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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Helm launches millage pitch

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city council agreed unanimously this week to partner with The Helm in drafting ballot language for a millage request to ensure funding of senior citizen services in the five Pointes and Harper Woods.

“The current model of supporting our seniors for the last 45 years, a population which is growing, is not sustainable through philanthropic efforts,” Prudence Cole, president of The Helm Board of Directors, told the council Monday, Dec. 11.

It was her first stop in an all-Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods stump speech.

She proposed asking voters to approve up to 0.4 mills annually to fund, among other

things, senior day care services.

The rate translates into \$66 a year for the average Park homeowner, she said.

“It’s for anyone who can’t be left alone and you don’t want them sitting alone watching TV all day,” Cole said. “We have the staff to watch over them, making sure they have things to do and engage with them. It’s going to be a much better environment for them.”

She cited population projections to predict a growing need.

By 2030 in the Park alone, the number of residents ages 65 years and older is forecast to increase 27 percent to comprise 20 percent of the population, according to the Southeast Michigan Council of

See HELM, page 4A

BoE picks two sup’t finalists

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — O w o s s o Superintendent Andrea Tuttle and Grosse Pointe

South High School alumnus AJ Staniszewski are the two finalists to be the next superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

They were scheduled to

be interviewed during the board of education meeting Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the multipurpose room at Brownell Middle School, after press time.

were to be at Brownell Tuesday and available to meet with the public 4 to 6 p.m. (See grossepointe news.com for updates to

See PICKS, page 10A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grinch games

From left, Grosse Pointe North students Piper Marshall, Addie Wakefield and Sara Thomas were part of big student sections from North and Grosse Pointe South who got into the Christmas spirit when the boys freshmen, JV and varsity basketball teams clashed on the basketball court for the first time this season Wednesday, Dec. 6, at North. For the varsity game, the Norsemen chose “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas” theme, which perfectly aligned with the school’s green and gold colors. The Blue Devils embraced a Santa Claus theme, though the Jolly Old Elves weren’t in the giving mood — South won the game in convincing fashion, 73-52. Head to page 1D for more on the night’s action.

Mayor means business

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Announcing appointments to city council committees is an annual and normally routine bureaucratic function so bland in its routine as to be described by British slang as donkey work.

Yet, as the new council enters its second month since the election of two newcomers and failed bid for mayor by another member still in office, Mayor Michele Hodges capitalized on the appointment process by challenging her detractors to put up or shut up.

“I can’t control your choices,” she told the council Monday, Dec. 11, “but I can set the tone. I can use the power granted me to enlist a higher quality of results. And I can raise the bar as we func-

See MAYOR, page 2A

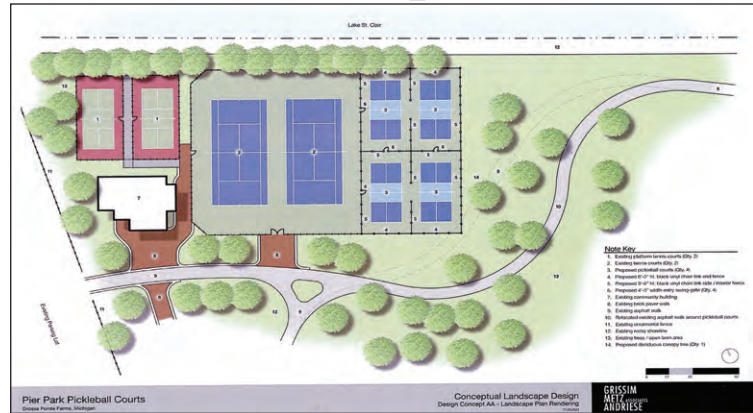
Pier Park pickleball courts to replace third tennis court

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The votes are in and pickleball will be coming to Pier Park next year on a permanent basis.

Following the recommendation of the Farm’s parks and harbor committee, city council unanimously approved the courts’ location Monday, Dec. 11.

To be constructed in early spring, four pickleball courts will replace the third tennis court at the park, which for the last two years has served as temporary pickleball courts and is reserved by residents at nearly twice the rate of the two remaining tennis courts.



This proposed location for four new pickleball courts at Pier Park was approved by Farms city council Dec. 11.

COURTESY RENDERING

“We reduced the amount of impacted greenspace by more than half of what we originally had intended to use, to roughly 15 feet out of the 850 feet area between the end of the tennis courts going east,” City Manager Shane Reeside said in response to resident concerns over

loss of greenspace and reducing views of Lake St. Clair.

Following a public workshop in October, the plan was modified to lower the impact by eliminating a walkway between the tennis and pickleball courts — ball containment via fencing between each pickleball

court and the tennis courts still is included — and shifting the current asphalt walkway alongside the courts further from the lake to provide more usable greenspace.

“There’s a real desire to use that space for picnicking, because it’s

See COURTS, page 2A

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Pointer of INTEREST



Marissa Engardio
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods Rescue Program Supervisor for Families Against Narcotics.

See story, page 4A



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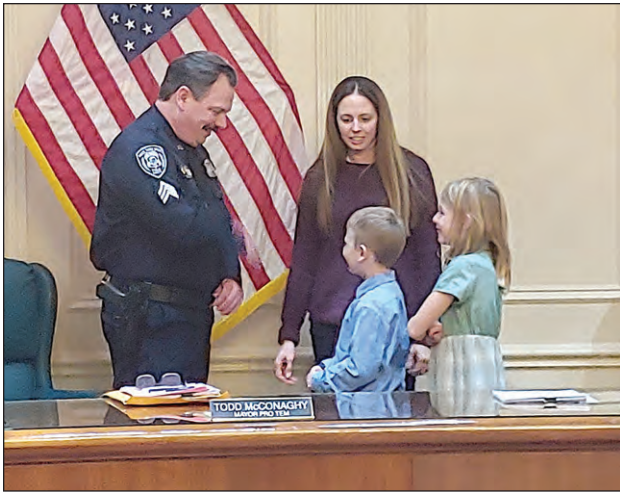


PHOTO BY TED O'NEIL

Sgt. Kyle Seidel and his family after his wife, Jess, pinned his sergeant's badge on him as part of his promotion.

New sergeant has best of both worlds

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A veteran of almost 21 years, Sgt. Kyle Seidel is the latest promotion in the public safety department, having taken his oath of office at the Monday, Dec. 4, city council meeting.

His original career path, however, didn't involve police work. "I started off wanting to be a firefighter, but I took some law enforce-

ment classes on a whim," he said. "I decided I liked both career paths so I figured why not go for it."

Seidel, a 1999 graduate of St. Clair Shores Lakeview High School, ended up with an associate degree in law enforcement from Macomb Community College and also went through the police and fire academies there.

His work for the Woods over the years includes being a field

training officer, firearms instructor, evidence technician and school resource officer. He also spent 2020 through 2022 with the detective bureau.

"Prior to that appointment, he was known to undertake investigations and surveillance to solve cases on his own, without any direction," Chief John Kosanke said.

Seidel also has studied specialized areas including crime preven-

tion through environmental design, sex crimes investigations and transient and nomadic criminals training.

Awards during his career include two department commendations, a meritorious service award and a department citation.

Seidel said no one accomplishment stands out in his mind.

"I still lean toward the

See SGT., page 4A

MAYOR:

Continued from page 1A

tion as a team, not as individuals and certainly not as factions."

Hodges is sick and tired of sitting silent while council discussions trend ever more off point into middle school hallways of surprise gotchas, to use Councilman Max Wiener's repeated complaint; and grandstanding, a frequent characterization by Councilman Tom Caulfield; and, twice since the 2019 election, conduct so unprofessional to prompt two independent sets of city attorneys to call special meetings to stress how elected representatives are supposed to behave without putting the city at legal risk.

The thing that got her going were some colleagues refusing to meet with her about committee assignments.

"Wanting the decision to be collaborative and set the stage for a highly

functional team, I invited each of you to meet so I could seek your input and have the conversations that need to be had," she said. "I will be blunt in saying I'm disappointed in those of you who chose not to accept my invitations. That was the wrong choice — a political one rather than a mission-minded leadership one. And it suggests that the false narratives and personal attacks of the campaign are likely to continue."

Hodges set standards by which all appointments are temporary. Appointees are subject to removal if they don't pull their weight by June.

"Where performance is lacking, the assignments will be given to high performers," she said, itemizing across-the-board performance measures:

"One: We will not slow government by being unresponsive or demonstrating a lack of understanding of the city manager form of government.

"Two: We will not advance false narratives.

"Three: We will treat each other and staff with professionalism and respect.

"Four: We will act in a manner that respects the master plan, the budget, available capacity and other governing documents.

"Five: We will adhere to the principle of the Rotary Four-Way Test, as described in our last meeting."

The Four-Way Test is an ethical guide used by members of Rotary International. Members are to ask themselves if their decisions and actions are truthful, fair to all concerned, build goodwill and better friendships and are beneficial to all concerned.

She then either provided an opportunity to properly use Hamlet's often-fumbled phrase of hoisting opponents on their own petards or, conversely, sentenced herself to being one-upped as a living consequence getting what you wish for.

"There will also be performance measures specific to some appointments, with this as an example," Hodges said, appointing Councilman Tim Kolar, elected in November, to serve on the finance committee with Caulfield.

Kolar, an accountant, criticized Hodges and others during the campaign for the municipal deficit and staff cuts, saying at one point, "Grosse Pointe Park has a systemic financial management problem."

"Mr. Kolar," Hodges said, "in your service as council member on finance, you will strive for the following in order to be considered for a permanent appointment:

"One: Continue the transformation to financial stability by working effectively with our new team, including Finance Director Ginger Moriarty, who is working tirelessly to get us where we need to be; our new auditors, who are establishing the necessary facts and preparing management recommendations; and other service providers charged with creating our capital improvement plan.

"Two: You will work in partnership with Mayor Pro Tem Caulfield, who will continue to take the lead, to develop a thorough understanding of the role and city government.

"Three: You will participate in an orientation meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Caulfield, City Manager (Nick) Sizeland, Finance Director Moriarty and myself to establish a shared understanding of the path forward."

Here's where the petard-or-comeuppance came in.

"Four: You will prepare a report that puts your many claims and accusations to rest, either way, including those made against the past and current administrations, myself, our financial standing and the associated policies and procedures. The truth matters and it will be established once and for all.

"Fifth: In order to

ensure an impartial review of those claims you very publicly made against me in particular, I would ask that you be prepared to make a case to the ethics review board. I will not have my credibility and standing in this community challenged any longer without accountability."

Hodges set similar expectations to appointees of the public safety committee, Kolar and unsuccessful mayoral candidate Councilwoman Christine Gallagher, "who've made false claims

about solutions required for sustainability."

Hodges advised everyone to get used to it.

"You will see this pattern of action continue as I work to get this team in order," she said. "Enough is enough. We will work in the best interests of this community."

She concluded, "I'm seriously committed and I'm hoping you are making the same choice right now. If I see progress toward that end, measures such as these will cease to exist. Now, let's get to work."

Council appointments

Council members received their committee and commission appointments this month.

Mayor Michele Hodges made the appointments conditional upon performance. A review period extends to June 2024, at which times she'll confirm the doers and bounce the idlers.

- ◆ Beautification Commission: Councilman Brent Dreaver
- ◆ Recreation Commission: Councilman Tom Caulfield
- ◆ Recreation Commission Marina Subcommittee: Councilman Marty McMillan
- ◆ Planning Commission: Hodges
- ◆ Downtown Development Authority: Hodges
- ◆ Community Engagement: Dreaver, chairman; Councilman Tim Kolar and Hodges
- ◆ Ordinance Review: Caulfield, chairman; Councilwoman Christine Gallagher and McMillan
- ◆ Personnel Committee: McMillan, chairman; Councilman Max Wiener and Hodges
- ◆ Public Safety Committee: McMillan, chairman; Gallagher and Kolar
- ◆ Infrastructure Committee: Wiener, chairman; Caulfield and Dreaver
- ◆ Michigan Municipal League liaison: Gallagher
- ◆ SEMCOG liaison: Kolar
- ◆ Finance Committee: Caulfield, chairman; and Kolar
- ◆ Board of Education and Trombly School liaison: Hodges with Caulfield as alternate
- ◆ Eastside Community Network, liaison: Hodges
- ◆ Jefferson East, Inc., liaison: Hodges
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Business Association liaison: Wiener
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Foundation liaison: Caulfield
- ◆ Senior Citizens liaison: Hodges

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COURTS:

Continued from page 1A

closer to the water," Reeside said, "so we increased that open area at the corner of the court facilities to allow additional picnic tables."

The plans also call for the height of court fencing to be cut in half from the current 12 feet to 6 feet.

"We're very mindful of the greenspace issue," Councilman John Gillooly said. "... However, we actually

believe that the sight lines to the lake, as you make your way around the bend with the movement of the walking path, are going to be improved."

The preliminary estimate for the project — which also includes reconditioning the tennis courts — is \$202,543, of which the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation has pledged to cover \$100,000.

By extending the court space 15 feet to the east, greenspace at Pier Park will be reduced by 1,700 square feet.

"In perspective, just one of the volleyball courts — there's two of them — is 4,500 square feet," Reeside noted. "So one of the recommendations also that came out of the parks and harbor committee was the potential at some point of eliminating one of the two volleyball courts that sits in the picnic area, which would provide us actually significant net gain in picnic area."

As it currently stands, no decisions regarding the volleyball courts have been made.

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City's own takes down Lululemon theft ring

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — “It was Detective Mike Narduzzi of the Grosse Pointe City Public Safety Department who initially identified the string of push-out thefts at metro Detroit Lululemon stores this past summer,” Attorney General Dana Nessel said during a press conference Monday, to announce the arrests of three of the perpetrators.

Three additional suspects also are in custody, awaiting arraignments likely to take place this week.

“All the main ring leaders are in jail,” said Narduzzi, who made it his mission to take out the organized retail theft crime ring after it hit The Village Lululemon three times within a week of its July opening.

The crew’s M.O. has been to send a small number of individuals into Lululemon and Ulta Beauty retail locations throughout metro Detroit, who then would grab as much high-value merchandise as they could carry or load into a basket, then walk or run out the door into an awaiting getaway vehicle. The merchandise then was sold directly to end consumers or in bulk to a fence operation.

As Narduzzi’s investigation led him to access



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

The Michigan Attorney General’s Office held a press conference announcing the arrests Monday, Dec. 11. From left, State Sen. Kevin Hertel, Chief Deputy Attorney General Fadwa Hammoud, Assistant Attorney General Michael Friese, Assistant Attorney General Eric Sterbis, First Lt. Steve Temelko of the Michigan State Police fraud investigation section, Attorney General Dana Nessel, Oakland County Executive David Coulter, Canton Police Chief Chad Baugh, City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Director John Alcorn and Oakland County Undersheriff Curtis Childs.

video of similar thefts across the state from Lululemon’s retail fraud investigation team and connect with other cities on their individual cases, it became clear to the detective the crimes all were being perpetrated by the same suspects.

To date, the crew allegedly is responsible for 49 thefts between Dec. 28, 2022, and Dec. 4, 2023.

“At some point I had a binder of evidence and (knew) this is bigger than Grosse Pointe, so I called the AG’s office, because they have a retail fraud task force and I ... presented my case,” he said. “I showed them all the different videos and still

photos and I gave them names and cross referenced them and they said, ‘We heard about this crew. We heard there was a detective out there working this (case) and putting this crew together and we didn’t know who it was and here you are.’”

The execution of search warrants last week led to the arrests of three individuals who can be connected to at least 30 of the thefts.

◆ Loreece Cross, 34, of Detroit, who faces one count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony; four counts of first-degree retail fraud, five-year felonies; and one count of

second-degree retail fraud, a one-year misdemeanor.

◆ Cardia Davis, 20, of Detroit, who faces one count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony; and seven counts of organized retail crime, five-year felonies.

◆ Samira Smith, 20, of Detroit, who faces one count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony; and seven counts of first-degree retail fraud, five-year felonies.

“The total losses to retailers connected to these thefts exceeds \$200,000,” Nessel reported. “One theft event alone netted over

\$19,000 in merchandise.”

Recent legislation allows the crew’s members to face the 20-year felony charges.

A year ago, Nessel emphasized, prosecutors could not have used retail fraud as a predicate offense in order to charge an organized retail fraud felony.

“The two main ring leaders who got charged, at two different times I had each one of them in my custody in Grosse Pointe City and interviewed them and I let

them go, because I knew at that point we could only charge them with retail fraud,” Narduzzi said. “I knew that they were involved in more ... so I said, ‘I’m going to let you go for now, but you’ll hear from me eventually.’ And now they are.”

Lululemon locations hit by the crew include those in Grosse Pointe, Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Partridge Creek in Clinton Township, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi and Rochester Hills. Ulta Beauty locations include Canton, Northville, Shelby Township and Warren.

Along with the Grosse Pointe department and the Attorney General’s FORCE Team, the investigation was aided by Michigan State Police detectives, the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office, and the police departments of Canton, Novi and Birmingham.

“The moral of the story is if you come into Grosse Pointe and hit us, we’re going to hit back and we’re hitting back as hard as we can to send a message,” Narduzzi said. “... Last year we cleaned up Kroger. This year we cleaned up Lululemon. Who knows what it’ll be next year.”

Making a dent

Three in South American Theft Group arrested

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Just two weeks after an estimated \$500,000 to \$750,000 in jewelry was stolen from a Provencal home in a burglary allegedly conducted by the South American Theft Group Saturday, Nov. 26, the Michigan Attorney General’s Office this week announced the arrests of three Chilean nationals connected to the transnational crime ring, which has made headlines for targeting the homes of exceedingly wealthy Michiganders.

The arrestees are said to be responsible for eight home invasions between Feb. 3 and Feb. 11 of this year: one in Grosse Pointe Farms — again on Provencal — as well as in Ada Township, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Rochester and Rochester Hills.

Provencal likely has

been a repeat target because the group’s M.O. focuses on homes surrounded by woods or a significant amount of land to make an easy approach. It also conducts its crimes when homes are unoccupied, employs technology to thwart alarm systems and takes extensive precautions to avoid being identified on home security camera systems and by forensic analyses of crime scenes.

“The three arrived in the state on Feb. 1, 2023, arriving on a flight that came in from Los Angeles,” Attorney General Dana Nessel said in a press conference Monday. “... The Chilean nationals who came here, came here legally, but may have overstayed their VISAs.”

Facing charges are Jeremy Martinez, a 19-year-old Chilean national; Ignacio Ruiz-Saldias, a 29-year-old Chilean national; and

Tamara Ruiz-Saldias, a 36-year-old Chilean national.

Each has been charged with one count of conducting a criminal enterprise, which is a 20-year felony, and eight counts of second-degree home invasion, which are 15-year felonies.

A task force created by Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard identified the suspects as those responsible for the February home invasions after they were taken into custody on related charges in Hamilton County, Ind.

“We don’t have any court dates that are scheduled at this juncture, because they have ongoing proceedings in Indiana,” Nessel said, “but of course this is in a lane and eventually they will be conveyed to Michigan in order to be arraigned.”

Losses from recent Michigan home invasions fitting the group’s M.O. are in the millions of dollars.

“These three are not responsible for every break-in that fits this very clear pattern,” Nessel said. “There are more out there and we

will continue our efforts to find them and to bring them to justice.”

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, DEC. 18

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7:15 p.m.

Charlevoix getting zigzag lights

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The type of razzle-dazzle lighting that helps make the Kercheval business district so snazzy is being duplicated on Charlevoix.

Upon installation, strings of lights strung from utility poles will zigzag over Charlevoix as on Kercheval.

“Kercheval is cool, it’s

romantic and fun,” said John Hughes, chairman of the Tax Increment Finance Authority, which approved the action Dec. 7.

“That’s what this is replicating,” said Warren Rothe, TIFA director and assistant city manager. “We’re not wrapping lights on trees or shrubs. This is standard rope lighting that will zigzag through the utility poles.”

The Grosse Pointe Park Business Association is credited with putting Christmas lights on Kercheval, according to Rothe.

A four-man crew from Backer Landscaping will install \$14,000 worth of lights and related hardware, according to an agreement with the city.

“These lights can be used and reused,”

See LIGHTS, page 4A



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Woods woman ready for anything

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

Much like the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared," Marissa Engardio likes to be ready for any scenario.

"It's been a thread my whole life," she said. "Even as a kid I was the one gathering the family together to talk about plans. What do we do if ... this happens."

Engardio said she likes to make emergency car kits for friends, using what her family jokingly calls her "gadgets and gizmos," but each one contains a vitally important tool: a dose of Narcan.

"It lends to my job and it's a really incredible tool," she said. "It's easily accessible and anyone can use it."

Narcan, a brand name of naloxone, can reverse the effects of a drug overdose if administered in time. It's a message Engardio spends her days spreading as a rescue program supervisor for Families Against Narcotics.

"I probably average 15 to 20 training sessions a month, including in person and virtual," she said. "Places like treatment centers, homeless shel-



COURTESY PHOTOS

Marissa Engardio in her Halloween costume at FAN's office last October. "My co-workers were trying to figure out if I was a rescue worker or a miner, but either way I got to break out my gadgets."

ters. A lot of school districts are also getting training for staff in the likelihood someone might overdose at an event.

"I also help our local chapters provide training locally," she added. "We're trying to meet people where they're at."

Engardio, 26, started doing Narcan training for FAN during college and

joined the group full time in 2022. Based in Clinton Township, the organization now has chapters across the state and offers programs like Hope Not Handcuffs, peer recovery coaches and sober housing.

"We've grown considerably the last couple of years up to about 150 full and part-time people,"

Engardio said. "We're trying to meet the need of an ever-growing problem."

That problem hit the Woods in June when three young people, including two sisters, died of suspected overdoses. FAN and Engardio put on a Narcan training session at Woods city hall within a month.

"We worked quickly to partner with The Family Center and we had a great turnout," she said. "We had about 100 people there."

Just last month, she installed a free Narcan dispenser box in the emergency room at Corewell Health Grosse Pointe Hospital and by the next morning more than 60 kits had been given out.

"The more Narcan we can distribute, the more lives we can save," she said.

Engardio moved to the Woods in 2019, where her parents bought a house in 2018, after graduating from the University of Michigan. She spent her freshman year of college, however, at Michigan State University.

"I have unique allegiances to each school," she laughed. "I think they're both great, which you don't hear too many people say."

She left Ann Arbor with a degree in biology,

health and society, which Engardio said is a mix of pre-med studies with a public health scope. While at Michigan, she became a certified EMT and worked for Superior Ambulance.

"I thought about med school or becoming a physician's assistant, but working as an EMT gave me a good perspective," she said. "I decided patient care wasn't exactly for me, but working at FAN is a mix of the best of both worlds. It's got aspects of public

health so it's a great middle ground."

When she can find free time, Engardio said she likes to draw, rock climb and play her banjo.

"I grew up playing basketball and softball, but I'm not much for watching sports," she said. "I've got some friends who are musicians, so I bought a banjo. I love folk music."

She also enjoys biking and walking around the neighborhood.

"I grew up off of Hall Road in Clinton Township and when I drive up there I'm astonished at how it feels so cookie cutter and surface level," she said. "Grosse Pointe just feels so grounded."



Engardio enjoys drawing, among other hobbies, in her free time.

SGT.:

Continued from page 2A

police end of things and enjoy being back on road patrol," he said. "I enjoyed the detective bureau, but I've been

striving for a sergeant position because I think I'll be able to better help in a supervisory role."

Kosanke said he was proud to promote Seidel.

"He is someone who has always treated his coworkers with respect,

is reliable and dependable and has always presented himself as someone who truly cares about his job and the people he works with, as well as the residents he works for," he said.

LIGHTS:

Continued from page 3A

Hughes said. "It's not like we're going to throw them away."

Backer's labor costs, not yet determined but anticipated to account for three days, are being paid by TIFA.

"We have money available in our budget," Rothe said. "We

wouldn't have to amend the budget to accommodate this purchase."

Backer installed the zigzag lights over Kercheval.

"They're a vendor the city uses for multiple functions," Rothe said.

The authority is funded by capturing future anticipated increases in tax revenue generated within the TIFA district that other-

wise would go to the county and state.

Funds are to be spent for the benefit of the district, bordered by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham.

HELM:

Continued from page 1A

Governments.

A combined projection for each of the Pointes and Harper Woods is 27 percent.

"They're going to need some support," Cole said of elderly residents.

She said property taxpayer funding is needed to provide sufficient, stable and dependable

annual funding for The Helm, known until a few years ago as Services for Older Citizens and primarily donor-funded since its inception a half century ago.

Dick Schroeder, a Park resident attending the meeting, opposed the millage request.

"Keep these guys out of our pockets," Schroeder told the council.

The council agreed to let the voters decide. Members instructed the city attorney to team with The Helm's legal team to draft ballot language for review in February, which gives time for it to appear on the August 2024 ballot.

"It's not this body deciding whether a millage is approved," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "This body is approving to put it on the ballot for voters to decide. We're enabling voters to make that decision."

In exchange for residents paying a millage, Hodges expects the cities to have oversight roles in Helm governance.

"I assume that would be in our local agreement, to make sure our community and our taxpayers have a voice in ensuring those dollars are well spent," Hodges said. "Those would be important considerations."

Councilman Tom Caulfield asked what

happens if the millage is defeated in one city but passed by a majority of others. Would residents of the city that voted it down be forced to pay along with the majority?

"That will be addressed when we do the ballot language," Cole answered.

Her next appeal is to the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council.

She launched her campaign in the Park because polling in the city showed support across all age groups.

"I'm pleased (the council) agreed to take the next step," she said. "I think that will encourage the other cities. I'm hopeful that the city councils put it on the ballot so residents can vote. Then we'll know if they want to support seniors and make sure programs are adequate to meet their needs."

She indicated the Pointes are outliers when it comes to community senior care.

"Seventy-two of the 83 counties in Michigan have approved a senior millage with additional counties covered, in part, by municipal millages," she said. "For those few counties or municipalities that do not have a millage, they provide funding in their municipal budgets to make their community obligations for their





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COURTESY PHOTO

Joseph Zambardi is the newest Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety officer.

Home sweet home

New Farms PSO returns to Michigan roots

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — It can't be disproven that the newest public safety officer in the Farms could have brought with him the Detroit Lions comeback season when he moved back to the Great Lakes State this year. While living in Nashville the last seven years, the diehard Detroit sports fan repeatedly traveled back to Michigan to catch Lions games, in particular.

Officer Joseph Zambardi first took to Lakeshore in a patrol car about a month ago after he and his wife,

Katherine, decided to move north — and specifically to Grosse Pointe Farms — to be closer to family.

"I just knew that's where I wanted to be," he said of the Farms department.

The stark transition to a city with a population of just more than 10,000 from the hectic atmosphere that comes with working as a sergeant in downtown Nashville with the Metro Nashville Police Department is a change of pace Zambardi welcomes.

"Being able to help instead of just put a Band-Aid on it is something that you have the

ability to do in a small community," he noted. "... As opposed to knowing there were a bunch of pending calls and not having the time to adequately, at times, handle something the way that you would want to — because you were just so backed up and you knew you had to go somewhere else to do something else — you can thoroughly go through whatever it is that you're working (on), because you have the time to apply to that individual call."

With a criminal justice degree from Central Michigan University, law enforcement is a career path the Troy native was

set on since middle school, when he attended a fair where Troy officers were demonstrating fingerprinting.

Although it's packed away in a moving box at the moment, he still has a newspaper clipping that features a photo in which his young self is being fingerprinted.

Zambardi will head off to the Macomb Fire Academy in late February to gain full certification as a public safety officer.

"Someday I'd like to supervise again, because I really enjoyed that," he said. "That was probably my favorite thing that I did while I was down there (in Nashville)."

City of Grosse Pointe

Compromised

A Grosse Pointe woman discovered her Social Security number had been compromised Monday, Dec. 4, when she received an unsolicited credit card in her name from Chase Bank.

Vanished

A FedEx package, meant to contain an iPhone, was empty when a Lincoln homeowner opened it at 11:40 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Do you know who I am?

"I hope you know my father is the same color as you and that you're barking up the wrong tree," a 26-year-old Grosse Pointe woman told an officer who smelled marijuana coming from her vehicle after she was pulled over at Mack and Opal for illegally tinted front windows and not having insurance at 9:50 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4.

The woman became more aggressive and verbally threatening as the traffic stop continued, refusing to do a preliminary breath test.

Admitting to smoking weed in her vehicle, the woman was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs, disorderly conduct and not having insurance.

Expired

Because her driver's license and license plate were expired and she had no proof of insurance, a 69-year-old Woods woman was pulled over at Mack and Elizabeth and cited at 10:23 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5.

DWLS

A number of drivers through the Farms were stopped and cited for driving with a suspended license last week.

◆ After conducting a prohibited U-turn from westbound Mack onto eastbound Mack at Kerby, a 22-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, and

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

cited for driving while license suspended, disregarding a traffic control device and not having proof of insurance.

◆ For driving with an expired license plate, a 21-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at Opal and Mack at 4:03 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, and cited for driving while license suspended, not having insurance and the expired plate.

◆ For driving with an expired license plate, a 27-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over at Mack and Lannoo at 9:16 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and cited for driving while license suspended.

Missing the point

An Amazon package containing \$110.62 worth of items was stolen off a porch in the 400 block of Colonial Court at 6:59 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. The suspect wore a black hooded jacket and black pants and ran to a running vehicle.

The homeowner has an Amazon delivery box on his front step, but the Amazon driver did not use it.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Gone haywire

One thing led to another when two friends took it past the limit shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, in the 1300 block of Somerset.

Officers arrested a 65-year-old Detroit woman accused of pushing, screaming at and assaulting a female Park resident at the address. Charges are assault and disorderly conduct.

"Officers responded to the residence on a report of an argument between friends that became heated," a detective said.

Illegal driving

Two Detroit motorists were cited last week in the Park for violating suspended driver's licenses.

The first instance happened near the intersection of Bedford and Kercheval at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7.

An officer pulled over the 61-year-old male driver for speeding.

Two days later, shortly before 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, an officer cited a 29-year-old woman who was investigated for operating a vehicle with a faulty headlight.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Audi here

A resident on Woodland Shore reported Sunday, Dec. 10, that his blue 2012 Audi A6 was stolen from his driveway sometime between midnight and

9:30 a.m.

The owner told officers he parked in his driveway to make room in the garage to charge his Tesla. The vehicle was locked and the only set of keys were in his possession. A laptop, keys to his business and his garage door opener were in the vehicle.

Detectives are looking at surveillance footage from nearby homes for clues.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Fed up

A resident in the 2000 block of Lennon reported around 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, that the contents of a FedEx delivery were missing from the package after she received a picture confirming delivery.

Double vision

Two black females stole several high-end eyeglass frames from a business in the 19300 block of Mack on Sunday, Dec. 3, and again Wednesday, Dec. 6. Total loss was more than \$3,800.

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

What a headache

A bottle of Excedrin was all a thief could steal after breaking a car window on Mack near Broadstone around 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, when he was confronted by the vehicle's owner.

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



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

The North 'Poll' of holiday opinions

We asked and hundreds of you enthusiastically responded to 10 holiday questions we posted last week on the Grosse Pointe News' Instagram and Facebook pages. So let's head to the North "Poll" and talk about your thoughts and opinions about the upcoming most wonderful time of the year:

1.) Holiday spending: Do you overspend on the holidays or stick to a budget for holiday shopping?

We are asking ourselves why we bothered even asking this question, as more than two-thirds of respondents (77 percent) said they overspend what they have budgeted for the holidays. Grosse Pointers aren't alone. According to The Motley Fool, a personal finance website, nearly seven out of 10 Americans report overspending during the holidays. (For tips on holiday budgeting, see page 7A.)

2.) Holiday baking: Do you bake or buy your holiday sweets?

It appears Grosse Pointers are traditionalists when it comes to baking Christmas treats — nearly 79 percent of you said you make the homemade goodies, just like Grandma did, versus purchasing them. Again, Pointers are in good company. Nearly nine out of 10 Americans report baking cookies during the holidays, according to the American Baking Association.

3.) Do you travel or stay in Grosse Pointe for Christmas?

While many of us have visions of a tropical Christmas, it seems that home is where the heart is, with 87 percent of Pointers staying home for Christmas. Though we might be the lucky ones not dealing with air travel or car traffic, we also are not aligning with the national travel trends. Thrillist.com reports that more than two out of every three American adults will travel to a vacation destination or holiday gathering this year.

4.) Do you watch Hallmark holiday movie marathons?

With results landing at a virtual tie, it seems Pointers are divided on watching Hallmark holiday movies, with 49 percent saying, 'Yes, pass the popcorn,' and 51 percent saying they chose to avoid the Hollywood drama. But plenty of fellow Americans dive into the predictable-but-uplifting storylines: Forbes magazine reports more than 80 million people watch at least a few minutes of a Hallmark movie each Christmas season, according to the 2021 Nielsen ratings.

5.) Favorite Christmas movie?

"Buddy the Elf, what's your favorite color?"
"I am a cotton-headed ninny muggins!"
"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."

If you know your Christmas movies, you know those lines are uttered by Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, in the holiday classic "Elf." And if you can recite more lines from the film, chances are you also voted among the 39 percent of respondents who said "Elf" was their favorite holiday movie. It beat out "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "It's a Wonderful Life" and "others," which represents the hundreds of other favorites to choose from. And if you are really a true "Elf" fan, we hope you stick to an elf's favorite food groups this holiday: candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup.

6.) Does the cost of parking impact where you shop?

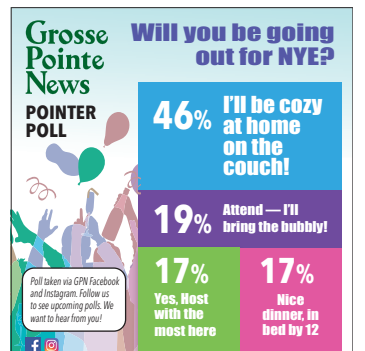
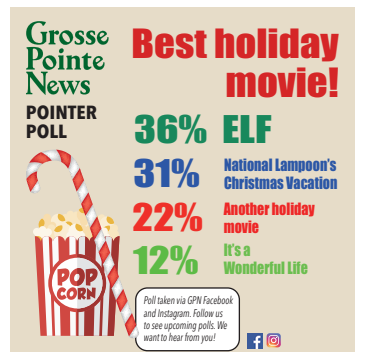
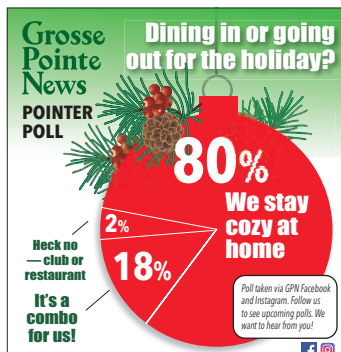
Clearly, paying more to shop does influence where you choose to shop, with 68 percent of you responding yes. And the extra cost to shop local can vary throughout the Pointes. Mack Avenue shop-



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

Grosse Pointe News NORTH "POLL" PALOOZA

See what fellow Grosse Pointers think and do regarding the holidays



pers in Grosse Pointe Woods do not need to pay for parking this December, thanks to the generosity of edmund t. AHEE Jewelers. But shoppers in the Park, City and Farms will have to pony up for parking; however, parking is free in The Village on weekends until Christmas.

You also gave us your opinions on some other poll questions, including:

- ◆ 80 percent of you plan to celebrate the holidays by eating at home versus eating at a club or restaurant.
- ◆ 90 percent of you are dreaming of a white Christmas.
- ◆ 46 percent of you say you will enjoy New Year's Eve at home on the couch, while only 19 percent of you will put on your best sparkly outfit and hit the town to ring in the New Year.

And on a serious note, we asked if the holidays make you happy or depressed. The vast majority (77 percent) report the

holidays make you as happy as a partridge in a pear tree. However, 23 percent said the holidays make you blue. It's understandable, even though much of the season can be filled with joy and beautiful moments with friends and family, it also can be high demand with endless hype and commercialization.

If you feel overwhelmed, or not quite yourself, we recommend taking action by talking to your physician or reaching out to The Family Center, a local resource that has valuable mental health information and ways to connect you with mental health professionals at familycenterhelps.org/mental-and-physical-health/.

Whether you travel or stay home this Christmas, dine at a local restaurant or stay home, bake or buy your holiday treats, we hope you do it all with a joyful spirit of gratitude — uplifting you when you "go over the river" and through the Woods, Shores, Park, City and Farms this holiday season.

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Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Isolated Shower	Isolated Shower	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 7:53 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:54 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:55 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:56 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:56 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:02 pm

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LETTERS

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



Chi Town Union Station

Arumpled bed in a back room workshop of Chi Town Union Station attests to the long hours needed to build and maintain a 1,126-foot O-scale model railroad layout in a 10,000-square-foot former supermarket.

Owner Paul Gribble routinely spent all-nighters at the layout building benchwork to support various rights-of-way, hand-laying nearly 24-scale miles of two-rail track, creating backdrops, scenery, bridges, tunnels, freight yards, passenger yards, wiring the whole thing and maintaining hundreds of freight cars, brass passenger cars and brass steam and diesel locomotives.

Gribble died recently.

He always said the layout would never be finished, but that the value he got from it was the joy of the journey while building it.

Chi Town Union Station represents world operations of railroads serving Chicago during the 1950s and '60s.

Major lines represented by Gribble's pet passenger trains are New York Central 20th Century Limited, Pennsylvania Broadway

Limited, Baltimore & Ohio Cincinnati (Paul's favorite), Burlington and Sante Fe with more tossed in because he couldn't resist.

Hence the Great Northern's orange and green Empire Builder and Northern Pacific's two-tone green North Coast Limited.

All of them sharing the roadway with other trains, passing in and out of view from one end of the layout to the other, disappearing around a bend or into a tunnel before popping out somewhere else.

Gribble never got around to building a model of Chicago Union

Station. Yet, the station's rail yard is represented by 12 parallel tracks from which trains depart and snake through a network of switches to their respective mainlines.

Passenger and freight trains meet and overtake one another through small towns, past trackside industries and at least one hobo camp. They cross rivers and valleys, go up and down hills, through forests and, prototypically for the Sante Fe, red rock of the Southwest desert.

The transition from city to country is in the spirit of Dr. Watson and Henry Baskerville's trip from London to

Devonshire: "In a very few hours the brown earth had become ruddy, the brick had changed to granite, and red cows grazed in well-hedged fields where the lush grasses and more luxuriant vegetation spoke of a richer, if a damper, climate."

The whole Chi Town operation is computer controlled. Trains come and go continuously without running into each other or getting in the way.

Many passenger and freight cars are hand-made from wood and metal kits common to hobby stores that went out of business decades ago as youngsters moved into the computer age. Most locomo-

See STATION, page 8A

GUEST OPINION By Melissa Fradenburg

Smart holiday spending: Balancing joy, budgets for a stress-free season

As a financial advisor and mother to two teenagers, I've often been caught in the whirlwind of holiday expenses. Each year, the season of giving seems to test our wallets' resilience. However, from my professional and personal experiences, I've learned that managing holiday spending isn't just about frugality; it's about making conscious choices that align with our values and financial health.

Here are some financially sound steps to take this holiday season:

Setting clear expectations

The first step in managing holiday finances, especially with teenagers, is setting clear expectations. It's vital to teach them the value of money and to make choices that reflect both their desires and the family's financial capabilities. A recent conversation about our holiday budget with my 15-year-old daughter was enlightening for both of us. After understanding that her gift budget was finite, she revised her wish list, initially filled with only high-priced items, to something more balanced. This wasn't merely about budgeting; it was a crucial lesson in valuing money and making thoughtful choices.

Sticking to a budget

Creating and adhering to an overall budget based on your financial situation is essential. This budget should encompass more than just gifts; it should include expenses like hosting holiday dinners, buying hostess gifts, new holiday outfits and even updating holiday decor. This year, while I skipped the viral Costco Christmas tree, I did add some new lights and decorations from Target. Remember, budgeting isn't about restricting spending; it's about planning these expenses in advance to wisely allocate funds.

Leveraging technology

In this digital age, tools like the 'Gift List' app are essential for managing holiday expenses. This app helps track purchased items, monitor overall and individual recipient spending, and list gift ideas. It's particularly helpful when

looking for the perfect gift in the unique local shops in Grosse Pointe, where the focus is on finding something special rather than just sticking to a budget. This organized approach saves time, prevents impulse buys and ensures no one is accidentally left out.

Embracing non-materialistic gifting

If the relentless materialism of the holiday season is overwhelming, consider gifting experiences rather than things. For instance, for my 5-year-old nephew's birthday, I gave him a \$25 AMC Theatres gift card and some candy. Importantly, I included a note about a special movie outing where he could choose the film and I'd buy him popcorn. This kind of shared experience often holds more value than any physical gift.

Planning ahead

Avoid the pitfalls of last-minute shopping, which often leads to overspending and impulse buying. Starting early and taking advantage of seasonal sales can save money and reduce holiday shopping stress. If you're sending gifts to family members out of town, plan ahead to avoid costly rush delivery charges. Early planning lets you benefit from sales and avoid the extra costs and stress of delayed deliveries.

This holiday season let's focus on what truly matters: joy, togetherness and creating memories. By managing our spending wisely, we can enjoy a festive season that is rich in spirit and gentle on our finances. Let's make this holiday season one where we prioritize our financial health as much as our festive cheer.

Melissa Fradenburg, CDFA, AIF, is a financial advisor, podcast host and active community member in Grosse Pointe. Her mission is to ensure that women are well-informed and actively engaged in their financial lives. Follow her on social media @money_do_list or call (313) 486-9634. Investment advisory services offered by Pearl Planning, a DBA of Stephens Consulting LLC., an SEC registered investment advisor. Important disclosure: pearlplan.com/disclosure



LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

Many thanks

To our sponsors, donors and attendees:

Thank you for making this our best Hollyfest yet! Every dollar we raise through Hollyfest directly impacts our ability to deliver on our mission to help build happier, healthier families right here in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

This past year we hosted or participated in over 100 programs and events that helped families become more resilient and connected to their community and we simply could not do this vital work without you.

Your support means

the world to us and the families we serve. We're glad you are part of The Family Center and wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

With Gratitude,
JENNIFER BINGAMAN
Executive Director
The Family Center of
Grosse Pointe
& Harper Woods

More thanks

To the Editor:

Thank you to Mark and Denise Van Sile for your beautiful Christmas display at the corner of Lakeshore and Moross. Your displays are always fantastic and bring happiness and joy to both children and adults in the community. The hundreds of Santa letters that you make sure

are personally answered is a huge act of giving that brings the excitement and magic of Christmas to many children in the Grosse Pointes and surrounding areas. To give like you do absent any politics or financial gain is a big lesson in the goodness of humanity.

Thank you for your hard work and giving.

GROSSE POINTE
PARENTS

Editor's Note: While the Grosse Pointe News does not publish letters to the editor that are unsigned or anonymous, we made an exception with this one, as it expresses a sentiment shared by many in the community, including our own.

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Trees for TIFA district

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A Johnny Appleseed aspect of the Tax Increment Finance Authority starts this year with preparations to dot the district with trees.

Residents of more than 100 properties in the TIFA district are due to receive notice starting this week that trees will be planted on empty municipal easements between sidewalks and roadways.

“Depending on weather, we expect the trees to be planted over the next few months,” said Warren Rothe, assistant city manager and director of the authority. “I plan on planting the

trees in stages,” City Forester Brian Colter said.

TIFA is funded by capturing future anticipated increases in tax revenue generated within the TIFA district that otherwise would go to the county and state. Funds are to be spent for the benefit of the district.

TIFA board members this year allocated \$40,000 to plant up to 116 trees on municipal property in the district bounded by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham.

“(Colter) identified 116 residential properties within TIFA where there are no street trees,” Rothe said.

“Due to Dutch elm disease, the emerald ash borer epidemic and storm damage, there is a significant opportunity for tree planting on the strip between the sidewalk and curb within the district,” Colter wrote in a report to the TIFA board of commissioners. Trees will be standard 2.5-inch caliper, 8- to 12-foot tall, stabilized with planting stakes and tucked in with mulch.

Cost per tree is \$350, including planting, Rothe said. There’s no cost to property owners.

Filling bare spots with trees beautifies the dis-

trict without tapping TIFA for yearly maintenance costs.

“Trees in the right-of-way are under the maintenance obligation of the city,” Rothe said. “TIFA is not responsible for any long-term maintenance, unless we want to be.”

He’d like to offer the planting program once every four or five years.

Tree types

Colter intends to plant as wide-ranging an array of species as practical.

“The pool of trees we can draw upon is dwindling at a time when we are trying to emphasize diversity,” he said.

He doesn’t plant pear trees anymore due to pear trellis rust.

“I want to plant oaks, but there’s the threat of oak wilt,” Colter said. “It goes on and on. Maples do the best, but there’s

Asian longhorn beetles, which prey on maples. They aren’t in Michigan yet, (but) they’ve been intercepted at the border and will be here eventually.”

He’d like to introduce lesser-known species such as sweetgum, but it has the negative quality of fruit litter.

“The fruit looks like a spiked ball, like a medieval mace,” Colter said.

Charlevoix trees

Colter also plans to replace some trees in the Charlevoix commercial zone.

“There are a lot of crummy linden trees that never should have been planted there,” he said. “They look terrible.”

He’s replacing them with red Armstrong maple, which, unlike lin-

See TREES, page 9A

City getting \$20 million grant for sewer separation

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — City administration’s work applying for a number of grants as it faces looming large-scale infrastructure projects is paying off.

“The state of Michigan indicated it is difficult to obtain these grants, but we’re going to give it our best effort,” former city manager Pete Dame said when the city, a year ago, applied for three grants through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It now has been allocated — actual award is pending — almost \$21 million through FEMA’s Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program for storm-water separation of the sewers north of Waterloo between Grosse Pointe Court and Fisher Road.

“There is a match commitment component to that that we are working through with FEMA, actually, to set up an arrangement to meet our obligations for our match,” City Manager Joe Valentine said. “Those conversations are ongoing currently.”

In June, city administration also got word it would receive a minimum of \$9,971,000 to a maximum of \$24,536,000 toward the same project through a low-interest loan with Michigan’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This loan requires a 10 percent match from the city.

City council is anticipated to hold a special public meeting the morning of Monday, Jan. 22 — a time is yet to be finalized — during which city administration will present a plan regarding sewer separation funding for review.

Another loan for \$550,000 — intended for use to disconnect Village business downspouts from the sanitary system and reconnect them to the storm sewer — through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy’s Strategic Water Quality Initiatives Fund Loan program also recently was identified as a fundable project by the state.

Multiple railroad tracks represent the passenger yard under Chicago Union Station.



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

STATION:

Continued from page 7A

tives are limited editions with motors customized for heavy operation.

So, why all this about Chi Town, now in its

18th season of public display?

It’s for sale. The whole thing — trains, track, scenery, computers, wiring and all. One of Gibble’s sons, Mike, is maintaining the operation and hopes a buyer

continues the legacy. But, truth is, Chi Town may be headed to the end of the line.

Paul was a good guy. He carried a slight drawl from growing up in Covington, Ky., and Cincinnati, while talking

to visitors. He spent as much time as anyone wanted to explain things, especially to children standing trackside and increasingly wide-eyed as the whirling rods of a Hudson or Big Boy steam locomotive approached.

Mike told of how his father became a fan of trains:

“When he was a young boy, his grandfather would come out from California and stay with them, but his mom would not allow Grandpa to smoke cigars in the house, yard or anywhere near her. So, Grandpa would haul Paul into the car and drive over to the train

station. He’d sit there and watch trains while Grandpa smoked cigars.”

Chi Town Union Station is located at 8275 Cooley Lake Road in Commerce.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, according to its website, chitownunionstation.wordpress.com.

Remaining dates this season are Dec. 23, 24, 29 and 30; Jan. 13, 14, 28 and 29; Feb. 10, 11, 25 and 26; and March 9, 10, 23 and 24.

Admission costs \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 to 17. Children younger than 5 years old get in free.

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Merry Christmas AND A Safe New Year

2024 Wish List

- Fixed the “Damn” sidewalks
- Clean-up the Moross/Mack intersection
- New pool and bath house for Pier Park



Joe Ricci
Farms Councilman
Mayor Pro Tem Ex Facto

For more details
Contact joericci1@aol.com

Holiday diaper drive

The Detroit community service agency Diapers to Mamas is hosting a holiday diaper drive through Sunday, Dec. 17, at two branches of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, as well as Connie's Children's Shop and the Royal Oak Public Library. All diapers, wipes and pull-ups dropped off at the following addresses will be donated to Showering Our Sisters, an organization serving expecting mothers in need in Detroit.

- ◆ GPPL Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms;
- ◆ GPPL Ewald Branch, 17157 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park;
- ◆ Connie's Children's Shop, 23240 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores; and
- ◆ Royal Oak Public Library, 222 E. 11 Mile, Royal Oak.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Woods considering mini free libraries

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Book lovers might have more options if city council takes the advice of its planning commission.

The commission in September recommended adding mini free libraries to the list of exemptions for front yard structures.

Current exemptions under city ordinance for front yard structures include fencing, poles with basketball hoops, flagpoles, light poles, air conditioning units, mailboxes and unenclosed porches.

The commission said mini free libraries should be allowed with the following caveats: one per property, maximum height of five feet and maximum diameter of four feet.

Councilman Thomas Vaughn at the council's meeting Monday, Nov. 20, suggested such structures should still require a building permit but that the fee be waived.

According to the organization

Little Free Library, more than 150,000 of them are registered in 120 countries and more than 3 million books have been shared since the movement began in 2012.

The planning commission at the same September meeting also voted against exempting raised garden beds from the front yard structure ordinance. The commission noted that such structures are allowed in side and back yards.

That discussion began after neighbors complained about a house on Allard that has a raised garden in the front yard.

Vaughn suggested the two sides talk further and try to come to an agreement.

"We haven't had any other complaints so this seems to be a neighborhood issue rather than a communitywide issue," he said. "Unless the community really forces us to regulate it, the neighbors should sit down and talk and try to reach a compromise."

Councilman Todd McConaghy

suggested council table the issue to see if the neighbors can resolve the issue.

Nathaniel Janick, who owns the house in question, agreed.

"I guess it's just an aesthetic difference, but I'm willing to talk," he said during public comment.

Kimberly Moin, who lives next door, told council she thinks a mediator needs to get involved. Her husband, Wilson Moin, said the raised garden has attracted rats that have chewed through engine wires in his vehicles.

"We've lived here 24 years and we like the city," he said. "It's nice and it's well maintained."

Brigitte Wolf of McKenna Associates, the city's planning consultant, told council it should consider several issues if it were to exempt raised gardens. That includes placing them at least 10 feet from the sidewalk and three feet from a side lot line and limiting them to 20 square feet or 5 percent of the front yard, whichever is less.

City audit shows good financial standing, precarious forecast

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — "We got a clean audit and that's great, but I'm going to be Debbie Downer again, (because) I say every time we have an audit, we have some major finance constraints that are coming," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said following the City of Grosse Pointe audit presentation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. "... A lot of it is in response to aging and crumbling infrastructure that's old, that needs to be worked on."

While the City managed a \$28,000 increase to its general fund for the year — the fund rests at about \$4.5 million — its capital projects fund balance is in precarious standing and some of its self-sustaining enterprise funds took losses.

The water and sewer fund saw a \$218,000 deficit because charges for services did not add up to the expenditures for the year, while the parking fund took a \$68,000 hit

after spending \$5.3 million on infrastructure improvements.

During the same period the Kroger and CVS lots were transitioning to pay stations — meaning the city stopped charging for parking in the interim — the CVS lot also was incurring extensive reconstruction costs and a number of city lots were adorned with decorative entrance arches.

"We are now at a deficit," said Spencer Tawa, senior manager with Plante Moran, the city's auditor. "... So our recommendation would be really looking at both of these funds, looking at the rate settings."

In the general fund, salary and wage increases were responsible for the City's expenditures increasing in nearly every category, although, when it came to the public works department, even the inflationary economy proved to be no match for flood-related costs. Despite the DPW seeing the same salary and wage increases as other depart-

ments in the fiscal year, its expenditures still decreased by about \$40,000 because the prior year faced so many flooding costs.

On the revenue side, taxable value increased from the prior fiscal year — a little more than \$100,000 in additional property taxes was collected — while the city recognized, for accounting purposes, \$360,000 of the \$540,000 it received in American Rescue Plan Act funding. The remaining allocation will be recognized in the current fiscal year.

The City's investment income transitioned from a \$72,747 loss in the prior year to a positive \$17,967.

"Most of that's due to economic factors that will change from year to year," explained Dean Hewines with Plante Moran, "and this year happened to be positive."

There also was a slight increase in state-shared revenue.

"We met today with Speaker Joe Tate from the state," Tomkowiak

said in November, "and said, 'What can the state do to bring revenue sharing back to the levels that it should be?' I think funding for municipalities in the state is fundamentally broken and there is not a lot that we have within our toolbox to fix that. ... It comes down to, there just isn't enough to do what we have to do."

An area in particularly good standing is the city's pension liability, which is 98 percent funded.

"For pension, the city is very well funded," Tawa said. "Probably the best funded community I have.

"For OPEB, it's a different story," he added.

The City handles its Other Post Employment Benefits — colloquially known as retiree health care funding — liability with a pay-as-you-go strategy, each year allocating out of the general fund the amount needed to cover the year's owed costs.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the City's OPEB liability decreased, allowing its funded ratio to increase from 7.4 percent funded the prior year to 11.3 percent funded.

City administration and council currently plan to hold a work ses-

sion in January to get a head start on budget discussions for the next fiscal year beginning in July, especially in regard to sewer infrastructure grants it is set to receive, which require matching funds from the city.

"What you're seeing here is a clean bill of health, if you will, from a financial perspective," City Manager Joe Valentine told city council after the audit presentation. "... We are in good standing, but I think going forward we're going to have to look at some things to strengthen our position and avoid any future shortfalls."

TREES:

Continued from page 8A

den, has an upright growth habit.

"It's so narrow there, columnar trees are a better choice," Colter said. "Plus, they don't block signage. Business owners hate it when trees block signage. If you use the correct species and its done right, trees can increase foot traffic, which can increase business."

10A | SCHOOLS

Grosse Pointe Black Alumni Association kicks off

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer



THE GROSSE POINTES — After going through the experience themselves, members of the Grosse Pointe Black Alumni Association want to help current black students understand they are not alone.

“It can be challenging to navigate,” said Tim Herd, one of the group’s founders. “We want to help current black students and mentor them.”

The GPBAA will hold an informational meeting 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at The Neighborhood

Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. Those interested in attending can RSVP at shorturl.at/kyzO2 or email grossepointebaa@gmail.com.

“We’ve got about 100 members and we’re expecting 50 to 55 to

attend the mixer,” Herd said. “About half our members live in the Grosse Pointe area and a lot of other recent grads who are away at college will be back in town for the holidays.”

Others who helped get the group off the ground include Herd’s brother, Troy, Cierra Rice, James Shelton and Erin Czerwiec.

It’s not just for recent alumni, however. The organization’s nonprofit paperwork was handled by Amanda Alston, a 2010 South alumna who now is an attorney in Chicago.

“We’re also open to current high school students,” Herd said. “We want to be a bridge between students, alumni and families.”

Herd said he got the idea while helping his father, Joe, campaign for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education in 2020.

“I was passing out yard signs and talking to other black alumni and found we had a lot of shared experiences,” he said. “We continued to do check-ins via Zoom and we felt we could be a positive change.”

Herd said the GPBAA

also wants to help high school students get ready for college and will eventually award scholarships.

Herd created a similar mentoring program for black men while a student at Michigan State University. Now pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at UCLA, he said the group is still active more than six years after it began.

The GPBAA also highlights GPPSS alumni each Tuesday on its Facebook page. So far, that has included:

◆ Derrick L. Morris II, South class of 2012,

studying law at Syracuse University;

◆ Shanelle Jackson, South class of 2020, studying medicine at Michigan State University;

◆ Giovonne Terry, North class of 2016, owner of his own clothing line, WildLife Clothing;

◆ Sydney Benson, North class of 2016, former collegiate athlete now working in marketing for LinkedIn.

“As we build out, we’ll continue doing check-ins on Zoom across the world, but we also want to do a lot of in-person programming,” Herd said.

Report of weapon shuts down North

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — An unsubstantiated report of a weapon on campus sent Grosse Pointe North High School into “secure mode” for almost an hour Friday, Dec. 8.

The school went into secure mode, which previously was called a soft lockdown, at 12:55 p.m. after police reported the possibility of a weapon on campus. It was lifted at 1:45 p.m.

Grosse Pointe Public School System officials confirmed no weapon was found.

“The police promptly responded to the situation with the support of the North administration to ensure everyone’s safety,” according to an email sent to North families after the incident. “Police and district protocols were followed, including a comprehensive investigation of the report. While in secure mode, police received additional information about the initial report that led the police and school administration to confidently end the secure mode.”

The district said students remained in their classrooms and no one was allowed to enter or exit the building. Students went to their sixth hour classes afterward.

“The secure mode was lifted at 1:45 p.m. and an announcement was immediately made to assure students of their safety and our vigilance in preserving a safe school environment,” the email said. “We will continue to make decisions that prioritize the safety of our students and staff.”

—Ted O'Neil

STEM students see success

Four local teams competed Sunday, Dec. 3, in the regional competition for middle school robotics, **FIRST Tech Challenge**, with more than 500 people in attendance at **University Liggett School**. The competition tested robot speed, durability and functionality while showcasing students’ wisdom and innovative thinking. The **Parcels Blown Fuses**, above, won the **Design Award** for building the robot with the best industrial design. **Pierce’s all-girls Botmasterz**, below, received the **Motivate Award** for sparking others to embrace the culture of **FIRST** and the **Promote Award** for its compelling video message designed to change culture and celebrate science, technology, engineering and math. **Pierce’s 360 Robot Lab** and **University Liggett’s Knightmares** also competed.

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PICKS:

Continued from page 1A

this story.)

The board interviewed seven candidates over two nights last week, then met Saturday, Dec. 9, to pick the finalists.

Board President Ahmed Ismail said it was his hope the board will vote on extending an offer to one of the finalists Tuesday night.

During Saturday’s meeting, each board member was able to list three preferences among the candidates, with three points given for first choice, two points for second and one point for third.

Tuttle was the first choice for trustees Terry Collins, Valarie St. John and Colleen Worden, plus Ismail and Vice President Lisa Papas. She was the second choice for Treasurer Sean Cotton

and third choice for Secretary Ginny Jeup.

Staniszewski was Cotton’s first choice, second choice for Jeup and Ismail and third choice for Papas and Worden.

He is principal of the Global Intermediate Academy for Mapleton Public Schools in Denver. Staniszewski told the board during his interview the school was in the bottom 5 percent for test scores in Colorado in 2017, and was in the highest performing category by 2019.

Tuttle told the board when she became superintendent in Owosso 14 years ago, the district had a fund equity below 3 percent and was looking at \$6 million in deficit spending. Today, the district has an 18 percent fund equity and voters approved a \$45 million bond to build a new consolidated middle and high school.

A stakeholder survey conducted by the Michigan Association of School Boards found 429 respondents out of 846 people who took the survey said being a superintendent in another district would prove most valuable in a new hire, followed closely by building principal (409) and teacher (407). Another 385 chose assistant superintendent.

The job posting, which opened in late September, listed a starting salary range of \$275,000 to \$350,000, with start date and allowances for things like an annuity and retirement to be negotiated. Jay Bennett of MASB previously told the board a current superintendent probably would not leave their job midway through the school year and a July 1 start date is more likely.

The district received 39 applications for the position.

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Ignore the chatter, Pendency's still open

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — At a time when holiday cheer and glad tidings are supposed to fill the air, some vicious rumors are making the rounds that Pendency's Grosse Pointe is permanently closed.

"I don't know who would feel so threatened by us being here as to start all these nasty rumors," said Susan Pendency, who along with her late hus-

band, David, opened the eatery at 20930 Mack in June. "Even people we've known for 20 years are saying, 'Oh, I heard such and such at a cocktail party.' It's disheartening."

The rumor mill runs the gamut, from bankruptcy to claims the entire staff quit at once to others so vile the Grosse Pointe News will not repeat them.

"It's insane," Pendency said. "It was a little slow Thanksgiving week and now with holiday par-

ties coming up, but we had one guy walk in on a Sunday night because he saw the lights on and told us he thought for sure we were closed."

Pendency said the restaurant didn't even close when David suddenly passed away in mid-August.

"We've been closed Mondays and Tuesdays because of the labor shortage, but I made sure to have his funeral on a Tuesday so the staff could attend," Pendency said. "But we're

hoping to add Mondays and Tuesdays after the new year."

Nor did the restaurant close when Pendency had to spend time in the hospital after breaking her ankle the night of David's funeral.

As was the case when they owned the award-winning Hill Seafood and Chop House, Pendency's Grosse Pointe was known for David handling the front of the house and Susan handling the floor.

"I told our son, Nick,

he had to get back here and fill his father's Guccis to start shaking hands and kissing babies and he's done a great job," Pendency said. "Our daughter, Isabelle, will join us in January."

Pendency also credits her executive chef, who has been there since day one.

"He's been the backbone," she said. "And the staff has really stepped up."

Happy hour is 1 to 5 p.m. weekends — including two large TVs

for football — with dinner 5 to 10 p.m. Saturday and 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, plus carry out 3 to 8 p.m.

Happy hour Wednesday and Thursday is 4 to 6 p.m. with dinner 5 to 9 p.m., and happy hour Friday is 5 to 6 p.m. with dinner 5 to 10 p.m.

Funeral luncheons and bridal/wedding showers can be accommodated midday.

Call (313) 886-9933 or visit thependys.com for more information.



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Hours at Shift Kitchen and Cocktails, 17051 Kercheval, are 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Shift Kitchen and Cocktails open

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

— The buzz surrounding the opening of Sidecar Slider Bar in The Village had yet to die down by the time its neighboring restaurant, Shift Kitchen and Cocktails, opened Tuesday.

While the two eateries are known as dual concepts with the same owners, each offer unique atmospheres and experiences.

"Shift is more of your elevated experience, but not pretentious," co-owner Mark Adamo said. "You can still go in there and feel comfortable, but it's definitely not the 'family spot' (like Sidecar). It's going to be more of an adult experience and it's more of an adult menu from a price point standpoint."

Featuring higher-end cocktails, wine and proteins in its menu items, ser-

vice is small plate style.

The menu includes a large selection of appetizers, which can be treated as a meal or shared plates, as well as lamb chops, filet sliders, an array of tacos and more.

Similar to its other two locations in Birmingham and Plymouth, live music will be a feature of the restaurant. It is yet to be determined which days dining will be accompanied with a guitarist, soloist or duet-style arrangement.

"We really want to take feedback from who becomes the regulars, like 'What days would you guys want?'" Adamo explained. "This is a spot for the community, so we're going to take community feedback and then cater the offering, cater the days or how we do things to what the people who are coming in here want."

A similar concept will frame the restaurant's days

and hours of operation.

While the goal of Sidecar is to become the late-night gathering place in The Village, Adamo is taking a more flexible approach to Shift's hours, which may adjust according to demand.

A tentative plan is to operate Tuesday through Saturday — although Sunday likely soon will replace Tuesday — from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

"As we gauge it, it might be more like 5 p.m. to midnight," he said, "and then we'll kind of just drive everybody over to Sidecar after midnight if they still wanted to hang out."

Shift Kitchen and Cocktails is located at 17051 Kercheval in the former Marais Market space.

"We want it to be a lounge feel so you're comfortable," Adamo said, "but an elevated experience without being intimidating or pretentious."

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Gridlocked GPAAS at impasse with stray dogs

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Education may be the key to solving a capacity issue being faced by the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society. Misinformation spreading throughout the community is hindering, not helping, the only animal shelter serving the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

"We've been in the community since 1997," said Corinne Martin, GPAAS founder and executive director. "We started sheltering in 2012, but what changed is that we are now sheltering for all of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. That's had a huge impact on

us." The impact translates to being at capacity for large dogs and over capacity for cats, Martin said.

Years ago, there were not many strays, she added. Most wandering animals were lost dogs that got out of people's yards, but were quickly reunited with their owners. It's a different story today.

"Just in Harper Woods, we get 200 stray dogs and cats a year," she said. "Now we're faced with all the Pointes and Harper Woods. We're in a crisis. It's become a public safety concern."

"... They migrate here from other cities, primarily Detroit, and they're starving, neglected,

unsocialized, aggressive or dangerous."

Martin said many factors account for the rise in strays, from the economy to the cost of veterinary care.

"Or people rent and then move and the new place doesn't allow them to have a pet," she said. "Or they get a pet and are not prepared for pet ownership. Or they can't afford to get the pet sterilized. Or the parents pass away. There are just life changes."

GPAAS works directly with the Pointes and Harper Woods public safety departments through its intake center, an 1,800-square-foot building that can handle up to 11 medium or large dogs, as well as 10 small dogs or cats. Lost and stray animals are brought to the intake center to receive veterinary care and get vaccinated, spayed or neutered, before being brought to the shelter for adoption.

Currently, there are nine large dogs housed in the intake center because there's no space at the Thomas A. Mackey Animal Adoption Center down the street.

"We can handle 25 dogs and 25 cats" at the shelter, Martin said. "We're at 25 dogs and 33 cats. We're gridlocked. Unless people adopt dogs out of here, we can't bring dogs over from intake. We can't leave these dogs on the street, but we also need to have a place to put them."

Demographics

So if GPAAS is full, why not take a stray found wandering Grosse Pointe to a shelter in Detroit or Macomb County?

It's not that simple, Martin said.

While GPAAS serves the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, shelters



One of more than 30 dogs that have been taken in by the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, which reached capacity at 25 dogs.



Macomb County Humane, us, all evaluate animals that are up for adoption. They truly have good temperaments."

Close encounters

With the rise of stray dogs in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, Martin said people need to be educated on what to do if a stray is spotted. First and foremost, leave it alone.

"People should not pick up strays," Martin said. "They're dangerous to pick up. If you come across a dog you don't know that's clearly a stray — no tags, no collar — contact public safety. Let the police handle stray dogs. Between the police and the shelter, we'll figure it out."

If a dog bites, more than a Band-Aid will be needed. There's a very real threat of rabies, Martin noted, which requires a series of four injections at a price tag of \$3,000 per shot.

While people out driving who spot a stray should call public safety, what about people out walking? Or out walking their dogs?

"This is a more immediate situation," Martin said. "I suggest carrying an airhorn. Mace is not a good option; you could mace your own dog or yourself. An airhorn scares the stray and it runs off. However, you've got to make sure your dog is secure. It's important to have a secure collar, not a retractable leash. Have good control of your dog. That's the best way to fight off a stray."

Martin advised to be aware and be careful.

"Now we're told to lock our car doors; we never had to do that before, but now we have to," she said. "It's the same with dogs. When you walk your dog, be prepared if you encounter a stray."

See GPAAS, page 6B



GPAAS currently has 33 cats and kittens up for adoption, like Willis, who greeted a guest during a recent visit.



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

Most of the stray dogs sheltered at GPAAS are pit bulls or pit bull mixes, which has turned some people off from adopting them; however, GPAAS Executive Director Corinne Martin said the nonprofit will not adopt out dogs that have behavioral issues.

like Michigan Humane and Detroit Animal Care and Control only serve the city of Detroit, just as the Humane Society of Macomb County only serves Macomb County.

"You can't take a dog or cat from Grosse Pointe to Detroit," Martin said. "It's not the demographic. ... Wayne County does not have an animal shelter, so the shelters in Wayne County become a city demographic. That's the way it is."

Complicating the matter further is that shelters across the state are at full capacity. The reason, Martin said, is "no one wants to euthanize animals."

"Donations come from people because we're not killing animals," she explained. "If we start euthanizing, we'll lose our donor base ... so we're gridlocked."

Animal shelters are required to report yearly statistics of how many animals are taken in and how many are euthanized, among other statistics.

"Donors make their decisions based on the number of animals euthanized," Martin said. "(Shelters are) worried about their euthanasia record."

While GPAAS is honest with its records, the same cannot be said about some people who are dishonest when bringing strays to the nonprofit.

"People find a stray dog in Detroit and bring it home to Harper Woods or the Grosse Pointes," Martin said. "They don't want to take it to a shel-

ter in Detroit, because they're afraid they'll euthanize it. So they bring it to us, which gives us more capacity issues."

Because of its hesitance to euthanize and being at full capacity, Martin said GPAAS is "stuck with pit bull gridlock."

"GPAAS is experiencing more pit bull gridlock than other cities, because we border cities with bans on pit bulls," she said.

Most of the dogs currently housed at GPAAS have some pit bull in them, so prospective adoptive pet parents tend to shy away. Big dogs are more expensive and harder to handle, Martin said, but also, small and purebred dogs are trendier these days.

"We have 76 animals here," she noted. "We're lucky on the weekends if we adopt three. Mix breeds are hard to place."

People also are afraid of the breed.

"You hear on the news how a pit bull killed a child," she added, "but those are unsocialized dogs living in horrible conditions. They're not your community dog."

Because people are afraid of the breed, pit bulls and pit bull mixes often stay in shelters rather than finding a forever family. However, Martin said, no shelter would adopt out a dog with a temper problem.

"We will not place any pit bull in the community that's going to injure a person or family," she noted. "Michigan Humane, the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society,

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Grosse Pointe Theatre accepting 10-minute play entries

Submissions accepted through midnight Dec. 31

Interested in telling a story in a 10-minute play that is funny or thought-provoking, with an element of surprise? If so, Grosse Pointe Theatre wants to hear from you.

Grosse Pointe Theatre is accepting entries for its 2024 Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival, which will be held June 13 to 15. All interested playwrights should submit their 10-minute play no later than midnight Dec. 31, for consideration in the 2024 festival.

This year's theme is "What if ...". All plays being considered must incorporate this theme, show how the main character (protagonist) or the character causing conflict (antagonist) consider several well-thought-out optional solutions to the issues they're facing, either individually or together.

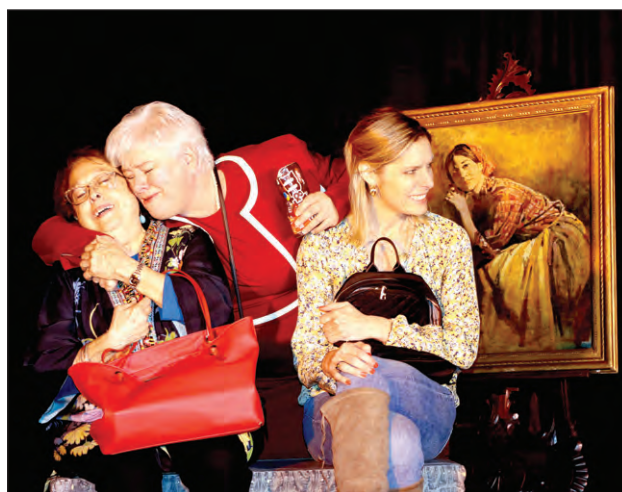
The past 11 years, Mary Lou Britton of St. Clair Shores has led Grosse Pointe Theatre's playwriting festival as its chair and executive producer.

"You don't have to be an accomplished playwright to enter," Britton said. "You just need a desire to tell the story in play form, developing a plot, characters and setting that can engage the audience. Plays should be entertaining and include unexpected twists that leave the audience captivated.

"Engaging the audience in a compelling 10-minute play is a creative dimension to storytelling," she added. "We're excited to see the talented playwrights, locally, nationally and internationally, who have submitted their plays this year. Thus far, we've received submissions from across the U.S. and



The 10-minute play "Number 57," written by Marsha Roberts of San Rafael, Calif., and directed by Dominic Aldini of Sterling Heights, shared how a young woman interviewed potential dating candidates through an online application process. Maria LaRose played Fiona and Dante Bufalini played Malcolm.



In the 10-minute play "Mother's Day," written by Pamela E. Kingsley of New York, and directed by Michele Karl of St. Clair Shores, three generations of family celebrate Mother's Day at an art museum, leaning more about each other than the art. From left are Ruth Ellen Mayhall as DeeDee, Arlene Pollock as Maris and Alexa Baxt as Jess.

Canada, as well as several from the United Kingdom and even one from Singapore."

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

- ◆ All plays submitted must incorporate the theme "What if," and not exceed 10 minutes.

- ◆ There is no fee to enter the competition. However, should a play

be selected for performance as part of the Take Ten Playwriting Festival, the director and actors must become members of Grosse Pointe Theatre prior to the performance. Annual membership dues are \$50.

- ◆ Entries will be judged

anonymously by a panel of local and out-state judges.

- ◆ Playwrights should enter plays by electronically submitting a properly formatted script by midnight Dec. 31, via email to playfestival@gpt.org.

- ◆ When submitting a play, the author's identifying information should be removed from the body of the play and from 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 (seven to 10 pages) and do not include the theme "What if" will not be considered.

- ◆ Set, props, costumes, makeup and other elements must be minimal. The action of the play should be contemporary and continuous (without



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA A. ELLIS

Shelby Holley, left, played Betty, and Taylor Horn played the detective in the thought-provoking 10-minute play "The Aftermath," written by Detroit playwright Daniel Woitulewicz and directed by Erin Getzin of Harper Woods.

scene breaks).

- ◆ There should be only two to four actors.

The playwrights whose 10-minute plays follow the above criteria and are selected by the judges as "best in class" will have the opportunity to be performed at Grosse Pointe Theatre's Take Ten Play Festival, which takes

place June 13 to 15, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

The exact timing and selection of winning plays will be announced at a future date.

For more information on Grosse Pointe Theatre's Take Ten Playwriting Festival, visit gpt.org/take-ten/ or email playfestival@gpt.org.



In the 10-minute play "(W)ringing Your Hands," written by Shawn Samuelson Henry of North Carolina and directed by Janie Burkey of Grosse Pointe Woods, Sal Rabino as Ronald and Liz Rager as Jeanette profess their love over french fries — and a whole lot of ketchup and laughs.



The play, "How Nice of You To Ask," written by Rich Rubin of Oregon, was directed by Elizabeth Rager of Hazel Park. It starred Joshua Stuckless of Grosse Pointe Woods as Alan and Cece Lesner of Sterling Heights as Mavis.

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MUSIC AT MEMORIAL PRESENTS

The Christmas Story

Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 pm

You're invited to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church's candlelit sanctuary for the annual Christmas Story concert, presented by the church's choir and orchestra with their own unique musical account of Jesus' birth.

This year's concert features the world premiere of a new choral piece by James Biery, "From Heaven Above," as well as traditional carols sung by the audience.

We encourage early arrival for best seating at this free concert.

GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH
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313.882.5330 | gpmchurch.org

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

- ◆ Readers Choice Book Discussion Group, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Little Learners Hour of Code, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, Cellar 313, 15112 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Youth Hour of Code, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ 1,000 Hours Year End Solstice Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Teen Paint & Sip, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

Jardinieres

La Societe des Jardinieres meets at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at the home of member

Sandy Magreta, for the group's annual Christmas party. The hostess for this event is President Tina Olofsson. Dinner will be followed by a "cloth" gift exchange. Members have decided to support Turning Point Inc., in Mount Clemens, with a cash donation. Turning Point supports women of domestic violence and victims of human trafficking. The group also had a gently used clothing drive to donate to Second Hand Rose, which is affiliated with Turning Point.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required

See EVENTS, page 4B

Kevin's Song welcomes new executive director

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

In May, Kevin's Song co-founder Gail Urso, who had just been awarded the 2023 Loss Survivor Award from the American Association of Suicidology, noted that after 10 years of raising awareness around the causes of suicide, its prevalence in society and possible preventive measures, the organization was searching for an executive director to take the reins.

"It has gotten to the point where we need that person," Urso said last spring. "We have tremendous support from volunteers, advisors, sponsors, but we've grown to the point where we need an executive director. And that will just lead to more growth. We just need to find the right person to lead us."

The board found the right person in Jennifer Fair Margraf, who was hired as executive director of Kevin's Song last month.

Margraf brings with her decades of experience in the nonprofit sector, including with the Sturgis



COURTESY PHOTO

Jennifer Fair Margraf is the new executive director of Kevin's Song.

Council of the Arts, DuPage Symphony Orchestra, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings/Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival and Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce,

among others.

"Most of my professional career has been in not-for-profit leadership," she said. "Also, being around other human beings — and as the mother of two teens — I really understand the mental health aspect."

Margraf said the mission of Kevin's Song, along with the prevalence of suicide in society, led her to apply for the position.

"It went along with my passion and my values," she noted. "It triggered something inside of me."

"... It's really important that people are aware that suicide and mental health can affect anyone, anywhere, at any time," she added. "It's a part of this world that doesn't pick and choose. It can affect anyone, any age, any background."

Margraf said she looks forward to learning more about the Grosse Pointe community and its residents in her new role, but also making sure others learn about Kevin's Song and its mission of empowering communities, raising awareness and providing support to those affected by suicide.

"I'm a month into it," she said. "I want to reach more and more people. I want to be in front of the right people at the right time and let them know they're not alone. That goes for survivorship, too, the families, letting them know they're not alone

and telling them we'll get through this with you."

"... I'm here to help people understand what suicide and suicideology are about."

In her role, Margraf will be responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of Kevin's Song. The Rochester Hills resident said she plans to be a familiar face in the community, but won't limit herself to the area.

"We're based in Grosse Pointe, but we serve all of southeast Michigan," she said. "We want to expand through the state. I plan on having office hours at least once a week in Grosse Pointe. I want to meet with families, businesses and organizations for collaborative efforts and sharing information."

Margraf and an army of experts on the subject of suicide are available to speak to schools, businesses and organizations. Getting the word out is priority No. 1.

"People need to know (suicide is) OK to talk about," she said. "It's a healthy, positive thing to talk about this topic."

Margraf earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in

family life education and a Master of Arts degree in organizational management from Spring Arbor University. She also earned a Master of Business Administration degree through the Executive Education Program at Oakland University and is a certified fundraising executive through CFRE International.

"We're thrilled to welcome Jennifer as our new executive director and are certain her extensive professional experience, coupled with her dedication to our organization's mission, will make her a transformative leader for Kevin's Song," co-founders Gail and John Urso said in a joint statement. "We are confident that her strategic vision, leadership and compassion will guide us toward even greater success in our fight against suicide."

"Four weeks in, I've gotten some amazingly wonderful support," Margraf noted. "I'm looking forward to meeting more people and getting the word out."

For more information about Kevin's Song, visit kevinssong.org.

Registration open for Kevin's Song 8th annual Conference on Suicide

Registration is open for Michigan's largest conference on suicide — the Kevin's Song eighth annual Conference on Suicide: Continuing the Conversation, which features a roster of leading mental health professionals, educators and experts. The conference takes place Jan. 25 to 27, at Saint John's Resort, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth.

The three-day conference brings together educators, mental health professionals, professional trainees and students, business and community leaders, as well as the public, survivors of suicide loss and attempt survivors and their family members. It addresses suicide as a public health crisis to better understand and prevent suicide while helping to build pathways to better models of prevention and treatment in order to save lives. It features keynote and breakout sessions, as well as supportive resources for attendees.

"We've always believed that by coming together and sharing knowledge, experiences and compassion, we have the power to create a world where hope conquers despair," said Kevin's Song co-founders John and Gail Urso in a joint statement. "Our annual Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide is a testament to the dedication of countless individuals and organizations committed to preventing this tragedy. Together, we can inspire change, provide support and save lives. We invite you to join us at this year's conference to be part of the solution and make a difference in the fight against suicide."

New for 2024 will be a pre-conference training day Wednesday, Jan. 24, featuring educational sessions for clinicians, including safeTALK, QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) and AMSR (Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk).

The conference breakdown is as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 25 — Youth Mental Health & School Summit, presented by The Children's Foundation and Macomb County Community Mental Health, focuses on integrating schools, youth-serving organizations and clinicians to promote suicide prevention and mental well-being for youth.

Friday, Jan. 26 — Continuing the Conversation About Suicide Prevention, presented by Corewell Health, Priority Health and the Dolores and Paul Lavins Foundation, includes an array of presentations that engage clinicians and suicide prevention advocates to enhance their knowledge and skills to prevent suicide. In addition, complimentary registration will be offered to any student or professional trainee in a behavioral health or medical-related field of study in a Michigan university or college program.

Immediately following

Friday's conference program, Kevin's Song will host the 2024 "Saving a Life Award" dinner honoring individuals or organizations that exemplify outstanding service to the community in suicide prevention. The evening,

which is sponsored by CNS Healthcare, will conclude with a Concert of Hope and Healing by the University of Michigan Department of Musical Theatre.

Saturday, Jan. 27 — Surviving Suicide — A

Journey of Hope and Healing, presented by the Joseph J. Laurencelle Memorial Foundation, focuses on survivors of suicide. Loss survivor La Toya Bond and Scott

See OPEN, page 6B



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

SMART move

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Sherrie Jones stands with Rotary member Steve Ahles, who gave a presentation on the Rotary's Action Group for Addiction Prevention, named Project SMART, during the club's meeting Nov. 14, at Ford House. As a part of SMART, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary is sponsoring a safe drug disposal program with the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department to increase local public safety and decrease environmental impacts of unwanted medicines.



Join us to celebrate
the wonder and joy of Christmas!

Sunday, Dec. 17
Music Sunday: GPUMC Chancel Choir sings
"Nativity Suites" by Benjamin Harlan.
9:30 am, in the sanctuary & via livestream/video

Tuesday, Dec. 19
Blue Christmas service of healing and support.
7 pm, in the chapel

Sunday, Dec. 24
Weekly morning worship, 9:30 am
Family-friendly early service, 4 pm
Traditional Christmas Eve service, 9 pm
In the sanctuary & via livestream



211 Moross Road, Grosse Pointe Farms
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www.gpumc.org

Livestream/video: <https://gpumc.info/SundayMorningWorship>

4B | OBITUARIES

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.

Joanne Honsvall-Berg

Joanne Honsvall-Berg, 79, died peacefully Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, surrounded by family in Lake Elmo, Minn.

"Jonie" was born April 23, 1944, in Grafton, N.D., to Ralph and Phyllis Honsvall. She moved to Grosse Pointe in 1969, with her then-husband, George G. Berg, and co-owned a furniture and gift shop called Something Special. After moving to Stillwater, Minn., in 1990, to live closer to family, she found her passion helping the community by working for the St. Croix Valley United Way. Through the United Way, she was an incredible advocate for people in need and, as director of development, worked tirelessly on behalf of donors in the area.

Joanne was active in the arts and retail communities in both Grosse Pointe and Stillwater and was a collector of fine art, furniture, pottery and antiques. Her hobbies and interests included cooking with family, gardening, sewing and crafts. She was extremely proud of her Norwegian heritage and spent time cooking and baking Scandinavian recipes and enjoyed spending time with the Sons of Norway. She devoted much of her time and energy as a caregiver to family members, including her daughter, Lisa, until she passed away at age 51.

Joanne was predeceased by her parents, Ralph and Phyllis Honsvall; and her daughter, Lisa Kay Berg. She is

survived by her son, George Granger Berg II, and his daughters, Madison and Amelia Berg; Lisa's children, Kirsten Burk (Brian), Corey Petro and Kevin Gardner; her great-grandson, Morgan Burk; her siblings, Paul R. Honsvall, Mary Lou Sandager (Paul) and James M Honsvall; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A family memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Croix Valley United Way, bit.ly/3NmysUe, or the Sons of Norway, bit.ly/3RgwFkr.

The family extends a special thank you to Lifespark Hospice.

Paula R. Nagel

Paula R. Nagel, 61, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, surrounded by her family after bravely battling cancer.

She was married to her best friend, James "Jim" Nagel, for more than 41 years. She was a proud mother to Elise Nagel Taylor (Mitchell A. Taylor II) and Teresa Nagel Froman (Matt Froman); loving and fun Nonna to Guy Taylor and Jackson Froman; dear sister to Ginger Allen and Josie Christiansen; and caring friend to many.

Paula was born Feb. 16, 1962, in Detroit, to Tom Randazzo and Beverly Lupi. She was a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods for 30 years. Paula proudly started her career with GMAC in 1980, as a financial analyst. She was a devoted employee and continued

to work for GMAC/Ally Financial for her decorated 43-year career.

Visitation for Paula takes place 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, with rosary at 7 p.m., at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. A funeral Mass will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15. She will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Paula's name may be considered to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, cskdetroit.org/ways_to_give/monetary_gifts.

Rose-Anne Michael

Rose-Anne Michael, 96, passed away Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. She was a previous resident of Grosse Pointe Shores.

Rose-Anne was the beloved wife of the late Michael J. Michael, M.D.; loving mother of Michele Scott (Larry), Michael J. Michael Jr., M.D., Mari-Terese Michael and Monique Agosta (Sam); proud grandmother of Alexandra, James Michael, Adrianna (Keith), Patricia (Drew), Vita (Thomas) and Mario; proud great-grandmother of Sam, Gianna Rose, Thomas, Ariana Simone and Salvatore; and dear sister of Teresa Nehra (the late John). She also is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass honoring Mrs. Michael took place Monday, Dec. 11, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, with



Joanne Honsvall-Berg



Paula R. Nagel



Rose-Anne Michael

entombment at Resurrection Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to the Capuchin St. Bonaventure Monastery, thecapuchins.org/donate. Share memories with the family in the online guestbook at wujekcalca terra.com.

Shirley Rose Brady

Shirley Rose Brady, 99, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023.

She was the cherished sister of Gloria Easterday (the late James) and the late Leo Lenhard (Julie); adored aunt of Greg Schroeder (Marcia), Steve Schroeder (Laurie), Betty Brown (Fred) and the late Danny Lenhard (Kathy); and loving great-aunt of Rory Schroeder, Leah Schroeder, Laura Erikson, Melissa Erikson, Alex Erikson (Michelle), Maddy Lauer (Zach) and Mitch Lenhard.

Shirley was born July 18, 1924, to Leo Lenhard and Orielda Baker. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a master's degree in education from Wayne State University. Shirley was a decorated teacher for the Warren Consolidated Schools district for 32 years.

She was a member of Unity Church in Royal Oak, the Newman Club of Wayne State, Borders Buddies of Birmingham, Kiwanis of Birmingham and A Course in Miracles study group. Shirley



Shirley Rose Brady



Ann Burns

loved traveling and reading. She also enjoyed going up north and spending time with family and friends. She will be dearly missed.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Dec. 21, from noon until the memorial service at 1:30 p.m. at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be considered in Shirley's honor to a charity of the donor's choice.

Ann Burns

Ann Burns (nee Reed), 88, passed away Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, surrounded by her loving family.

Ann was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Don; son, Kevin; parents, Jack and Elizabeth; and siblings, Kathryn, Tom and Bill. Ann is survived by her children, Beth (Joe), Julie (Dan), Kathy and Maureen (Jeff); grandchildren, Kerry, Tom, Sean, Teo, David, Tim, Christina and Jeffrey; great-grandchildren, Tommy, Patrick, Giada, Paige, Ella, Skylar, TJ, Liam, Lincoln, Theo, Claire and Jackson; longtime family member, Tim; and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

A lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, Ann was born Feb. 4, 1935. She graduated from St. Paul High School. She worked for 45 years at Henry Ford Cottage Hospital, in the kitchen, as a radiology technologist and as head of the radiology department. Ann completed her degree at the University of Detroit while raising five children and working full time and went on to be the administrator of outpatient services.

Ann was a lifetime member of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, where she was a Eucharistic minister and volunteered for many events. She also volunteered at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Bon Secours Hospital. She was devoted to her faith, family and many friends. Ann loved life; she was always up for an adventure and rarely missed a party or celebration.

A funeral Mass will be held at noon Friday, Dec. 15, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Donations in Ann's memory may be made to The Helm at the Boll Life Center, helmlife.org/donate, or Capuchin Soup Kitchen, cskdetroit.org/ways_to_give/donations/. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Susan Vallan



dogs who adored her and the belly rubs & treats she gave freely.

In addition to being a homemaker, Sue was the "First Lady" of Young Supply Company, accompanying her husband Ron as they hosted dozens of company parties and trips with employees and customers over the years. Live music and dancing were among Sue's favorites and she always lit up the room with her genuine smile and friendly conversation.

Sue's family and friends were her priority. She took the role of being a mother seriously, always involved in activities and school functions. Over the years, she remained a mother and grandmother first and foremost, but also became a trusted best friend and continued source of welcomed wisdom & advice to her children and grandchildren. Birthdays, holiday celebrations, and family trips were a must, with details and menus planned months in advance. Sue loved showing her appreciation for others with kind words, gestures, and thoughtful gifts and cards. She cherished her friendships.

Before breaking bread with family or friends, Sue enjoyed her signature cocktail - a Woodford Reserve served neat in a snifter glass with a side of ice and a lemon wedge.

Sue knew what she liked and while she and her husband dined at some of the finest restaurants in the world, she preferred the comfort foods back at home. Mama Rosa's, Buddy's Pizza, The Original Pancake House, Big Boy, National Coney Island, and burgers at Irish Coffee were among her favorites. Cafe Epicure & Mediterraneo in Florida were other favorites as well as Da Edoardo Grosse Pointe, where she ate once a week at her table.

Sue enjoyed dining out and talking with friends she'd see at her regular places, but would also want it noted that she was an excellent cook and made countless meals for family and friends to enjoy. Home cooked Italian meals were a family favorite. Time in the sun was a must. While in Florida for the winter months, "Wine-Down Wednesdays" at the pool was one of her favorite traditions. Sue enjoyed preparing her famous sausage & peppers dish to share with her girlfriends during their weekly gatherings filled with stories & laughs.

Daily word games played online, with her sister and other friends, was something that Sue enjoyed. Euchre games were serious business and Sue was the one to beat. Slot machines,

whether played on her iPad at home, or in-person at a casino, were another favorite pastime. Sue and the video poker machines at The Wynn in Las Vegas had a friendly but ongoing love-hate relationship.

In the last few years, Sue looked forward to making her weekly picks in a Pick Six football pool that she played in with over 700 other people. Despite knowing little about football, and never doing well in the pool, Sue's competitive and determined nature finally paid off in the end. A couple of days after Sue's passing, her family and friends couldn't help but smile when they saw that Sue correctly picked all six teams before she passed and posthumously won the weekly pool! A longtime family friend pointed out that this was Sue's way of letting all of her family and friends know that she truly died a "winner" and that, instead of being sad, we should celebrate her wonderful life.

Services will take place on Saturday, December 16, 2023. In state 9:30 AM until the 10AM funeral mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church - 157 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

◆ Electronic Device Tutoring, noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15.

Ford House

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

◆ Holiday Main Residence Tour, offered various dates through Sunday, Dec. 31. Costs vary.

◆ Cookies with Santa, 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16. Cost is \$20 for member children, \$30 for nonmember children.

◆ Accessible Holiday Tour, Tuesday, Dec. 19. Costs vary.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Maj. Patrick Linford will highlight the many oper-

ational and institutional career opportunities in the U.S. Army. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, American House Lakeshore, 28801 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcross blood.org.

GPPSS

The Grosse Pointe Public School System hosts the following information nights:

◆ 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, for rising fifth graders at all district middle schools.

◆ 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, for rising freshmen at both district high schools.

◆ 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, for kindergarten and Young Fives, at all district elementary schools.

AAUW awards winners of 'Listen to Women' contest

Exhibition open until Jan. 5

The Grosse Pointe chapter of American Association of University Women hosted its third annual art contest, following the theme "Listen to Women," in which high school students were invited to submit artwork that explores "the life of the woman" — celebrating her achievements, honoring her inspiration, predicting her future or portraying issues she currently faces.

The AAUW as a whole and the Grosse Pointe branch work to advance equity for women and girls in society. The local branch achieves this by awarding scholarships, providing funding for local robotics programs and through the art contest, which was proposed by member Kathy



First-place winner Emily Gayed, who entered two pieces to the contest, won for "Multicolored," shown beside her.

Conlon.

Conlon sent letters to 20 art teachers at high schools in Grosse Pointe,

Harper Woods, Detroit and other communities, inviting students, ages 14 to 18, to enter. Entries were judged on interpretation of the theme, demonstration of artistic ability, originality and quality of art, overall design and use of medium.

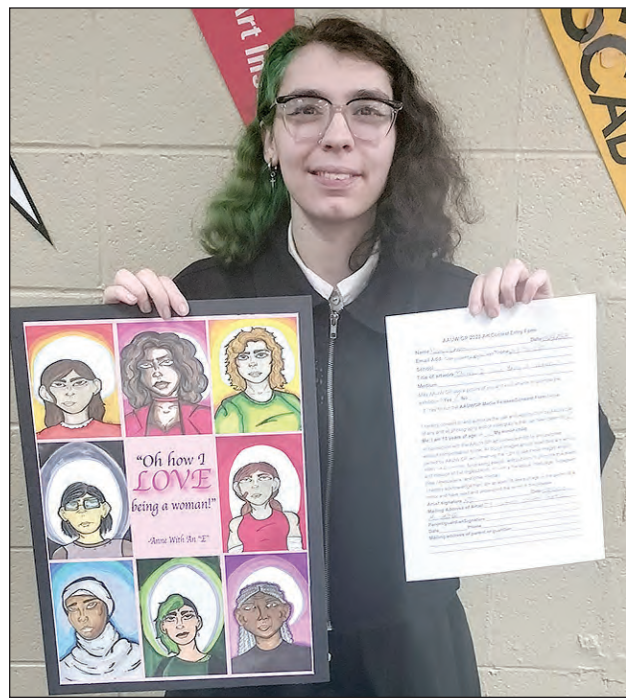
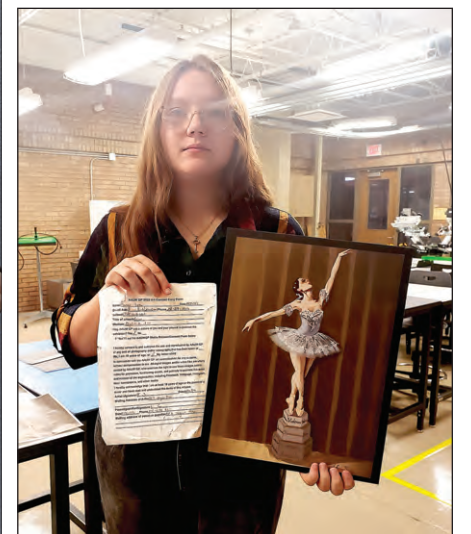
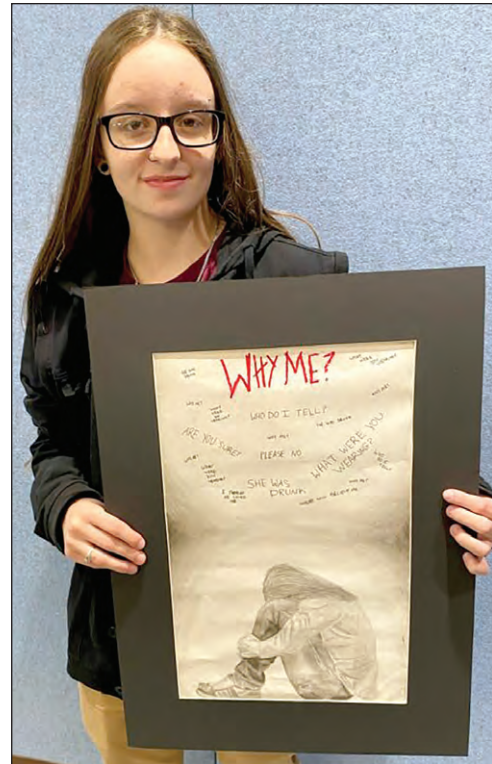
The work was judged by Elizabeth Gauthier, a teacher at College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

Fraser High School student Emily Gayed won Best of Show for her entry, "Multicolored."

"I'm thankful and grateful for the opportunity of winning and accepting the first place \$200 prize in the 'Listen to Women' gallery," she wrote in a thank-you note to the AAUWGP. "Through my inspired work, I got to express myself and the struggles



Above, Rose Garling poses with her third-place win, "Voices Through Print." Left, Christina Johnson earned second place for her artwork, "Unknown Afterthoughts." Below, Harmonie Loza stands with "Grace," which won an honorable mention.



Niamya Deems received an honorable mention for her piece, "Oh, How I Love Being a Woman."

of minority women and finding their identity. I hope I get a chance to reconnect with such an amazing organization again."

The second place winner, who was awarded \$150, was Christina Johnson, for her piece, "Unknown Afterthoughts." Third place went to Rose Garling for her piece, "Voices Through Print."

Garling received \$100.

Honorable mentions were awarded to

◆ Niamya Deems for "Oh, How I Love Being a Woman"

◆ Ava Edalski for "Mighty Ruth"

◆ Ella Gilbert for "Her Fruits"

◆ Harmonie Loza for "Grace"

The exhibition is on display through Friday, Jan. 5, in the Grosse

Pointe Artists Association gallery in The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

The work also may be viewed on the GPAA website, grossepointeartcenter.org, under "Exhibitions."

Wild Lights named USA Today 10Best winner

The people have spoken. The Detroit Zoo has one of the best holiday light displays in the country.

USA Today announced Wild Lights, presented by Strategic Staffing Solutions, was named a 10Best Zoo Lights contest winner. The Detroit Zoo's

annual holiday event, a sparkling spectacle that features millions of twinkling lights adorning nearly 500 unique displays, was nominated for the award by a panel of relevant experts and catapulted into the top 10 by zoo lovers across the country via an online poll.

Wild Lights runs on select evenings through Sunday, Jan. 7. Highlights of this year's event include:

- ◆ The Enchanted Trail, sponsored by Kroger, which allows guests to stroll through an immersive forest scape;
- ◆ Toyland, sponsored

by Michigan First Credit Union, an immersive installation featuring lighted sculptures of larger-than-life toys;

- ◆ an underwater-themed trail that transports guests to the depths of the sea and

See LIGHTS, page 6B

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, presents its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn program Thursday, Dec. 21. The Judelairens will perform "Songs of the Holidays." The program begins at noon in the church, followed by lunch at 1 p.m. Turkey chili and veggie wraps are on the menu. Reservations are required for lunch only, but space will be limited. A freewill offering is accepted. Call the church office at (313) 884-4820 to reserve a seat.

Worship Service

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
7 p.m. - Worship Service

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

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church

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CANDLELIGHT SERVICE • 7PM

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE
Sunday, December 24, 2023 Only at 11 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 7 p.m.

ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE: SUNDAYS at 9:30 & 11 a.m.
[YouTube.com/YourC3](https://www.youtube.com/YourC3)

Crosspointe Christian Church
21336 Mack Avenue
GPW, MI 48236
www.YourC3.org

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

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

(313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish
(M) Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
sharing the Light of Christ

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances

Sunday Worship at 10 am
followed by **Coffee Hour in the parish hall**

~ Join us online for Compline on Wednesdays at 7pm ~
a brief and assuring form of evening prayer
link on our homepage: stmichaelsgpw.org

20475 Sunningdale Park
313.884.4820 stmichaelsgpw.org

6B | FEATURES

LIGHTS:

Continued from page 5B

includes a new, interactive digital wall;

- ◆ Wild Lights Lodge, a space to warm up and enjoy festive décor and drinks;

- ◆ three walk-through light tunnels that serve as perfect photo opportunities; and

- ◆ seasonal treats, such as s'mores, hot cocoa, warm pretzels and more.

Learn more and purchase tickets at dzoo.org/wildlights.



OPEN:

Continued from page 3B

Teichmer, an attempt survivor, are among the featured speakers. Following the survivor presentations, attendees will have an opportunity to meet privately in group support sessions facilitated by mental health professionals. A portion of the Saturday program will be live streamed by Detroit Public Television and via Facebook LIVE.

Throughout the three-day conference, attendees may visit the Memorial Forest — a quiet place

dedicated to those whose lives prematurely ended. Sponsored by Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, it is a place of solace in the middle of a busy conference center, filled with lighted trees adorned with the names of those lost and those honored. Attendees are invited to remember their loved ones with a personalized ornament.

This year's conference also features a resource gallery and bookstore courtesy of the Self Esteem Shop.

Early bird rates run through Dec. 31. The three-day conference is

\$300 per person; two-day conference, Thursday and Friday, is \$275; single-day pricing is \$150 per person.

Beginning Jan. 1, the rate for the three-day conference is \$400 per person; two-day conference is \$375 per person; and single-day pricing is \$200 per person.

The Saturday Survivor program is \$40 per person. Student rates also are available for the conference with student ID.

Visit kevinsong.org for more information about registration, scholarships or sponsorship opportunities.

GPAAS:

Continued from page 1B

How to help

Not only does Martin want to educate the community about how to handle an encounter with a stray dog and debunk myths about adoptable pit bulls, but she also has suggestions on how to be part of the solution.

GPAAS provides a facility where lost pets, stray and injured animals can be sheltered and receive veterinary care until they are reclaimed or find a new home. Each year, 400 to 500 animals are placed.

"You can help by considering adoption, by fostering a pet — mostly dogs — and by helping us walk big dogs," she said. "We walk all of the dogs every day, three times a day, seven days a week."

Those interested in volunteering should call GPAAS for more information.

Pet owners facing life changes who are struggling to maintain ownership of their pet also should reach out to GPAAS. All shelters, Martin said, are equipped to help people struggling to care for their animals.



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

Above, some of the cats and kittens are doubled up in their cages, as GPAAS is over capacity with felines. Right, several dogs are being housed at the GPAAS intake building because there's no room for more at the shelter.

"People should know if they need help to reach out to a shelter for food, for veterinary care," she said. "Shelters are prepared to help people keep their pets. We have resources they may need. We don't want them to have to turn their pets in or let them go. We've helped with veterinary care, food, cages, collars."

Those interested in adopting or fostering an animal are invited to visit the shelter, 20542 Harper, Harper Woods, from 10 a.m. to noon each Saturday.

"You can come and meet the dogs and cats, and make an appointment to come back and meet them individually,"

anything on cats or dogs," Martin said. "We lose on every animal." Which is why donations are paramount for GPAAS to continue its operations.

The nonprofit is hoping to raise \$150,000 through its annual appeal. To make a donation to GPAAS, visit gpaas.org or call (313) 884-1551.



Adoption costs are \$350 for a dog, \$225 for a kitten and \$110 for a cat. Because each animal is treated to veterinary care, "We don't make

nothing on cats or dogs," Martin said. "We lose on every animal." Which is why donations are paramount for GPAAS to continue its operations.

The nonprofit is hoping to raise \$150,000 through its annual appeal.

To make a donation to GPAAS, visit gpaas.org or call (313) 884-1551.

GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY

Animals Available for Adoption at gpaas.org
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 313-884-1551 OR www.gpaas.org

20542 Harper (Lennon and Harper)
 (313) 884-1551
www.gpaas.org

Meet **JUNIOR**
 Male, 6 months old, Pitbull Terrier Mix, Gray/White, 25 lbs.

Meet **BERNADETTE**
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Open House Every Saturday
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Join Grosse Pointe Memorial Church this holiday season as we await the arrival of Jesus our Savior!

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

10:30 am*
 Advent IV Service (Childcare available)

5:00 pm*
 Family Service (Childcare available)

7:30* and 10:00 pm
 Candlelit Service with Choir, Woodwinds, and Harp

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GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH
 "A light by the lakeshore"
 16 Lake Shore Dr.
 Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
 313.882.5330 | gpmchurch.org

*If you can't join us in person, tune in to our livestream services. Scan the QR code, or visit our YouTube channel at gpmchurch.org

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COURTESY PHOTO

Photos like this, taken at Ford House, and other forms of art are being considered for the flash art contest sponsored by the Grosse Pointe News.

Flash art contest Deadline is Saturday

The Grosse Pointe News is hosting a flash art contest, asking readers to submit a photograph, drawing, painting or digital artwork — following a holiday theme — by midnight Saturday, Dec. 16.

The contest is open to anyone and the winner will receive a \$100 gift card to Posterity Gallery. The winning artwork may even be featured front and center on page 1A of the Grosse Pointe News.

Send your holiday artwork in any two-dimensional medium to media@grossepointenews.com with HOLIDAY ART in the subject line.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Megan Gunnell, LMSW

How to navigate the holidays with peace

As the holiday season approaches, many of us find ourselves caught in a whirlwind of joy and stress. While it's a time for celebration and connection, the pressures of gift-giving, family gatherings and social expectations can cause us all to feel a heightened level of stress. As a psychotherapist, I often witness the toll this season takes on our mental health. However, there are effective strategies to cope with holiday stress and cultivate a sense of true peace during this time of year.

1. Set realistic expectations:

One of the primary stressors during the holidays stems from unrealistic expectations. We often envision picture-perfect celebrations, complete with harmonious family interactions and flawlessly executed events. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that perfection is an unattainable goal. Instead, focus on establishing realistic expectations for yourself and your loved ones. Stay present and connected to the people and the experiences right in front of you rather than focusing on the performative or perfectionistic aspects of your holiday celebrations and you'll quickly notice a big shift to your sense of

peace, calm and connection.

2. Establish boundaries:

The holiday season can bring an influx of social invitations and familial obligations, leaving individuals feeling overwhelmed. It's essential to establish and communicate clear boundaries to protect your mental and emotional well-being. Prioritize your commitments and learn to say no when necessary.

Allocating time for self-care is not only acceptable but vital for maintaining balance. Whether it's a quiet evening at home or a brief moment of solitude, honoring your boundaries can help you avoid feeling overextended or resentful.

3. Practice mindfulness and relaxation techniques:

In the midst of holiday chaos, finding moments of stillness can be transformative. Incorporating mindfulness and relaxation techniques into your routine can significantly reduce stress levels. Consider taking short breaks for deep breathing exercises, meditation or a leisurely stroll. These practices help ground you in the present moment, allowing you to appreciate the joy of the season without succumbing to

overwhelming stress. Engaging in activities that bring you peace, such as reading, listening to calming music or enjoying nature, also can contribute to a sense of well-being.

4. Embrace flexibility:

Unforeseen circumstances are an inherent part of life and the holidays are no exception. Instead of becoming entangled in stress over unexpected changes or disruptions, cultivate a mindset of flexibility. Learn to adapt to unforeseen events with grace and a sense of humor. Embracing flexibility not only alleviates stress, but also allows for the discovery of new, meaningful traditions or experiences.

Approaching the holidays with curiosity, flexibility and a willingness to adapt can lead to surprising moments of joy and connection.

5. Seek support:

The holiday season can be challenging for many people. Seasonal depression, social anxiety, grief and loss or feelings of isolation can be common this time of year. Don't hesitate to lean on your support network when feelings of stress arise. Having a trusted therapist to share your experiences with can provide valuable insights and emotional

support. Connecting with a professional can provide you with the nonjudgmental space to feel validated, heard and seen and help you develop stronger coping strategies to navigate the complexities of the holiday season. You deserve to thrive. There is no shame in seeking support.

Overall, the holiday season should be a time of joy, connection and reflection. By setting realistic expectations, establishing boundaries, practicing mindfulness, embracing flexibility and seeking support, it is possible to navigate the holidays with a renewed sense of peace and serenity.

Megan Gunnell, LMSW, is a local psychotherapist and founder of the Thrive Advantage Group. She's also a No. 1 bestselling author, speaker, international retreat leader and coach who helps her clients learn to thrive at work and at home. Visit thriveadvantagegroup.com or megangunnell.com for more information.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

Food Gossip

By Nina Taormina
Guest Writer

The holidays are now in full swing and the most important thing at Christmas isn't the presents, lights or tree — it's THE MEAL!

If you don't know about this local family business yet, allow me to introduce you to the Fairway Packing family. Emmet Baratta Sr., and his brother worked in the meat industry at Belmont Packing. After retiring, sons Gene and Joe wanted to carry on the legacy of working in this industry and Fairway Packing Co. in Detroit's Eastern Market was born.

As a way to honor their grandparents, they chose the name Fairway, as their home was the first one built on Fairway Drive in Grosse Pointe Woods many years ago.

Decades later, the wholesale meat company has become one of the biggest, if not the biggest, top quality meat distributors in all of metro Detroit and surrounding cities.

Chances are if you're dining on a tomahawk steak, filet or burger downtown or locally, like Grey Ghost, She Wolf, Howlers & Growlers, Z's Pub and even Mr. Paul's Chop House, it's from Fairway.

By 2020, Emmet Sr.'s four grandsons, Emmet, Gino, Joey and Peter, had successfully taken the reins, made names for themselves and were running a well-oiled machine — carrying on the Fairway legacy. Then, the pandemic hit.

Within hours, the restaurants they supplied were forced to shut down. With thousands of dollars worth of meat aging in





Nina Taormina

special temperatures inside their Eastern Market facility, the grandsons had some scrambling to do.

As the weeks of quarantine got longer, the Baratta crew started feeding their neighbors. Barbecue grills were firing up in backyards and driveways day and night. These guys weren't going to let their products go to waste and instantly the thought of going retail entered Emmet's mind. Then the vision went to paper. He called a meeting with his cousins and announced, "Guys, we're going retail!"

In June 2022, in a freshly built building on Mack Avenue, in the city that raised them, the Baratta boys opened Fairway Packing Steak Shop. Now, you and I can walk right in, any day of the week, and purchase the same top-quality meats the finest of restaurants serve — and so much more!

Displayed in the steak shop's state-of-the-art refrigerated coolers is every cut of meat you can think of — choice and prime meats to wagyu and Piedmontese.

The Steak Shop

HOLIDAY

GIFT GUIDE

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See FOOD, page 3C

Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Dealing with difficult aging parents

Dear Gabby: I've noticed my mom is having a harder time making decisions. I have tried to guide her with banking and estate planning needs, but sometimes I feel she thinks I am trying to take advantage. Do you have any resources or suggestions? — Truly Concerned

Dear Truly Concerned,

First, if it's becoming more difficult for your mom to make decisions, please be sure she is seen by her physician. There are several physical issues that can lead to intellectual difficul-

ties. A complete physical will help rule out causes. Then, if she is still having problems, her doctor can refer her to a specialist for follow-up assessments and treatment.

As to your concern about financial decisions, this is a common issue as a parent ages and it very often foreshadows an evolving role reversal as to the care needs between a parent and their child.

As a mother, she has been the one to provide care, comfort and advice to her daughter and now she is the one who needs that assis-

tance. Change is not easy for anyone.

The first step is patience and making sure your mom is part of the solution.

As to practical steps, seek the advice of an attorney who specializes in estate planning and/or elder law. In this type of situation, a parent often is more likely to take the advice of a professional easier than if the recommendation has come from their own child.

The attorney can recommend estate planning documents, such as powers of attorney, that could allow a child to assist with banking

and other financial matters. Usually, attorneys favor powers of attorney over adding a child as a joint owner. This is due to the fact that joint ownership can affect issues related to liability and control.

Joint ownership could also interfere with beneficiaries listed in your mom's last will and testament or living trust. The power of attorney can include provisions such as a monthly review of bank statements and an annual accounting.

These provisions also could reduce any issues from other family members who may be con-



cerned with your mom's financial affairs.

The team effort can be continued through a meeting with her banker, who can assist in implementing her estate planning documents and can provide guidance as to how best to safeguard her

accounts from scammers and predatory actions.

— Gabby

We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to advice@grossepointenews.com.

Managing my mother-in-law during the holidays

DEAR ANNIE: My significant other and I have been together for nearly 14 years. His mother is a huge issue in our relationship, and this past Thanksgiving was the worst.

He has been divorced from his first wife and mother of his 21-year-old daughter since before his daughter was 2 years old. His ex cheated on him prior to their marriage and during the marriage. This devastated him for years, especially after she

left him and took his daughter.

His mother, who presents herself as a good Christian, has always blamed him for the marriage ending, even though his ex cheated and left him.

On Thanksgiving, in front of the entire family, including his daughter, she said that she didn't blame the ex because he had "made a comment about an attractive actress on television when they

first were married."

How on earth does she find that comparable to someone cheating with your spouse's co-workers and your spouse's childhood best friends? Needless to say, it didn't end well, with my significant other slamming the door and leaving.

We are not looking forward to family Christmas with this woman! Help! How do you set boundaries with his mother and let her know that she isn't as perfect as she

thinks she is? There's so much going on here that I don't even know where to start. — SIGNIFICANT OTHER

DEAR SIGNIFICANT OTHER: The best way to set boundaries is to have a conversation with your mother-in-law before you are together in a big group. Even though you were upset by her very insensitive comments, she is still your husband's mother. You refer to her in your letter as

"this woman."

So it might be best if your husband were to sit down with his mother and calmly tell her how hurtful she was in blaming her own son, which does not do anyone any good. His ex-wife's infidelity likely caused their divorce, not his casual comment 20 years ago.

His mother's opinion is not only wrong, but it hurts everyone across the board. Her comments hurt her son, her grand-

daughter and you, her daughter-in-law. Perhaps she is not aware of how hurtful her comments are and needs to hear it from her son. If she gets defensive, then all you can do is understand that hurt people hurt people and she is not a happy person.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2023 CREATORS.COM.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

We Tried It!

by Hannah Lizer



Cloudies aren't quite as heavenly as promised

My cousin, Anna Lizer, recently overheard me say I wanted to try out a pair of Cloudies, a shoe-slipper combo that's everywhere on my social media feeds (our phones hear what we talk about, I'm pretty sure.) She went right out and bought me a pair. Immediately, she shot to the top of my favorite family member list.

Officially called "The Cloudies," these shoes du jour are touted as uber comfortable footwear that combine the concept of a Croc, the ease of a slipper and the laziness of an "I can wear these for a quick errand as long as not many people see me" type of energy.

Perfect, right? Especially when the company uses a tagline that tells you, "Say goodbye to rough slippers, hello to the softest on Earth."

The slippers, or shoe-slippers, or wait a minute: slippers? Whatever you want to call them, the website declares they will give you "THE SOFTEST STEP YOU'LL EVER TAKE, GUARANTEED." All caps. Now that's saying something.

"Our slippers are made with 1.8inch thick EVA material, known for its softness and durability," the website says. "These

slippers will mold to the shape of your foot, providing a customized and comfortable fit. You'll feel like you're walking on clouds. We guarantee they are the softest step you'll ever take."

The choices are endless both in styles and colors. There are kid's, men's and women's Cloudies and various styles coined Cozy Classic, Cozy Slides, Flip Flops, Slides, "Flummy" Slides, "Plushy," "Fur," mules, sandals and socks. Whew. Where to start?

Since I'm a big fan of my UGG brand "tasma" slippers (you will mistakenly show up at the grocery store with these on due to you forgetting you are wearing them because they are so comfortable), I wanted to give the closest equivalent in Cloudies called "Fur" a try.

I ordered a pair of size 7, pink Fur slippers. They were on sale for \$39.99 from its normal retail price of \$69.99. As I was making my selection, I read that these specific shoes will help me. "Take a step into heaven and

enjoy endless comfort for your feet. The Cloudies are soft, thick, and comfortable relieving your foot and joint pain. Wear them for 12+ hours without having any discomfort."

As someone who has experienced plantar fasciitis in both feet after having kids, a bunion and various and sundry aches and pains, I was pumped to get these. They arrived in pretty short order, I ripped open the package and put them on. They were wonderfully comfortable. This is so promising, I thought.

Then, I started walking in them. The shoes' top portion kept hitting the bottom part of my legs as I moved, uncomfortably so. Maybe I needed to go down in size? I'm not sure.

I continued to wear them over the course of the week, hoping to break them in and "get used to



That said, I would be interested in trying a different variation of Cloudies, because they do

both in styles and colors. 2.) There may have been a user error on my end in sizing. Even so, they are cushy and the outside is washable so they will stay clean. The Cloudies have a lot of good qualities overall. They are ugly-cute and sold at a good price point. And there's still a chance you will see me at Farms or Village Market rocking the pink Cloudies, with little to no shame. You'll just know that's because I couldn't find my UGGs.

You can find The look so darn comfortable. Maybe in a slide, a mule or a flip flop. I wish I could try on a size 6 in the Fur version, just to see if my theory is correct that I needed to go one size down, but at this point, I'm not going to waste the money on trial and error.

I give this a strong 3.5 alligators for two reasons: 1.) These have potential to be super comfy and have a lot of versatility

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.

3.5 Out Of 5



Budget friendly weeknight

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

This recipe is a perfect weeknight go to. It's easy to make and more importantly cheap to make, which is important in a house full of seven people.

The kids just keep getting bigger which means they eat a lot more. I went from doing a weekly grocery shop to going about four to five times a week. I can't keep up. So any budget friendly meal that I can come up with is a life saver.

Sausage and zucchini were the only ingredients that I had to buy and it fed everyone. To be honest, I'm the only one who really loves zucchini but I decided to make this anyway. And guess what, I had two out of six say I made this vegetable tolerable because I added sausage. I will take that compliment any day.

These "boats" are filled

with a sausage mixture that almost tastes like a meat sauce. I used pork sausage but turkey sausage would work really well, too.

The mixture is tossed with lots of fresh basil and a cheesy bread crumb mixture, then topped with more breadcrumbs and cheese. It's a fast bake in a hot oven.

This recipe is a nice break from the typical, heavy holiday food. Give it a try.

Cheers, Mombeau

Basil Bread Crumbs

½ cup seasoned bread crumbs

½ cup parmesan

¼ cup fresh chopped basil

In a small bowl add all ingredients and stir.

Stuffed Zucchini with Sausage

2 tbsp olive oil

½ chopped onion

2 minced garlic cloves

½ lb sweet Italian sausage

3 large zucchinis

2 tbsp tomato paste

¼ chopped basil

½ tsp, salt and pepper

Cut the zucchini in half. Use a spoon or melon baller to scoop out the seeds and as much as the yellow flesh as you can. Be careful not to break through the bottom or the sides. You want to create a boat. Roughly chop the center flesh and set aside.

Preheat the oven to 425. Add the sausage to



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

a skillet on medium heat. Use a spatula to break it up so there aren't any large chunks. After about five minutes, add in the onion, garlic and tomato paste. Incorporate everything together and then add in the zucchini pulp, chopped basil and pinch of salt and pepper. Stir everything together.

If there is extra liquid from the zucchini, that's good! It will absorb into the breadcrumbs.

Cook for about three minutes then turn the heat off. Add in half of the basil bread crumbs and give one final stir to combine. Fill each zucchini half with the mixture and don't be shy.

Place them in a large baking dish that has been brushed with 1 tbsp of olive oil. Lay each piece in and sprinkle the remaining breadcrumbs over the top. Drizzle the remaining olive oil over each one. Bake for 13-15 minutes or until the tops are golden brown and crispy.



Beaujolais

One of the world's forgotten wines, but a delightful diversion, is Beaujolais nouveau — that frivolous red wine that is almost like white wine with color.

For decades, Beaujolais in all its forms has been a multifaceted "little" wine and an all-purpose joy, praised for its versatility. As a light red, regular Beaujolais works with almost any food and has an uncomplicated personality that's easy to like.

But Beaujolais has three faces. It's either "nouveau," a chillable quaffer that comes out in

time for Thanksgiving meals. Or it's a light red that works nicely with light meals. Then there is the more serious cru Beaujolais, a deeply flavored cousin of Burgundy.

All are made from the gamay noir grape, and the wine rarely costs a lot; for decades it was the refuge of those on a budget. Even today, expensive cru Beaujolais are roughly \$25 to \$30 a bottle and at their best can offer seductive flavors for a fraction of what you'd pay for anything else with such breeding.

Regular Beaujolais is

even less expensive, at about \$12 to \$15.

Today we are seeing the release of the 2023 Beaujolais nouveau and 2021 regulars and crus. And one taste is all you need to determine how fun these wines are.

The Beaujolais with the greatest reputation are the crus, which come from one of 10 cru Beaujolais districts. A few of them (such as St. Amour, Chiroubles and Brouilly) are aimed at earlier consumption. Basically, you buy them and drink them soon with almost any food.

And it is one of the few reds that is fine to chill.

Another group of cru wines age nicely for three or four more years includes wines such as Morgon, Moulin-a-Vent and Julienas. Some actually are best after a decade.

Where Beaujolais nouveau is more for parties and instant quaffing,

the more "serious" cru wines are so deeply flavored that in some cases they seem to be baby Burgundies.

Some people drink Moulin-a-Vent and don't even know it is a Beaujolais. Indeed, in the unusually hot year of 2003 throughout Europe, some wines got so exotic that the wines were compared with Burgundy.

One of the delights in Beaujolais nouveau is that the main aromas are pretty much like biting into a grape. The fruit is worn on its sleeve, its juiciness is evident from the first whiff and the tannins in the wine are entirely from fruit. The wines aren't aged in small barrels, so there's no wood tannin.

At one time, a number of U.S. wineries made a gamay that was like Beaujolais nouveau, but the style went out of favor. One of the best decades ago was made by Napa producer

Charles Shaw, whose winery eventually closed. The name is now used by the Trader Joes chain of stores on several wines that have nothing to do with Beaujolais.

At least two dozen producers of Beaujolais bring wine into the United States. Today Trader Joe's is carrying two wines

from the largest producer of Beaujolais, Georges Dubouef.

No Wine of the Week.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2023 CREATORS.COM.

FOOD:

Continued from page 1C

They offer burgers, Italian sausage, chicken, pork chops, hotdogs and seafood, too. In one corner of the shop is an extensive wine wall, which includes a variety to choose from to pair well with your cuts of choice. Speaking of cuts, they also carry their favorite steak knives and grilling utensils for all your needs, as well as seasonings, rubs, cutting, and charcuterie boards, too. Now this is a place to do your Christmas shopping! This holiday season,

Fairway has some excellent gift giving packages. A standing rib roasts package of four, six boneless ribeye roasts, half or whole. Two beef tenderloins, ready to roast! They even have the holiday favorite, Dearborn Spiral Hams.

The sampler packs are my personal favorite. A taste of the most popular items! Starting at \$139, you will get two filet mignon, three chophouse burgers, two ribeyes, 2 New York strips...and the best seasoning salt there ever was! I use it on everything! Choice, Prime, Wagyu, and Piedmontese package

price points to make your choice easy. These packages are available for pre-order through Dec. 20 with a pick up date of Dec. 22, so get those orders in soon! View all these juicy options by clicking the link in bio on their social media pages, or call direct at (313)-332-5114.

If none of these options fit your liking or budget, you can build your own gift package in store. Nash & Giulia are on hand to help you pick out the perfect items! And hey, if you don't know what to choose, a gift card is always a great idea.

Visit them seven days a week at 20877 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Always check their social media pages for weekly specials like BOGO burgers and my favorite, "Victory Monday" after a Lions win: 10 percent off. Go Lions!

There's never a dull moment with the Baratta boys. You have my word on that. They stand by their products and love the community that made them succeed in carrying on their family name and legacy. Now get those Christmas standing rib roasts ordered.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



Come in for Yellow Belly PERCH DINNER
includes fries, cole slaw or salad and a warm roll

PHILLY CHEESE STEAK SANDWICH
Swiss Cheese, peppers & onions

Kennedy's **IRISH COFFEE BAR & GRILL** EST. 1980

Delivery available through DoorDash, Grubhub and UberEats.

ATTENTION!! OPEN SUNDAYS NOON - 11PM
Come watch the **LIONS Game!!!**
\$5 BURGERS! 12PM - 4PM

18666 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms

CALL for CARRY-OUT SEE MENU

313-881-5675

Fairway Packing Steak Shop Events

Fairway Packing Steak Shop offers classes for up to 12 people, so grab some foodie friends and sign up online. But hurry: They sell out quickly. Guests of any class get 10 percent off of their shopping that evening.



- **Sous vide** — Participants of this class learn the process of this form of steak preparation and cooking. Along with the class itself, a wine sampling is included for \$75. You can purchase a sous vide machine while you're there.

- **Steak & Wine Pairing** — This class, which takes place Jan. 17, allows participants to sample specific cuts of meats and the best wines that pair with them perfectly. Not too shabby for \$100.

- You can also host your own private party at the shop. Wine tasting ladies night anyone?

Grosse Pointe Theatre's - Youth on Stage presents

Annie JR.

December 15-17, 2023

Sensory Performance Saturday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. Tickets at gpt.org/sensory

Pierce Middle School Auditorium
15430 Kercheval Ave, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

For Tickets - gpt.org/annie or call 313-881-4004

Annie Jr. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All Authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI • www.mtishows.com

GROSSE POINTE GIFTING



GIFTING

We certainly never tire of celebrating all the ways that the Grosse Pointes are uncommonly special and noteworthy. As Christmas draws ever closer, it seemed the perfect time to scour our incredible local shops for holiday gifts that are unique to the Pointes in the most interesting, heartwarming and fun ways. These gifts will bring a smile to anyone who lives, works or plays in the marvelous Pointes, the place we call home.



BUMPER LOVE

Beep, beep! **SMALL FAVORS** GP bumper sticker is a cool stocking stuffer or a great little gift to insert in a holiday greeting card. Appreciate the value of someone special's car with this great little gift.



THE KEY TO THE CITY

NEWPORT GP, "brother" store to Village Palm, has become a Grosse Pointe favorite for menswear and more. This cool 313 embroidered keychain makes a great gift or stocking stuffer for the guy on your list who hasn't forgotten where he comes from. Shop **NEWPORT GP** for high-quality gifts they'll adore – for men and more.



POSTER POWER

For the poster or art aficionado, this charming Grosse Pointe poster, above, from the **POSTERITY GALLERY** is a shoo-in for favorite gift! Local buildings are hand-drawn in inks and watercolors in precious detail with a folksy feel that will warm the chilliest heart. You can also get it framed at the gallery to make it an extra special gift.



MICHIGAN, ON A PLATTER!

SMALL FAVORS has a great selection of local-themed gifts to choose from. Female-founded, owned and operated for over 15 years, **SMALL FAVORS** offers everything from the perfect hostess gifts, baby gifts and Michigan-made treats and treasures. This beautiful serving platter, left, makes every gathering just a bit more special for guests and family.



DECKER THE HALLS

A **DECKER DESIGN STUDIO** has teamed up with **PARIS WEST** to create a throw blanket that elevates home decor to the next level. Alex Decker brings her love of bold and bright colors to Paris West's iconic Checker-Gingham Throw to create a fresh new twist on this best selling piece for the home.

This custom project is a new frontier for both parties – and is an exceptional way to add even more of an interior designer's touch to the look of your decor.

The lovely throws are made in the Midwest, from 100% royal baby alpaca, just like all of Paris West's beautiful, sustainable heirloom-quality soft goods. The buttery, silky soft feel of their throws has customers saying they are "luxury to wrap yourself in." Who wouldn't want THAT for Christmas?

For more exciting and attractive designer goods – the duo also has a collection with Shinola Hotel and Shinola Home.

For a holiday gift that is practical as well as beautiful, you can't give anything finer for the home than these conversation-starting throws with real local appeal.

Wrap up your shopping by wrapping loved ones in stylish warmth this season.



THE SCENT OF HOME

SMALL FAVORS is a specialty gift boutique that Grosse Pointers know and love. With a wide variety of gift items from home goods to milestone keepsakes, this shop has it all. Like the Home, Sweet Home scented candle, left, by Ella B, labeled with our hometown name, the gifts are personal, high-quality and memorable. Happy shopping, Grosse Pointe!



GIFTS FROM THE HE(ART)

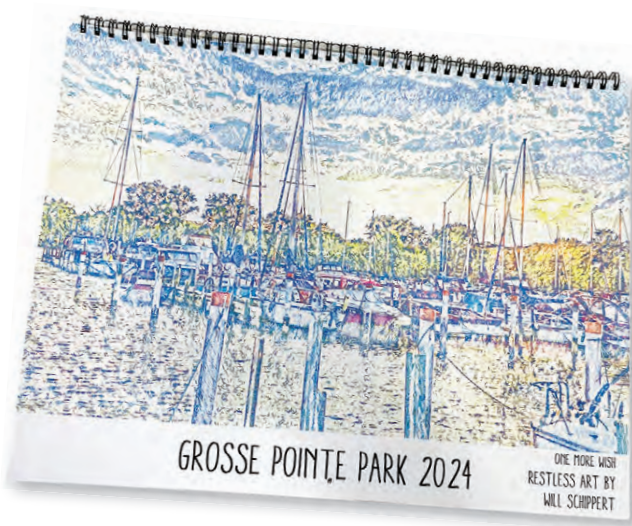
POSTERITY GALLERY has a mission. That mission is to promote engagement in the community through art, from exhibitions of local artists to the groundbreaking Art Takeover Project, launched in 2023. Check out some of their amazing gift ideas! Each one brings local beauty, quality art and a warm feel for community into your home.



COAST ALONG TO SOME FAMILIAR PLACES

Gift someone with exquisite taste this lovely War Memorial tile/coaster, above left, from **POSTERITY GALLERY**. The tile is based on a painting of the beloved landmark and adds a charming bit of history to the decor.

Everyone loves elegant souvenirs of home like these beautiful Detroit and Michigan tiles/coasters, above and below. Each one portrays a familiar and well-loved scene of the places we call home. It's fun to hand-pick each tile with a special person in mind for whom the gift would be a personal and special reminder of a favorite place. All from **POSTERITY GALLERY**.



A YEAR OF BEAUTY

The stunning 2024 calendar, left, features paintings of local scenes by artist and Grosse Pointe native, Will Schippert. Available at **POSTERITY GALLERY**, this gorgeous calendar will delight your family every month, all year. It's a perfect gift for neighbors and friends that honors our beautiful community landmarks and treasures.



NEED TO ZIP OFF A FEW NOTES?



Leave it to **THE LEAGUE SHOP** to stock this cute 48230/48236 stationery, above. Ribbioned notepads feature the famous GP ZIP code that's even better than Beverly Hills! A great party favor or gift for your card group, book club or your children's teachers, this cute stationery has the familiar signature colors to boot. It's a little something fun to merry up the season even more. Make a note of it!



READING TO RIESLING

FLYLEAF is an intimate gathering place filled with great coffee, delightful fare, top-notch libations and a thoughtfully curated selection of books. Flyleaf's Grosse Pointe tote bag is a fantastic gift designed to be roomy – with space for everything a great day might bring. Visit for ideal gifts that will charm your book and wine lovers.



SHOUT OUT LOVE FOR THE POINTES WITH SIGNATURE CITY CLOTHING AND GEAR



THE CAMPUS SHOP is your one-stop shop for all things Grosse Pointe. Give Camper Dan a shout for the best gifts – hoodies, t-shirts, sweatpants and more.



The heather and blue GP sweatshirt, will become a closet staple for comfort and fun. GP logo cap, below left, is a must-have for every sporty Grosse Pointer. **THE CAMPUS SHOP** has a great selection of hats and other Grosse Pointe wearables. It's one gift that's a sure thing under the tree.



TIE UP A GREAT GIFT!

THE LEAGUE SHOP has the ideal tie for the loyal Grosse Pointer. These beautiful silk ties in green or navy feature an embroidered logo that tells just how you feel. Makes a wonderful gift for your favorite fella.



MERRY PINK-NESS

Unique winter activewear for men and women can be found at **CORNER ACTIVE & LEISURE**. The store carries elevated leisure clothing with a polished edge that will make everyone look their best in the new year. The Grosse Pointe sweatshirt, hat and pouch, below, make an adorable trio of gifts for your favorite lady, BFF, sis, mom, auntie and more. Give them a fresh look for working out – or running around the Pointes.



PREPPY NEW YEAR!

No matter the time of year, **VILLAGE PALM** has a little something for anyone and everyone on your list. The store is known for its overall preppy factor, adding some beloved pink and green GP love to the neighborhood. They carry a wide variety of brands such as Lilly Pulitzer, Sail to Sable, Stoney Clover Lane, Hanky Panky, and many more. The navy Grosse Pointe crewneck sweatshirt, above, totally belongs in her closet.



WEARIN' THE PANTS

For her: pink sweats that show her true colors and a little old fashioned Grosse Pointe pride. She'll jog, lounge or sleep in style with a little help from **THE CAMPUS SHOP**.

A stroll through **THE CAMPUS SHOP** during the holidays is a real treat. You never know what you'll find – but you know it will be special – as well as something that will be well-utilized and treasured. Make her day with something fun!



SIP ON A MUGFUL OF LOVE

If you are lucky enough to know that "someone in Grosse Pointe loves you," **SMALL FAVORS** has just the ticket to help you celebrate that fact. A great gift for the kids, spouse or anyone you truly love and want them to know it. The attractive and sturdy mug has a large easy-grip handle and holds your coffee, tea or Christmas cocoa in loving style. Make someone smile!



FILL YOUR HOLIDAY WITH LOCAL STYLE

THE CAMPUS SHOP has a tee for those who love the 313. Touch the heart of the trendy guy or gal on your list with a cool shirt or other 313 gear from everyone's favorite graphic wear store – **THE CAMPUS SHOP**



A LITTLE PIECE OF HOME

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED carries Whistling Frog destination tiles, like "Lake St. Clair" and "Grosse Pointe," both of which show a beautiful lake vista familiar to Michiganders and Grosse Pointers alike. **WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED** was named a Grosse Pointe News Best of the Best winner for "Best Place to Buy Michigan Gifts," several years in a row. Check them out for unique local gift ideas.

THE GIFT THAT GIVES ALL YEAR

There's always that hard-to-shop-for person who has everything. What to buy them? The **GROSSE POINTE NEWS** is one easy idea that will have them thinking about you every week for a year! For under \$50, your dad, mom, grandparents, boss or friend will be thanking you often as they enjoy keeping up with the community and savoring local stories that bring smiles. Comes with a gift certificate for wrapping.



TINY BUNDLE

SMALL FAVORS is on Kercheval in the Village, so it's a convenient place to start your holiday shopping. This oh-so-sweet baby onesie is a precious pick from grandma to their little cherub, to remind him or her that local love surrounds them.



GIFT SOME LITTLE LOVE NOTES

Every visit to **SMALL FAVORS** is a chance to discover new and unique gifts and goodies that make perfect gifts for every occasion.



These adorable note pads, above and right, are cute holiday tokens or stocking stuffers for everyone special to you. Group them with a nice pen or journal and you have a lovely and personal gift for a favorite person.

WHERE TO SHOP:

A Decker Design
 (313) 655-1700
 email: alex@deckerdesign.com
 adeckerdesign.com
 Instagram: @deckerdesign

The Campus Shop
 17114 Kercheval Avenue
 Grosse Pointe
 campusshopusa.com
 Instagram: @thecampusshop

Corner Active & Leisure
 15124 Kercheval Ave.
 Grosse Pointe Park
 (313) 821-4941
 Instagram: @thecornerstudiogp

Flyleaf
 92 Kercheval Ave.
 Grosse Pointe Farms
 (313) 771-5544
 flyleafgp.com
 Instagram: @flyleafgp

Grosse Pointe News
 16980 Kercheval Place
 Grosse Pointe
 (313) 882-6900
 grossepointenews.com
 Instagram: @grossepointenews

The League Shop, Inc.
 16847 Kercheval Ave.
 Grosse Pointe
 (313) 882-6880
 theleagueshop.com
 Instagram: @theleagueshopgp

Newport
 17133 Kercheval Ave.
 Grosse Pointe
 (313) 882-7256
 Instagram: @newport_gp

Posterity Art & Framing
 17005 Kercheval Ave.
 Grosse Pointe
 (313) 884-8105
 posterityartgallery.com
 Instagram: @posterityartgallery

Small Favors
 17112 Kercheval Ave.
 Grosse Pointe
 (313) 882-1774
 shopsmallfavors.com
 Instagram: @smallfavorsgp

Village Palm
 17131 Kercheval Avenue
 Grosse Pointe
 (313) 882-7256 (PALM)
 shopvillagepalm.com
 Instagram: @villagepalm

Wild Birds Unlimited
 20381 Mack Ave.
 Grosse Pointe Woods
 (313) 881-1410
 wildbirdsgpw.com
 Instagram: @wildbirdsunlimited





PHOTOS COURTESY OF CG CINEMA, NEUE BIOSKOP FILM AND SCOPE PICTURES

Mia Wasikowska as Amy in a contemplative mood in the 2021 movie "Bergman Island," directed by Mia Hansen-Love.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Bergman Island"
 2021 - Rated R
 1 hr 52 min
 ★★★★★

Ingmar Bergman is a towering figure in 20th century filmmaking. I saw my first Bergman movie "The Seventh Seal" back in a film class in high school. In it, a knight plays chess with the Grim Reaper and it's a cinematic treatise on the meaning of life, death, and the very existence of God. Pretty heady stuff for a teenager. Over the years, I've seen many of his works, and have to say, a good deal of his movies are subtle, dark, and yes, somewhat depressing at times. But they're definitely worth watching.

In the 1960s, Bergman moved to Faro, a harshly beautiful island off the coast of Sweden in the Baltic Sea. He lived and worked there until his death in 2007, and he made many of his more popular films on the island. It's also the setting for this fascinating film from French writer and director Mia Hansen-Love.

Chris (Vicky Krieps) and Tony (Tim Roth) are filmmakers who travel to Faro for a working vacation. Tony is an established writer/director, while the younger Chris' career is just getting started. The couple rent Bergman's home, hoping it inspires them in their endeavors. When the caretaker gives them a

tour of the place, she mentions that Bergman filmed "Scenes from a Marriage" there, which ended up causing millions of couples to get divorced. You immediately think this just might be a bad omen for the two.

They quickly settle into the slow pace of island life. Tony works in the main house while Chris ends up in the studio in the converted windmill on the property. That's where she attempts to work through a writer's block on her new screenplay. Naturally, they visit the Bergman Center, which showcases the master's films and has an extensive gift shop — something Bergman himself would find quite amusing. Tony is invited to screen one of his own films, and after a Q&A, adoring fans mob him, looking for autographs. You get the sense that, even though she never admits it, Chris is slightly jealous of his fame.

The couple makes plans to take the "Bergman Safari" which is a guided tour on a bus. As absurd as it sounds, it's apparently a real thing. Tony ends up going by himself while Chris hooks up with a young film student, who gives her his own personal tour of his favorite Bergman spots. The couple have a great time in each others company, and even though you suspect they'll get romantically involved, their relationship remains strictly platonic.

About half way into the

movie, Chris admits she's at an impasse in writing her new film. When prodded, she gives Tony the details of the story. It's here where "Bergman Island" gets interesting. We now follow her story of Amy (Mia Wasikowska), a young filmmaker who travels to Faro for a friend's wedding. There she reconnects with an old flame Joseph (Anders Danielsen Lie). The two were a hot item in their teens and early 20s, but both have moved on. It's a fascinating story within a story, and in many ways proves more interesting than that of Chris and Tony.

Amy has a young child who's left in the care of her mother while she attends the wedding. Just as Chris has left her own daughter behind. I read that Ms. Hansen-Love was also in a relationship with an older man, the well-known French director Olivier Assayas. So if you think about it, it's a story, within a story, within a story. Go figure!

I haven't seen a Bergman film in years, but I still recognized several locations that were used in his movies. The desolate, barren island features some dramatic rock formations and beautiful, sand-swept beaches. Even if you've never seen one of his movies, I think you'll appreciate this Bergman-influenced film. The cinematography is first rate. And the score is wonder-

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



ful as well. It's full of liting melodies mainly performed on harp with the occasional hint of bagpipes, which creates a Celtic mood — a perfect accompaniment to the lonely, Nordic scenery.

other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

About this column:

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

They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well.

For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](https://www.moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any



Vicky Krieps as Chris and Tim Roth as Tony discuss their projects.



Amy, played by Mia Wasikowska and Joseph, played by Anders Danielsen Lie, take the ferry to Faro.



Amy (Wasikowska) and Joseph (Lie) chilling.



Amy (Wasikowska) cutting loose at the wedding



Cookies with Santa

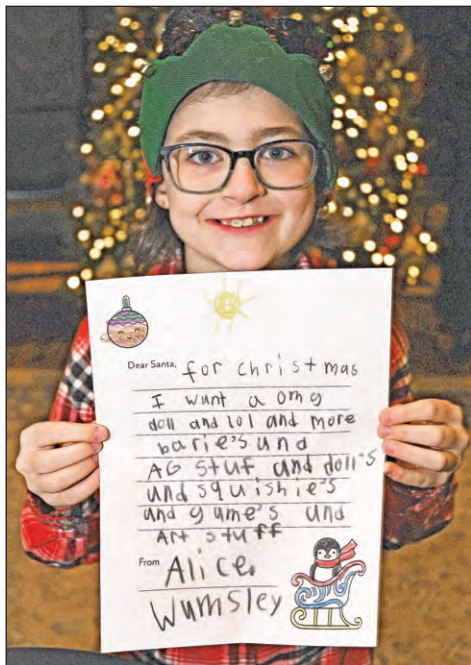
Photo story by Renee Landuyt

Ford House began its Cookies with Santa program Saturday, Dec. 2, during which the Jolly Old Elf makes his annual stop to visit local children. While waiting, youngsters can write letters to Santa, then visit with him and Mrs. Claus fireside. After sharing what's on their list, Santa will give each child a cookie to take home.

King Laws put his letter in Santa's mailbox, just like Santa instructed him to do after Laws visited with the Clauses.



Gina Morasso went right to Mrs. Claus's lap and was mesmerized when she read the letter Morasso wrote.



Alice Wamsley holds up the letter she wrote to Santa while waiting her turn to see him.



Cora Weiss listens as Santa reads aloud her letter, which contains her Christmas wish list.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Capricorn.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 14, 2023:

Your flamboyance can call attention to you. You are a philosophical truth-seeker. You have given to others this year. In 2024, you will take time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. You will explore philosophies that get you closer to the true meaning of your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Today you will make a great impression on parents, bosses, VIPs and the police -- all authority figures in your life. In fact, this could lead to a sudden boost in your income. Gifts and favors might come your way. It's a good day to seek a loan or ask for help from others. Tonight: You're noticed!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Unexpected opportunities to travel might fall in your lap today. Likewise, a surprise chance to take a course or learn something new might be an exciting opportunity for you. Meanwhile, relations with people who are "different" or from another culture or a different country are warm and rewarding. Tonight: Explore!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Issues related to your job, your health or your pet will be positive today, although full of surprises. Something unexpected will please you. You might even receive a gift or practical or financial assistance from a partner or a third party. A work-related romance might begin. Tonight: Check your finances.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

This is definitely a romantic, flirtatious day for many of you. Admiration from an unexpected source could be thrilling. (It also might catch you off guard.) Meanwhile, surprise invitations to social events, sports outings and the arts will please you. Children also might surprise you. Tonight: Listen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

This is a social, fun-loving time for you. And today, you might spontaneously entertain at home. Be smart and stock the fridge so you have the option of inviting people over or responding to people who show up on your doorstep. Surprising news from a boss or parent also might occur. Tonight: Work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Romantic connections in person or online will be titillating today. All kinds of possibilities are percolating for you. Unexpected invitations might come your way. If so, you will have to act fast, because this window of opportunity is brief. Enjoy your day! Tonight: Socialize.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is a good day for family discussions with a parent or a female relative. In particular, you might discuss financial matters or how to take care of something that you own. You might be able to wrap up something that has been problematic. Someone might even repay a loan. Tonight: Cocoon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your social skills are tops today, which is why you're in a flirtatious, friendly mood. Nevertheless, someone close to you might do or say something that catches you off guard. Expect a few surprises. Enjoy seeing new places

and meeting new faces. Tonight: Learn something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Business and commerce are favored today; however, there is an unstable element present. Things might happen quickly or in an unexpected way. If you perceive an opportunity, act fast, because your window of opportunity will be brief. Tonight: Check your belongings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with fair Venus and unpredictable Uranus. This means you will enjoy schmoozing with friends and groups. However, something might catch you off guard. Hopefully it's a surprise invitation. Parents should be vigilant about their kids. Tonight: You're strong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Something going on behind the scenes might catch you off guard today. Fortunately, it will probably promote your good name among your peers. You look good now, because fair Venus is at the top of your chart. No doubt others will ask you for advice. Tonight: Privacy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Flirtatious vibes are in the air today, and for some, a platonic friendship could turn romantic. Meanwhile, sudden opportunities to travel might fall in your lap. You also might unexpectedly entertain at home. Surprising news from a friend or a group might also be an eye-opener for you. Tonight: Socialize.

BORN TODAY

Actress Vanessa Hudgens (1988), actress Natascha McElhone (1969), actor, comedian Ted Raimi (1965).

Contract Bridge

STRUCTURAL VISUALIZATION

South dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 10 8 4
 ♥ A K 6 2
 ♦ K 7 5
 ♣ 10 7 2

WEST **EAST**
 ♠ K Q J 6 5 2 ♠ 3
 ♥ J 5 ♥ 10 9 3
 ♦ J 9 ♦ Q 10 4 3 2
 ♣ J 5 3 ♣ A 9 8 6

SOUTH
 ♠ A 9 7
 ♥ Q 8 7 4
 ♦ A 8 6
 ♣ K Q 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

Opening lead — king of spades.

You run into good, bad and average bridge players wherever you go. Some bid well and play their cards badly; others bid badly and play their cards well; some bid and play well; others bid and play badly.

The South in this deal was obviously from the group that plays their cards well. We wouldn't know how to classify his bidding from just this one hand — all he did was to open one notrump — but he certainly displayed a fair amount of skill in the play after a Stayman

sequence landed him in four hearts.

South took West's king-of-spades lead with the ace, played a heart to the king and a low club back. East followed low, and South won with the king. After cashing the Q-A of hearts, declarer led another club from dummy, East taking the ace and returning a club to South's queen.

Declarer still had three tricks to lose — two spades and a diamond — but by this time he was certain he could avoid the loss of one of them and so make the contract.

He knew East had no more spades; otherwise, East would have returned a spade rather than a club after taking the ace. West's hand therefore became an open book. He had started with six spades and had already shown up with two hearts and three clubs. Hence, he could not have been dealt more than two diamonds.

So, South cashed the A-K of diamonds and led a spade. West took his two spade tricks but then had to yield a ruff-and-discard, handing South the contract.

Note that South could have placed East in a similar position by leading a third diamond rather than a spade at the critical moment. It would then have been East rather than West who would have been forced to yield the fatal ruff-and-discard.

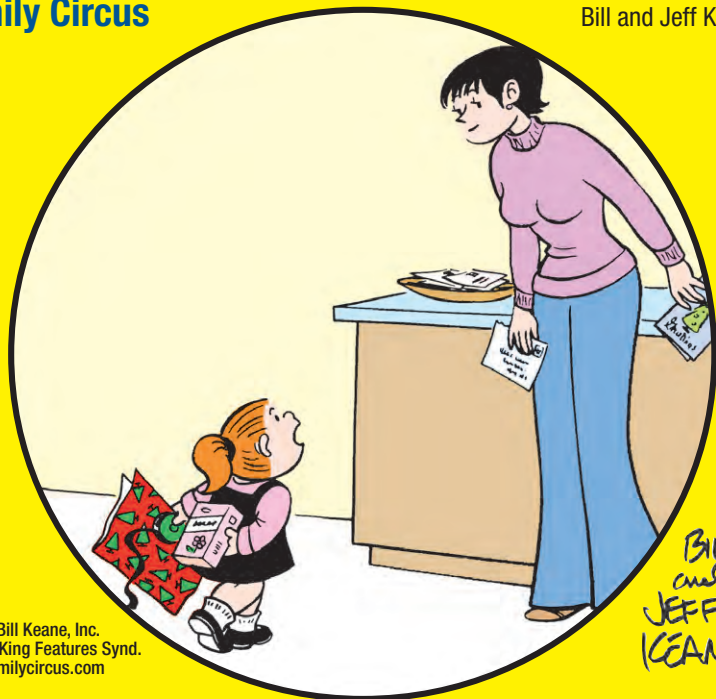
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"Can you gift-wrap something with your eyes closed? It's for you."

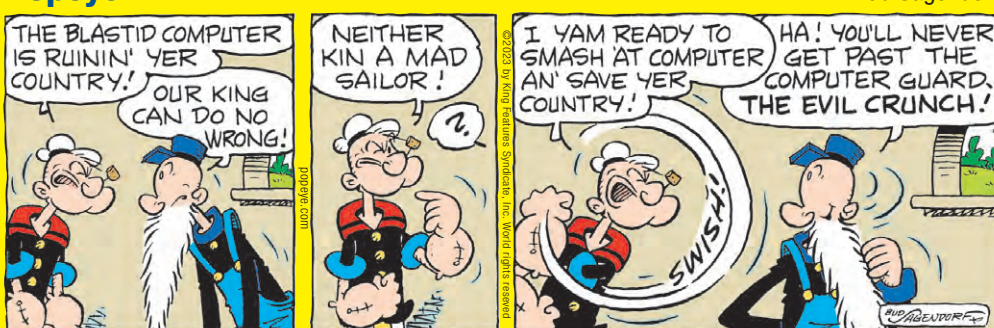
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



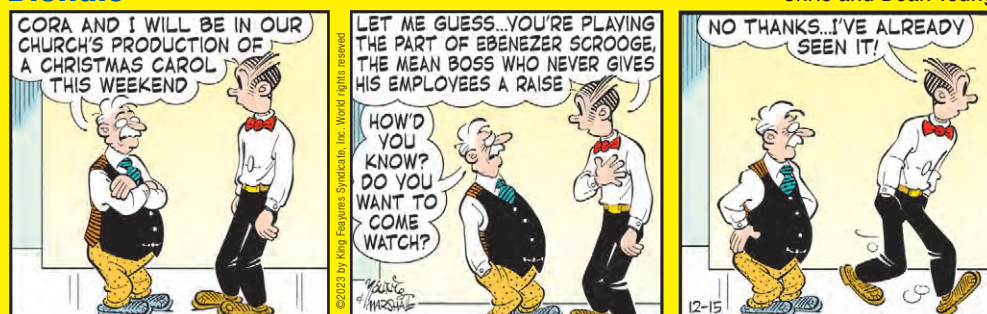
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



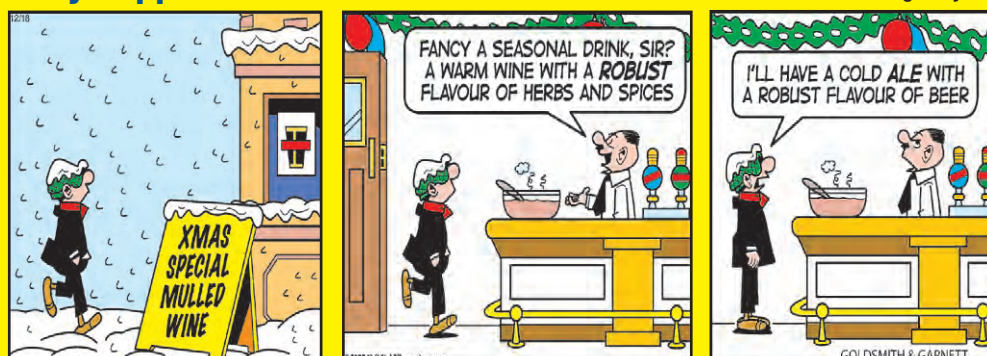
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



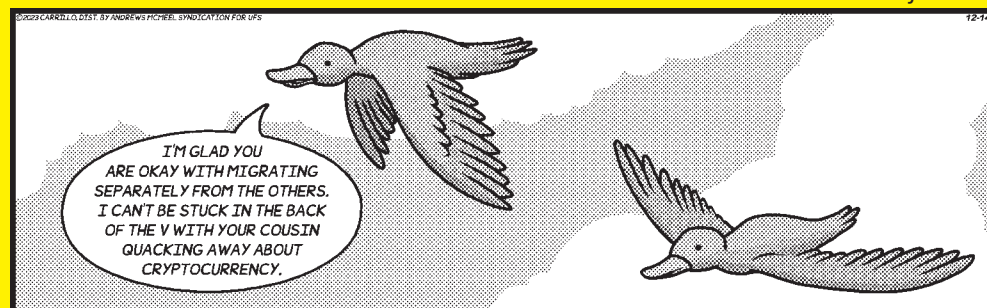
Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/07

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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11/30 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 14, 2023

ACROSS

- 1 Help illegally
- 5 Outback bird
- 8 "Your work is amazing!"
- 14 Actor Auberjonois
- 15 Jay-Z's genre
- 16 Manage somehow
- 17 "King or queen, e.g. COVID vaccine producer
- 20 Scent
- 21 "It's open!"
- 23 Color on 74% of world flags
- 24 Sgt., e.g.
- 26 Actress Stubbs of "Sherlock"
- 27 See
- 36-Across
- 30 One of many in the Sistine Chapel
- 32 "A fitted one is hard to fold"
- 34 Personal preferences
- 36 27-Across addresses
- 37 Midwestern clock setting ... and a hint to what can follow the start and precede the end of each starred clue's answer
- 40 Release, as a song
- 42 Parmesan relative
- 43 "Occasion to hire a babysitter"
- 46 Bit of progress

- 50 Muscles worked by crunches
- 51 Run smoothly
- 52 "Mr. Blue Sky" grp.
- 53 TSA
- 54 Check
- 56 Enduring aspect of one's life
- 58 Baptism and others
- 58 Like Stephen Sondheim and Ira Gershwin
- 61 "Assist on 'Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?'"
- 63 Response to "Look at that!"
- 64 Prefix meaning "one"
- 65 Claudius: "Hamlet" :: "The Lion King"
- 66 Gorgon defeated by Perseus
- 67 ___ roll (Asian food)
- 68 Aide: Abbr.

- 7 Bridal hairstyle, perhaps
- 8 Loom
- 9 Some crime families
- 10 Similar (to)
- 11 Tasseled cap
- 12 Summer drink suffix "... do I!"
- 13 Dance associated with the Moulin Rouge
- 22 Alternative to oatmeal
- 25 \$200, for the world's most expensive fries
- 27 "When We ___ Young"
- 28 Slippery swimmer
- 29 "Dynamite" group
- 31 NBA star Curry
- 32 Beauty's counterpart
- 33 Funny business? Therapy topic
- 35 Pieces of a machine
- 37 Turn ___ (flee)
- 38 Pay no mind
- 40 Evidence at some trials
- 41 Tease
- 44 Postgraduate's project
- 45 Should, informally
- 47 PR team's concern
- 48 Game sites
- 49 Painted or Mojave
- 52 Looking at
- 54 Stead
- 55 Detective's lead
- 57 Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
- 58 Captain Kirk, to Dr. McCoy
- 59 Opposite of WNW
- 60 Marry
- 62 Seedy fruit

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

12/7 Solution

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12/14

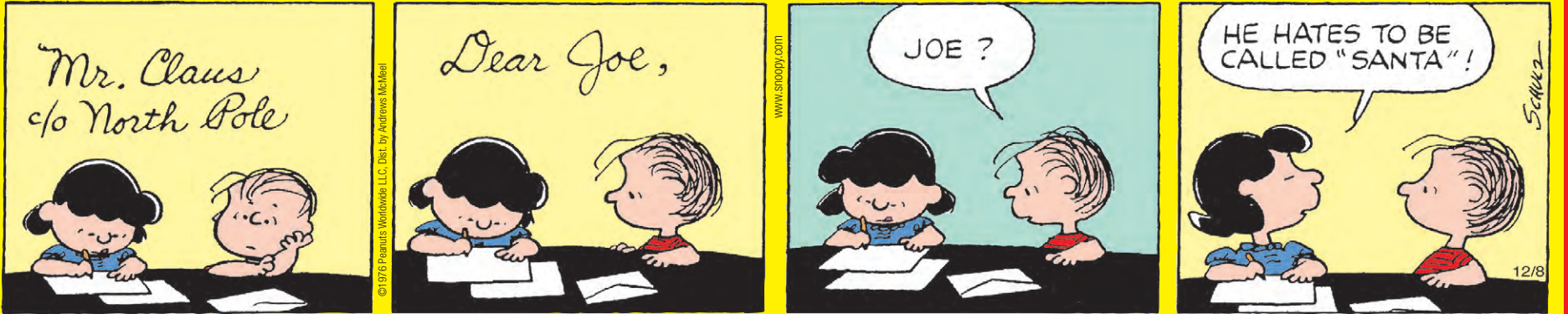
Before and After by Emma Oxford

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17			18					19					
20					21		22						
23			24	25			26			27	28	29	
30			31				32			33			
			34			35				36			
			37						38	39			
40	41					42							
43				44	45				46		47	48	49
50				51					52			53	
				54					55			56	57
58	59	60						61		62			
63								64				65	
66								67				68	

Comics

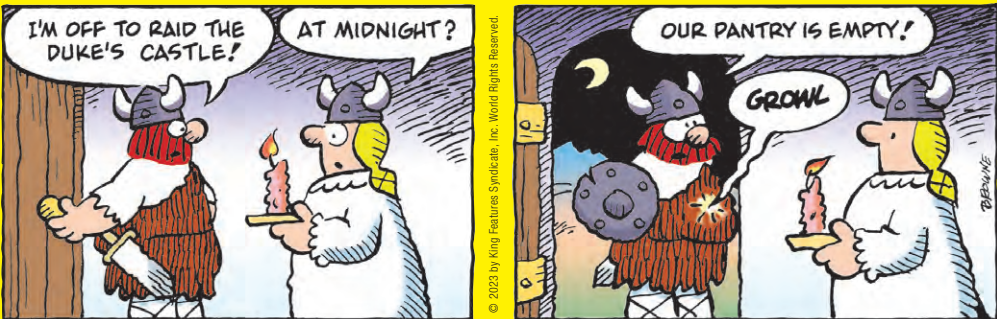
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



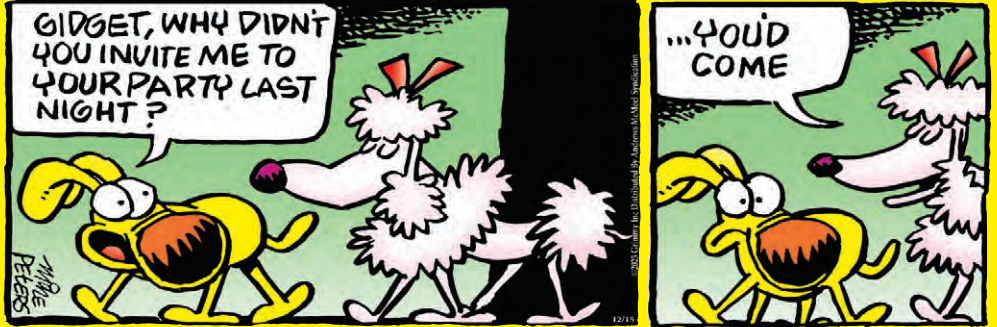
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



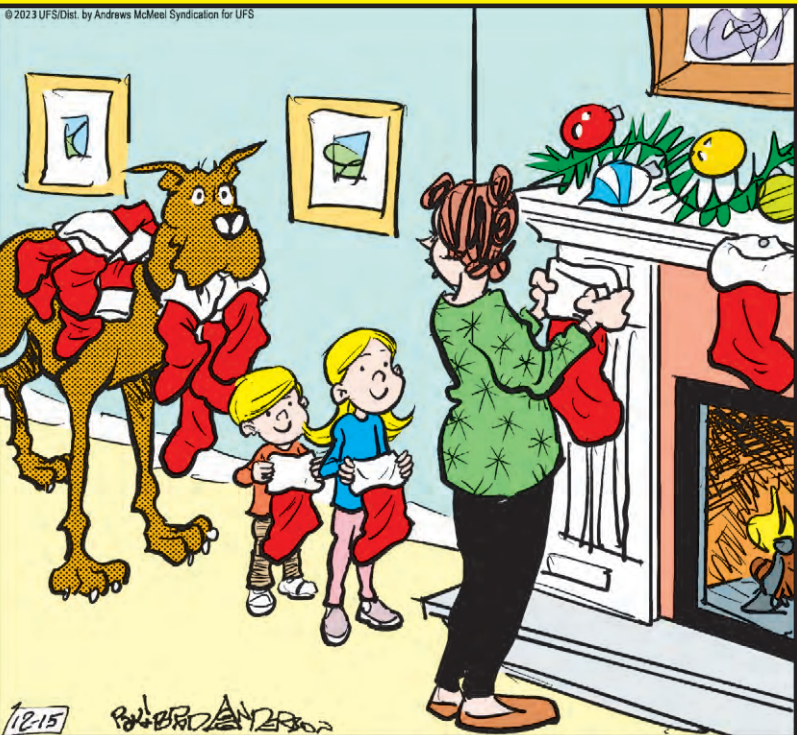
Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"You may have four paws, but you still get only one stocking."

Kid Scoop .com



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Kid Scoop Together:

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and circle the **eight errors** you find. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below the article.

Hockey!

How many silly things can you find in this hockey scene?



Swish, click, swoosh. Swish, click. Click! Click! CLACK! "GOAL!"

These are the lively sounds of a hockey game!

Who were the first people to play hockey? No one knows for

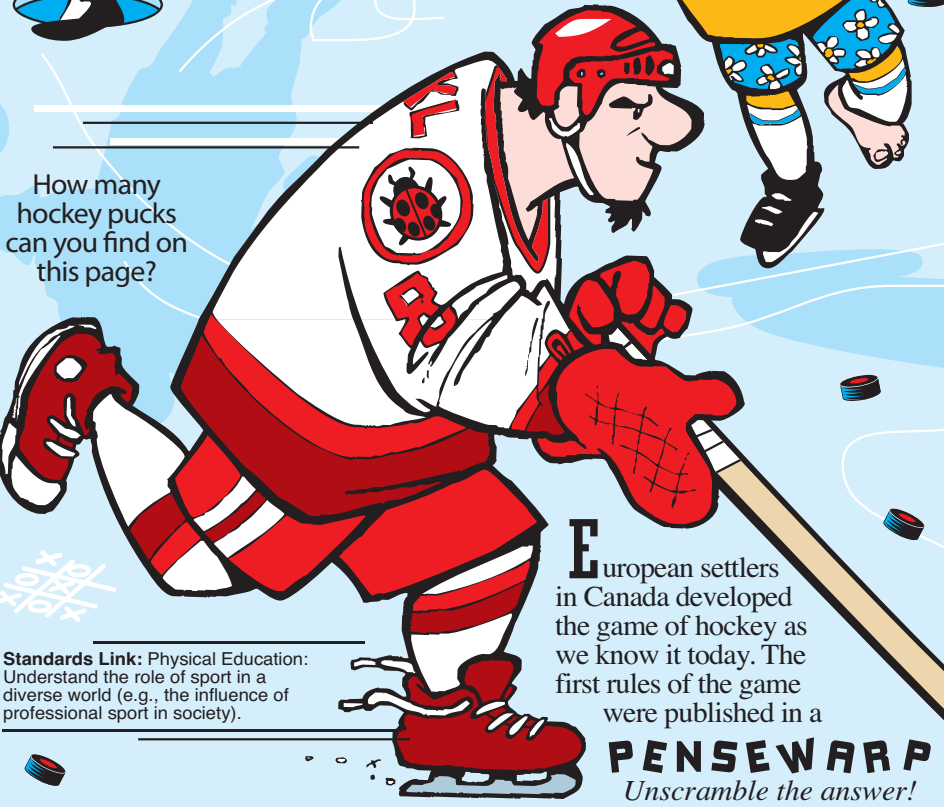
sure. But for hundreds of years, kids have been sliding stones and other objects across ice with sticks and tree branches. Over the years, in different parts of Europe, a variety of games played on ice with sticks and sliding objects were created.

WHACK!

A hockey puck slammed into the article about pucks, scattering the letters a, b and c. Can you put them all back where they belong?

Ho_key pu_ks weren't _lw_ys m_de of _l_ _k ru_ _er like they _re tod_y. The e_rly pu_ks were pro_ _ _ly _ _lls, _ut other obje_ts, su_h _s stones, lumps of _o_l, or frozen _ow or horse poop were _lso used. Wooden pu_ks were used for m_ny ye_rs. Mothers sometimes put hot _ _ked pot_toes into their _hildren's sk_tes so th_t the sk_tes would _e_ozy _nd w_rm when the _hildren re_ _hed the rink or pond. The pot_toes were not thrown _w_y. They eventu_lly froze and were used _s pu_ks. Although ru_ _er w_s invented in 1939, it w_sn't until the l_te 1880s th_t someone thought of m_king ru_ _er pu_ks.

How many hockey pucks can you find on this page?



European settlers in Canada developed the game of hockey as we know it today. The first rules of the game were published in a

PENSEWARP

Unscramble the answer!

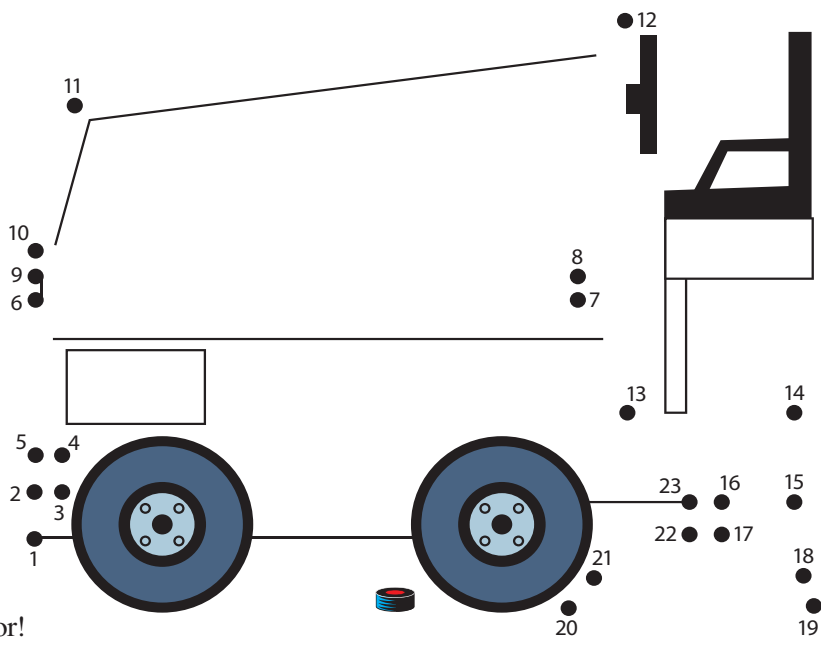
Source: Backcheck: Hockey for Kids Library and Archives Canada

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the role of sport in a diverse world (e.g., the influence of professional sport in society).

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Ice hockey players push off and skate in bursts of speed up to 30 miles per hour! These quick starts, stops and turns chew up the ice very quickly.

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Extra! Extra!

Hockey Words

Look through today's newspaper for words that go with the game of hockey. The words can be nouns, verbs or adjectives. Put the words in ABC order.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing. Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

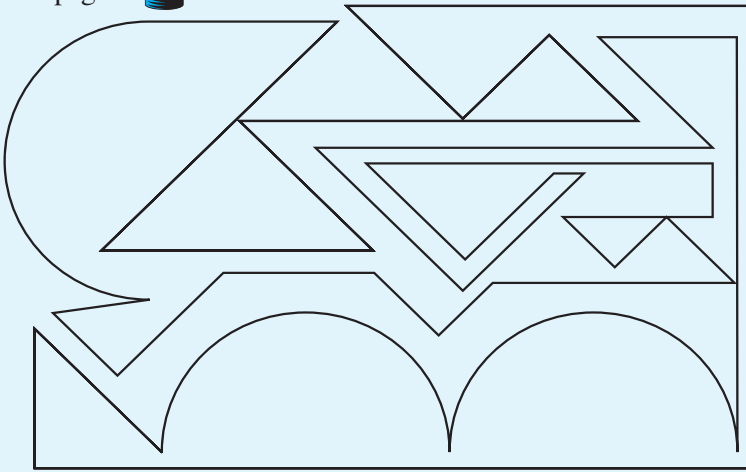
Standards Link: Writing: Use strategies to edit written work.

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Kid Scoop Puzzler

Icy Art Can you redraw the pattern a skater left on the ice without crossing over any lines or removing your pencil from the page?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- HOCKEY
- STICKS
- PUCKS
- ZAMBONI
- PENCIL
- INVENTOR
- POTATOES
- COZY
- SKATES
- GAME
- RINK
- THIN
- FROZE
- POND
- COAL

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **OBJECT**

One meaning of the noun **object** is any solid thing that can be seen or touched.

Sally looked for an **object** to slide across the ice.

Try to use the word **object** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Good Sports

List characteristics of someone displaying good sportsmanship. Ask students to look in the newspaper for a picture of an athlete demonstrating good sportsmanship and explain why they chose that picture.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the elements of socially acceptable conflict resolution in physical activity settings.



How do hockey players stay cool during a game?

ANSWER: They stay close to their fans.

Write On!

Hockey Happiness

Write an *alliteration* about ice hockey. *Alliteration* is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words. **Example:** *Awesome ants always agitate!*

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SPORTS



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Blue Devils retain bragging rights over North in rivalry showdown

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The atmosphere in the Grosse Pointe North gym last Wednesday night, Dec. 6, was full of energy for the latest installment of the cross-town rivalry in boys basketball. The Norsemen welcomed in Grosse Pointe South for an early-season hoops showdown that ultimately ended up as largely one sided. The Blue Devils took control with hot shooting and never looked back, cruising to a 73-52 rivalry win.

A couple of quick North baskets to start the game set the Norsemen out on a good pace, but it did not take long for South to take over. The Blue Devils' scoring frenzy began in the first quarter where they managed to put up 26 points, pulling ahead 26-12 after the first eight minutes.

"The offense that we run is pretty free-flow-



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South junior Adam Czarnik drives past Benjamin Dragich of North on his way to the basket during the Blue Devils' 73-52 victory against the Norsemen on Dec. 6.

ing," South boys basketball head coach Steve Benard said. "All the guys have a pretty good stroke and were looking

for their shots. We had a couple really good days of practice, I thought, leading up to the game and thought

that we wanted to come out fast. That was the game plan, to come out fast and really just get after it, and we got some

open looks and were ready to knock them down."

South did not slow down in the second

quarter, nearly doubling their output from the first frame. North's offense still managed what would be a good pace in most games, but it was not enough to keep up with how hot the Blue Devils were, as South led 50-30 going into halftime.

The halftime break did nothing to slow South's roll, and the second half began with senior Karter Richards knocking down four straight shots from three-point land. Richards was not the only Blue Devil who was hot from beyond the arc, especially in the second half, as junior guard Tory James made his presence known with deep shots throughout the game.

With a 71-39 lead in favor of South going into the fourth quarter, both sides spent much of the final frame allowing younger players off the bench to get some

See HOOPS, page 4D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Knights' four-sport star is leader on and off ice for defending champs

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Allie Roth is a jack of all trades. The Liggett senior is a varsity athlete in four different sports, including varsity field hockey, swimming, lacrosse and ice hockey.

Some might think that the workload of being a four-sport athlete is a lot to handle, especially when she was dual-rostered this past fall in two sports, swimming and field hockey. However, for Roth, it is just the way things have always been, and she would not have it any other way.

"I've basically played everything which has been really cool," Roth said. "... I'm so used to it and I like having all the different experiences...it's nice having

year. We really bond as a group."

Right now, Roth's focus is solely on the ice and winning another championship with the Liggett varsity girls hockey team. Roth is a captain in her senior season and is looking to make it four straight state titles in four years of high school hockey with the Knights.

Although she plays defense now, Roth began her hockey career years ago as a goalie. She learned to skate and play with the Grosse Pointe Bulldogs, before her family helped start the Michigan Lady Icehawks travel club. After the Lady Icehawks folded, Roth played a few years with the St. Clair Shores Saints before entering high school. By then, a foundation of friendship and chemistry on and off the ice was already

the different team atmospheres especially with my teams this



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

University Liggett girls varsity hockey co-captain Allie Roth, second from left, celebrates her last-second goal to tie the game against Grosse Pointe South earlier this season.

cemented for Roth and some of her fellow Knights.

"All of us on the team know each other so well and I think that's

why we have so much success," she said.

"Some of those girls I grew up playing with and played at St. Clair Shores with or just

knew from around town. That's why Liggett is so special with hockey, because

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Grosse Pointe News

Allie Roth

School: University Liggett
Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Village Grille

Allie Does It All

- Varsity athlete in four sports: field hockey, swimming, ice hockey and lacrosse
- Senior captain of Liggett girls varsity ice hockey
- Has 4 points (2 goals, 2 assists) through 6 games in 2023-24



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2D | SPORTS

Boys hockey seasons heats up

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The boys hockey winter season has been going strong for about a month now, and the teams from the Pointes are getting into the hearts of their respective schedules. For Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett, there have been moments to learn, to cheer for and moments to learn from so far this season. In the past week, the teams enjoyed some thrilling victories and some signs of improvement even when the results were not as ideal.

Liggett

The Knights made the trip to the Upper Peninsula last weekend, and the long journey ended up being well worth it. Liggett played two games against some of the toughest competition the U.P. has to offer and ended up winning both during their time across the Mackinac Bridge.

"It was a trip I'll remember for the rest of my life," Liggett boys hockey coach Colin Smith said. "I've told the boys how proud I am of them beyond hockey and they made memories that will last a lifetime...Everyone got along. Pranks were pulled. Everyone did everything together."

The first game of

back win 3-2 over the Copper Kings.

Junior Gary Stacy scored the first two goals of the game for the Knights, including the goal that helped tie the game at 2-2 with less than ten minutes remaining in the third period. Sophomore Griffin Marchal then capped off the comeback with a game-win-

'It was a trip I'll remember for the rest of my life. I've told the boys how proud I am of them beyond hockey and they made memories that will last a lifetime...'

COLIN SMITH,
University Liggett Boys Hockey Coach

ning goal in the final moment of regulation, with senior captain Kevin Vreeken helping out with a clutch assist.

The second game of the trip was played in Houghton Saturday, Dec. 9, with Liggett taking on the Jeffers-Painesdale Jets. The game also finished as a 3-2 win for the Knights, with Stacy again lighting up the score sheet with a goal and two assists. Junior Andrew Johnson did the same adding a goal and two assists of his own, while the Knights' third goal was scored by Vreeken.

Winning two close games during a big road trip could become a major boost of momentum for the Knights as

rocket even further in the eyes of their coach.

"It made me realize how lucky I am to be the coach of this team," Smith said. "This team never gives up...If we get scored on, we know it's not over. It's a really great group of guys we have in this locker room this year."

Liggett faced off against De La Salle on the road on Tuesday, Dec. 12, after press time. The Knights return home at 7:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, to host the M1 Griffins in the first round of the annual Liggett Tournament.

Grosse Pointe South

The first month or so of the season has had its ups and downs for the Blue Devils, and last week was no different. In three games last week, South ended up with two losing results and a tie as the team continues to try and find its footing going deeper into the season.

Last Tuesday, Dec. 5, the Blue Devils hosted Brother Rice in a game that ended as a 10-2 loss for South. Two days later, Thursday, Dec. 7, South hosted its MIHL Blue Division rival Cranbrook for a key divisional showdown and fought to a 3-3 tie.

Cranbrook took an early lead in the first period and ended the opening frame with a 1-0 advantage. However,



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Anderson Tigges lines up for a faceoff during South's 3-3 tie against Cranbrook on Dec. 7.

just 46 seconds into the period, but Cranbrook pulled back in front 2-1 shortly after.

South tied the game again with a goal by Evan Bernard later in the second period. Before the middle frame ended, Cranbrook managed to take the lead yet again and carry a 3-2 advantage into the final period. Everett Kielt scored the tying goal for the Blue Devils in the third period that helped to save a tally from going into the loss column.

Over the weekend, South went on the road Saturday, Dec. 9, to take on the Livonia Red Stallions (a new unified team for Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin). South lost the game 5-2, with Hayden Crane and Michael Mourad being the two goal scorers for the Blue Devils.

Crane and Mourad currently sit at second and third on the team in points, respectively, helping lead the offense for the Blue Devils through the first month of the season. Senior Drew Brady is the current leader with 11 points in the team's first eight games.

While the opening part of the season has not yielded as many wins as the Blue Devils likely would have hoped for, the team's new coaching staff still sees some things coming together that show

promising signs for possible success down the road.

"Where we've improved definitely is in our defensive zone coverage," South boys hockey head coach Alan Korolewicz said. "We're still a work in progress, but we're definitely improving. We're also getting better on special teams with our powerplay getting better and the penalty kill has been doing well...With a brand new coaching staff and systems in place, I think we're teaching them some things they either didn't know before or didn't apply. It's taking a little while to get there, but I think we're on our way."

South faces off against De La Salle on the road at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14. The Blue Devils will also be part of the Liggett Tournament this coming weekend, starting with a rivalry showdown against Grosse Pointe North at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen had their biggest highlight of the season so far last week, collecting their first win of the new campaign. Following an 11-0 loss to Utica Ford Unified on Wednesday, Dec. 6, North traveled to Woodhaven the next night and put their first tally in the win column with a 5-4 overtime victory.

North's win was high-

lighted by two of its senior captains, Matthew Lorelli and Massimo Todesco. The duo are the Norsemen's points leaders so far this season and boosted their stats in a big way during last Thursday's win, with Lorelli scoring a hat trick and Todesco accounting for five points on the night.

Lorelli's three goals were massively important to North in a close game, while Eli Hill accounted for the Norsemen's fourth goal in regulation. Todesco had assists on all four of those goals, and then was the hero in overtime by putting the game-winning goal in the back of the net.

"They do things the right way and lead both on and off the ice," North boys hockey coach Rob Blum said about Todesco and Lorelli. "It's nice to see them as senior leaders producing on the ice and doing a really good job with the younger players showing them how to play the right way and be student athletes on and off the ice... They're exactly what you're looking for when you're going to name captains."

The Norsemen had a bit of an extended break, getting a week off from last Thursday's win to their next game. North faces off against Grosse Pointe South in the Liggett Tournament at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGGETT ATHLETICS

The Liggett varsity boys hockey team poses gathers on the ice at the historic Calumet Colosseum after a thrilling 3-2 victory over the Calumet Copper Kings.

Liggett's road trip was a showdown with Calumet on Friday, Dec. 8. Playing in the historic Calumet Colosseum, the Knights earned a come-

back win 3-2 over the Copper Kings. Perhaps more importantly is how much this trip seems to have caused the chemistry of the team to sky-

rocket even further in the eyes of their coach. South managed to tie things up. Anderson Tigges knotted the game at one apiece with a goal

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

we have so much chemistry on the ice."

Team chemistry is especially important for the Knights this season with a new coaching staff taking over. Casey LaFrance is now leading Liggett's girls hockey team behind the bench, which was a change Roth admits took some getting used to for her and the other veteran players.

"In the beginning, the team was a little intimidated just because it was so different, especially for us seniors," she said. "Now, everyone's warmed up to them...They're really pushing us to go to our full potential. They want us to be the best

conditioned team in the league and hopefully that can actually happen."

Some of those players she has really bonded with over the years include fellow senior captains Sofie Ancona, Elle Quinlan and Sullivan Estes. Chemistry is extremely important for Liggett and is what Roth prides herself on. While she does end up on the stat sheet a good amount, Roth always wants to be seen as a more selfless player focused on being an anchor on the blue line.

"I really see myself as a team player," Roth said. "...I love working with my defensive partners and helping create opportunities for everyone to score. I'm more defensive, but also I

love shooting the puck and I try to score when I can."

So far this season, Roth has found the back of the net twice and also tallied two assists, giving her four points in Liggett's first six games. The biggest of those points came in the final seconds of a rivalry showdown between the Knights and Grosse Pointe South Nov. 28. Trailing 3-2, Roth scored in the game's final minute to pull Liggett to a 3-3 tie, saving the team from having to put a tally in the loss column.

It is moments like that which make all the hard work that Roth puts in on the ice and in the other sports she plays all worth it. Coming through in the clutch during a big

rivalry game also exemplifies improvement on what Roth has been working hard on to get better at, especially now with being a captain; never wavering in her confidence.

"When I was young, coaches would say that I hesitate on the ice and look scared sometimes," she said. "Now I try not to hesitate. Stepping up to the puck I make a decision right away and go for the puck...Over the summer, I skated a lot and did clinics and watched videos and have really focused on decision making and smart plays."

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

Roth, right, with Liggett swim and dive teammate Addie Ancona during a meet in September. Roth is a four-sport athlete for the Knights, competing in swimming, field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse.

WINTER SPORTS

PREVIEW

3D

For the last three weeks, we have taken a look at what to expect for several high school varsity teams in what's sure to be an action-packed, thrilling winter sports season in the Pointes. In our final installment, the Grosse Pointe News is taking a deep dive into the boys swim and dive teams at Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Boys Varsity Swimming

Norsemen make waves as team moves up to MAC Red

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

With the first week of practice in the books, head coach Kyle Kinyon's focus for his 2023-24 Grosse Pointe North boys varsity swim team is more about the journey, not just the destination.

He's bringing that mindset to the team after last season's successful campaign when the Norsemen finished 21st in the Division 2 state swim finals, just one point behind 20th place Birmingham Brother Rice. With the program set to move up in the Macomb Area Conference's White division to the more competitive Red, the second-year coach knows he must try to achieve similar success with a roster of 11 swimmers and no divers.

Though the roster size is similar to last season's, Kinyon said his primary goal is to continue building up his athletes individually and as a team and let the results fall in line from there.

"I will always take more (athletes)," he said. "We're not as big as we want to be, but so be it. We will try to do our best with what we have."

It also lends itself to more individualized attention.

"Especially those who are eager to listen and develop skills," Kinyon said, adding how swimming and diving is a great way to have fun and get in great shape.

Kinyon has several swimmers returning to the team who qualified for last year's state final meet. They include three seniors, all of whom have been named

team co-captains, including Tommy Moreland, Connor McMahon and Keegan Wettstein.

"My goal is for our upperclassmen, our seniors especially, to demonstrate day in and day out what it means to be a leader," Kinyon said. "Because when they are gone, they are gone and the boys that are underclassmen can see that leadership and what it takes. Yes, talent is a part of this and everything, but if they come in and get that other part, that other

piece of being able to establish personal goals and training in a way to reach those goals ... if they can demonstrate that by example, I feel like that would benefit our younger swimmers."

Kinyon said having that level of leadership from his upperclassmen will help develop an important culture in the program.

"What you end up with is developing more kids who are eager to step up and become next year's leaders," he said. The captains will set the pace not just in team culture, but also in the pool. Moreland returns as one of the team's strongest swimmers, placing ninth in the 200 free in last season's state final meet. He also took 11th in the 100 fly in 52.57, moving up two places with a time improvement of 1.80 from prelims.

Moreland offers the Norsemen great versatility, thanks to his ability to compete in any event. "Tommy gives us the

flexibility because we know he can perform well in a few different events," Kinyon said. "That's one thing I have already talked to him about and he's willing to do it."

McMahon also reached last year's state final, achieving a personal best in the 100 breast and finishing in 11th place in 1:00.52.

"Connor is definitely our best breast stroker," Kinyon said.

Wettstein is another returning state finalist, who along with sophomore James Jewell, James Gusmano and Alejandro Delgado give additional experience to the Norsemen lineup.

Christian Torresi, an exchange student from Italy, Owen Johnston, Tyler Collins, Alex Robinson and incoming freshman Brady Winbigler round out the roster.

Kinyon said based on early-season practices, he is hopeful Gusmano sees a breakout season.

"James (Gusmano) is a talented swimmer and is already showing me some stuff in practice," Kinyon said. "He's already asking good questions about developing further, insight on techniques and how he can get better.



PHOTO BY KYLE KINYON

From left to right, co-captains Keegan Wettstein, Tommy Moreland and Connor McMahon will lead the 2023-24 North varsity swim and dive team.

That bodes well for us."

He also sees good potential in his freshman, who enter the program with club swimming experience.

Kinyon said he is eager to take the season one meet at a time to find out where North is as a team as the state final approaches.

"If we can compare ourselves against ourselves and be the best version of ourselves by the time the MAC (championship) meet rolls around, I think the rest will take care of itself," he said. "... We're going to take this one meet at a time. I love meets because it gives me an opportunity to see where we are with our training. I have a lot of fun watching the kids get a (personal record) or knocking three seconds off of their time. It's cool to see."

Ultimately, Kinyon wants to lead a tough, close-knit team.

"I would like to instill that we are a tough closing team, meaning that there might be situations where we say, 'Hey, you know, that swim didn't go well, but you know what, I'm gonna put that on the backburner and take from it what I can learn and I'm going to go out and close out this meet,'" he said. "I don't want anyone sitting there and not giving it their best. That's the environment I would like here."

"I also want a team that can be silly together, but also (that can) grow as a team together," he continued. "It's not a matter of talent level. Can we continue to build a culture that invites us to want to hang out with each other? That's the vision I would like to see come to fruition with this team."

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Boys Varsity Swimming

Blue Devils aim to be top 10 at season's end

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

One of Grosse Pointe South's most successful athletic programs in school history is aiming for another top 10 finish at season's end, but that might be a more challenging task for the Blue Devils boys varsity swim and dive team for the first time in a long time, according to head coach John Fodell.

"We need a lot of new state cuts if we want to make our mark this season," he said.

Making its mark each season has become a habit for the program, which won its 25th consecutive MAC Red championship last season, had a program-first three individual state champions and took fourth overall among 35 teams competing at the Division 2 state championship meet last March, just three points behind third-place Birmingham Seaholm.

The Blue Devils also were the only program among all three divisions to have two athletes named to the 2023 Michigan Interscholastic

Swim Coaches Association (MISCA) Dream Team in Logan Hepner and Keiran Rahmaan.

The Blue Devils lost Hepner, the 2022 and 2023 diving state champion, and Rahmaan, the 100 free state champion, to graduation. Both are now competing at the Division 1 level at University of Michigan and Indiana University-Purdue Indianapolis, respectively.

The team does, however, return its third state champion, senior Troy Liu, who took the top spot in 100 free at state finals and finished second in the 50 free.

While the bar is undeniably high for the current Blue Devils roster, Fodell said the focus is for each swimmer to continually improve.

"The goal will be to just keep working on our times and seeing where

the chips fall this season," Fodell said. "It would be really cool if a couple of people could earn their state cuts and add to what we already know we have."

In addition to Lui, the team will look for big things from their all-state swimmers from last season, including senior co-captain Ben Bryan. At last March's state final,

Bryan took sixth in the 100 IM and finished ninth in the 100 fly, missing an all-state eighth place by 0.02 seconds.

Liu and Bryan also were part of the 400 free relay team along with Rahmaan and Chandler Bower that set a new school record and finished second in the state.

Liu and Bryan will co-captain a roster of 30, and are among nine seniors on this year's roster, including C.J. Schindlbeck, Vincent Maffesoli, Paul Kaminski,



COURTESY PHOTO

South co-captain Ben Bryan, pictured here at state finals last March, will lead a team of 30 swimmers into this year's varsity swim and dive season.

Andres Link, Jack Slawson, Will Turner and Joey Drawbaugh.

The roster also includes 10 juniors, six sophomores and five incoming freshmen, a class Fodell said holds good potential.

Fodell said his roster is much smaller this season, falling from a high of 60 swimmers a few years ago. He said his boys swim program, as well as boys swim teams from around Michigan, are feeling the long-term effects of the pandemic,

when pools shut down in Michigan longer than virtually anywhere else in the country.

He said many middle school boys stopped training and turned to other sports in the aftermath of the shutdown. As head coach of South's girls varsity swim and dive team as well as Grosse Pointe Gators club team, he noted that girls have not seen the same dropoff.

"I don't know if we can be in the top 10 this year,

but we will absolutely go for it," Fodell said. "Troy (Liu) should win 100 free again and repeat as state champion. Ben (Bryan) could be in the top five in his two events. Outside of that, I think it's wide open."

Fodell said he believes Crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North will provide good competition this season, along with Fraser. He also hopes the team repeats as MAC Red champion for the 26th consecutive season.

"It's tough to win year in and year out," he said. "We haven't been in this position in a long time. But for sure these guys are gonna work hard and have a blast while they are doing it."

South kicked off its season by hosting St. Clair at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the Boll Center pool after press time.

4D | SPORTS

South baseball to induct inaugural HOF class Jan. 25



By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South baseball will induct eight inaugural members into the program's newly-established Hall of Fame in a special ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Pier Park Community Building, located at 350 Lakeshore Drive in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Blue Devil baseball greats including Adam Abraham, Kevin Brennan, Chris Getz, Cam Gibson, Dan Griesbaum Jr., Kevin Schroeder and Marcus Wysocki will be honored as members of the Class of 2024 Hall of Fame. Carmen Benedetti was also elected into this year's HOF, but due to a scheduling conflict, will attend next year's ceremony.

"The first four guys we wanted to honor in our program are the four players who went on to play at the pro level," South's head varsity

baseball coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. said. Those names include Abraham, Benedetti, Getz and Gibson.

"The next set of inductees we wanted to honor in our first class are first team All-State players," Griesbaum added, who began coaching at South in 1984. "We said let's go back to the beginning and pick the first team All-State players from the '80s, '90s and 2000's."

Those names include Wysocki, Schroeder, Brennan and Griesbaum Jr.

The eight inductees all made notable contributions to the Blue Devils baseball program. They include:

◆ Abraham, a pitcher who earned first team All-State honors in 2003 as just a sophomore at South. He went on to play for the University of Michigan in 2007 and 2008 before being drafted in the 13th round by Cleveland in 2008.

◆ Benedetti, a South class of 2013 baseball al-

um and Blue Devils record-holder for most hits in a season at 54. He went on to play for the University of Michigan from 2014-2017, during which he was selected in the 12th round by the Houston Astros in Major League Baseball's 2016 First-Year Player Draft.

◆ Getz, who earned first team All-State honors for three consecutive seasons in 2000, 2001 and 2002. Getz was drafted out of high school in the sixth round by the Chicago White Sox, choosing instead to play at Wake Forest. He eventually transferred to the University of Michigan. After college, he went on to have a 10-year major-league career after being drafted again by the White Sox, this time as the 125th overall pick in the fourth round of the 2005 MLB draft.

◆ Gibson, who earned first team All-State honors in 2011 and 2012 for the Blue Devils, before playing Division I baseball at Michigan State

University. He was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in round 5 of the 2015 MLB Draft as the 160th overall pick. In 2019, he played for the Erie Seawolves, a Tigers AA affiliate.

◆ Brennan, a Blue Devil pitcher and outfielder who earned first team All-State honors in 1992. That season, he led South to the state quarterfinal, where the team lost to eventual Class A State Champion Brother Rice, where he also hit .440 on the year.

◆ Griesbaum Jr., who was an outstanding All-State catcher and power hitter for Grosse Pointe South from 1997-99. He sits in the top 10 of several program records, including batting average, runs scored, RBIs and hits. He ranks No. 2 in home runs with nine in back-to-back seasons in 1998 and 1999. He has the most triples in program history, hitting seven in 1999. He moved on to play D1 college baseball at Central Michigan, where he served as team

captain, leading the Chippewas to a MAC championship in 2004. Griesbaum went on to work in the Detroit Tigers front office from 2004-2019 and has also served the program as an assistant coach since his playing days ended.

◆ Schroeder, a right handed pitcher who earned first team All-State honors in 1996, a season where he led South to the final four. He hit .441 in that season and sits in second place among the Blue Devils in all-time single-season hits at 52 and third in RBI with 48. He also ranks second all-time in both single season and career strikeouts, as a pitcher.

◆ Wysocki, a pitcher and shortstop who led South to the program's first trip to the state final four in 1987, earning first team All-State honors in 1988. He has a share of the program record for home runs in a single season with 10, strikeouts with 72.2 and strikeouts

for a career with 219. He moved on to play college baseball at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids.

FOX2 anchor and South baseball alum Ryan Ermanni will perform Master of Ceremonies duties at the event, which begins with a welcome reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a 7:30 p.m. induction ceremony.

Limited tickets are on sale for \$80 each or 2 for \$150 and may be purchased by Venmo @ GrossePointeSouth-DugoutClub. Send RSVPs to Southdugoutclubpresident@gmail.com.



venmo

HOOPS:

Continued from page 1D

valuable experience. North's depth showed some promise, outsourcing South 13-2 in the final quarter, but the Blue Devils had already done enough to seal the win by more than 20.

"It's a good measuring stick," North boys basketball coach Rob Johnson said after the loss. "It really shows us where we're at and where we need to go going forward."

Richards led all scorers in the game with 31 points on the night. James finished with 11

points while Nate Davey also got into double digits for South with 10.

"Karter (Richards) was Robin last year and now he's Batman looking for a Robin and we think Tory James can be that guy," Benard said about this year's backcourt duo for the Blue Devils.

North's scoring was more spread out across the roster with eleven different players getting onto the score sheet. Ruben McBride-Williams had eight points for the Norsemen and Rocco Cardinale had seven.

"We're still trying to play with rotations and

different lineups," Johnson said about his team's depth. "...I think we're deeper this year and are still trying to work things around but we have a lot of guys who can contribute"

South hosted Notre Dame Prep on Monday, Dec. 11, winning a close game 59-58, and has its

next game also at home on Friday, Dec. 15, against Roseville tipping off at 7 p.m. The Norsemen faced Dewitt on the road Tuesday, Dec. 12, after press time. North remains on the road for its next game at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, taking on New Haven.

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Grosse Pointe's Allaer ends memorable 2023 as two-time racing champ

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

2022 was a landmark year for Grosse Pointe native Nolan Allaer, as he became an SCCA racing champion for the first time. 2023, however, proved to be the year where Allaer may have very well cemented himself as one of the best young drivers not only in the country, but the entire world.

Back in October, Allaer was once again crowned a national champion at this year's

year long campaign," Allaer said. "...We set out to complete those campaigns and I was already qualified for the runoffs here in the U.S. after the championship last year."

While his move across the Atlantic provided plenty of memories, including getting to race for the Walter Hayes Trophy at Great Britain's historic Silverstone Circuit, it was the SCCA Runoffs where Allaer made his biggest mark of the year. Once again being

Continental title and finishing five seconds ahead of the runner-up. What made that race even more special was who was behind the wheel of the second-place car — his father Robert Allaer.

"As we were slowing down for a safety car I looked back and saw black in my mirror and we're some of the only black cars on the grid so I realized we're in first and second place now," Nolan Allaer said. "The race restarted and it was me and (my dad) and we



was a moment he will never forget, the weekend was not over yet for Allaer. Allaer had his sights set on being a two-time champion this year and wanted to do it in the Formula Ford class championship, one of the final and flagship races of the SCCA Runoffs.

The Formula Ford race was one where Allaer knew there would be no room for error. For much of the race, Allaer found himself going back-and-forth with Florida native Jonathan Kotyk. His hopes of being a two-time champion this year all came down to some quick thinking and

pushing the car to the absolute limit.

"The draft is significant in a Formula Ford car because there's no wings and it's relatively low power but also low weight," Allaer said. "There's really no way to break away regardless of pace, so going into that day we were in pole position...I kind of knew it would be a scrap all the way down to the last lap. Throughout the race, there were countless numbers of lead changes...We just spent the majority of the race over 40 minutes playing a moving chess match... It was extremely close and there's nothing you can do to plan for that." The official margin of

victory was 51 thousandths of a second, barely the nose of a car. However, Allaer officially became a double champion in 2023 and became the first racer to win the Formula Ford class in a Ford-powered car since 2011.

Allaer hopes that there are even more victories to come in 2024, with plans to return to England and continue racing internationally.

As he says, it all comes down to funding and certain factors off the racetrack that are out of his hands. However, 2023 will always be a year that Allaer looks back on fondly, not only for the trophies he raised, but for the people by his side.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Nolan Allaer became a double national champion in 2023, successfully defending his Formula Continental class title and also winning the Formula Ford national championship race.

SCCA National Championship Runoffs, this time in two different racing classes. Before that, this year's major milestone for the young racer was a move across the pond to help make his mark on the international racing scene.

"I moved to England in February and the goal was to run the F1600 Championship Series and the United Formula Ford Series and it's a

held at the Virginia International Raceway, this is where Allaer was looking to both defend one of his national championships and claim another in perhaps his toughest race yet.

The weekend began for Allaer with a race to defend his Formula Continental national championship. Allaer was victorious in his effort, successfully retaining the Formula

made sure not to impede each other and held position to the end of the race. Being on the cool down lap, we were able to ride around and do basically a victory lap together. It was a perfect outcome and something we never thought could have happened but did."

While sharing the podium with his dad and being a back-to-back Formula Continental champion



COURTESY PHOTOS

Nolan Allaer, right, and his dad, Robert, celebrate with champagne after finishing first and second in the Formula Continental national championship race at this year's SCCA Runoffs.

Score big points this Christmas

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

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CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 4, 2023

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

ROLLCALL: All Councilpersons were present.

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held November 20, 2023.
- 2) To open the Public Hearing on the Proposed Lot Split at 19950/19554 Kelly Road
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 128792 through 128894 in the amount of \$369,574.98 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Detroit Salt Company in the amount of \$8,538.80 for 115.11 tons of rock salt. (3) approve payment to Uni-Dig, Inc. in the amount of \$14,400.00 for leaf disposal in conjunction with the curbside leaf pickup program. (4) approve payment in the amount of \$6,920.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with an emergency main break repair and also for water shut offs for non-payment. (5) . approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$9,900.00 for the removal of dead trees, which includes trimming, chipping and disposal of debris. (6) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$7,542.00 for assistance with leaf pickup and fall maintenance in various areas of the City, including the DPW, Kelly Road and the parks.
- 2) to deny the Lot Split request submitted by Mike Dabish on behalf of Kelly and Woodside LLC to pursuant to the Planning Commission's findings and recommendation.
- 3) to approve payment to Fontana Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$41,050.00 for Progress Payment No. 2 (Final) on the Beaconsfield Water Main Replacement, #180-266.
- 4) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC, in the amount of \$5,675.40 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2023 Storm Sewer Open Cut Repairs, #180-314.
- 5) to accept the proposal from Rolls Mechanical in the amount of \$188,813.00 for the purchase and installation for a backup generator for City Hall utilizing the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships Grant.
- 6) to approve the payment to the Michigan Department of Transportation in the amount of \$10,926.69 for the city's proportionate share of the Beaconsfield Resurfacing Project, Phase II.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

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