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Grosse Pointe News

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JANUARY 4, 2024 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Pier Park due for pool renovations

By Laurel Kraus Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — With the debate over the right location for new pickleball courts at Pier Park now settled, city administra-

tion already has gotten to work planning ahead for the park's next major improvement. "The next big project — and probably the most significant project in the park for generations — will be a redo of

the pool," City Manager Shane Reeside discussed with parks and harbor committee members during their November meeting. "It has definitely lived its useful life." A replacement lining

added a number of years ago is starting to fail, leaving the parks and recreation department needing to conduct short-term fixes to make it through this past season. "The idea is to have a

small committee that would be able to sit down with the architect (and) the pool designer," Reeside said, "discuss features, discuss potential layout and really come up with a plan (so) we can start getting

cost estimates on that project." Members will include representatives from the parks and harbor committee and the Grosse Pointe Farms See POOL, page 4A

Woods OKs first step on millage

By Ted O'Neil Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Just like its counterparts in the Park, city council directed its attorney to work with the legal team at The Helm on drafting potential ballot language for a millage request to bolster senior citizen services across the Pointes and Harper Woods. Mayor Art Bryant said that doesn't necessarily

mean council will ultimately vote to put the proposed millage on the ballot, but does want to see what the language would look like. "We'll discuss this more and take time to digest it," he said. Prudence Cole, president of The Helm's board of directors, is visiting each municipality to make the group's pitch and was at the Woods See OK, page 5A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The back view of the clubhouse minus the sunroom. The demolition will clear the way to plant grass and add fencing for more paddocks at Grosse Pointe Equestrian.

Moving forward in the Farms

By Laurel Kraus Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The Farms lost beloved philanthropist Gretchen Valade and retired K-9 officer Duke this past year, but gained the first new fire specialists in two decades, an internationally recognized D-Day sculpture at The War Memorial and the

only bookstore carrying new books catered toward adults in the Pointes. This is the year in review. **January** ♦ City administration holds its second master plan public workshop. See FARMS, page 2A

GP Equestrian tearing down clubhouse

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — In a move to put even more focus on horses and riders, Grosse Pointe Equestrian is demolishing the clubhouse on its grounds. It's the same focus of "less club, more community" the new GPE owners announced when they purchased the former Grosse Pointe Hunt Club in 2017.

"The building hasn't been in use since at least a couple of years before we took over," General Manager Gabe Hernandez said. "We want to continue making this the best equestrian facility we can and not necessarily still be seen as a country club. Even though it's obsolete for us, we appreciate the historic importance it had

over the years." Although he's unsure of the age of the building, Hernandez said part of it might date back to the earliest days of the GPHC, which was founded as a fox-hunting club in 1911. While the swimming pool was no longer in use when GPE took over the property, it and the tennis courts were turned

into riding arenas. Hernandez said the plan is to plant grass in the spring where the clubhouse stood and add fencing to build more paddocks. "That will give each horse we board their own turnout area to graze," he said. "We always want to do what's best for the horses and riders." —Ted O'Neil

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2023 IN REVIEW Park upgrades, overdoses in the Woods

By Ted O'Neil Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The highlights of park improvements and the lowlights of fatal overdoses and a shooting marked 2023. This is the year in review. **January** ♦ The fourth annual Team

Jake toy drive, coordinated by the Pennar family, collects more than 2,500 toys benefitting Children's Hospital of Michigan. ♦ City council hears a plan that would allow homeowners to keep and raise a limited number of chickens. The idea is spurred, in part, by an increase of more than 100 percent in the cost of a dozen eggs compared to January 2022.

February ♦ Stephanie Westrick receives the Gold Award, the highest honor given by the Girl Scouts. ♦ A \$720,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation is slated to make several improvements to the intersection of Mack and Vernier. ♦ City council and the Grosse Pointe Public School System

agree to place a resource officer at Grosse Pointe North High School. ♦ A \$45 million project to upgrade the Milk River Retention/Treatment Basin is completed. **March** ♦ City council decides not to pursue changing its livestock ordinance to allow homeowners to raise chickens. See WOODS, page 3A

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Pointer of INTEREST
See story, page 4A

Jessica Silverman Bryan
Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Deputy Director of Project Night Night

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2A | NEWS

FARMS:

Continued from page 1A

◆ After 30 years on The Hill, Brooks Brothers closes its doors.

◆ Following her passing, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe owner Gretchen Valade is honored by city council with a resolution.

◆ For the third year in a row, Pier Park seeks a new concessionaire.

◆ The former trustee of the Gretchen C. Valade Irrevocable Living Trust is arraigned on charges of embezzlement.

◆ Three suspects break a Kercheval home's electrical meter with a brick to cut power to the house in an attempted home invasion.

◆ Fire specialist Sundee Harland retires after two decades of fighting fires.

◆ A mom of three, Amber Hazelton is the city's first new fire specialist in 20 years.

◆ Hannah Srebernak — daughter of City of Grosse Pointe Sgt. Joseph Srebernak — is sworn in as the department's newest public safety officer.

February

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods residents Joe and Meghan Steenland step up to run the Pier Park concession stand for the 2023 season. The couple also run the concession stand at Civic Ice Arena in St. Clair Shores.

March

◆ Three-part sculpture "Les Braves II: At Water's Edge," arrives at The War Memorial from France.

◆ Go Green x3 — a fundraiser to plant trees in honor of Brian Fraser, who was killed in the Michigan State University shooting — kicks off.

◆ A drunken driver behind the wheel of a GMC Safari crashes into the United States Postal Service office at Mack and East Warren.

◆ Sixteen officers are awarded for their life-saving and arrest efforts in 2022.

April

◆ Colonial Court residents are up in arms over the installation of new 5G small cell equipment on a utility pole standing directly between the frontage of two homes.

◆ The city contracts with design engineering services for a plan to construct a secondary pump station and separate the inland district sewer system north of Moross. It applies for a low-interest loan through the state's



Above, new K-9 officer Rich Rosati and his K-9, Rocco, give their first demo during Winterfest. Right, after Fire Specialist Sundee Harland retires, Amber Hazelton becomes the city's new fire specialist.



Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the work.

◆ The Bronze Door on The Hill receives council approval to construct an on-street dining platform.

◆ Lifelong Grosse Pointer Ed Russell, of Russell Development, is honored with a Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Community Service Award for spearheading the campaign to fund the career life of new K-9 officer, Rocco.

May

◆ A community safety night is hosted by the Kercheval homeowner who experienced an attempted home invasion in January.

◆ Kercheval and Ridge are up for reconstruction this season.

◆ The newly created Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation covers the cost of two repeaters — used to improve cell reception — for Grosse Pointe South High School.

◆ Rates at the municipal parking lot behind The Hill will rise 50 cents per duration of time come July.

◆ Council approves a

0.25-mill tax decrease, but the average resident still will see a \$118 increase thanks to the rate of inflation bringing taxable value increases.

◆ The five Pointes and Harper Woods update their mutual-aid agreement so two additional departments automatically will respond as soon as a fire is confirmed in any of the six cities.

◆ The green, wooden picnic tables at Pier Park are replaced with cedar-colored recycled plastic tables.

◆ Alex Patterson is the city's newest fire specialist, following a Pointe public safety legacy begun by his father and grandfather.

June

◆ The public safety department purchases four ice rescue suits, designed to keep an officer insulated and dry, as well as float both a rescuer and victim.

◆ Water and sewer rates will increase by 4.5 percent come July.

◆ The Pier Park baby pool is closed after red-winged blackbirds lead a swooping assault on anyone in the area, overly eager to protect the eggs in their nearby nests.

◆ A parks and recreation employee discovers a rusted pipe bomb in a flower bed east of the Pier Park gatehouse. Police determine it is non-functioning and an isolated incident.

◆ Fire specialist Amber Williams rescues 9-month-old cockatiel, Tiki, from a tall tree branch after he flies out

the back door of his Moran home.

◆ The Farms becomes the third Pointe to adopt the Hope not Handcuffs program, which allows those with substance use disorder to go to the station seeking treatment without fear of arrest.

◆ Twenty-two more seawall sites are set for repair using \$1.2 million in state funding.

◆ A complete overhaul of the Farms fire hall living quarters wraps up.

July

◆ The 2023 Water Main Replacement Program will include mains on Colonial Court, Mack and Hamilton Court.

◆ A new generator for the city's water filtration plant is purchased.

◆ The public safety department determines the most plausible narrative explanations for the pipe bomb found at Pier Park in June do not involve the intent to injure anyone.

◆ The Pier Park beach is closed due to E. coli levels. It remains closed the entire season.

◆ The city begins discussions of placing permanent pickleball courts at Pier Park.

◆ As all candidates in the Farms are running

unopposed, there will be no primary election.

◆ Retired K-9 officer Duke unexpectedly passes away in his sleep.

August

◆ Residents rescue a 6-month-old, male great-horned owl who was displaced and injured in the late July storms. The rehabilitated owl later is released back into the Farms near the Country Club of Detroit, where it was found.

◆ Flyleaf Literature & Libations opens at 92 Kercheval on The Hill.

◆ Wayne County unexpectedly repaves Lakeshore from just past Moross up to Vernier.

◆ The city begins its required 63-day master plan public comment period.

◆ Real Estate One Grosse Pointe is set to move into 1 Kercheval at the corner of Kercheval and Fisher.

◆ Raymond James is set to expand into the old Brooks Brothers space on The Hill.

September

◆ The public safety department makes good use of its new thermal-imaging drone to locate a man who took off after rifling through an officer's off-duty vehicle parked in the station's lot.

◆ A Crown Royal national television commercial is filmed at Jerry's Club Party Store.

◆ Community members raise concerns about new pickleball courts planned for Pier Park taking up greenspace and blocking views of Lake St. Clair.

◆ The pride flag outside Christ Church Grosse Pointe is burned. Multiple replacements are torn down within the following week.

◆ Formerly the organization's chief financial officer, Maria Miller is The War Memorial's new president and CEO.

October

◆ Through an endowment set up at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan with the support of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the Grosse Pointe Chamber Foundation donates pickleball paddles and balls to Pier Park.

◆ A local marriage counselor is charged with taking advantage of the vulnerable mental state of a woman in her 30s to initiate inappropriate physical contact.

◆ A community meeting is held to discuss the location options for proposed pickleball courts at Pier Park.

November

◆ The Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch is reopened and now includes a dedicated teen area, more space in the children's area and a drive-up window.

◆ The driver of a car that, in 2019, chased another vehicle up Moross at more than 100 mph while firing bullets, ultimately causing it to crash through the Pier Park gates and into Lake St. Clair, is sentenced to 42 months to 10 years in the Michigan Department of Corrections.

◆ A single-car accident on Ridge near Moran results in the death of an 18-year-old Grosse Pointe man.

◆ Future elections in the city will be held at The War Memorial.

December

◆ The parks and harbor committee recommends eliminating Pier Park's third tennis court and constructing four permanent pickleball courts in its place. City council votes to do so.

◆ Joseph Zambardi is the city's newest public safety officer.

◆ Three Chilean nationals connected to the South American Theft Group are arrested just two weeks after the group allegedly stole \$500,000 to \$750,000 in jewelry from a Provençal home during an elaborate break-in.

◆ Farms officer Jim Labeau will be the new school resource officer at Grosse Pointe South High School.

◆ City council unanimously approves the city's finalized master plan update.

◆ Resident Conrad Koski receives a mayoral proclamation for 22 years of service to the public safety retirement system board.

◆ The state reimburses the Farms \$500,000 for costs incurred by fully covering what should be a jointly maintained intake with Highland Park out of Lake St. Clair.

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

After residents find an injured juvenile great horned owl, a veterinarian rehabs the owl and he is released back into the area he was found near the Country Club of Detroit.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

One of the city's youngest residents enjoys a round of miniature golf during last year's Pier Park Winterfest.

Pier Park Winterfest is next Saturday

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Because it wasn't a white Christmas and Pointers haven't had the pleasure of a winter wonderland just yet this season, one of the first opportunities for outdoor fun will be the annual Pier Park Winterfest from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13.

Alongside two food trucks — Hearth, Wood and Fire Pizza, as well as S'mores and Coffee — returning activities will include a petting farm, ice-carving demonstrations, miniature golf, games and ice skating.

The ice rink at Pier Park opened Saturday, Dec. 23.

The festival tent will feature live entertainment, yet to be announced, as well as adult beverages sold by the Grosse Pointe Boat Club.

Farms residents, and up to two guests per park pass, are invited to attend Winterfest at no charge.

Sponsors for the 2024 event include The Hill on Kercheval Avenue, Dickinson Wright PLLC and Connell Building Co.

— Laurel Kraus

GP's unified state House district ordered redrawn

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — During this season of revelation and resurrection, it must be asked of layman members of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee and their counselors: Lord, what were you thinking?

A federal court order nullifying more than a year's effort by the commission's 13 amateurs to redraw legislative districts statewide qualified the operation as an accident waiting to happen.

Nearly all of the commission's new state Senate and House districts in Southeast Michigan have been ruled unconstitutional.

They must be reconfigured before another election can take place, a three-member panel of federal judges concluded Dec. 21.

"(The) citizens, chosen at random, came to their task with no experience in redistricting and no knowledge of election law," according to the opening paragraph of the judges' 116-page denunciation of the commission's aptitude.

Michigan House District 10, encompassing the five Grosse Pointes and a portion of eastside Detroit, is among seven House districts and six Senate districts impacted in and around Detroit.

When drafting new District 10, commissioners initially included too many black voters before diluting it with more whites.

"The commission stretched this

district farther north to reduce its black-voter percentage," according to the finding, written by Judge Raymond Kethledge, a George W. Bush appointee to the U.S. Court of Appeals Sixth Circuit.

"We enjoin the secretary of state from holding further elections in these districts as they are currently drawn," Kethledge wrote.

The pending re-drawing of the district revitalized Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Arthur Bryant's concern for the Pointes to retain a single, unified presence in the legislature.

"I still firmly believe the Grosse Pointes should be kept together," Bryant said. "Otherwise, we're split up to where we don't have a voice."

The ruling validated a lawsuit claiming the commission, its members and state officials violated provisions of the Voting Rights Act by not ensuring racial minorities proper representation in legislative bodies.

"For nearly half a century, the Senate and House district maps located in Southeast Michigan were drawn such that the black voting age populations were sufficiently above 50 percent in order to comply with the VRA, and specifically to ensure that black voters would have the opportunity to elect their candidates of their choice," according to the suit, which included the criticism, "The commission created the Senate and House districts with race being the predominant consideration."

Offending districts violate the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause, applied in this case to guarantee that candidates preferred by black people are able to win primary elections.

"Everyone agrees that elections in these districts are decided in the Democratic primaries, not the general election," according to the finding. "Yet, analysis (by one of the commission's consultants) lacked any primary election data that was relevant to whether black voters could elect their preferred candidates."

Throughout the judges' ruling it is given that black people think and act en masse, not as individuals.

Michigan voters in 2018 established the commission to design districts outside the influence of politics.

In a two-page concurring opinion, another Bush nominee, Judge Janet T. Neff, of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, put the commission's task into perspective.

"The 13 civic-minded commissioners had a difficult job with scant preparation and nearly no experience in the reapportionment process," Neff wrote.

She cited Commissioner Erin Wagner as saying, "We were 13 citizens that didn't know what we were doing. We were looking to people that ... we were told were experts, so of course you're going to lean on an expert's opinion."

WOODS:

Continued from page 1A

◆ Two suspects are arrested less than an hour after robbing the Fifth Third Bank on Mack.

◆ Resident Ben Graham, a North junior, is the only Michigan musician chosen for Carnegie Hall's 2023 National Youth Orchestra.

April

◆ Crime fell 5.5 percent in 2022, according to Public Safety Director John Kosanke's annual report.

◆ The city tree commission holds its 40th annual memorial tree dedication ceremony.

May

◆ Resident Nafesah Symonette is appointed to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

June

◆ Police investigate three fatal overdoses — including two sisters — that occurred at two houses blocks apart in one night.

◆ City council approves renewing its ambulance contract with MedStar for six years.

July

◆ Some 100 people attend a Narcan training session put on by Families Against



The Woods Parks and Rec Department adds several colorful beach balls to the pool one day each year during the city picnic and kids love them.



Youngsters hunt for Easter eggs during the city's annual Egg Stroll.

Narcotics in the wake of three overdose deaths the prior month.

◆ The beautification advisory commission begins an adopt-a-garden program on Mack.

◆ City council approves joining Hope Not

Handcuffs, an amnesty program through Families Against Narcotics for people dealing with a substance use disorder.

August

◆ Finals of the Lakefront Swim Association's championship meet are moved to Lake Front Park after heavy storms and power outages close Windmill Pointe Park.

◆ City council honors the state champion girls soccer team from North with signs at the main entrances to town on Mack and Vernier.

◆ The Arbor Day Foundation recognizes the Woods as Tree City USA for the 45th consecutive year.

◆ City council approves a splash pad at Lake

Front Park and a new dog park at city hall.

October

◆ City council approves spending \$2 million to install a generator at the Torrey Road Pumping Station.

◆ A fatal shooting occurs at a house on Brys as Edmond Doheny is accused of killing his brother, Dennis.

November

◆ Franky, the beloved sulcata tortoise and mascot of Lou's Pet Shop, dies at age 26.

◆ Chene-Trombley Park is reopened and includes a tot lot, restrooms, lights and a pavilion.

◆ Municipal Judge Ted Metry and councilmembers Angela Coletti Brown, Kenn Gafa and Michael Koester are re-elected.

December

◆ A dozen residences and eight businesses receive beautification awards.

◆ Public Safety Officer Kyle Seidel is promoted to sergeant.

◆ Edmond Doheny is bound over to circuit court to face charges of open murder and felony firearm in the death of his brother, Dennis.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 8

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System District Budget Committee, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Rescheduled Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens' Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Pension Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The construction of a new dog park near city hall begins in the fall.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Park mom leads nonprofit for homeless children

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

After leaving her event planning and fundraising position at Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass., to support her new husband's pursuit of a master's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan, Jessica Silverman Bryan was searching for the next phase of her professional life when she met another spouse of a U of M MBA student — Kendra Robins — doing the same.

After Robins dropped off children's supplies to an Ann Arbor shelter and saw the need created by unhoused people transplanted to the area by Hurricane Katrina, an idea to set up a collection box quickly grew into something much larger.

In 2005, the two women founded Project Night Night, a nonprofit that provides a security blanket, age-appropriate children's book and stuffed animal inside a canvas tote bag to children who are 12 years old and younger and find themselves in shelters across the country. Today, the nonprofit serves 25,000 to 30,000 children across the country each year.

"Our goal in life, and the mission with Project Night Night, is that no child should go to sleep not feeling loved and feeling ready to learn and feeling that there's compassion in the world," Bryan said. "And we can't fix the problems of homelessness. We can't fix the problems, unfortunately,



of all the food insecurity in the world, but we can maybe make one night a little bit less scary for some of these kiddos."

A native of Chicago, Bryan moved with her husband, Bob, and three children from Cleveland to Grosse Pointe Park in 2019.

"Having not grown up here and moved into the area, I knew post-pandemic that I needed to find ways to ingrain myself in the community and meet people," she said.

It started with becoming an active parent volunteer for the Grosse Pointe South boys swim team — her eldest son, Benjamin, this year is a

senior at South and captain of the team — before adding a position as communications secretary on the executive board of the Mothers' Club at South.

When her middle child, Heidi — this year president of her sophomore class at South — entered high school and joined the South girls swim team, Bryan began to actively volunteer with it as well.

Benjamin and Heidi both are all-state swimmers.

"South has been a wonderful journey for them," Bryan said. "They're amazing children. We just are there to kind of support them and be along for the ride. They



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, Jessica Silverman Bryan is deputy director of Project Night Night, which provides night time comfort supplies to children in shelters across the country.

Above, from left, Heidi, Bob, Jessica, Benjamin and Caroline Bryan.

are amazing, independent, phenomenal young humans, so we're very fortunate."

Her youngest, Caroline, an eighth grader at Pierce Middle School, swims for the Grosse Pointe Gators, of which Bryan also sits on the board.

As though she wasn't active enough in the community, Bryan additionally is president of the parents' board for summer swim for the Grosse Pointe Park Mutants, as well as sits on the Educational Programs Leadership Council for the Grosse Pointe Public School System, which meets monthly to review districtwide curriculum alongside administrators.

"I was asked to be the representative of the South side of the district, specifically having two in high school and one com-

ing up, so having that parental mindset," she said.

The Bryan family is intentional about embracing downtime as an opportunity to think of others. A couple times each month they volunteer with Food Rescue USA to pick up leftover food from Fresh Farms Market and deliver it to Motor City Mitten Mission in St. Clair Shores.

"Something that my husband and I really try to impart to the children is that it's our job to make the world a little bit brighter for everyone, including ourselves and those around us," Bryan said. "... My biggest absolute joy in life is seeing my children take on these new adventures and be successful in them and explore new things. And this community has provided a lot of that for us."



The Project Night Night kits include a security blanket, age-appropriate children's book and a stuffed animal inside a canvas tote bag.

POOL:

Continued from page 1A

Foundation, as well as community members who have involvement with the pool.

A number of upgrades park-goers can look forward to include:

- ◆ zero-depth entry, which no longer will require swimmers to enter the pool via steps;
- ◆ corrected lane length for competitive swim, which currently is longer than it should be;
- ◆ adjusted depth of the diving area, which currently features a half-meter board, because it doesn't meet the proper depth for a

meter board;

- ◆ a new speaker system;
- ◆ and potentially new water features.

"Is a water slide under consideration?" one parks and harbor member jokingly asked at the end of the discussion.

"You just have to make friends with people in the Woods," another member replied, "and then they can come use our beach."

The project will encompass not only the pool, but the entire Pier Park aquatic area.

Also up for renovation are the splash pad, baby pool and bathhouse.

The project is in its

earliest stages. At some point, the city will hold a public meeting for resident input before final decisions are made.

"In terms of timing, the earliest would be next fall of '24," Reeside said of when work may start. "Frankly, I think that's probably very aggressive. Most likely, we would be looking at 2025."

The Pier Park aquatic area renovations are anticipated to be a multi-million dollar project.

"We'll be looking at philanthropy," Reeside said, "but we'll also be looking at financing, potentially bond issuance, to pay for it over a longer period of time."

Grosse Pointe News

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Farms reimbursed for shared intake with Highland Park

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The recent signing of House Bill 4292 means Grosse Pointe Farms will be reimbursed \$500,000 from the state for costs incurred the last 10 years, since Highland Park abandoned a once jointly maintained intake out of Lake St. Clair.

"There's a shared intake that fed our water plant and it fed Highland Park's water plant and since they closed their water plant, they haven't paid any of the shared costs for maintaining

that infrastructure," City Manager Shane Reeside said, citing annual dive inspections and required chlorination during summer months.

The allocation from the state entirely addresses the approximately \$300,000 of Highland Park's outstanding debt relating to the intake, further leaving additional funding for future repairs and maintenance items, which also typically would have been equally borne by the two cities.

Likely first up, the intake's shorewall is in need of concrete repair.

See INTAKE, page 5A

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Grosse Pointe Farms

High speed chase

A 29-year-old Detroit man led a pursuit that drew officers from four of the five Pointes at 11:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21.

After fleeing an attempt by Shores officers to pull him over, the man sped into the Farms via Lakeshore at approximately 80 mph. He then doubled back multiple times before running over spike strips City officers deployed at Jefferson and Lakeland, ultimately crashing into a brick wall at Jefferson and Balfour in the Park.

Then fleeing on foot, the man was located hiding in bushes four houses from the crash site and was arrested for fleeing and eluding, driving while license suspended and operating while intoxicated.

The more you know

An 18-year-old Eastpointe man said he did not know the law about illegal front window tint after being pulled over in the 18000 block of Mack at 8:10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22.

Admitting to his suspended license, the man was cited for driving while license suspended and no proof of insurance, as well as warned on the obstructed vision law.

Tree crash

A witness told officers that after being rear-ended by another vehicle on East Warren at 11:18 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, he called 911 and started following it as it sped to 80 mph and eventually

turned onto Ridge, didn't follow a curve in the road and drove into a tree.

The 30-year-old Warren woman who was driving sustained injuries to her face and was unable to answer officers' questions aside from stating her name.

Intoxication is suspected and she was cited for careless driving and transported to a local hospital.

Loose change

Loose change was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 400 block of Bournemouth between 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, and 10 a.m. the next morning.

Food thief

After stealing two submarine sandwiches from a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 10:25 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, a 57-year-old Detroit man was cited for third-degree retail fraud.

Unlocked again

Loose change was stolen from a vehicle parked in a driveway in the 400 block of Manor between 6:20 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, and 7:15 a.m. the next morning.

Account fraud

A 49-year-old Farms woman first realized \$2,373.94 was fraudulently withdrawn from her checking account when a DoorDash employee in Brooklyn, N.Y., contacted her to

confirm a food delivery she didn't authorize.

A total of nine withdrawals were taken from her Eastpointe Community Credit Union account between Sunday, Dec. 17, and Monday, Dec. 25.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Pickup stolen

A white 2003 GMC Sierra was stolen while parked unlocked with keys inside the vehicle in a municipal lot in the 15000 block of Mack.

The incident was reported at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Package thefts

Porch pirates struck two more times during the run-up to Christmas.

Thefts were reported shortly before noon Monday, Dec. 18, in the 800 block of Nottingham and during the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 20, in the 900 block of Whittier.

Larceny from auto

Between 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, and sunup, someone broke through the windows of a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Maryland and stole a tripod camera stand, black shoes and leather wrist straps.

Driver rams pole

An alleged drunken driver steered off the roadway a few minutes before 2 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, and hit a light pole near the intersection of Mack and Whittier.

"The vehicle settled in some shrubbery," police said.

Police arrested the driver, a 24-year-old man from Grosse Pointe Farms.

"Investigation revealed (he) was intoxicated," according to police.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Fashion faux pas

A Louis Vuitton wallet, containing various cards and a small amount of cash, was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 800 block of University between 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 25, and 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Expensive mistake

A black Canon camera worth \$600 and an iPhone 11 were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 500 block of University between 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, and 6:30 a.m. the next morning.

— *Laurel Kraus*
Report information about these and other crimes to the City of

Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Slide over

A resident in the 1400 block of Vernier reported a laptop, credit card and small safe were stolen while he was at work Friday, Dec. 22. The safe contained a pistol, knife and personal documents.

Officers could not find any signs of forced entry and determined the sliding glass door at the rear of the house was unlocked.

Knock knock

A resident in the 1000 block of North Renaud told officers a woman attempted to enter his house around 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23. The homeowner's girlfriend was inside and the suspect knocked on a window to get her attention.

When the girlfriend went outside she found the gate open but the suspect was gone. She is described as a Hispanic woman about 5 feet, 3 inches tall and was wearing a red knit hat, dark blue sweatshirt and jeans.

Near miss

After receiving a call from someone claiming to be from his credit union around 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, a resident in the 1500 block of Torrey became suspicious and called police. He told officers the caller

said there was a fraudulent charge on his credit card and someone would come to the house to collect the card.

The man told officers the caller knew information that made the call seem legitimate. When the suspect arrived he refused to provide any form of identification and fled when he heard sirens approaching.

Resisting arrest

A 38-year-old Detroit man was arrested around 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, after he was approached by officers in the 1400 block of Yorktown.

Police were called to the scene about a resident arguing with a man on a bicycle. The suspect became verbally abusive and attempted to punch one of the officers.

He faces charges of resisting arrest, assault on a police officer, disorderly conduct and possession of stolen property as the bike he was riding had been stolen in Birmingham.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Campus lot a must

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The only thing with a timeline for city hall campus renovations is constructing a 50-space parking lot.

The lot will occupy half of a current 160-by-140-foot lawn between Jefferson and the Ewald Branch public library.

"The DDA has a commitment to build a parking space in front of the public library," said Nick Sizeland, director of the Downtown Development Authority and city manager.

The commitment is with the Urban Renewal Foundation, the group privately funding the Schaap performing arts center being constructed on Jefferson across Maryland from city hall.

"Part of our agreement is we have to

complete the parking lot when their certificate of occupancy has been reached," Sizeland said. "That project is still two years out, maybe slightly more."

Terms of the understanding between the URF and city include:

- ◆ "The DDA agrees to ... construction of, at the DDA's expense and pursuant to the DDA's design, a surface parking lot for approximately 50 parking spaces between the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch and Jefferson";
- ◆ "The lot shall be owned and maintained by the DDA and/or the City" and
- ◆ "The DDA's obligations are contingent on the donation to the DDA of \$200,000 by (the) URF, which donation is to occur upon the issuance of all necessary municipal approvals for the parking lot."

— *Brad Lindberg*

OK:

Continued from page 1A

council meeting Monday, Dec. 18, where she thanked Councilwoman Vicki Granger for being part of a working group that's been studying the issue.

"We really believe this is something our community needs for our seniors," Cole said. "It's so they can remain in their homes with safety, dignity and respect."

Cole also noted what she called "the elephant in the room," saying one school of thought wants to see seniors move and sell their homes to young families with school-age children.

"Our current model of the last 45 years with philanthropic support is not sustainable," Cole added.

While state law allows millages up to one mill

for senior services, The Helm is requesting 0.4 mill for six years. The average cost for a homeowner in the Woods would be \$46 a year.

Partnering with Lansing-based EPIC/MRA, a poll of 400 registered voters found 61 percent said they would vote yes or lean toward voting yes. That number was 59 percent in the Woods.

"The most striking finding was the level of support in the 35 to 49 age range, which was 19 percent yes, the highest of any age group," Cole said. "That's what we call the sandwich generation. They're raising kids and also caring for elderly parents."

She also noted the survey asked residents about their thoughts on city services in general. More than 80 percent of respondents in the Woods said they thought city services were "excellent" or

"pretty good."

"That shows the community is happy with what they are getting for their tax dollars, but are still willing to support seniors," she said.

Cole also said the funding would only go to support essential services.

"This would be for things like well-being checks, Medicare help, transportation to doctor visits," she said. "It wouldn't be for things like bingo."

Forecasts from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments show the senior population in the Woods — those age 65 and older — will increase 6 percent by 2030, making up 24 percent of the overall population.

The main question is what happens if the millage is not approved by each city. Cole said that will be answered as part of drafting the ballot lan-

INTAKE:

Continued from page 4A

"For more than a decade, the residents of Grosse Pointe Farms have paid to maintain the pumping station abandoned by Highland Park," Mayor Louis Theros said in a press release. "I thank Gov. (Gretchen) Whitmer, Sen. (Kevin) Hertel and the state legislature for providing much deserved relief to our community. It has been a long time coming, but this collaborative effort underscores the power of state

and local government working together."

The Farms expects to see the funds in the current fiscal year, which runs until June 30, 2024.

"As we continue to make new investments to move Michigan forward, it's equally important for us to correct the issues of our past, including by reimbursing the residents of Grosse Pointe Farms who have unfairly held the responsibility of maintaining Highland

Park's pumping station for years," Hertel said in the release. "Addressing this issue is long overdue and I am grateful to my colleagues in the legislature for approving the funding necessary to take care of this financial liability. This appropriation is truly a win for Grosse Pointe Farms as it allows them to redirect their resources to what really matters: addressing the needs of their community."



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POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE WOODS / GROSSE POINTE SHORES / GROSSE POINTE PARK / GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Grosse Pointe News

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GUEST OPINION By Kaitlin Arnold

Be realistic, flexible, kind to yourself when setting resolutions

As we enter into 2024, many of us think about how we can better ourselves in the new year. We make resolutions and set goals. Studies show the success rate of resolutions is low. Why? We may not be realistic with ourselves or give ourselves enough flexibility.

Someone who doesn't exercise sets a goal to work out daily. Someone who eats out for most meals resolves to cook all meals. For most people, these goals are so different from their regular routine that they are unrealistic. Old habits soon reemerge. If you haven't worked out in years, go for a walk around the block two or three days a week. If you want to stop eating out every meal, start with meal prepping two lunches.

Once you've gained some success, work up from there. Gradually introducing differences into your routine is less stressful and can lead to sustained change.

If we don't allow ourselves flexibility, we also can have trouble achieving our goals. You might start out January exercising every day but then contract the flu or tire from all that working out. If you miss a few workouts, you haven't failed. You're just listening to your body. If your child has a demanding after-school schedule and you pick up carryout a couple of nights, it doesn't mean you're doomed to repeat the past. You're just doing what you need to do for your family. Be kind to yourself, recommit and get back on your plan a bit at a time.

For many, the start of the new year is an opportunity to "reset." And while change is anxiety-provoking, it also can be exciting! Remember to be realistic, flexible and kind to yourself throughout the process. Wishing you a happy and healthy 2024 and the best in achieving your resolutions.

Kaitlin Arnold is a Licensed Professional Counselor and founder of Finding Your Balance Therapy. She specializes in working with adolescents, emerging adults and adults dealing with depression, anxiety, other mental health issues and stressors from life challenges such as transitions and interpersonal conflict. Learn more at findingyourbalancetherapy.com.

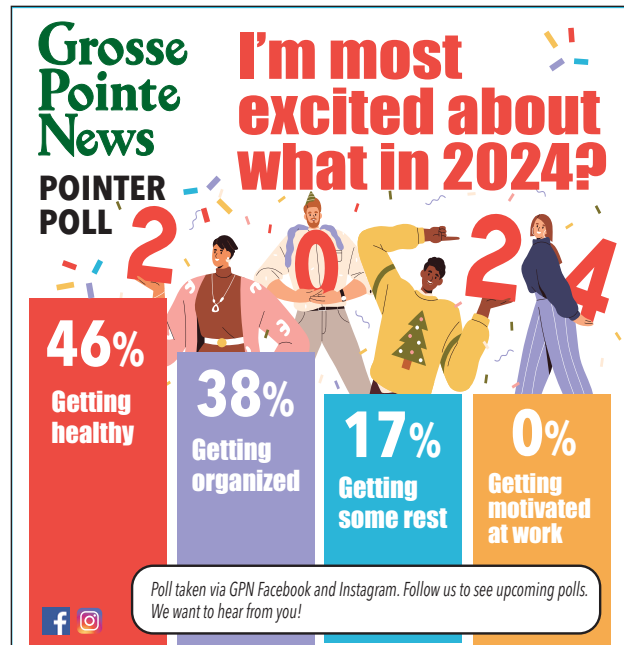


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Defer Elementary School's leadership team, consisting of third and fourth graders, organized a toy drive for children who were hospitalized during the holidays. Pictured are leadership team members, holding some of the toys they collected for patients at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital, with help from teachers Courtney Kliman and Mary O'Meara.

GUEST VIEWS

Be our guest

Be our guest — that's our mantra this week on our opinion pages, where many local mayors are taking the opportunity to look back on important events that impacted their cities in 2023.

As valuable as it is to look back, we also are looking ahead with a guest editorial from a local licensed professional counselor, who offers us some ways we can set ourselves up for success when establishing new goals, known at this time of year as New Year's resolutions.

Though it's only been a few short days into the new calendar year, we hope yours has gotten off to a great start.

As always, we look forward to providing you with more news, features, opinions, columns and sports stories that are important to you as we venture into 2024.

Happy New Year!

Teamwork is key in the City

Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak
City of Grosse Pointe

Because I've never been very athletic, I didn't play sports in high school or college. But early in my professional life, where I was only one of the many people required to produce a daily newspaper, I quickly learned how crucial trust and camaraderie are to high-performance teams.

In my role on the Grosse Pointe City Council, I see that same esprit de corps at play, both within the council and throughout the various municipal entities that help our city thrive. In fact, teamwork is a key element of everything our city accomplished in 2023.

For example, personnel changes might throw some people off their game, but not our staff at city hall and the municipal court. They pulled together to ensure uninterrupted service when an acting city manager, new city manager, new city clerk and new municipal judge joined our lineup last year.

Our public works team also kept things running smoothly, even while responding to the aftermath of a tornado in July. Other wins for the department included completing a host of vital infrastructure projects — installing nearly 3,700 feet of water main; inspecting, cleaning and lining roughly 12 miles of storm sewers; resurfacing Cranford Lane and Neff Road and installing new water, sewer and storm infrastructure; resurfacing portions of Cadieux Road; and in The Village,

revitalizing the parking lots and repairing the sewers on Kercheval Place to alleviate flooding.

The Main Street Grosse Pointe team kept the momentum going in The Village. New events like the Art Takeover Project were introduced, a dozen building façades and interiors were renovated, and the vacancy rate reached a low 6 percent. In addition, The Village received \$623,000 in private investment, saw more than 1,000 hours of volunteer engagement and reached more than 7,500 followers on Facebook and nearly 1,500 on Instagram.

Neff Park staff scored big by welcoming nearly 60,000 visitors, with 50,000 residents using the pool and 76 guests per day using the baby pool.

Our ever-vigilant public safety personnel brought their A-game to our community and beyond when they stopped retail thefts at Kroger and, notably, broke a statewide retail theft crime ring. The department has also invested in training and equipment for the suppression of electric vehicle fires.

In the coming year, our team looks forward to completing the adaptive reuse of the former school administration building and breaking ground on the City Center Apartments on St. Clair, both of which will provide much-needed housing options and new tax revenue. And city staff has begun work on a stormwater separation project to help alleviate basement flooding, with an eye toward leveraging a potential \$20 million grant from FEMA.

For these and other city projects, teamwork most certainly will be in the playbook.

Basketball great Michael Jordan once said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships." Although I still don't play sports, these days I feel honored to be part of a championship team.

Much to look forward to in 2024

Mayor Louis Theros
Grosse Pointe Farms

I want to thank the Grosse Pointe News for allowing Grosse Pointe Farms to address its constituents in their paper once again. I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024.

The Farms is looking forward to several projects to further advance our community this coming year. We already have one of the best city parks anywhere in the country and look forward to improving it with new pickleball courts coming this spring. In addition,

See GUESTS, page 7A

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

January 4 - 10



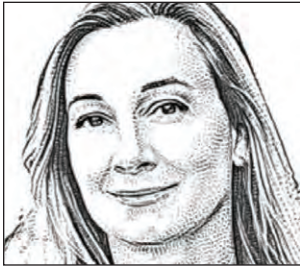
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31° 21°	37° 26°	37° 30°	39° 30°	40° 34°	40° 31°	34° 24°
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	PMSnow Showers	Cloudy	Cloudy	Rain/Snow	AMSnow Showers
0%	0%	40%	20%	10%	60%	30%
SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:00 am
SUNSET 5:12 pm	SUNSET 5:13 pm	SUNSET 5:14 pm	SUNSET 5:15 pm	SUNSET 5:16 pm	SUNSET 5:17 pm	SUNSET 5:18 pm

Weather data courtesy of Channel 4, WDIV Detroit • ClickOnDetroit.com

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.

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



The more things change ...

The obvious subject choice for an "I Say" on Jan. 4 is the new year. New year, new you; new beginnings, blah blah. But no matter how hard I tried to avoid the topic, it was like a magnet, drawing me in.

Usually, the New Year's resolutions in my house are few and fleeting — and mostly because of my own shortcomings and very short-term memory when it comes to sticking to them.

Let's face it, this year

will likely be more of the same. But the fact I am here and able to make a resolution at all is a good thing (gratitude: check!) — and that I have a family around me to poke fun at my shortcomings and attempt to block me from eating that cookie (blessed: check!) — is both comforting and helps me further my obsession with checking things off my never-ending lists. (Check!)

Do you know the origin of resolutions? I didn't until I started researching for this column and found it very interesting. Maybe you will too. January was named for a two-faced Roman god called Janus, who looked forward to

new beginnings while at the same time backward for reflection and resolution. The Romans offered sacrifices to Janus and made promises for good behavior for the year in front of them. Reading this made me laugh — as I pictured myself and my friends tossing Oreos and bottles of Sauvignon Blanc to the Janus god in the hopes of losing a few pounds and gaining some better moral character.

Janus also was the guardian of gates and doors. He ruled over the temple of peace, where doors were opened only during wars. It was a place where one could be safe and where new beginnings and resolu-

tions could be forged. I also found some articles about how the land and seasons in North America and much of Europe lent themselves to resolutions during January and wintertime, because the harvest was complete and the holiday had ended. It was a time to settle accounts with their neighbors and take a break from the hard work and toil that went on all spring, summer and fall.* Finally, the farmers had some time for reflection and rest.

Resolutions have evolved somewhat over the last hundred or so years. Most of the earliest resolutions were about becoming stronger in

1947:

1. Improve my disposition, be more understanding, control my temper
2. Improve my character, live a better life
3. Stop smoking
4. Save more money
5. Stop drinking, drink less

And today:

1. Lose weight
2. Get organized
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Stay fit and healthy

faith, reflecting the wish to attain stronger moral character and restraint when it came to earthly delights. These days, although similar, it seems people have steered more toward general self-improvement and more positive affirmations. Here are the top five resolutions from a 1947 Gallop Poll versus today.

As you can see, the more things change, the more they stay the same. When I scan the lists, I see a lot of things I could improve. Looks like I have some more things to add to my list (check!).

Best of luck to you and yours for a healthy, happy and productive 2024.

* Source: *almanac.com*

GUESTS:

Continued from page 6A

this year we will be developing plans for pool and bath house renovations.

Substantial progress is also being made to our business districts. Businesses on Mack Avenue continue to make improvements and we continue to work with our surrounding cities, including the City of Detroit, to make further updates to Mack Avenue. On the Hill, we are pleased to welcome new businesses, including the popular Flyleaf bookstore. We encourage everyone to shop locally in the Farms and our surrounding communities.

As for our infrastructure, further improvements on our sewer system are on track to commence in late 2024 and into 2025. This project will remove substantial amounts of rainwater from the system to reduce the potential back up issues because of the increasing levels of rainfall produced by storms. And with the passage of a road mileage by our community, we have been actively fixing roads with more projects slated for 2024.

Financially, Grosse Pointe Farms continues to be in an incredibly strong position, including pensions and retiree healthcare, with plans that rank amongst the best in the state.

Keeping an eye on the future, the Farms, with substantial input from residents, has just issued its new master plan. This plan covers everything from city governance, business and zoning issues, parks and recreation, entertainment and housing and will be implemented by council over the next few years.

Finally, I'm glad to say I'm privileged to serve with a fantastic city administration, the best employees ever and an excellent city council. We've been able to accomplish so much in the last several years, particularly coming out of the COVID era, and it's through hard work and dedication that we continue to make Grosse Pointe Farms one of the best cities to live in the country.

Take time to experience the Park

Mayor Michele Hodges
Grosse Pointe Park

Have you taken an opportunity to experience the beautiful lights on Kercheval in the Park yet? Or the adorable snowmen sprinkled throughout? They both make for an irresistible experience and are pure magic.

Along with the lights and snowmen are the many new businesses that are bringing so much vibrancy and activity to our community. You can find active-wear, get your locks trimmed, seek relaxation over yoga, pick up a baguette while seeing a friend, grab a slice of pizza, get your car repaired, adorn your person with artful tattoo work, find relief with acupuncture, get your threads dry cleaned, drop off your pup for a checkup, raise a glass to a keg tree, pick up a charming gift for your loved one, place a child on your lap and read a book in a special place, or

snag a hammer and screwdriver for your fixer upper, all right here on our Kercheval.

And what puts it all over the top? Each other. You. Us. The people you see strolling the streets, waiting for a table, toasting a colleague, holding a hand, guiding a four-legged friend, waving hello, giving you a warm and welcoming smile, shoveling a path, humming a tune or rolling a wheelchair to take in some window shopping.

It is all of us who put the community in our community, who give it the energy that makes it thrive and who define it as a special place worth committing to, worth investing in, worth taking a stand for. It is the many folks working in partnership to make it all happen, from those tapping the credit card at the point of sale, to the planning commission, the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association, the Tax Increment Finance Authority, city administration, the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, the many community groups serving with commitment, my city council colleagues and our neighbors and friends who we have the honor of welcoming to our warm and inviting community.

That's a lot to be thankful for. That's a lot to be proud of. That's what 2023 has brought us and that's what will continue into 2024, because that's what the Park has become — the place to be.

Our parks are a treasure

Mayor Arthur Bryant
Grosse Pointe Woods

As we mark the end of one year and look ahead to the next, residents of Grosse Pointe Woods have many reasons to delight in living here.

One of our greatest treasures is our parks system and in 2023, our residents benefited from significant improvements to our parks for those who love nature, exercise or relaxation, solitude on walking paths, family fun under covered pavilions or boat wells with access to the Great Lakes and beyond.

◆ Lake Front Park is a mecca for nature, fitness and family enthusiasts. The nautical-themed mini golf course features nine handicap-accessible holes enhanced by a lighthouse, buoys and scorecard stands mimicking dock pilings. Tennis and pickleball courts provide fitness opportunities. Residents can stroll along the boardwalk to take in spectacular Lake St. Clair views or stop in at the activities center for games and exercise. Our aquatic facility entices with refreshing water in an all-new splash pad opening in 2024, a wading pool, Olympic-sized swimming pool, giant dual water slides, lap lanes and diving pool. Pavilions and gazebos with charcoal grills dot this recreation complex snaked with trails and walking paths (with workout stations to keep every part of one's body in shape).

◆ Ghesquiere Park at city hall is the place to be for pickleball fanatics, with four courts catering to those seeking camaraderie and competition. Its grassy areas are perfect for the popular summertime family movie nights. Baseball diamonds, a playscape, soccer fields, batting cages and an ice hockey rink

deliver four-season entertainment.

◆ The newly renovated Chene-Trombley Park — featuring the all-new Phyllis A. DeMars Tot Lot and Swing Area — draws young families with children to its accessible-to-all play equipment and walking path. Visitors breeze through a modern sail shade entrance into a world of toddler-friendly amenities like the Friendship Swing, We-Go-Round and accessible Super Scooper. The Dino Climber, Log Crawl and fossil dig areas are sure to tempt even the youngest of future archeologists and geologists. There also is the original playscape for older kids which has been nicely refurbished. Picnicking is made convenient with tables and bathroom facilities. And the kindness rock garden — created by Girl Scout Troop 77262 — is where one can add a rock or take a rock!

◆ Beloved four-legged furry friends can romp carefree and safe in not one, but two dog parks: the original at Lake Front Park and now the brand new one located near city hall with an entrance at Torrey Road and Mack Avenue.

◆ Sweeney Park is a hidden jewel within residential streets featuring a playscape and an ice rink in the winter. Jules DePorre Park is a cozy pocket park perfect for meditative moments.

Looking ahead, we recently held a master plan open house, enabling residents to provide input on topics including, but not limited to, housing, economic development and community character to steer our community for the next 10 to 20 years. Based on this feedback, city council — in collaboration with our planning commission — will focus on new ideas that maintain our safe, quiet, bedroom community personality; prioritize Mack Avenue development as a vibrant, thriving corridor; and address housing needs based on a changing population.

Grosse Pointe Woods is rich with natural beauty and recreation opportunities; a diverse community and acclaimed social programming and strong leadership. We are driven to give our residents even more reason to celebrate living their best lives here next year and beyond!

See GUESTS, page 8A

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RAYMOND JAMES

GPPSS hires new PR person

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — As part of her new job with the Grosse Pointe Public School System as communications coordinator, one of Alexa Tedeschi's duties is to visit classrooms around the district taking photos for various email and social media updates.

It's far less dangerous than some of her other photography assignments. The 2019 Oakland University graduate spent several months last year in South Africa doing wildlife photography and underwater videography for two research and educational companies.

"I got to take photos of things like lions and elephants for a documentary and got to do underwater videography of everything from sharks to whales to eels," she said. "It was an incredible experience



An example of Tedeschi's wildlife photography during her time in South Africa. She made sure to point out it was taken with a telescopic lens.

and I can't wait to go back."

Tedeschi said she cage dove with great white sharks but got to free-swim around blacktip and tiger sharks. She now is certified to SCUBA dive down to 120 feet, twice the depth she was at before going to South Africa.

"I've always loved animals," she laughed.

"When I was growing up, I wanted to work for Animal Planet."

Despite growing up in Macomb County, however, she's never been diving in the Great Lakes.

"You have a shorter season because the water is so cold, but I'd love to try it," she said. "There are some really cool shipwrecks."

After graduating from

OU with a journalism degree specializing in digital media production, Tedeschi worked in community television for Rochester Hills and Shelby Township. She also spent two years as a communications teacher for Clintondale Community Schools and was a content creator and social media manager for the district.

"I love working with kids, but I like to be out and about," she said. "It was hard being in a classroom all day."

Since starting with GPPSS last November, Tedeschi said she's been to almost every school in the district.

"They've

greeted me with open arms," she said. "Everyone is so welcoming and they're always happy to see me. The administration team has also been very helpful in helping me get to know the area."

As for future dives, Tedeschi said she'd love to return to South Africa and visit the Philippines.



Alexa Tedeschi

"And Australia," she added. "It would be amazing to see the Great Barrier Reef."



COURTESY PHOTOS

An underwater shot of a turtle Tedeschi took in South Africa.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Donation driven

Monteith Elementary School hosted a coat drive in December and collected 56 coats, 21 scarves, 12 snow pants, three sets of boots, 83 pairs of gloves and 75 hats, all of which were donated to the Macomb County Foster Care Closet. Students from the school's Green Team — two students each from first through fourth grades — organized the drive with the help from fourth-grade teacher Kiera Filbin.

GUESTS:

Continued from page 7A

Looking back, looking ahead

Mayor Valerie Kindle

Harper Woods

Happy New Year, everyone. I'm wishing you a safe, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

First, I would like to give a rousing congratulations to our Pioneers Harper Woods High School football team for winning the Division 4 State Championship — a first in the history of Harper Woods. We will be celebrating these champions with a parade on Jan. 12, 2024 — all are invited. We are looking forward to 2024 with great anticipation and expectations of new things to come to Harper Woods.

2023

- ◆ Continued development of Eastland Commerce Center.
- ◆ The rebuilding of Tim Hortons restaurant.
- ◆ Hosting the second annual "Lost in the Woods," a unique art & musical festival.
- ◆ Proposed recreation center.
- ◆ Citizen Lab — a citizen social media platform to inform residents of happening and projects.
- ◆ Mobile water and property tax app — pay water and tax bills by cell phone or iPad.
- ◆ A new housing complex is coming to the city at the Poupard school site.

2024

- ◆ New business development — Morton Development Group putting business in vacant storefronts.
- ◆ Improving both police and fire protection.
- ◆ Sidewalk improvement program.
- ◆ Pocket park development.
- ◆ Window and HVAC system improvement at city hall.
- ◆ New equipment for our DPW department.
- ◆ Finishing the rehab/renovation in the library lower level.
- ◆ Engaging church and civic organizations to help clean up/fix up many households of low-income, veterans and disabled residents in the city.
- ◆ Finding innovative ways to lower the tax burden on residents and businesses.

Reflections on 2023, looking to 2024

Ahmed Ismail

GPPSS Board of Education President

Looking back on 2023, it certainly was a year of growth for our school board and school system.

Early in the year, the board formed four standing committees — the Facilities and Finance Committee, the Policy and Contracts Committee, the Curriculum Committee and the Community Engagement Committee.

While our school board has had committees in the past, 2023 was the first year these committees included community members as well as board

members. Hundreds of community members applied to serve on these committees. Ultimately, each committee was composed of no more than three board members and six dedicated community members, bringing the school system valuable skill sets never before available. We are incredibly thankful to each and every parent/community member on our committees and their contributions toward furthering the success of each and every one of our students.

Ambiguous policies were reviewed and updated. Special legal counsel reporting directly to the school board was retained to work on projects where a potential ethical conflict may arise in using the school system's general counsel. This counsel was invaluable in negotiating administrator contracts and the resignation agreement with former superintendent, Dr. Jon Dean.

In order to streamline the budget planning process and the reduction of COVID-funded services, a Budget Committee was formed. This committee is already at work on our 2024-25 fiscal year budget with the goal of having it in place by the end of May 2024.

We have been especially fortunate to have Mr. Christian Fenton agree to serve as our interim superintendent during our new superintendent search. After a detailed interview process, Dr. Andrea Tuttle was selected in a 7-0 board vote to serve as our next superintendent. Assuming contract negotiations are successful, Dr. Tuttle will start in our school system on Feb. 1.

The new year offers us a number of challenges and tremendous opportunities for growth as a school system.

First, negotiating a sound contract with and onboarding a new superintendent will be a priority for all of the members of our school board.

Second, dealing with the challenge of cutting approximately \$5.5 million from our 2024-25 budget to reflect the loss of COVID-related federal funding will be addressed by the central office and building administrators so that a balanced budget and a healthy fund equity can be maintained. The Facilities and Finance Committee will continue to work with the central administration to put a monthly reporting system in place for our finances prior to the end of February at both the district and building levels so the financial surprises occurring in so many of our peer school systems are avoided.

Third, our school system's strategic plan will be updated to reflect a 10-year vision for our district with excellence in academics and maximizing opportunities for each and every student at the forefront.

Fourth, and most important, we will continue to listen to all of the members of our community — not just the ones who speak at our board meetings — but also our parents, students and residents.

Together, with your continued support, all of us on YOUR school board are committed to providing the best possible education for our students that your generous tax dollars can provide.



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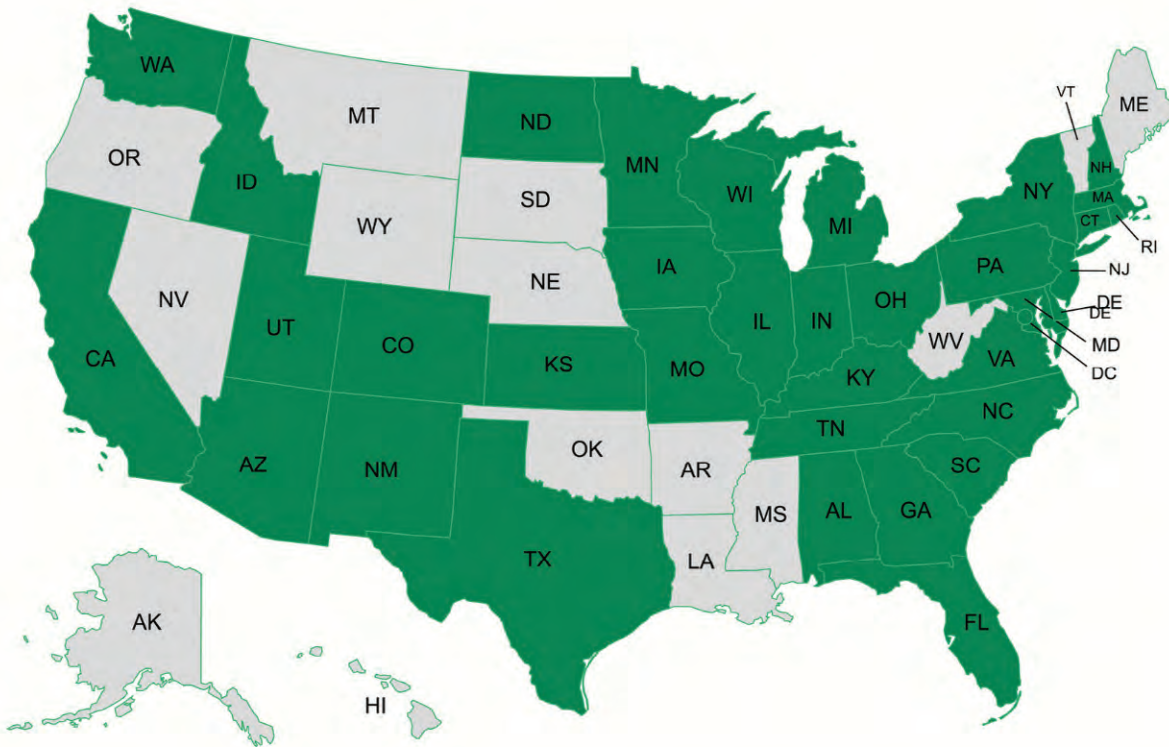
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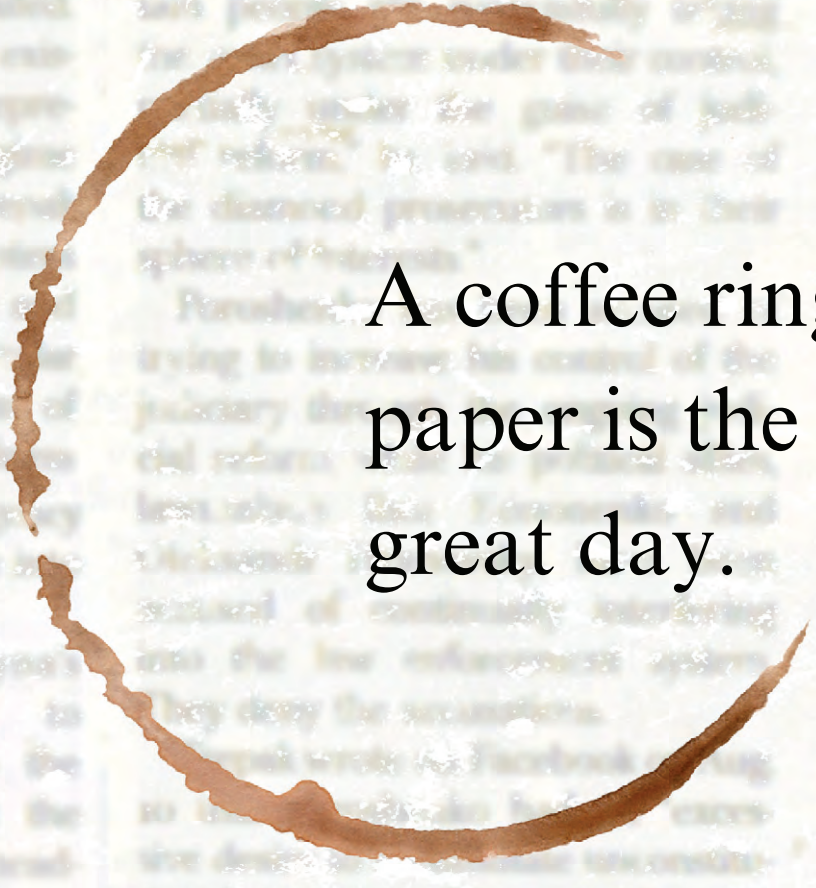
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“Red Freighter,” photographed by Jack Ryan, has the month of March covered in the Grosse Pointe News 2024 calendar.

Grosse Pointe News debuts 2024 calendar

By Joody McVeigh
 Editor

Welcome to 2024! And welcome to the Grosse Pointe News’ first ever calendar, brimming with photos of our beautiful Pointes!

We can’t mask our excitement about the seasonal splendor that can be found in Grosse Pointe. We wanted to share our favorite glimpses of Mother Nature’s touch on our cities and landmarks. Our thanks go to staff photographer Renee Landuyt and writer Brad Lindberg for their contributions.

But because they couldn’t be everywhere all at once, we asked you to share your favorites too! We recruited reader submissions via social media and were overwhelmed by the response — if only the calendar year was longer than 12 months! — and fit as many contributed shots as we could.

Like an aerial John Martin photo featuring the majestic Ford House.

“Ford House has been one of my favorite clients for the last 15 years,” said Martin, owner of John F. Martin Photography Inc., in Grosse Pointe Woods. “Every time I get the chance to photograph the house and grounds is a pleasure. While the home remains virtually unchanged, the grounds are always evolving and the addition of the new visitors center and The Continental restaurant really adds to the experience. If you haven’t visited or if it’s been a long time, I encourage you to do so. It’s a gem on our shoreline.”

Grosse Pointe North



High School sophomore Sophia Salvador captured a fleeting moment in Grosse Pointe history, the much-talked-about Pepsi mural uncovered during a construction project in the Woods.

“I was inspired to take the photo of the mural because it was uncovered close to my house and I was overwhelmed with amazement that it remained in such pristine condition after probably 70 years of being there,” she said. “I love all things history, especially the local legends and history of Grosse Pointe. I was so saddened when I had discovered it had been painted over since it brought so much personality and life to the community. Everyone really seemed genuinely interested in it, which is cool because I think many people don’t give a second thought of how Grosse Pointe used to be.



Above, “Grosse Pointe Equestrian,” photographed by Barbara Johns. Left, “Heron at Ford Cove,” photographed by Larry Graessle.

I have never really taken a photo on a professional camera before, but when I saw that the GP News was doing this, I borrowed my brother’s and thought the mural would be a perfect thing to capture.”

Former Grosse Pointe News freelance photographer Jack Ryan also contributed an aerial photo, “Red Freighter,” as a gentle giant glides through frigid Lake St. Clair on a sunny spring day.

Larry Graessle of Grosse Pointe Woods snapped a photo of a great blue heron perched in Ford Cove, as well as the view from a sunrise bike ride, while Grosse

Pointe Farms resident Jim Dorian shared a stunning shot of students sailing in the MISSA High School Champion Regatta.

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Katie Harness submitted “Spring at the Yacht Club,” which was selected as the cover photo.

“I’ve been fascinated by nature since I was a little kid,” she said. “I grew up in an area where we ran through fields, climbed trees and played in the creek. I have a keen interest in taking pictures of dahlias — their intricate patterns are amazing to me. I think I’m drawn to nature and bodies of water; it brings back happy memories of my childhood.”

Harness’ “Moonlit Tower” also was selected for the calendar.

“My husband and I had stopped at Farms Market to pick up a pizza,” she recalled. “The moon was incredible that night. I’m glad I captured it. Beautiful school!”

Three photos taken by Nadine Shanley of the City of Grosse Pointe were accepted into the calendar, including “Lake Geese,” “Turtle Time” and “Snowy Eagle.”

“I’m inspired by our beautiful parks and lake,” she said. “Experiencing all four seasons throughout the year is fascinating. So is our local wildlife.”

“One of my favorite things is walking to the lake early in the morning and watching the sunrise,” she continued. “Seeing the leaves change — nature is the

See CAL, page 6B

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Christmas collection

The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club has stationed a Toys 4 Tots collection box in its lobby during Christmastime around a decade or so and it fills up quickly, General Manager Aaron Wagner said, “thanks to many generous club members and guests.” The box was designed and donated by Sterling Insurance Agency partners Joe Haney and Paul Mattes, who are members of the club. “Their mission was to create something that would be large enough to handle lots of toys while being attractive enough to be stationed in the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club lobby every year during the holidays,” Wagner added. “Every year the box fills up and inevitably people bring so many (toys) that we have to pile them up alongside it and all over the lobby.”

Mental health advocate seeks community participation

‘Raise the Roof’ helps animals who help others

Patricia McNeill of Grosse Pointe has seen firsthand the positive impact animals can have on an individual’s mental health. Now some of the animals she knows so well need a hand this winter.

“These beautiful animals — alpaca, goats, rabbits, sheep, horses and others — are all loved by the residents of Rose Hill Center and caring for these animals is an important component in their therapy,” McNeill said. “And now an additional \$50,000 is needed to replace the roof on the nearly 100-year-old barn.”

McNeill is a board member of Rose Hill Center in Holly, a

Michigan nonprofit organization her parents, Dan and the late Rosemary Kelly, founded and built from the ground up to help her late brother, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia. The community is a residential psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation facility that sits on hundreds of rolling acres and offers a comprehensive range of programs for adults with severe mental illness.

McNeill is a substitute librarian at the Grosse Pointe Public Library. Prior to that, she served as the librarian at St. Paul Catholic School. She volunteers on the Rose Hill board because she has seen firsthand how residential therapy can

improve lives. Many of McNeill’s friends and family come from the Grosse Pointe community and are supporters and volunteers of Rose Hill as well.

“Mental health is everyone’s business,” McNeill said. “We need to rally around those who need help as it impacts every family in some way in the state and nation.”

Keeping the Rose Hill Center barn safe and in good working condition not only is critical to the animal husbandry program, but it’s also important to maintain a barn with such a rich historical value.

Rose Hill Center, established in 1992, was founded on the belief that



Patricia McNeill

recovery can take place when people receive professional psychiatric care, participate in meaningful daily activity and engage in their own treatment program. Residents are guided through a therapeutic program that helps them manage their symptoms and provides them with an opportunity to achieve their highest level of independence.

Those interested in giving to Rose Hill Center may visit rosehillcenter.salsalabs.org/raisethe roof/index.html



COURTESY PHOTOS

McNeill tends to some of the therapy animals who help residents of Rose Hill Center.

GPPL provides inclusive online experience

The Grosse Pointe Public Library now provides an inclusive online experience to enable website visitors access to online content barrier-free.

“With the addition of Recite Me assistive technology, website visitors are now able to access a wide range of support tools to customize their digital experience on grossepointelibrary.org,” said Jessica Keyser, library director. “Accessibility is extremely impor-

tant to us. We’re committed to ensure all our patrons can access information and services that best meet their individual needs.”

More than 25 percent of the population may encounter barriers when exploring websites due to a disability, learning difficulty, visual impairment or if they speak English as a second language, Keyser said. The Recite Me toolbar lets website visitors view and use the library website in a way

that works best for them. Some of the Recite Me functions allow users to:

- ◆ read website text aloud,
- ◆ download the text to an MP3 file,
- ◆ change font sizes and colors,
- ◆ customize the background color,
- ◆ translate text into more than 100 languages and
- ◆ access a dictionary and thesaurus.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Questers

Pettipointe Questers No. 243 meets at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, at Carole Dolan’s home in Grosse Pointe. “Pewabic Tile” is the topic. Annie Dennis, education director at Pewabic, will explain the history of Pewabic tile and how it continues to be made today. Attendees will be able to see installations of Pewabic tile in the Dolan home. Carole Dolan and Dorothy Lilly are hostesses for the meeting and will serve lunch. For more information about Questers, email [pett ipointe-questers@gmail.com](mailto:pettipointe-questers@gmail.com).

AAUW

“Listen to Women,” the third annual art contest and exhibition sponsored by the Grosse Pointe chapter of American Association of University Women, is on display through Monday, Jan. 15, 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.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Library

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

◆ We Create with Procreate!, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Beginner CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Girls Reading, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Teen Midterm Exam Survival Kits, all day Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Teen Creativity Circle: Constellation Luminaries, 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Teen Midterm Exam Survival Kits, all day Thursday, Jan. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Yarn Up Knitting and Crochet Club, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E.

Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 3D Thursday, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

GPSS

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.

Sunrise Rotary

The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Visitors Center, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Its next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 9. Guests are welcome.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Singer, songwriter and playwright Jeff Fisk speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

The Helm

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

◆ The movie “Nyad” will be shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Beginner-level French, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30, or noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 19 to April 26.

◆ Intermediate-level French, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30, or 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 19 to April 26.

◆ Beginner Sign Language, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30.

◆ Intermediate Sign Language, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16 to April 30.

◆ Crocheting for Beginners, 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to May 1.

◆ Lunch & Learn, “Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones,” 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17. Cost is \$6 for members, \$8 for nonmembers. This program repeats 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32

See EVENTS, page 5B



Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Farewell 2023, hello 2024

The year 2023 is old news. Between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, recaps of the 2023 Everthings are as common as wire coat hangers and TV advertisements for new medications. Every publication, it seems, has a list: The Top 10 news stories, the Top 10 weather disasters, the 10 sexiest men, the 10 most exciting new products, the 10 most heinous crimes and so on.

I have a list, too. These items are not newsworthy. They're humdrum, often overlooked things for which I was grateful in 2023. Give me a break. I'm getting older and I'm delighted by some very simple pleasures, such as:

◆ Music, or lack

thereof. I'm thinking about musical pauses. The University of Michigan's alma mater "The Yellow and Blue" has a breathtaking pause at the end of the 12th measure, right after the word "Hail." It brings tears to my eyes when more than 100,000 people stand and sing — and pause — in unison. I get the same teary eyes when all those people sing "The Star-Spangled Banner," too. Another lovely pregnant pause occurs in Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings." The short orchestral piece oozes passion and pathos. Emotion builds. After a shimmering violin/viola stair-step crescendo, the listener's expectations are suddenly dashed!

Egad! An exquisite, breathless pause. Nothing. Take a deep breath. The orchestra resumes softly and slowly recaps the original melodies.

◆ The aroma that slaps you in the nose when you open the door and walk into a coffee shop.

◆ Reading aloud to a clean, snuggly small child in his jammies. The smell of that small child's freshly shampooed hair.

◆ One square of dark chocolate, melting slowly on my tongue.

◆ Family game day. The days after Thanksgiving and Christmas are game days in my family. One of my daughters and her husband usually host the holiday meal. Another

daughter and I usually stay overnight. The next day is one of relaxation. We get out of bed whenever we want to. We eventually gather around a big table and play games all afternoon, sometimes into the evening — Mexican Train, Scrabble, Catan, Texas Hold-Em, Left-Right-Center, other card games, whatever. Sometimes we play for money. Sometimes not. Nobody feels pressured to shower or get dressed. We eat leftovers from the day before, often out of the proper order — chips and dip for breakfast perhaps, pumpkin pie for lunch, deviled eggs for dinner. Ice cream whenever we feel the urge.

◆ The excitement of airport terminals. Parking and waiting in line sucks. I do not like having my purse and laptop scanned.

I get impatient with gate changes and boarding lines. But I love the excitement of airports. The word "bustling" is appropriate. People are actually bustling. Some are running. Carts are beeping. Kids are crabby. Parents are pushovers just for the sake of preventing tantrums. All the food for sale is loaded with fat, salt, carbs and sugar.

◆ Leisurely Sunday mornings with a mug of black coffee and a thick newspaper full of brand new articles, updated stories, interesting facts, misguided and guided opinions, a new Sudoku and a new crossword puzzle.

◆ Public TV and streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime. Most TV shows these days aren't fit for the dumpster. Public TV, Netflix and its counterparts have moved in to fill that void. If my TV only showed Public TV stations, a couple streaming services, the evening news and "Frasier" reruns, I'd be content.

◆ Being so engrossed in a good, thick novel that

I have to put it down and walk away occasionally just to make it last longer.

◆ Learning or discovering something completely new — like how to play pool or Mah Jongg. Or finding out that my Mom and Dad actually wrote love letters to each other. I recently found a stack of these. Both of my parents were born and raised in Cincinnati. Just after they got engaged, my dad landed a job at an advertising agency in Detroit. He moved here and she stayed in Cincinnati until after the wedding. (This was the 1930s. Things were different then.) He was an artist, so his letters are enhanced with sketches and drawings and cartoons. She was a secretary, so her letters were typed on an old Underwood typewriter. She kept carbon copies of her letters. I found the whole stack in an old chest filled with stuff that was transferred to my basement after they both died. Their correspondence was pretty tame, actually, but I like to think of them as love letters.



Hands-on for the holidays

Sunrise on Vernier last month hosted a craft-making afternoon during which residents created holiday wreaths to hang on their apartment doors. While their hands were busy, they and their loved ones were treated to live music from pianist Doug Krieger, as well as appetizers and beverages. Above, Kathy Walsh with her mom, Joann Werling, add decorations to their wreath. Right, Marilyn Winingham and her dad, Hudson Winingham, making a festive wreath.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Left, pianist Doug Krieger entertains the residents with Christmas songs. Below, Vickie Barrows gets help making a wreath from Kayla Jackson, the Sunrise care manager.



Turning 65? Time for Medicare

Those who are about to turn 65 are about to become eligible for Medicare and probably have received numerous correspondence from different insurance companies urging them to sign up for prescription drug, Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plans. What's a person to do? The Helm can help.

"New to Medicare" — during which Medicare counselors provide a comprehensive overview of Medicare, including coverage, costs, pros and cons of optional plans and how to sign up — is a 90-minute class. The next session is at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 25, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. The class is free, but space is limited, so call (313) 649-2110 or email taltovilla@helmlife.org to make a reservation. Classes take place at The Helm about once a quarter.

The Helm also offers free, individual appointments throughout the year with Medicare counselors to help clients understand their options, choose the best plans and answer any specific questions.

Contact Tony Altovilla at taltovilla@helmlife.org or (313) 649-2110 to get in touch with a Medicare counselor.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Grosse Pointe team is here for you.

We can work with you to understand your goals, create a personalized plan, and provide investing guidance. It's a modern approach to wealth management—so you can take ownership of your financial life.



Kyle Hecht
Branch Leader

Jackie Piper
Financial Consultant

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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.

Dr. Diane Fredal Colquhoun

Dr. Diane Fredal Colquhoun, 66, of Battle Creek and formerly of Grosse Pointe, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023.

She will be missed by her family and circle of friends. Diane is survived by her children, Peter, Gillian and Brigitte; mother, Frances (nee Ardito) Fredal; siblings, Carol Abiragi (Roger), Janet Wyman (Bruce), Thomas Fredal (Ann), Susan Tuinier (Bill) and Patricia Visentin (Gianluigi); and countless adoring nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her father, Dr. Joseph J. Fredal; and husband, Dr. Jeffrey P. Colquhoun.

Born April 24, 1957, in Mount Clemens, to Joseph and Frances Fredal, Diane grew up in a large, loving family, the third of six children. One of the earliest highlights of the family was listening to her sing while accompanied on the piano by her father. Hers was a gifted, sweet alto voice, which she often raised in harmony with her sister, Suzie.

Known as Didi to those closest, she absorbed herself in classical literature and found joy learning traditional skills from her mother, especially knitting, sewing, canning and mastering homemade pies. A precocious seamstress, she was awarded her first blue ribbons at the Armada Fair at age 8. She dearly cherished the simplicity of a homespun upbringing and carried it throughout her life.

Diane's gift of song earned her lead roles in high school musicals, as Rosie in "Bye Bye Birdie," Lucy in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" and Marian the Librarian in "The Music Man."

Diane's wanderlust began with a high school summer exchange in the Netherlands, where she made lifelong friendships. After graduating as valedictorian from

Eisenhower High School in 1975, Diane earned dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Michigan in 1979: a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Science in zoology. She was ever-enchanted by Shakespeare, Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and the world of children's literature. At U of M, she spread friendship as a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society.

While attending Wayne State University School of Medicine, Diane found a study pal and running buddy in Jeff Colquhoun, with whom she created a deep bond of friendship. While there, she balanced her studies by singing in a local gospel choir and reading books to neighborhood children who freely happened by.

Diane's desire to explore the world led her on medical school rotations to Sri Lanka and England, as well as Petoskey. She later backpacked through Europe with her sister, Patti, a journey which culminated in discovering their roots in Northern Italy, the home of their beloved grandmother, Alice Ardito.

Diane completed her residency in internal medicine at Bon Secours Hospital, working diligently to improve the quality of her patients' lives. While in Grosse Pointe, she formed a close friendship with Msgr. Francis Canfield, lending her voice to the St. Paul on the Lake choir. She first served as a staff physician in the emergency department and then in adult medicine at the Ascension St. John internal medicine clinic. Fellow members of the Junior League of Detroit will remember her sparkling eyes and altruistic heart.

Diane's undying spirit of adventure led her to scuba diving, golfing and ski trips to the Rockies with friends. Years later, after innocently

exchanging Christmas cards, she reconnected with Jeff. A first official date occurred at Thanksgiving, one that sparked an eternal love.

After marrying at St. Paul in 1991, Jeff and Diane built their home in Battle Creek. Here, they started their family and dove into their medical careers, attending to the ophthalmological and internal medicine needs of the community. Diane soon became known as a listener who brought a joyful and gentle kindness to every encounter. She was a most devoted wife to Jeff and a loving mother to their three children. She also was known for her sweet stubbornness, attention to detail and endless, open-armed hospitality. No one was a stranger to Diane.

Together with her family, Diane lived out her sheer love of outdoor sports. She was a willing and ever-ready captain of the boat for water skiing and tubing. Still, nothing thrilled her more than cheering on her children and friends from the sidelines and encouraging Jeff's triathlons. She loved vacationing in the family retreat at Fort Myers Beach, but felt most joy back home taking care of the Colquhoun farm. As a Master Gardener alongside Jeff, she nurtured the family farm and their garden created for community use. The annual Harvest Festivals the couple hosted there were legendary, marked by memories of Clydesdale horse-drawn hayrides and country music bands. They also shared their spirit of adventure with their children, making and visiting friends in Iceland, Greece and Alaska.

Most importantly, Diane lived with her eyes eternally fixed on the Lord. Her marriage and family were anchored in faith; her life goal was to make a kingdom-centered impact. With Jeff, she thrived on giving to others with open hands.



Dr. Diane Colquhoun



Robert Lawrence Lieder



Joan Helen Coyle

Together they embraced mission work both at home and abroad. With servants' hearts and willing spirits, they worked to maintain an eye hospital in the small village of Zimba, Zambia, visiting biannually for years, growing relationships, oftentimes joined by their children. Their mission was to share the good news of the Gospel and to work humbly at the service of Jesus, the great physician from whom all healing comes.

Diane taught her family many life lessons as she showed great hope and courage during life's joys and trials. Her love for Gillian and Brigitte was unflagging and her love for Peter unending. She showed the depths of her devotion to Jeff, tenderly caring for him in their home until he went to the Lord in 2021.

Her family says, "Diane, may you rest in peace. You remain a bright light in our lives. Your family will love you forever and miss you dearly." They also would like to express their gratitude to the many friends touched by Diane over her lifetime for their care and support.

Robert Lawrence Lieder

Robert "Bob" Lawrence Lieder, 72, passed away Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

Bob was born May 28, 1951, and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School. He completed his undergraduate education at Michigan State University and obtained a degree in dentistry from the University of Detroit. He went on to practice dentistry for 40 years in East Lansing while serving on multiple associations, including the Vedder Society. He treated his patients like family.

Bob was highly principled and treated everyone with care and respect. He provided his family with countless experiences and adventures. He loved everything about the water, including swimming, fishing, boating and spending time at his cottage in Northport.

Bob gained many friendships throughout various parts of his life, including bandmates, Sigma Chi brothers, Omnibus and tailgate buddies, among many others.

Bob is survived by his wife of 44 years, Mary Beth; children, Ellen Horowitz (David), Charlie Lieder (Kelli) and Laura Lieder; grandchildren, Harper and Dylan Horowitz and Connor, Lillian and Emma Lieder; brother, Jim Lieder (Sue); mother-in-law, Patricia Marshall; five brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; as well as many nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his par-

ents, Albert and Loraine Lieder.

Visitation was held at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Home in Lansing. A funeral Mass took place at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Interment was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

In memory of Robert Lieder, donations may be made in his name to Lansing Catholic High School, 501 Marshall, Lansing, MI 48912, lansingcatholic.org/donate-now; or the Neuro Oncology Gift Fund at the University of Michigan, Michigan Medicine Office of Development, 777 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ste. 650, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, victors.us/robertlieder.

Joan Helen Coyle

Joan Helen Coyle (nee Taylor), 79, passed away Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023.

Born March 27, 1944, she was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Joan was a talented athlete and enjoyed tennis, golf, skiing and baseball. She was known to dominate family wiffle ball games. Joan also was a devoted family woman who cared deeply for her loved ones. She is survived by her husband, Tom Coyle Sr.; sons, Tom Coyle Jr. (Isabel) and Shawn Coyle (Kathryn); daughter, Erin; and grandchildren, Shawn Jr., Carolyn, Christopher, Tommy III, Izzy and Maria-Sofia.

Joan made it her mission to never miss a school concert, sporting event, academic competition or anything involving her children or grandchildren. She always was their biggest champion, as well as their toughest critic. She inspired all of them to achieve more. As much as she accomplished in her life, she preferred talking about the great things her children or grandchildren were doing; she was the inspiration behind them.

Anyone who knew Joan knew she loved dogs. Whether training her dogs, Gigi and Rommel, while growing up on North Oxford Road, or playing with, walking or training four golden retrievers over the course of her life, dogs were special companions for her. Taffee, Shelby, Morgan and Liberty were constant friends.

Joan was very active at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and Habitat for Humanity Grosse Pointe Partners. She was active in the PTA while her children were going through school and served as Mother's Club president at Grosse Pointe South High School. She also was active at the Country Club of Detroit and Tau Beta Association. For several years, she was in charge of the Grosse Pointe Thanksgiving Parade. She also was a

very proud Michigan State Spartan and avid fan of Army football. Joan never left a game early.

Joan loved to travel, whether packing into the family station wagon and driving to Alabama, stopping at historic places in Kentucky and Tennessee along the way, or achieving her lifelong dream to visit China where her daughter Erin worked. She also made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in Bosnia. However, Joan's family will never forget trips to Traverse City, a trip to London with the whole family to celebrate Joan and Tom's 25th anniversary or their adventures in Cancun. However, while these were all exciting trips, there was nothing she enjoyed more than riding on the family boat, "The Taylor Made."

She had an astute mind for business and served on the board of Midwest Brake, a talent for graphic design and even formed her own distribution company called TESCO.

Joan will be remembered for her kindness, love of music and family and adventurous spirit. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

Donations in her memory may be made to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, nkfm.org/ways-to-give/donate-now/.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Dolores B. Mavian

Dolores B. Mavian, 95, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, surrounded by her loving family.

Dee Dee, as she was affectionately called, left behind a legacy of love, grace and a caring spirit, touching the hearts of those who were blessed to cross her path.

With the love of her life, Mike, she raised their daughters, Peri, Lisa and Jan. Mike's passing more than 20 years ago left a huge hole in the hearts of the entire family. Through her strength, faith and selfless love, Dee Dee was able to continue the legacy she and Mike created, passing their loving spirit on to their three daughters, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Dee Dee's wish was for the immediate family to gather for a private ceremony celebrating her life. As an avid reader who loved the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Dee Dee asked that any donations in her honor be directed there, grossepointe-public-library.org/support-your-library.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

See OBITS, page 5B

Joan LeGro Bushnell



Joan LeGro Bushnell, age 86, passed away on December 4, 2023. Beloved wife to the late George Bushnell. Cherished mother to David (Helene) Bushnell. Adored grandma to Trent Bushnell, Tate Bushnell, Joy Beth Mangus, Matthew Mangus, and Ava Taylor.

Joan was born and raised in Detroit, MI on March 20, 1937 to Frank and Emily LeGro. Throughout her life, Joan wore many hats - author, actress, playwright, poet, nightclub vocalist, composer, educator - just to name a few. Joan immersed

herself in the world of theatrics - singing at the age of three, composing music at the age of seven, and having her poetry published in National Anthology in the seventh grade.

She filled her brain with the knowledge of theatre arts and writing by attending various colleges across the United States - from Massachusetts to Vermont and even California. After college, Joan was offered a position to co-host Michigan's first FM Radio talk show and achieved her licensure with the Federal Communications Commission.

While singing at a local piano bar in the Bahamas, Joan met the true love of her life - George Bushnell. It was love at first sight. Just over a year later, the two were married and brought their son, David, into the world. George and Joan each shared the importance of appreciation and knowledge of theatre arts with their son David.

Joan's success continued to flourish as she grew into her new life of marriage and motherhood. One of her own melodramas, in which she not only authored but composed as well, was performed at the esteemed Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.

After George's passing, Joan still continued to write and direct various plays and even authored a few recipe books. She adopted her dear dachshund, Sophie, who became her favorite child (unbeknownst to David).

Joan showcased the life of a true thespian. She will be truly missed.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday January 13, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Joan's name to the Fine Arts Society of Detroit or the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Evangiela Koloveas Kallapure

Evangiela Koloveas Kallapure, known to many as "Angela," 75, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, at her home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Born in Greece, she and her parents immigrated to Detroit when she was an infant and later to Grosse Pointe Farms, where she lived for nearly 60 years. She earned her bachelor's degree from Detroit College of Business and helped manage the office staff of the domestic family division of circuit court for nearly a decade. There, she assisted indigent and abuse victims seeking divorce.

Her proudest accomplishment was being a loving wife to Andrew Kallapure, her husband of nearly 50 years, and devoted mother to her son, George. She was passionate about her family, friends, faith and Greek heritage.

A service was held at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, with interment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens East.

Angela was a supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, bit.ly/3RJn4mD.

Bonnie Fiedorek Sloane Yingst

Bonnie Fiedorek Sloane Yingst, 79, a distinguished professor and former chair of the department of pharmacology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, with her family by her side.

She was born Aug. 12,



Evangiela Kallapure



Bonnie Sloane Yingst



Diane E. VandenBoom

1944, in Pittsburgh, to Leo and Betty (nee Findley) Fiedorek, both now deceased. On Aug. 21, 1987, Bonnie married Douglas Yingst, Ph.D., who survives her. She also is survived by her stepchildren, Rebecca Price (Patrick) of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Stuart Yingst (Elizabeth) of Darien, Conn.; grandchildren, Stella, Benjamin, Sloane and Margot; and brother, Bruce Fiedorek (Elizabeth) of Katonah, N.Y.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City, with visitation beginning at 1:30 p.m. A reception will follow at Rove Estate Winery.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Glen Lake Community Library, glenlakelibrary.net/donate/.

Visit reynolds-jonkhoff.com to read about Bonnie's remarkable life, share a memory and condolences and join the livestream of the memorial service.

Diane Elaine VandenBoom

Diane Elaine VandenBoom, 66, passed away suddenly Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023.

Diane was the beloved wife of Timothy Gerard VandenBoom for 45 years; cherished mother of Timothy VandenBoom II, M.D., Kayla VandenBoom and Sara

Provost (nee VandenBoom); dear grandmother of Kathryn Provost and James Provost; loving daughter of Ronald Wooten and the late Heidi Wooten (nee Cherry); and adored sister of Sharon Feola (Steve). She also is survived by many in-laws, aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her mother; cousin, Laurie Carlyle; grandparents, Elsie and Noel Wooten; loving in-laws, Marie and Dutch VandenBoom; and precious friends, Leanne, Susie, Liz, Stella and Pam.

Diane was born Oct. 12, 1957, in London, England, while her father served in the U.S. Navy. Her family later moved from the United Kingdom to the United States, settling first in San Diego, then in Grosse Pointe Farms, where Diane ultimately set her roots.

After graduating from Grosse Pointe South High School, Diane took various courses at Macomb Community College and was employed at Cottage Hospital (now Henry Ford-Cottage) as a respiratory technician and nurse aide for many years. She also was employed by the Secretary of State and then became a dedicated employee of the city of Grosse Pointe Park as a dispatcher and administrative assistant with the public service department. She also volunteered as a probation officer for the city of

Harper Woods.

In the late 1970s, Diane met the love of her life, Timothy. The two fell fast in love and were married Sept. 1, 1978. After 45 years of holy matrimony, Diane and Timothy not only raised three children — Timothy II, Kayla and Sara — but also depicted the true meaning of love and companionship to those around them.

Diane was an active member of AMVETS Post 57 and treasurer of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary for more than 25 years. She found peace in nature and watching the freighters pass by on Lake St. Clair. She also was an avid animal lover and dedicated her free time to raising money for various charities.

Memorial visitation for Diane will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, with a Rosary at 6 p.m., at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. An in-state gathering will be held Monday, Jan. 8, from 9:30 a.m. until the funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Diane's memory may be made to AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 57, 19730 Harper, Harper Woods, MI 48225; or the Michigan Humane Society, give.michiganhumane.org/page/60684/donate/1.

Lots of choices at The Helm

Want to learn French, how to crochet or follow up with that get-healthy New Year's resolution? Now is the time.

The Helm is offering seven classes from Wayne County Community College District designed to keep body, mind and spirit active. All classes are free to Wayne County residents 60 and older.

"There are a number of classes we have offered regularly for several years, including French, Body Alignment and Ballroom Dancing," said Jackie Thomas, programming specialist at The Helm. "Our goal is to continue to add classes that keep participants active physically, mentally and socially. Staying active helps us age better and you're never too old to learn something new."

Recent popular additions are Awesome Abs and Sign Language.

"We started with an intro to sign language course and the participants enjoyed it so much, we've added an intermediate class to help them learn even more," Thomas said. "Crocheting has been popular, too. Even though it's billed as a beginner course, the group wanted to continue to get together to crochet and enjoy each other's company."

While The Helm programming is quarterly, WCCCD classes run a full semester or around four months. Upcoming classes at The Helm begin in January or February. The classes, times and dates are:

Body Alignment, 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 22 to April 29

This class focuses on body mechanics and postural alignment — how the head, shoulders, spine, hips, knees and ankles relate and line up with each other. Proper alignment puts less stress on the spine and promotes good posture. Good posture promotes balance, flexibility and optimal range of motion. Participants should be prepared for class with loose-fitting clothes, a water bottle, mat and small hand towel.

Awesome Abs, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 22 to April 29

Exercise in this class will help tighten abdominal muscles, strengthen the core and help with balance. Wear loose-fitting clothes and bring a water bottle.

Beginning Conversational French, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30, or noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 19 to April 26

Intermediate French, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30, or 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 19 to April 26

Learn how to ask and respond appropriately to basic questions, read aloud using acceptable pronunciation and create basic sentences using correct grammar.

Sign Language Beginner Level, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30

Participants will learn how to communicate with Deaf individuals through the use of sign language, in addition to gaining insight into the Deaf culture.

Sign Language Intermediate Level, 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30

Increase sign language skills and understanding of the Deaf community. Conversationally relevant signs, finger spellings, grammatical principles, background, culture and linguistic information related to the hearing impaired are some of the many topics covered in the course.

Crocheting for Beginners, 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to May 1

Come and learn to crochet potholders, placemats, afghans and more. Make flowers and read patterns. Participants are responsible for their supplies.

Egyptian Belly Dancing, 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to May 1

Students will dance to the music and rhythm of the Middle East by learning various movements while strengthening individual muscle groups. Dancing will firm and tone muscles while relieving tension and increasing flexibility.

All classes require registration. Register online at helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600.

"We work carefully with the college to find classes that may be of particular interest to older adults," Thomas added. "We've had cake decorating, watercolor painting, Spanish. There are a lot of classes to choose from and we try to find topics that will have the most appeal."

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ **Watercolor Workshop** with Nancy Philo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13.

◆ **Life Drawing** with Anne Garavaglia, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan.

17 to Feb. 7.

◆ **Crash Course on Collage and Assemblage** with Marat Paransky, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods and Families Against Narcotics hosts a free Narcan training session at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Rustic Cabins, 15209 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Narcan is a drug that can reverse an opioid overdose and save someone's life. All attendees receive a free Narcan kit. For informa-

tion, email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

The Family Center hosts its Community Book Club at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The group will discuss "Good Inside," by Dr. Becky Kennedy. Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided. RSVP via email to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

Worship Service



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

Masses
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.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](https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparish)
☞ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

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SUNDAY
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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
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Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church
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313-884-3075 • www.gpccong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

6B | FEATURES



“Spring at the Yacht Club,” photographed by Katie Harness of Grosse Pointe Shores, graces the cover of the calendar.



“Aerial View of Ford House” was photographed by John Martin.



Grosse Pointe News photographer Renee Landuyt captured these two photos, one of the Windmill Pointe Park marina” and one of Grosse Pointe South High School.

CAL:

Continued from page 1B

greatest artist — spotting our state reptile, the painted turtle, in lakes all across Michigan.”

Two of Farms resident Christine Crossley’s photos are featured: “Grand Finale” and “Sunrise on Lake St. Clair.”

“Our shoreline may not be long, but it is treasured by all,” Crossley said of “Grand Finale.” “The Fourth of July provides yet another opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the lake and the fireworks display above.”

Of her second photo, “Sunrise on Lake St. Clair,” she said, “Whether walking, boating or out for a drive, Lake St. Clair provides a beautiful backdrop to our home. Early risers are often treated to a spectacular showing of the sun greeting a new day.”

Four of Grosse Pointe Park resident Barbara Johns’ photos were selected for the calendar, including “Fall at Patterson Park.”

“Patterson Park is a perfect place to watch the sunrise any time of the year,” she said. “The boardwalk along the water has some of the prettiest views and the autumn months provide the most vibrant colors.”

Johns’ photo, “Grosse Pointe Equestrian,”

graces the page the month of November.

“I love driving down Cook Road and seeing the horses lined up along the fence or seeing people riding and jumping horses at the Grosse Pointe Equestrian Club, formerly the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club,” she said. “It is amazing to have this beautiful 100-year-old premier equestrian facility in the heart of our city. Always inspiring to photograph.”

Johns also contributed “Majestic Freighter” and “Autumn Splendor.”

“I kayak often on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River and love seeing the freighters,” she said. “Being in a kayak gives you a unique vantage point and allows you to get fairly close, within reason. It is incredible to share the waterways with these massive ships and watch them maneuver at approximately 1,000 feet long around some of the most narrow sections of the river.”

Of “Autumn Splendor,” she said, “It is difficult not to pull over and take a picture as you drive along Lakeshore. The view can vary from time of day to time of year. We are fortunate to have this incredible scenery. When I think of Grosse Pointe, this image comes to mind.”

Of course, we couldn’t have created this calendar without the support

of our advertisers. A big shout out to our clients who purchased ads for these pages — and who offer special deals throughout.

And thanks to our five municipalities for giving us notice of important dates to remember.

“The beginning of a new year is always something to celebrate and we’d like to kick it off with a special gift to our readers — a glossy 2024 calendar of some of the most picturesque photographs to ever capture the Grosse Pointes,” Publisher Anne Gryzenia noted. “At the Grosse Pointe News, we love featuring the inspiring talents of our community, so many of these stunning pictures are by local residents with a great photographic eye and a love for the Pointes that shines through in every photo.”

Please enjoy this calendar to help remind you of the shared blessing of this neighborly and supportive community.

“And a special thanks to the local businesses who chose to support this project,” she added. “We are so grateful for the dedication to Grosse Pointe that they exhibit all year, a devotion that helps make our neighborhoods such wonderful places to live.”

“We wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.”

GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY

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 313-884-1551 OR www.gpaas.org

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“Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Regatta,” photographed by Jim Dorian of Grosse Pointe Farms.

LIFE & LEISURE



2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 5C & 6C COMICS



COURTESY PHOTO

The home at 315 Lakeland in Grosse Pointe will serve as the Junior League of Detroit's 25th and final Designers' Show House. A sneak peek of the house will be open for viewing Jan. 13 and 14.

JLD announces 25th Designers' Show House

Sneak-a-Peek is Jan. 13-14

The Junior League of Detroit recently announced the location for the 25th and final Designers' Show House, to be held May 4 to May 19. The house, located at 315 Lakeland Avenue in Grosse Pointe, is a nearly 8,500-square-foot Tudor home designed by renowned architect George D. Mason and built in 1929 for Dr. J. Milton Robb.

Held biennially since 1976, the Designers' Show House is a significant fundraiser for the JLD and a longtime favorite event of the metro Detroit community. Local, regional and national inte-

rior designers will be invited to transform the rooms of the house as a showcase for public tours the first two weeks of May. The house also will feature a marketplace and café, and special events will be held regularly throughout the two weeks.

Prior to design work beginning, the public is given the opportunity to preview the home during the Sneak-a-Peek weekend, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 13 and 14. Sneak-a-Peek admission is \$5 per person, purchased at the door. Parking will be available at Neff Park,

located across Jefferson and on the north side of Lakeland Avenue.

"Detroit and its surrounding communities have a rich architectural history and the JLD has been fortunate to present some of the area's grandest homes. This year is no different," JLD President Mary Hollens said. "Sneak-a-Peek weekend is a really fun opportunity to preview the house before any work is done ... and of course visitors must come back when it is transformed completely into the Designers' Show House."

Proceeds from the 2024 Designers' Show House

will support the JLD's partnership with Brilliant Detroit, a nonprofit organization that addresses early childhood development and kindergarten readiness. The unique model establishes family centers in underutilized housing stock, developed and designed with direct input from the neighbors themselves. These Brilliant Detroit homes offer holistic services for children from birth through 8 years of age, as well as providing a place for fellowship, activities, learning and support for families and neighbors.

"As our most significant fundraiser since its inception in 1976, the Designers' Show House has provided funding for

critical JLD projects and partnerships throughout Detroit, including addressing literacy, food accessibility, health and wellness and more," Hollens said. "We are so grateful to the greater Detroit community for supporting all of the different Designers' Show Houses over the years and, while 2024 marks our final year of presenting a Show House to the public, the JLD will continue to plan and host events that positively impact our communities and partners."

Held every other year since 1976, the Designers' Show House has raised more than \$4.5 million for programs, projects and partnerships in Detroit.

About the JLD

The Junior League of Detroit is a group of women leaders who have been making change happen since 1914. For more than 100 years, members have been striving to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Since its founding, the Junior League of Detroit has completed 53 major projects in and around Detroit and awarded more than \$250,000 in community grants. Since 2014, the JLD has awarded \$135,000 in scholarships to 135 young women.

To learn more, visit JLDetroit.org.



Loving the lake

Whether rain, snow, sleet or sunny blue skies, friends Mike Hicks, Jeff Huebner and JT Mestdagh plan to get out and paddle board every month for the next year. "By doing this," Mestdagh said, "we will continue to stay on track to complete our Blue Belle Challenge — @thebluebellsup — of paddling from the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron across Lake St. Clair and down the Detroit River to Belle Isle, which is 62 miles of paddling." The trio takes on the challenge to raise money for the JT Mestdagh Foundation — jtmestdaghfoundation.org. "We are so grateful for our donors," Mestdagh added. "Keep your eye on Lake St. Clair for some paddle boarders. That will be us!" Pictured are Mestdagh and Hicks, who hopped on their paddle boards Wednesday, Dec. 13.


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Time to organize

Dear Gabby: My house is a complete disaster.

I don't even know where to start, though now that it's the new year, I feel the time is now.

Any suggestions on how to get going? Every time I want to start I sit on the couch and zone out.

— Cluttered in the City

Dear Cluttered,

Anytime is a great time to start decluttering and getting organized. When it goes too long

between cleaning sessions, things tend to feel overwhelming.

The good news is this — every day you do even five minutes of cleaning, decluttering or organizing — it's a win! It's five minutes more than you had done the day before.

Try writing a list of everything you wish to complete, then choose one of them each day and commit to five minutes. Just five minutes! Chances are five will become ten, or even more.

The winter here is long, and you will likely have

plenty of time to chip away at your list. Grab a box that needs a redo, or throw a big pile of mismatched socks in front of your TV when you are binge watching Bridgerton.

Vacuum and clean out your kitchen drawers while you make dinner one night. Get creative, and get going!

— Gabby

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



Remember the pets when donating

DEAR ANNIE: I have always wanted to meet a man and be married. I am now 58 years old. Is it too late for me?

Some people say it is a choice, but I have not found anyone interesting. I want a social life, but I don't know how to get myself out there. I was wondering how to get myself back out after being single for so long? — Lonely Friend.

DEAR LONELY FRIEND:

It's never too late to find love. But love is not just going to come to your doorstep; you have to go out there to find it.

There are lots of dating sites you could try. In addition, think of hobbies that you enjoy and try to find communities that share your similar interest.

As Nike says: just do it! And put yourself out there. Best of luck to you.

DEAR ANNIE: How do I deal with passive-aggressive siblings? When we are together, it can be all laughter and giggles, and the next minute all I hear are snarky comments. It took months to find out one sibling had purchased a new and expensive car. Then the talk was how to sell the old reliable model without asking my opinion.

We all have social media accounts, though I have yet to see any of them post on my page.

I have hobbies, and they do not; we all do

volunteer work, yet there is seldom a conversation about it. I am reluctant to reach out fearing I might catch one of them on an "aggressive" day and be shut out.

If I ask for household repair help, I am looked on as weak or ignored altogether. We are getting older, and I am at my wits' end at trying to have a healthy relationship.

How do I reconnect with my siblings? — TORN

DEAR TORN: Now that you know the pattern of their behavior, you know what to expect.

When you are having good times with your siblings, focus on feeling grateful for the good times. At the same time, manage your expectations of them, and know that the aggressive parts will come. While things are good between you and your siblings, you can also let them know how much you are enjoying your time with them and how much you dislike the aggressive times.

Communication and gratitude and good expectation management are three ingredients to happy and healthy relationships.

DEAR ANNIE: I'm stunned by the number of letters to advice columns from parents who gave their children everything and are devastated that their adult children refuse or limit

contact with them. I can understand their disappointment and loneliness; it must be painful.

There are people who believe that adult children are responsible for their aging parents' happiness. They feel entitled to time, attention and a sense of human connection from their grown children, but it's not a realistic expectation. We're each responsible for our own vitality, joy and sense of connection.

Adults who want close relationships with their parents put in the time and effort. If adult children avoid contact with their parents, there's a reason; there's some kind of disconnection.

Parents and adult children need to accept responsibility for the part they play in relationship troubles and be willing to make amends and make changes.

Clinging to the narrative that you did everything for your children and they should now comply with your expectations for the relationship won't help to heal the disconnection.

If you're wondering, I have two middle-aged children and several "bonus children" who are estranged from their parents.

I'm old, sick and extremely grateful that they all keep showing up here voluntarily. — FAMILY THERAPIST

DEAR FAMILY THERAPIST: Yes, if you

want a close relationship with your children, or really anyone for that matter — spouse, friend, sibling, etc. — you have to put in the work and effort. We get out what we put in. Thank you for your letter.

DEAR ANNIE: I would like to add to the letter about continuing giving past the holidays. I have a good friend who volunteers at our local food bank.

A few years ago, she told me a story about an older gentleman who came in looking for food for his cat. All she had were some pouches of tuna, which she gave him. The story stuck with me.

I know how important pets are, especially to the



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

elderly, and I imagined there are people who would go hungry in order to feed their pets.

So since then, every month, I donate small bags of dog and cat food to the food bank. I would like to encourage others to check with their local food bank and see if there is a need for pet food. And perhaps it would also ease the burden on our shelters, as if people have access to food for their pets, they wouldn't have to make the heartbreaking choice

of surrendering their beloved pets. — THINK ABOUT THE PETS.

DEAR PETS: Thank you for your letter. You bring up such an important point, which is that taking care of our own four-legged pets, and helping all pet owners do the same, is a wonderful gift to be given year-round.

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



We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



It seems every day is like Groundhog Day: Kids are coming and going to and from school, sports and activities and there is never anything they want to eat other than what's lurking in the snack cabinet.

When I ask them what they want, the answer is inevitably, "I don't know."

Every. Single. Time.

In order to overcome this annoying daily issue, I took to Amazon. What I found was mostly billed as a condiment server seemed like it might do the trick. Essentially the plan was to grill chicken,

cook some ground beef, boil some rice — all to have an actual meal-like option for children who are on the go and refuse to tell me what they want. Other than a fistful of Takis.

Turns out, it was actually not a bad idea (if I do say so myself).

Sunday night we cooked the chicken, beef and made more rice than we needed. We ate half of the chicken, cooked some ground beef and some rice, then put the rest into the containers and into the fridge.

Lo and behold, when it was time for "second din-

ner" after sports, they had something to eat that contained some protein. One opted for ground



beef and made tacos. Another had plain chicken and rice. Still another made pasta and

threw some ground beef into the sauce. Voila! A virtually self-service dining experience that works for everyone!

Other ideas I have to keep it fresh are buying marinated flank steak, cooking it up and slicing it for easy use, baking a few pounds of breaded chicken and roasting potatoes that can all be reheated when hunger strikes.

I give this 5 alligators because it's easy, helps keep things running in the household and allows children and family members to create a meal they like in a flash. The name

of it is Pikanty— Condiment Server with Removable Containers and Lids. It can be found on amazon.com for \$34.99.

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.

5 Out Of 5



New year, new you

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Is a new you possible in the new year? I'm not sure but I do have small resolutions to up my energy, health and sleep.

The holiday season is always stressful and exhausting. Waking up at 4 a.m. most mornings worrying about what I forgot to do weighs on a person.

So my plan, among other things, is to eat as many vegetables as I can in a day and this soup takes the cake.

This was the first recipe that I had published in the Grosse Pointe News. It's an absolute go to in our house.

Bone broth works best because it will give you all the extra nutrients and protein that you probably need. I usually make my own but I recently discovered the brand Zoup! Its jars of bone broth sold at Village Food Market and Fresh Farms Market. I included my recipe below in case you have leftover bones in your freezer.

I find peeling and dicing a butternut squash to be a bit cumbersome. So my tip is to halve it, driz-

zle with olive oil and place flesh side down in a 425 degree oven for 45 minutes. Then you can just scoop it out and place in the soup at the end. Happy New Year!

Cheers, Mombeau

Winter Vegetable Soup

1 small butternut squash, peeled and diced

2 leeks, washed and sliced

½ sweet onion, diced

1 clove of garlic, chopped

2 zucchini, chopped

1 large carrot, chopped

1 celery stalk, chopped

2 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chopped

1 tsp. chopped rosemary

2 tbsp. olive oil

6 cups chicken or vegetable stock

Sweat the onions, leeks and garlic in olive oil for five minutes. Once they are soft, add the remaining vegetables and rosemary. Give them a stir and add in stock. Bring to a boil and simmer for 30 minutes. Using a blender or immersion blender, puree until smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Homemade Slow Cooker Bone Broth

3 lbs. chicken bones

1 large carrot

1 onion, cut in half

2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar

Enough water to fill the pot

Add all ingredients and simmer on high for 12-24 hours. Strain out the bones. Can be frozen for up to three months.

The benefits of bone broth are countless. It helps with gut health, inflammation, joint pain and bone strength. This method is a weekly sta-



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

ple at our house. I always save chicken bones and freeze them. But most local butchers

will get you bones if you call ahead. The vinegar helps extract the minerals and nutrients out so

the final result, when cooled, is gelatinous liquid gold. All you need is a crock pot!



It's Champagne season

It's Champagne season — a line you might think indicates that this article is being published two weeks too late.

And sure, sparkling wines usually are reserved for toasting at Christmas and New Year's. And once those holidays have passed, most people believe the season for them is over. For me, it's just beginning, and it lasts all year.

And there's a method to my madness — though I consider it not madness but sanity. That's because far too many domestic wines don't have enough acidity for me and the foods I eat.

And at the heart of wine-and-food pairings

is that the wine must have sufficient acid to work with food. But far too many chardonnays are soft; too many cabernets lack the structure. Sugar has become commonplace in sauvignon blanc.

Americans have a sweet tooth and U.S. wineries, notably on the West Coast, make sure many wines are sweet or ultra-soft. Sometimes it's simply low acid. Other times, the wine has such high alcohol that it acts as a sweetening agent. Sometimes it's actual sugar — including in some of the most popular red wines!

So, you may ask, what does this have to do with

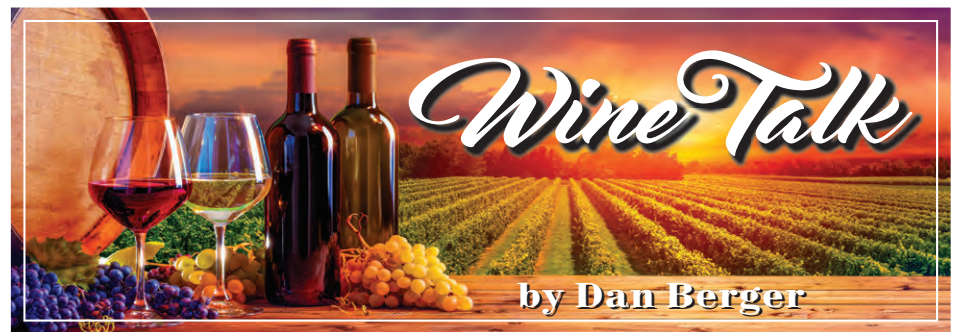
Champagne? Or fine quality sparkling wine?

Quality bubbly cannot be made if the grapes are harvested too late, which compromises the critical element of acidity that is required to make it taste good.

French Champagne, with the capital C to indicate that comes from that district, usually has sufficient acid to work with almost all forms of food.

So do top-rate domestic bubbly. I refer to wines called brut, a term that denotes a dry wine. They have sufficient acid to work with a wide variety of foods. The acidity can be counted on to help food taste better.

There are about four



dozen top-flight sparkling wine producers in the United States who make exceptional sparklers. Most are slightly sweet to balance high acidity, and it's that attractive balance that gives them such versatility.

One result is that I tend to drink a lot more sparkling wine with my meals than any other single wine with the possible exception of riesling (a passion of mine!). After I am done evaluating 30 or 40 wines in a day, my go-to beverage is a beer or sparkling wine, and I have plenty to choose from!

It has recently been widely reported that the Champagne district in France has been hit with some pretty terrible weather, the results of which are extremely small harvests and some not-very-interesting flavors. This has reduced the size of the crop and has had the effect of driving prices even higher than they had been, and Champagne is always a prestigious product, so it commands a high price.

I tasted a good example of a fine quality Champagne the other day and even though it was discounted, it still cost just over \$40 per bottle!

California and other domestic sparkling wines can be really fascinating, especially because the fruit is more evident, and the wines tend to be a little bit more vibrant. And, of course, priced a lot more reasonably.

It is extremely difficult to list my favorite domestic bubbly because so many are exceptional. For everyday drinking,

many discount stores carry exceptional sparkling wines for \$20 to \$30 per bottle, which is reasonable when you compare that to the average cost of a high-quality chardonnay.

The other nice thing about sparkling wine is that you really don't need to worry about vintages. Most non-vintage bruts are made to be drinkable as soon as they hit the retail shelf.

I keep several bottles of sparkling wine from my favorite California houses on hand year-round. And if a friend happens to show up unexpectedly, and I pull one out, I occasionally hear, "What's the occasion?"

My reply is usually a variation on a theme: "It's Tuesday."

Wine of the Week:

NV Brut, Anderson Valley, Mendocino County (\$22) — A classic California aroma of citrus, fresh pear and trace hints of brioche grace the first sniff, and the taster is dry and yet not at all austere. The tiny bubbles are pinpoint, and the aftertaste is perfectly suited to be paired with various kinds of foods. Widely available, it is as good a bottle of sparkling wine as it is produced anywhere in the world.

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



A New Year's toast is the ideal opportunity to celebrate new beginnings with friends and family, but experts say don't limit champagne to the holiday season.

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*includes fries,
cole slaw or salad
and a warm roll*

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CROSSDAY PRODUCTIONS AND INDIANA PRODUCTION
Left, Liam Neeson as Robert and Micheál Richardson as Jack in the 2020 movie "Made in Italy," directed by James D'Arcy.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



MOVIE REVIEW
"Made in Italy"
2020 - Rated R
1 hr 34 min
★★★★☆

This could have been just another one of those predictable, father and son reconciliation films that you forget about as soon as the end credits roll.

But having the real life father and son team of Liam Neeson and Micheál Richardson playing the leads definitely elevates "Made in Italy" into a sensitive, heartwarming story.

British actor James D'Arcy in his directorial

arrive at the family villa. And that's putting it mildly. The place is an absolute wreck.

They contact local real estate agent Kate (Lindsay Duncan), a prickly British woman who adds a bit of comic relief to the film. She reluctantly agrees to represent them, if they can get the house fixed up.

We then witness the father and son team as they commence to get the house in shape. There are the usual pratfalls of things crashing down and hidden vermin to be trapped. It's also during this period when the two confront issues like their

sweet, smart woman who has a cute young daughter with her ex-husband. There are also several dining scenes where you can practically taste the mouth-watering pasta dishes.

"Made in Italy" of course was filmed in Tuscany — one of the most beautiful locales in Europe. While the scenery was nothing short of breathtaking, I especially enjoyed the fact that the cinematographer and director decided not to overdo it with countless shots of the countryside. It's a spot where we'd all love to hop on the next plane to and spend a couple weeks there. We get it!

If you're in the mood for a beautiful father and son drama set in a virtual paradise, be sure to put this one in your queue. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Currently streaming for free on Kanopy (with your library card). Also on AMC+, Hulu, IFC Films Unlimited, and to rent on Prime Video.

Note to parents: Not sure why the film is rated "R." I'd be more inclined to rate it "PG-13."

debut brings it to life. I also thought it was refreshing to see Liam exercise his acting chops in a more challenging roll. We all know he can play the tough guy, but how many "Taken" movies do we really need to see?

Jack (Micheál Richardson) helps run his soon-to-be ex-wife's family's art gallery in London. When they decide to close the gallery, he's given one month to come up with the funds to buy her out. He reluctantly asks his estranged father Robert (Liam Neeson) for financial assistance.

Robert is a famous abstract painter who hasn't touched a canvas in the twenty years since his wife died in a car accident. At his suggestion, he offers to sell the home in Tuscany he inherited from his wife's family. The two quickly hit the road and head to Northern Italy to check out the place.

I like to joke that my wife and I are turning our home into a fixer-upper. Well that's precisely what they encounter when they

distant relationship and their wife/mothers death, which they've both banished to the recesses of their minds. In real life, the couple's wife/mother Natasha Richardson died in a tragic skiing accident in 2009. I'm sure this added to their sensitive portrayal of loss and healing.



Robert (Liam Neeson) & Kate (Lindsay Duncan) assess the condition of the house.

Naturally, you can't have a film like this without a love interest. In this case it comes in the form of a beautiful cook/restaurateur Natalia (Valeria Bilello). Jack and Natalia strike up an easy friendship, which feels perfectly natural, not forced like in so many films. She's a

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.

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.



Jack, Robert and Kate.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Libra.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 4, 2024:

You are quick-witted and creative. Many of you are collectors. You have strong opinions and a highly individual approach to things. Simplicity is the key to life this year. This is a year to work hard and take charge of your health. Physical exercise will be important. Stay grounded and level-headed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Today your ambition is aroused and your ability to communicate to others is excellent. A winning combination!

Furthermore, the Sun at the top of your chart is flattering to you. With all this helping you, reach for the stars! Tonight: You look good!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
This is a productive day for you, especially regarding discussions about shared property, taxes, debt and inheritances. You also might negotiate budgets and resources that can be allocated to you. Note: These discussions will be favorable! Meanwhile, foreign interests and travel plans appeal to you. Tonight: Explore!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
If you work in the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or with children, this is a productive day! It's also an excellent day to plan social occasions and future vacations. You will get a lot done today because people will cooperate. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today the Moon is in your sign, which gives you an edge over all the other signs. Furthermore, the Moon is dancing with Mercury, which enhances your ability to talk to others. You will easily express your feelings because you're more sensitive today. Tonight: Home and family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Because this is a busy, fast-paced week with errands, appointments, short trips plus increased reading and writing, why not take a backseat today? Catch your breath. You will want to study financial matters, banking and cash flow. (Stay on top of impor-

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
This is an excellent day for discussions about work, home, your health or anything to do with a pet. You'll be proactive because you want to get things done. Do be patient with partners and close friends, especially if they're annoying. You can be part of the problem or the solution. Tonight: Get your rest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
It's a new year, and you're inspired to be as productive as possible. (I'm impressed.) Continue to work hard. Delegate wherever you can. Discussions about vacations, social outings and creative situations will go well today. Appreciate your talents! Tonight: Work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Like everyone else, you're in work mode this week; however, you also want to play! Nevertheless, many of you are checking on finances to do home repairs. Family discussions about money might take place today. Tonight: Play!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Discussions with someone younger today will be lively! This person's enthusiasm for something might influence you, especially in terms of travel or "getting away." Speaking of which, you want to do something different today because you need a change. Why not shake things up a little? Tonight: Solitude.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
This is an excellent day to talk to bosses, parents, teachers or anyone in authority about taxes, debt, fines, levies, shared property or anything to do with the wealth and resources of someone else. With Venus high in your chart, these discussions will favor you. Yes! Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is a lovely day for a heart-to-heart discussion with a friend, probably a female. In fact, if you share your hopes and dreams for the future with this person, their feedback might help you. This is also an excellent time to shop for wardrobe goodies for yourself. Keep up the hard work! Tonight: Protect your belongings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today you're high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual. In fact, some of them seem to know personal details about your private life. Like, what's with that? Is the posse after you? More than most, you value your good reputation in the eyes of your peers. Tonight: Exercise.

BORN TODAY
Actress Emma Mackey (1996), singer-songwriter, actress Coco Jones (1998), actor Graham McTavish (1961).

Contract Bridge

BATTLE FOR TRUMP CONTROL

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 7 6 5
♥ 9 4
♦ A Q 7
♣ A K 10 8 2
WEST
♠ K Q 3 2
♥ A K Q J 8 5
♦ 8 4
♣ 6
EAST
♠ 4
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ 7 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 9 8
♥ 7
♦ K J 10 5
♣ Q J 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♥
Pass Pass 3 ♦ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Trump control is often a decisive factor in the play of suit contracts. Whenever possible, the defenders try to run declarer out of trumps so that they can eventually cash one or more tricks in the side suits. At the same time, declarer tries to maintain control of the trump suit in order to withstand this attack.

Consider this deal where trump control plays a key role. West leads the king of hearts and continues with the ace. After declarer ruffs, he has four trumps left, and so does West.

If South were now to play the ace and

another trump, he would lose control of the hand and take a bad beating. West would take the K-Q of trump and play another heart. When South ruffed, leaving West with the only remaining trump, the rest of West's hearts would become tricks, and declarer would go down four!

To forestall this, South leads the nine of spades at trick three, not the ace. If West ducks, South gets home safely by cashing the ace and then leading his winners in the side suits.

So let's say West takes the nine with the queen. How does West then proceed? This is a crucial decision, for West's next play determines the outcome. Since dummy can ruff a heart continuation, West might decide to make a neutral return, such as a diamond or a club.

If he did this, declarer would win and play the ten of spades in order to maintain trump control. Whether West won the ten with the king or decided to let the ten hold, the contract could no longer be defeated.

But if West, upon taking the nine of spades with the queen, returns another heart, the contract cannot be made. The old bugaboo against giving declarer a ruff-and-discard does not apply here. In fact, it will cause South endless pain and suffering, regardless of which hand he chooses to ruff in. Indeed, the best South can do against this defense is to settle for down one.

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by Steve Becker

Comics

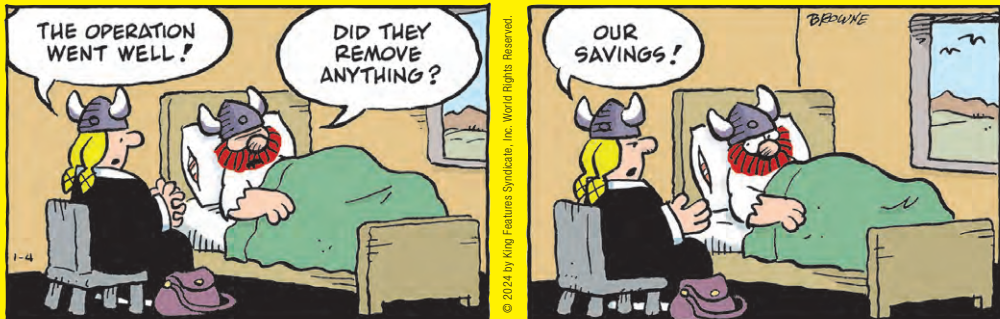
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



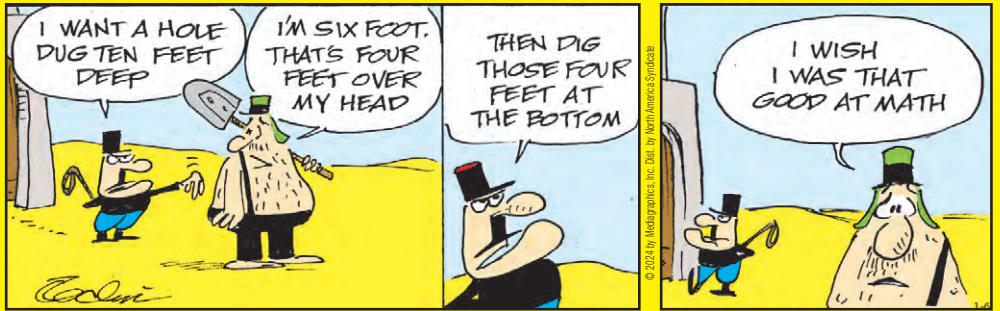
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



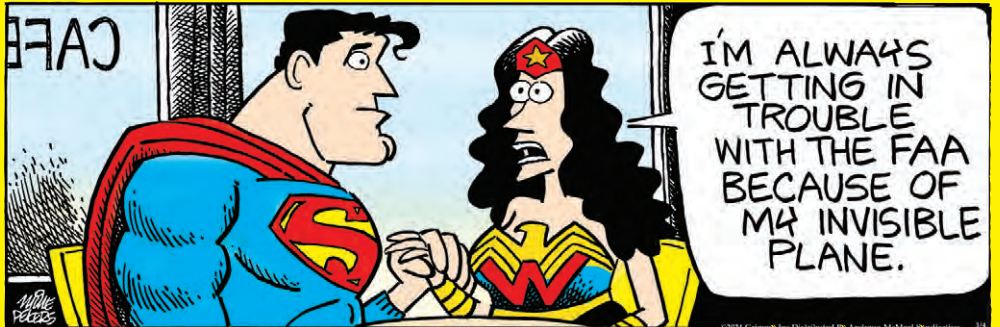
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



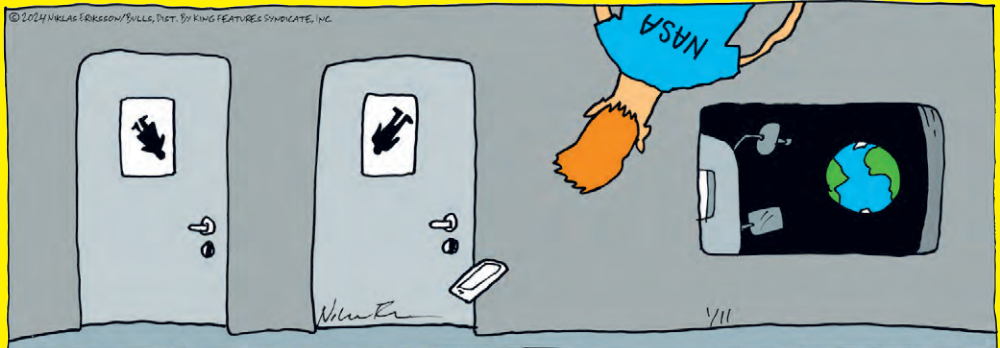
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumbo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



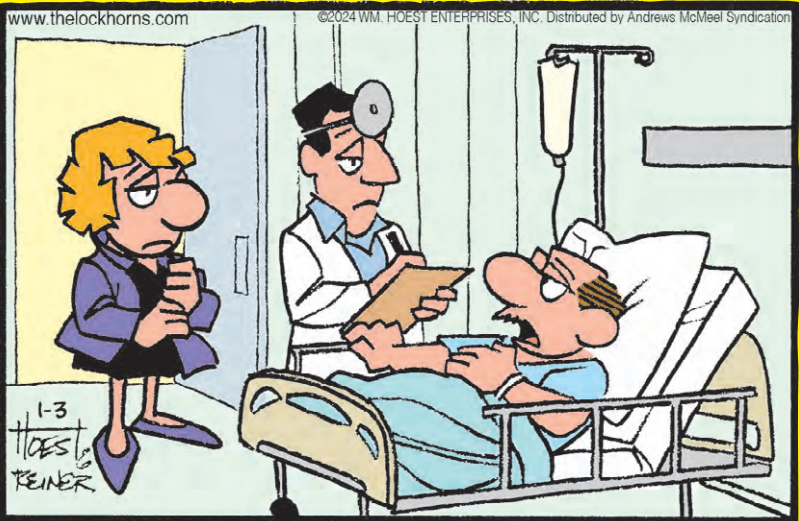
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Enjoy it. This is the only peace and quiet we will have this year."

SPORTS



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2D JANUARY SPORTS CALENDAR | 4D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Unified hoops teams tip off Jan. 5

By Meg Leonard
 Senior Editor

Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

Coed unified basketball teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North will tip off their new seasons in the most exciting way possible — with a Blue Devils versus Norsemen rivalry game at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at North.

The unified game will lead up to another cross-town clash that night at 7 p.m. between North's and South's girls varsity basketball teams.

Both unified programs brought fans all the excitement they could hope for last season, but especially in two games where the teams faced each other in front of packed houses on the Norsemen and Blue Devils home courts.

North earned city bragging rights in the first game with an unforgettable buzzer-beater to claim a 44-42 victory. The stands were jam-packed again to watch South exact a bit of revenge a few weeks



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

Grosse Pointe South's unified basketball co-head coach Kathy Smith, middle in red, addresses her team after a recent practice in the Boll Center.

later with a 50-45 win in their second matchup of the season.

"The games are very electric," said Steve Zaranek, co-head coach of South's unified basketball program.

"Supportiveness is one of the best words to describe (the game atmosphere) because everyone is there to support every player. Students in the stands

and parents, they are all excited whether their team scores or their own players," added Zaranek, who has coached the Blue Devils girls varsity cross country and track and field teams for 45 years.

"That whole togetherness, it's kind of the principle of what high school athletics should be about at all levels. And that's what's so nice

to see. Everyone leaves with a smile."

Unified basketball teams have been a part of Grosse Pointe's two public high schools since 2019. The programs provide the opportunity for high school students with special needs to get varsity athlete experience by competing against unified teams throughout metro Detroit.

Athletes participate in weekly practices, with home and away games.

Here's an inside look on the teams' upcoming unified basketball seasons:

South

The 2023-24 Blue Devils unified team boasts a roster of 12 athletes, including five returning players and 12 "partners," general education students who provide one-on-one assistance with the unified athletes at games and practices.

Kathy Smith, the adaptive physical education teacher at South and the unified program's head coach since its inception, also coordinates an additional group of general education students called "fans in the stands."

Smith said each year, there is an overwhelming response from the student body who are eager to participate.

"We operate within the rules of Special Olympics, so we are operating as a Unified Champion school, meaning we are promoting

inclusive activities and whole school engagement," she said.

"Fans in the stands help fill that whole school engagement piece, so we connect to the broader school community."

Fans in the stands help with the program's social media pages, plan team dinners and send in announcements during the week.

"They are just so engaged," Zaranek said of the student support. "They have just become additional friends."

Smith agreed.

"That doesn't stop on the basketball court," she said. "There's connections in the lunchroom — you see the kids hanging out at lunch. You pop into a tutorial and those kids are hanging out there. So it is really that connection that matters so much."

The Blue Devils have 10 games scheduled, with the potential to add more, against teams like Grosse Pointe North, Troy Athens, Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham

See HOOPS, page 3D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Richards embraces role as South basketball's new 'Batman'

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

For the past few seasons, fans of South boys basketball were used to watching the electrifying guard combo of Anthony Benard and Karter Richards. With Benard graduated, and now playing Division I basketball at Mercer University, Richards has taken over as the go-to guy for the Blue Devils in his senior year.

Being a varsity player at South since his freshman year, Richards knew that this time would eventually come, and is determined to make the most of it.

"I knew eventually that people would graduate and I would have to step in this role," he said. "I feel like I've

Grosse Pointe News

Karter Richards

School: Grosse Pointe South
 Sport: Basketball

Sponsored by Expert Heating & Cooling

Benard's Batman. So far this season, Richards is averaging over 25 points per game along with seven rebounds and four assists. It is now Richards' time to take over in the main role, and he has a wealth of skilled players around him who have become the next Robins.

The main teammates that Richards has found strong chemistry with so far this season include fellow guard Vince Vachon and transfer student Tory James. There is also freshman Kooper Richards, Karter's younger brother, who is stepping into the same shoes that Richards did a few years ago.

"It's surreal just to look at it now because (Kooper) definitely put in the work to be on varsity as a freshman," Richards said. "Him and I would practice against our dad's girls teams and we've been involved with South for so many years. I love sharing the court with him and giving him the ball, or he gives me the ball, and we're like a dynamic duo already."



COURTESY PHOTO

Karter Richards steps to the line for a free throw in South's game against Rochester Adams in the Roundball Classic on Dec. 27.

and in the weight room for football also helped Richards work on what he wanted to improve on for basketball.

"I really worked on

my vertical and my ability to finish at the rim," he said. "I think football in the fall was a big part of the work."

See ATHLETE, page 2D

King Karter

- Averaging 25.5 PPG, 7 Reb, and 4 assists through 9 games this season
- Signed to play Division II college basketball at Lake Superior State
- Member of South boys varsity basketball team since freshman year

Athlete Of The Week Proudly Sponsored By:

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2D | SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Richards will continue his basketball career next year at Lake Superior State University.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

of that and being in the weight room over the summer...And then with my (basketball) trainers I really was working on my vertical and becoming a more physical player at the rim.”

Becoming more physically imposing on the basketball court is something Richards has focused on a lot coming into his senior season at South. However, it is also something that he knows will be important for beyond this year and one of the things that he is focused on continuing to improve as he

gets ready for the next level. “I’m working on handling the ball and getting a quicker first step and again just becoming more physical and getting stronger because it’s a whole different level,”

While his sights are set right now on leading the Blue Devils to a MAC Red title, postseason success and landing himself on the Mr. Basketball watchlist, Richards has also decided on his basketball future. In November, Richards signed on to play college basketball at Division II Lake Superior State University.

“I got up there to campus in mid October,” Richards

said about his decision to become a Laker. “They showed me around, I got to take pictures with the uniform and hang out with the team and then they offered me. On the car ride home, I had a lot to think about. I thought it was the right spot for me and they truly wanted me. They told me everything I wanted to hear and meeting the players, I could feel the chemistry already...The coaching staff was so welcoming and I feel like that’s my home.”

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.



Richards has taken over as the go-to guy for the Blue Devils in his senior year.

2024 SPORTS CALENDAR JANUARY

4 THURSDAY

- » 5 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Catholic Central
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ C.V.
- » 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive vs. Stevenson
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. Romeo
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ LCN

5 FRIDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPS @ GPN Unified Hoops
- » 7 p.m. - GPS @ GPN Girls Hoops
- » 7:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey vs. Livonia

6 SATURDAY

- » 9 a.m. - GPS Wrestling @ Fitzgerald
- » 9 a.m. - GPN Wrestling @ Imlay City
- » 10 a.m. - Unified Gymnastics @ Fraser
- » 12 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ Battle Creek Lakeview
- » 2 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey @ Mid-Michigan
- » 6:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey @ Bloomfield
- » 8 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ Lake Orion

7 SUNDAY

- » 9 a.m. - GPS Wrestling Tri-County Girls Tournament (@ Groves)

8 MONDAY

- » TBD - GPN Wrestling @ Kettering Girls Tournament

9 TUESDAY

- » 2:30 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops vs. TBD (@ Little Caesars Arena)
- » 4 p.m. - GPN + GPS Figure Skating @ Dearborn
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ Port Huron
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPN @ GPS Wrestling
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops @ Woodhaven
- » 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive vs. Eisenhower
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Trenton
- » 6:30 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. LC
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops @ Oakland Chr.
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops @ Dakota

10 WEDNESDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops vs. Bloomfield
- » 5 p.m. - GPS + GPN Wrestling MAC Gold Meet (@ Lakeview)
- » 6 p.m. - GPN + GPS Comp. Cheer MAC Blue Meet (@ GPN)
- » 6:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey @ PCEP
- » 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics @ Fraser
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Dakota
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops @ Lincoln
- » 8 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey vs. OLSM

11 THURSDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops @ Royal Oak
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ Eisenhower
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive Tri-Meet (@ GPS)
- » 6:30 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ AA Skyline
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Port Huron



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

12 FRIDAY

- » TBD - GPN Girls Wrestling @ Fowlerville
- » 4:45 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey @ Bloomfield
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Everest
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey @ Cabrini
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. Eisenhower
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Farmington
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. Stevenson
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ Riverview GR

13 SATURDAY

- » TBD - ULS Boys Hockey vs. TBD (CHSL Final)
- » 9 a.m. - GPN Wrestling @ Armada
- » 3:45 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Clarkston (@ W. Bloomfield)

14 SUNDAY

- » No Events Scheduled

15 MONDAY

- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. LCN

16 TUESDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Royal Oak
- » 6 p.m. - GPS @ GPN Boys Swim & Dive
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Cardinal Mooney
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Roseville
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. New Haven

17 WEDNESDAY

- » 3:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey @ St. Clair Shores
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. Dakota

» 8 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. OLSM

18 THURSDAY

- » 5:30 p.m. - GPN + GPS Wrestling MAC Gold Meet (@ GPS)
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. PHN
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Chippewa Valley

19 FRIDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops @ Sterling Heights
- » 5 p.m. - GPN + GPS Girls Wrestling @ Groves
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops @ Eisenhower
- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops @ Bishop Foley
- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey vs. Romeo
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Riverview GR
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. FGR
- » 7:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ LCN

20 SATURDAY

- » TBD - GPN Girls Hockey vs. TBD (@ Traverse City)
- » 9 a.m. - GPS Comp. Cheer @ Lake Shore
- » 9:30 a.m. - GPN Wrestling @ Woods-Tower
- » 10 a.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive vs. DLS
- » 12 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ Salem
- » 3 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Marysville
- » 8 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Dakota

21 SUNDAY

- » TBD - GPN Girls Hockey vs. TBD (@ Traverse City)

22 MONDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops @ Sterling Heights
- » 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics vs. Birmingham (@ GPN)

23 TUESDAY

- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Everest
- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey vs. Woodhaven
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ Ford II
- » 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive @ Anchor Bay
- » 7 p.m. - GPN @ GPS Girls Hoops
- » 7:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Metro Jets

Grosse Pointe News



Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

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HOOPS:

Continued from page 1D

Seaholm. Two high schools, Roseville and Clawson, have established unified teams this season and will face South.

Another new feature to South's unified season is participating in the third annual Unified Showcase game at Little Caesars Arena. The team will play at 2:30 p.m. before the Detroit Pistons tip off for their game against the Sacramento Kings at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9.

"We were approached to participate in (the event), so part of that is also a fundraiser," Smith said. "Playing at Little Caesars (Arena) where NBA players play is exciting. Little Caesars is giving us \$5 back on every ticket purchased." Fans can purchase tickets for the event ranging from \$22 to \$40 at fevo-enterprise.com/event/GPSUNIFIED. Tickets include the unified game, a unified T-shirt and a Pistons game ticket.

The team also holds bake sales, T-shirt sales and popcorn sales during the season to raise money for the team and the school's Peer 2 Peer program. The unified program also now participates in the South Booster Club's Run the Pointe and more parents are getting involved in some Booster Club functions.

"We are really functioning as a team and program at a varsity level," Smith said, who added how fundraising helps provide new uniforms for the athletes. She also said it is an important part of helping the program get stronger and more developed.

But the backbone of the program continues to be the bond between the athletes and the partners, both coaches emphasized.

"They have really started to click (this season). Even for the returning athletes, it takes just a little bit of time to see that happen," Zaranek said. "But the best part is that they are all working together. As far as rebound and shots, that's secondary to the camaraderie. ... In the hallways, in the gym, every part of their daily life, they feel connected."

Smith said she gets to witness those bonds in person.

"Being a teacher in the building, I see the students high-five the kids in the hall," she said. "And we have a few students on practice days who wear their uniform all day. It's pretty exciting because they give that part of inclusion. They are part of a team, they are part of something bigger than just the classroom, and I think that's one of the coolest things I have seen."

Smith also said that in discussing the best assets to this year's group of athletes, the concept of "heart" topped the list. That helped lead them to the team motto, "Hustle and Heart Sets us Apart."

"When you come to our games, you're leaving with a smile, but the atmosphere when you are walking in, you're walking in with a smile (too), because it's that

electric of an environment, where everyone is excited," Smith said.

"Our goal, that team motto, really sums it up well," Zaranek added. "Our main goal is to let those kids smile all the time and let them have fun and have them feel engaged."

North

2024 has the potential to be a groundbreaking year for North's unified basketball program.

Since the program began in 2019, everything has been growing, from participation of players and student volunteers to the support of the community.

The team heads into the 2024 season with its biggest roster ever, looking to have about 15 players and 20 student volunteers, proving that the success of unified basketball is still on the rise.

"It's a huge roster this year and that's been a really nice surprise," North unified basketball team head coach Drew Kisskalt said. "It's almost a problem because we want to make sure everyone gets playing time, but it's a good problem to have because it's growing so much. This is our fourth year doing this and it's only gotten bigger every year."

What also has grown this year is the Norsemen's schedule. North has 12 games scheduled this season, nearly doubling the amount of games the team played last year, according to Kisskalt, which is largely due to more schools in the area creating unified basketball programs of their own.

One game the coaches, players and volunteers are looking forward to is the Unified Showcase game Sunday, March 17.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe North unified basketball players take the ball up the court in a game against Grosse Pointe South last season. The Norsemen tip-off the 2024 season hosting South on Friday, Jan. 5.

The game will be North's season finale and will be played at Little Caesars Arena at 6 p.m. following the Detroit Pistons game earlier that afternoon.

It is opportunities like that and simply the chance to play in more games this season that has the whole team excited to get back on the court.

"They would play 100 games if we let them," Kisskalt said. "This year, with our team growing so much and the schedule too and the chance to play in the Unified Showcase at LCA are going to make this the most special season yet. I think I say that every year, but every year it keeps getting better and better. ... The kids love every minute of it."

The major highlights of this year's unified basketball season in the Pointes will be the two crosstown matchups between North and Grosse Pointe South. The first matchup is

scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at North, with a second game hosted by South Friday, Feb. 2.

"It's such a fun time for the kids and the community really comes out for both games and the stands are packed," Kisskalt said about the North-South games. "... A lot of our players, even though they're from different ends of Grosse Pointe, have known each other since they were little kids and some of them are best friends. Even if they aren't teammates the day of the game, they're still great friends. It's a really awesome experience. If you haven't come to a North-South unified basketball game, you have to. ... The smiles on the kids' faces and the energy they bring, you can tell it means so much."

With growth everywhere, from the roster to the volunteers and the schedule, everything is shaping up for North's unified basketball program to have its biggest and best season yet. Being a part of moments like the annual North-South games and now the Unified Showcase at LCA show just how much this program means to the athletes who are part of it and the community around them.

The boost in participation and opportunities the team is seeing this year also are proof that unified basketball is something that is going to keep becoming more popular both in Grosse Pointe and across metro Detroit. With the community able to see just how much the program has grown, Kisskalt and the rest of the coaches

that run North's program hope to see it inspire more athletes and families to become involved.

"As a community, we've grown and continue to give students that have had barriers that got in their way of having opportunities in the past these experiences," Kisskalt said. "Everyone that is involved on our end would be happy to sit down with anyone and let them know that they do have options and things to do with activities and sports that maybe weren't possible before."

Tickets for the Unified Showcase game March 17 can be purchased at Fevo-Enterprise.com/GPUnified. Tickets include admission to the Detroit Pistons game at 3 p.m. and the North unified game at 6 p.m.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present except for Vivian Sawicki.

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) to excuse Councilmember Sawicki from tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment.
- 2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on December 4, 2023.
- 3) to approve the changes to the City Council meeting dates as listed for 2024; January 1 to January 3, 2024 for the New Year Holiday; January 15 to January 17, 2024 for the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr; February 19 to February 21, 2024 for the observance of President's Day and September 2 to September 4, 2024 in observance of Labor Day, and further that the City will meet on June 10, July 8 and August 12, 2024, the second Mondays only of the summer months.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 128655 through 128985 in the amount of \$468,373.00 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 Doxim in the amount of \$9,546.44 for the printing and mailing of the monthly water bills and the winter property tax bills. (3) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,080.16 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of January 2024. (4) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$36,358.16 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of November 2023. (5) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$5,963.92 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of November and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of a printer and video cables. (6) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$23,300.00 for the trimming and removal of dead and downed trees/limbs at several locations and a removal of a tree due to a water main break. (7) approve payment in the amount of \$9,350.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with two water main breaks and replacement of a sump pump. (8) approve payment to Uni-Dig, Inc. in the amount of \$11,880.00 for leaf disposal in conjunction with the curbside leaf pickup program. (9) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$23,148.43 for professional services during the month of December 2023 for the following projects: Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-253; Beaconsfield Crossing, #180-266; Eastland Center Redevelopment, #180-244; Misc. Concrete Repair, #180-315 and #180-283; Harper Van Antwerp Dev. #180-313; Kelly Rd Corridor, #180-322; San Sewer FCIPP Pgm., #180-316; Storm Sewer Rep. #180-314; City Hall Generator, #180-291; San Sewer Cleaning, #180-285 and #180-317; Temp Water Operator, #180-303; User Charge, #180-296; Tap Grant, #180-299 and FDCVT Grant App, #180-332. (10) approve payment in the amount of \$7,304.00 to the Michigan Municipal League for membership dues covering the period February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025. (11) approve the request for repairs to the Balfour and Vernier sewage lift/pumping stations to be performed by Kennedy Industries in the amount of \$11,140.00. (12) approve the request for repairs to the heating element in the fire department to be performed by K & S Ventures in the amount of \$8,945.00.
- 2) approve the Settlement Agreement between the City of Harper Woods and the Harper Woods Retirees Association and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 3) approve payment to L. Anthony Construction Inc., in the amount of \$30,332.72 for Progress Payment No. 3 (Final) on the 2023 Concrete Pavement Repair Project, #180-315.
- 4) approve payment to L. Anthony Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$37,651.75 for Progress Payment No. 4 (Final) on the Danbury Lane Improvements, #180-281D.
- 5) Place for Second Reading and Adoption Ordinance No. 2023-04 entitled "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10, Article IV to Provide Regulations Pertaining to Mobile Food Vendors and the Operation of Mobile Food Vendors on Private Property Within the City" and further to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 6) to Adopt the attached 2023 Schedule of Fees establishing various fees for Housing Registration, Business Licenses, Plumbing, Building, Electrical and Mechanical Permits, Miscellaneous City Clerk, Department of Public Works, Police Department and Fire Department Fees as submitted by the acting City Manager with said fees to be effective immediately.
- 7) to renew the City's participation in the Michigan Municipal League's Liability and Property Pool for 2024 in the amount of \$252,452.00 for coverage as stated in their renewal proposal and, further that competitive bidding be waived in accordance with City policy.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Published: GPN, January 4, 2024

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan
NOTICE TO BIDDERS – TORREY ROAD PUMP STATION GENERATOR – AEW PROJECT NUMBER 0160-0473. Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Work consists of installation of a 1250KW, 480V generator, medium voltage transformer, and automatic transfer switch. Plans and specifications must be obtained through BidNet Direct at www.bidnetdirect.com. Plans will be available beginning Tuesday, November 14, 2023. An electronic, public viewing copy is available on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

Paul Antolin,
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 1/4/2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF HARPER WOODS, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976, as amended, notice is hereby given that the City of Harper Woods City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., to be held in person at the Harper Woods City Hall 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the City's Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is currently being updated by the City's Planning Consultants, McKenna, in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation. The proposed updates continue the City's compliance with the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Public comments are encouraged. Persons unable to attend the public hearing may send their comments in writing to the attention of the City of Harper Woods City Clerk, 19617 Harper Ave, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225. Persons may also e-mail comments to our City Planner, Brigitte Smith Wolf at bsmith@mcka.com. Comments will be received through 12:00 noon, Monday, January 29, 2024. Please reference "Parks and Recreation Master Plan" in all correspondence.

The draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan is available for review until January 29, 2024, at the Harper Woods City Hall, located at 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods Michigan, 48225. The draft Plan may also be accessed on the Engage Harper Woods website at harperwoods.citizenlab.co

The City of Harper Woods will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the public hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five business days written notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Harper Woods at 313.343.2510.

LESLIE M. FRANK

City Clerk, City of Harper Woods

Published: January 4, 2024

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