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# Grosse Pointe News

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## Contract approved

### Incoming superintendent to begin Feb. 5

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTE** — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education at a special meeting Monday, Jan. 22, approved a contract with Andrea Tuttle to be the district's next superintendent.

The vote was 6-0, with Trustee Valarie St. John absent due to a prior commitment.

Tuttle, currently superintendent in Owosso Public Schools, will start Monday, Feb. 5, at an annual salary of \$310,000. The contract runs through June 30, 2027.

Tuttle was not immediately available for comment before press time. She was chosen by the board in a unanimous 7-0 vote Dec. 12. Vice President Ahmed Ismail, who was then board president, said he could not remember a unanimous decision on a new superintendent during his time on the board, which dates back to 2004.

"My first priority is to listen and learn about the budget, concerns people have and also all the wonderful things the district has to offer," Tuttle told the Grosse Pointe News at the time. "I also know the curriculum offerings and staff are outstanding."

Jon Dean, who retired as superintendent in August, was in the final year of his contract, which paid him \$195,000

See **CONTRACT**, page 9A



PHOTO BY ALEX CAPP

## 'Football fairy tales'

**Ben Capp Jr.**, films the introduction to last Sunday's Detroit Lions vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers NFC Divisional round game, which aired across the country before NBC's Sunday Night Football broadcast. Capp, a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms and a 66-year Detroit Lions season ticket holder, has won the nation's heart as a symbol of loyalty and faith to a team that has not seen much success over the last half a century. Actor and Detroit native Jeff Daniels narrated the intro, calling the game "a clash of football fairy tales. It's a day that these fans, these players dream of all year — even a lifetime — about being a part of," as footage of Capp putting on Lions gear and celebrating at a game was broadcast to a national audience. For more on Capp, who is this week's Pointer of Interest, head to page 4A.

## Public safety ratifies contracts

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Employment talks with two public safety unions bore fruit this month without labor pains.

"I hope you all know how important it is to this body to be in partnership with you in ensuring the city is protected," Mayor Michele Hodges told about a half dozen officers attending a special council meeting Monday, Jan. 22, during which elected officials unanimously agreed to the deals. "I think we've achieved our goals in making sure we are moving forward in the right direction on multiple fronts."

The council ratified five-year contracts with separate patrol and command officers unions. Terms were the same: a

See **RATIFY**, page 2A

## City could seek voter-approved millage for sewer separation

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The City's inland district sewers were separated in the 1960s and the current council now is ready to separate a majority of the remaining section of the city, taking advantage of significant federal funding and looking toward requesting a millage from voters.

The City recently was allocated a \$21 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will enable the installation of storm sewers in the general areas north of Waterloo and east of Washington; however, the remainder of the cost of the estimated \$28 million project will be borne

by the city. "It's important to acknowledge this amount of funding for a federal grant is somewhat unusual," City Manager Joe Valentine said. "Typically funding is a lot less, but because of some of the funding that was allocated over the last several years for infrastructure, there is significant funding for this type of project at this time, so we definitely want to take advantage of that."

As there is insufficient funding in both the sewer fund and general fund to cover the city's match of an estimated \$7,591,081, council will vote Monday, Jan. 29, on whether to place a millage request

See **MILLAGE**, page 3A

## Outdoor retailer in Village closes

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Behind papered windows, the staff at Moosejaw in The Village diligently continue to disassemble kayaks hanging from the rafters and box what's left of merchandise after the location closed its doors last Wednesday.

The outdoor retailer has been part of the downtown district 26 years and sat in its current location at 17037 Kercheval nearly two decades.

"We've seen a lot of (our customers) in the past month," General Manager Jeffrey Goldsmith said. "They've been coming in on almost a regular basis, some of them, just to say goodbye, which is like, what an amazing thing to have happen at a place where you work."



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

The Village's Moosejaw location closed Wednesday, Jan. 17.

"I think it is a testament to the community and atmosphere that we project here in this store."

Much of the stock already has been shipped to the chain's Birmingham location — the only brick-and-mortar storefront in the state that will remain open following Dick's Sporting

Goods' acquisition of Moosejaw last year. Several kayaks also were donated to Detroit Outdoors.

A new lease agreement for the storefront has not yet been drawn up, but the nine Moosejaw employees will be out of

See **CLOSED**, page 2A

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**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



**Benjamin Capp Jr.**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms  
Loyal Lions fan marks 66 years as season ticket holder



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# Woods Winterfest Saturday Unruly rules discussion

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — One of the highlights of the season is here.

The annual Winterfest takes place noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Ghesquiere Park.

The event has grown in popularity since being revamped in 2018, according to Amanda York, chairperson of the city's Citizens' Recreation Commission.

"It used to be at Lake Front Park and featured things like a chili cook-off, but didn't have much for kids," she said. "Some of us on the commission had young kids so we tried to think of how to make it more family friendly."

The change certainly

has paid off.

"Our last year at Lake Front we had fewer than 100 people," York added. "Our first year at Ghesquiere we had more than 600 and now we're at probably 1,300 to 1,400 people every year."

The change went so well, in fact, the commission won an award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association for innovative programming.

Keeping the focus on kids, this year's version will feature two characters from the movie "Encanto" doing two musical performances and a meet-and-greet with Captain America. A kids' dance party, pony rides, a petting zoo and

photo booth also will be available.

York said she's hoping the weather cooperates in order to offer ice skating.

"I'm a little nervous about the weather, but we've had years when it's only 10 degrees and we still have a big crowd," she said. "There's just really not a lot for kids to do this time of year."

Heated tents and fire pits will be available to stay warm. Food trucks include Cult of Joe Burger, Detroit House of Mac and Little Donut Factory.

The first 300 kids will receive color-changing cups emblazoned with the Winterfest logo.

—Ted O'Neil

By Brad Lindberg

Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The city council operates under an updated rules advisory a majority of its members passed during their first meeting of the new year.

The normally routine revision became complicated when, for the second consecutive month, Councilwoman Christine Gallagher persisted in citing an earlier, obsolete edition of council rules to claim changes currently being proposed were somehow underhanded.

She first said so during the December 2023 meeting. Although the city manager informed Gallagher at the time she was arguing a false proposition based on a document that was two editions out of date, she persisted into this month's meeting, Jan. 8.

In summary, Gallagher suddenly reintroduced the already-settled topic of her resolution, proposed in November last year, advocating the public school system return vacant Trombly Elementary School to active service.

Her fellow office-holders in December rejected her resolution. They replaced it with one they said contained more effective language authored mainly by Mayor Michele Hodges. Gallagher complained at the time that replacement was a personal insult.

Council rules and a related code of conduct are revised every couple of years or so depending, in part, on what new office-holders regard as needing change.

Many alterations this time around corrected grammatical and punctuation errors.

When City Manager Nick Sizeland presented proposed changes to council in November, Gallagher accused him of trying to sneak through updates that weren't highlighted in red ink on a draft. Sizeland told her she had an old, out-

dated copy, not the one being revised.

He said at this month's meeting he made some mistakes in preparing his first draft of proposed updates.

"I did not highlight immaterial changes, (such as) punctuation, commas," he said. "The only material change I missed was a portion within the consent agenda of being able to add items later."

He told Gallagher, "The version you showed me at the last meeting was the July 2020 version."

He elaborated to council, "Councilmember Gallagher brought up at our last meeting concerns of material that looked like it was missing. In July 2020, the council adopted rules and a code of conduct. After the November 2021 council, which included Councilmember Gallagher, that council adopted a new set of rules. Then, Councilmembers (Brent) Dreaver and (Tim) Kolar came along in November 2022, so I proposed a new set of council rules and conduct at the Dec. 11, 2023, meeting."

When Gallagher brought up Trombly, Councilman Max Wiener said, "It's not germane."

"I have not yielded the floor," Gallagher responded. "Until I yield the floor, an interruption from another council member is not appropriate. I would ask (Mayor Hodges) to recognize that."

"Councilmember Gallagher," Hodges answered, "I think you're pursuing an inefficient discussion. Mr. Wiener's correct. We have a document in front of us we've been asked to consider. We ask that you contain your comments to that."

The council eventually passed the revisions 5-2, with Gallagher and Councilman Tim Kolar opposed.

"It's a guideline," Sizeland told Gallagher. "If you don't want to follow them, I respect your decision and completely understand."

## CLOSED:

Continued from page 1A

the space by Jan. 31. Even so, the mood among them isn't particularly downcast.

Goldsmith plans to spend time traveling and a few others already have jobs lined up.

For staff member Joan Leinweber, it's the end to a bit of a Village legacy.

Her mother, Beverly Leinweber, was once head of promotions in The Village and can be thanked for the creation of the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

"Because she was working in The Village, I just naturally came here and I've been in The Village for many years," said Joan Leinweber, who now plans to find

work closer to where she currently resides in Birmingham.

Patrons of the downtown district may remember her from positions at Brooks Brothers, Valente Jewelers, Kramer's Bed Bath & Window Fashions and, the last six years, Moosejaw.

Moosejaw was special, she said, because it wasn't as much about making sales as it was about sharing tales of adventures and helping those who stepped through the doors get equipped with exactly what they needed to be successful.

The outdoor retailer was equally for those gearing up to climb to the top of Mount Everest as it was for those who had never hiked before, Goldsmith added.

"It's been awesome," he said. "(I'm) really grateful for the community in Grosse Pointe. I haven't been here forever, but just the year that I've been here, it's been clear that this is a unique spot to have the shop."

"... Not that the rest of the shops here are any less of anything, but a lot of people have shared the sentiment that this was a unique place in the world of retail in Grosse Pointe."

The outpouring of Grosse Pointers' disappointment upon the news of the closure certainly surpassed that of other recent closures in the downtown district.

One Facebook user commented, "Although it was not a local shop, it felt like one."

## RATIFY:

Continued from page 1A

20 percent pay increase over the life of the agreements and the implementation of defined contribution retirement plans for new hires.

Under such plans, both employees and the Park contribute money to the employee's retirement fund.

"The employee has flexibility to put away retirement savings," said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

New employees can select contribution levels ranging from 20 to 30 percent for which they

contribute from 15 to 20 percent while the city adds 5 to 10 percent.

"I truly believe this is one of the highest defined contribution plans in the tri-county area," Sizeland said. "I believe it will help attract officers to the city."

Current Park officers retain defined benefit retirement plans, which are funded by the city.

Negotiations occurred during a seven-month period with help from a state mediator.

Mediation doesn't indicate antagonism.

"The mediation was not contentious at all," Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. "It was just

a step in the process. Both sides were happy with how mediations turned out. I've worked for two different departments and both had their contracts go to mediators."

"I am very pleased that the two parties have come to agreement," said Councilman Marty McMillan, chairman of the public safety committee. "It was ratified by police officers and command, so that means they're happy with it. That's what we want. We want our police officers to be happy."

"The state mediator we had has negotiated thousands of contracts," Sizeland said. "She knows trends in the labor market. She's able to advise the city and union and bring both sides together."

All four of the city's unions have new contracts.

"Last year, we ratified contracts for public works and dispatchers, both three-year deals," Sizeland said.

## Grosse Pointe News



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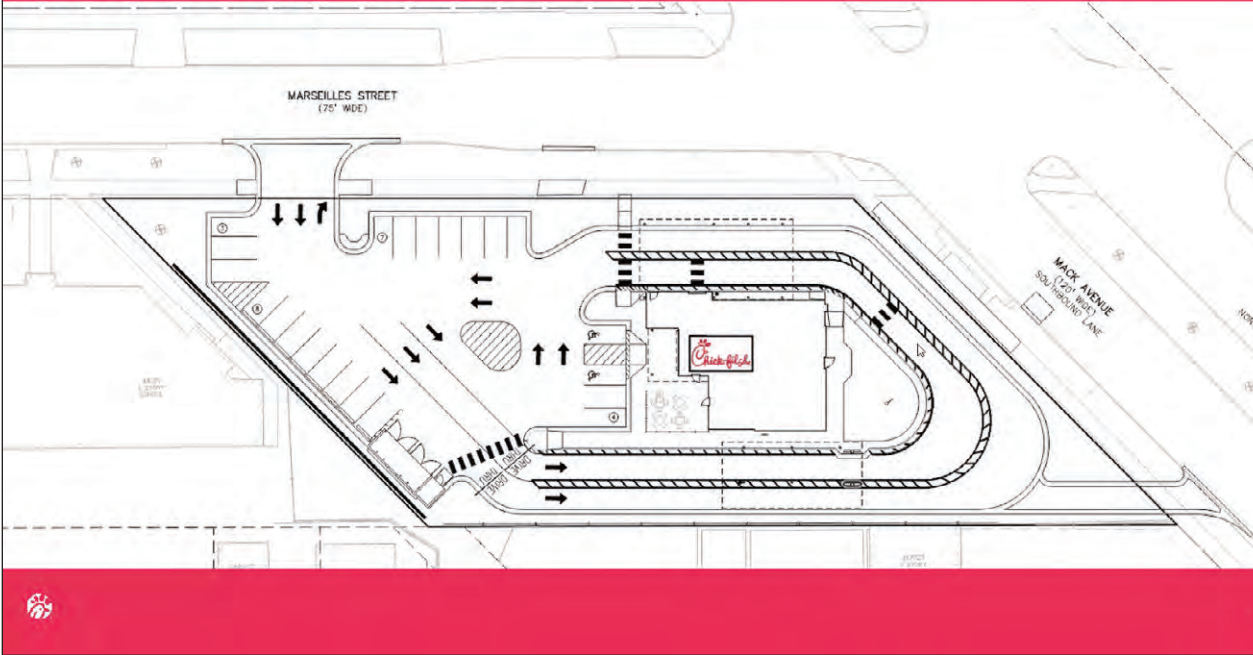
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Preliminary Site Plan



The denied site plan for the proposed Chick-fil-A at Mack and Marseilles.

Chick-fil-A site plan denied; appeal hearing in March

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**DETROIT** — Despite a setback, Chick-fil-A is continuing to fight to join the ranks of Taco Bell, Starbucks and Chipotle along the Detroit side of Mack Avenue.

The Detroit Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department denied the proposed site plan Jan. 5, which would replace the vacant Ray Laetham building at the corner of Mack and Marseilles; however, the corporation since has appealed the decision.

A hearing before the Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals is scheduled Monday, March 18.

The denied site plan for 17761 Mack outlined what would be Michigan's first drive-thru-only Chick-fil-A location, including a 2,950-square-foot building, outdoor patio, entrance off Marseilles and drive-thru escape lane onto Mack.

Among a number of reasons for the denial was, "The applicant failed to provide a revised site plan that would locate the primary ingress and egress onto Mack Ave.

This would reduce the traffic flow onto Marseilles Street and the adjacent daycare facility."

The cited daycare facility — The Giving Tree Montessori Learning Center — borders the Ray Laetham site on Marseilles and was the primary factor behind 31 people speaking in opposition during an October site plan hearing, as well as an additional 59 letters of opposition.

In support were five speakers and 21 letters.

Giving Tree's owners and parents alike voiced concerns including traffic safety, congestion and air pollution. The site abuts the school's playground and the proposed entrance drive is in close proximity to its entrance drive.

"The applicant failed to provide emission data on the numerous vehicles that would be idling in the drive-thru stacking lane," the denial reads. "... The proposed land use may be detrimental to or endanger the social, physical, environmental or economic well-being of surrounding neighborhoods or aggravate any pre-existing physical,

social or economic deterioration of surrounding neighborhoods."

A second group opposing the proposed location is composed of Mack Avenue business owners, including those representing Court4 Detroit, which is across the street from the site, Allemon's Landscape Center, Otherworld Grosse Pointe and the BP gas station at Mack and Rivard.

Joe Allemon and Cameron Lawrence, owner of the BP, went on the record to state they have nothing against the establishment, but vehemently believe it is proposed for the wrong site because of traffic issues it allegedly would bring.

The denial notes, "The proposed conditional use will hinder and have a detrimental effect upon vehicular turning patterns, ingress/egress, traffic flow, nearby intersections, traffic visibility and other vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns in the vicinity."

Alongside a fourth factor that the proposed 22 parking spaces are not considered enough to accommodate the more than 100 employees

Chick-fil-A representatives have stated they would hire, additional denial factors named a lack of provided evidence that:

- ◆ the conditional use sought will not substantially diminish or impair property values within the neighborhood;
- ◆ the conditional use sought will be compatible with the capacities of public services and public facilities that are affected by the proposed use;
- ◆ adequate utilities, access roads, drainage and other necessary facilities have been or will be provided;
- ◆ the conditional use sought will be compatible with land uses on adjacent and nearby zoning lots in terms of location, size and character;
- ◆ and the conditional use sought is designed, located, planned and will be operated so that public health, safety and welfare will be protected.

Representatives for Verus Development Group, which owns the site and also is the landlord for the Mack Starbucks and Chipotle locations, did not respond to an interview request by press time.

phase four, is the only portion of the city not included in the project.

"Part of the reason was because we had just reconstructed Loraine completely," City Engineer Stephen Pangori explained. "Charlevoix was just resurfaced. A lot of those roads are brand new and the way that system exists in that area, a lot of the separation of that northwest corner could be done in conjunction with future road projects. It's not as extensive as the rest of the project is."

had a situation where we had our pumps running, but there was so much water in the interceptor that there was nowhere for the water to go," City Attorney Charles Kennedy said. "But if you do this project ... you're going to take 90 percent of the water out of the system from going in that pump station, so you're taking out 90 percent of the water that's going to backup into people's basements."

**Phase four**  
Sewer separation west of Neff, considered

MILLAGE:

Continued from page 1A

before voters on the Aug. 6 ballot.

City administration has recommended a millage amount that would bring in \$15 million, both to cover any increases in actual project costs, as well as to provide \$1.4 million for upcoming capital needs — specifically, two garbage trucks, a dump truck, front-end loader and St. Clair resurfacing project.

"One of the issues when I look at the capital budget plan is that the two big storms — the tornado last summer and then the big storm of '21 — the capital expenses following those storms were enormous and we had what seemed like an OK cushion ... and that's gone," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. "What we had (in) surplus got, not zeroed out, but it's under \$1 million, which is not good and that's because we had so many heavy costs following those storms."

If the council decides to aim for \$15 million, a 20-year bond would see a 2.17 millage rate or an average annual cost to the taxpayer of \$382.07. A 25-year bond would see a 1.88 millage rate or an average annual cost to

the taxpayer of \$331.01. However, the city would only collect from taxpayers based on the finalized actual costs.

"The goal would be to keep it under what the max would be," Tomkowiak said. "... We only collect what we issue, not what is authorized. We only collect on what we spend."

Completion of the project, of which construction would begin in 2025, would mean a significant step forward in protection from future basement backups.

"In that last storm we

Poll workers needed for 2024 elections

The city clerks in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods are in need of poll workers for the first statewide early voting period, Feb. 17 to 25, and presidential primary, Feb. 27, as well as the Aug. 6 primary and Nov. 5 general elections.

A poll worker — also called an election inspector — is a person present at the early voting site to assist with all stages of the voting process, including setting up the site, checking in voters, issuing ballots and closing down the site. All poll workers will be trained by the clerk's office and paid for their service.

To be a poll worker, one must be a U.S. citizen, a Michigan resident and at least 16 years old, and cannot be a challenger, candidate, member of a candidate's immediate family, member of the local Board of Canvassers or have been convicted of a felony or an election crime.

All poll workers also must take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Michigan and to faithfully discharge the duties of a poll worker

or a precinct board chairperson. People who meet these qualifications can be a poll worker in any Michigan community, regardless of where they live in the state.

Those who are interested in serving and who meet the qualifications can apply one of two ways:

- ◆ Complete the Election Inspector Application form available on the local clerk's website.
- ◆ Go to michigan.gov/democracymvp and complete the application.

Further information may be obtained by contacting your city clerk.

**City of Grosse Pointe Clerk:** Christopher Hardenbrook, (313) 885-5800

**Grosse Pointe Park Clerk:** Bridgette Bowdler, (313) 822-4267

**Grosse Pointe Farms Clerk:** Derrick Kozicki, (313) 885-6600

**Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk:** Paul P. Antolin, (313) 343-2440

**Grosse Pointe Shores Clerk:** Bruce R. Nichols, (313) 881-6565

**Harper Woods Clerk:** Leslie M. Frank, (313) 343-2510

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 29

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education District Budget Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Policy and Contracts Committee meeting, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Finance and Facilities Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Curriculum Committee meeting, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Community Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Pension Board meeting, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park TIFA Board meeting, 7 p.m.



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# 4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

## Football, family fuel six-plus decades as Lions season ticket holder

By Meg Leonard  
Senior Editor

If team loyalty could be expressed in a picture, it would be of 89-year-old Grosse Pointer Ben Capp Jr., grinning ear to ear in the stands after the Detroit Lions first playoff win since 1991, in a stadium seat he has owned for 66 years.

That seat is one of four Detroit Lions season tickets he purchased in 1958, the first set at Briggs Stadium, then at the Pontiac Silverdome and now at Ford Field, the Detroit Lions' current home turf.

Footage of Capp in the stands was seen live, coast to coast, in the middle of NBC's Sunday Night Football broadcast Jan. 14, during the Lions first-round playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams. At the bottom of the live shot of Capp, who was wearing his "Lions Loyal Member" varsity jacket — issued to him by the team for being a Lions season ticket holder of 40 or more years — read this accolade: "66th year as Lions season ticket holder."

Capp actually had no idea he had just been on TV. But once it happened, his phone began blowing up.

"I had so many texts and phone calls coming in, I would say around 350 of them," Capp said. "They started Sunday night. ... It took forever to get out of the stadium and I looked down on my phone and it was just ding, ding, ding."

One of those calls came from his brother, Stanley, who now lives in Texas. Stanley saw Ben on TV and almost couldn't contain his excitement, particularly because the two brothers had attended countless games together since Ben purchased the season tickets, up until the time Stanley moved South, when the Lions still played at the Silverdome.

"He's totally excited about this," Ben Capp said. "At first I thought, oh, this is all being poured

A few iterations of the Lions logo over the decades are captured on this banner, part of Ben Capp Jr.'s team memorabilia collection.

on me, but he was part of it. He's feeling it all."

The excitement was only temporarily dampened the next morning, when Capp's wife Mickey walked down to their basement to discover a burst pipe filling the space with about four inches of water.

Credit Michigan's frigid January temps for the inconvenience.

They got the mess cleaned up in short order, while also managing the flood of local and national media attention, and now face a small powder room remodel.

But it was going to take a lot more than a burst pipe to rain on Capp's parade this week.

The buildup to Capp's nationwide moment started a few weeks before during the Lions' final regular season game. There, they watched the Lions



honor the son of a 44-year season ticket holder, who received four tickets and a trip to this year's Super Bowl in Las Vegas as a thank you from the team.

As it so happens Capp's daughter, Lynn, knows local FOX 2 sports anchor Jennifer Hammond. Hammond let NBC's play-by-play announcer Mike Tirico know that Capp is an even longer season ticket holder. Tirico let his producers know about the story.

"We were just thinking his picture would go up on the big screen. We had no idea it would be broadcast to a national audience," said Ben

since then, as well as actual gifts that have shown up on his doorstep.

The gifts have ranged from a case of beer and coffee from local distributors to a custom-made, 3-D wooden replica of Ford Field, handcrafted by Eduardo Sanchez from Orlando, Fla., who isn't a Lions fan, but told Capp he was moved by his story.

Despite all of the fanfare surrounding him, Capp said he sees himself as just one of the fans celebrating this historic run.

"I'm enjoying this, but I certainly don't think of myself as being such a special person or that I'm some sort of special fan," he said. "I'm just a regular fan and the moment was caught based on my years of holding a ticket. They put that together and I guess they just liked that image (of me)."

Capp's official start as a Lions season ticket holder began the year after the Lions last won a league championship, before the Super Bowl was even created in the NFL. He first



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Ben Capp Jr., sits in his Grosse Pointe Farms home surrounded by some of his favorite Lions memorabilia. He is using the chair backing from his old seat at the Pontiac Silverdome.

purchased just two seats, which then expanded to four, then to six at the Silverdome. Capp purchased four seats in Section 108, Row 24, at Ford Field when it opened in 2001.

"Those seats were selected when I was in Florida (when the Lions moved to Ford Field) and I had to give (my son) Ronnie power of attorney to pick them, because they don't let anyone other than the season ticket owner pick them," Capp said.

"You can pass them along in your family (like in a will), but you can't sell them to just anyone," Capp said. "I kind of like that."

Despite experiencing some epically bad seasons for the Lions, including limited playoff appearances, game-changing calls from the refs, 2008's record-setting, winless 0-16 season and countless heartbreaking losses, Capp said

Stan made it to varsity, but it's a game we all enjoy. All of our friends and buddies, everybody loves football."

Capp spoke fondly of the family tradition of attending games, especially on Thanksgiving day.

"Those are always special," he said. "We try to spread it around as much as we can, except for I'm selfish a lot of the time, so I always go. Even for the majority of our family, they are watching it on TV like most everyone else is, too, but it would always be four of us who were able to go."

Capp's favorite memory is 1962's Thanksgiving game against the Green Bay Packers. The Lions beat the Pack 26-14, and sacked vaunted quarterback Bart Starr several times that day.

"We devoured Green Bay," Capp said.

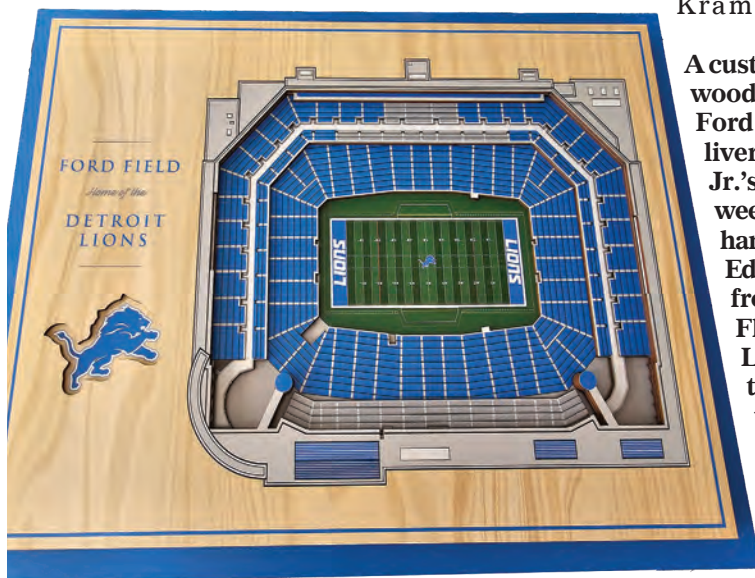
He also recalled watching many of the Lions' most memorable players on the field, like Alex Karras and Earl Morrall, Gary Danielson, Ron Kramer and Joe



A Calvin Johnson and Aidan Hutchinson jersey have made its way to Ben Capp Jr.'s collection, though he does not consider himself "a jersey guy."

Capp's grandson, Alex Capp, who handled dozens of media requests to interview his grandpa in the aftermath.

Ben Capp said he has been surprised by the outpouring of kind words from work acquaintances and community members



A custom-made, 3-D wooden replica of Ford Field was delivered to Ben Capp Jr.'s doorstep last week. The gift was handcrafted by Eduardo Sanchez from Orlando, Fla., who isn't a Lions fan, but told Capp he was moved by his story when he saw him during the Jan. 14 game broadcast.

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he has held on to his tickets for two reasons, the first of which is he is an optimist at heart.

"I'm an optimist and fans should be optimistic, but they should also be realists," he said. "Good times can end, whether it's briefly, momentarily or maybe it lasts a year. So enjoy the ups and if you like, pray for the ups. But there will be some down times."

"It's all part of the game."

But his main reason for staying a season ticket holder for this long, Capp said, is because of his family, including his wife, Mickey; brother, Stan; son, Ron; two daughters, Lee Ann and Lynn; seven grandchildren and now, three great-grandsons.

"For us, it was (about) family," Capp said. "It's the game of football that we like. We each played football in high school. I played junior varsity, but

Schmidt. He said he considers Barry Sanders the Lions' greatest running back of all time ("Billy Sims was injured too much," he said) and Calvin Johnson as the team's best wide receiver, though he was quick to note how valuable Herman Moore was to the Lions.

Capp was in attendance for several life-or-death moments that transcended the game on the field, like when the Lions' 28-year-old wide receiver Chuck Hughes collapsed and died of a heart attack at the end of the fourth quarter against the Bears in 1971. He witnessed offensive lineman Mike Utley's spinal cord injury in 1991, and Utley's subsequent thumb's up to the crowd as he left the field on a stretcher, paralyzed from the chest down. He saw Reggie Brown get

# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

## City of Grosse Pointe

### Home invasion

After the homeowner's obituary was published in The Detroit News, a suspect entered an unlocked rear door in the 600 block of Rivard and stole an unknown amount of jewelry and silverware between 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, and 11 a.m. the next day. An investigation is ongoing.

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

p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, a 20-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over and cited for the expired license plate, driving while license suspended and not having proof of insurance.

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

### Hit & run

A vehicle operated by an unknown motorist hit a car parked in front of a house in the 1300 block of Maryland between 8 and 9 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14.

"(The) victim reported damage to the rear bumper," police said. "Damage is consistent with another vehicle striking the vehicle."

### Disorderly

At 8:03 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, police responded to a complaint about a drunken, unwanted male guest in a residence in the 900 block of Nottingham

Police identified him as a 48-year-old Eastpointe resident.

"(He was) escorted outside where he became agitated and began screaming, causing a public disturbance," police said. "(He was) arrested for disorderly conduct."

### Suspect flees

A resident of the 1400 block of Bedford gave police the license plate number of a vehicle operated by an alleged would-be burglar at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Police identified the

suspect as a Detroit man, 38.

The resident told police about a vehicle backing up his driveway and a subject trying to break into his garage.

"(The) resident yelled at the suspect, who re-entered his vehicle and fled," according to police.

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

## Grosse Pointe Shores

### Uncooperative

A 19-year-old Grosse Pointe Park man made things worse for himself after being pulled over for speeding on southbound Lakeshore near Stillmeadow around 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16.

He was ticketed for expired registration and no proof of insurance. He also was cited for interfering with a public safety officer after he ignored officers' requests not to retrieve any items from the vehicle.

He was released on a personal recognizance bond and given a court appearance date. The 2006 BMW was impounded.

— **Ted O'Neil**  
Report information about this and other

crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

## Grosse Pointe Woods

### Failed attempt

An attempt to steal a vehicle in the 500 block of Perrien sometime between 1 and 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, resulted in a broken passenger-side rear window.

Surveillance footage showed a white box van leaving the area around 4:45 a.m.

### Follow the trail

A resident in the 2000 block of Ridgemont told officers when he returned to his house around 2:25 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, he found a suspicious vehicle in the driveway. He followed footprints in the snow and found a black man standing on the side of the house, claiming he thought it was for sale.

After the suspect left, described as 35 years old wearing a reflective jacket, officers found he accessed the attached garage through a window and forcibly entered the home. The owner found a collector set of coins missing and other items out of place.

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



**Ben Capp Jr. holds the ticket from the Detroit Lions' first game at Ford Field and a "Lions Loyal Member" jacket he received from the team for being a season ticket holder for 40 or more years.**

## CAPP:

Continued from page 4A

resuscitated on the field after a spinal cord injury in 1997.

He also witnessed some of the Lions' best moments in team history, like quarterback Erik Kramer leading the Lions to a home playoff win over the Dallas Cowboys in 1992, Sanders crossing the 2,000 total yards in a season mark in 1997, and Johnson breaking Jerry Rice's record of single-season receiving yards in 2011.

Beyond being one of the Lions' longest season ticket holders, Capp has another special connection to the Lions and Ford Field through its owners, the Ford family, thanks to his family's 100-year-old business, Wolverine Stone Co.

His company has installed marble and stone products throughout several of the Ford family's homes in Grosse Pointe, including those of Josephine Ford, Benson Ford and William Clay Ford, the Lions' late owner.

His company also is responsible for the stone lions that grace an entrance at Ford Field, which Capp noted are made from a special Norwegian granite called "blue pearl."

"The stone lions were part of the architects'

original design (for Ford Field)," Capp said. "We had a way to sandblast the logos into them and they were hand fabricated in Italy." Capp said despite his company's familiarity with the Ford family, Wolverine Stone Co. had to bid against many others to get the work.

"In my business it's usually the lowest bidder that gets the job. But I also believe it was the reputation of the business my father built that helped us get this job," he said.

With metro Detroiters exploding with excitement as the Lions head to San Francisco this Sunday for the NFC Championship against the 49ers, Capp continues to maintain his optimistic outlook.

That's no surprise to his grandson, Alex.

"My grandpa has such a great demeanor. He is always positive, never negative," he said. "It takes someone like my grandpa to put up with a team like the Lions. ... It ebbs and flows, but he's been more satisfied than not (with the team)."

"Safe to say he's glad he's stuck it out."

In light of all of the attention he has received, Ben Capp said he hopes he represents all Detroiters who are eager for the Lions to become a winner.

"I hope I represent our fans well," he said. "This isn't just about me; it's about them, too."



**Paper game tickets — quickly becoming a relic of the past in the digital age — tell the story of some of Ben Capp Jr.'s favorite Detroit Lions games he has attended over the years.**

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## Grosse Pointe Farms

### Out two cars

After being pulled over at Mack and Allard at 2:18 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, a 23-year-old Detroit woman told the officer the license plate on her vehicle was improper because she had taken it from her other vehicle while it was in the shop.

She was cited for the improper license plate and driving while license suspended. The vehicle was impounded.

### Not to plan

A 22-year-old Detroit man, who had just been released from Ascension St. John Hospital, waved down an officer for directions to 7 Mile while walking on Kerby toward Lakeshore at 7:27 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

A LEIN/Secretary of State search showed the man had a criminal bench warrant for burglary and forced entry, for which he was arrested.

### Wrong color

When an officer noticed an orange registration tab on a vehicle at Mack and Moross at 9:32



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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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### OUR VIEW

## Bless you, boys!

**Y**es, we know that term is associated closely with the 1984 World Series champion Detroit Tigers, but we think it's also appropriate for the Detroit Lions after Sunday's 31-23 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

After two consecutive home playoff wins that brought a national spotlight to Detroit, the Lions are just one win away — this coming Sunday at the San Francisco 49ers — from their first Super Bowl.

Of course this is about football, as the Lions are one of only four NFL teams never to appear in a Super Bowl, but it's about much, much more than that. In many ways, the team's resurgence the last three years under coach Dan Campbell has mirrored the resurgence of a city that just a decade ago declared bankruptcy.

In the same vein, the city's descent was accompanied by the team's futility over some six decades. In 1950, Detroit had the fourth highest population of any city in the country and was the richest, in terms of per capita GDP, in the nation.

The Lions won the NFL championship 1952, 1953 and 1957. They also won what was known as the Playoff Bowl, essentially to determine the NFL's third-place team, three straight years from 1960 to 1962. Let's not forget it was the 49ers the Lions defeated, in San Francisco, to reach that 1957 title game.

Then came the downfall. The 1967 riots, white flight, the devolution of the Big Three (see: the murder of Vincent Chin), Devil's Night arson run amuck, a mayor sent to prison. The list of self-inflicted wounds goes on.

Yes, there were highlights, but they were few and far between. Some titles sprinkled here and there for the Tigers, Red Wings and Pistons and the opening of the Renaissance Center. But after decades of one long, continuous slump, the comeback started. New arenas, new developments and new investments, thanks to people with names like Ford, Gilbert and Illitch.

To borrow a line from Campbell, the city started biting knee caps. And it must be noted that Campbell, who played for the winless 2008 Lions, was introduced as the team's new coach Jan. 21, 2021, exactly three years to the date of Sunday's win. By 2022, TIME magazine named Detroit one of the best places in the world to live.

Of course, TIME also named Taylor Swift "Person of the Year," but we'll take our Lions celebrities who were at the game — Bob Seger, Isaiah Thomas, Eminem, Jeff Daniels and Chad Smith, drummer for the Red Hot Chili Peppers — over the Kansas City Chiefs' contingent any day.

Don't miss the story of Pointer Ben Capp Jr. on page 4A, a 66-year season ticket holder who became a celebrity in his own right after being highlighted on TV during the last two playoff wins.

Social media Sunday night was abuzz with the complimentary way in which NBC portrayed the city. B-roll footage — what they show heading to a commercial break — showed a bright, vibrant, bustling downtown and riverfront. In years past when — make that if — the Lions were on national television, that footage was just as likely to show barren streets, boarded-up houses and crumbling infrastructure.

We'd be remiss not to mention the local ties to all of this, starting first and foremost with the Ford family. And of course a nod to Ralph Wilson Jr., longtime Shores resident, previous owner of the Buffalo Bills and founding member of the AFL, without which there wouldn't be a Super Bowl. His foundation has done immeasurable good for south-east Michigan.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Melissa Fradenburg

## Organizing your finances for a productive year ahead

**A**s the new year unfolds, many of us are looking to get our finances organized for the year ahead. January is not just about making resolutions; it's about setting a clear roadmap for financial success.

**Embracing financial resolutions.** The start of the year is an ideal time to embrace financial resolutions. Whether it's working with a financial planner, preparing for tax season or increasing savings, use this period to set intentions and make a plan. It's not about accomplishing everything at once, but laying out a strategic approach for the year.

**Planning with calendars and reminders.** Set reminders and targets in your calendar for key financial tasks, such as organizing tax documents by the end of February or reviewing investments in the summer. This could include your goals, such as simplifying your finances by closing unnecessary accounts or consolidating investments. This strategic planning helps pace your financial tasks throughout the year, preventing overwhelm.

**Setting a budget.** If you need a budget, the beginning of the year is the perfect time to start. Use budgeting software to categorize expenses and plan your spending. This helps in having a clear understanding of where your money is going. Look ahead and plan for upcoming large expenses. Whether it's home improvement projects or anticipated tax bills, planning helps in managing your cash flow more effectively.

**Automating savings.** Automate your savings right from the start of the year. Whether contributing to an IRA, a Roth IRA or taxable savings account, automatic monthly contributions ensure consistent savings. Consider increasing these contributions from last year if you're eligible to contribute more.

**Capitalizing on high-yield savings.** With higher interest rates, it's important to ensure your savings are in a high-yield savings account. This strategy can make a significant difference if you have a considerable amount of cash.

**Reviewing investment allocation.** An essential step in organizing your finances for the year is to review your investment performance. With the S&P 500 finishing the year up approximately 24 percent, it's important to understand how your investments have fared in comparison. Keep in mind these broader market gains were significantly driven by the so-called 'Magnificent 7' stocks.

Therefore, if your portfolio is diversified, expect a somewhat lower return for the year. However, if your returns were significantly off the mark, it might be time to consult a financial professional to review your allocation. This step is crucial in ensuring your investment strategy aligns with your financial goals and risk tolerance, and adjusts to any market changes that might have impacted your portfolio's performance.

**Communicating your plans.** Communicate your financial plans with your partner, finan-

See GUEST, page 7A



On a sad note, local media recently told the story of Pointer Jim Fraser, a longtime fan who attended games wearing a "Waiting Since 1957" hat, who passed away the day of this season's home opener.

We know of two players, Romeo Okwara and David Montgomery, who live in Grosse Pointe Shores. An email to the team's media relations office about others who might live in the Pointes was answered promptly, albeit with a response that "realistically" that's not something they could figure out this week. They're busy. We get it.

So win or lose in the NFC title game, we know there will be more great things coming from this team, just like the city they call home.

## 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.

### GPAAS: A community treasure

**To the Editor:**  
We are so fortunate to live within a community comprised of charitable citizens and philanthropic organizations. One such is the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society. I had been a volunteer at the animal shelter this past summer and observed firsthand the empathy extended by the shelter volunteers to the unfortunate creatures brought to their back door. During a day of intense heat, I noticed a volunteer cradling a small animal wrapped in a towel. All that was visible was a tuft of gray hair. The volunteer told me the dog had been abandoned and left to die outside in the scorching heat. The dog was very old — blind, deaf and in the final stages of renal failure. The volunteer's

See LETTER, page 7A

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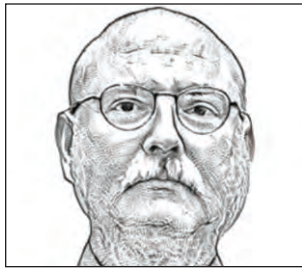
### GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
42° 36°	42° 34°	40° 32°	39° 29°	37° 28°	38° 30°	36° 28°
Rain	Cloudy	Cloudy	Chance Mix	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
80%	0%	0%	30%	0%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 5:36 pm	SUNRISE 7:51 am SUNSET 5:37 pm	SUNRISE 7:50 am SUNSET 5:39 pm	SUNRISE 7:49 am SUNSET 5:40 pm	SUNRISE 7:48 am SUNSET 5:41 pm	SUNRISE 7:47 am SUNSET 5:42 pm	SUNRISE 7:46 am SUNSET 5:44 pm

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

I SAY By Ted O'Neil

# Not an original thought to be found



recall. Probably even bought it. But a few minutes into the movie, it hit me. It's basically a remake of "Grease."

Ever since then, I've been struck by the lack of originality in Hollywood.

The two best car chases in the history of movies are in "Bullitt" and "The French Connection," both done long before CGI and other computer gimmicks, yet ticket-buyers have been willing to shell out their hard-earned money to the extent there are 10 (10!) installments in the "Fast and Furious" franchise. Or, as I call it, fast and infuriating.

Don't get me wrong. There have been a lot of

great movies, too. But they're dwarfed by the mediocre and downright bad.

Like a lot of people, I have an unwritten rule that if I'm flipping through channels and come across a certain movie, I watch the rest of it, no matter at what point it's at. Those include: "Tombstone," "The Godfather" (I and II are basically one long movie and no self-respecting fan watches III), "The Shawshank Redemption," "Goodfellas," "Pulp Fiction" and "The Natural." Plus anything about WWII, be it in color or black and white.

Then there's "You've Got Mail," which is basi-

cally a remake of Jimmy Stewart's "The Shop Around the Corner." Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan even teamed up again a few years later for "Sleepless in Seattle," loosely based on "An Affair to Remember."

And naturally, there have been a host of movies that are modern-day retellings of Shakespeare "10 Things I Hate About You" (The Taming of the Shrew), "She's the Man" (Twelfth Night) and of course "West Side Story" (Romeo and Juliet).

When it comes to TV, I always got a kick out of watching "Two and a Half Men," but it's basically "The Odd Couple," some-

thing the show did poke fun at itself over toward the end of the series.

"That '70s Show" always seemed to me like an edgier version of "Happy Days" and "Abbott Elementary" is a shameful rip-off of "The Office." Which is funny because "The Office," like a lot of American TV shows, is taken from the British version. The first episode of the Steve Carell show is almost line for line the same as the Ricky Gervais first episode, albeit Americanized for dialogue.

As with movies, there is television I've enjoyed, although nowadays if I'm watching TV it's usually

sports, news or "Jeopardy!"

The best cop show ever is "Homicide" and the best doctor show ever is "St. Elsewhere" and that's not up for debate.

And then there's the sheer brilliance of "Breaking Bad" and "Better Call Saul." I've watched both start to finish numerous times. It's especially fun watching "Better Call Saul" and finding hidden references back to, or should I say forward to, "Breaking Bad."

So next time you're watching a movie or TV show and get the feeling it seems familiar, it probably is.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1949

75 years ago this week

**MEMORIAL DIRECTORS ADOPT PLAN:** An enthusiastic meeting of the Board of Directors of the War Memorial Library Fund was held to consider the present status of the War Memorial project. Since the confusion and uncertainty caused by the decision of the Board of Education not to accept the Alger House as a War Memorial Library site, tendered by the Russell A. Alger heirs, a committee of representative citizens has been giving careful study to the uses

of the Alger House property as a War Memorial and its adaptability to appropriate community use.

**POINTE ENJOYS SECOND BIGGEST BUILDING BOOM:** During the year 1948, the Grosse Pointe School District experienced the second biggest building boom in its history. A study reported by L.M. Bartlett, director of pupil personnel for the Grosse Pointe Public Schools, shows that permits for 820 homes were issued in 1948. This is only 11 less than the 831 permits issued in 1941, which was the peak year in home construction for the Pointes.

### 1974

50 years ago this week

**FARMS FEELS GAS PINCH:** The Farms may find itself short of gasoline to operate its municipal vehicles, and what it does have, or might get, will be reserved for police, fire and Department of Public Works cars and trucks, the city council was informed at its regular meeting Jan. 21. At the most, the council was told, the city could receive only about 4,000 gallons of fuel, and if this is so, then certain services to the public will have to be curtailed.

**PARKING BAN RESTORED AT WOODS LOT:** The parking ban at the municipal parking

lot on Hampton and Mack, once imposed and then lifted for a trial period, has been imposed again as the Woods Council took no further action on the matter. If the solons declined action, the ban would automatically be reinstated — closing the lot at 11 p.m. and allowing no parking, cruising or loitering, with violators being ticketed.

### 1999

25 years ago this week

**SOUTH SCORES BIG IN CONTROVERSIAL NEWS MAGAZINE POLL:** The highly rated Grosse Pointe school system has racked up another honor. This time, Grosse Pointe South

High School was named one of 14 outstanding Detroit area high schools in a survey by U.S. News and World Report. The magazine singled out 96 out of 1,300 American high schools that participated in a 16-page survey and concluded outstanding schools don't have to rely on expensive technology or small classes to get good results.

### 2014

10 years ago this week

**ST. JAMES PLANS GARDEN:** Construction should start this summer on a memorial garden

and columbarium in the south-side yard of St. James Lutheran Church on the Hill. The yard, facing McMillan between the church and a service drive behind commercial buildings on Kercheval, is a quiet area on a rise overlooking adjacent land.

**JLD CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY:** The Junior League of Detroit begins a year-long celebration of its 100 years of service to the community this month. Founded in 1914, JLD has continuously focused its charitable efforts on improving opportunities for the people of the greater Detroit community.

## GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

cial planner or an accountability partner. Aligning on financial goals and checking in regularly can set the tone for a successful financial year.

Organizing your finances at the start of the year sets a strong foundation for financial success. By planning, automating savings and staying informed, you can navigate the year with confidence and clarity. Remember, financial planning is not just about numbers; it's about making choices that enhance your life and well-being.

Melissa Fradenburg, CDFA, AIF, is a financial

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

## LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

intention was to hold the dog until it passed so it did not die alone.

The shelter animals need care seven days a week. Those at the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society shelter, including the director

and shelter staff, forgo vacations and days off to provide this ongoing care.

In a perfect world there would be no need for animal shelters. Lucky for us, the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society exists to address this need.

MICHELLE ULLERY  
Grosse Pointe

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## MICHAEL MALIS

HELLENIC SOUNDS AND MORE



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# Passenger in 2019 Moross chase sentenced

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The book now is closed on an assault with intent to murder case that has been making its way through Wayne County Circuit Court since mid-2019.

In a conviction plea before Judge Cynthia Stephens Friday, Jan. 19,

defendant Michael Sims was sentenced to two and a half years to 10 years for assault with intent to do great bodily harm and two years for felony firearm.

The then-29-year-old Chesterfield Township resident was a backseat passenger in a Dodge Charger that chased another vehicle down Moross at 5:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 23, 2019, at speeds of more than 100 mph and while firing shots. The preceding vehicle ultimately crashed through the Pier Park iron exit gate and wound up in an empty boat well in Lake St. Clair.

Shores officers arrested Sims and the vehicle's driver, Dawson McQueen, as they walked away along the seaway.

The day after the incident, Sims admitted to a Farms detective he was a passenger in the Charger and said the car they chased had shot up his brother's house earlier that day.

No one involved in the chase was seriously injured and Sims was charged with three counts of assault with intent to murder, three counts of

intent to do great bodily harm, three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of discharge of a firearm from a vehicle causing injury, one count of discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, one count of concealed weapon in a vehicle and 11 counts of felony firearm.

In October, he pleaded guilty to assault with

intent to do great bodily harm and felony firearm; all other charges were dropped.

McQueen, who pleaded guilty to the same two charges, in December was sentenced to 42 months to 10 years for one count of intent to do great bodily harm and one count of felony firearm — two years consecutive.

## DDA district businesses may apply for façade grants

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Facade improvement grants for businesses in the Downtown Development Authority district are modeled after those in the Tax Increment Finance Authority zone.

City Manager Nick Sizeland figures if grants succeeded in the TIFA district, they'll do likewise in the DDA.

His proposal also builds upon grants the DDA distributed to businesses during the pandemic.

"The goal of the façade improvement program is to provide financial assistance to local businesses to meet economic and beautification goals," Sizeland said. "Only businesses within the DDA district are eligible."

DDA boundaries are along Jefferson from the Detroit border to Somerset.

The authority's board of directors approved the idea Dec. 12.

Sizeland proposed starting with a \$2,500 maximum grant per business.

"We have a \$10,000 budget for the entire program," Sizeland said.

Eligible projects are along the lines of enhanced lighting, painting, other building beautification, an awning, adding signage and comport with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"This is something TIFA did similarly," Sizeland

said. "I want to give businesses some flexibility for what they can do."

Applications are accepted until April 1.

Grants come with accountability:

◆ proposed improvements must meet city building codes and requirements and

◆ the building department must first approve improvement proposals.

"We require those businesses to meet local codes and have a business license, a certificate of occupancy and are up to code with the city building department," Sizeland said.

Grants are issued to building owners or tenants having a current lease and written permission from the owner.

The program is modified from those preceding.

"We used to have it where you'd submit a project to us and, if you met approvals, you'd get half up front, half at the back end," Sizeland said.

"We're finding, administratively, it would be much easier to get it done at once — accept the application, have the building department check it, then, after successful completion, we close out the program and provide the check."

TIFA district parameters are Mack Avenue almost to East Jefferson, and from Wayburn to the alley behind Nottingham.

— Brad Lindberg

## City in a phone booth

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — As the 1980s wound down, the declining new wave group, Animotion, added singer-actress Cynthia Rhodes from "Dirty Dancing" lineage and produced a final, non-career-saving hit with the up-tempo breakup song, "Room to Move."

"I've got to have room to move."

Syncopated heart breaking is one thing, but the lyric also applies to challenges facing inner-ring suburbanites seeking ways to modernize fully built-up communities without changing the established character.

"It's a consistent issue with anything called a legacy city, where about all of the land has been built out," said Nani Wolf, an associate planner at McKenna Associates urban planning consultants in Northville.

It also musters a nearly zero-sum game: no change without comparable replacement; a win for the new, a loss for the old; where adding something fresh likely requires removing something stale because there's nowhere to add anything without making room for it.

When something's got to give with almost every change, the solution may come from within.

"When you're facing

strict occupancy requirements, you get creative with building up or changing the interior of existing buildings," Wolf said. "Accessory dwellings are a great example of how some communities are able to modify their housing stock without changing the exterior (of structures)."

"Building up" means what it sounds like — adding levels to existing buildings, such as in the Park's Kercheval business district.

"Buildings on Kercheval are planned to be up to three stories, but a lot of them are still one story," Wolf said.

Capping existing structures with additional residential space adds density to the district without encroaching on the footprint of other properties.

"You're providing for additional units in the buildings and structures you already have," Wolf said. "That's room you have to take better advantage of land that's here today without actually tearing down homes or doing mass-scale rebuilding of whole blocks."

The tactic was slo-ganized in a Post-it note reading, "Build up, not out," submitted anonymously by an attendee of a recent planning commission open house session to exchange information and ideas about updating almost every aspect of the

municipal zoning code.

"Communities must continuously reinvent themselves to ensure relevance and to grow tax base, thereby strengthening city services," said Mayor Michele Hodges, holder of an urban planning degree.

Finding elbow room in a hemmed-in community presents challenges requiring insightful ways of thinking.

"In Grosse Pointe Park, we are fortunate to have stakeholders who invest significantly in the long-term sustainability of the community, which is why partnerships and quality relations are so important," Hodges said.

Some ideas along those lines in the Pointes were better than others. A few years ago, City of Grosse Pointe officials came close to moving public works facilities into Detroit as a way of freeing up land near municipal headquarters.

Yet in the Park, former Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell got nowhere, prior to his contract being canceled for cost reasons, by proposing the city raise revenue by selling one of its public parks.

Neither did municipal officials seriously consider Jarrell's proposal to save operating costs by no longer having officers respond to burglar alarms.

"Alarms are sold primarily to people who can afford them and who can

afford the monthly monitoring service, which has a disparate impact on those who can't afford an alarm or choose not to have an alarm," he said early last year.

A more workable focus for legacy cities is to advance their municipal legacy by properly managing their inheritance.

"Code enforcement is crucial, too, along with a strong housing stock, infrastructure and quality school district," Hodges said. "We must also anchor ourselves with solid planning tools, such as a master plan, modern zoning ordinance, Tax Increment Finance Authority, Downtown Development Authority and a capital improvement plan, all of which will lead to vibrancy."

No confined suburb such as the Park, which is bordered on two sides by Detroit, can address such issues in a vacuum.

"Another notable opportunity specific to Grosse Pointe Park is the stabilization of our borders and working in collaboration with our neighboring jurisdictions," Hodges said. "These efforts will have a multiplier effect and will lead to prosperity for all."

Such is the approach of planners.

"These are the tools that enable communities like ours to thrive and to remain a top choice for people seeking the history, character and charm of what only Grosse Pointe Park can offer," Hodges said.

## Faulty meters make readers weep

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Citywide replacement of worn-out water meters could pay for itself within a few years if a rough cost-benefit projection proves true.

New meters are needed because the present ones no longer accurately register the full amount of water consumption.

"Best perspective, we're paying 20 percent of every (customer's) water bill," said Josh Chafin, director of the Park water department. "I've been in houses where the meter doesn't even spin when they turn on the water."

His analysis and solution is simple: "It's an old system that needs to be changed out."

The Park pays roughly \$5.5 million annually to buy drinking water from the Great Lakes Water Authority.

A 20 percent loss represents \$1.1 million worth of water the city

lets flow unaccounted each year through meters to final consumers.

"It's a tremendous loss of water, not to mention it breeds waste because people are not responsive to their consumption," Councilman Max Wiener said.

He chaired a meeting

**'You're going to see a return on investment in, hopefully, a few years by revenue you gain from the water you're losing.'**

MIKE MARTIN  
Meter specialist with Core and Main

of the infrastructure committee Dec. 13, during which Chafin and industry representatives outlined the city's situation and what could be done to fix it.

"As we all know, as things get older they don't work as well," Chafin said.

Mike Martin, a meter specialist with Core and Main, which supplies water meters and acts as general contractor for installations, added,

"You're going to see a return on investment in, hopefully, a few years by revenue you gain from the water you're losing."

Over the years, water meters inside houses become less efficient at measuring and transmitting water volume consumption wirelessly to outdoor gauges from

which meter-readers tabulate data for billing purposes.

"One of the problems with our meters is they are no longer communicating with the outside meter," Chafin said.

"A lot of (municipal) revenue is going down the drain without being registered," said Mike Philips, regional sales manager of Master Meter, an equipment manufacturer.

He foresees a rela-

tively quick financial payoff if the city installs new indoor meters warranted to register 99 percent accurately starting with the first 1/8-gallon of flow.

Preliminary cost estimates of outfitting the city with new equipment are in the area of \$1.5 million.

"There's a pressing need for this, but we have a lot of water-sewer needs and a finite amount of money," Wiener said. "With that upfront dollar amount, that one's tricky. Do you have multi-year plans?"

Phillips said it's common for municipal customers to develop payment plans with third-party financial institutions.

"We're going to have to figure out some kind of financing," Wiener said.

"We can justify it," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, a member of the committee and chairman of the finance committee. "It's the cash flow. It's going to hurt up front."

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# BoE approves budget parameters

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTE** — The guidelines the Grosse Pointe Public School System will use to set its 2024-25 fiscal year budget are now in place.

The Board of Education approved the budget parameters on a 7-0 vote at its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Board policy states the parameters set “the preference of the board in advance of budget development to avoid ambiguity and to allow the community to have a clear view of the budget development process from its inception.”

The policy also says the parameters shall:

- ◆ identify specific financial goals and objectives,

- ◆ identify budget strategies and

- ◆ be specific in terms of objectives while allowing flexibility for the administration’s approach to budget development.

The 13 parameters address items including enrollment, student and staff safety, mental health services and healthcare cost containment.

One parameter in particular addresses any loss of federal or state aid, stating the district

will reduce the budget “by an amount commensurate with those revenues that were provided by nonrecurring federal aid, state aid or any private or public grants.”

The issue there is the end of COVID-related federal dollars known as ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund). The district has received some \$15 million under the program and has \$3.6 million that must be spent by September.

Keith Howell, executive director of teaching and learning, told the board’s Budget Committee last fall that because those funds are

ending, the district is facing a \$4.4 million budget shortfall next year. That comes before accounting for any increases in wages, benefits, supplies or purchased services.

“So basically we either have to take \$4.4 million from our fund equity or we have to cut somewhere else,” Vice President Ahmed Ismail, who was board president then, said at the time.

New this year is a parameter labeled “innovative program offerings.” It calls for President Sean Cotton to establish an ad hoc Program Offerings Committee to explore expanding the district’s

early childhood education career and technical education programs.

Another parameter says the board plans to ask voters to renew both the sinking fund and operating millages and provide the community with a comprehensive five-year spending plan for sinking fund dollars. The sinking fund millage, which expires this year, brings in around \$3 million a year at 1 mill. State law prohibits school districts from asking voters for more than 2 mills.

An assessment conducted by Plante Moran showed the district had around \$250 million in

critical needs to be addressed over the next decade.

Trustee Colleen Worden, although she voted in favor of the parameters, expressed concern over the Budget Committee, saying more of that work should be done at board meetings.

Cotton said each of the district’s ad hoc committees will continue giving updates at board meetings and that committee meetings are open to the public.

“The administration requested that we use committees in some circumstances, but all final decisions will be made at the board level,” he said.

## GPPSS revenue, spending both up

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTE** — Although enrollment and per-pupil funding are both up, labor contracts and other factors mean the Grosse Pointe Public School System will have to dip into its fund balance.

The district’s revised 2023-24 fiscal year budget

shows revenue of \$104,436,793, with expenditures of \$105,685,638. The difference of \$1,248,846 will be taken from its fund balance. That will leave the fund balance at 8.08 percent, down from 9.62 percent last fall.

Brandy Pavlik, executive director of finance, told the GPPSS Board of

Education at its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16, that increased expenses are due to salary and benefit hikes stemming from labor contracts the board negotiated with its bargaining units last year and a 3 percent retention bonus employees received.

Pavlik also said revenue is expected to be \$68,622

higher than originally projected.

The district’s per-pupil foundation allowance is \$11,295, a \$458 increase over the 2022-23 academic year.

“Our unaudited enrollment is at 6,436, which is down 50 from last year,” Pavlik said. “We were down 142 last year and 702 the year before that.”

Enrollment, however, is almost 90 students higher than was projected last year.

“That’s a very encouraging sign,” Treasurer Terry Collins said. “That means we’re capturing more students than we thought and keeping more students.”

The budget adjustment also will reflect a drop in Act 18 revenue of a little more than \$513,000. That money comes from the Wayne County Regional

Educational Service Agency from funds generated by the countywide education operating millage.

“It’s center-based and pays for indirect costs such as processing payroll,” Pavlik said. “It’s constantly revolving and changing.”

The center in question is for special education services GPPSS provides to students from other dis-

See BUDGET, page 10A

## CONTRACT:

Continued from page 1A

annually. Dean is being paid the remainder of his contract, through June 30, to act as a consultant for the board.

When the district began working with the Michigan Association of School Boards to find a new superintendent, the board set the salary range between \$275,000 and \$350,000 in hopes of finding what it felt were the most qualified candidates.

Trustee Colleen Worden said she thought the salary for Tuttle was too high, but still voted for the contract.

“We’ve had some rigorous discussions over several meetings to hash out the issue and I think she’s

going to be a fantastic superintendent,” Worden said. “The money is a bit high, but that’s what we set in our parameters. She’ll be a great person for the district.”

The board held four separate closed session meetings while discussing the contract.

Similar to Dean’s contract, Tuttle will receive an annual car allowance of \$6,000 and will be eligible for a \$10,000 bonus based on her yearly evaluation, in addition to the usual health benefits that are part of the district’s agreement with its executive administration team.

Tuttle also can receive bonuses if certain metrics are met for enrollment increases, standardized test score performances and budget adherence.

“These are high-rigor

achievements that will be measured against our peer districts,” President Sean Cotton said.

The district also will pay 6.5 percent of Tuttle’s salary into a tax-sheltered annuity annually, whereas Dean received 11 percent.

Tuttle has been superintendent in Owosso 14 years, serving before that as a teacher, coach, technology director and principal in the Corunna and Ovid-Elsie school districts.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Alma College and a master’s degree and doctorate from Central Michigan University.

Tuttle told the board during her interviews that 14 years ago when she became superintendent in Owosso the dis-

trict had a fund equity below 3 percent and was looking at \$6 million in deficit spending. Today, the district has an 18 percent fund equity and voters approved a \$45 million bond to build a new consolidated middle and high school. GPPSS

will see its fund balance drop to slightly over 8 percent after upcoming budget adjustments are approved (see story on this page).

Tuttle was one of 39 applicants for the position. The board interviewed seven candidates

before settling on two finalists. She said GPPSS was the only district to which she applied, noting her mother is a native Pointer and she still has family here, including a cousin who is co-owner of Cadieux Cafe.

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# PRIDE OF THE POINTES

**William Shall** of the City of Grosse Pointe and **Brandon Kreuter** and **Nicholas Muccioli** of Grosse Pointe Woods were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Lawrence Technological University.



Nicholas Muccioli



Lielyn Mercer



Mia Eugenio

◆◆◆  
**Lielyn Mercer** and **Oscar McWood** of the City of Grosse Pointe and **Mia Eugenio** of Grosse Pointe Shores were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Miami University.

◆◆◆  
**Alex Pinter** of Grosse Pointe Park was named to the fall 2023 President's List at Miami University.

◆◆◆  
**Emily Reed** of the City of Grosse Pointe and **Elizabeth Becker** of Grosse Pointe Farms were named to the fall

2023 Chancellor's Honor Roll at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Reed earned highest honors (a GPA of 3.8 to 4.0), while Becker earned high honors (a GPA of 3.5 to 3.79).

◆◆◆  
**Lauren MacKellar** of Grosse Pointe Woods was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Stonehill College.



Alex Pinter



Emily Reed

◆◆◆  
**Violet Whitmore** of the City of Grosse Pointe, a communication arts major at Grove City College, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester.

◆◆◆  
**Emily Colen** of Grosse Pointe Farms and **Fiona O'Byrne** of Grosse Pointe Woods were named to the Saint Mary's College Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester.

◆◆◆  
**Michael Keelan** of Grosse Pointe Woods completed requirements for a degree from Trine University at the end of the spring 2023

semester. He earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies.

◆◆◆  
**Anna Trempus** of Grosse Pointe Farms was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Commonwealth University.

◆◆◆  
**Abram Mercer** of Grosse Pointe was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Missouri State University.

◆◆◆  
**Audrey Grace Leo** of Grosse Pointe was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Iowa State University.

## Emergency blood shortage may delay medical procedures

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Its blood supply has fallen to critically low levels across the country. Blood and platelet donors are urged to make an appointment to donate to help alleviate the shortage and help ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not put on hold.

The number of people donating blood to the Red Cross has declined by around 40 percent the past two decades. Between Christmas and New Year's Day, the Red Cross experienced a nearly 7,000-unit shortfall in blood donations.

Currently, blood products are going to hospitals faster than blood donations are coming in. As a result, the Red Cross has had to limit distributions of type O blood products—among the most transfused blood types—to hospitals due to supply constraints. Donors of all types—especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets—are urged to give. Platelets are needed for cancer and trauma patients and must be transfused within five days of donation.

"Small changes in blood donor turnout can have a huge impact on the availability of blood

products and dramatic consequences for those in need of an emergency blood transfusion," said Barry Siegfried, M.D., medical director of the Red Cross Michigan Region. "More challenges may lie ahead as the potential for severe winter weather and seasonal illnesses like the flu may compound the dire blood supply situation."

The shortage comes during National Blood Donor Month, which is celebrated each year since 1970, to honor those who give blood and encourage more donations during a historically difficult time to meet the needs of patients.

There are three ways to make an appointment to donate:

◆ use the Red Cross Blood Donor app,

◆ visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or

◆ call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

Donors who give blood in January will be automatically entered to win a trip for two to February's Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. Included are a three-night hotel stay, roundtrip airfare, \$1,000 gift card for expenses and other pre-game activities. For details, visit [redcrossblood.org/superbowl](http://redcrossblood.org/superbowl).

## BUDGET:

*Continued from page 9A*

number of students, which in turn dictates the number of staff necessary. The board will vote on the budget amendment at its next regular meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Parcels Middle School. That is a change from the usual meeting spot, the multipurpose room at Brownell Middle School.

The board of education typically votes on two such budget amendments per fiscal year, with the second coming in the spring.

number of students, which in turn dictates the number of staff necessary.

The board will vote on the budget amendment at its next regular meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Parcels Middle School. That is a change from the usual meeting spot, the multipurpose room at Brownell Middle School.

The board of education typically votes on two such budget amendments per fiscal year, with the second coming in the spring.



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## Young adults get in on charitable giving

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

When Jackson Rosati initially came up with the idea for Grosse Pointe Young Adults, he envisioned a group of friends coming together for fun, food and potentially raising funds.

That's exactly what he created with the non-profit, which in November hosted its second annual fundraising event.

"I had an idea when I was in law school, almost two years ago, that I always wanted a charity event," said Rosati, currently an associate with Fletcher Yoder, a law firm in Houston. "I thought we could organize it as a games event with friends, have a tournament. The winner would get money, but money would also go to charity."

Before that ball got rolling, Rosati upped the stakes.

"I thought, 'Let's try bigger, let's try black tie,'" he recalled. "I could see the puzzle pieces in my mind. With all the connections to Grosse Pointe and with everyone coming to Michigan for Thanksgiving, we want to see each other, go out, get dinner, go to bars. So let's get together, collect money and donate it to a charity."

Grosse Pointe Young Adults was formed for that specific purpose: to establish in young people an early appreciation and commitment to giving back to the community.

The inaugural event was hosted Nov. 23, 2022, at Ford House and benefited the Center for Success. It was easier than Rosati thought it would be and its follow-up, even easier.

The night before Thanksgiving 2023, the second GPYA charity event took place at The War Memorial and benefited the Full Circle Foundation.

"It was so much fun with everybody reconnecting," Full Circle founder Mary Fodell said. "And it was so glamorous. ... It was a huge thing they took on, raising awareness and teaching 20-year-olds to be philanthropic and give back."

Tickets were \$100 and allowed guests to enjoy pizza and drinks in between socializing and dancing. Funds also were raised through sponsorships, including MGM Grand Detroit, Ascension Health, Ralph Wilson Foundation and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACKSON ROSATI

**Grosse Pointe Young Adults President Jackson Rosati and Vice President Emme Kensora attended the 2023 charity event.**

other heavy hitters.

Added Stephanie DiVirgil, Full Circle operations and programs coordinator, "It was so fun. Everybody looked so pretty. There were definite red-carpet vibes."

"It's the one night of the year to see everyone," said Emme Kensora, GPYA vice president, "so everyone wanted to look their best."

The sentiment was echoed in Fodell's recollection of one of Full Circle's first community events — a bridal fashion show in 2009 — in which Kensora and other GPYA participants strutted their stuff on the runway.

"We wanted to give an experience to our kids," Fodell said. "It wasn't about making money. It was about giving our kids an experience. Emme wore her first communion dress. That's the full circle of it. It was our first magical event. We only charged \$25 a ticket and we sold out in one hour. It was at The War Memorial. We all had a great time."

When searching for the latest benefactor, Kensora conducted an Instagram poll — the GPYA communication outlet of choice. The consensus was hands down Full Circle.

"So many people came

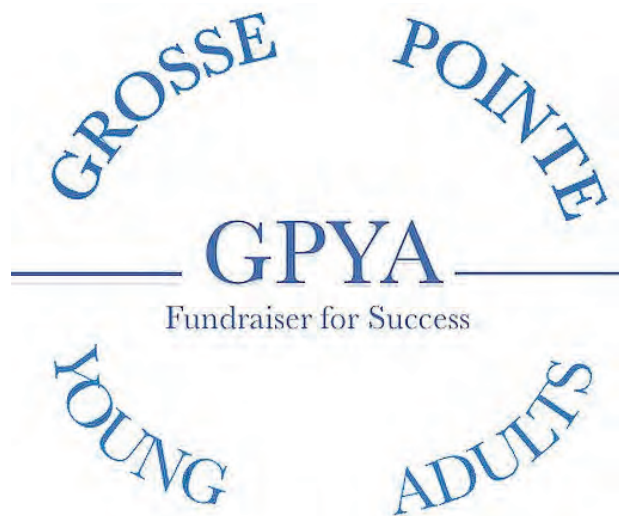
back for Full Circle," she said. "Everyone wanted that charity and I'm glad we picked it."

The event garnered \$20,000 for Full Circle, which provides opportunities for increased independence for individuals with special needs.

"It was a shot in the arm in the winter time," Fodell said of the donation. "We can take a breath now. We're trying to get a new building, trying to help TEAM



**From left, GPYA President Jackson Rosati, Henry Burghardt, Treasurer Paul Boyer and Alessandro Bortolotti. Rosati said these cohorts were a big help with setting everything up and attracting sponsors.**



gives a group of people the opportunity to serve at a point in their lives when they're starting to make money. This is a good opportunity to get something going."

Rosati said GPYA is not a membership-based group; anyone ages 22 to 26 who wants to get involved is welcome.

"Right now, it's our friends," he noted. "We're open for more people to come in. We have new positions on the board for people getting involved."

"I really want the recycling of young people into the group," he added. "I want it to be a Grosse Pointe thing."

As GPYA evolves, he'd also like to add other events in addition to the November fundraiser.

"Once that becomes repetition, we'll start expanding," he said, "maybe with a summer event."

"We're happy with how it's been going each year," Kensora added. "We hope to bring more awareness to people."

Kensora said most GPYA contact is made through Instagram, though the group is working on establishing a website. Contact also may be made by emailing [grossepointeyoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointeyoungadults@gmail.com).

DiVirgil applauded the group for its efforts and the new relationship that has been established with Full Circle, especially knowing several GPYA participants were part of Full Circle's first bridal show fundraiser.

"Now they're members of this extraordinary nonprofit who raised money for us," she added. "It's a true full circle."

Fodell also praised the group's efforts.

"If you follow your heart and have good intentions, the community will come together," she said.

26. Right now we're renting space at First English (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Woods). That money will help pay rent for the kids. It really helped big time."

Added DiVirgil, "I was so impressed not only with the event and the money raised, but with the group of people who started so young learning the importance of giving back."

Kensora, from Grosse

Pointe Woods and a 2017 graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School, said she hopes to make the fundraiser an annual event.

Rosati, who is from the City of Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2016, said he hopes the group accomplishes much more moving forward. He also said he learned a lot starting GPYA, including the formation of bylaws and articles of incorporation.

"To be involved in an organization, you have to keep it organized," he said, noting the group's official 501(c)3 status.

As Rosati currently is settling into a new job and lives in Texas, he'd like to get more Grosse Pointers involved on the board.

"One aspect we're trying to incorporate is, we're Grosse Pointe Young Adults," he said. "It's me and a few others on the board. We'll grow out of the positions soon when we become actual adults. We plan to cycle in younger persons from the grades below us to start. Ages 22 to 26 are on the board, so we'll start outreaching to their groups."

"My youngest brother is a senior in high school," he continued. "Hopefully when he's out of college, this will be around for him. It



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY FODELL

**Emme Kensora's support of Full Circle goes back to 2009, when she was a bridesmaid during Full Circle's bridal fashion show.**

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## BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

START THE YEAR RIGHT WITH A HANDY SCHEDULING TOOL

## It's a Plan!



## HAPPY TIMES AHEAD

A pretty scheduling planner makes keeping track of everyone's appointments and tasks more enjoyable, and likely will be used more consistently. This adorable Lilly Pulitzer 146-page planner from Village Palm, above, is just one of the cute patterns and sizes available.

## Keep important dates on point in 2024

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Planners are back in style! The key to making planner use successful is to actually use it reliably and consistently. That requires making it a daily habit in a manner you find personally seamless and enjoyable.

Make sure you love your planner. If it doesn't appeal to you or make you feel positive, you are less likely to remember to use it. Here are a couple of tips to help ensure that your new habit is successful:

- Color code dates and notes in a way that makes them pop. Perhaps use blue on dates for birthdays, red for doctor's appointments, green for parties, etc. Whatever system helps you monitor your months is a winner! Increasing its effectiveness will encourage you to keep relying on it.
- Organize your to-do notes in a way that makes most sense to you. Is it a weekly or monthly list? Jotted notes on due dates? There is no right way, just the best way for you. Don't feel compelled to structure your planner in a traditional way if you have a better idea. It's your planner and a very personal tool, so use it your way.
- Always have a pen handy. Nothing is more frustrating than to want to make a notation, and

have nothing to write with. Put the pen right inside your planner, so it's always there and ready.

One way to make organizing dates more fun is with one of the super-cute 17-month Lilly Pulitzer planners from Village Palm. Available in multiple sizes and a choice of several upbeat, colorful patterns, these beautiful agenda-keepers are divided into sections that help you conquer your busy schedule.

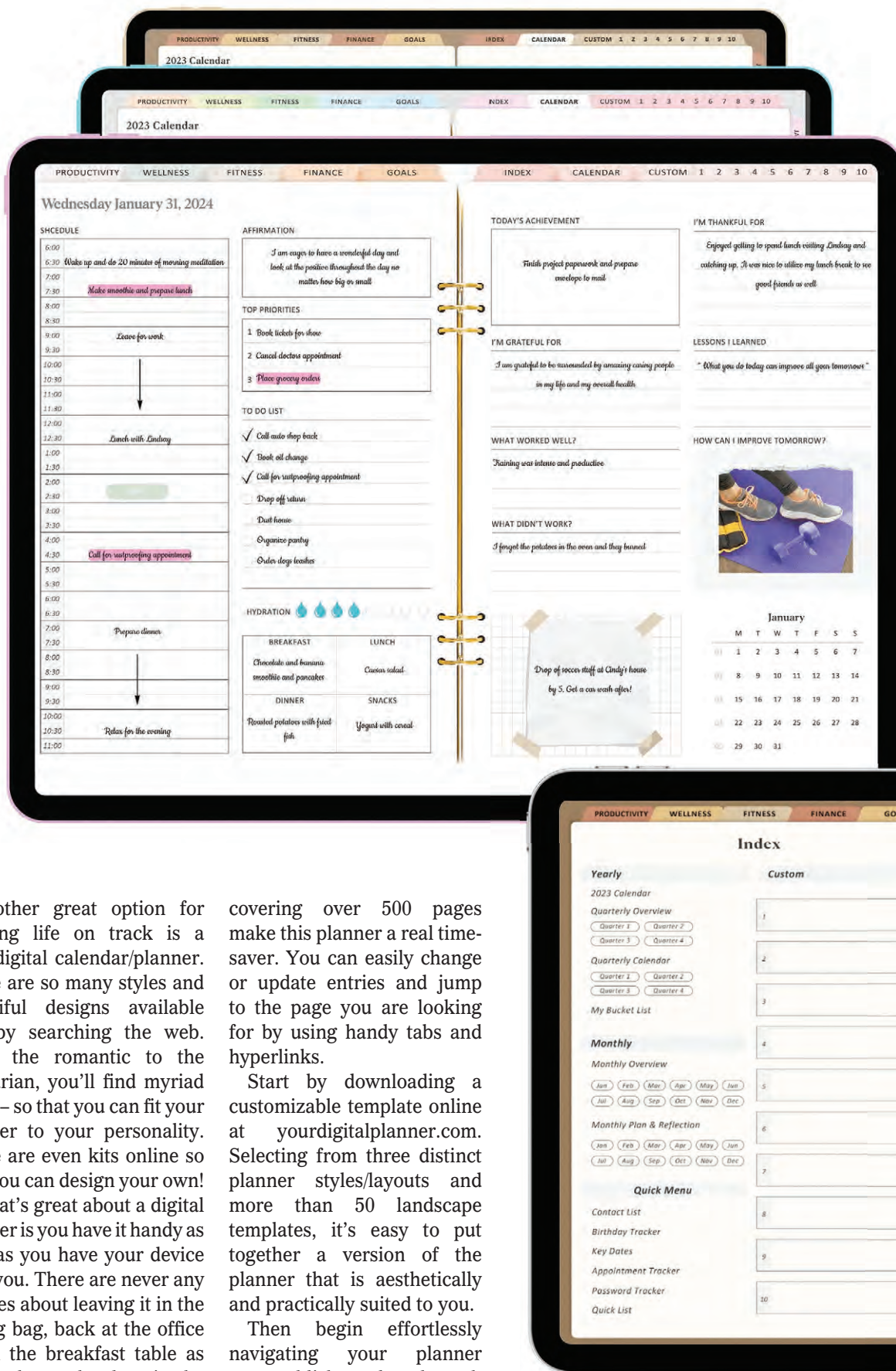
Each weekly calendar separates the month by laminated tabs into "week-of" sections for planning the month at a glance. Each day has a large open box space for logging in appointments, lists all major holidays and has a lined "to do" column to set goals and write in tasks. These perky hard-cover books with delicate gold details and matching durable gold metal spirals are so pretty – you'll never leave them behind!

A nice bonus to this planner is its additional accessories package. Featuring dozens of colorful date-reminder stickers, a reinforced double-sided pocket page and an elastic band to keep it securely closed, this book has a definite fun factor, yet covers practicality nicely too. With pages for notes and addresses, vibrant artwork throughout and a mini travel journal, this handy book could make all the difference for a happier (and more organized) new year.

Village Palm is located at 17131 Kercheval Ave., in Grosse Pointe. Call the shop at (313) 882-7256 or visit [shopvillagepalm.com](http://shopvillagepalm.com) online or @villagepalm on Instagram.



Lilly Pulitzer planners from Village Palm, above, come in several styles and colors.



## GO DIGITAL FOR EVEN MORE CONVENIENCE AND EXTRA FEATURES

This comprehensive virtual planner, left and below, by [yourdigitalplanner.co](https://yourdigitalplanner.co), is chock full of helpful features, sections, reminders and dedicated pages. From tracking fitness/wellness goals to finances, it's more than just a calendar and scheduler.

Digital planners like this one allow you to customize views, tabs and even the color and look of your planner.

Another great option for keeping life on track is a cool digital calendar/planner. There are so many styles and beautiful designs available just by searching the web. From the romantic to the utilitarian, you'll find myriad planners to your personality. There are even kits online so that you can design your own!

What's great about a digital planner is you have it handy as long as you have your device with you. There are never any worries about leaving it in the wrong bag, back at the office or on the breakfast table as you rush out the door in the morning.

We explored one excellent option, offered from Your Digital Planner. It's a comprehensive electronic scheduler that can be utilized on any digital device, unlike other app-specific planners.

It looks very much like a paper planner – but has the added benefit of the usual virtual toolkit items familiar to desktop publishing. Delete, copy and paste capabilities along with tab organization

covering over 500 pages make this planner a real time-saver. You can easily change or update entries and jump to the page you are looking for by using handy tabs and hyperlinks.

Start by downloading a customizable template online at [yourdigitalplanner.com](https://yourdigitalplanner.com). Selecting from three distinct planner styles/layouts and more than 50 landscape templates, it's easy to put together a version of the planner that is aesthetically and practically suited to you.

Then begin effortlessly navigating your planner to establish tasks through pre-set clickable hyperlinks (compatible with all styluses such as the Apple Pencil.)

Before you know it, you'll be scheduling events for you and your family with the ease of having everything all in one convenient place.

When you subscribe to this product – currently \$49.90 at [yourdigitalplanner.co](https://yourdigitalplanner.co), you'll receive a new virtual planner annually, along with exclusive bonus offers and options.

For record-keeping, you can

also quickly download your calendar and retain it for lifetime access, including future years (2025, 2026 and beyond.)

The company provides detailed instructions on how to maximize the planner's utility. This product is also compatible with various apps like Goodnotes, Notability, Noteshef, Xodo and more.

SOURCE: [yourdigitalplanner.com](https://yourdigitalplanner.com)

### WHERE TO SHOP:

Village Palm

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## Time management tips keep life running smoothly

Time management involves figuring out how much time to spend on specific tasks and controlling one's schedule to be as productive as possible. Managing time more effectively can improve a your quality of work and provide a boost in productivity both at work and at home.

Yet this is not the only benefit of managing time better. Establishing and following a schedule of tasks is proven to also reduce stress. Gallup's 2021 State of the Global Workplace report found workers in the United States and Canada ranked highest for daily stress levels of all groups surveyed. Some 57 percent reported feeling stress on a daily basis. Learning time management skills can be one factor that helps alleviate that anxiety.

Here are a few tips for time management that can easily get busy people on the road to being more efficient — and less stressed.

### Make lists

Rather than keeping ideas or tasks in your head, jot down notes that you can organize into a schedule later. You can write them down on paper, in a digital notes application or within designated areas of a book-style or digital planner.

### Prepare a task plan

Each evening before you leave work or first thing in the morning the next day, map out all the tasks you have and when they will be done. High priority tasks should be done first, followed by medium- and low-priority jobs. You'll feel less stressed knowing the most important tasks are out of the way,

### Avoid multi-tasking

Studies have shown that doing two or more things simultaneously tends to lead to none being done at full capacity. The more you multi-task, the more the end results will suffer. Clifford Nass, a cognitive scientist at Stanford University, found that when putting his students through a series of tests, high multi-taskers were bad at filtering irrelevant information from the relevant, something that multi-taskers should seemingly be especially good at. Nass also found that high multi-taskers had diminished powers of mental organization and extra difficulty switching between tasks.

### Manage distractions

Distractions can put you on the path to procrastination. That is why you have to try hard to minimize distractions, whether it's coworkers who interrupt or digital devices. Set "notification-free" times during the day when phone or computer notifications are turned off. You also may want to block incoming emails. This way you will have a window of distraction-free time to devote to a particular task.

### Time your focus

According to a University of California study, it takes an average of 23 minutes to refocus when you've been distracted. To be effective, remaining in a focused state is essential. Set a timer so that you stay focused on a task for a particular period of time, such as 25 minutes. You'll get more done before you take a break. Similarly, Parkinson's law states that work will expand to fill the time that's available for completion. Set time

constraints for certain tasks so you will work more efficiently.

For more help, seek out resources like seminars and books regarding improving time management skills. Investing some time upfront to learn good habits will save you hours over your lifetime.



**4B | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS**

**AREA ACTIVITIES**

**Blood drives**

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 17017 12 Mile, Roseville.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 4 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, Mason Elementary School, 1640 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, Ardmore Elementary School, 27001 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

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

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

**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:

◆ New to Medicare, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25.

◆ The movie "Woman in Gold" is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Book Club, "Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs About Aging Determine How Long and Well You Live," 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, with facilitator Ann Eatherly.

◆ Watercolor Painting, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays with instructor Linda Boyle. Jan. 30 is notecards; Feb. 27 is floral painting; and March 26 is landscape painting. Cost per class is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

◆ Pastries and Puzzles, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31. Cost is \$5 for members, \$8 for nonmembers.

**Library**

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org).

◆ Readers' Choice Book Discussion Group, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday,

Jan. 27, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ D&D Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ We Create with Procreate!, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ You Can Canva Too!, 2 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Read, Rhyme & Play, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Appy Hour—Connect, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Baby Time with Miss Jane, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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

◆ Let's Talk History with Jamon Jordan, 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

**The Family Center**

The Family Center and University Liggett School present ULS Substance Misuse Prevention Week Parent Information Night, from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Liggett, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods. Expert panelists John George and Leslie Lundahl, Ph.D., will discuss drug trends, signs of drug use, ways families can talk openly about drug and alcohol misuse and available resources for those seeking mental health or addiction recovery or support. Frank Wilberding, a licensed social worker, will moderate the panel. For information, call (313) 884-4444, Ext. 303, or email [skost-cox@uls.org](mailto:skost-cox@uls.org).

The Family Center presents QPR Suicide Prevention Training,

See **EVENTS**, page 6B

**Winter concert series helps kick off War Memorial's 75th anniversary**

The year was 1949. Gas was about 27 cents a gallon, a new home could be purchased for less than \$8,000 and on the shores of Lake St. Clair in Grosse Pointe Farms, a priceless community asset — the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association — was established.

This year marks 75 years of The War Memorial and with it comes a time for celebration. Kicking off its diamond anniversary year, The War Memorial's Winter Brunch and Concert Series presents a lineup of musicians spanning classical to jazz genres. The series began Sunday, Jan. 21, with the music of Detroit-based jazz pianist Scott Gwinnell and vocalist Emma Aboukasm. It continues Sunday, Feb. 25, with Ramona Collins and the Cliff Monear



Trio; Sunday, March 10 with Chamber Soloists of Detroit; and Sunday, April 21 with jazz clarinetist Dave Bennett.

All performances in this series feature a gourmet brunch and take place in the Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"As we begin to cele-

brate our 75th anniversary, there will be countless opportunities for our community to come together and join in," War Memorial President and CEO Maria Miller said. "From veteran-focused events to dances, a gala and concerts, your War Memorial is the happening spot for 2024 and

beyond. I hope to see both new and familiar faces in the coming months."

The War Memorial presents a broad range of programming and top-shelf experiences that promise to entertain, engage and inspire. Friday, Feb. 2, brings

See **75TH**, page 6B

**ENGAGEMENTS**



Alex McEachern and Tiffany Balling

**McEachern—Balling**

Ed and Mary Jane McEachern of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the engagement of their son, Alex Edward McEachern, to Tiffany Marie Balling, the daughter of Susan and Daniel Balling of Nantucket, Mass.

Miss Balling earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Sacred Heart University. She is an investor relations analyst for Atlantic Investment Management in New York City.

Mr. McEachern earned a Bachelor of Business Management degree from the University of Michigan. He is a national accounts manager for Johnnie-O in Raleigh, N.C.

The couple met in New York City and will reside in Raleigh.

A 2025 wedding is planned.



Deirdre McKeever and Will Raderman

**McKeever—Raderman**

Susan and Patrick McKeever of Grosse Pointe Park announce the engagement of their daughter, Deirdre Anne McKeever, to Will Garrison Raderman, the son of Mark Harris Raderman and Lori Anne Bernat of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

Miss McKeever earned a Bachelor of Music degree in performance and education from the University of Michigan. She is a music teacher at Hybla Valley Elementary School in the Fairfax County, Va., public school district.

Mr. Raderman earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in applied mathematics from George Washington University and a Master of Science degree in public health from University College London. He is an employment policy analyst at the Niskanen Center.

A 2025 wedding is planned.

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# 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.

## Mary Ellen Sloan Blondin

Mary Ellen Sloan Blondin, 86, passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, after a battle with Parkinson's disease. She received remarkable attention from the Memory Care staff at American House — Lakeshore, where she resided the past three years. She spent her final days surrounded by loving family and friends.

Mary Ellen was born May 24, 1937, in Detroit, to Arthur and Mary Elizabeth (nee McKinnon) Sloan. She graduated from Dominican High School in 1955, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in social work from St. Aquinas College in Grand Rapids in 1959. She ultimately earned a Master of Arts degree in education from Wayne State University, and did so after becoming a mother to five daughters.

During her freshman year at Aquinas, Mary Ellen met the love of her life, John Blondin. They wed Aug. 16, 1958, and were married for 62 years until John's passing in 2020. In addition to being a dedicated mother, her favorite role was as "Mimi" to her 15 grandchildren. In 2021, she became a great-grandmother — another girl appropriately — to round out her Irish clan, who were her unparalleled pride and joy.

Mary Ellen began her career as a social worker at Northeast Guidance Center in Detroit. While raising her busy family, Mary Ellen returned to school, earning a master's degree and special certification as a Title I teacher. She taught third grade in Detroit for many years at St. John Berchmans Catholic School, St. Matthew Elementary School and Goodale Elementary School until her retirement in 1999.

Mary Ellen and John were fortunate enough to spend their summers at the family cottage in St. Ignace, the first town in the Upper Peninsula. Visiting her family's modest cottage since she was born, their summer residence became Mary Ellen and John's favorite spot on earth. They even coined their little slice of paradise "Green Castle on the Boulevard" after the Sloan family's ancestral home in Ireland. Mary Ellen and John spent every warm summer afternoon at the cottage, gathering for beach parties with the McCarthys, McPhees and other close friends, or on the front porch enjoying a glass of moscato or scotch as they watched the freighters and sailboats pass through the Straits of Mackinac.

Mary Ellen's faith, family, friends and affinity for her Irish heritage remained key pillars throughout her life. She attended Mass each week at St. Ignatius during summers in St. Ignace and also was an active member of St. Matthew's parish, where her children attended elementary school until her family moved to Grosse

Pointe in 1986. She also was a Eucharistic Minister at St. Philomena's until its closing in 2018, after which she became a member of St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church.

She spent several years as a regular volunteer usher at the Fisher Theater and with On The Rise Bakery Cafe, a program within the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. She was a proud member of the Irish Catholic fraternal organization, the Ladies' Ancient Order of the Hibernians — Ethel Kennedy Chapter.

She also never missed an opportunity to wear her "Irish green" for any occasion and was always certain to throw a St. Patrick's Day party where everyone was welcome, complete with corned beef and cabbage, soda bread and Irish coffee.

Mary Ellen enjoyed the blessing of having several lifelong, dear friends, especially her "potluck" pals, a set of high school friends who all settled in metro Detroit. They annually gathered as couples near the holidays for a rowdy Christmas party and shared countless life events together, including baptisms, communions, graduations, weddings and baby showers. Her friends lovingly checked in with Mary Ellen in her final days, where the continued love and bond between them was evident.

She will be dearly missed by so many, especially her daughters, Michele Blondin Haji-Sheikh (Ali), Brigid Gentile (Tim), Katy Walsh (Chris) and Meg Leonard (Billy). She also leaves behind her grandchildren, Tory (Tori), Chasen (Katharine) and Teyvn (Megan) Gentile; Jesse (Lindsay), Abbey (Pat), Benjamin, Matthew and Emilie Haji-Sheikh; Molly and Annie Walsh; and Kathryn, William, Elisabeth and Jack Leonard; great-granddaughter, Palmer Gentile; sisters-in-law, Kathy Blondin-Stone (Bill), Pam Blondin Lenhard (Harry), Bette Blondin and Sue Blondin (James); and many beloved nieces, nephews and dear friends. She was predeceased by her parents, Arthur and Mary Elizabeth; husband, John; brother, Dan Sloan (Lana); daughter, Maureen Brady (Kevin); and cherished granddaughter, Clare Walsh.

A funeral Mass for Mary Ellen will take place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Visitation will take place at 9:30 a.m. at St. Clare, for one hour before Mass begins. Her family requests that guests don a "wee bit o' green" at the funeral to honor Mary Ellen's love of the Irish.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen/On The Rise Bakery Cafe ministry, 1820 Mount Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, or [cskdetroit.org/ways-to-give/monetary\\_gifts](https://www.cskdetroit.org/ways-to-give/monetary_gifts).

Share a memory at [verheyden.org](https://www.verheyden.org).

## Roland Lucien Meulebrouck

Roland Lucien Meulebrouck, 89, passed away Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024.

He was the beloved husband of the late Sharon; cherished father of Neal (the late Sharon) and Brian (Denise); and adored grandfather of Chloe, Chase, Caden, Maya and Ava.

Visitation for Roland takes place 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. He will lie in state at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26, at the funeral home, followed by a funeral service at noon.

Roland will be laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

## Aphrodite Roumell

Aphrodite Roumell, 92, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, in Grosse Pointe, where she resided most of her married life.

Born July 27, 1931, in Lewiston, Maine, she grew up in Portland, Maine, as the youngest of nine children. She was attending Boston University when she met George Roumell, who was attending Harvard Law School. They went on a blind date and George almost proposed to her on the spot, telling her never to go out with anyone else. They married and settled near Detroit, George's hometown. She never forgave him for taking her away from summers by the ocean, so every summer involved a trip to Maine, a place forever in her heart.

She was fluent in four languages and had a working knowledge of Latin as well. A devoted and beloved part-time French and Spanish language teacher, students kept in touch long after the classes ended. With her grandchildren and daughters, she was found gently correcting their grammar. She completed New York Times Crossword puzzles every day. A linguist to the core, she emphasized the importance of understanding the cultures that surrounded language as well.

Aphrodite was president of the Alliance Française de Grosse Pointe. She received an honor from the French government for her work to preserve the French language and culture. For years, the highlight of many adults in her community was her weekly, salon-style class in conversational French, all about French literature and culture, for which she had a waiting list.

Along with her husband, Aphrodite was active in politics and threw legendary fundraisers. Believing in the value of informed voters, the Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters, where she served as an officer,



Mary Ellen Blondin



Roland L. Meulebrouck



Aphrodite Roumell



Patricia J. Gitre



James Gibbs



Anne M. Schultz

benefited from her talent.

Tennis, her gardens and being a great cook, especially of Greek cuisine, also were her passions. Her family and friends adored her and she them.

She is survived by her husband, George Theodore Roumell Jr.; daughters, Andrea Dickson (Bart) and Lisa Roumell (Mark Rosenthal); grandchildren, Alexandra Cheng (Royce), Alana Dickson, Rebecca Rosenthal and Ali Rosenthal; and great-grandchildren, Zoe and Ellie Cheng. She was predeceased by her eight siblings.

A celebration of her life will be held in a private ceremony.

## Patricia J. Gitre

Patricia J. Gitre, 87, affectionately known as Patti to friends and family, passed away Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, in her hometown of Detroit, due to a stroke.

Born May 29, 1936, to Lionel and Frances DeWulf, both now deceased, Patti's life was marked by her boundless optimism, loving nature and friendly demeanor that drew people from all walks of life to her.

Patti was a proud alumna of the University of Detroit, where her thirst for knowledge and love for her community were evident. Her educational journey laid the foundation for a life characterized by service and engagement. Alongside her beloved husband, Robert Quarters, with whom she shared four wonderful daughters, Patti co-owned and operated Mr. Q. Travel, a premier travel agency that gained national recognition. Through their joint venture, Patti and Bobby were fortunate to travel extensively and experience the richness of diverse cultures and places.

Her heart always full of love, Patti's family was the centerpiece of her world. She was the cherished mother of Susan Brown, Katherine Scherer (James), Betsy Schulte (Frank) and Amy Askew (Tim). Patti took immense joy in her role as a grandmother to Robert Scherer (Brittany), Colin Brown, Scott Brown (Nicolette), Anna Harbour (Kevin), Jack Schulte (Ariella), Bradley Scherer (Alecxis), Jodi Askew, Ellen Brown, Patricia Scherer, Henry Askew and Sally Askew. Her

warmth and guidance were beacons that will continue to shine in the lives of her family members.

Patti's life was one of active engagement, not only with her family but also with her community. She dedicated countless hours to volunteering, contributing her time and talents to organizations such as the Christ Child Society and Beaumont Assistance League. Her commitment to service was a testament to her compassionate spirit and desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Her zest for life extended to her personal interests as well. Patti was an avid walker, which reflected her philosophy of moving forward with grace and resilience. She was an enthusiastic member of several book clubs, sharing her love for literature with friends. Golf was another pastime Patti enjoyed, along with the serenity of her homes in Palm Desert, Harbor Springs and Grosse Pointe. Her homes were hubs of hospitality where she loved to entertain and create cherished memories with her family and wide circle of friends.

Patti's legacy is one of love, laughter and the pursuit of a life well lived. She was a loyal friend and a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose influence will be felt for generations to come. Her memory will be carried forward in the stories shared, lessons taught and love she gave so freely.

Patti was predeceased by her first husband, Robert Quarters; second husband, James Gitre; and brother, Donald DeWulf. She also is survived by her sister, Karol Hamel, who, along with the rest of the family, will miss her dearly.

Patti's life story is one that will be recounted with smiles and a sense of gratitude by those who knew her. As her family bids farewell to who they call a remarkable woman, they are reminded of the joy she brought into their lives and the enduring spirit of kindness she embodied. Her memory will continue to inspire them all to lead lives full of love, friendship and generosity.

In accordance with Patti's wishes, a private ceremony for the immediate family will be held. A celebration of Patti's life will follow in the spring, where friends and

loved ones will gather to honor her memory and the legacy she leaves behind.

In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome at the Bon Secours Hospital Chapel, Attn: Fr. Rich Bartoszek, 468 Cadieux, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

Share a memory at [verheyden.org](https://www.verheyden.org).

## James Gibbs

James Gibbs, 69, passed away peacefully Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at his home in St. Clair Shores.

James, also known as Jamie or Jim, was born Feb. 8, 1954, in Detroit, to Philip and Constance Gibbs. He graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1972, and attended Western Michigan University.

He spent 40 years employed by The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association, retiring in 2021. He considered fellow War Memorial co-workers his "other" family. Their support and friendship meant the world to him.

James is survived by his brother, Philip C. Gibbs Jr.; sister, Patty Fox (Tim); nieces, Jackie Lentine (Antonio), Julie Foran (John) and Sarah Terpstra (Nick); and nephews, Van Fox (Karen) and Rodgers Fox (Candice). He was predeceased by his sister, Suzanne Henderson.

A celebration of Jamie's life will take place at a later date.

## Anne M. Schultz

Anne M. Schultz, 74, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, in Grosse Pointe.

Anne was the loving wife of Bill; dear mother of Jennifer Bray (Timothy), Andrew Schultz (Stephanie) and William C. Schultz; beloved grandmother of Claire Schultz, Katie Schultz, Samuel Bray and Zachary Bray; and cherished sister of Maureen Vreeland (Richard) and Elizabeth White (James).

Visitation and funeral services were held at Chas. Verheyden Inc., Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association, [apdaparkinson.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/](https://www.apdaparkinson.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/) or Alzheimer's Association, [bit.ly/309lsBF](https://www.alz.org).

Share a memory at [verheyden.org](https://www.verheyden.org).

See OBITS, page 6B

**6B | CHURCHES**

**OBITS:**

Continued from page 5B

**Richard Landuyt**

Richard Landuyt, 90, passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Richard was a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe Park. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and came back to Grosse Pointe to marry his high school sweetheart, Sylvia. Together they raised six children.

Richard was predeceased by his wife, Sylvia. He leaves behind six children, Rick (Andrea), Renee, Shelley Wagner, Sue Glover (John), David (Helen) and Steven (Michael); nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; his companion, Joan; and many other friends and community members.

Richard loved to fish with his best friend, Pete, and over the years they collected many good stories about their escapades on Lake St. Clair.

Richard was a true servant/leader. Without ever seeking recognition, he led a lifetime of giving back to others with humility, kindness and good humor. For more than 20 years, he volunteered for St. Vincent de Paul, counseled youth in the prison ministry, served as treasurer for his condo association and, together with Sylvia, was active in the Christian Family Movement, Cursillo and De Colores since 1968.

He was a pillar of service to his church, St. Ambrose Catholic Church, where for decades he helped count and organize the weekly collections. St. Ambrose was where Richard attended high school,



Richard Landuyt



Patrick Roy Donnellon



Beverly Jean Henry

played football, met Sylvia, got married, baptized his children, attended family weddings and had Sylvia's funeral. It also is where he will attend his final Mass as he makes his journey home.

Richard loved his community and his friends. He showed his family how to continue with life after Sylvia's passing by finding joy and companionship with his new love, Joan. His lifetime of sacrifice, service and giving back was food for his soul. His family knows he will rest in peace in the knowledge that he led by example and left the world a better place.

A celebration of life takes place Saturday, Jan. 27, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, with a gathering at 10 a.m., followed by Mass at 11 a.m.

**Patrick Roy Donnellon**

Patrick Roy Donnellon, 70, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, after an eight-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).

He was born Feb. 11, 1953, in Detroit, to Bernard and Clare (nee DelGrego) Donnellon, both now deceased. Patrick met his beloved wife of more than 40 years, Debra, at Finney

High School. After graduation, he continued his education with a nursing degree from Oakland University and pursued a career in hospital administration. He retired in 2016, due to his diagnosis of ALS, to ensure his remaining time was spent with those he loved the most. Patrick had a deep passion for his family, Detroit baseball, music and beach life.

He is survived by his wife, Debra; their three children, Melissa Hamolli (Andi), Matthew (Kristy) and Megan Ahee (Niko); the lights of his life, his seven grandchildren, Parker, Isabella, Avery, Ryan, Jackson, Nicholas and Mira; his siblings, Cathie Molitoris (Bob), Paul Donnellon and Laurie Batchelor; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; and brother, Mark.

A memorial visitation was held at Kaul Funeral Home in St. Clair Shores. Memorial donations may be made to the ALS of Michigan, bit.ly/4b7tg0v

**Beverly Jean Henry**

Beverly Jean Henry, 91, of St. Clair Shores, passed away Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024. She was born Aug. 1, 1932, to Friedrich Otto Tegtman and Mabel A. Tegtman (nee Montgomery), both

now deceased.

Beverly was predeceased by her beloved husband, Raymond Leo Henry; and loving son, Paul David Henry. She is survived by her loving children, Katherine Lynn Henry, Jeffrey Scott Henry and Cynthia Rae Henry; loving granddaughter, Elizabeth Anne Henry; and loving sister, Jeanette Elaine Rhoades (nee Tegtman). She also will be greatly missed by many nieces and nephews.

Beverly graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in education. She spent many years as an elementary school teacher in the Grosse Pointe area and later became a licensed real estate broker in Grosse Pointe. Beverly was very active at St. Paul Lutheran Church and an avid volunteer. She also enjoyed traveling and had the opportunity to travel all over the world.

A memorial service will be held for Beverly at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Beverly's honor to the Alzheimer's Association, bit.ly/3O9lsBF, or Dementia Society of America, dementiasociety.charityproud.org/donate.

**Memorial hosts concert Jan. 30**

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents another evening of music played by husband-and-wife musicians, Wei Yu and Keun-A Lee, who are returning to the Music at Memorial series for a third time.

Wei Yu is principal cellist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Keun-A Lee is a collaborative pianist with several opera companies, including Chicago's Lyric Opera, and a frequent keyboard player for the DSO.

There is no charge for admission.



Wei Yu



Keun-A Lee

**75TH:**

Continued from page 4B

together duo pianists Cliff Monear and Pierre Fracalanza for an evening of spontaneity and entertainment. For a bit of romance, perennial event Sing to Love returns Wednesday, Feb. 14, as The War Memorial and Detroit Opera partner to showcase young opera professionals performing romantic gems from the opera and Broadway stage.

Both events feature a gourmet multi-course dinner curated by Executive Chef Joe Paxton, specialty cocktails and more. Dinner begins at 7 p.m., followed by a concert.

New to The War Memorial this winter is the Mini Maestros Family Concert Series. Curated with young audiences in mind, the series offers a full suite of engaging and interactive musical experiences that should get families dancing and singing. Coined as "candy-coated rock music for kids and adults alike," Miss Paula and The Candy Bandits kick off the series with a War Memorial debut

Saturday, Jan. 27. The series continues Saturday, Feb. 24, with Stop, Bop, and Roll!, featuring Sean Dobbins and Friends; Saturday, March 16, with Six Mile Strings; and an Earth Day Celebration with Joe Reilly and Friends Saturday, April 20.

Other key dates for the 75th anniversary celebration include:

◆ Wednesday, May 22 — The annual fundraising gala, An Evening of Red, White & Blue

◆ Thursday, June 6 — 80th anniversary of D-Day commemoration

◆ Wednesday, July 10, to Wednesday, Aug. 21 — Summerfest

Also new in 2024 is the Historic House Fund, which focuses on the restoration and repair of the historic 1910 Alger House. For 75 years, the Alger House has been the home of The War Memorial. With the community's help, this part of Grosse Pointe's Michigan heritage can be preserved and the house restored to its former glory.

For more information on all upcoming events and programs, visit warmemorial.org/event calendar.

**EVENTS:**

Continued from page 4B

from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Ages 15 and older are welcome. Attendees will learn to recognize suicide warning signs, understand ways to initiate conversation and persuade and refer someone to the appropriate resources. Training is free, but registration is appreciated. Email maryjo@familycenter-helps.org.

**Star of the Sea**

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods, will hold an open house 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28. The event is for students in preschool, elementary and middle school grades and includes a tour of the school and a chance to talk with teachers and alumni. Call (313) 884-1070 or visit starschoolgrossepointe.org.

**Rotary**

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at

Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Cissie Cappola will offer her "new member" presentation. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

**GPAA**

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ Fabric Dyeing with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

◆ Landscapes in the

Style of Claude Monet with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 8, 15 and 22.

◆ Achieving Perspective in Watercolor/Acrylic with Nancy Philo, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

◆ Introduction to Japanese Woodblock Printing with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17. Deadline for registering is Feb. 1.

◆ Needle Felting Small Creatures with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

# Worship Service

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

**Masses**

2/1 Thursday — 7:00 p.m. - Candlemas Eve/Candle Blessing

2/2 Friday — Noon - Funeral Mass

2/3 Saturday — Noon - Scripture Service & Throat Blessing  
4:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass & Throat Blessing (☞)

2/4 Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. Mass

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

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

Jan 28 ~ Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Come as you are,  
for God's embrace is wide*

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

20475 Sunningdale Park Grosse Pointe Woods 313.884.4820  
stmichaelsgpw.org

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

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

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

**Grosse Pointe Congregational Church**  
(United Church of Christ)

**Worship Sunday at 10:00 am**

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# LIFE & LEISURE

2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 6C & 7C COMICS

## 21 Days of Jake toy drive underway

The 21 Days of Jake Toy Drive, benefiting Children's Hospital of Michigan, honors the legacy of Jake Pennar of Grosse Pointe Woods. In 2018, at age 6, Jake was diagnosed with brain cancer. He started the toy drive while he was undergoing chemotherapy at Children's Hospital.

His heart broke when he saw all the children who, like himself, had to undergo treatment and lengthy hospital stays. He was particularly saddened that some children spent long days alone at the hospital while their parents worked. It was then Jake decided he wanted to help.

After thinking about it, Jake decided he wanted to gift toys to patients in the oncology unit. His first year, Jake collected more than 500 toys. Since then, the toy drive has donated nearly 6,000

toys. Sadly, Jake succumbed to cancer in 2021. His younger sister, Stacey, now leads the charge in his memory. Stacey's goal this year is 4,021 toys, beating last year's tally of 3,221 toys. She dreams to one day receive enough donations to gift a toy to every child receiving treatment at Children's.

The Pennar family invites everyone to participate in the drive. During the month of January, new toys — no weapons and no stuffed animals — may be dropped off Sundays at Grace Community Church, 21001 Moross, Detroit, or through Wednesday, Jan. 31, at Whistle Stop Hobby and Toy, 21714 Harper, St. Clair Shores. Toys also may be purchased via Amazon through Monday, Jan.

29, or Stacey will do the shopping herself with Venmo donations @ JakePennar, until Tuesday, Jan. 30.

Find the Amazon Wishlist at [amazon.com/hz/wishlist/Is/6WRXXX8SRQBB?ref+wl\\_share](https://amazon.com/hz/wishlist/Is/6WRXXX8SRQBB?ref+wl_share) or by scanning the QR code.



Above, Stacey Pennar holds her sister, Lindsey Pennar, in front of toys that have been collected so far at Grace Community Church. Right, dozens of toys already have been collected during 21 Days of Jake, but more will be received through the end of January.

COURTESY PHOTOS

### ASK THE EXPERTS By Lori Kehoe

## 7 things parents can teach children to help prevent eating disorders

The exact cause of eating disorders is not fully understood, but research suggests a combination of genetic, biological, behavioral, psychological and social factors can raise a person's risk.

According to the National Eating Disorders Association, "Starting at a young age, we begin to internalize messages that can lead to negative body image. Having a healthier body image is an important part of mental well-being and eating disorders prevention."

Here are seven things parents can do that may help prevent disordered eating:

#### Create a safe environment.

Make your home a safe space to discuss feelings, body image and pressures from school or friends, and promote open communication with your child in a way they will not feel judged.

#### Model a healthy body image.

Practice mindful eating habits, avoid dieting or extreme diets and avoid disparaging comments about your own body or appearance. When our loved ones hear us saying negative things about ourselves, they judge themselves by the same ideals. Admire people for what they do, not how they look.

#### Avoid restricting food.

Do you restrict yourself from certain foods in front of your children or deny your children certain foods? Try not to categorize food as "good" or "bad." Obviously, as a parent you want your child to eat nutritious food to support their growing body, but portraying food as off-limits develops thought patterns in young minds. Strive for a balanced diet and treats in moderation. The key is enjoyment and presenting a variety of food.

#### Exercise for joy.

Do you exercise to burn calories or for the fun of it? Take time to reevaluate your feelings and thoughts about exercise. You can choose to move for your

heart health or for the pure joy of it, not to change the size or shape of your body. Do something together as a family. Go for a walk. Have fun.

#### Spend time on things you like and do well.

The more you enjoy your life, the better you will model individuality and independence — whether you are a black diamond skier or a fabulous jigsaw puzzler. Tell your children frequently that you love and accept them just as they are. This builds

#### Encourage critical thinking about social media.

Talk with them about the pressure to "look a certain way" and how media images can be manipulated. What is their definition of attractiveness? Why should there be an ideal? Negative body image can correlate directly with the use of social media platforms.

#### Know the warning signs.

It is important to pay attention and be vigilant if you sense that something is wrong with your child's eating behaviors. Weight loss, obsession with food or body image, skipping meals and excessive exercise are all red flags. If you are worried, trust your instincts and talk to your pediatrician.

Our children are watching us. What we do is more important than what we say. Showing our children what self-acceptance looks like will make them less likely to search outside themselves to feel loved and safe.

Lori Kehoe holds a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling and is the clinical liaison for Sanford Behavioral Health. For more information, visit [sanfordbehavioralhealth.com](http://sanfordbehavioralhealth.com)

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org).



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# Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

## A meaningful gift for future plans

**Dear Gabby:** I'm looking for a good, meaningful gift to give my grandkids.

The plastic toys and trendy things give instant gratification but I feel like there's more I could do. Is there an easy way to get something going for college funds?

—A Generous Grandma

**Dear Generous,**

Because a lasting way you can benefit your grandchildren is through

a financial gift, I've enlisted the help of a financial planner, Melissa Fradenburg, from Pearl Planning to best answer your question.

A meaningful way to invest in your grandkids' future education is by gifting them with a 529 college savings plan. This plan offers tax benefits for you, and eases the financial burden of higher education.

If your grandchild already has a plan, you can contribute as low as \$25, and some plans even

offer gift certificates.

If you're considering a larger gift exceeding the 2024 IRS limit of \$18,000, you can leverage the five-year gift advance strategy, allowing you to frontload up to \$90,000 in a single year.

To make it even more special, consider personalizing your financial gift with a hat or hoodie from their favorite college team.

By gifting a 529 plan and using this strategy, you're not only provid-

ing educational support but also securing their future.

It's a meaningful way to invest in their success.

Remember that tax laws may change, so consult with a financial advisor or tax professional for the most informed decisions.

— Melissa Fradenburg

*Melissa Fradenburg, CDFA, AIF, is a Financial Advisor with Pearl Planning and can be reached at 313-486-9634*



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

## Trying to keep faith in love

**DEAR ANNIE:** In my dating life, I am often disappointed. I'll ask a guy to go on a date and he'll agree to. Then we plan a date, and he doesn't show up, so I end up by myself. I keep finding guys who don't have the same values that I do.

I believe what the Bible says, that you shouldn't have sex before marriage. I even wear a purity ring on my finger and tell others why it's there. I want a man who works, doesn't do drugs, believes in God and will take me out, not the other way around.

Yes, I have high standards, but I believe this is not asking a lot from anyone.

How is one to stay pure in an impure world? I'm not lowering my standards for anyone, nor meeting them halfway. They are what they are, but I'm tired of being alone. — HIGH STANDARDS

**DEAR HIGH STANDARDS:** I commend you for having such strong convictions and for sticking to them unashamedly. Special people need spe-

cial people. While that might mean having to wait, remember it's not time wasted to find that person who so perfectly aligns with you.

Your faith seems to be of the utmost importance in your life. Perhaps your local church or a religion-focused dating app would be a good place to seek your next relationship.

**DEAR ANNIE:** My mother-in-law is 96 years old, and her daughter lives with her and has had a nurse assistant to help take care of her.

Her daughter refuses to let anybody come to her brother's house where she is staying.

My husband has been having many problems with his sister. She told him to call before he comes to see his mother and that anybody who wants to see her has to call and make an appointment. The sister's children are the only ones allowed to see her or come as they please.

My husband worries so much that he can't see his mother when he wants to. His mother had to have



### Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

both legs amputated and is not getting proper care. Is there anything we can do for him to see her? — WORRIED IN LOUISIANA

**DEAR WORRIED:** Your sister-in-law's controlling, cagey behavior feels like a red flag to me.

Your husband should communicate firmly and directly with this sister about their worries and

figure out a plan that incorporates them more in their mother's life and care. If this sister's intentions are pure she should clearly be open to something that would benefit their mother.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



With a bunch of children, it's very difficult to keep a car tidy or clean. One thing I take issue with (among many) is the charger situation. There seems to be one of two scenarios: Fifty-five cords all over the car and somehow one works and Hunger Games ensues or, a full cord drought — not a single one to be found.

Now I don't want to get into the weeds and dissect why this happens (it's always the kids' fault), but I want a solution. Enter the retractable car charger that is stationed in your auxiliary power outlet.

The USB retractable

car charger has two retractable charging cords, which pull out quite a ways and then retract back inside automatically for storage.

The 180° rotation car-charging adapter can rotate at any angle and the cords are long enough to cover the back seat.

There is also space to plug in a USB and a USB-C cord, should you need more chargers (which I normally do). I like the simple design and the fact that it makes the car look less cluttered and disorganized.

The cords actually charge the devices very quickly, which is a big



plus. An even bigger plus is that the children will not take this charger out of the car because they think it's permanent and it's useless to them outside of the vehicle.

The Android type cord is basically useless for our family, but guests you have in your car may use it, and also this plug happens to charge my charger brick, which is a great thing to have when on trips and such.

Overall, this car charger costs \$25.99 on Amazon and does what it says it will.

It provides a lot of convenience and makes me feel a little pride in

the look of my car. Definitely a 5 alligator review. It may not change your life drastically, but we can all use simple tweaks that help us stay on top of things.

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



## Game day

Well, January has been a whirlwind and I'm not talking about the weather. I'm talking about FOOTBALL — between the University of Michigan winning the national championship for the first time since 1997, and our beloved Detroit Lions "reporting" themselves eligible into the NFC championship game.

Where has everyone been watching? Let's punt! Between the Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores, there's a variety of places to watch BIG sporting events. They all provide different atmospheres, menus and crowds.

In the Pointes, a legendary (since 1917) game-day spot would have to be Rustic Cabins in the Park, which I hear has been serving up Honolulu Blue Kool-

Aid every Sunday. Patrons can either shoot some pool or pull up a stool to the main bar while enjoying game-day snacks, views and cold beers. What a great neighborhood spot to root for the home team(s)!

Heading north on Kercheval into The Village, you'll find more great options: martinis, beer specials and loaded tots at Old Pony or great game-day appetizers at The



**Old Pony's totchos loaded tots.**

Whiskey Six, like nachos, wings and mac and cheese. Management even has been switching hours to accommodate game times.

And don't forget the new kid on the block, Sidecar Slider Bar, offering a bar big enough to sling some sliders with all your friends, while watching multiple TVs — on the walls and in the booths. This place is sure to be filled with an energetic atmosphere.



**Sidecar sliders.** From The Village, navigate your way up to Mack Avenue where you'll find another legendary spot in

Grosse Pointe Farms for more than 45 years: Irish Coffee. You may not think it's a game-day location, but I assure you it is exactly that.

Owner Mike Kennedy does a great job making sure his famous burgers are consistently coming off the grill to your liking, the entire duration of any game ... and then some.



**Irish Coffee burger.** The old-school bar area is always flowing with both kinds of cheers — cold ones and loud ones!

Continuing down Mack is the gathering space of the Woods, Telly's Place,



### Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

"where everybody knows your name." Many great game days are had here, making it a true "Sunday Funday." It's an excellent bar space filled with enough seating to promise you won't miss a play.

Make sure you order its amazing spinach dip. You're welcome.

When Mack Avenue turns into Greater Mack, we meet our neighboring city, St. Clair Shores.

First up is Firehouse Pub. Filled with flatscreen-covered walls, they offer fun game-day giveaways and specials.

This pub has become a very popular game-day option, especially on Sundays with its brunch menu and Bloody Mary bar. And its pretzel bites are a must on every table at halftime.



**Telly's spinach dip.**

See FOOD, page 3C

# Warm winter salad

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

A warm salad to pair with any delicious meat is divine. These cold temperatures demand it. We are in the season of roasting and making the best of the vegetables that are in season.

Inventory can be disappointing at some grocery stores. Look for what's in stock and just go with it. That's what I did. This salad was fantastic using what I could find.

Za'atar is a deeply warming spice to make everything all the more better. Apples could also be an amazing addition. The chickpeas come out crunchy and the vegetables are cooked to caramelized perfection.

I used tahini as the base for the dressing which is a sesame paste. It's delicious with lemon and honey.

Leftover bread is also a great way to use it up and add texture to this salad. I freshened it up

with avocado and baby spinach.

Also, I got four out of five "oh Mom this is good."

Cheers, Mombeau.

**Brussels sprout, butternut squash and chickpea salad**

5 cups quartered brussels sprouts

1 can chickpeas, rinsed and drained

2 cups peeled and diced butternut squash

1 tbsp Za'atar

1 tsp cumin

1 tsp salt

2 tbsp olive oil

2 cups baby spinach

1 avocado, sliced

2 tbsp olive oil

Preheat your oven

to 425. On a large baking sheet, lay out the brussels sprouts, squash and chickpeas. Drizzle with the olive oil, salt, Za'atar and cumin. Roast for 25 minutes or until all the vegetables are slightly browned and the chickpeas are crispy.

**Lemon Tahini Dressing**

Juice from 1 lemon

1 tbsp apple cider vinegar

2 tbsp tahini

1 tbsp honey

¼ cup olive oil

Whisk together until combined.

**Roasted Bread Croutons**

2 slices of stale bread, torn or cut into cubes

2 tbsp olive oil

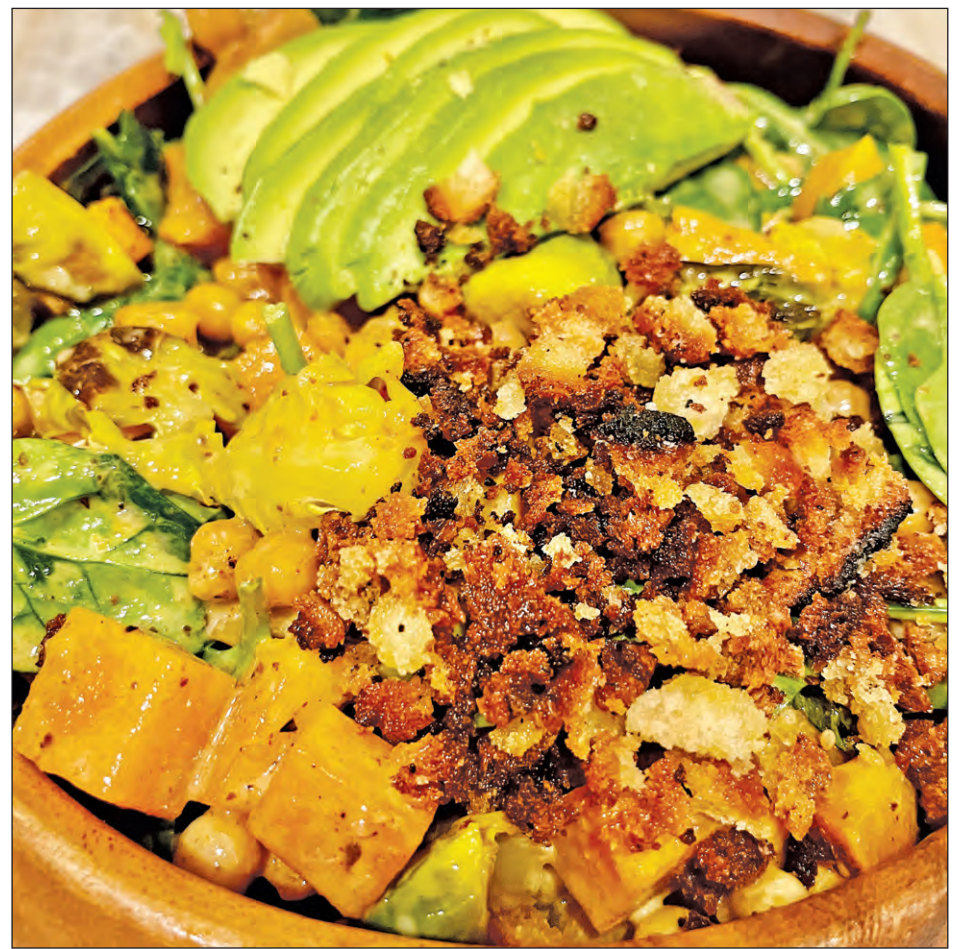


PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Preheat oven to 375. Lay out the pieces of bread and cook for 10 minutes or until crispy.

To assemble, in a large salad bowl, add the roasted vegetables, bread croutons and baby spinach and sliced avocado.



## Wine tipping

Dining out recently has become far more expensive than it was before COVID-19 closed restaurants, caused wine sales to tumble and altered how restaurants sell wine.

The old formula that once existed nationally of charging twice the suggested retail price in a restaurant for a young wine has been junked by many restaurateurs recently as they try to make greater profits from commonly available wines.

This means that not only are we paying more for ordinary wine, but we're also being charged fees that have been imposed due to high costs restaurants face. The cost of entrees is up, taxes are up and new added fees have become quite a headache.

In some cities, this has led to a backlash by diners unhappy about cost escalations. Before COVID-19, diners had some control over what

they paid. In many cases, that has changed radically.

Assume this B.C. (Before COVID) scenario for prices that a couple faced in a nice though not expensive restaurant:

Two entrees: \$46

Two salads: \$16

One shared dessert: \$8

One bottle of wine: \$25

The tab was \$95 and rose to \$103.55 after a 9 percent tax. The final tab was \$124.26 after a 20 percent tip.

After COVID-19, entrees are up \$2 each, wine is up (say \$8), a 3 percent service fee has been added to cover the restaurant's new costs and your check total with tip is now \$144.15. The same meal you had pre-COVID is now \$20 more.

But it gets worse, as wine lovers know.

Imagine what kind of wine costs only \$25 in a restaurant, where typical markups are three times retail. A \$25 bottle of wine probably sells in retail stores for roughly \$10.

Imagine what happens when you go into a good restaurant and can't find any bottle that you'd want for less than \$60. (Even that isn't a great wine.) After sales tax is added, that bottle is \$65.40. Add a 20 percent tip and the price rises to \$78.40. Ouch.

And that's for a wine that probably sells at retail for roughly \$24.

Wine prices in restaurants usually are much more than at retail. Since restaurant markups are rising, dining out costs can be shocking. Consider the issue of tipping. Years ago when dining out, we normally tipped the wait staff 15 percent to 18 percent. Lately 20-22 percent is the norm. Some restaurateurs see even that as insufficient.

Tipping remains an American issue; it isn't widely practiced around the world.

In high-end restaurants, tipping on wine may be fitting. Sommeliers perform crucial tasks such as removing old, fragile corks

with aplomb and determining if a wine is sound.

But with expensive wines (i.e., \$200 bottles), the real problem lies in the "routine" \$20 percent tip — especially when a wine is young and has been marked up significantly. I'm reluctant to give wine servers \$40 just to remove a cork.

A good friend and sommelier told me recently that he is more than satisfied if he gets \$25 as a gratuity regardless of the actual cost of the wine. He has served wines that sold for \$1,000 and never expected 20 percent gratuity.

In any case, dining out has become almost prohibitive for people who like good wine, and friends who once dined out weekly now tell me they are rebelling against high restaurant wine pricing and high expectations of a tip.

They're not eating out as often as pre-COVID.

**Wine of the Week:**

2022 Villa Maria sauvignon blanc, Marlborough (\$14) — Most quality sauvignon blancs from New Zealand sell for less than \$20 per bottle. Part of this relates to

the weakness of the

New Zealand dollar, today worth only about 63 U.S. cents. New Zealand sauvignon blanc can be a great value. Villa Maria is one of New Zealand's most important, quality-oriented brands. This terrific example has grapefruit, lime and passionfruit aromas, and it's far better than most

— a superb value. I bought several because I know it will only improve in two to three years, or more. I've seen it for less than \$12.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). COPYRIGHT 2023 CREATORS.COM.

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SEE MENU

## FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

SCS also is home to one of the biggest sports bars in the area. Shores Inn has been a game-watching go-to for decades. If you're looking for a high-energy, loud-cheering, jersey-wearing bar crowd, this is



Shores Inn pizza.

the place to be. Submit your Keno draws, start your bar tab, order your pizza and get comfortable, because you're gonna be there a while.

Obviously, these are just a few great spots. GP Eats & Treats on Facebook is the place to search for the perfect game-day locations to your liking.

Hopefully soon, our Detroit Lions will be knocking on the door of becoming champions! Then we can discuss who's bringing what to (dare I say it) their Super Bowl parties! And, if not, what an unbelievably memorable ride this season has been! Forward!GO LIONS! Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF A24 AND CINEREACH

Left, Colin Farrell as Jake, Jodie Turner-Smith as Kyra, Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja as Mika and Justin H. Min as Yang posing for a family picture in the 2021 movie "After Yang," directed by Kogonada.

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
 "After Yang"  
 2021 - Rated PG  
 1 hr 36 min  
 ★★★★★

Some movies resonate with viewers because they're filled with exciting action scenes, brilliant plot twists, or dazzling special effects. And who doesn't love a good thriller?

Then there are movies like "After Yang." It's a gently paced, atmospheric, cinematic tone poem, touching on several themes including love, loss and what it means to be human. It quietly takes you by the hand in the first few minutes of the film and won't let you go until the closing credits.

"After Yang" is the sophomore outing for Korean director Kogonada, and is based on the book "Saying Goodbye to Yang" by Alexander Weinstein.

Kogonada's first film was the beautiful "Columbus," which I reviewed a few years ago. He also co-wrote and edited this remarkable movie. What a gifted artist he's turning out to be.

Colin Farrell stars in the film and I think it's one of his finest performances to date. It's not just how well he delivers his lines, his subtle facial expressions are equally impactful.

Jodie Turner-Smith, Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja and Justin H. Min also star in

"After Yang." Collectively they make up a somewhat unconventional family. Jake (Farrell) and Kyra (Turner-Smith) have a young daughter Mika (Tjandrawidjaja). They also have an android boy Yang (Min) who is not only Mika's pal and older brother, but also her educator. Since she was adopted at a young age from China, he's tasked with helping her learn about her culture and history.

The opening scene shows the family participating in an online dance competition. We see them along with some of their competitors. It's great fun seeing them showcase their complicated routine. They keep advancing through sev-

eral rounds until Yang malfunctions and they're eliminated. The family shrugs off the loss and figures they'll do better next time.

Unfortunately, it's pretty much the end of Yang. He is no longer functional and Jake is determined to get him repaired. Since he was purchased as a reconditioned model, his warranty isn't valid. The family is devastated, especially Mika, who's as close to Yang as she would be to an older sibling.

In the film, Yang is referred to as a "technosapien" which implies that he's part of the next phase in human evolution. As we learn more about him, this almost seems plausible. However it's the family's grief that's at the core of the film.

Jake takes Yang to Russ (Ritchie Coster), a repairman who delivers the sad news that he can't be fixed. He's directed to a museum where the curator Cleo (Sarita Choudhury), tells him that Yang has a database filled with selective memories.

Jake uses every opportunity to review Yang's memories by donning a pair of VR glasses and sitting back for the show. It's through this process that he realizes not only how much Yang meant to Mika, but just how negligent he's been as a parent and a husband.

Another surprising revelation is that Yang had a

relationship with another android named Ada (Haley Lu Richardson). Is it possible that technosapiens can feel emotions like love?

Obviously, the movie is pure science fiction. One thing I especially appreciated is the subtle way Kogonada deals with depicting the future. He could have hit us over the head like in a Ridley Scott film, with flying cars and in-your-face visuals. But he took a more matter of fact route.

For example, in one scene, we see Jake and his daughter conversing in a moving vehicle. Then it dawns on you, oh yeah, they're in a self-driving car! I'm a big sci-fi fan, but I found this approach both refreshing and pretty unprecedented.

When "After Yang" was over, I felt like I was hit over the head with a big roll of paper towel. It was as if I was part of the family, grieving along with them, and wondering what was coming next.

The film takes its time telling the story, but what a profound and moving journey it is. I can honestly say it's one of the most beautiful films I've seen in quite a while.

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Hoopla and Kanopy. Also on Prime Video.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad,



you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

About this column:

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

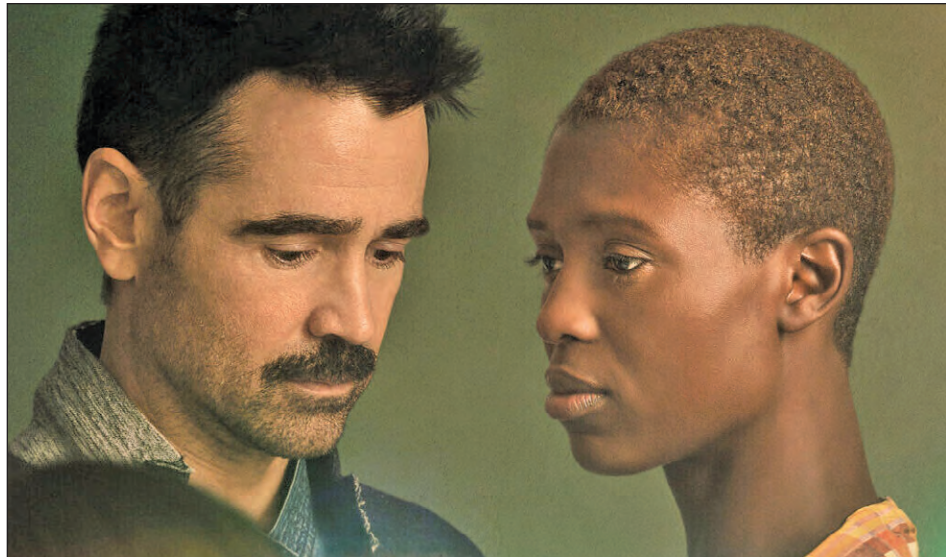
They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well.

For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](https://youtube.com).

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: [dominmark@yahoo.com](mailto:dominmark@yahoo.com).

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](https://moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).



Jake (Farrell) and Kyra (Turner-Smith).



Yang's friend Ada played by Haley Lu Richardson.



The family participates in a dance competition.



Yang prepares to take a family portrait.



Mika and Yang explore nature.

# Royal Stars

## Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** After 3 a.m. EST today, there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Full Moon in Leo peaks at 12:54 p.m. EST (9:54 a.m. PST).

**Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 25, 2024:**

You are hardworking and dedicated because you have a strong sense of purpose. Your idealism propels you to work for the good of others. Take time this year to renew your spiritual and religious beliefs. Meditation, prayer and yoga can ground you. It's time for reflection.

**♈ ARIES**  
(March 21-April 19)

This is an excellent day for financial planning or drawing up a budget. Research will pay off. A discussion with someone older or more experienced could be helpful to you. Meanwhile, you might earn praise from bosses, parents and VIPs for your practical suggestions. Tonight: Profits!

**♉ TAURUS**  
(April 20-May 20)

This will be a productive day for you because the Moon is in your sign dancing beautifully with Saturn, which in turn is lined up with Mercury. It's an excellent day to make travel plans. It's a good day to promote your ideas about publishing, legal matters or medicine and higher education. Tonight: You're pumped!

**♊ GEMINI**  
(May 21-June 20)

Any kind of behind-the-scenes research will pay off today and ultimately benefit your partner, shared property or discussions about inheritances, insurance issues and taxes. A boss or parent might be involved. It's a solid day for decisions! Tonight: Research.

**♋ CANCER**  
(June 21-July 22)

Because the Moon is your ruler, you will feel the energy of today's Full Moon. Today you might feel torn between protecting your own financial interests and respecting the interests of others. This is a poor day for important discussions about inheritance. Tonight: Check your money.

**♌ LEO**  
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Because the Moon is in your sign today, things will tend to go your way. Nevertheless, today is the only Full Moon in your sign all year! This could create tension between you and partners and close friends. Be aware of this, and be diplomatic and understanding. Tonight: Show respect.

**♍ VIRGO**  
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You might feel some tension going on behind the scenes today because the Full Moon is taking place in a hidden part of your chart. This is why you feel restless and indecisive. ("The red pill or the blue pill?") Something related to your health might come to a head today. Wait a day or two to decide. Tonight: Explore!

**♎ LIBRA**  
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today's Full Moon might create some romantic tension or conflict with your kids. It can also create problems with sports and teammates. The thing to know is that problems intensify before the Full Moon and afterward they diminish. Tonight: Check your finances.

**♏ SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today you might feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your career, job or your reputation in the community. It's impossible to sat-

isfy both. If caught between a rock and a hard place, you can't ignore home and family. Tonight: Be patient.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because the distraction of the Full Moon energy could be accident-prone for you. In particular, steer clear of arguments about politics, religion and racial issues. They will get out of hand. Tonight: Freedom.

**♑ CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Disputes about money, earnings, possessions, shared property, debt, insurance issues and inheritances will culminate today, one way or the other. Wait until the dust settles before you make an important decision. Keep your head down and your powder dry. Tonight: Plans change.

**♒ AQUARIUS**  
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today the only Full Moon opposite your sign is taking place, which is why you might feel increased tension when dealing with partners, spouses or close friends. Fortunately, this tension will be released very soon. Don't jump to conclusions. Relax. Tonight: Home surprise.

**♓ PISCES**  
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Cut others some slack today when dealing with co-workers, people who are dealing with your health, or maybe your pet. The Full Moon will make everyone excitable. Fortunately, because it peaks in the morning, things will settle down as the day wears on. Tonight: Excitement!

**BORN TODAY**  
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (1978), singer Alicia Keys (1981), Princess Charlene of Monaco (1978)).

## Find 10 Differences



## Contract Bridge

### NIP AND TUCK

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

#### NORTH

♠ 6  
♥ K 10 7 3  
♦ 9 5 4  
♣ Q J 8 7 2

#### WEST

♠ A 8 3  
♥ Q 8 2  
♦ K 6 3  
♣ K 9 6 5

#### EAST

♠ 10 7 5 4  
♥ A 9 6 5  
♦ 8 7 2  
♣ A 4

#### SOUTH

♠ K Q J 9 2  
♥ J 4  
♦ A Q J 10  
♣ 10 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead — five of clubs.

Partscore deals where each side has about half the high cards usually provide a give-and-take in the play that is not found at higher-level contracts. Consider this case from a national team event where South wound up in two diamonds and West led a club. East took the ace and shifted to a trump, the queen losing to West's king.

West returned a trump to South's ace, the spade jack lost to West's ace, and another trump return by West eliminated dummy's last trump. South then cashed the queen of spades before exiting with the ten of clubs to

West's king.

Declarer was hoping for a spade or club return at this point, but West not unexpectedly shifted to a low heart, forcing South to guess the location of the missing honors.

After much thought, declarer played low from dummy, hoping to force the ace. This would establish the king as an entry to dummy's good clubs, and South would be home free, losing only a spade, a heart, a diamond and two clubs. But declarer was counting his chickens before they were hatched.

After South played low from dummy on the heart return, East smartly inserted the nine. Declarer won with the jack but now had no way to reach the dummy.

However, South was not yet out of ammunition. He cashed the king of spades, hoping the ten would fall; when it didn't, he led a heart to the ten, hoping East did not have the ten of spades. In that case, East would be forced to return a heart (or a club, if he had one) to dummy. But when East won the ace of hearts, he cashed the spade ten, and that was that.

Declarer should have made the contract despite the excellent defense he encountered. He was guilty of one small slip: Had he played the ten from dummy on West's heart return at trick eight, he would have been assured of an entry to dummy regardless of how East defended.

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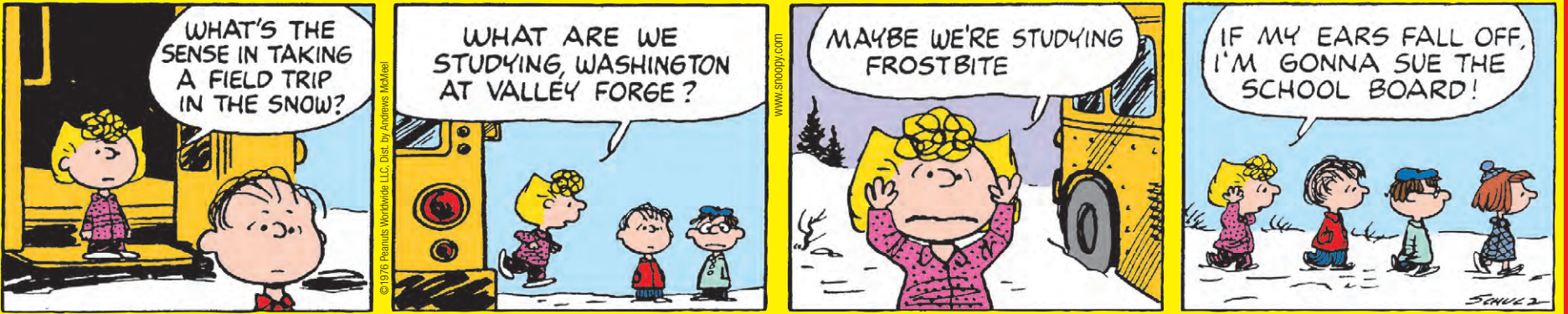
by Steve Becker



# Comics

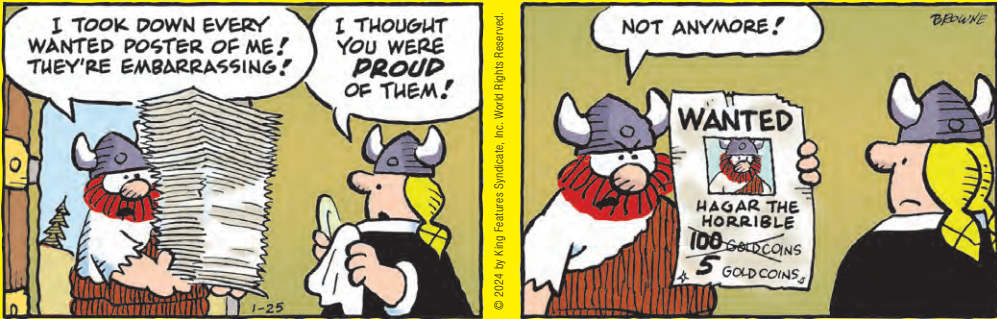
## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



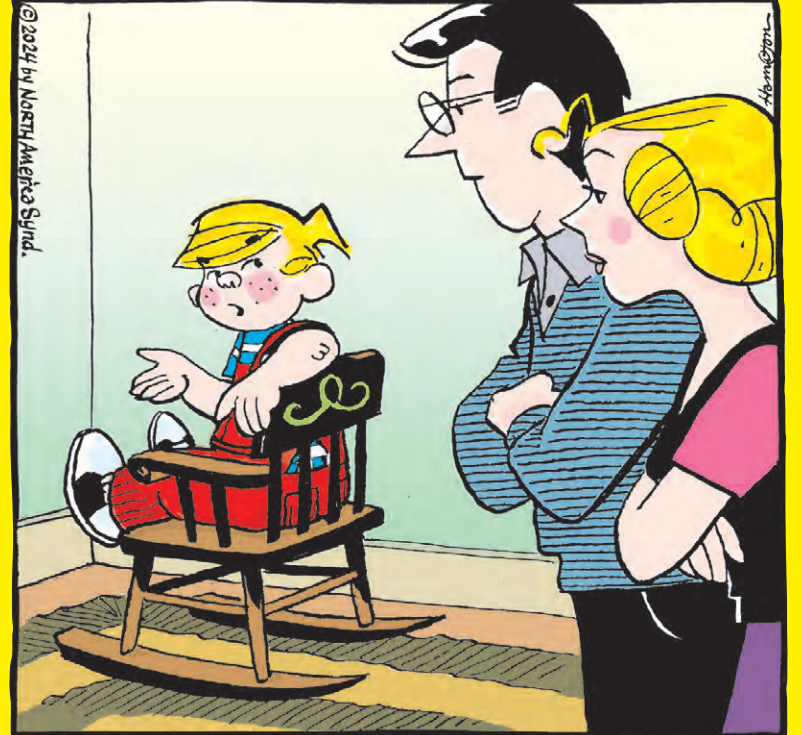
## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



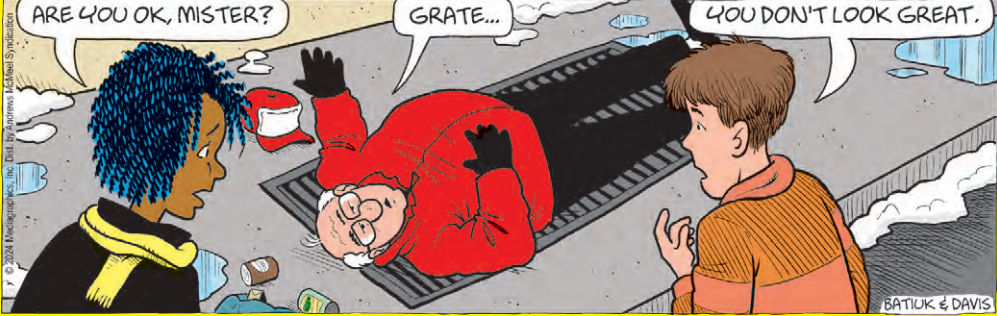
## Dennis the Menace

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



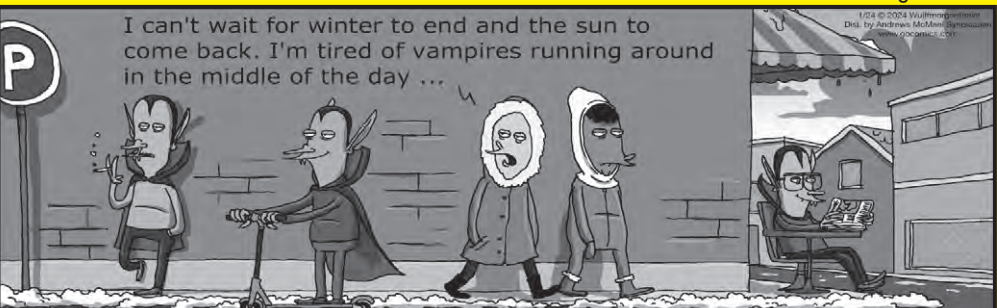
## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



## Wumbo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



## Reality Check

Dave Whamond



## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



## Close To Home

John McPherson



## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



# Kid Scoop



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## Kid Scoop Together Kindness Quiz

Answer these questions after you've read this Kid Scoop page. Have a family member check to see if you answered them all correctly.

# Kindness Is Healthy!

Most people agree that doing kind things for others makes them feel good.

Scientists now believe doing kind things for others is also good for you!

## Five Weeks of Kindness Experiment

Two scientists at Ohio State University asked students who were feeling worried or sad to do three small acts of kindness twice a week for five weeks. The students did things like:



Open doors for others.

Smile at people they haven't met.

Volunteer to help someone.

Shovel a snowy sidewalk.

Carry someone's groceries.

Give compliments.

Let someone cut in line in front of them.

Give someone a cookie.

Walk a neighbor's dog.

At the end of the five weeks, students reported feeling less worried and much happier. **Being kind makes people feel good!**

Standards Link: Language Arts: Read informational text.

**1. A study at Ohio State University found out that doing acts of kindness made people feel**

- a. lonely
- b. hungry
- c. silly
- d. better

**2. When you do a kind act, it often causes other people to do acts of kindness, too.**

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

**3. A student at Ohio State University put these all around the campus:**

- a. flowers
- b. apples
- c. sticky notes with kind words
- d. jokes

**4. Opening a door for someone is an act of kindness.**

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

**5. To feel happier and less worried, it helps to help others. You can:**

- a. smile at someone new
- b. carry someone's groceries
- c. give someone a cookie
- d. walk a neighbor's dog
- e. shovel a snowy sidewalk for a neighbor
- f. give compliments
- g. volunteer to help someone
- h. open doors for others
- i. let someone cut in front of you in line
- j. all of the above!

**6. Kindness is catching.**

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

Standards Link: Write descriptively.

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **KIND**

The adjective **kind** means helpful, friendly, good.

Your **kind** note cheered me up when I was feeling sad.

Try to use the word **kind** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

## Write On! Kind Things to Say

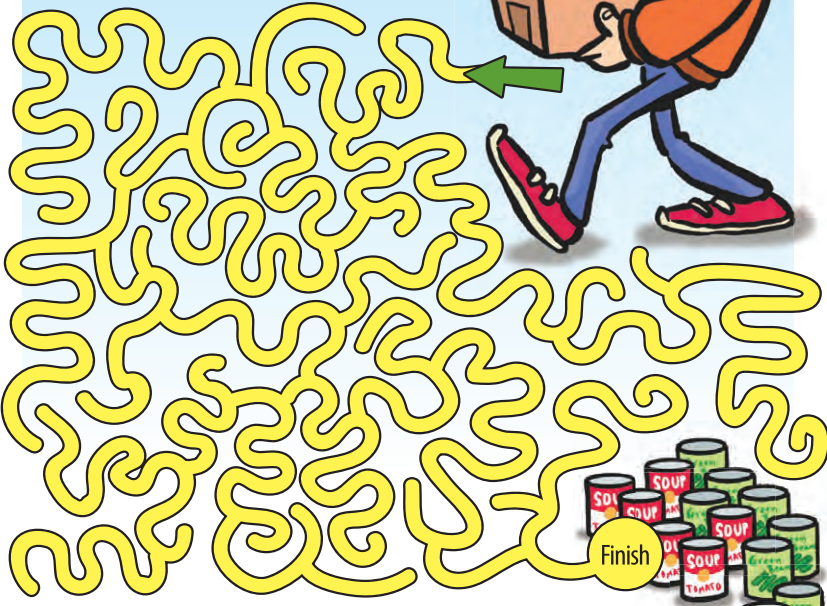
Write down three kind things you can say to others.

Standards Link: Write descriptively.

## Kindness is Catching!

When you do something kind for another person, it is catching. The person you are kind to will likely go out and do something kind for someone else.

Please help me deliver these donations to the food drive!



## Notes of Kindness

One student at Ohio State spread kindness around the entire campus. She wrote positive and kind words on sticky notes and stuck them to doors, signs, mirrors, and walls around campus.

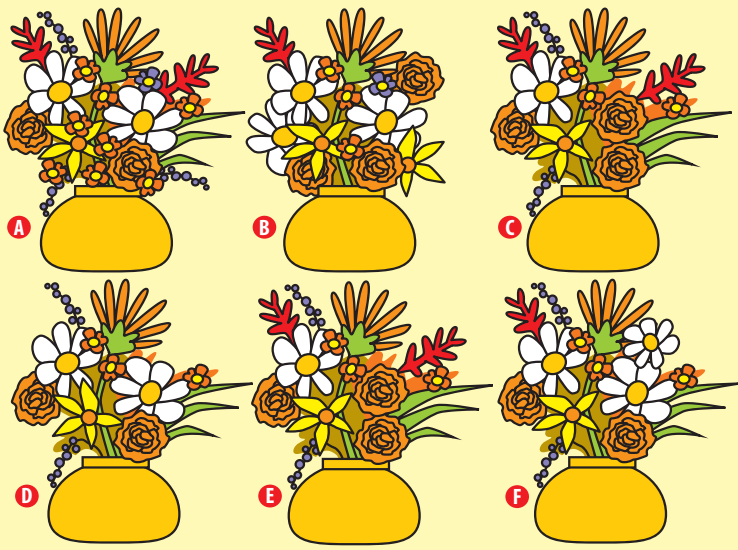
Fill in the missing vowels to discover some kind words to share.



Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

How kind! Someone surprised the teachers at Main Street Elementary School with flowers. Can you find the two arrangements that are exactly the same?



## Double Double Word Search

- COOKIE
- DOG
- EDITOR
- FRIEND
- GOOD
- GROCERIES
- HAPPIER
- KINDNESS
- LESS
- NOTES
- OHIO
- PERSON
- SIGNS
- SMILE
- VOLUNTEER

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Helping Others

Look through the newspaper for an article about someone in your community who is struggling. How could you do something kind for this person?

Standards Link: Understand civic responsibility.



**Why did the owl invite all her friends over to her tree?**

ANSWER: Because she didn't want to be owl alone.

## Write On! Kind Things to Say

Write down three kind things you can say to others.

Standards Link: Write descriptively.

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## Struggles continue for Norsemen, South stays hot in boys hoops action

By Mike Adzima  
 Sports Reporter

With both teams now in the heart of the season and their respective MAC league schedules, it was an exciting week of boys basketball action for both Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South. Despite strong efforts in a pair of league games, the Norsemen are still in search of their first MAC White victory. For the Blue Devils, the past week saw their win streak continue as they started to solidify their position atop the MAC Red.

### North

The Norsemen hosted two MAC White opponents in the last week of action. The first was a showdown with current division leader Port Huron Northern on Thursday, Jan. 18. North hung on with the division leaders, but came up short, losing 78-67.

Up next for the Norsemen was another division showdown, this



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North's Vasilius Vasilos (No. 1) and Rocco Cardinale (No. 24) get set on defense against Eisenhower on Monday, Jan. 22.

time hosting Eisenhower on Monday, Jan. 22. This game was another close battle, but one where North could never quite catch up to the Eagles as Eisenhower

went on to win 60-51.

"All of these teams we're playing against in the MAC White are really good basketball teams," North boys basketball head coach Rob

Johnson said after the loss to Eisenhower. "... There wasn't anything in particular that they did that took us out of our rhythm. We were losing quarters by very

narrow margins and we didn't win any quarters so over time it just added up at the end."

Monday night's game started out a bit slow for both sides with a very

defensive opening quarter. Neither team was able to even score a point until nearly four minutes into the game. At the end of the opening frame, Eisenhower held a slim 7-5 lead.

The second quarter saw both teams start to wake up on offense. It also remained a close game, with momentum and points shifting back and forth. Once again, however, Eisenhower managed to be ahead at the break leading 23-20 at halftime.

Going into the second half, the game began to feel like one of those nights where the Norsemen just could not quite catch up to Eisenhower's narrow leads. North managed to keep the game within single digits and the hopes of a comeback alive, but the Eagles were still up by seven heading into the fourth quarter.

The final quarter felt the same way, with

See HOOPS, page 2D

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Goalie Johns stands tall as Knight's senior leader in net

By Mike Adzima  
 Sports Reporter

One of the most curious things about hockey goalies is how they get into playing the position. After all, it takes a certain type of mentality as an athlete to want to be in that position. For Liggett senior Maksim Johns, all it took was one look at the goalie pads.

"When I used to play when I was really young, I had no idea about how the position worked," Johns said. "The coaches would ask who wanted to play goalie and I would volunteer because I thought it was cool to put on all the pads. Still, I had no clue what I was really doing. Eventually I convinced my parents to buy me some pads and

grew to love it."

That was in Johns' early days of youth hockey with the East Side Bulldogs. Fast forward to now and Johns is Liggett's senior stalwart in between the pipes.

Johns has been on the Knights' varsity hockey team since he was a freshman and is looking to make the most of his final season in a Liggett

jersey. Through 11 starts, Johns has a 7-3-1 record this season with a .926 save percentage. He also recorded his first shutout of the season on Jan. 13 in the CHSL Cardinal Division championship game against Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

His success so far in his senior year can be attributed to many things, but Johns sees it mostly as a result of his growth in both experience and in confidence.

"Earlier years of high school, I think I was more of a desperate goalie," Johns said. "I wasn't as patient or strong so I was kind of sliding around everywhere and playing kind of sloppy. Definitely in the past couple seasons, I've noticed that I've

slowed my game down and become more patient. I'm able to read plays and can start to predict some stuff and overall it helps me be more confident."

While helping his team win games is certainly an ideal way for Johns to be spending his last season as a Knight, what he really enjoys goes beyond just what happens on the ice. Johns has relished his role now as a senior leader for

Liggett, especially considering he is just one of five seniors and it almost seems like a relatively young Knights team this season.

"When I was a freshman, I would look up to the seniors and it almost seemed hard to believe that I would be there one day," he said. "I love the feeling of being able to have younger players who look up to me or come to me and ask for help. I like being that role model for the younger guys."

One of those players

See ATHLETE, page 3D



PHOTO BY BARBARA JOHNS

Senior Maksim Johns has started 11 games in net for Liggett this season.

Grosse Pointe News

**Maksim Johns**

School: University Liggett  
 Sport: Hockey

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- 7-3-1 record and .926 save percentage as Liggett goalie this season
- Recorded a shutout in CHSL Championship Game on Jan. 13
- Member of Liggett varsity boys hockey since freshman year

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## 2D | BOYS BASKETBALL

## Knights fall short against Foley

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

When the calendar flipped to January a few weeks ago, the University Liggett boys varsity basketball team seemed to be hitting its stride. The Knights went into last Friday's game on Jan. 19, at Bishop Foley with a 2-1 record since the new year began. However, Liggett was unable to come out of a back and forth battle with the win, as the Monarchs were victorious 62-51.

"I told the guys after the game, even though we lost it might have been our best game, start to finish," Liggett boys basketball head coach James Scott said. "With how hard we played and executed. We got good shots when we needed it... Overall, I thought it was probably our best game and sometimes when you do that you still don't get a win. We're turning a corner."

Last Friday was an example of a game where the final score does not really reflect



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett senior Nick Greene had 15 points in a loss to Bishop Foley on Jan. 19.

how close the game was. Both teams came out of the gate firing, with a fast and offensive first quarter ending with Liggett ahead 20-19.

The Knights were not quite as hot on the offensive side in the second quarter, allowing Bishop Foley to pull in front. While the Monarchs dominated

the second quarter, Liggett was still within single digits at the break, trailing 38-30 going into halftime.

The third quarter saw the Knights battle back. Bishop Foley continued to be in front, but Liggett seemed determined to battle back. Liggett's Nick Greene hit a momentum-swinging three pointer late in

the third quarter to cut the deficit to five, and that was followed by Ian Flynn sinking a shot at the buzzer to narrow the Monarchs' lead to 48-45 going into the final frame.

The momentum seemed to be on Liggett's side as the fourth quarter began. However, the Knights were never quite able to

complete the comeback. Bishop Foley kept up its lead enough to hold off the Knights and eventually pull away to an 11-point win.

Greene had 15 points for Liggett in the loss and so did junior Jackson Fetter, tying them for the team lead for the night. Senior Ian Flynn finished with 12.

The loss for the Knights was their second in a row, as they fell in a narrow 51-49 loss to Cardinal Mooney in the game before on Jan. 16. Liggett's record now sits at 3-8 after the loss to Bishop Foley, but six of those losses came in the team's first six games of the season.

Now that his team is starting to compete in closer games, Scott can tell that there is already a change in the Knights' mentality.

"I'm starting to see a different reaction when we get into the locker room and didn't get the job done, it's starting to hurt a little more," he said. "But that means that the guys are getting into it and have

bought into the culture. They see themselves getting better as individuals and as a team and now expect to win those kind of games."

The Knights have about a month remaining in the regular season and have the Catholic League tournament beginning soon on Feb. 10. Scott is focused on having his team finish out the year strong and get prepared for the playoffs, and to do that, it all comes down to the basics.

"We've got to clean up the little things," Scott said. "Around this time of year, those can be the difference between winning and losing. Winning 50/50 loose balls, taking care of the basketball and winning the turnover battle and making free throws. We've lost some games from not doing well at the free throw line and are getting better. So we just want to focus on the little things like that to get better."

Liggett returns home for its next game at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, against Shrine Catholic.

## HOOPS:

Continued from page 1D

North keeping it close to the end and sending Eisenhower to the free-throw line a few times in the final moments until the Eagles closed out the win.

As has been the case in many North games this season, the team's scoring was quite spread out. Nine Norsemen recorded at least a point on Monday night, with Leo Perettie leading the team with 16 points. Rubin McBride-Williams had eight points and RJ Williams finished with seven.

The loss bumped the Norsemen's record this season to 3-8 and 0-6 in MAC White play. With about a month left to go in the regular season, the team wants to close out the year strong. In order to do that, coach Johnson is focused on building upon the improvements he is already seeing.

"I thought (Eisenhower) was one of our better defensive performances in a while and we want to continue to work hard on the

defensive side," he said. "We can do a better job on the glass. Those are key areas where we're not quite pulling it out. We're very close with a lot of these teams in the MAC White that are very good teams...If we cut down on turnovers and do the little things right every day I think we'll start to pull out some wins."

North went on the road to face Romeo on Wednesday, Jan. 24, after press time. The team returns home at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, to host Warren Lincoln.

## South

The Blue Devils have been one of the hottest basketball teams perhaps in the entire state in recent weeks, and their winning ways continued over the last week. Two wins over MAC Red opponents helped South remain unbeaten in division play and extend its current win streak to five games.

South's perfect record in the division so far was in danger last Thursday night, Jan. 18, when the team went on the road to face Chippewa Valley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

South boys varsity basketball head coach Steve Benard huddles his team during a time out against Stevenson.

The Blue Devils needed to rally and score 22 points on offense in the fourth quarter in order to force overtime. South's rally sent the game into OT, where the Blue Devils eventually came out victorious in a narrow 63-61 win.

Karter Richards led the team in the overtime win with 18 points. He

was one of three Blue Devils to reach double digits that night, with Vince Vachon scoring 14 and James Michelotti getting 12.

On Monday night, Jan. 22, South returned home to take on Stevenson. Heading into the game, the Titans were at the bottom of the MAC Red standings, and South

made it look easy against the last place team winning handily 64-39.

The win took the Blue Devils to 10-3 this season and 6-0 in the MAC Red. Richards was once again the leading scorer with 25 points. Junior Tory James finished with 14.

South hosted L'Anse Creuse North on

Wednesday, Jan. 24, after press time. They stay at home for another MAC Red matchup at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, against Dakota. That

evening, the freshman, JV and varsity teams will raise money for the American Cancer Society in a special Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser.

## Grosse Pointe News



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Grosse Pointe News

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# Knights, Norsemen girls hockey head northbound to face off in 10th annual Traverse City Showcase

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Two girls hockey teams from the Pointes made the journey up north last weekend for an exciting time on the ice when Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett competed in the 10th annual Traverse City Showcase. Both teams were able to secure some wins against competition from around the state, including the Knights getting the best of the Norsemen in the weekend's final game.

The first day of the tournament on Friday, Jan. 19, saw the Norsemen take on the North Michigan K-Stars. North was victorious 6-1, starting the weekend with a win thanks in large part to a hat trick from Ella Dobbs.

Liggett's first matchup of the Showcase last Friday ended as a 3-3 tie against Traverse City. Sullivan Estes, Sofie Ancona and Avery Welsh were the goal scorers for the Knights in the close

matchup.

Following the tie on Friday, Liggett took on the North Michigan K-Stars on Saturday, Jan. 20, for its second matchup of the weekend. The Knights were able to come out with the win this time, defeating the K-Stars 4-0. Freshman Stella Smiatacz scored the opening goal and a hat trick by Ancona helped carry Liggett to the win.

North's Saturday matchup was against Traverse City, with the Norsemen falling 5-1. After that, it was time for the crosstown rivals to face off to close out the weekend.

While the campuses of the two schools are only two miles apart, the Knights and Norsemen faced off against each other over 200 miles away from the Pointes Sunday, Jan. 21. The game ended in a 4-1 victory for the Knights, with Estes, Bella Metry and Miranda Alcalá all scoring goals for Liggett. Josie Cueter had



PHOTO BY MEGHAN SMITH BEERS

Grosse Pointe North's girls varsity hockey team took a break from the ice only to find some snow during a team sledding outing last weekend in Traverse City.

North's lone goal in the loss.

After the weekend road trip, Liggett's next game is a showdown at Orchard

Lake St. Mary's on Friday, Jan. 26, starting at 3:30 p.m. North hosted Washtenaw United on Wednesday, Jan. 24, after

press time.

The team then gets more than a week off before its next game, a home showdown on

Friday, Feb. 2, against crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South, in a game that will also serve as the Norsemen's senior night.

## ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

Johns has particularly strong chemistry with his fellow goalie Ben Wehrmann. Wehrmann, a junior, has three wins in four starts this season and seems primed to fill Johns' shoes as the go-to guy in net for Liggett next season.

With two talented goalies on the same roster, some might think there could be a bit of competition between them. Really it is the opposite, with Johns and Wehrmann always hav-

ing each other's back regardless of who is on the ice any given night.

"We push each other regardless of who's playing," Johns said. "We support each other and cheer each other on. We're always having fun in practice and always talking and helping each other. It's a great bond and I wouldn't want to share it with anyone else."

Wehrmann might be the future for the Knights in net, but Johns still has plenty he wants to accomplish before his final games in a Liggett jersey are over. With how young the Knights are as a team, Johns is optimistic for the team's future even after he graduates.

Of course, Johns wants to help the Knights make a playoff run and potentially even to a final four

appearance at USA Hockey Arena. What is most important to him, however, is just enjoying every moment and doing whatever he can to help the Knights win.

"Every single practice and every single game, I want to go out and just give it my all and play my hardest, because this is my senior year and I really want to make everything count," Johns said. "I want the younger players to enjoy this year also and want to go as far as we can as a team and enjoy every moment with these boys."

### Nominate Your Athlete

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



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Johns uses his head to make a save against Flint Powers Catholic on Jan. 10.



At right, now in his senior season, Johns has been a member of Liggett's boys varsity hockey team since he was a freshman.

PHOTO BY BARBARA JOHNS

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.** That any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their City Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated agency. Registration forms can be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) and mailed to the City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at [www.expressSOS.com](http://www.expressSOS.com).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is Monday, February 12, 2024.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at their local clerk's office (see locations below) at the following times: Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm; Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 8:00am to 4:00pm; and Election Day, Tuesday, February 27, 2024 from 7:00am to 8:00pm

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that registered voters will be voting on the following as presented and listed below:

PARTISAN SECTION (DEMOCRATIC PARTY BALLOT) **Presidential:** Democratic Presidential Primary for President of the United States.

PARTISAN SECTION (REPUBLICAN PARTY BALLOT) **Presidential:** Republican Presidential Primary for President of the United States

Full text of the ballot, including the proposals, may be obtained at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote).

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact their local City Clerk's Office.

<p><b>Bridgette Bowdler</b> City Clerk City of Grosse Pointe Park 15115 E. Jefferson Ph: 313-822-6200</p>	<p><b>Derrick Kozicki</b> City Clerk City of Grosse Pointe Farms 90 Kerby Road Ph: 313-885-6600</p>	<p><b>Bruce Nichols</b> City Clerk Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City 795 Lake Shore Road Ph: 313-881-6565</p>
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GPN: 01/25/24

4D | LIONS SUPERFANS

# Fantastic!

## Grosse Pointe News names best Detroit Lions superfans

Last week, we asked Grosse Pointe News readers to tell us who was the biggest Detroit Lions superfan, and you delivered!

Candidates for “GP’s Best Lions Superfan” needed to convince us in

100 words or less why they are the best Lions fans in Grosse Pointe along with photographic evidence of their tricked-out Lion’s den, game-day attire, tailgate set-up or roarin’ outdoor decor.

Though it was a difficult choice, we landed on

one lucky winner and two runner-ups. Bill Meredith from Grosse Pointe Woods, earned the title of GP’s Best Lions Superfan. He will receive a one-year subscription to the Grosse Pointe News, along with our coveted GP News coffee mug, a \$50 gift card to

Campus Shop for the best Lions merch in town, a \$50 gift card to Sidecar Slider Bar, and last but not least — a \$25 gift card to Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy Shop for the young Lions fans in his life.

Our first runner-up is Hudson Brown, from

Grosse Pointe Farms, who won a \$25 gift card to the Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy Shop and a \$25 gift card to Campus Shop. Second runner-up honors go to Grosse Pointe Park’s Max Wiener, who now will get to drink his morning coffee from a GP

News mug and use a \$25 gift card to Campus Shop to buy more Lions swag.

The following are some of the best submissions we received. Keep reppin’ the Honolulu Blue and Silver, Grosse Pointe! You are the best fans around. — Meg Leonard



I started going to Lions games in the mid-60’s with my dad. (We host 20+ family members at Thanksgiving games. My granddaughters are the fifth generation to go to that game. Been to tons of games and been a season ticket holder since 1992. Bought a 24-foot RV in 2012 and painted it Lions colors. Graduated to a 32-foot in 2018 and did the same. I have a man cave dedicated to the Lions. I have the seat I sat in (as a season ticket (holder) at the Silverdome. In the photo with Barry and me, he apologized to me for retiring early. Goooo Lions! ALL GRIT

— Bill Meredith, of Grosse Pointe Woods, winner of the Grosse Pointe News Detroit Lions Superfan contest

COURTESY PHOTO  
Above, Lions superfan Bill Meredith (middle right) nearly gets consumed by an excited hug from his son as fans go crazy last Sunday in the aftermath of Detroit’s win over Tampa Bay.



I bought these seats when my son was born, intending it to be a family bonding experience...and have been attending in a Lion’s three-piece suit since then. My son got his first Honolulu blue suit when he was six and wears it with pride at the games...and school during spirit week. Watching the first playoff win with him will be with me forever.

— Max Wiener, Grosse Pointe Park, second runner-up in the Grosse Pointe News Detroit Lions Superfan contest

**LIONS SUPERFANS | 5D**



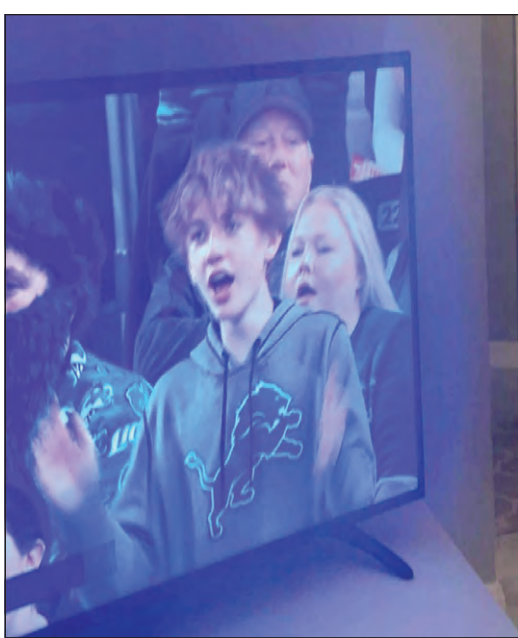
My son, Hudson Brown, is easily one of the biggest Lions fans in the Pointes. He's attended training camps since the age of five, bringing his football cards to point out players to his mother and I. He helped me deck out our basement with a big screen and projector to watch every game. Finally, his two big Christmas gift requests this year were a Lions game day chain and framed Aidan Hutchinson jersey, which we got from Posterity in the Village. At an age when kids bounce from team to team on a whim, Hudson is a constant and faithful member of #OnePride.

—Pat Brown, proud dad of Hudson Brown, first runner-up in the Grosse Pointe News Detroit Lions Superfan contest



COURTESY PHOTOS

Hudson Brown, of Grosse Pointe Farms, has been named first runner-up in the Grosse Pointe News Detroit Lions Superfan contest.



I am currently 16 and have watched every game since I was 10 years old. I can name first, second and third string players! I was at the playoff game and was hugged by everyone around me saying I was a great, loud fan and great to be around. I was shown on TV celebrating during the Denver game. I love the Lions and Dan Campbell - I wear my favorite grey Lions sweatshirt every game. GO LIONS!

—John Lubera, Grosse Pointe Farms

COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

This Detroit dad is raising the next generation of Lions fans! These boys are always ready for game day snacks and snuggles on the couch when Sunday rolls around. We love cheering for the Lions (what could be more fun for a toddler/football fan than yelling and clapping at the TV?) and playing trains on commercial breaks. Did you know Thomas the Train also wears Honolulu blue? Ask any 2-year-old!

—Angela Kallek, of Grosse Pointe Park, on her Lions superfan husband, Mitch



Superfans Joe Zambardi and his wife, Katherine, have all the feels after the Lions first playoff victory in 33 years. Joe and his wife traveled up to Detroit from Tennessee for home games before moving back to the Pointes this year. His family has held season tickets for more than 25 years and he went to EVERY home game during the dark season in 2008 when the Lions went 0-16. He's a tried and true Honolulu blue fan!

COURTESY PHOTO

**6D | HITS & HIGHLIGHTS**

# HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school winter sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights include:

## SOUTH VARSITY FOOTBALL

Grosse Pointe South head varsity football coach Chad Hepner was named 2023's regional Coach of the Year in Division 2, region four in the state of Michigan. Hepner was elected for the honor by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association "in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in high school football coaching" in his most recent season leading the Blue Devils to a 9-2 record, a MAC White regular season championship and a playoff appearance in the district final game. It was the program's most wins since the 1987 season.



## SOUTH BOYS WRESTLING

Grosse Pointe South junior Wyatt Hepner, pictured with his mom, Kim, earned his 100th career wrestling win as a Blue Devil Thursday, Jan. 18, against Preston Auld from rival Grosse Pointe North. Hepner typically wrestles in the 138 lb. category, but for this match, he competed in the 144 lb. weight class. Hepner won by a "tech fall," beating Auld 15-0. South wrestlers went on to beat North 57-18 on the Blue Devils senior night.



## NORTH GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe North girls varsity basketball bounced back from its only loss of the season to Port Huron earlier in the week to beat L'Anse Creuse North 50-30 on the road Friday, Jan. 19. Jenna Winowiecki had 18 points, four rebounds and three assists. Natalie Babcock had 14 points, seven steals, six rebounds and three assists, while Eva Borowski added 12 points, five steals and four assists. North sits atop the MAC Red at 4-1 and are 9-1 overall. They traveled to play rival Grosse Pointe South Tuesday, Jan. 23, after press time.



## SOUTH "COACHES VS. CANCER" EVENT

Grosse Pointe South's boys basketball fundraising event, "Coaches vs. Cancer," will take place Friday, Jan. 26, against Dakota. All three teams from South's boys basketball program will participate in this special fundraising effort to help beat cancer, beginning with the freshman game at 4 p.m., junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and varsity at 7 p.m.



"Coaches vs. Cancer" is a joint effort between the American Cancer Society and National Association of Basketball Coaches. The night is a culmination of several weeks of fundraising for the American Cancer Society by South's boys basketball program.

Throughout the three games, players and coaches will honor lives lost to cancer, celebrate survivors and show appreciation for the caregivers who selflessly help others. To donate to this effort, head to [main.acsevents.org/goto/gpsouthbasketball](https://main.acsevents.org/goto/gpsouthbasketball).



COURTESY PHOTO

## SOUTH BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

Grosse Pointe South boys varsity hockey team honored its 12 seniors Saturday, Jan. 20, before the team's game against Chippewa Valley United. South relinquished a 2-0 lead before losing 3-2 in overtime. South went on the road to play Gabriel Richard on Tuesday, Jan. 23, after press time.

## SOUTH MHSAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD FINALISTS

Jack Ryan, a senior at Grosse Pointe South, was named a finalist last week for the 2023-24 MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award. Ryan is one of 120 scholarship applicants from around the state who made the final round from a pool of 1,607 applicants. The award is in its 35th year and will honor 32 individuals from MHSAA member schools who participate in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a postseason tournament. Winners will be announced in February on the MHSAA website at <https://www.mhsaa.com/>.



## SOUTH GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe South junior Maddy Benard scored 34 points to help the Blue Devils trump Eisenhower 60-51 Friday, Jan. 19. The Blue Devils are 5-5 overall on the season and are 3-2 tied for third place in the MAC Red. South hosted rival Grosse Pointe North Tuesday, Jan. 23, after press time.

## SOUTH GIRLS SOFTBALL CLINIC

The Grosse Pointe South girls softball program will host its 10th annual clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 16, in the main gym at South. The clinic is for players in kindergarten through eighth grade and costs \$75. All proceeds benefit South softball. Instructors for the clinic include members of the Blue Devils coaching staff and current players. The clinic will focus on basic throwing techniques and fielding, as well as hitting fundamentals. There is an opportunity on the registration form to request being placed in an advanced group to work at a higher skill level. For more information, email South varsity head coach Bill Fleming at [gpsouthsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:gpsouthsoftball@gmail.com).



**SPORTS CALENDAR | 7D**

**2024 SPORTS CALENDAR  
JANUARY & FEBRUARY**



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**25 THURSDAY**

- 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Sterling Heights- 4 p.m.
- 6 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops @ Cranbrook
- 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Shrine
- 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. Port Huron
- 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Dakota
- 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey @ Cranbrook

- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Stevenson
- 7:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops @ Everest

**31 WEDNESDAY**

- 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Allen Park
- 5:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops @ Port Huron
- 5:30 p.m. - GPS Wrestling @ Annapolis
- 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. Eisenhower
- 8 p.m. - ULS @ GPS Girls Hockey

**26 FRIDAY**

- 3:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey @ OLSM
- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. Lincoln
- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ Bishop Foley
- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. Dakota
- 7:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Skyron

**1 THURSDAY**

- 5:50 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Country Day (@ Trenton)
- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. Madison
- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. New Haven

**27 SATURDAY**

- TBD - Gymnastics @ Lakeland
- TBD - GPN Comp. Cheer @ Lamphere
- TBD - GPN Girls Wrestling @ Fitzgerald
- 5 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Skyron
- 6 p.m. - GPN Hockey @ Anchor Bay
- 7:30 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ Allen Park

**2 FRIDAY**

- 4 p.m. - GPS vs. GPN Unified Hoops (@ GPS)
- 5:30 p.m. - GPS Comp. Cheer @ Fraser
- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ CV
- 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops @ Cardinal Mooney
- 7 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops @ Greenhills
- 7:30 p.m. - GPS @ GPN Girls Hockey (@ ESH)

**28 SUNDAY**

- No events scheduled

**3 SATURDAY**

**29 MONDAY**

- 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops @ LCN
- 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ Dakota

- 9 a.m. - GPN + GPS Wrestling MAC Meet (@ Roseville)
- 10 a.m. - Gymnastics @ Canton
- 12 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive Wayne Co. Meet (@ Trenton)
- 12 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ Marysville
- 2 p.m. - GPS Comp. Cheer @ LCN
- 6 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Metro Jets
- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Saline (@ Trenton)
- 8 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey @ Washtenaw

**30 TUESDAY**

- 4 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops vs. TBD
- 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ Fraser
- 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive @ Dakota
- 6:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Sacred Heart
- 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics vs. Bloomfield Hills (@ GPN)
- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ OLSM
- 7 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Lutheran North
- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops @ Eisenhower

**4 SUNDAY**

- No events scheduled

**5 MONDAY**

- TBD - ULS @ GPS Girls Hoops

- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. Fraser
- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Roseville

**6 TUESDAY**

- 4 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops @ Roseville
- 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Woodhaven
- 5 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey @ Riverview GR
- 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Romeo
- 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive vs. Anchor Bay
- 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive vs. Fraser
- 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Bishop Foley
- 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Eisenhower
- 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. LCN
- 7:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops @ Riverview GR

**9 FRIDAY**

- 5 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Northville
- 6 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops @ Everest
- 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Edison
- 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. Anchor Bay
- 7:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey @ Allen Park

**10 SATURDAY**

- 10 a.m. - GPN + GPS Wrestling Indiv. Districts (@ TBD)- TBD, GPN Comp. Cheer @ Oxford
- 12 p.m. - GPN + GPS Boys Swim & Dive (@ GPS)
- 4 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ UDJ
- 4 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Hartland
- 6 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey vs. TBD

**11 SUNDAY**

- No events scheduled

**12 MONDAY**

- 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics vs. Tecumseh (@ GPN)
- 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ Ford II

**13 TUESDAY**

- 3 p.m. - Figure Skating @ Dearborn
- 5:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Cranbrook
- 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive vs. Dakota
- 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive vs. Ford II
- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tour.)
- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tour.)

**7 WEDNESDAY**

- TBD - GPN Wrestling MHSAA Districts (@ TBD)
- 5:30 p.m. - GPS Wrestling MHSAA Districts (@ GPS)
- 6 p.m. - GPN + GPS Comp. Cheer MAC Meet (@ PH)
- 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics Quad Meet (@ GPN)
- 7:45 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Ford II
- 8 p.m. - ULS @ GPN Girls Hockey (@ ESH)

**8 THURSDAY**

- 4 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops vs. Sterling Heights
- 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops @ Clawson
- 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tour.)
- 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tour.)
- 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops @ Lutheran NW

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