 6-5, triple overtime loss to Livonia United in last year's semifinals. Hometown rival University Liggett School then captured the state championship by beating Livonia 7-2 in the final game. Liggett and Livonia will continue giving South its strongest competition this year.

But Bohlinger said her approach this season is not to set a general goal of winning a championship, but instead working on all of the smaller, specific steps it takes to win one.

"We are skilled, hard-working and improve every time we are on the ice," she said.

Terming them "baby steps," Bohlinger is focused on instilling traits like being on time, being coachable, being open to learning new techniques, making

See SOUTH, page 2D

# Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Not many athletes have state champion and All-American on their resumes, but Grosse Pointe South diver Logan Hepner achieved both last winter and is ready to do it again as his senior season with the Blue Devils gets underway.

His road to becoming a Division II state champion diver as a junior began when Hepner was just a freshman. A gymnast before high school, Hepner had never tried diving before. However, with an athletic skill set that is part pedigree, and part built by Hepner during his years on the mat, helped make the move to diving.

Now armed with prestigious athletic accomplishments as a diver,

the move was one that made sense.

"It was a little bit different but a lot of the skills, awareness and technique translated well to diving," Hepner said. "A lot of the dives came naturally but some



Grosse Pointe News  
**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**  
Logan Hepner  
School: Grosse Pointe South  
Sport: Swim and Dive  
Sponsored by Joe Ricci

that diving is simply in Hepner's blood. Both of Hepner's parents are former divers, with his father, South varsity football head coach Chad Hepner, an All-American diver at Michigan State University.

Hepner's family never pushed him to pursue diving, but once he made the decision to get into the sport, his parents naturally were willing to help out. Encouraging but not overbearing, Hepner gets the benefit of having them there when he needs help, and also

the space to grow and create his own path in the family's diving legacy.

"They've been very supportive in my diving career," he said. "They'll coach me if I ever need a coach and give me pointers after a competi-

tion of what I can do better, but overall they let me do what I want to do and aren't too intrusive about it."

Any pointers that Hepner's parents have been giving him have certainly been put to good use over the course of his diving career. While getting tips from mom and dad, Hepner trains rigorously at South. He also makes the trip to Ann Arbor three to five days a week to practice with Club Wolverine, which practices at the University of Michigan.

A strong work ethic and a constant push for improvement has gotten Hepner far already in his high school career. It was possibly the biggest factor in what led him to achieving All-American and state champion status last season.

"I focused solely on diving and weight lifting and growing, getting stronger," Hepner said. "All the reps I got last season really helped me progress and I was still progressing into the state meet where I per-

formed well. I was still progressing into the state meet where I per-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PAMELA RAHMAAN

Logan Hepner prepares to dive against U of D Jesuit on Dec. 8.



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2D | SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENEE SHERRY

South's girls hockey team has eight returning seniors, all of whom have played together for years. From left, they include Elise Harr, Charlotte Peabody, Ellie Smith, Gia Cavaliere, Ryleigh O'Donoghue, Olivia Boyer, Grace Lindsay and Riley Sherry.

**SOUTH:**

Continued from page 1D

hockey a priority and working hard, and turning those into individual and team characteristics.

Five games into the season without a loss, it appears that approach has contributed to the Blue Devils' hot start. So far, the team has outscored its five opponents 35-2. Sophomore goaltender Rosie Smith has been a force in net. "Rosie is very level-headed," Bohlinger said. "She is confident in herself and is ready to go at all times."

"She is just an athlete."

Bohlinger complimented Smith's ability to stay in the game, even when the action is taking place in the other end.

"She's never cold," she said of Smith's uncanny skill of being ready, even when the shots she faces are few

and far between. Those low shots on goal registered by opponents are thanks to South's staunch defense, led by seniors Ryleigh Sherry and Grace Lindsay, junior Sophia Reynolds and freshman Charlotte Harr.

Offensively, scoring is coming easily for the Blue Devils, with contributions coming from seniors Ryleigh O'Donoghue, Gia Cavaliere and Charlotte Peabody, along with freshman Ana Zieleniewski. Bohlinger called O'Donoghue, who is set to row for the University of Wisconsin next fall, "all muscle, so strong," and Zieleniewski "an absolute athlete."

"They are all good," Bohlinger said of her offensive players. "We have been running four lines all season. Our power play is getting settled and polished."

"We have a deep bench," she added.

Bohlinger also said

the offense benefits from Sherry's toughness and acumen for scoring from the point and from sophomore forward Bella Peruski.

"(Bella) puts a lot of points on the board," Bohlinger said. "She is a smart player and is going to be a big contributor this season."

Overall, Bohlinger said she believes she has a team of strong players.

"Every one of our seniors, depending on where they want to go to college, could hop on a club team. All of them are that skilled."

South hits the ice next at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at McCann Ice Arena, part of Liggett's annual holiday tournament. The Blue Devils will face off against Grosse Pointe North and at 7 p.m. Liggett will go up against Regina-Lutheran North United. The tournament's consolation and championship games will take place at 4:30 and 6:30

p.m. respectively Saturday, Dec. 17.

The 2022-23 Grosse Pointe South Girls Varsity Hockey Team includes:

- Coaching Staff**
- ◆ Lexi Bohlinger - Head Coach
  - ◆ Jared DeHaven - Defense Coach
  - ◆ Sarah Russell - Forwards Coach
  - ◆ Alex Stankovski - Goalies Coach
  - ◆ Andrew Harr - Statistician
- Players**
- ◆ Olivia Boyer - Forward

- ◆ Bella Peruski - Forward
- ◆ Giada Cavaliere - Forward
- ◆ Charlotte Harr - Defense
- ◆ Elise Harr - Forward
- ◆ Tia Kosmas - Defense
- ◆ Ruby Lenhard - Forward
- ◆ Grace Lindsay - Defense
- ◆ Lyssie Moody - Forward
- ◆ Leila Oskui - Defense
- ◆ Ryleigh O'Donoghue - Forward
- ◆ Charlotte Peabody - Forward
- ◆ Rosie Smith - Goalie
- ◆ Hannah Sun - Forward
- ◆ Gabby Vosburg - Forward
- ◆ Ana Zieleniewski - Forward

**ATHLETE:**

Continued from page 1D

formed really well."

The focus for this winter, with the swim and dive season just getting underway, is once again improvement. After all, being part of the swim and dive team at South always demands a certain pedigree of success.

Hepner and his teammates know that. With Hepner being a diving state champion last year and the swim team finishing third in the state, the bar is set for the Blue Devils to go above and beyond in 2022-23. Having plenty of eyes on them waiting to see if they can succeed, Hepner and the swimmers at South always

have each other's backs. "It's very united even though it's two totally different sports in one," he said. "It's fun to cheer on the swimmers and they cheer me on so it's always really supportive both ways."

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit [grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week](http://grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week).



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAMELA RAHMAAN

To go along with a state championship, Hepner received All-American honors for his performance in the 2021-22 season.

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# Leo Perettie's buzzer beater seals thrilling win for North

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

After a loss to open the season against Warren Lincoln last Wednesday night, the Grosse Pointe North boys basketball team entered last Friday's game with Croswell-Lexington in search of its first win of the winter. What the Norsemen got was a hard-fought game that went back and forth and eventually caused the North gym to erupt when they secured a 54-53 win at the buzzer.

The night kicked off with a relatively fast pace. Both sides had no real shortage of offense in the first quarter, with the Norsemen getting off to a strong start and leading 16-12 after the first eight minutes. Croswell-Lexington flipped the script before halftime, out-scoring North 20-10 in the second quarter to take a six point lead into the break.

The Pioneers continued to build on their lead in the third quarter, taking it to double digits and leading 49-35 going into the final quarter. Just when it looked like North might be down for the count, the Norsemen

came back fighting in the end.

North chipped away at Croswell-Lexington's lead throughout the fourth quarter and eventually got it to a tie game with just ten seconds to go. An untimely foul with four seconds remaining sent the Pioneers to the free throw line where they sank both shots to retake the lead by two.

With only a few seconds left, senior Adam Ayrault for the Norsemen made a pass to the corner where he found Leo Perettie. The sophomore threw up a last second shot from the corner that managed to find the net as the final buzzer sounded.

"In the fourth quarter, we relied on our defense and that was the identity we set out for our team at the beginning of the year," North head coach Rob Johnson said about his team's late-game efforts. "If we took it one possession at a time we could get back in the game and the guys really had belief in each other and never felt like they were out of it."

Perettie's buzzer beater put him at 10 points for the night and made him one of three

Norsemen to reach double digits in the win. Ayrault had 14 while junior James Phillips ended the night as the team's leading scorer with 16.

The close win pulled North back to 1-1 on the young season and marked the first win for Johnson as a varsity head coach. Even with the thrilling victory, the first-year coach knows that there is plenty to learn from and improve upon after the team's performance.

"We're two games in and I don't think we've played four quarters of good ball yet," Johnson said. "We had a good first quarter and fourth quarter, but how can we put together 32 solid minutes of good basketball here? Being able to come out strong and finish quarters and continue to work on defense."

The Norsemen hit the road for the first time this season in their next game, although they do not have to go far as they are set for a rivalry matchup with Grosse Pointe South on Thursday at 7 pm. After that, North is away again on Tuesday, Dec. 20 for a game against Monroe.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North sophomore Leo Perettie finished last Friday's game against Croswell-Lexington with 10 points, including a game-winning three-point shot at the final buzzer.

# Loyola's comeback hands Blue Devils season-opening loss

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The anticipation was palpable in the Grosse Pointe South gym last Wednesday night when the Blue Devils boys varsity basketball team took the court in its 2022-23 season opener welcoming in the Detroit Loyola Bulldogs for its first in a series of challenging early-season matchups.

Though South managed to stay in front for most of the night, Loyola stepped up when it counted, bolstered by a late push that spoiled South's opening night with a 59-56 loss.

"Loyola, they're going to be playing at Breslin because they're a top

team in Division 3," South head coach Steve Benard said after the game. "Being able to play them early is good for us because I think we're further along than other teams and they're further along than other teams...It's exactly what I thought it would be. It didn't finish the way we wanted but we can take a lot of good things away from it."

The opening quarter of Wednesday's game was what some might expect in the opening minutes of the season. Both sides were a bit slow on offense and seemed to be getting their feet under them, but ultimately the Blue Devils ended up in front

11-7 after the first.

Scoring picked up on both sides as the second quarter rolled around. South opened the quarter with three straight three-pointers, putting the offense into high gear. The Bulldogs answered with a few big shots of their own as both teams tripled their scoring output from the first quarter and more. Going into the halftime break, the Blue Devils stayed in front 33-26.

South's defense held strong early in the second half, holding Loyola to just nine points in the third quarter while using that solid defensive effort to boost their lead on offense, taking a 49-35 advantage into the

final eight minutes.

However, Loyola turned the game on its head in the fourth quarter. The Bulldogs went on a run and brought the game to within three points with just over five minutes remaining. With four minutes left, Loyola finally pulled out in front 51-49 and eventually had its scoring run up to 20-0 before South's Anthony Benard finally made the team's first basket of the quarter with a little over two minutes to go.

The final seconds of the game continued the drama. With Loyola up

six, a three pointer by Benard cut the deficit to just three for South. After a missed Bulldogs free throw and an opportunity turnover, the Blue Devils had one last shot to try and tie the game. However, South's last-second attempt fell short and Loyola escaped with the comeback victory.

"My guys were just gassed," Benard said about his team's performance in the final stretch. "...It got to a point in the game where it was the perfect storm. Our guys were gassed and they had a run

where we turned it over four or five times in a row."

Benard led South with 29 points, which pushed him over the 1,000 points milestone for his high school career. Junior Karter Richards scored 20 for the Blue Devils in the loss.

The Blue Devils suffered a second loss 67-61 on Saturday when facing off against Ferndale to drop to 0-2 to begin the season. South is back on its home court Thursday night when it hosts crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Blue Devils junior Karter Richards goes up against a Loyola defender at mid-court. Richards had 20 points in South's season opener last Wednesday.

## Score big points this Christmas



By Meg Leonard  
Associate Editor

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## 4D | SPORTS

## WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

## North girls hockey starts season in high gear

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Over the first month or so of the season, the Grosse Pointe North girls hockey team is feeling on top of the world. The Norsemen have jumped out to a 6-0 start to the winter thanks in large part to a prolific offense stacked with some of the top scorers currently in the state.

"The girls have been on fire so far," said North assistant coach Taylor Shaheen. "Everyone is beginning to mold together cohesively and play as a unit."

The Norsemen extended their perfect start to the season with back to back wins last week. North hosted Sacred Heart on Friday and earned a narrow 8-7 win in a high-scoring contest. Two Norsemen finished the night with seven points. Josie Cueter had four goals and three assists while Gabby Brumme helped fill the stat sheet with a

pair of goals to go along with five assists. Alyssa Burney also had two goals and four assists.

North was back home the next night on Saturday in what was a slightly less offensive battle. Still, the Norsemen were triumphant over Downriver United 4-2 with Cueter once again leading the way with two goals and two assists. Burney had North's other pair of goals on the evening.

Cueter and Burney currently lead the team in points, Cueter with 31 and Burney 22 so far this season. Rounding out the top three scorers to this point is Brumme with 21 points.

While North does have a few prominent scorers, it is important to note that this team is not short on depth. Everyone who has seen the ice this season for the Norsemen has also recorded at least one point so far, a testament to how strong the lineup can be from top to bottom.

"Every player on the

team has contributed tremendously," Shaheen simply put.

The Norsemen have been scoring plenty of goals in the last month, but the defense is not to be overlooked. Senior Olivia Palacio has started and won every game in net so far this season while tallying a .900 save percentage. She also played a crucial role in helping North's unbeaten streak stay alive by stopping a late third period penalty shot on Dec. 3 in a game against Mid-Michigan. The Norsemen went on to win the game 4-3.

As the season rolls on, North is on the hunt to close out the 2022 calendar year on a high note. The team hosted Troy United on Wednesday, after press time, looking to stay unbeaten before taking on crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 at McCann Arena as part of University Liggett's annual holiday tournament.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

## Knights handle Sacred Heart with ease

Gabrielle Szajenko handles the ball above the three-point line for Liggett in the Knights' blowout 49-10 win over Sacred Heart last Friday.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Liggett junior Elle Quinlan slides the puck past the Livonia United goalie into the net. She scored a hat trick in the Knights' 4-1 win over Livonia last Saturday.

### GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System ("Owner" or "School District") will receive sealed Bid Proposals for:

#### PROJECT – Large Area Audio/Video Systems

Bid Proposals will be received by Chris Stanley of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, at 20601 Morningside Dr. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, on or before **1:00 p.m.** (local time) on **January 13, 2023** ("Due Date"). The Board of Education will not consider or accept a Bid Proposal received after the Due Date, the date and time specified for Bid Proposal submission. Bid Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately following the Due Date at the same location.

A pre-Bid Proposal meeting and site visit will be held on December 19, 2022,

2:00 pm at 20601 Morningside Dr. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 in the Moross Conference Room, followed by building site visits.

Each Bid Proposal must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement certifying that the Contractor is not an Iran Linked Business. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by a bid bond in the amount no less than five percent (5%) of the total bid amount(s).

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, or to award the contract to other than the contractor(s) submitting the best financial Bid Proposal (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

Bid documents, including Bidders Information Manual, scopes of work, Drawing and Specifications will be made available Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at the District's website and at the SIGMA website.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Published: GPN, December 15, 2022

## Liggett wins title game rematch

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

It has been over a calendar year since the University Liggett girls hockey team lost a game, and that streak was not going to end last Saturday. The Knights welcomed Livonia United to McCann Arena for a rematch of March's state championship game, which Liggett won 7-2.

While Livonia looked for revenge, the Knights made sure there would be none to be found. Liggett proved victorious again in the rematch with a 4-1 win over Livonia thanks in large part to a hat trick from junior Elle Quinlan.

Quinlan began the scoring just under three minutes into the game when she found the back of the net the first time to put the Knights up early. She added one more before the end of the first period to extend Liggett's lead to two. Livonia scored its first, and what ended up being its last, goal of the night in the final seconds of the opening frame to make it 2-1 going into the first break.

Despite Livonia's late first-period goal, the Knights kept rolling in the second period. Quinlan completed her natural hat trick with a third consecutive goal to put Liggett back in front by two. Minutes later,

senior captain Morgan Hamilton added another for the Knights to put the game at 4-1 to end the second period, which would hold on to be the final as the teams fought through a scoreless third period.

Quinlan's goals on Saturday marked her ninth, 10th and 11th tallies of the season, giving her the team lead so far. The win over Livonia moved the Knights to 7-0 and marked their fifth conference-play win of the season.

Liggett hosts its holiday tournament this weekend, with an opening game Thursday against Regina-Lutheran North United.



# SPORTS CALENDAR

# DECEMBER <sup>20</sup>/<sub>22</sub>



- 8**
- GPS Girls Hockey @ Regina- 5pm
  - GPS Boys Swim & Dive vs. U of D Jesuit- 6pm
  - GPS Girls Basketball vs. Anchor Bay- 7pm
  - GPS Boys Hockey @ De La Salle- 7:45pm
  - GPN Boys Hockey @ Marysville- 6pm
  - GPN Girls Basketball @ Cousino- 7pm

- 9**
- GPN Boys Basketball vs. Crosswell- Lexington- 7pm
  - GPN Girls Hockey vs. Sacred Heart- 7:30pm
  - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Downriver United- 5pm
  - ULS Girls Basketball vs. Sacred Heart- 5:30pm
  - ULS Boys Hockey vs. Gibraltar Carlson- 7:30pm

- 10**
- GPS Wrestling @ Cousino Invitational- TBD
  - GPS Boys Hockey @ Livonia Churchill- 1pm
  - GPS Girls Basketball @ Best of Michigan Tournament- TBD
  - GPS Boys Basketball @ Ferndale- 5pm
  - GPN Wrestling @ Frankenmuth- 9am
  - GPN Boys Hockey @ Livonia Franklin- 9am
  - GPN Girls Hockey vs. Downriver United- 6pm
  - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Livonia United- 2:15pm



- 12**
- GPN Boys Hockey @ Port Huron- 8pm



- 13**
- GPS Boys Swim & Dive vs. St. Clair- 6pm
  - GPN Boys Swim & Dive Tri-Meet (@ GPN)- 6pm
  - ULS Girls Basketball vs. Our Lady of the Lakes- 5:30pm

- 14**
- GPS vs. GPN Wrestling "Battle of the Pointes" (@GPS) 5:30pm
  - GPN Girls Basketball @ Lake Fenton- 7pm
  - GPN Girls Hockey vs. Troy- 7:30pm

- 15**
- GPS vs. GPN Boys Basketball (@ GPS)- 7pm
  - ULS Boys Basketball @ Parkway Christian- 7pm
  - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Regina- 7:15pm
  - Unified Gymnastics vs. Farmington- 6:30pm
  - GPS vs. GPN Girls Hockey (@ McCann Arena)- 5:15pm

- 16**
- GPS vs. GPN Boys Hockey (@ McCann Arena)- 5:30pm
  - GPN Girls Basketball @ Dakota- 7pm
  - GPS Girls Basketball @ L'Anse Creuse North- 7pm
  - ULS Boys Hockey vs. TBD- 7:30pm

- 17**
- GPN Wrestling @ Lakeview- 9am
  - GPS, GPN, ULS Girls Hockey in ULS Tournament (@ McCann Arena)
  - GPS, GPN, ULS Boys Hockey in ULS Tournament (@ McCann Arena)



- 19**
- Unified Gymnastics vs. Bloomfield Hills- 6:30pm



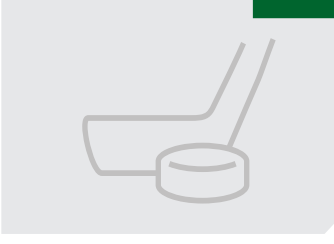
- 20**
- GPS & GPN Wrestling Macomb County Meet- 2pm
  - GPS Girls Basketball @ Port Huron- 7pm
  - GPN Girls Basketball @ Eisenhower- 4:30pm
  - GPN Boys Basketball @ Monroe- 7pm

- 21**
- GPS & GPN Wrestling Macomb County Meet- 9am
  - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Metro Jets- 7:30pm



- 22**
- GPS Boys Basketball vs. Groves- 7pm
  - GPS Boys Hockey @ TC Bay Reps- 7pm
  - GPN Girls Basketball vs. Monroe- 6pm

- 23**
- GPS Boys Hockey @ Big Rapids- 6pm



- 27**
- GPN Boys Basketball @ Anchor Bay- TBD
  - GPS Girls Basketball vs. TBD (@ Ann Arbor Pioneer)- 9am
  - GPS Boys Basketball vs. West Bloomfield (@ Ferndale)- 4:30pm

- 28**
- GPN Boys Basketball vs. TBD (@ Anchor Bay)- TBD



- 29**
- GPS Boys Basketball vs. Saline (@ North Farmington)- 3:30pm
  - GPS Boys Swim & Dive SHACK Invite (@ Cranbrook)- TBD



## North's Cooper honored for inspirational coaching

The Positive Coaching Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a positive environment and culture in youth sports, has named Grosse Pointe North girls cross country coach Scott Cooper winner of its 2023 Double-Goal Coach Award.

The award honors coaches who "inspire athletes to become the best versions of themselves in the game and in life."

Cooper was nominated for the award by several of his North cross country athletes as well as

school administrators. The longtime coach and former teacher just wrapped up his 30th season as North's girls cross country coach last fall and plans on returning to help the team yet again next year.

— Mike Adzima



COURTESY PHOTO

Scott Cooper, left, pictured with North cross-country runner Dani Lubienski, was honored with the 2023 Double-Goal Coach Award by the Positive Coaching Alliance.

### GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System ("Owner" or "School District") will receive sealed Bid Proposals for:

#### PROJECT - SUMMER 2023 WORK PROGRAM – SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL IA CONSOLIDATION

Sealed Bid Proposals will be received by the School District electronically **ONLY** and must be submitted online via the Buildingconnected.com website by utilizing the link provided below (emailed or hand delivered Bids will not be accepted). Bids will be received on or before **1:00 p.m.** (local time) on **January 13, 2023** ("Due Date"). The Board of Education will not consider or accept a Bid Proposal received after the Due Date, the date and time specified for Bid Proposal submission. Bid Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately following the Due Date via a Microsoft Teams meeting. You may attend the bid opening by using the following link: Click here to join the meeting or dial-in using 636-373-8636, Meeting ID: 687 367 12#

A Pre-Bid walk-thru will be held on the following date:  
December 21, 2022 @ 3:30 p.m. at Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Woods, 48236. All persons attending the Walk-thru will be required to meet at the parking lot located off of Fisher Rd., under the bridge. This is an active School.

Each Bid Proposal must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement certifying that the Contractor is not an Iran Linked Business. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by certified check, cashier's check, money order or bid bond made payable to the School District in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid amount(s).

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, or to award the contract to other than the contractor(s) submitting the best financial Bid Proposal (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

Bid documents, including Bidders Information Manual, scopes of work, Drawing and Specifications will be made available Monday, December 12, 2022, at the following website: <https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/54f0e584a238df0800778ee6> (Search for Grosse Pointe Summer 2023 Work Program – Grosse Pointe South IA Consolidation).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Pease at (419) 392-1082 or email at [kpease@tcco.com](mailto:kpease@tcco.com) and Luke Augspurger at (313) 402-7014 or email at [laugspurger@tcco.com](mailto:laugspurger@tcco.com).

