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# Grosse Pointe News

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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## The War Memorial introduces new veterans committee

### First educational seminar on veterans benefits is Feb. 8

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The War Memorial is getting back to its roots in 2024, starting with a veterans committee created last fall to bring more events and programs for veterans throughout the year.

“From what we can tell, there was at some point more of a shift from veteran-focused to the arts and culture side, which, it’s great for the community, but we are The War Memorial and we like honoring our veterans,” said Brett Pulte, member of the committee and director of marketing and communications for The War Memorial.

The committee’s first goal is to host bi-monthly veteran educational seminars, the first of which is a free Disability Law Group Veterans Benefits Seminar 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Fred M. Alger Center.

Lunch will be provided, as will information on veterans’ benefits, which can include health care, monthly disability checks, life insurance, home loans and education through the GI Bill.

As April is Alcohol Awareness Month, the next seminar likely will incorporate this theme. Future seminars may focus on mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder, but the commit-

See VETERANS, page 2A



Charles Alston’s “Troubadour.”

COURTESY PHOTO

## Woods eyeing Mack/Vernier project for 2025

By Ted O’Neil  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — City council discussed next steps at its meeting Monday, Jan. 22, for plans to redesign the intersection of Mack and Vernier to make it safer for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

That includes paying \$20,000 to 4D Acquisition and Consulting of Onsted to obtain four easements, including two on property owned by the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

“That’s mainly so we can install the mast arms,” according to City Administrator Frank Schulte.

Instead of traffic lights at the intersection strung overhead, they will be placed on black mast arms — similar to those at Kercheval and Moross — that arch over the roadway. Two of the easements involve Parcels Middle School and Mason Elementary School, with one at Lochmoor Club and another at Berkshires Condominiums.

Those will allow the city to install a new crosswalk on Vernier at Sunningdale Park on the west end of the golf course.

The city and school district partnered last year to receive two Safe Routes to Schools grants of \$300,000 for each school.

What started as an idea to spruce up the intersection evolved into a complete redo as more studies were completed. That moved forward after an offer from Wayne County to improve county streets, which Mack is, using its

See MACK, page 2A

**Happy Valentine's Day**

Groovy gifts for best gal pals this Valentine's Day

Section C

## Manager gets goals

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The city manager is a few legs up on reaching his goals for the year.

Among objectives for 2024 are:

- ◆ settling a public safety labor contract — finished;
- ◆ bringing online the flood-fighting extreme emergency relief valve, which already is installed at Patterson Park and awaiting testing — pretty much finished;
- ◆ completing a capital improvement plan — about halfway finished and

See GOALS, page 2A

## Coming soon to Grosse Pointe South

As we usher in Black History Month, we celebrate with this painting by Charles Alston titled, “Troubadour,” painted circa 1955, which will be on display beginning Feb. 3, at Grosse Pointe South High School, as part of a second semester educational exhibition. Alston’s career and accomplishments are among countless stories that celebrate black Americans’ central role in U.S. history and detail the adversity African Americans have faced for generations.

A foundational figure of the Harlem Renaissance, Alston dedicated his life to the cultural enrichment, artistic advancement and empowerment of black Americans. After mastering an Academic Realist style as a teenager, Alston became increasingly interested in African art and aesthetics while in graduate school at Columbia University Teachers College. After graduating, he remained in Harlem and cofounded the Harlem Art Workshop in 1934.

In 1935, Alston became the first black supervisor for the Federal Art Project when he received an assignment to direct the Works Progress Administration murals in Harlem Hospital. Though the

Federal Art Project approved his designs, hospital administration rejected the works for an excess of African American subject matter. After protests and extensive press coverage, the hospital eventually allowed production of the murals to proceed and, in 1936, two were exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art. In response, Alston was inspired to cofound the Harlem Artists Guild in the hope of convincing the WPA to fund more black artists.

In 1963, he became a founding member of Spiral, an artist collective that sought to contribute to the civil rights movement by increasing gallery and museum representation for black artists. In 1968, Alston received a presidential appointment from Lyndon Johnson to the National Council of Culture and the Arts and in 1969, Mayor John Lindsay appointed him to the New York City Art Commission. In 1973, he was made full professor at City College of New York and in 1975, was awarded the first Distinguished Alumni Award from Teachers College. In 1990, Alston’s bust of Martin Luther King Jr. became the first image of an African American displayed at the White House.

## Shores receives clean audit

By Ted O’Neil  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — City council at its January meeting

received an unmodified opinion for the audit of its 2022-23 fiscal year finances.

“The reason for the audit is to give an opinion and an unmodified

opinion is the best you can have,” Jordan Smith of Maner Costerisan told council. “Our responsibility is to provide you with the reassurance that everything is in order.”

See AUDIT, page 2A

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**Pointer of INTEREST**

**Rita Shemmai**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods  
Faith, family, friendship  
drive scholarship winner

See story, page 4A



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2A | NEWS

VETERANS:

Continued from page 1A

tee is looking to pull from veteran feedback.

"If any veteran has an idea or a topic they want to hear about, give us a call at (313) 881-7514, send us an email (at aszwarc@warmemorial.org or) contact us through our website, warmemorial.org," Pulte said. "We're more than open to suggestions."

During the months when an educational seminar is not planned, the veterans committee will host veteran-to-veteran gatherings. The first, allowing veterans to connect and chat amongst themselves, took place in December.

"Every month The War Memorial's going to make sure we have some kind of event for veterans," said Alex Szwarc, chairman of the veterans committee, as well as

communications and marketing manager at The War Memorial.

Historically, The War Memorial likely had a veterans committee, Szwarc said, "but we need and wanted to bring it back now. ... We saw this as a great way to get back to our core roots of honoring veterans and being a place that constantly gives back and doesn't forget those sacrifices that have been made."

To register for the veteran benefits seminar Feb. 8, visit tinyurl.com/3xn26648 or use the QR code below.



AUDIT:

Continued from page 1A

municipalities, the Shores saw its revenue from property taxes increase due to higher than normal inflation. In Michigan law caps property tax increases at 5 percent or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower. Assessments for 2022-23 were the first time since the law was passed in 1994 that inflation was above the 5 percent threshold.

For the Shores, that revenue increased 12 percent from the previous year, from \$5.6 million to \$6.2 million. The city also saw its general fund balance grow 13.5 percent, or \$331,500.

The fund balance stands at \$2.8 million, with spending just under \$8 million.

"The Government Finance Officers Association recommends a fund balance equal to two months of operating expenditures," Smith said. "That's about 17 percent of expenditures, but in your case you're at 39 percent."

Mayor Ted Kedzierski said council policy is to

keep the fund balance at 25 percent or higher.

Other funds are in even better shape. Smith said the water and sewer fund has a balance of \$2.8 million, or 141 percent of expenses. The marina fund, at \$630,000, is at a whopping 1,500 percent of expenses.

"You can see those are very, very healthy," he noted.

Net pension liability increased \$187,000, to \$6.5 million, while the liability for OPEB (other post-employment benefits) increased almost \$498,000, to \$10.1 million.

Public safety, with a budget of \$2.7 million, is the city's largest single expense and accounts for 39 percent of expenditures. Long-term obligations, primarily bonds for recent water main work on Lakeshore, stand at \$14 million.

The city also has \$31.5 million in investments and a AAA credit rating, the highest possible, from Standard and Poor's.

"This is good news," Kedzierski said of the audit report. "This isn't our money, we're just the fiscal stewards."

Woods gets new drug disposal kiosk

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The city is the first in Michigan to receive a state-of-the-art drug disposal kiosk through a partnership with Rotary International.

The secure, see-through box will be located in the lobby of the public safety department, which is open 24 hours a day. Inside the box is a container that uses activated charcoal to neutralize any pills or liquid poured down a funnel that sits under a flap on top, including prescription medications and illegal drugs as dangerous as opioids and fentanyl.

"This partnership is very important because the opioid epidemic is not going away any time soon," Public Safety Director John Kosanke said while introducing the kiosk Thursday, Jan. 25. "The charcoal breaks down what's dumped in there and renders it inert."

Kosanke said he was invited to a meeting of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club last year after three people — including two sisters — died of drug overdoses the same night at two houses just blocks apart.

"That was our second multi-overdose situation in three years," Kosanke said. "I knew right away we had to get one."

Once the container inside is full, the city will send it to a facility in Arkansas to be incinerated. The manufacturer then sends the city a new container.

Sherrie Jones, presi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Rotary leadership and Grosse Pointe Woods City officials at the dedication of the medicine safe disposal kiosk.

dent of the club, said they want to work with all of the Pointes to put a kiosk in every city, although the one in the Woods is not limited to just residents.

Rotary has an exclusive deal with the manufacturer to buy the kiosks and has a goal of putting one in every city nationwide where there is a chapter. Cost for the kiosk is \$1,295, while the inner container is \$495. Kosanke said the city will be responsible for the shipping charges and cost of replacement containers.

In addition, every address in the Woods will receive a bottle containing the same type of charcoal that can hold 60 pills. It will come with a postage-paid envelope to send to be incinerated and once it's destroyed a new bottle will be sent.

Larry Kenemore, who heads up Rotary's Action Group for Addiction Prevention, traveled

from Oklahoma for last week's event.

"This is a boots-on-the-ground kind of thing just like what Rotary did to make polio a thing of the past," he said. "We spent three years going through a 17-volume playbook to see what worked and what didn't work to eradicate polio."

Kenemore added that not only do the kiosks keep medication out of the hands of curious children, it also prevents tainting drinking water that comes from people flushing pills down the toilet.

Kosanke said the new kiosk also is safer for his officers compared to the old drop-off box that had an opening similar to a mailbox.

"People were pouring liquid and tossing needles in there," he said. "The guys almost got stuck a few times."

The old unit was emptied twice a week and the contents picked up for

disposal once a month.

"We'll have to see how long the new one takes to fill up to figure out how often we'll need to replace the container," Kosanke said. "We collected 500 pounds in the old one just since last June."



PHOTO BY TED O'NEIL

This new drug disposal kiosk, the first of its kind in Michigan, is located in the lobby of the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department.

MACK:

Continued from page 1A

American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

The city also received a \$720,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Public Safety.

"We're also working with Sen. Kevin Hertel

on an additional \$500,000 grant from the state," Schulte said. "We're hoping everything falls into place."

The intersection currently allows for direct left turns in three directions, with traffic southbound on Mack required to make a Michigan-left to access eastbound Vernier. The new inter-

section will have no left turns.

"There've been 33 accidents there in the last two years," Schulte said.

Public Safety Director John Kosanke told city council last year it is the most dangerous intersection in the city by far.

The turnaround at Sunningdale Park also will be eliminated and

crosswalks with flashing yellow lights on Mack will be added at Anita, Hampton and Brys.

Schulte said the plan is to begin work June 15, 2025, and be completed by the time the following school year starts.

"We need to pre-order everything so we're ready to go," he said.

GOALS:

Continued from page 1A

◆ adopting a new zoning code, which is expected in six months.

To be completed before year's end are:

◆ fulfilling state environmental water and sewer testing standards,

◆ seeking grants for the Downtown Development Authority and Tax Increment Finance Authority,

◆ updating the municipal water reliability study for better water mains and related infrastruc-

ture,

◆ seeking ways to reduce retiree legacy costs,

◆ working with the new public schools superintendent about the future of vacant Trombly Elementary School,

◆ pursuing cost savings through sharing or cooperation with the Grosse Pointes, excluding consolidation of public safety forces and

◆ overseeing options to renovate the municipal marina.

Nick Sizeland, city manager since 2019, received the goals during

a Jan. 24 meeting with the personnel committee. The committee is charged with reviewing the manager and city attorney, providing both with annual objectives.

Sizeland developed the goals for presentation to the committee.

"We had good feedback back and forth," he said.

"Higher-prioritized goals are items that the council and the community expect the city manager to be laser-focused on in 2024," said Councilman Marty McMillan, appointed by Mayor Michele Hodges to chair the committee starting this year. Hodges also is on the committee.

"The other goals are

important as well," McMillan said, "but they may be more normal operating tasks that you would expect of a highly efficient operating city government."

This is the first time in three years the committee met its January obligation, specified in Sizeland's contract, to present his goals. Hodges demoted prior Chairwoman Christine Gallagher in 2022, for missing the deadline a second time and putting the city at legal risk for not living up to contractual obligations.

"Finalizing the city manager's goals on time is something Mayor Hodges made clear was

an expectation of hers," McMillan said. "It allows the manager to have a solid understanding of our expectations and plenty of time to achieve them."

"The goal of this mayor, administration and council is a continuous march to streamlining and professionalization," said Councilman Max Wiener, a new member of the committee. "It's paying off. (It's) all about continuous improvement."

"Having mutual cooperation between the city administration and council is the best thing for a community to move forward," Sizeland said.

He also received a \$10,000 raise, boosting his salary to \$120,000.

Sizeland has advocated infrastructure improve-

ments from the time he became manager.

"Infrastructure provides for Grosse Pointe Park to move forward, when for so many years nothing had been done," he said.

As during last year, infrastructure projects for 2024 focus on water and sewer improvements, including the water reliability study.

"It's like an asset management tool so we can prioritize which water mains need to be looked at," Sizeland said. "We had several water main breaks during the fall. We just had another on St. Paul. This study will assist us in finding a pattern of breaks, which mains are undersized and should be upgraded to a larger capacity."

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<b>Dan Mihaescu</b> Baritone, Solo	<b>Claudia Fontana</b> Eurythmist, Cello & Piano
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# Sewer separation millage likely headed for ballot

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — City council Monday night authorized City Manager Joe Valentine to work with the bond council and the city's financial advisors to draft August ballot language for a voter-approved bond — and corresponding millage increase — not to exceed \$15 million to separate a majority of the remainder of the city's combined system.

The ask comes after the summer 2021 flooding enabled the city to be awarded a \$21 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with the caveat the city must cover the

remaining balance of the estimated \$28 million project.

"I feel like we would be remiss if we let \$21.6 million just sit on the table and not at least ask the voters to get us to the point where we can gather that money," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said, before council voted 6-0, with Councilman Chris Walsh absent.

While the City's match for the work to separate the sewers north of Waterloo and east of Washington is estimated at \$7 million, the reasoning behind a \$15 million bond is two-fold: First, by doubling the available funds, the city can ensure its match obligations are covered.

"These estimates are being put forth based on what we know at the time, but as material costs, labor costs are fluctuating, bids are typically coming in higher than what we're expecting," Valentine explained. "And because of that, we don't want to lose out on this opportunity by not having sufficient funds to contribute to our local match."

Second, if the actual match cost comes in less than \$15 million, the city would allocate up to \$1.4 million toward upcoming capital projects including two garbage trucks, a dump truck, front-end loader and St. Clair resurfacing project.

Any funds still remain-

ing simply would not be collected from taxpayers.

The millage rate will depend on whether the ballot language specifies a 20-year or 25-year bond, one of which will be recommended by the city's financial advisors.

A 20-year bond would mean 2.17 mills, which equates to \$382.07 annually for the average property. A 25-year bond would be 1.88 mills, which equates to \$331.01 annually for the average property.

In the event council chooses to move forward with a 25-year bond at 2.17 mills, the City's millage rate would rise to 19.0090 mills, which still would be below the rates in the Park and Woods.

The City's current millage rate is 16.8390 mills.

With construction intended to begin next year, residents likely can expect to see the millage request on the Aug. 6 ballot.

Council is expected to approve the ballot language in May.

"I was on a stormwater task force for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments," Tomkowiak said. "The data that comes out of that organization is chilling about the amount of rainfall and the intensity of the storms that we can expect going forward. And we promised everybody we would do everything we could to see what we can do to harden

our community and deal with the infrastructure to make it as resilient as possible.

"Even if we have two, three, four years where we don't have the heavy rains — because every year we pray we don't get heavy rains again — it's something that just has to be done. There's no way around it and I hope the voters agree."

Sewer separation west of Neff is the only remaining combined portion of the city not included in the work. Its estimated cost would be \$6.93 million and, because streets in the area recently were reconstructed, the city instead plans to do the work in conjunction with future road projects.

## Schaap Center walls on the rise

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The rising walls of a performing arts center being constructed on Jefferson are a prelude to the curtain going up opening night, scheduled tentatively for spring 2025.

"Isn't it awesome? We're going vertical," said Jaime Rae Turnbull, executive director of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts on Jefferson Avenue straddling Maryland in the Park and Alter Road in Detroit.

Upon completing the foundation last month, crews progressed to the 424-seat center's outer walls.

"This is the exciting part," Turnbull said. "This is when you start

to see all of the preparation, the amount of time and effort everyone has put in over the last decade to get this project going — and it's going."

Because the project spans the Park and Detroit, Schaap representatives needed construction permits from both jurisdictions. Detroit officials acknowledged last November their bureaucracy delayed demolition of structures the center is replacing.

"A series of internal departments are required to sign off," Turnbull said. "We received that."

Final demolitions started Monday morning, Jan. 29.

— Brad Lindberg



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The last of the Park's DPW buildings is scheduled to be torn down soon. Bricks, in the storage unit to the left, once part of old trolley tracks, will be repurposed within the campus of the new art center.



Part of the new building on the left juxtaposes with the old DPW building to the right. The art center lot abuts land on which an apartment building sits on Alter.

## More trimming, less planting in 2024

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Storm-induced power outages caused by tree limbs falling on to power lines is impacting the city's forestry policy for the coming year.

"Due to windstorms, you're going to see a priority of tree trimming rather than tree planting in the Park," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "That's a major priority of the city."

The city forester agrees.

"For years, I've been advocating for an organized block-trim schedule, much like I do in the City of Grosse Pointe," said Brian Colter, retired from a more than 20-year career as Park city forester, now contracted in the same role with the Park, City of Grosse Pointe and Farms.

"Every year, we trim 20 percent of trees on municipal property in the City (of Grosse Pointe)," Colter said. "It's beneficial for preventing future storm damage. We go tree-to-tree down one block and trim them all, getting out significant deadwood and elevating them."

Elevating means trimming low limbs to pro-

vide more ground clearance.

Regular trimming removes weak limbs or those, for whatever reason, more susceptible to break during wind and ice storms.

"It's so much more efficient, too," Colter said. "On average, we can do one block per day. I post 'no parking' signs for only one day per block. Residents are inconvenienced for only one day."

The trimming policy is a turnaround from recent years. Efforts had been to plant more trees due, in part, to unexpected private funding opportunities.

"We got additional money besides what's already budgeted for tree planting," Colter said.

Members of the Grosse Pointe Farm & Garden Club celebrated their 90th anniversary by funding the planting of 90 trees spread through the Farms, City and Park.

An additional 116 trees were planted in those communities in memory of Brian Fraser of the Park, killed by a random shooter at Michigan State University.

"Currently, we just kicked off planting 400 trees in the (Park) TIFA district," Colter said.

## Capital ideas for improvement

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — One of the constants in the city's upcoming six-year capital improvement plan is the likelihood of it being changed.

By continually updating the document to meet unexpected and emergency needs, municipal leaders said they'll be in a better position to maintain and improve the city's infrastructure.

A conceptual draft of the plan was discussed last week by the planning commission in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Commissioners, by those same state rules, provide recommendations as the plan evolves and is forwarded to the city council for final approval and implementation.

"We'd like to see this at council in February, but most likely in March," said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure

committee.

"Approval and recommendation by the commission does not equal endorsement of spending allocations, nor does adoption of the CIP by the council mean that they grant funding to any or all projects within the CIP," said Warren Rothe, assistant city manager and planning commission secretary. "Rather, by adopting the CIP, the council acknowledges that these projects represent a reasonable interpretation of pending capital needs and can be included in the upcoming budget process."

"That is a very important part of our continuous professionalization," commission member Mayor Michele Hodges said of the planning process. "It helps form all our decision making — the budget and making sure we're in alignment with the master plan. It helps us leverage dollars if we have a clear sense

See IDEAS, page 4A



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# Faith, family and friendship drive Evans Scholar

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Grosse Pointe North High School alumna Rita Shemmai is busy studying biomolecular and biopsychology sciences at the University of Michigan as she works toward a degree in pre-dentistry.

But the Grosse Pointe Woods native still finds time every weekend to come back to her hometown and, as importantly, sit behind the organ at St. Maron Maronite Church in Detroit to play for its 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Masses.

"I've been doing it since age 11," she said. "The church needed a new organist and I had been playing piano since I was 6 years old."

When no one answered the call, Shemmai stepped up and filled the role — after auditioning for the priest during a house call.

"I do it for the community at St. Maron," she said. "I know it makes them happy. It's hard to find an organist who can play Maronite Mass songs."

Shemmai said she has a strong faith life, which also includes serving as a junior advisor for the Maronite Youth Organization, which she said is "a big part of my life at St. Maron. It's a great way to get to know the Lebanese community and grow my faith. It's been a big part of my life since I was 13."

Shemmai spent most of her teen years in the youth group, then became a junior advisor



The Shemmai family, from left, Jean-Paul, Simon, Madice, Elie and Rita, pictured at St. Maron Maronite Church in Detroit.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RITA SHEMMAI

and hopes to become an advisor.

"It's basically a counselor to the youth, she said, noting the group goes to camps and participates in other events. "Twice a year, the youth pack peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless in Detroit. It's about community service, friendship and prayer life."

Her active volunteerism carries into life on campus as a member of St. Mary's Student Parish, a Lebanese student organization. She's also looking for more ways to serve at U-M as she adjusts to campus life.

"I like it a lot," she added. "I've found a lot of friends here."

Shemmai is enjoying life in Ann Arbor partly in thanks to receiving an Evans Scholarship for high-achieving caddies, from the Western Golf

Association. It covers four years of tuition and housing for Shemmai, Grosse Pointe North's 2022 homecoming queen.

"I've been caddying at Lochmoor Club since seventh grade, since age 13," Shemmai said. "I got interested in golf after I started caddying."

She plans to caddy again at Lochmoor this summer, while she's back home spending time with her parents, Simon and Madice, and brothers, Jean-Paul and Elie, both students at North. She'll also continue her duties at St. Maron all year long.

"I was raised going to church every Sunday and I'm really involved in the youth group," she said. "Right now, I'm not forced to go. I go on my own will and I love to do it."

"... I feel like it's important to be involved and

make other people happy," she added. "I like seeing other people happy. The world needs more joy. We're living in a place where people are down and depressed. When I see people happy, it makes me happy."



The 2022 Homecoming King and Queen of Grosse Pointe North were Rodd Monts and Rita Shemmai.



Shemmai, second from right, plays guitar during a Maronite youth retreat.

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## IDEAS:

Continued from page 3A

of what needs to be funded and we know where grant sources are."

Most of the biggest and most expensive aspects of the plan are related to water and sewer system needs revealed by stormwater flooding during summer 2021, plus a series of ongoing water main breaks.

"This is the type of document that can help us determine how much to address and when," Rothe said.

Many projects correspond to a 20-year outline of water asset

improvements the city's engineering consultants presented to the council in October 2022.

"That was a much broader stroke," Wiener said. "The systems are old and need a lot of work. Unfortunately, there was a lot of deferred maintenance. We're trying to right that ship."

For example, within projected \$18.5 million spending for sewer work through fiscal year 2030, some \$1.5 million is for separating storm and sanitary sewers on Bishop Road two years from now.

Likewise, projected water distribution projects during the next six years consist of spending \$1.3 million annually to replace water mains.

"We can hone in on the most pressing needs instead of saying in a broad stroke, 'We need to work on the sewers,'" Wiener said. "Now, we can target and identify projects, much like we have with PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) for roads."

Top funding sources for the life of the plan consist of \$12.5 million from the water and sewer fund, \$17 million in bonds, \$6.3 million from the street fund and just over \$1.6 million from the general fund.

"The (water-sewer) infrastructure millage gives us a massive funding source to do extended capital improvements," Rothe said.

He said the draft document represents a shift from prior capital improvement plans.

"It's a realignment with the best practices," Rothe said.

"It's quite close to some of the best practice templates through the Michigan Municipal League and the likes," Hodges said. "It's something we can continue to evolve."

Commissioners recommended the draft be edited to assign priorities to each project.

"It would be helpful to have some weighted variables," Hodges said. "There might be a time where (a particular) sewer is important but we have a grant source for another one and you don't want to lose that opportunity. It might also be helpful to know if what's being proposed is provided for in the master plan and other governing documents and making a comprehensive list of what potential funding sources are."

"If something's funded (with) use-it-or-lose-it dollars, we want to make sure we do it in the year we got the money for it," Commission Vice Chairman Michael Vethacke said. "That would be a useful added detail."

An example of how plans can change involve a water main break affecting Defer Elementary School.

"We had that listed as something we'd like to do," Wiener said. "Then, we lost one day of school because water had to be shut off on Somerset. We crunched the numbers and it will be worked on next year along with the water main projects we've pushed forward."

### Grosse Pointe News

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## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Under control

By the time officers arrived at a home in the 800 block of Lakeshore around 8:15 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, for a report of a bonfire that had gotten out of control, attendees had brought it back under control using a garden hose.

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Pricey photos

A Hampton resident filed a report around 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, after being the victim of extortion via a dating app.

The man said he met another man on the app and they exchanged nude photos of each other. The complainant said the other man then demanded he send him pictures of codes for \$2,000 in gift cards or the suspect would send the man's photos to his wife and employer.

The complainant told police he ended up sending the man \$7,000 worth of codes before filing a report.

## Waste not, want not

A 56-year-old Detroit man was arrested for retail fraud around 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, after filling two grocery bags and walking out of a store in the 20400 block of Mack without paying for the items.

Officers found him in a nearby business where he told them he'd thrown the bags into a garbage dumpster. Store employees said the stolen items totaled \$158.

## Double dipping

A resident in the 1700

block of Severn told police around 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, a UPS delivery worth \$100 was stolen from her porch after she received a notice of delivery.

Another member of the household told officers someone went through her unlocked vehicle at the house and stole a few dollars.

—Ted O'Neil

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Canned

At 11:10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, Park police arrested a 64-year-old man from Detroit for entering the backyard of a residence in the 1200 block of Nottingham and stealing bags of returnable cans.

The victim jotted down the license plate number of the man's vehicle and contacted Park police.

"(The) vehicle and suspect were located at a Detroit grocery store," police said. "(He) was cashing in the stolen cans."

## Flees failed theft

All kinds of criminal charges await two men accused of trying to steal a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Pemberton late Thursday, Jan. 25.

At 11:09 p.m., Park and City of Grosse Pointe officers responded to a report of an unknown driver prowling the block from behind the wheel of a white Chrysler 300.

"An attempt was made to investigate," a Park officer said. "The vehicle pulled ahead to an unoccupied second vehicle,

where a second suspect exited and entered the Chrysler 300."

The driver sped away. "Follow-up investigation revealed the suspects were attempting to steal the second vehicle or items inside it," police said.

Possible charges are auto theft, larceny from an auto and fleeing and eluding.

## Failed car theft

A woman living in the 1300 block of Wayburn interrupted the attempted theft of her neighbor's 2013 Kia SUV at 6:39 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.

She witnessed two men in the vehicle. Both fled. They are accused of damaging the Kia's rear window and steering column.

Police described the unknown pair as black, one wearing all black, the other wearing red pants.

—Brad Lindberg

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

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Not for rent

A mail carrier flagged down an officer Tuesday, Jan. 23, because she noticed people at a vacant house for sale on Kerby.

The 47-year-old Harper Woods woman in question told the officer she found the house on Facebook Marketplace and paid \$3,100 to a person named Zach, who claimed to be selling the house. She further said she met Zach at a parking lot off East Outer Drive and obtained the key from him. The woman also provided a rent receipt.

## Unlocked tales

An unlocked vehicle in the 400 block of Lexington was rummaged through between 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, and 11:55 a.m. the next day.

## Growing list

After being pulled over at Mack and Moross for having no license plate, illegal window tint and a defective headlight at 4:04 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, a 20-year-old Warren man was cited for driving while license suspended and no proof of insurance.

A LEIN/Secretary of State search showed a number of prior suspensions, registration denials and traffic warrants.

## Missing pieces

After calls came in of a tire in the middle of east-bound Mack creating a hazard at 3:39 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, an officer located a vehicle missing a front tire in a nearby parking lot.

A 23-year-old Southfield man was asleep behind the wheel and told the officer he was coming from a bar in Detroit.

A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol content to be 0.18 percent, for which he was arrested.

## Keyed car

Between Thursday, Jan. 25, and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, an unknown person keyed a vehicle in the 400 block of Cloverly.

## Big loss

An 83-year-old Farms woman was convinced last week to mail \$35,000

to a person claiming to be a Federal Reserve Bank officer, who said he would keep her money safe in another account because she received a fake notification from Apple Support saying her computer had been hacked.

—Laurel Kraus

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

## City of Grosse Pointe

## Double whammy

A Bank of America credit card was fraudulently opened in a Grosse Pointe resident's name and charged approximately \$28,000 between Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, and Wednesday, Jan. 24.

A U.S. Bank checking account also was opened in the Pointer's name Tuesday, Jan. 9.

## Should have stopped

A 52-year-old Woods man was found to be intoxicated after running a red light at Jefferson and Lakeland

at 11:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27.

## Second try

Officers responded to a local hospital for a report of a patient refusing to leave at 2 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.

After speaking with the patient, he was given a ride to another hospital for further treatment.

## Park's problem

After being stopped for speeding at Mack and Rivard at 1:35 a.m. Monday, Jan. 29, a 33-year-old Detroit woman was found to have a warrant out of the Park. She was arrested and turned over to the neighboring department.

## Time out

Officers responded to an area hospital because an intoxicated person at the hospital was causing trouble at 4 a.m. Monday, Jan. 29. She was given a courtesy ride home.

—Laurel Kraus

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

## Catching porch pirates

GROSSE POINTE PARK— Teenage parcel thieves known by the sobriquet "porch pirates" are laughing off their arrests.

"Some of them see it as a joke," Chief Jim Bostock said. "They've said going out the door, 'We'll be back to Grosse Pointe.'"

The trick is knowing that stealing packages delivered to doorsteps is considered a non-violent

act. "Jail time is going to be nil until their court date," Bostock said. "That's the world we live in right now."

Park police bucked a nationwide trend in December and arrested two teenagers for stealing packages from porches.

The arrests at 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, capped

See PIRATES, page 8A

## Lots of thing go into a CIP; some don't

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

## GROSSE POINTE PARK

—The pile of numbers in the city's proposed six-year capital improvement plan registers the scope and complexity of building and tending small-town municipal infrastructure.

Plans must account for funding the maintenance, preservation and protection of 36.7 miles of roads, 24.5 miles of storm sewers, 48.5 miles of main sanitary sewers and 35.3 miles of water mains.

The tally is just getting started. The city has 676 manholes, around 4,800 water meters, 66 fire hydrants, 260 gate valves and, due for replacement at a rate of 10 percent annually, approximately 2,025 lead service lines.

Those figures are in addition to the motor pool, including public works and public safety fleets; more than 50 computers, an iPhone system and numerous software applications.

Then there are municipal buildings and structures, starting with the city hall complex and extending to the new DPW headquarters and repair shop, water and

sewage pumping stations and recreation facilities at two residents-only parks, one featuring an ice-skating rink, the other two swimming pools, a gymnasium, fitness center and two theaters.

"We have a lot of infrastructure that needs to be maintained," said Warren Rothe, assistant city manager.

## Marina

The marina at Windmill Pointe Park is a noted municipal asset that operates largely outside the city's general fund. Big enough to encompass 270 wells for boats up to 55 feet long, the marina is technically excluded from the capital improvement plan.

"The marina is set up as an enterprise fund, meaning all revenues from the marina pay for operations of the marina," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, liaison to the recreation commission, which oversees marina operations.

Wells rent for \$662 to \$3,291 per season.

Paying to build and maintain marina assets reserved for boaters falls within the enterprise fund. Other assets, such

as the inner breakwall, which shields the city from water erosion, and the outer pier, which doubles as a fishing and sightseeing spot, are not exclusively within the enterprise designation.

The distinction is important given hopes by members of the recreation commission to upgrade at least part of the marina. They rejected a complete overhaul, citing the estimated \$10 million minimum cost as unobtainable. Late last year, they lowered ambitions to renovate just one dock.

"One could argue that (sea walls) included in the marina project would be the responsibility of the Park," Caulfield said. "We are not even close to having those discussions, as we do not have a final plan of what needs to be done."

City Manager Nick Zylend said marina renovations are too costly to fund internally.

"The only way we can do it is with a bond," he said. "Otherwise, I'd have to jack up rental rates to a ridiculous level."

## Ambulance

Also missing from the new capital improvement plan is money to own and

operate an ambulance within the public safety department.

Effective July 1, 2023, Park officials switched ambulance duties to MedStar, a private company that also handles medical runs in the City of Grosse Pointe, Farms and Woods.

Park Chief Jim Bostock recommended the change. He said relieving his officers from ambulance duty would give them more time to patrol the community.

"A big 'thank you' to MedStar," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "It is a result of them that we

don't have a \$300,000 ambulance here (in the CIP plan), which is a great cost savings."



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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

## Welcome to the Pointes, Dr. Tuttle

Now that the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education unanimously approved the contract for new Superintendent Andrea Tuttle 6-0 Jan. 22, it's time to hit the ground running.

It starts with the community extending a warm and supportive welcome to Dr. Tuttle. GPPSS stakeholders and the board all appear quite united with a hopeful outlook on this new chapter of leadership and that's encouraging. Dr. Tuttle already has a local connection to our area with her mother being a native Pointer and through a cousin who co-owns Cadioux Cafe. We sure hope she starts off her tenure, as any good eastsider would, with a bucket of steamed mussels and some feather bowling before she gets to work.

Dr. Tuttle will start Monday, Feb. 5, at an annual salary of \$310,000. The contract runs through June 30, 2027. That's a significant salary increase from the \$195,000 the district annually paid its former superintendent, Jon Dean, who retired in August. He will be paid by the district through June 30, to act as a consultant for the board.

Similar to the former superintendent's contract, Dr. Tuttle will receive an annual car allowance of \$6,000 and will be eligible for a \$10,000 bonus based on her yearly evaluation, as reported in last week's Grosse Pointe News. That's in addition to the usual health benefits that are part of the district's agreement with its executive administration team.

She is set to become the highest-paid leader in any position in our district's century-plus of existence. It all begs the simple question: Will she be worth it?

The board wrestled with it, too, holding four separate closed-session meetings to discuss her contract.

Based on the unanimous vote, we trust she has the chops to tackle our district's most pressing issues. But the proof will lie in her quantifiable ability to execute improvements and solutions in the district's budget, enrollment, teacher contracts and overall academic performance.

When she was initially hired last December, Dr. Tuttle mentioned the budget as one of her top priorities.

"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," she told the GP News at the time.

That's exactly where she should start. With the influx of COVID dollars ending this year and the difficult cuts reflected in the current budget, the district likely is facing another year of tightening. It is our hope the new superintendent uses her past experience from her time in Owosso in shoring up district finances, smart budgeting and the expertise around her to get the district on firmer ground.

Dr. Tuttle also has mentioned some ideas worth exploring regarding enrollment. She is a big proponent of early childhood education, a bee in the district's bonnet that has never been figured out. We would love to hear her ideas for GPPSS.

She also believes in marketing to young families, as she did in Owosso, such as when newborns at the local hospital received onesies with the district's logo and the words "Future Trojan" on them.

Would that work here? Well, not with the Blue

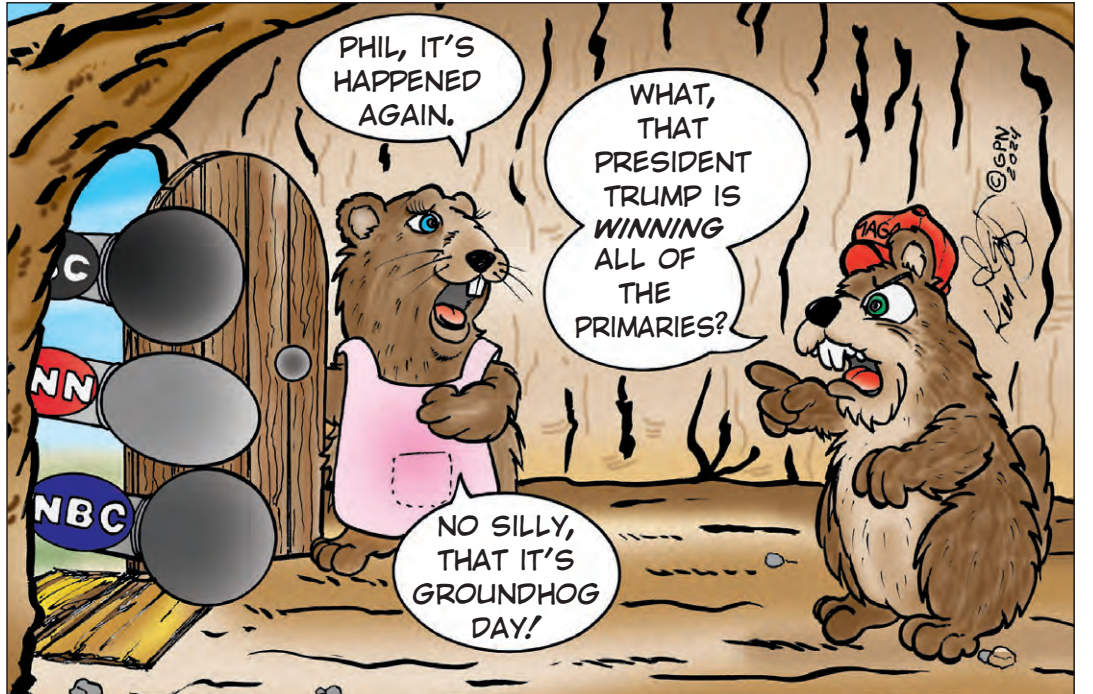


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

### OUR VIEW

## #OnePride

Ugh. We're pretty confident that was the first word we all uttered waking up Monday morning once the cobwebs cleared and flashbacks appeared of the Lions squandering a 24-7 halftime lead over the San Francisco 49ers the night before in last Sunday's NFC Championship game, only to end up losing 34-31.

No first-ever Super Bowl appearance. No bragging rights over the NFC.

Detroit vs. Everybody gets put back on the shelf until September.

We can all bemoan how this game went down. A squandered lead. Going for it on two occasions instead of kicking a field goal. A dropped pass on fourth down. On another series, the same guy drops an easy catch for a first down. The ball bounces off a Lions defender's face mask and is caught by San Francisco for a 50-yard gain.

That last one had us all report sightings of the ghost of S.O.L. (Same Old Lions). This game will haunt us for a good, long while.

But beyond the Xs and Os, after we have had time to regain our composure, we hope fans of the former "lowly Lions" will recognize that although today feels gloomy, the Lions' future is bright.

Lots of fans are mad at him because of the loss, but we finally have the right guy in charge in head coach Dan Campbell. This guy represents everything we want the country to know about this team and the city of Detroit. Grit, toughness and, most importantly, pride for a city that people around the country love to make fun of and insult. He is our unapologetic defender and, from the looks of him, can single-handedly toss away anyone trying to storm our gates.

Fans need to remember how we all embraced his risk-taking approach that rightfully earned him the nickname "Dan Gamble." It's understandable some are playing Monday Morning Quarterback after some questionable decisions in the game, but it's also somewhat hypocritical to tongue-cluck and ask why he didn't just kick the field goals. In hindsight, he should have kicked it (especially in the second instance), but you gotta dance with the one that brung ya.

The future also is bright because we have

See PRIDE, page 7A

Devils/Norsemen debate that would ensue, but a GPPSS logo sure does. Kudos to Dr. Tuttle for being innovative and a go-getter for her now-former district.

With enrollment up by nearly 90 more students than was projected last year, there's a great opportunity to keep that progress in motion.

Dr. Tuttle also faces negotiating teacher contracts next summer, a subject she described in her public interview before the BoE last December as not her favorite among her superintendent duties, but one she takes seriously.

In fact, all of the district's union contracts are up this summer. The board was in a position to only negotiate a one-year deal in the last go-around to meet what the teachers' union wanted.

GPPSS will need to dip into its fund balance, as we also reported last week, because of the new contracts' salary and benefits hikes for the district's bargaining units, and due to the 3 percent employee retention bonuses it negotiated.

The district's revised 2023-24 fiscal year budget shows revenue of \$104,436,783 with expenditures of \$105,685,638. The difference of \$1,248,846 will be taken from its fund balance, which will leave the fund balance at 8.08 percent, down from 9.62 percent last fall.

Speaking of bonuses, Dr. Tuttle's new contract stipulates she also can receive bonuses

if certain metrics are met for budget adherence, enrollment increases and standardized test score performances.

The metrics she must meet for the latter are high-rigor achievements that will be measured against peer districts, Board President Sean Cotton said.

That's great news to us. Pushing the envelope for increased academic excellence requires the district to implement process improvements across the board with accountability from teachers, students and staff. Additionally, those metrics may help better galvanize efforts to support our lowest-performing students, an area in great need of strengthening in the district.

Dr. Tuttle was one of 39 applicants for the position. The board interviewed seven candidates before settling on two finalists. She is now No. 1.

Let's get this thing started. Welcome to the Pointes, Dr. Tuttle.

## 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.

### South shines bright

#### To the Editor:

I recently attended the rising freshman parent night at Grosse Pointe South High School. I had low expectations going in since this would be the last of three of my children possibly attending South. I thought, "What could be different? Do I really need to go?" Since it has been four years since my second child graduated from South, I decided to attend.

See LETTERS, page 7A

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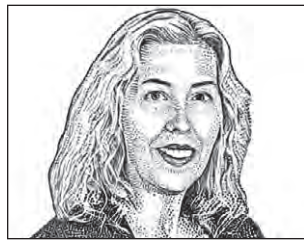


THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
44° 31°	38° 29°	41° 29°	42° 28°	40° 28°	42° 29°	44° 34°
Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 7:45 am SUNSET 5:45 pm	SUNRISE 7:44 am SUNSET 5:47 pm	SUNRISE 7:43 am SUNSET 5:48 pm	SUNRISE 7:42 am SUNSET 5:49 pm	SUNRISE 7:41 am SUNSET 5:50 pm	SUNRISE 7:40 am SUNSET 5:52 pm	SUNRISE 7:39 am SUNSET 5:53 pm

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I SAY By Renee Landuyt



# 'Son, your work on Earth is done'

**M**y dad, Richard, passed a way

Saturday, Jan. 20. What a blessing it was to have had this man as my father.

His final day here, my siblings, family and I gathered around him, held his hand and told him we loved him. We took turns sitting with him while his time slowly crept closer, waiting for him and his body to be finished here on Earth.

He left on his own terms and thankfully didn't suffer too long or too much.

The day my father passed, he was conscious until the last hour or two of his life when he closed his eyes and his breathing began to slow. My sister told her son to play some music from "Lés Miserables," which was one of my dad's favorite musicals, so my nephew played the song, "Bring Him Home." After the song finished, she told him to play it one more time and right when the last line of the song — which is "Bring him home" — was sung, my father took his last breath.

Though it was an incredibly difficult moment, it was a beautiful ending. He went out on a song he loved, surrounded by those he loved and who loved him

back.

You say goodbye to your father many times in your life, but the hardest goodbye is at his funeral.

We said goodbye to my dad for the final time last Saturday.

The church was almost full. Many people came up to my siblings and I and shared wonderful things about my dad. We heard so many stories about what a good man he was, but these were not just things they said at his funeral. People have told us this our entire lives.

The week after a loved one passes, your time is filled with the busy work of planning a memorial. After that is over is when the numbness begins to wear off and reality sets

in; when things are quiet, it hits you. And it is in those quiet moments, when you're reflecting and remembering, that your heart breaks just a little bit more.

I'm glad we were able to gather around him on his final day. What a blessing it was to send him on his way with words of love.

There is now a space in our family that can only be filled with the memory of him. He was a good and kind, yet humble man. He spent a lifetime volunteering and helped wherever he could. He had a dry, yet funny sense of humor, loved giving back and had a strong sense of community and serving. He touched so many lives and left a

strong legacy.

Dad was always the handyman when we were growing up, fixing what he could, passing on his knowledge.

My dad had people with whom he was friends for more than 60 years.

For years he was a season ticket holder to the Grosse Pointe Theater because it brought him so much joy and, in return, they were so good and kind to him.

Right before my mom passed, my siblings and I gathered around her and sang to her the songs she sang to us growing up. It was a beautiful moment but really hard to do. Try singing while crying. It doesn't work so well.

My mom left this Earth in 2011, and I know she,

my dad's best friend Pete and all who've gone before my dad, were there to greet him when he went home. I know he was met with a light and love like he's never known.

Thanks for everything, Dad. We will miss you so much. You gave us so many memories and we have so many great stories of the good times and the mischief we all got into growing up. We'll have stories to share with each other for years to come and we will be laughing at the ones that always made you laugh.

Goodbye, Dad. Have fun in heaven. Like the song, "Go Rest High on That Mountain" says, "Son, your work on Earth is done."

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1949

75 years ago this week

**ORDINANCE PASSED BY SHORES TO CONTROL LAKEFRONT FILLS:** The Grosse Pointe Shores Village Council passed an ordinance controlling filling on the lake-

front. The ordinance was made necessary by the fact some property owners on the lake, particularly north of Vernier, have, in a desire to add to their land area on the lake side, been filling. This causes an irregular shoreline, often resulting in the collection of refuse matter on neighboring properties.

### 1974

50 years ago this week

**STORM PLAYS SOUR NOTES ON FARMS CARILLON:** The high winds of last Sunday morning, which gusted to as high as 62 miles an hour, toppled a huge tree on the Joy Bells and their control house on the grounds of the Farms

Pumping Station. The repair work was started Monday and it's hoped that the four-times-an-hour tolling of the bells will soon be heard again.

### 1999

25 years ago this week

**NYCE SUES SHORES COUNCIL OVER HARBOR:** A group of local

Pointe residents have filed a second lawsuit in their battle against the expansion of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. This time, individual plaintiffs joined with Neighbors concerned about Yacht Club Expansion to sue six individual members of the Grosse Pointe Shores village council. Shores attorney Ralph Houghton advised council members not to discuss specifics of the suit.

### 2014

10 years ago this week

**FARMHOUSE WILL HAVE NEW HOME:** Come April, the Cadioux farmhouse, built a decade before the Civil War, will be hauled in two sections to a new location on St. Clair. It will become home to Dr. Leslie Kaye, currently of New Baltimore.

## PRIDE:

Continued from page 6A

our quarterback. Goodbye to the frustrating years of Charlie Batch, Gus Frerotte, Joey Harrington and John Kitna. This city believes in this unassuming kid from Northern California who led us to an NFC Championship game. Chants of "Jar-ed Goff" echoing in the stands at Red Wings and Grand Rapids Griffins games, Metro Airport and even before the musical "Wicked" began at the Gem Theatre last week ought to tell you a little about how Detroit feels about our QB.

Need more convincing? General Manager Brad Holmes knows what he's doing and he might be the Lions most important asset moving forward. He's not only undone the disastrous work done by "Quinntricia" — the era led by former GM Bob Quinn and head coach Matt Patricia — but has shown he

can identify talent and be aggressive to move up in the draft or during free agency to get the puzzle pieces we need. He bolstered our offensive line, snatched up running back David Montgomery from the Chicago Bears last offseason and drafted a 2023 class that included defensive back Brian Branch, linebacker Jack Campbell, tight end Sam LaPorta and running back Jahmyr Gibbs, all of whom started this season. Compare that outcome to the years when the Lions have either cut or practically given away our No. 1 picks for a peanut butter sandwich in return.

And let's not forget how galvanized the city has become thanks to the Lions this season. It's the type of unity that eliminates the usual division between Wolverines and Spartans, who typically go at it verbally year round. We held tailgates and watch parties together with ne'er a discouraging word to one another. We shared affirming nods sporting our Lions gear at the gas station and grocery store. We

hung our Lions flags to line our neighborhoods on Sunday mornings. We also see a collective love for this team and the city it represents through social media hashtags #DetroitVsEverybody, #AllGrit and #OnePride.

All is not lost, Lions fans. Did the team make enough mistakes Sunday to have this game get snatched from the jaws of victory? Yes. A Lions' Super Bowl appearance was in sight. It wasn't a pipe dream. The game was ours for the taking with only 30 minutes of football left.

This one will sting, especially when we watch this year's Super Bowl matchup between the Niners and the Kansas City Chiefs, no doubt. But the roar is restored and the Lions have never been in a position this promising heading into the offseason.

Take a few days to process this, then turn that frown upside down. Only 87 more days until the 2024 NFL Draft takes place in Detroit April 25. Detroit Lions, you are on the clock.

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

I was enthusiastically greeted with a "Welcome Class of 2028" sign and balloons outside the entry door. As I passed Cleminson Hall, I saw tables set up by subject and staffed by teachers, ready and willing to answer questions. I looked over a table of "South 2028" sweat-shirts and tees and as I entered the auditorium I was warmly greeted by Principal Hamka asking about my previous South graduates and where they were today.

I sat down thinking, "Things feel different here."

The presentation opened with Principal

Hamka greeting families and complimenting this amazing community, highlighting the great students he gets to work with. The counselors and athletic director each spoke, outlining the variety of classes, sports and clubs offered at South. There truly is something for every interest, as highlighted by a student-created video of class offerings.

I walked out of that building that night feeling fortunate to live in Grosse Pointe. Shortly after, I made the decision to send my last child to high school at Grosse Pointe South.

The whole team put its best foot forward for prospective families and shined bright.

MELISA MCENROE  
City of Grosse Pointe

## A generous community

To the Editor:

Generosity throughout Grosse Pointe contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. Across the U.S., the project collected 10 million shoebox gifts in 2023. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2023, the ministry is now sending over 11.3 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster.

Through shoeboxes — packed with fun toys, school supplies and personal care items — Grosse Pointe area volunteers brought joy to children in

need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love and often is the first gift these children have ever received. Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in

more than 170 countries and territories.

Although local drop-off locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 18 to 25, 2024, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by packing a shoebox gift online in just a few clicks at [samaritanspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanspurse.org/buildonline).

Information about ways

to get involved year-round also may be found at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ) or by calling (937) 374-0761.

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Marketing Coordinator,  
Samaritan's Purse

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Grosse Pointe News

Dear Justin - I love you like a love song baby - Selena



# Seeking streetscape funding

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Competitive grants are hard enough to get without passing up chances to get them.

“The idea is to apply and hope for the best, but prepare for the worst,” said John Hughes, chairman of the Tax Increment Finance Authority.

The TIFA board in December agreed to sail on a tide that leads to fortune by applying for up to a \$1 million grant to help pay for streetscape improvements in the Charlevoix commercial zone.

“The grant could be zero dollars; it could be \$1 million,” Hughes said. “We don’t know. If we don’t apply, it’s going to be zero dollars.”

Although a consultant was retained to produce concept plans to renovate both Charlevoix and

Kercheval commercial districts, Charlevoix’s relative need for improvements rate it precedence over Kercheval.

Both zones are in the TIFA district — bordered by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham — from which property tax revenue is retained for improvements and commercial development.

Each streetscape project costs nearly \$4 million, for a total approaching \$8 million, with inflation factored in if construction starts in 2026, according to estimates by OHM Advisors, the municipal engineering consultants. The firm was retained separately last summer to produce a framework and renderings of both pro-

posed streetscapes.

“Costs are estimated from similar projects in the area using industry standards,” Alex Blehm, an OHM project manager, said during a meeting of the TIFA board Dec. 7.

Among each of the plan’s costliest components is \$700,000 for new road surfaces. TIFA board members interpret roadwork as something the city should fund as part of its normal street maintenance obligation.

Hughes said, “TIFA cannot do these projects without the support of the city doing the paving, which it basically has in its long-term plan, and associated underground sewers.”

If the city plays along and the state antes a \$1 million grant, TIFA must pony up the nearly \$2 million balance for the Charlevoix project — Kercheval being aside for now.

“In a couple years, we’ll

have about that in our fund and we can pull funds for a project in the future,” Hughes said.

TIFA’s current annual receipts are around \$1.2 million, of which \$300,000 is committed each year to repaying a bond that funded construction of the public works headquarters and garage on Mack Avenue at Maryland.

Members of the TIFA board don’t want enthusiasm to override their caution.

“If the city says no and we don’t get any grants, are we prepared to borrow \$2 million in the worst-case scenario?” member Joe Tomkins asked.

One option is issuing another bond.

“I’m not saying that’s something we should do, but it is a tool we have available to us,” Hughes said.

The only city money risked so far is the \$45,050 OHM contract for prelimi-

nary designs.

“If we don’t feel comfortable putting us at risk for that (\$2 million) amount, we can turn around and say we’re \$50,000 into the design and we’re done,” said member Arthur Mullen, an urban planner. “We all know, the streetscape has to be done at some point. The risk isn’t the \$2 million. The risk is the design for having a shovel-ready product that we can throw at grant agencies.”

Funding availability will be confirmed before anything is done other than no- or low-cost tweaking of OHM’s concepts.

“I don’t want to spend money on these if they’re not locked and loaded,” Hughes said.

Meanwhile, city officials and their advisors are seeking other funding sources.

“Throughout this process, we’re looking at other grants and to close

the gap through bonds,” said Warren Rothe, TIFA director and assistant city manager.

“Through my work I’m aware of a program to assist communities identifying other sources,” Mullen said. “Over the next two years, we’re hopeful we might be able to pull in another \$1 million in grants. But I encourage us to continue looking for funding. The state is flush right now. There are a fair amount of grant opportunities; the federal government, through the infrastructure program as well. We could generate additional funding, which may lessen the city’s contribution and the TIFAs.”

If the city is denied a state grant in February, it can reapply in October.

“We can continue to apply to these programs again and again to see how we score,” Rothe said.

“This is a big project,” Hughes said.

The TIFA budget for next fiscal year will be decided in the next two or three months.

## Walkability is key to Charlevoix, Kercheval streetscape ideas

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The latest discussions of new streetscape concepts for two of the city’s business districts remain focused on increased walkability and environmentally accountable infrastructure.

Designs for lower Charlevoix and Kercheval feature things to make the roads serve “people” rather than exist in the traditional role of motor vehicle thoroughfares.

Ideas include creating spaces for people to gather and interact, employing streetscapes as design elements unique to the city and to facilitate the districts being more vibrant magnets for commercial investment.

Proposals for both districts feature:

◆ narrower roads,

intended to slow traffic; ◆ wider sidewalks with crosswalk bump-outs at intersections to make it easier and safer to cross the road, as in The Village district in the City of Grosse Pointe;

◆ curbless roads, which promote flexibility for outdoor dining in empty roadside parking bays and effectively widen the sidewalk when no vehicles are parked at the side of the road;

◆ increased greenery and decorative pavements for beautification and to buffer curb lines;

◆ bicycle racks, better lighting, pocket parks, wayfinding signs and decorative pavement and

◆ on Kercheval, modifying the roundabout at the intersection of Wayburn to allow access by larger vehicles.

Estimated costs of the projects are, for

Charlevoix, \$3.8 million; for Kercheval, \$3.9 million.

“Both districts as a whole have a lot of really popular things going for them from an urban development perspective,” said Alex Blehm, a project manager at OHM Advisors, the city’s engineering consultant and separately contracted streetscape project designer.

Removing curbs on Charlevoix will “provide flexibility in the use of the space,” Blehm said, “whether closing it off for street events or a business being able to take advantage of parking areas in front for sidewalk dining.”

Blehm said the strategy for Kercheval is to “double down on what Kercheval already has — beautiful trees and greenery to fill gaps where trees might be missing, update the side-

walk pavement — all this to reinforce Kercheval as the crown jewel of a destination.”

For that reason and more, Charlevoix has priority. Kercheval is on the back burner.

Community engagement began last June with ideas by the Tax Increment Finance Authority to improve the districts.

One month later, OHM Advisors significantly underbid competitors for a contract to provide conceptual designs and a funding strategy reliant partly on federal or state grants.

Concepts presented to the TIFA board in October were adjusted for a follow-up discussion Dec. 7, during which the board unanimously approved seeking a \$1 million Transportation Alternatives Program

(TAP) grant administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

TIFA Chairman John Hughes anticipates more fine-tuning of the design as funding realities and engineering needs enter sharper focus.

“There are a lot of variables relative to the streetscape project — the project itself, potential grants and funding,” Hughes said. “Over time we’re going to try to nail those things down one by one and then make a decision — Can we do this? Should we do it? — and go from there.”

If funding and everything else goes well, construction on Charlevoix starts in 2026.

“We’re at the place now where we can keep pushing forward and try to get ourselves in a position to

apply for grants,” Hughes said.

The next step is applying for TAP funds before the February deadline.

“The notice for (receiving) an award for this program is July or August of 2024,” said Warren Rothe, TIFA director and assistant city manager.

TIFA is funded by capturing future anticipated increases in tax revenue generated within the TIFA district that otherwise would go to the county and state.

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

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 17, 2024

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

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

#### MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held January 3, 2024 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Library Board meeting held on November 16, 2023.
- 2) that the Regular City Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 be cancelled.
- 3) To adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing a legal opinion.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 129103 through 129194 in the amount of \$759,554.15 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment in the amount of \$55,950.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks and replacement of lead service lines at various residential locations. (3) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$50,994.12 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of December 2023.
- (4). approve payment to the City of Grosse Pointe Farms in the amount of \$7,963.08 for Harper Woods’ proportionate share of the Inter-municipal Radio System for the period July 1 through December 31, 2023. (5) approve payment to Michigan Municipal League in the amount of \$9,993.00 for the cybersecurity coverage premium. (6) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$7,990.07 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of December and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of video adapters and keyboards. (7) . approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$27,176.07 for professional services during the month of December for the following projects: Danbury Lane, #180-281; Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-253; Beaconsfield Crossing, #180-266; Eastland Center Redev. #180-244; 2022 and 2023 Concrete Repair, #180-283 and #180-315; Harper/VanAntwerp Dev. #180-313; Kelly Road Corridor, #180-322; San. Sewer FCIPP Pgm, #180-316; Storm Sewer Repair, #180-314; City Hall Generator, #180-291; San Sewer Cleaning, #180-317; Temp. Water Operator, #180-303; Standard Detail Update, #180-300; Miss Dig, #180-255 and FDCVT Grant app, #180-332.
- 2) to approve payment to Doetsch Environmental Services in the amount of \$78,088.00 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the 2023 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning & CCTV Investigation, #180-317.
- 3) to approve the service agreement between the City of Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society and further authorize the Director of Public Safety and the acting City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 4) to approve the agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Medstar Ambulance for Mobile Health Services pertaining to the collection of blood for law enforcement purposes, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 5) to approve the second and final payment to City Insight in the amount of \$22,500.00 for the additional services that are featured on our water app and further to approve the annual licensing fee in the amount of \$15,600 for the water app, for a total of \$38,100.00.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, February 1, 2024

## PIRATES:

Continued from page 5A

a car chase prompted by a resident reporting a package being stolen in the 1000 block of Somerset.

Park police deployed stop sticks to deflate the tires of the fleeing suspects’ vehicle in Detroit past St. Jean.

“Packages from several Grosse Pointe Park resi-

dents were located inside the vehicle,” a detective said.

“In the back seat were 20 to 25 packages from those seven homes,” Bostock said. “We’re in the process of compiling all of that evidence.”

The suspects are a 15-year-old male driver and a 17-year-old female. Both are Detroit residents.

Such arrests are exceptions. Less than 10 per-

cent of package thieves are arrested, according to a survey conducted in 2020 by C+C Research posted on the website preventpackagetheft.com.

“We were able to get search warrants today for a couple of our suspects,” Bostock said the day of the arrests. “We did that two weeks ago. Since that time, it’s calmed down a little.”

— Brad Lindberg

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# GPPSS students heading to Europe

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Some five groups of foreign language students from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools will get a chance to put what they've learned into action during trips to various parts of Europe in the coming months.

First up are trips over spring break to Spain and France.

Mandy Grattan, a Spanish teacher at North, is taking 13 students, along with two chaperones plus herself, from both high schools to Portugal and Spain March 21 to 29.

"It's time to see the world outside of Grosse Pointe," she said. "With COVID we were stuck in place for so long that it's time to reintroduce this practice."

Students have to be in Level II or higher classes to go.

"We originally said Level III, but we had some really wonderful students in Level I last

year, so we opened it up," Grattan said. "We want them to at least have some familiarity with the language and have opportunities to use what they've learned."

This is Grattan's first time taking students to Europe.

"I've taken two groups to Puerto Rico and they were very memorable," she said. "It's a chance for students to open their eyes to what's out there."

Grattan hopes to continue such trips every few years, but perhaps next time somewhere a little less expensive than this trip's \$4,000 per person price tag.

"Somewhere like Costa Rica or the Dominican Republic would lower the cost a bit and hopefully allow more kids to go," she said. "There are 21 Spanish-speaking countries and they all have their own culture."

To help offset costs, the group has coordinated a fundraiser with Frontera Grill in Grosse Pointe Park Sunday,

Feb. 4. The restaurant will donate 10 percent of sales that day for people who bring in a coupon that can be obtained from students going on the trip.

The students also will eat dinner there that night so they can get to know each other. As a

*'It's time to see the world outside of Grosse Pointe. With COVID we were stuck in place for so long that it's time to reintroduce this practice.'*

MANDY GRATTAN  
Grosse Pointe North High School Spanish teacher

bookend, they'll finish their last day in Spain with a culinary lesson.

Also over spring break, Rachel Butler is taking a group of 20, including 13 Level II and above students from North, to France.

"We'll be seeing all the cool places," she laughed. "Unfortunately, we won't be able to see Notre Dame because it's still under construction." The group will, of

course, see the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and the Palace of Versailles.

Butler and Grattan both noted how the trips will be about more than just sightseeing. As students progress in foreign language classes, learning goes beyond the language to include art,

history and literature.

"Those are things they're also learning in other classes, so it's a great cross-curricular connection," Butler said. "They're learning and making great memories at the same time."

Butler said she also hopes to continue such trips every few years moving forward with a trip also costing \$4,000. That trip, as well, includes a cooking les-

son on the final day.

"Scheduling them every few years allows families to budget for it if they know to expect it," she said. "Or for the students to get part-time jobs."

Unlike the usual sightseeing trips, Suzi Sipos is taking 12 German students from North to Germany for two weeks for a cultural immersion experience.

"We're leaving June 23 for two weeks and will stay in Pfullendorf, in the southern part of the country," she said. "It's not a traveling type of tour."

The students have been paired with pen pals in Germany since last summer and will live with their host families.

"They'll go to school and give presentations about things like their favorite food or favorite sports team, all in German," Sipos added. "They've been exchanging social media posts and gifts with their pen pals all along."

Students must be at least Level III to attend.

"They have to really know the language," she added. "For example, I'll give them a list of things to buy for a picnic and they have to go into town and find everything on their own."

The German students, in turn, are expected to visit the Pointes toward the end of the 2024-25 school year to immerse themselves in English.

"I'd like to do this every two years so that every student who wants to gets to participate once," Sipos said. "We haven't been able to travel for a while because of COVID and they've really missed out."

With no need for hotel rooms or additional transportation, this comes in at the lowest cost of around \$3,000. Students also can earn assignment credit toward their final AP exam because the trip goes beyond sightseeing.

Shortly after this school year ends, Rebecca Petrilli will take a group of 29, including

See EUROPE, page 10A



Above, Maj. Amy Padesky, Michigan Air National Guard, flies a KC-135 Stratotanker, which refuels other military planes. Padesky talked with students about pursuing their interests, what it is like to refuel a plane and the personal experience that hooked her on flying. Right, Raphael Washington with the Wayne County Sheriff told students he wanted to be in the sheriff's office because he wanted to protect and serve people and that he was heavy into service.



Dana Wichman, an architect for the Gordie Howe Bridge being built downtown, talked about the building process and what an architect does in a project this size.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Career day

Friday, Jan. 19, Parcels Middle School hosted a student-professional conference-style career day for more than 650 students in grades 5 to 8.

More than 40 presenters shared their passions, professions and time throughout the morning. Each professional presented four 25-minute sessions, hosted by Parcels staff in 42 individual venues within the building.

Parcels students were able to select their top session choices in December and were matched with their interests.

Students embraced the morning, arriving dressed for success, prepared with questions and ready to engage.

Career day required a team effort to bring together multiple moving parts. Organizers thanked the visiting professionals, Parcels staff and PTO — who funded a speakers' breakfast — for their many hours of organization and execution.



COURTESY PHOTO

Parcels student, Aaron Holland with Sgt. Chad Gruenwald of the Michigan State Police Emergency Support Team.

Grosse Pointe News



**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

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

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Grosse Pointe News



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10A | SCHOOLS

# Grosse Pointe History Day Feb. 7

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — The Grosse Pointe Learning Collaborative will host Grosse Pointe History Day 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

The event is an educational program that encourages students to explore their community's history.

"We are proud to host Grosse Pointe History Day and to be a part of the Grosse Pointe Learning Collaborative," said Mark Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. "In addition to highlighting the rich history of the Grosse Pointes, this event demonstrates the importance and value of experiential learning opportunities for our students."

As part of Grosse Pointe History Day activities, students from University Liggett School, The Grosse Pointe Academy and the Grosse Pointe Public School System selected topics and performed extensive research by using libraries, archives, museums and oral history interviews. After analyzing and interpreting their findings, they developed final projects in one of five categories: documentary, exhibit,

paper, performance or website. Topics will include:

- ◆ Women's suffrage in Grosse Pointe;
- ◆ Holocaust survivors living in Michigan;
- ◆ French heritage in Grosse Pointe;
- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 speech at Grosse Pointe High School; and
- ◆ 9/11 connections in Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe History Day is presented as part of the Grosse Pointe Learning Collaborative. Founded in 2023, the collaborative brings together historical organizations, schools, civic and religious organizations, museums and other community assets to collaborate and build local learning experiences for learners of all ages. Through tours, featured exhibits, archival material, field trips and other programming, the community has access to both formal and informal learning experiences sharing Grosse Pointe's history and influence in the world.

The collaborative is a project of LocLore: Humanities Education through Place at Liggett. The Grosse Pointe Learning Collaborative is

funded by the Edward E. Ford Foundation and Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds. Liggett serves as the administrator and fiduciary of the collaborative.

Members and participants in the meetings and events of the collaborative include leadership, staff and teachers from Ford House, GPPSS, The War Memorial, Grosse Pointe Historical Society, Grosse Pointe Public Library, The Grosse Pointe Academy, Harper Woods Public Library and the Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission.

The Matilda R. Wilson Fund is the presenting sponsor for Grosse Pointe History Day. In addition to hosting, Ford House is the program book sponsor and an in-kind sponsor. The Grosse Pointe Academy and The War Memorial are gold sponsors, and Grosse Pointe News, Ron and Mary Lamparter and Meijer are silver sponsors. The Law Office of Alan Lowenthal is bronze sponsor and Liggett is an additional in-kind sponsor.

To learn more or to register for the event, visit [gplearns.org](http://gplearns.org).

# PRIDE OF THE POINTES

**Zoe Bessert** of Grosse Pointe Woods was named to the Dean's List for the 2023 fall semester at the University of Iowa.



**Meg Pangborn** of Grosse Pointe Woods graduated in December from the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.



**Cameron Kaess** of the City of Grosse Pointe was named to the fall semester President's List at College of Charleston. Kaess is majoring in chemistry.



**Andrew Hauswirth** of the City of Grosse Pointe was named to the fall semester Dean's List at College of Charleston. Hauswirth is majoring in marketing.



**Cassidy Kline** and **Allie Lowenthal** of Grosse Pointe Park and **Rebecca Moin** of Grosse Pointe Woods were named the fall 2023 Dean's



Cassidy Kline

List at the University of Alabama.



**Rachel Rybicki** of Grosse Pointe Park was named to the fall 2023 President's List at the University of Alabama.



**Sophie Crane** of the City of Grosse Pointe was named to the University of Mississippi's fall 2023 Honor Roll list.

## EUROPE:

Continued from page 9A

25 South students, to Germany. They leave June 18, arriving in Austria, with stops scheduled in Carolsburg, Munich, Heidelberg and Frankfurt, plus a dip into Switzerland, before returning June 28.

"This is open to all high school students in our German classes, regardless of their language level," Petrilli

said. "This isn't necessarily about the language as much as it is getting to experience the culture."

Of the many sights will be the Neuschwanstein Castle, built in 1869 and used as the model of the castle in Disney's 1950 "Cinderella." Cost is about \$4,000.

"It will be a great experience for the students because for some it might be their first time outside the country," Petrilli said. "It can be very eye-opening and a

good way to learn cultural empathy, to see how we're similar in some ways and different in others."

This will be Petrilli's first time taking South students to Germany, but not her first time with the experience.

"I did it in my previous district (Utica Community Schools), but it's my first here since starting in 2018," she said. "I'd like to do it every few years because there's so much there to

explore."

Finally, George Formicola is taking a group of 22, including 19 South students, to Italy for 10 days starting June 24.

"We'll start at the top and work our way down," he said. "There are a lot of tours available, but this one covers the most ground without being too overwhelming. We'll spend two days max at each stop."

The tour includes Venice, Florence, Assisi,

Pompeii, Sorrento and Rome. It also is available to any student taking Italian from eighth to 12th grade, regardless of level.

"The goal was to have a mix of big cities and small towns so they can see both sides of life," Formicola said. "We'll see all the typical places you think of, but in some places we might not encounter any English speakers."

Also at about \$4,000, the itinerary includes a

gondola ride in Venice, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel.

This is Formicola's first time taking students overseas, but not his first trip to Italy.

"Both sets of my grandparents are from Italy and came here in the 1950s," he said. "I go back every so often to visit extended family. Now I get to share that with my students. I'm excited to see their reaction."

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Sharron Nelson Corbin as Annabelle and Brent Chartier as Rodney. In “You Just Have No Idea,” Annabelle regrets ever going out with her loser boyfriend, but has trouble breaking it off with him.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARRON NELSON CORBIN

## Grosse Pointe Talent to perform ‘You Just Have No Idea’

Dinner theater shows are Feb. 9 & 10

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Following the success of last year’s “Red Hot Mamas,” Grosse Pointe Talent is returning with a new dinner theater performance, this time producing “You Just Have No Idea” — written by Michigan playwright Cecelia Reuter Lesner — at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9 and 10.

The shows take place on Grosse Pointe Congregational Church’s lower-level stage, which the church has dubbed Theatre in the Pointes. The church is located at 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. The Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver is the host.

“One reason I’m doing another show is because a lot of people who used to go to Broadway OnStage have been saying, ‘Thank you. We missed this,’” said Sharron Nelson Corbin, founder of Grosse Pointe Talent and a resident of Grosse Pointe Park.



Cecelia Lesner tells Emmajeane Evans that looks are most important.

Corbin also stars in the performance as Annabelle, whose therapist suggests she needs to listen to her inner voice to overcome low self-esteem.

“It’s a comedy about a person going to therapy who let herself go, physically and emotionally, and she’s not getting any better,” Corbin said. “The last session, her therapist tells her to listen to her inner voice — and her inner voice becomes real people.”

Among those voices — who don’t always get along — are Ben

Quiet Too Long, portrayed by St. Clair Shores resident Dennis Wickline, who tells her to “man up and be firm,” as well as Comfort Me, portrayed by City of Grosse Pointe resident Charly Davis, as her inner child who “cries a lot, but he’s a reminder that we have to nurture our inner child and practice self love,” Corbin said.

City resident Emmajeane Evans, also the show’s producer, plays Surely Love Yourself, sort of a fairy godmother, Corbin said.

“We learn from her there’s not one magic wand that will handle all our problems,” she added.

Lesner, of Macomb Township, also has a role



Dennis Wickline as Ben and Elizabeth Rager as Bea argue over who has helped Annabelle improve her self-confidence the most.

Brothers, ‘We’re getting the band back together.’”

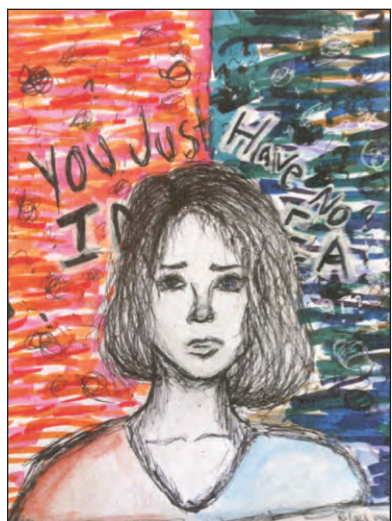
The production, directed by Janie Burkey of Grosse Pointe Woods, takes the stage thanks to the technical team of Don Corbin of Grosse Pointe Park, Michael Clyne of Grosse Pointe Farms and Wickline.

Walker Archer will handle lighting and sound, while hair and makeup will be covered by Mary Jo Gunter.

Each night kicks off with cocktails at 6 p.m. Dinner service begins at 6:30 p.m. The buffet, catered by Brian Brenner, aka Chef Abner, includes chicken piccata, rigatoni marinara, steamed broccoli, salad, dinner rolls and light sweets.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and

See IDEA, page 3B



Artwork promoting the show was created by Reland Moore, Emmajeane Evans’ granddaughter.

in the production, as Ima Real Beauty, who gives Annabelle a full makeover along the way.

Rounding out the cast are Hazel Park resident Elizabeth Rager as Joanne/Bea You and Harrison Township resident Brent Chartier as Rodney.

“He’s Annabelle’s loser boyfriend,” Corbin said. “He’s not in a good place either.”

The cast is largely made up of theater veterans, many of whom have taken the stage with Corbin for decades, through the now-defunct Broadway OnStage and other theater groups.

“We’re having a lot of fun,” she said. “It’s with people I know, that I’ve done shows with before. The only time we see each other is doing shows. Everybody’s having fun. It’s like the Blues



Emmajeane Evans, as Surely Love Yourself, comforts Charly Davis, portraying Annabelle’s inner child.

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2B | SENIOR LIVING



# Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

## Thank you, Eleanor

I never thought I would be an unapologetic admirer of Eleanor Roosevelt. My mother disliked her intensely. My parents, I should point out, were hard-core Republicans. Firmly rooted Republicans. They never wavered. Never.

I grew up in the '40s and '50s when Eleanor's activities were constantly reported in the newspapers that plopped on our porch twice a day and the magazines that were folded in half and pushed

through our front door mail slot: The Detroit News, The Detroit Free Press, Time, Life, The Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, Ladies' Home Journal, McCalls.

This was pre-television. People read the news.

In the 1950s, you couldn't ignore Eleanor. She was IN YOUR FACE constantly. Her nationally syndicated newspaper column, "My Day," which she wrote herself, ran from 1935 until 1962, nearly 30 years. My mother hated that column because of its tone

of superiority.

So much about Eleanor begged to be mocked, parodied and criticized. She had a high-pitched sing-song upper-crusty voice that was annoying, sometimes patronizing. And — dare I point this out? — she was not attractive. Physical beauty doesn't have anything to do with inner beauty. A face — whether gorgeous or ugly — shouldn't be used to judge one's worth. But I'm afraid it often was.

When I look at photos of Eleanor, I wish some-

one had given her advice about clothes and makeup and hair. In today's political climate, she would have employed a stylist. She gave a lot of speaking engagements and lectures to women's organizations where she was decked out in long, droopy, flower-bedecked, 1940s luncheon-lady dresses. Her hair was coiled haphazardly and pinned without thinking someplace on the back or the side of her head. The floppy overpowering hats she favored were apparently popular at the time, but most of them didn't flatter her. She was nearly always swathed from shoulder to hip with some kind of overblown,

oversized corsage — probably a well-intentioned "welcome" from the club or organization she was about to address. Those corsages were huge and unwieldy.

And — I must mention the elephants in the room — Eleanor's teeth. I know orthodontia was available when Eleanor was a teenager because my mother, who was born about the same time, had her teeth straightened via orthodontia when she was growing up in the early part of the last century. Surely Eleanor's privileged family could afford orthodontics. I've seen photographs of her when she was a young girl and she was quite pretty in a reserved, shy manner. Her mouth was always closed. A shy smile, perhaps, but no teeth showing.

An auto accident in 1946 broke off those offending front teeth. They were replaced and she claimed to be pleased

with the results. She did look much better. But she still needed a stylist.

So sad because she was a woman who overcame obstacle after obstacle and became a champion for civil rights, women's rights, the rights of the underserved, the poor and the disadvantaged.

When I visited the Roosevelts' home in Hyde Park, N.Y., I zeroed in on a quote attributed to Eleanor: "Do something scary every day." By scary, she meant things like try something new; make a new friend; make a long-overdue apology; ask for help.

I recently discovered the quote is not accurate. Her actual words were: "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face."

I'll stick with "Do something scary every day." I'm trying to follow her advice.

## A busy February at The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs throughout the year. The month of February is no different.

From a Valentine's Day luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, sponsored by Home Instead and Teri Jordan, to "The Roots of the Church: Exploring the Early Church Fathers," at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, with the Rev. Andrew Smith of St. Paul on the

Lake Catholic Church, there's plenty to be discovered at The Helm.

Among the month's highlights are:

### Just a conversation between women

Conversation plus information equals empowerment. That's the idea behind the new Women's Wellness Group at The Helm.

For four Thursdays in February and March, women are invited to gather with other women and openly dis-

cuss topics around health and wellness, particularly relating to lifestyle changes to make aging easier.

"Studies show that behavioral changes are effective when you have a group setting," said Gray Jessiman, nutrition educator. "So when people are trying to make changes around nutrition, better sleep, relationship issues, areas they want to improve upon, it helps to be in a group setting."

Jessiman is a social

work candidate at Wayne State University and current social work intern at The Helm. She plans to open each session with a topic such as health and nutrition, brain health, stress and anxiety. She'll provide some background information and let the group conversation flow from there.

"This isn't a quick-fix situation, but rather an understanding of where we are currently, being comfortable with that, but working to an ulti-



mate goal with the support of others," she said. "I want everyone to feel like Wonder Woman — as they are and as they progress."

The Women's Wellness Group will meet from 9 to 9:50 a.m. Thursdays, Feb. 8 and 22, and March 7 and 21.

### Create your own piece of Detroit history

Guests may channel their inner Mary Chase Perry Stratton and create their own piece of Detroit history. The Pewabic Street Team will be at

See HELM, page 3B

## The Lost Village of Fairview

A recent query from an anthropology professor at Michigan Technological University uncovered some interesting materials at Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS)! The Village of Fairview once encompassed what is now Grosse Pointe Park and part of Detroit's east side. It was bounded by Bewick to Cadieux and Mack to Lake St. Clair/Detroit River. It included the Detroit Jockey Club and the Detroit Driving Club — also known as the Grosse Pointe Track — which was the site of Henry Ford's first auto race on Oct. 1, 1901.



Village of Fairview political candidates, 1905.



The Fox Creek House, c. 1890. Located at Alter Road and East Jefferson in the Village of Fairview, now part of Grosse Pointe Park. John Garska's saloon was a favorite stop for travelers on their way to and from the Pointes. Prohibition closed the establishment in 1918. The Garska family later donated the land behind the building to St. Ambrose parish, founded in 1916. Photograph courtesy of the Garska Family Archives.



**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

The hub for history in the Grosse Pointes

375 Kercheval Ave.  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
development@gphistorical.org  
(313) 884-7010

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has thousands of resources about the history of the Pointes and adjacent communities. Visit our web site at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to find out more.



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# Longtime scoutmaster nears retirement, honored for service

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Adam Prokop was very much into playing sports in his youth. The Grosse Pointe South High School grad loved athletics as a teen and thought his sons would follow in his footsteps.

"I thought the thing to do when they came of age was get them into sports," he said.

After a few failed attempts — "He hated sports," Prokop said — he suggested his oldest give Cub Scouts a try.

"He loved it. He liked the outdoors and the concept of scouting.

"I didn't know about it," he continued, "but I'm the type of dad who just gets involved. If it wasn't this, it would be hockey, soccer, Little League."

Thus started Prokop's nearly two decades of volunteering for the scouts. A corporate software salesman by day, Prokop believes when parents get involved with their children's activities, the children are more successful.

"So I got involved," he said. "Originally I was cubmaster of Pack 85 at Monteith, where my kids went to school. And I also made a lot of friends.

"You have friends grow-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADAM PROKOP

From left, Scoutmaster Adam Prokop, Parker Josephs, Sean O'Connell, Paul Kaminski, Charles Logan, Brian Thompson, Anthony Kaminski, Sen. Gary Peters and Alex Cline. Sen. Peters was a guest speaker at a Troop 96 meeting.

ing up, but (through scouts), your kids are the same age, you're relatively the same age, you live in the same neighborhood. It's easy to build new friendships. That was one of the motivating factors. You go to these meetings and your friends are there. I still have friends I met 17 years ago; we spend a lot of time together."

As his sons progressed through Cub Scouts and became Boy Scouts, Prokop followed their path. He got involved with Boy Scout Troop 96, based at Grosse Pointe

Memorial Church, 12 years ago and became the troop's scoutmaster seven years ago.

"The Boy Scout troop at Memorial Church is one of the oldest in Michigan," Prokop said. "It was established in 1932 and is 92 years old. It's also one of the largest and most successful Boy Scout troops in Michigan."

In addition to serving as cubmaster and scoutmaster, Prokop served on the board of directors for the Michigan Crossroads Council, which represents all scouts throughout Michigan.

To honor his years of service, Prokop, a St. Clair Shores resident, recently was awarded a Community Service Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution Louisa St. Clair chapter. DAR and Troop 96 have partnered for years to conduct flag-retirement ceremonies.

He received the honor during a ceremony Dec. 11.

While he thanked Louisa St. Clair Treasurer Deann Newman and her husband, Kurt Newman, who is involved with the troop, for selecting him for the award, he said he's not motivated by accolades, nor is it a one-man

show.

"It's not just me," he said. "A lot of really great people helped along the way. It's not a single-man thing; it's run as a team.

"... I never wanted to make it about the adults; it's about the kids," he added. "The focus should be on the kids."

Prokop estimated thousands of young men have progressed through Troop 96 since its inception. Since 2000, the troop has produced nearly 100 Eagle Scouts — the highest rank attainable in the organization.

"They're not only doing it for self, but they're producing community service," Prokop said. "To make Eagle Scout, they have to do a community project.

"... It takes an estimated 1,000 hours to reach Eagle Scout," he added. "On average, 5 percent (of Boy Scouts) make Eagle Scout, but in our troop it's more like 20 percent."

Currently, there are 40 members in Troop 96, lower than in recent years, which Prokop attributes to additional activities being available these days. Those who do join scouts, he noted, typically age out of the organization as very well-rounded men and "rarely just doing Boy Scouts."

His sons, for example, are competitive sailors and part of the National Honor Society. Teddy, 22 and a student at Michigan State University, is an Eagle Scout. George, a senior at North, is about to earn Eagle Scout status.

Prokop said he's committed to his last months as scoutmaster due to his drive to stay involved with George, who will leave for college next fall. Prokop officially retires from Troop 96 in June — a fellow father is taking over the post — and is looking forward to his final four campouts with the troop, especially the last one: white-water rafting in West Virginia.

While he's ready to hand over the reins, he said he'll miss the experiences, as well as spending so much time with his friends.

"I might still help in a little way, but it was time to step back and let someone else lead," he said.

"When I think about all the kids I've been able to help, drive or guide through their scouts career, it's really cool," he added. "... This is a leadership program for young men. There aren't many opportunities to be in a leadership role like this. We meet every Monday; the guys are doing this every single week. It's scout-led. They decide where to go for a campout, what they'll eat, what activities to do. The adults are only there to guide them and make sure they're safe."

Prokop encouraged parents to involve their children in Boy Scouts, which is for sixth through 12th graders.

"It toughens kids up," he said. "During campouts, they cook for themselves, clean up after themselves, set up their tent, take down their tent, clean the area. They manage it as a team; the adults are not out there barking orders. A senior patrol leader is elected by fellow scouts; he leads it. It's a great opportunity to learn leadership, learn what works and what doesn't work."

Being along for the ride was more than Prokop bargained for.

"I didn't anticipate when I got involved I'd really guide these young men to their personal goals," he said. "I've had a really good run here with this. I've really enjoyed it."



From left, George Prokop (GPN Class of 2024), Adam Prokop, Anne Prokop and Teddy Prokop (GPN Class of 2019 and Eagle Scout).

## HELM:

Continued from page 2B

The Helm 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, to teach participants to glaze a tile using the same techniques as Pewabic production staff.

Guests will choose one of several tile designs and glaze it. The street team will take the tiles and process them through its kiln at its National Historic Landmark studio on East Jefferson in Detroit. Tiles will be returned to The Helm a few weeks later for pickup.

The cost to create this one-of-a-kind pottery is \$60 for members and \$65 for future members. Registration is required.

### Taking care of one's health

Two upcoming programs at The Helm make it easy to take care of one's health.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, if not properly managed, can lead to heart disease and/or stroke. Beginning 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16, Corewell Health will conduct an eight-week workshop on understanding high blood pressure and ways to manage it, including stress reduction, nutrition and physical activity. The workshop meets at The Helm.

Also at The Helm, learn about vascular health from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12. Keeping blood flowing and circulating is one important part of staying healthy. Henry Ford Health vascular sur-



ways to maintain vascular health.

These programs are open to anyone and there is no charge to attend either, but registration is required.

Other programming highlights this month at The Helm include a presentation about elder law from 11 a.m. to noon Monday, Feb. 5, with attorney Robert Lubera; "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease," at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, with Treena Horton of the Alzheimer's Association; and Crafting with Linda at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28. For the latter program, Linda Tocco will teach spring banner making for just \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers.

Registration is required for all programs at The Helm. To register, visit [helmlife.org](http://helmlife.org) or call (313) 882-9600.

geon Tamer Boules, M.D., will explain common age-related vascular changes and conditions and



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARRON NELSON CORBIN

From left, Cecelia Lesner, Dennis Wickline and Emmajean Evans cook up drama while arguing about Annabelle's progress.

## IDEA:

Continued from page 1B

runs roughly two hours, including a 15-minute intermission.

This will be the third time "You Just Have No Idea" is performed, its first two shows presented by Broadway OnStage and The Players; however, this marks the playwright's first time appearing in the production.

"I want to keep doing comedy, because America needs to laugh," Corbin said. "There are a lot of serious things going on. We need a night out to laugh. With a comedy, it lets people chill out and laugh. There's no politics, no wars, no things that divide us."

Tickets are \$55 and

available in advance online at [our.show/you-just-have-no-idea2024](http://our.show/you-just-have-no-idea2024) or via QR code. GPCC's Theatre in the Pointes can accommodate 150 per night.

"There might be a couple tickets at the door, but we need to know how much food to have," Corbin said, noting advanced registration is preferred.

For more information, email [gptalent48230@gmail.com](mailto:gptalent48230@gmail.com) or call (313) 580-5987.





## 4B | OBITUARIES &amp; CHURCHES

# 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.

## John Joseph Glei

John Joseph Glei, 81, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024.

John was a 1960 graduate of Austin High School and a 1964 graduate of John Carroll University. A retired lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, John served in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, then received a master's degree in teaching from Wayne State University and taught at Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods.

John continued his public service to the community as an auxiliary public safety officer for the city of Grosse Pointe Woods for 20 years. Once retired to Richmond, John volunteered his time at the Macomb County Deputy Sheriff's Marine Division for another 15 years.

John was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing with a multitude of friends and relatives.

John left behind the love of his life of 54 years, Margaret; and his sister, Gretchen Cousino. He was the proud father of John Ruther (Kristin), Paul Glei (Leanne) and Sandra McKenzie (David). He adored his grandchildren, Lauren Daigle (Aaron), James Ruther (Leah), Peter Ruther (Kelly), Nolan, August, Sean, Ian, Weston and Amelia; and

great-grandchildren, Levi, Lyla, Aileigh, Rose, June and Grace.

Visitation takes place 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. until a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 2, at National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, 2100 12 Mile, Royal Oak.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to the CYO Camp restoration, aodgiving.org, with "In memory of John Glei" in the comment section.

## Leonard W. Smith

Leonard Wheeler Smith, 89, passed away Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, at home in Grosse Pointe.

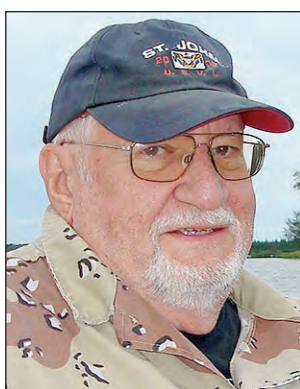
Leonard was born April 18, 1934, in Detroit. He grew up in Grosse Pointe before attending the Taft School in Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University, where he made lifelong friends, then earned a law degree from the University of Michigan, where he met his wife, Nancy. Leonard was involved in philanthropy most of his career, initially transitioning from practicing law at Clark Hill to becoming president and chairman of the Skillman Foundation in 1983. He was a member of the Country Club of Detroit,

Detroit Athletic Club and The Yondotega Club.

Leonard was a knowledgeable and respected foundation leader, dedicated steward and mentor to many over his career. Under his stewardship, the Skillman Foundation's endowment grew significantly. During his time with the Flinn Foundation, he developed a more collaborative relationship between philanthropy and state government that led to significant improvements in mental health delivery and treatment in Michigan. Leonard served as trustee and chairman of the Council of Michigan Foundations and was a board member for numerous foundations in the Detroit area.

An avid sportsman, Leonard played tennis, hockey and golf throughout his life and enjoyed inter-club squash at the University Club, where he also served as president. He coached youth hockey for several years at the Grosse Pointe Hockey Association, where he was known as "Coach Smitty," before going on to lead the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association.

For Leonard, skiing was a way to bring family together. He and Nancy raised their children on the slopes of the Otsego Ski Club in Gaylord and later spent family vaca-



John Joseph Glei



Leonard W. Smith



Rosemary McNair

tions skiing together in Park City, Utah. He was a fan of all Detroit sports teams and a longtime season ticket holder with the Red Wings and University of Michigan football, where he tailgated with Nancy's two brothers and their families.

Leonard and his family spent time together at the Wheeler-Smith family cottage on Higgins Lake, where they enjoyed lively conversation on the front porch and around the fire. Higgins Lake was a place to gather every summer with extended family, including Nancy's family.

His parents were Hal H. Smith Jr., and Margaret Wheeler Smith. Leonard was predeceased by his son, Thompson L. Smith. He is survived by his spouse, Nancy R. Smith; daughters, Deborah Smith (Jason Jones), Susan Smith Geraghty (Vincent) and Elizabeth Smith. His grandchildren are Walter Geraghty, Thompson Geraghty, Margaret Geraghty and Christian Smith.

A remembrance reception will be held 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the East Side Youth Sports Foundation (formerly Grosse Pointe Hockey Association), esysf.com/make-a-donation/; Thompson L. Smith Book Fund at the Taft School, 110 Woodbury Rd., Watertown, CT 06795, <https://www.taftschoo.org/giving/make-a-gift>; or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Rosemary Chesbrough McNair

Rosemary Chesbrough McNair, 87, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024. Rosie was born Feb. 14, 1936, to William and Helen Rosemary Chesbrough. She was the youngest of the Grosse Pointe Chesbrough clan. She went to Country Day School and then attended Wheaton College in Massachusetts before transferring to the University of Michigan.

Rosie married Russell Arthur McNair Jr., also from Grosse Pointe, in 1957. They lived in Ann Arbor the first few years of marriage, where she worked while he finished law school. They then moved to Grosse Pointe where they raised their

three children.

Rosie was an engaged member of Sigma Gamma, Junior League of Detroit and National Society of Colonial Dames. She loved all sports and was always a competitive player in tennis, paddle tennis and golf. She also was an avid bridge player and loved all manner of card games. She loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rosemary was predeceased by her youngest child, Douglas S. McNair; and brothers, William Chesbrough and Richard Chesbrough. She is survived by her husband, Russell A. McNair Jr.; sister, Helen Elizabeth "Betsy" Maitland; children, Julie McNair Schwerin (Michael F.) and Russell A. McNair III (Jennifer Kohnen); grandchildren, Monica S. Tessler, Natalie S. Roth, Michael "Mac" M. Schwerin, Peter K. Schwerin, Eloise J. McNair, Charlotte C. McNair and Russell "Webber" W. McNair; and six great-grandchildren.

Rosemary will be deeply missed by all who knew her. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## AREA ACTIVITIES

### The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents Dueling Pianos: Dinner and Concert with pianists Cliff Monear and Pierre Fracalanza, at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2. Tickets are \$85 general admission, \$75 for military members and veterans. Concert-only tickets are \$47.50. Group rates are available. Register at [warmemorial.org](http://warmemorial.org).

The War Memorial presents a Disability Law Group veteran benefits seminar from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8. Lunch is included with

this free seminar. Register at [warmemorial.org](http://warmemorial.org).

The War Memorial presents Dancing Through the Decades: Winter Sweetheart's Dance, from 8 to 11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. Standard tickets are \$50; VIP tickets are \$75. Register at [warmemorial.org](http://warmemorial.org).

### 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](http://grossepointeartcenter.org).

[grossepointeartcenter.org](http://grossepointeartcenter.org).

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

◆ Watercolor Workshop with Nancy Philo: Painting in the style of Andrew Wyeth, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4.

◆ Landscapes in the Style of Claude Monet with Donald Cronkrite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 8, 15 and 22.

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

### The Family Center

The Family Center presents QPR Suicide

Prevention Training, 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@familycenterhelps.org](mailto:maryjo@familycenterhelps.org).

### Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. The speaker is

Steve Tengler, founder of the SET Educational Fund, which provides scholarships to Michigan residents attending Michigan colleges who excel scholastically while volunteering to help others. Email [grossepointerotary@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointerotary@gmail.com).

### Questers

Pettipointe Questers No. 243 meets Thursday, Feb. 8, at member Carolyn Barth's house in St. Clair Shores. She will give a history of candlewick glass, made in Ohio by Imperial Glass, a company founded in 1904. Kay VanDeGraff will talk about antique stick pins, which are long, straight pins with decorative tops originally used to secure a tie or scarf, but now

mostly used as lapel decorations. A light lunch will be served.

### Tuesday Musicales

Tuesday Musicales of Detroit presents "Tragico, Drammatico, Serioso and Buffo Opera," at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. This free concert features mezzo-soprano Dorothy Duensing, soprano Bonnie L. Brooks, baritone Dan Mihaescu, tenor Jinsheng Zhang and soprano Olga Yalovenko, as well as eurythmist Claudia Fontana on cello and piano. Additionally, soprano Melanie Spector, recipient of the Dina Soresi Winter Voice Award, will perform.

# 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](http://stambrosechurch.net) • [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparish)  
☞ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church**  
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February 4 ~ Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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[stmichaelsgpw.org](http://stmichaelsgpw.org)

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[www.christthekinggp.org](http://www.christthekinggp.org)

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

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

**Randy S. Boelter, Pastor**  
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**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 | 8C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 10C & 11C COMICS



COURTESY PHOTO

**"A Garden of Hopes,"** acrylic on canvas by Ashley Menth. Using dried acrylic skins from prior paintings to depict a bouquet of flowers, Menth conveys a self-portrait showing an artist's intent to offer hope through artwork to a world that would be a desert without it.

## DEAR JEFF AND DEBRA

# Why family recovery?

**Q: My brother is in treatment for addiction and it's about time. He's been erratic with his wife and children for years (to put it mildly) and he's only barely held onto his job. I don't live in the area anymore and I haven't been affected by his addiction. Now, I'm being told I should participate in some kind of family recovery. Why should I?**

**A:** We hear this question a lot. Parents, spouses, siblings and friends get fed up with cycles of addiction and relapse. They've had to make excuses, lend money, manage crises and flat-out lie to protect their loved one. It has been exhausting. Then, when the addicted loved one finally gets into treatment, the professionals expect more.

We're glad your brother is in treatment, but that's only the beginning of the process. Let's be honest, we've all heard stories about people relapsing right after treatment. Some even drink on the way home. Treatment is not a cure, it's a launching pad. And during this process, there's a great deal of friends and family can do to reduce the chance of relapse.

Because addiction can't be cured, the most we can do is put it in remission — and keep it there. Imagine another chronic illness, like Type 1 diabetes. Imagine a young person who's just gotten this diagnosis and they not only have to take medication and monitor their blood sugar, but they must drastically change their diet. Will they do better or worse with the support of the other family members in the home? The answer is obvious. If everyone is still eating cookies and

ice cream after dinner, it's going to be impossible for the young person to follow their diet. Family support means everything.

When it comes to addiction, friends and family don't have to give up drinking. But they can provide a powerful barrier against relapse if they begin working their own program of recovery. In this way, they provide a positive example for their loved one and demonstrate by their actions what words alone can't express. By learning the language of 12-Step recovery and practicing their own program in Al-Anon, they can create a home for recovery in their own home.

All good treatment programs include a family component. In a residential facility, these family programs are usually several days long. When the most important people can attend the family program, it really helps. But these programs are only launching pads, too. In order to keep the momentum going, most clinicians will recommend Structured Family Recovery, Al-Anon, Nar-Anon and similar programs.

It's natural to think that since you live far away, you haven't been directly affected by your brother's alcoholism. Yet your signature, "Sister who's sick of it," tells a different story. If you're like most people, you've been worried, angry and resentful at what your brother has put your family through. It's normal to have experienced an ongoing storm of emotions that has probably gone on for years. Yes, there may have been times of respite and you also have your own busy life. But it's likely your brother's addiction has

taken a toll and it may have also affected some of the other relationships in your life.

Imagine how your brother might feel when he learns his closest family members are all starting to practice their own program of recovery. Imagine his surprise when you tell him you're not only going to Al-Anon, but you've gotten your own Al-Anon sponsor. He'll be amazed. What's more, when he realizes you're all following the clinical recommendations, it will make it more likely that he'll follow them as well.

And that's what we all want. To keep a chronic illness in remission, everyone must follow the directions. For the family, that means Al-Anon and for the alcoholic, that means Alcoholics Anonymous. These programs have proven again and again to be the optimum path for the vast majority of people. For more information on family recovery, you can read or listen to this article on our website: [lovefirst.net/awakening-the-family/](http://lovefirst.net/awakening-the-family/)

But here's a little secret. After people get involved in these groups — often with a sense of trepidation — they often find out that they love them. Don't be surprised if your initial apprehension and avoidance turns into enthusiastic recovery.

*Jeff and Debra Jay have helped families face addiction more than 30 years. They are the authors of "Love First: a family's guide to intervention," 3rd edition (Hazelden, 2021). They are professional interventionists who live in Grosse Pointe Farms. Contact them with questions at (313) 882-6921 or [lovefirst.net](http://lovefirst.net).*

# 'As I See' exhibition runs through Feb. 29

The Carr Center recently announced the art exhibition "As I See." It is the third and final "As I See" exhibit in which artists were asked to create art with an introspective theme about how they interpret new beginnings.

Robert O'Banner juried 12 diverse artistic voices that promise to captivate art enthusiasts and collectors alike. The showcase runs through Thursday, Feb. 29.

The show explores various mediums, styles and themes. From evocative paintings to abstract, each piece tells a unique story and invites viewers to connect with the rich tapestry of the human expression.

"Having the chance to see so many great works and accept them into the show has been an absolute honor," O'Banner said. "These artists, from all different walks of life, all united by our unique creativity and the period of our lives that we inhabit. We've seen a lot

and the experiences of growing up in the time we did has influenced our art, for a take on things that's both tied to the ways of old, yet infused with insight from a rapidly changing world."

Participating artists include Grosse Pointe Woods resident Ashley Menth, along with Chanel Beebe, Jozie Bullard, Marta Carvajal, Megan Dardis, Stephanie Fazekas, Diamante Lavendar, Jennifer Maples, William Matthews, La Tina Renee, Robert O'Banner and DeMarcus Smith.

"As I See: A Celebration of New Beginnings" is featured at the Carr Center, 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. A closing reception takes place 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28. Admission is free.

For more information about the exhibition, including artist profiles and a sneak peek at some of the featured artworks, visit [thecarrcenter.org](http://thecarrcenter.org).

# Garden Center lecture planned

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center is hosting its third annual Legacy Seminar, "Learning Native Plant Cultures," from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, in the community room of the Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Two experienced horticulturists, husband-and-wife team Roy Diblik and Annamaria Leon, are the featured presenters. Diblik is an inter-

nationally respected plantsman and grower for Piet Oudolf and author of "The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden." His presentation is titled, "Becoming the Cultural Gardener."

Leon is a certified permaculture designer and teacher, experienced nursery manager and urban garden advocate. She will present "Permaculture and Beyond."

Visit [gpgardencentre.org](http://gpgardencentre.org) for more information and to register.

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# Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

## Dealing with stubborn educators

**Dear Gabby:** My child's teacher is absolutely impossible.

She won't work with my child on improving grades when asked, won't let her redo assignments, and just generally won't budge on anything we ask about.

Is there a way to get in better with this teacher that I'm not considering?

— Nearly Flunking in the Farms

**Dear Nearly Flunking,**

The teacher has the final say on grades and how they decide which grade to give.

As you may know, some teachers are more flexible than others, just like future bosses and coworkers your child will encounter in the real world. Try to accept this and move on.

Have your child study harder on the first go-around on tests.

Consider a tutor if the teacher isn't willing to give extra help.

Be sure to attend parent-teacher conferences, and if warranted, set up additional time for you or your child with the teacher so you can understand where the issues lie and your child can move on to what's important — actually learning the material.

It should be about figuring out the problem before it's too late and the grades are in.

All in all, be sure to give the teacher a nice gift at the end of the year and hope for the best.

If all of this seems too much, remember not to lose much sleep over this.

In the wise words of Princess Elsa from Frozen, "Let it go"...

— Gabby

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



## Staying healthy and saving time

**DEAR ANNIE:** I'm knee-deep in a demanding job, and I absolutely love it. The problem is, I can tell my health is slipping. I'm not getting a lot of sleep, I rarely have time to hit the gym, and my meals usually consist of fast or frozen food due to time constraints.

My body is starting to feel the consequences, and I want to feel good again without sacrificing too much time. Any tips? — **HEALTHY HACKS SEEKER**

**DEAR HEALTHY HACKS:** If you don't take care of yourself, you'll burn out, and your body won't let you continue doing that demanding job you love so much.

There are a few ways to stay healthy without sacrificing convenience:

- Take some time every weekend to meal prep your food for the week. This doesn't have to be time-intensive; just throw a bunch of veggies in the oven, or cook a few chicken breasts. That way, you won't resort to fast food when you're in a pinch.

- Go on walks. Even if you don't have time for a full hour in the gym, squeezing in a couple of 10-minute walks per day can

make a huge difference.

- Prioritize sleep. You'll be far more productive and efficient during your working hours if you make sleep a priority. Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day to keep yourself feeling energized.

Good luck!

**DEAR ANNIE:** Recently, my husband's phone was sitting on the table, and even though I had never gone through it before, I did this time.

To my surprise, he had several text messages from a co-worker. Some were about work, but a lot were not. Some were more like horseplay, or "Oh, do you want a coffee? Shhh, don't tell anyone else. I am just picking up for us."

I looked at the phone records and got more mad because there were up to 15 texts in one day, but the phone records do

not show the actual texts.

He says he never did anything and is in no way interested in her, but he needs to communicate with her for work. He had told her not to text his phone because I was upset and instead she should call him to chat on speaker about any questions. She texted him again a month later like she thought it was OK, and I had him block her number. Any advice? I feel hurt and keep thinking about everything. — **FEELING BETRAYED**

**DEAR BETRAYED:** It sounds like your husband has been pretty receptive since you voiced your concerns and this co-worker is the one who still doesn't get the message. So long as he works with this woman, it is your husband's responsibility to clearly communicate these boundaries and stick to them.

The fact that you had a

hunch to check your husband's phone now for the first time in your marriage, though, signifies to me there may be cracks in your foundation that need attention. A couples counselor can help you two fully work through this incident, and any others, and renew your connection.

**DEAR ANNIE:** I empathize with the many women who seem unable to persuade their husbands to participate in shared responsibilities.

I faced the same issue even though my job came with considerably more responsibility as well as a higher salary.



No amount of discussion with my husband changed the situation. Although I loved my husband dearly, I found myself feeling more resentful toward him over time.

After 15 years, I hit on a solution. I thought long and hard to identify



## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

which activities I could give up that would impact only my husband.

I continued doing laundry for myself and the children but stopped washing my husband's clothes. I started using the kid's bathroom, which I continued to clean, but I stopped cleaning the master bath that my husband continued to use. I continued to do the shopping but no longer bought his beer and favorite snacks. The immediate result

responsibilities more or less evenly. He might have reacted very differently all those years ago, but the bottom line is that my growing resentment also could have destroyed the relationship.

I'm thankful that I had the courage to stop enabling the man who I love so dearly. — **GETTING HIM TO HELP**

**DEAR GETTING HIM TO HELP:** I am printing this letter in hopes that it inspires others to either stop enabling people they love from engaging in unhealthy behavior, or that it helps people who are taking advantage of people in their life doing everything for them. Although it might have been a little passive-aggressive at first, your actions did work. Maybe next time if there is something that bothers you, start with telling him what you are going to do and why you are going to do it, and then act on it only if you must.

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

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## We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I'm unsure if there's anything quite as annoying as teenage boys bouncing basketballs in the house (just ask Peter Brady from the Brady Bunch).

It's bad enough in the driveway, where the ping, ping, thuds seem to go on all day. But add in the inside through-the-leg attempts and constant dribbling and it can almost send me into orbit in under two minutes. You might be thinking "why would this parent allow this in the house?"

And that would be a good question.

But with three teenage boys in the house with the energy of 10 men, I'd rather have them burn energy with a basketball than an Xbox controller.

Enter the QuietBounce® basketball

that randomly (yeah right) showed up on my Facebook feed. It looked really cool — kids going haywire in the house making almost no noise. A parenting nirvana!

I quickly ordered three of them, and the ad mentioned that for every two you order, you receive a free hoop. Bonus!

Well, Christmas came and went and no Quietbounce®, so I assumed it might be a scam. But lo and behold, a few weeks later a sad and very oddly shaped package arrived at our doorstep.

Three basketballs were shoved into a plastic shipping bag. When we opened them we all laughed out loud. They looked like they had really been through it — traveled a long journey

from China, stuffed in a container and finally arrived at our door.

Nothing even remotely resembled a sphere — more like saggy ovals. The material also seemed ridiculous. It's just foam.



We had another good laugh and went out for the evening.

The real miracle seems to have happened while we were out.

Upon our arrival back home that night, those

Quietbounce® balls magically regained their round shape and the boys (I mean, the official Grosse Pointe News product testers) immediately gave them a try.

They actually bounced, hardly made a sound and kept them dribbling and playing one-on-one until it was time for bed.

There are several size choices when you are ordering, so make sure to get the correct size for your child's age. One ball costs about \$38, but you can save by buying multiple. But buyer beware, even though I purchased three and was supposed to get the hoop, it never arrived and messages to the company have thus far gone unanswered. It's not the biggest deal in the world, but not ideal and not as advertised.

I'm giving the Quietbounce®, or Qbounce as it's also advertised, 4 alligators.

They came late, looked like potatoes when they got here and the package was missing the hoop. However, the kids actually like them and have been playing with them every day since they arrived.

*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).*

4 Out Of 5





# A new winter staple

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

These muffins are flying off the counters at my house. I think I've made them about eight times in the past three weeks. My kids just can't get enough.

I literally had to rip one out of my son's hand when I noticed he was on his fourth, so one of his sisters could bring it for snack to school the next day. They're that good.

Lemon and blueberries pair perfectly together but I went the extra step and added white chocolate chips.

They're soft and crumbly with a cinnamon streusel sprinkled over top.

I use lemon curd which is so underrated. It's fabulous on toast in the morning but is one of the shining stars in this recipe.

I don't like to bake often but...geez... these are worth it.

Cheers, Mombeau

## Blueberry Lemon Muffins with White Chocolate

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar

- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 heaping spoonful, lemon curd
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- ½ cup white chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. In a standing mixer, add the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Mix together on low.

In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, vanilla and lemon curd. Pour into the flour mixture then slowly drizzle in the butter. Let the mixture come together but don't over mix.

Using a spatula, incorporate the white chocolate chips and blueberries.

Spoon into muffin trays that are lined and sprayed. Top with the streusel and bake for



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

18-22 minutes.  
**Streusel topping**

- ¼ flour

- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 tbsp white sugar

- ¼ tsp cinnamon

- ⅛ tsp salt
- 2 tbsp cold butter

Add all to a mixing bowl and using a

fork, cut the butter in making a crumbly texture. Sprinkle over the top of each muffin.

# No-Lo is a thing

I've been railing against higher-alcohol wines since they began appearing widely in this country in about 2000, and I received lots of criticism from people who saw me as anti-flavor.

The real reason these folks were so upset a quarter century ago was that I suggested that the "high alcohol equals high flavor" people were all wrong. Higher-alcohol wines had less wine flavor, I wrote!

But the higher-alcohol stuff kept appearing because many were receiving high scores from reviewers who adored higher-alcohol wines because they were sweeter. At the time, this was evident in the huge popularity of zinfandel, a grape that always seemed to perform best when its alcohols were 16 percent or more.

All that has changed. In the last few years, a widely observed phenomenon for many consumers of alcoholic beverages is their search for lower-alcohol

wines or other beverages, as well as wines with no alcohol at all.

The World Health Organization issued a statement a year ago referencing "an expanding market of no- and low-alcohol beverages (NoLos)." There is even a new brand called No&Low.

What is being called the "no-lo" movement has swept the world, putting some domestic wine producers in a difficult position. Many domestic wines have alcohols that are higher than found in European wines, with 14.5 percent alcohol or more — with the emphasis on "more."

The result has been a consumer backlash and a consequent slowdown in sales of many different wines, notably zinfandel. Sales of 16 percent alcohol products have declined.

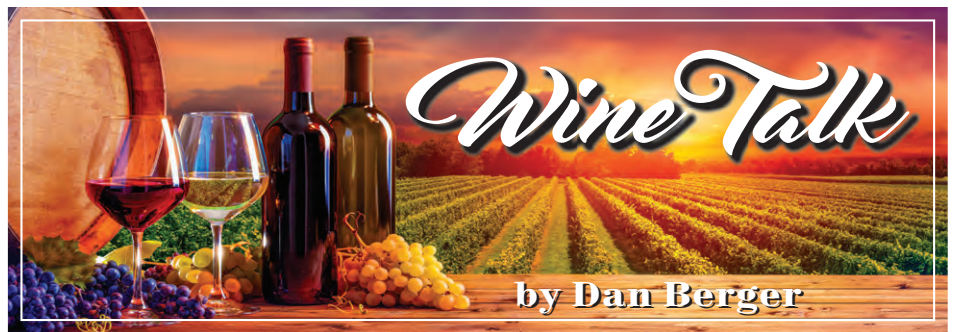
In their place are various alternatives with low or zero alcohol. The traditional "dry January" that has pervaded the culture for years has put an exclamation point on

declining sales of all alcoholic beverages.

One of the most interesting situations today is the development of exceptionally fine beer with zero alcohol, including some craft beers that are so good you can't tell they are alcohol-free!

As for the wine flavor-seekers, if they're truly interested in the flavors of wines, they should look more carefully at wines that don't exceed 13.5 percent alcohol. It has long been known that alcohol, all by itself, has its own distinctive aroma. That aroma has nothing to do with grapes. Just sniff vodka and you'll see what alcohol smells like. It's that very aromatic that masks wine flavors and aromatics.

The result is that you get more flavor when the alcohol is moderate.



To prove this, pour a 4- or 5-ounce glass of a 15 percent alcohol red wine and add a tablespoon of water without chlorine (i.e., spring or distilled water). Swirl the glass. You'll notice far more aroma than the wine poured directly from the bottle.

In fact, this is a terrific tactic for dealing with higher-alcohol wines. Put in a tablespoon or 4 teaspoons of water to a wine glass and you'll notice that the wine's aroma and taste are better balanced.

Since higher alcohol wines usually are slightly sweeter, adding water makes it taste a

little drier and thus allows it to work better with your dinner. (However, adding too much water will make the wine taste thin and vapid.)

A final observation: I'm a huge fan of German riesling. There are many versions with alcohol levels below 11 percent; some are as low as 7 percent! The only drawback: Most such wines have traces of sugar, which may make them difficult to pair with some foods.

But one of the greatest assets of German riesling is that most have excellent acid, which allows them to work wonderfully with

loads of foods.

### Wine of the Week:

2022 Lifevine Rose, California (\$15) — I was skeptical when I heard that someone was making a zero-sugar rose, but I tasted it and was impressed by the quality. Certified organic, the wine with cherries and berries in the aroma has only 113 calories per 5 ounces and is actually dry. And it has only 12.9 percent alcohol.

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.



Moscato & Moscatel wines are typically known as a dessert wine. They can be very sweet with a lower alcohol content than a typical glass of wine.

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SEE MENU



VALENTINE'S DAY



BY OLIVIA MONETTE AND DONNA ZETTERLUND

**Who are those groovy gals in your posse who make life more fun, bring out the best in you and have your back all year long?** Those ride-or-die BFFs who know you better than you know yourself – and will tell you how amazing you are on those crazy days when you're short on confidence. They show you love in all its wonderful and loyal forms. Isn't Valentine's Day the perfect time to toss them a trinket that will make them laugh or smile and remind them how very much you appreciate them in your life? Here are some fun ideas for heartfelt gifts from local shops that best say, "Be my galentine!"



HEARTS ON HER FEET

"Keep warm!" is another way to say "I love you." These plush slippers, above, will warm her heart as well as her tootsies. Get a pair for everyone at the next girls' weekend and be Instagram-ready for a cute group shot to remember the good times. From **Small Favors**.



SPEAK FLUENT CHOCOLATE

Yum! Chocolate candy bar Valentines, above, are the way to any lady's heart. Choose from premium sea salt caramel or dark chocolate with charming sentiments on the label. Don't be a square this Valentine's Day...Unless it's chocolate! Find treat at **Small Favors**.



LIDS FOR THE LADIES

Top her noggin with hometown pride with Grosse Pointe and Detroit hats in rose or hot pink, above, from the **Campus Shop**. The Campus Shop can imprint just about anything with Grosse Pointe spirit to remind good friends of wonderful shared memories in their stomping grounds.



VALENTINE PEN PALS

Pretty stationery makes a thoughtful gift. These elegant floral patterns by Anna Griffin are from **The League Shop**. Lovely note cards and pens are a wonderful combo for Valentine's Day. A different set at each place setting would look so amazing at your Galentine's brunch! Mimosa, anyone?



GIFT TIP: SHARE THE LOVE

However you spend this Valentine's Day, don't be shy about telling people in your life that you love them. It's not just for romantic couples! Whether the words are shared in person, in a note or expressed in a token or gift, the most important thing is to articulate your feelings. Life is fleeting, love is what really matters.



SHOW YOUR LOVE TOP-TO-TOE

Keep her toes cozy with warm and adorable heart socks, above, from **Small Favors**. These sweet pink and red June Marie knit socks are one-size-fits-all, to make shopping easy. Check out Small Favors for lots of Valentine's Day gift ideas for friends, main squeezes and the whole family!





**COOL THREADS**

Shining bright in the 313 – that’s you and your besties in matching shirts from the ultra-cool **Campus Shop**. This colorful tee, above, already has a big heart emblazoned on the front, so you can easily wear your heart on your sleeve about your love for home sweet home.



**CHAIN OF LOVE**

This precious white heart necklace with an open link chain is a delicate reminder of the gentle friendships that hold life together. From **Anchor & Olive**, this beautiful token of love will keep your heart with them always. Check out all the pretty things at A&O!



**GIFT TIP: IT’S THE THOUGHT**

You don’t have to spend a lot of bread to make a lasting memory! The gifts we cherish most are the ones from the heart – gifts that have special meaning to us. Something that evokes thoughts of a past event we’ve shared, a favorite song or an inside joke – these are the things that we cherish forever.



**HONEY OF A HOT SAUCE**

If your chum is a real honey, she deserves **The Bricks** Hot Honey hot sauce to spice up her life even more! This delicious condiment makes everything tastier, from soup to wings. Or try the regular hot sauce, both available with lots of other hot deliciousness at **The Bricks**.



**SWEET HEARTS**

Statement earrings can turn any outfit from blah to beautiful. Your amiga will be obsessed with these beaded dangle heart earrings, top, or sweet petite glittery heart post earrings, above. They’re the best party favor for your Galentine’s get together! Both from **Savvy Chic Boutique**.



**LOOKIN’ GOOD**

**Chez Lou Lou** has assorted Amika hair products for every hair type and style. These highly effective and clean formulas make hair behave beautifully! Grab some for your gal pal and add a cute pink brush for a gift she’ll appreciate. You’ve complimented her hair, curled it (and even held it back!) Now help style it with Amika.



**A HEAD FOR FASHION**

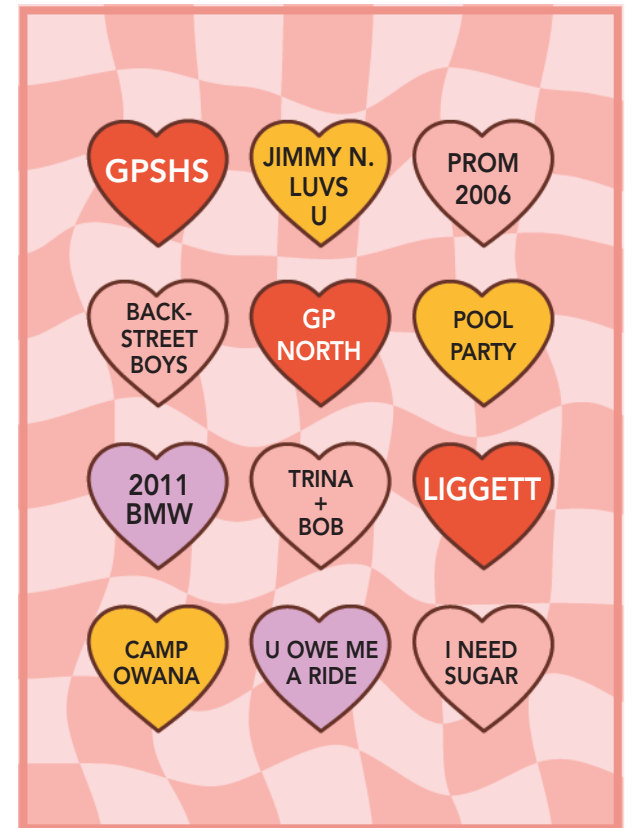
**Glitter & Scotch** has the best gifts for all the Valentine ladies in your life! We fell in love with these beautiful and unique headbands, above, in assorted glam styles and colors. These lovely accessories will add a pop of color and style to every woman’s wardrobe. Fancy!



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNER PARK FLORIST

**FLOWER POWER**

Make your best friend blush with the “Make Me Blush” arrangement of one dozen long-stemmed perfectly pink roses from **Conner Park Florist**. The perfect gift for the one who has been by your side through thick and thin. Let her know how much she means to you, it will be a surprise she’ll never forget.



**GIFT TIP: GOOD CONVERSATION**

A fun and funny way to say Happy Valentine’s Day to a longtime friend is to take a box of candy conversation hearts and write your own inside jokes and humorous sentiments on the back of each one with an edible ink marker. It’s likely your friend won’t eat them – but will want to save them forever for future laughs!



MORE GREAT AND GROOVY VALENTINE GIFTS YOUR BEST GAL PALS WILL LOVE!



**SIMPLY THE BEST**

An *Irish Coffee* gift card is the gift every Grosse Pointer covets and for a good reason! Voted the best burger several years running in the Grosse Pointe News Best of the Best awards, showcasing readers' favorite GP things. Nom nom!



**PUPPY LOVE**

If your Galentine is a pup parent, we're betting she'd really love one of these adorable doggie toys with a Valentine theme. Soft, squeaky wine bottle or a plush tug-on-your-heart rope toy from the Grosse Pointe *Pet Supplies Plus* is sure to tickle her "Awww-meter!"



**RAINBOW OF PINK DRINKS**

Put the candy aside and give the gift of healthy juices to your fave gal pal to keep her energized and glowing. *Rhythm & Blue Juice Co.* is fully stocked with a variety of delicious fresh juices that taste great and are so good for you. That's what friends are for.



**P.S. I LOVE YOU**

A heartfelt handwritten card is something that gets saved in your best friend's memory box forever. *Glitter & Scotch* has the most adorable assortment of Valentine's Day cards – so you can tell your closest and most loved how much more wonderful life is with them in it. The whimsical designs add a spark of fun!



**GIFT TIP: MAKE ROSES LAST**

Recut stems at a 45-degree angle. Use lukewarm water to fill a clean vase. Water that is too hot or too cold may shock the blooms. Fill the vase to three-quarters full. Use the flower food that comes with the roses. Change the water every few days. Keep away from direct sunlight, drafts and heat. With proper care, cut roses may be able to last up to 10 days.



**CLEAN SCENE**

This is the perfect gift for a girls' spa day at home. *Spongelle* body wash-infused buffers, above, in *Freesia Pear* and *Bulgarian Rose* make your pals feel pampered. Just hold them under running water and lather for a luxurious exfoliating massage and a smooth aromatic cleansing. From *Small Favors*.

**WHERE TO SHOP**

- ANCHOR & OLIVE • 15005 Kercheval Ave., GPP • (313) 926-6394 • anchorandolivegp.com / THE BRICKS • 15201 Kercheval Ave., GPP • (313) 209-4229 • thebrickspizzeria.com
- THE CAMPUS SHOP • 17114 Kercheval Ave., GP • thecampusshopusa.com / CONNER PARK FLORIST • 21480 Greater Mack Ave., SCS • (586) 773-1500 • connerpark.com
- IRISH COFFEE • 18666 Mack Ave., GPF • (313) 881-5675 / GLITTER & SCOTCH • 16906 Kercheval Ave., GP • (313) 571-3607 • shopglitterandscotch.com
- THE LEAGUE SHOP • 16847 Kercheval Ave., GP • (313) 882-6880 • theleagueshop.com / PET SUPPLIES PLUS • 17010 Kercheval Ave., GP • (313) 884-2962 • petsuppliesplus.com
- RHYTHM & BLUE JUICE CO. • 17864 Mack Ave., GP • (313) 442-2402 • rhythmandbluejuice.com / SAVVY CHIC • 16822 Kercheval Ave., GP • (313) 466-3388 • savvychicgp.com
- SMALL FAVORS • 17112 Kercheval Ave., GP • (313) 887-1774 • shopsmallfavors.com / VIVIANO FLOWER SHOP • 20087 Mack Ave., GPW • (313) 882-2461 • viviano.com

**Valentine's Day!**  
February 14

Delivering to all of  
Metro Detroit and Beyond

21480 Greater Mack Avenue  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
(586) 773-1500 Order 24/7 on connerpark.com

**Romantic hot chocolate**

- Serves 2
- 1 1/2 oz. semisweet chocolate, broken into pieces
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- Canned whipped cream (optional)
- Mini chocolate or cinnamon hearts to decorate

Place the chocolate in a large, heatproof pitcher. Place the milk in a heavy-bottom saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour about one-quarter of the milk onto the chocolate and leave until the chocolate has softened.

Whisk the milk and chocolate mixture until smooth. Return the remaining milk to the heat and return to a boil, then pour onto the chocolate, whisking constantly.

Pour into warmed mugs or cups and top with whipped cream and the candy hearts.







## Whole lotta love

Hello lovers, wherever you are! Valentine's Day still stands as the day couples all over the country will be honoring one another with tokens of affection. Local romantics know that Viviano Flower Shop has their needs in mind as they plan their gifting ideas.

From arrangements to single roses, elegant plants to teddy bears, candles, hand soaps, lotions and more, Viviano's will always impress your love with the very best gifts. To order, visit [viviano.com](http://viviano.com), call (313) 882-2461 or stop by in person at the Grosse Pointe Woods or St. Clair Shores stores. Love is in the air — and the aroma is magnificent!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIVIANO FLOWER SHOP

## Create a romantic night at home

Romance takes center stage on Valentine's Day. February 14th is a chance for couples to express romantic sentiments that reflect just how much they care for one another.

The relationship site Marriage.com offers that happily married couples with long histories together manage to preserve some elements present in the early stages of their relationships — a time when couples typically make a concerted effort to woo one another.

Keeping the romantic spark alive is a key component of successful relationships. And you don't even need to leave home to enjoy an exciting and memorable evening together.

Here are some ideas to make this Valentine's Day one to remember!

### Hide romantic notes

Plan a romantic scavenger hunt by hiding notes that express thoughtful sentiments and give your partner a list of clues to guide the hunt. Start with a clue such as "Where did we go on our first date?" If it was an Italian restaurant, you can attach the next clue to a bunch of basil in the refrigerator, and so on. You decide where the hunt takes you!

### Alternate watching films

Both of you probably have all-time favorite movies, but they may not be the same films. Encourage bonding time by queueing up two separate films to watch, yours and your significant other's. Whether one is a rom-com and the other is an action flick, watch them in succession while cuddling on the sofa. Be positive and



Let this Valentine's Day be the start of romantic habits that last a lifetime.

upbeat as you discuss one another's favorites.

### Prepare a romantic meal together

Valentine's Day dinner can be all the more intimate when you dine alone at home. Shop for gourmet ingredients together at your favorite specialty shops and take time to have fun doing it. Choose a splurge menu you both will enjoy. Pour two glasses of wine and divvy up meal preparation tasks. Steal a few sample bites (and kisses) along the way. Add plenty of candles and cook to a romantic playlist representing your years together to really enhance the ambiance.

### Dress up the bed

Create a warm and inviting bedroom with some luxury bedding, including sheets with a high thread count and a soft, plump new down duvet. Fresh,

fluffy pillows and updated art or room accents can make your bedroom space even more inspiring. The new bedding may inspire extra cuddle time together and even breakfast in bed.

### Slow dance

When was the last time you enjoyed a dance in each other's arms? Turn up "your song" and sway to the beat. Dancing together needn't be reserved for special occasions like weddings, and can rekindle romantic feelings while relaxing and enjoying each other at your best.

Simple, thoughtful gestures are the way to show appreciation for one another while you deal with the reality of work and raising a family.

Dialing up the romance at home for Valentine's Day can kickstart a lifetime of staying close for the rest of your lives.

Need some ideas for a romantic movie night? Here are some classics that may already be on your list of favorites:

**"Casablanca" (1942):** Set during World War II and starring Humphrey Bogart, and Ingrid Bergman, an American expatriate must choose between love or helping a Czech resistance leader escape to fight the Germans.

**"Ghost" (1990):** A Patrick Swayze/Demi Moore tear-jerker that shows that true love can continue even beyond life. Whoopi Goldberg provides laughs.

**"Love and Basketball" (2000):** Omar Epps and Sanaa Lathan star in this story of two neighborhood kids who aspire to be basketball stars. However, when one's stardom really skyrockets, it puts a strain on their love.

**"Love Actually" (2003):** Featuring an ensemble cast, this movie tells the tales of eight very different couples who are providing glimpses into their love lives.

**"A Star is Born" (2018):** Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga star in this remake of the classic film. A troubled rock star falls in love with an aspiring singer. As her fame begins to eclipse his, the rock star's demons resurface.

## Did you know?

Valentine's Day imagery like heart-shaped boxes of chocolate, Cupid shooting his arrow and bouquets of roses are ubiquitous come February. Each of those symbols is meant to signify the love individuals have for their significant others, but perhaps no Valentine's Day image is more symbolic of love than the peaceful dove.

According to LiveScience.com, doves have been a symbol of love since the Middle Ages, when many people believed birds chose their mates on Valentine's Day. Doves' own traits may have also helped them become icons of love, as LiveScience.com notes that male doves help their female partners incubate and tend to their young, bolstering their image as caring, loving birds. Way to go, dove dads!

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

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# THE DRY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADE UP STORIES, ARENAMEDIA AND CORNERSTONE FILMS

Left, Eric Bana as Aaron, and Genevieve O'Reilly as Gretchen in the 2020 movie "The Dry," directed by Robert Connolly.

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
 "The Dry"  
 2020 - Rated R  
 1 hr 57 min  
 ★★★★★

Back in the day, I used to look forward to Thursday nights. That was when PBS aired "Mystery." It was one of the consistently great programs that almost always presented BBC murder-mysteries, hosted by the perfectly cast Diana Rigg.

It was fun following the exploits of sleuths like Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, and Inspector Morse and try to solve the caper before they did.

These days I watch more of this ilk in movies rather than TV series. So when I spot one with potential, I immediately put it in my queue.

I recently discovered "The Dry," a gripping drama based on the international best selling novel by Jane Harper. The film is directed by Robert Connolly ("Paper Planes") and takes place in present day Australia. The country is suffering from a major drought, which is depicted with aerial shots of the punishing landscape, swirling dust devils and long trials of dust clouds from cars traversing the countryside.

Kudos to director of photography Stefan Duscio. This grueling backdrop is the perfect setting for the harsh realities facing the townsfolk of the fictional enclave of Kiewarra.

Big city detective Aaron Falk (Eric Bana)

returns to the town he left 20 years ago. He's there to attend the funeral of his childhood friend Luke. It's revealed that Luke killed his son, wife, and then shot himself. While Aaron has planned on just spending a day there, he's convinced to stay longer by Luke's parents. (played by Bruce Spence and Julia Blake).

They're convinced their son couldn't have committed the crimes and want Aaron to look into the case. Local Sgt. Greg (Keir O'Donnell) is also troubled by the suspicious circumstances and is a bit over his head investigating murders. The two work together to discover the hidden truth.

The story gets more complicated when it's revealed that 20 years ago, Aaron and Luke's friend Ellie died mysteriously. Even though the two boys had an alibi, we learn they fabricated a story to cover their tracks. Through a series of flashbacks, we meet the teenage foursome Luke (Sam Corlett), Aaron (Joe Klocek), Gretchen (Claude Scott-Mitchell), and Ellie (BeBe Bettencourt). We see them horsing around in a river, and enjoying each other's company around a campfire. The group is revisited several times as more of their story is revealed.

Soon after Aaron arrives for his friend's funeral, he starts getting hassled by various townspeople. They're convinced he was responsible for Ellie's

murder, and simply can't move on. Ellie's father (William Zappa) is especially hostile and taunts him every chance he gets. He's suffering from dementia and thinks Aaron is actually his dad.

Aaron and Gretchen (Genevieve O'Reilly) rekindle their relationship, even though they haven't been in touch for quite some time. She's now a headstrong single mother and a farmer.

We also meet other characters including the grade school principle, a local farmer and the town doctor.

As the story progresses, you begin to ask yourself if any of these people are involved in the murder? And what would their motivation be? Plus there's the 20-year-old murder case that's never been solved. Could the two possibly be related? Several plot twists lie ahead.

I felt Mr. Bana did a sensational job conveying the complexities of his character. I've enjoyed his performances in several films over the years including "Munich" and the more recent "Blueback." He's a talented actor and this may be the best outing of his career. I also should mention the outstanding original score by Peter Raeburn. He did a masterful job building tension and emphasizing the emotions the characters are feeling. He definitely added to the power of this remarkable film.

Note to parents: The



film is rated "R" due to some swearing and a tasteful lovemaking scene. I think it would be appropriate for mature teens.

Currently streaming for free on Kanopy (with your library card) and to rent 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.

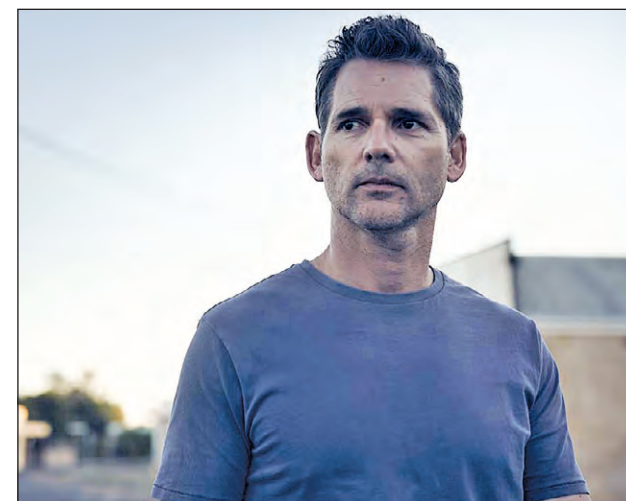
For movie trailers, visit

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

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Aaron (Bana) visits the gravesite of Luke and his family.



Aaron (Eric Bana).



The gang hanging out at the riverbed.



The dried riverbed.



# Royal Stars

## Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping or important decisions from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST today (1 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Libra into Scorpio.

**Happy Birthday** for Thursday, February 1, 2024:

You are multitasked. You are original, witty and quick to size up a situation. You have your own way of thinking and doing things. This is a slower paced year. It's time to rejuvenate yourself. Explore meditation, yoga, tai chi or whatever discipline helps to ground you.

**ARIES**  
(March 21-April 19)

Be aware of the limitations of the Moon Alert. Meanwhile, this is another day where people are pushy and prickly. Instead, go with what's working, and what is working is that you're popular. Everyone wants to see your face! Tonight: Check your finances.

**TAURUS**  
(April 20-May 20)

Today is another challenging day, because issues with others might trigger power struggles. Nevertheless, you're in the middle of a four-week window when the Sun is at the top of your chart casting you in a flattering spotlight. You look good to everyone! Make your pitch. (Check the Moon Alert.) Tonight: Cooperate.

**GEMINI**  
(May 21-June 20)

Power struggles and arguments about politics and religion continue today. However, you can sidestep these and think about future travel plans or what you can do to enrich your daily world. Maybe you can explore your own city. What can you learn that is interesting? Tonight: Get organized.

**CANCER**  
(June 21-July 22)

Money squabbles as well as arguments about territory, boundaries and responsibility might continue to be a drag. Before you agree to anything important, check the Moon Alert, because it lasts for 12 hours! Fortunately, relations with friends and partners are supportive. Tonight: Socialize!

**LEO**  
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Get more rest. Avoid power struggles with partners and close friends today. This is a good day to relax at home among familiar surroundings. However, don't get caught up in family squabbles. If shopping or making decisions, check the Moon Alert. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

**VIRGO**  
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This is a productive time for you, and yet, it's also a playful time. Oh yeah, work hard, party hard! However, this week (including today) you have to dodge quarrels and power struggles with others. Don't get involved. Protect your peace of mind. Be aware of the Moon Alert today. Tonight: Conversations!

**LIBRA**  
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You might be redecorating, tackling home repairs or entertaining because you're energetic and sociable. It's the perfect time for a vacation! Unfortunately, tension with kids and romantic partners still continues. Sidestep these if you can. (See the Moon Alert.) Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Later today, the Moon will move into your sign, which could make you a bit excitable, especially when dealing with parents or

family members. Don't lose your cool. Tonight: You win!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is a fast-paced time for you, and you're eager to learn as well as communicate with others. In part, this is why you might get caught up in a power struggle with someone. Before you go off on a tangent, ask yourself if it is worth it. Don't lose friends by squabbling. Be cool. Tonight: Solitude.

**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Disagreements or power struggles with friends and members of groups might arise today, especially about financial matters or different values. Let's face it, we all have different values. Some prefer bread; some prefer rice; some prefer vodka. That's life. Tonight: Be friendly.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Be aware that later in the day, when the Moon changes signs (see the Moon Alert), you will suddenly become high-viz. People will notice you. Meanwhile, you don't need a public argument in an elevator. Or anywhere else. Take the high road. Tonight: Show respect.

**PISCES**  
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Later in the day, you might find yourself embroiled in political or philosophical arguments or power struggles. Is this how you want to spend your day? Instead, you can enjoy the company of younger, creative and artistic people and have fun. Tonight: Explore!

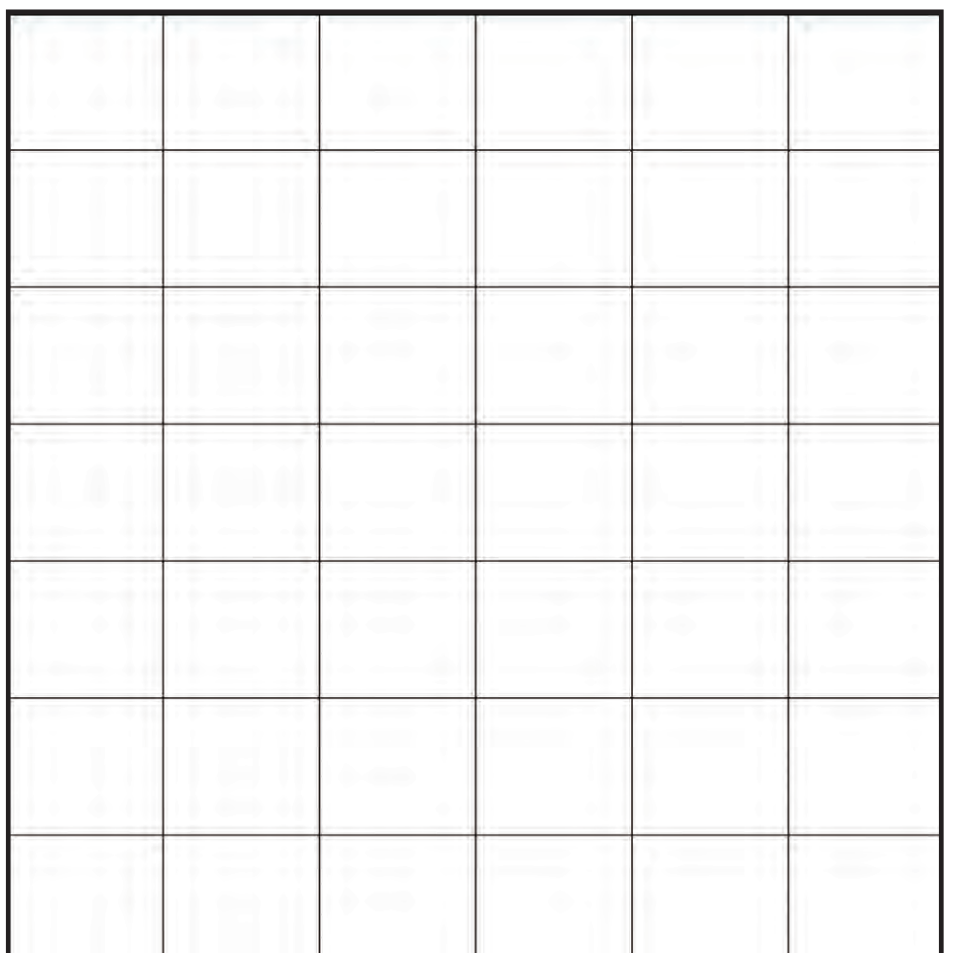
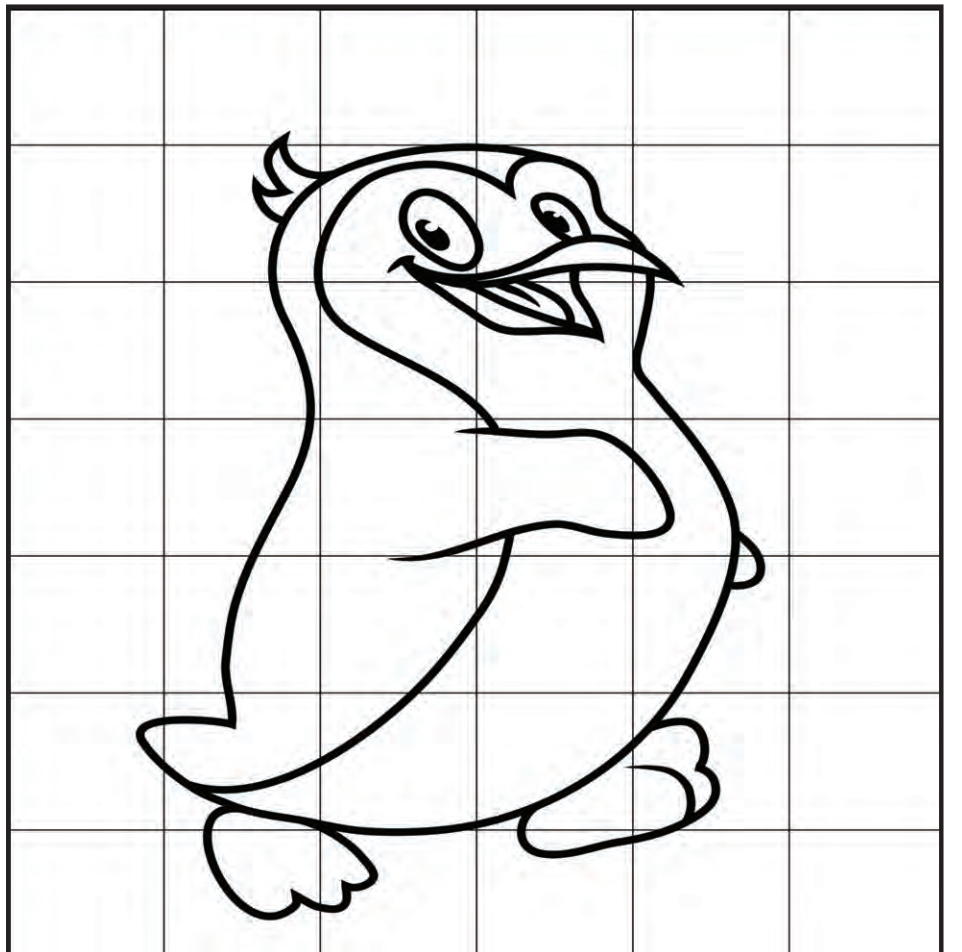
**BORN TODAY**

Actress Julia Garner (1994), actor Michael C. Hall (1971), singer, actor Harry Styles (1994).

## Find 10 Differences



## Copy the Picture



## Contract Bridge

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

West dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ 5  
♥ Q J 6 3 2  
♦ 10 5 3  
♣ 10 7 5 3

**WEST**

♠ K J 8 6  
♥ A 9 8 7  
♦ A 9 7 6 4  
♣ —

**EAST**

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

**SOUTH**

♠ A Q 7 4 2  
♥ 4  
♦ J 2  
♣ A 9 8 6 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.			

The question of whether or not to overcall an opponent's opening bid, or the response to an opening bid, is more a matter of common sense than anything else.

For example, if you held the South hand in today's deal and your right-hand opponent bid one diamond as dealer, you should surely overcall with one spade. You have the values for an opening bid, a reasonable trump suit and good distribution. You don't expect to make a game (though

it's certainly possible if partner has good trump support), but there's a real chance of making a partscore in spades (or clubs) while stopping the opponents from making a partscore in hearts or diamonds. Stated differently, it's better to compete against one diamond than to pass.

But the situation is totally different if West opens one diamond and, after partner passes, East responds two clubs. To enter the bidding now with two spades is tantamount to suicide, since you have little to gain and a lot to lose.

It would be unrealistic to argue that you have the values for an opening bid and are therefore entitled to express them. Such an attitude would indicate that you have completely ignored the significance of the opponents' bids — namely, that West has at least 13 points, while East has indicated 10 or more points with his two-club response. This does not leave much in the way of high cards for your partner, and there is furthermore no assurance that he is going to have support for spades.

The deal and the bidding shown actually occurred in a 1980 team match between Canada and the United States. The Canadian South bid two spades over East's two clubs, got doubled and paid the piper to the tune of 1,400 points!

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by Steve Becker



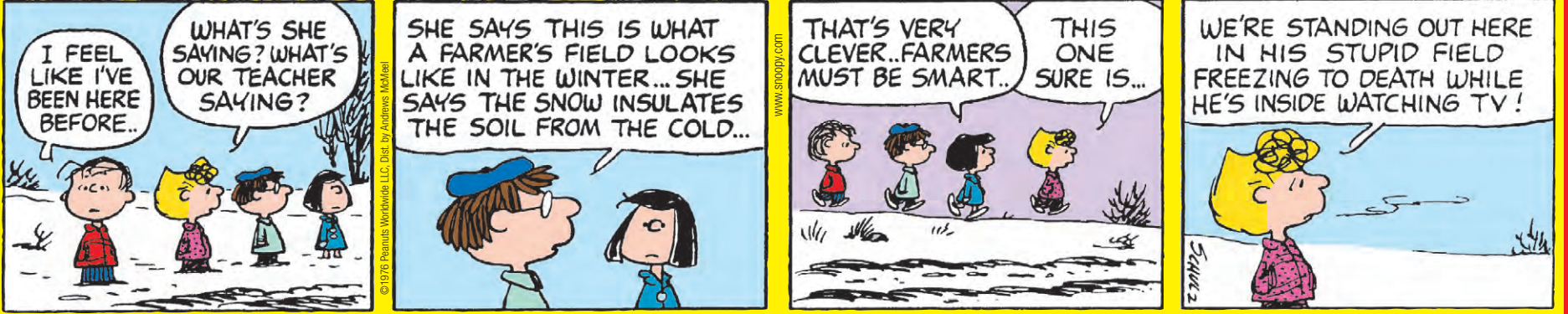




# Comics

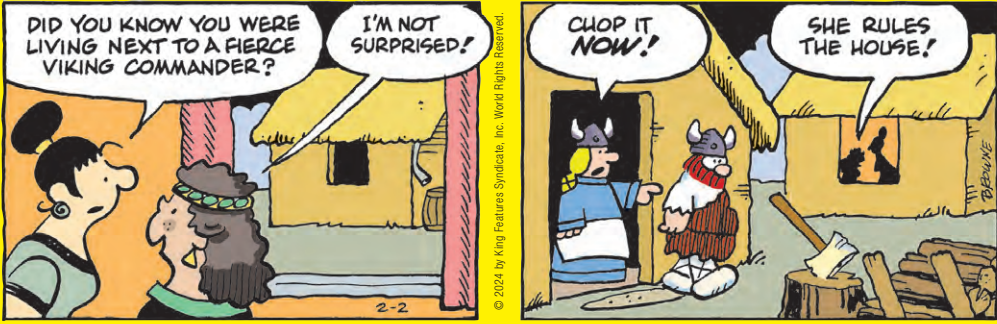
## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



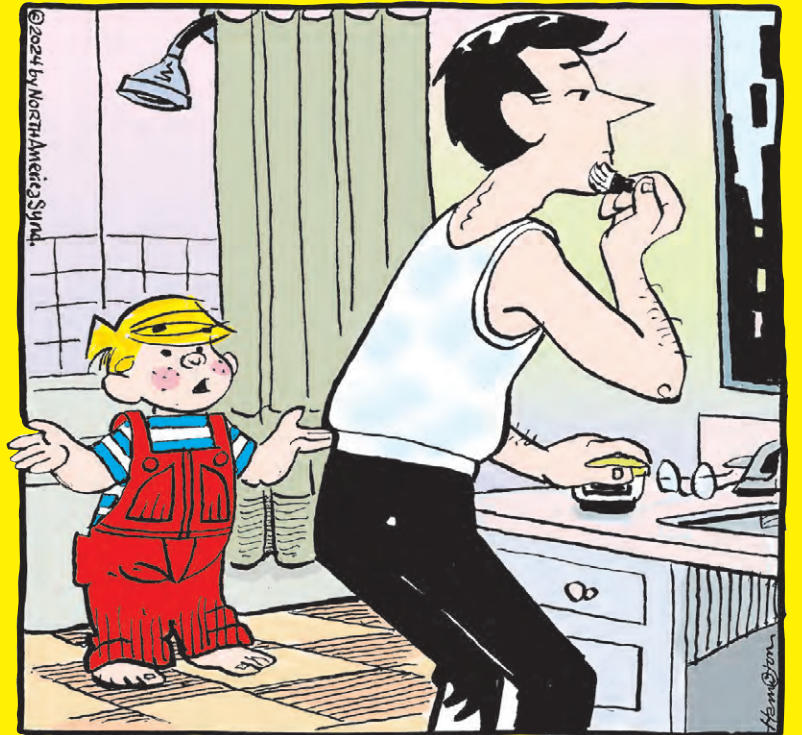
## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



## Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



## Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



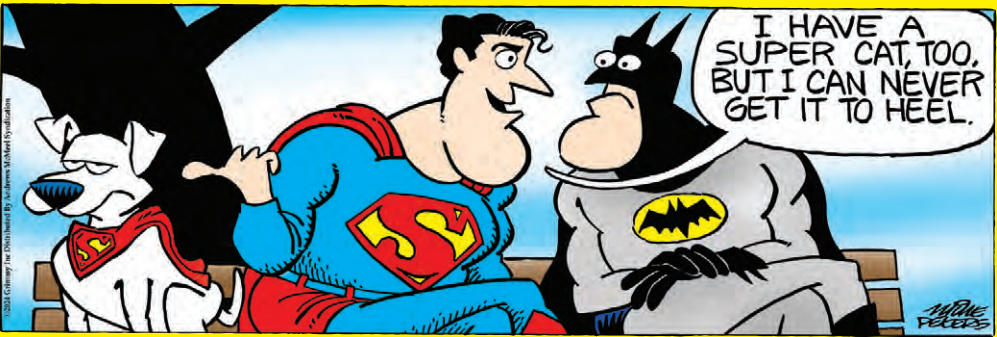
## Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



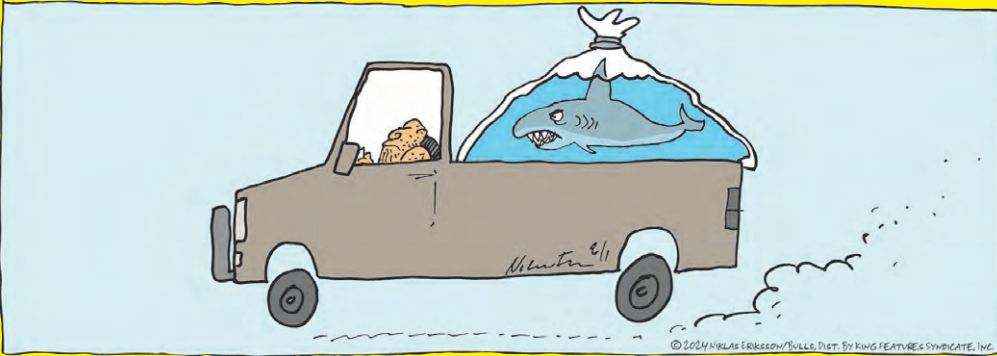
## Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



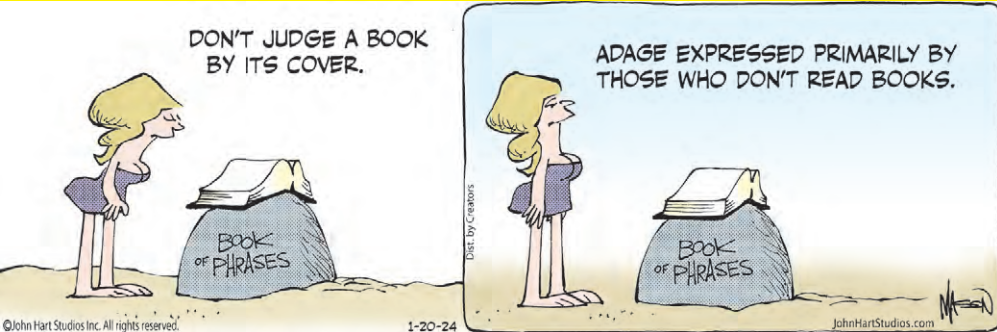
## Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



## Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



## Reality Check

Dave Whamond



## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



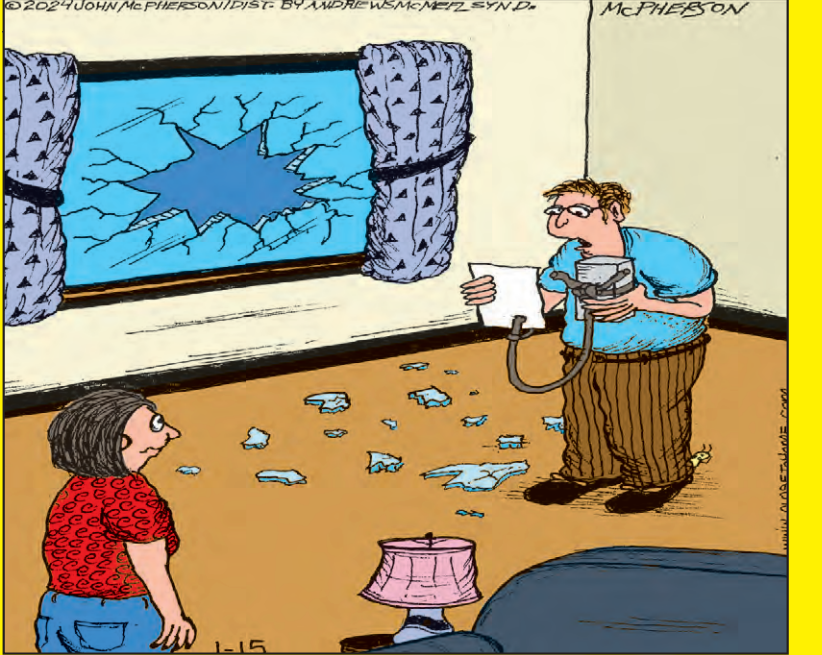
## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



## Close To Home

John McPherson



## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson





# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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**Kid Scoop Together**

## How to Draw a Groundhog

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

## FEBRUARY 2 IS GROUNDHOG DAY

For hundreds of years, people have thought that the groundhog can predict the weather. It's believed that if the groundhog sees its shadow when it leaves its burrow on the second day of February, the winter will last another six weeks.

But, if the sun isn't shining, then there are no shadows to be seen. People say when this happens, spring will arrive soon.

### The Most Famous Groundhog

In the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, there is a special groundhog called **Punxsutawney Phil**.

Each year on the morning of February 2nd, people in the town wait patiently for Punxsutawney Phil to come out of his burrow. News shows and newspapers around the country will tell everyone whether or not he sees his shadow.



### Make a Groundhog Weather Detector

Color and cut out this little groundhog. Glue it onto some heavier paper and cut out the groundhog again. Stand your little groundhog outside and see if it casts a shadow.



### Do Not Disturb!

Each August the groundhog starts eating a lot. It eats and eats. A layer of fat forms under its skin.

As the weather gets colder in the fall, the fat groundhog goes to its little underground bedroom with its cushion of grass to curl up and sleep.



It falls into such a deep sleep that it appears dead. This is called hibernation.

USE THE SECRET CODE:

What is another name for a groundhog?

C = <input type="checkbox"/>	D = <input type="checkbox"/>	H = <input type="checkbox"/>	K = <input type="checkbox"/>	N = <input type="checkbox"/>	O = <input type="checkbox"/>	U = <input type="checkbox"/>	W = <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Is Phil correct?

Punxsutawney Phil is not right about the weather every year. Circle every other letter to see how often Phil is right about the end of winter weather.

A W B G O J U R T N F  
L O M R F T H Y J P K  
E P R Y C B E L N F T  
V O Z F O T W H V E  
Y T A I L M R E T

A B

### How do animals know when to hibernate?

Scientists have found a special chemical in the blood of hibernating animals. The chemical is called **HIT** or **Hibernation Inducement Trigger**. Although scientists do not know what this chemical is, they do know that it appears when one of three things happen:

The days become shorter and there is less light.

There is a big drop in temperature.

Food is scarce.

One summer day, blood with HIT taken from a hibernating groundhog was injected into a lively one. Result: **Hibernation!**

If you were the scientist—what would be your conclusion about this experiment?

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Standards Link: Life Science: Understand that humans and animals have structures that aid in survival.

### Weather Words

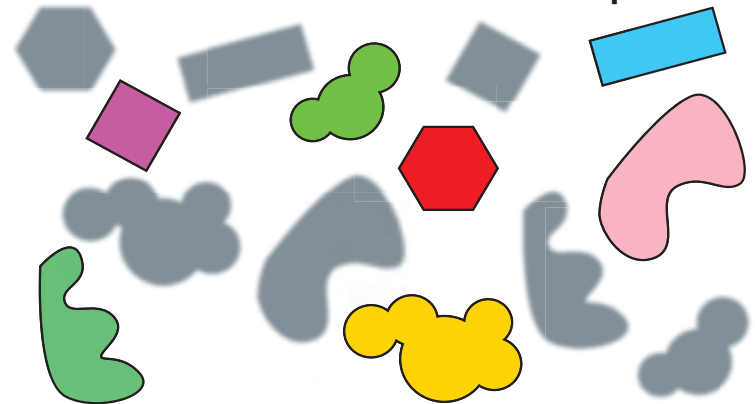
Look outside. What is your weather like today? Look through the newspaper for five words that describe your weather. Circle each word.

Standards Link: Science: Identify different kinds of weather.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Light travels in a straight line from its source. When light reaches an opaque (solid) object, the light is prevented from moving through the object, leaving an area of darkness on the other side (a shadow).

Find the shadow for each of these shapes.



Standards Link: Science: Understand physical properties of light.

### Double Double Word Search

- AUGUST
- BURROW
- CASTS
- CURL
- EATS
- END
- FOOD
- GROUNDHOG
- LIGHT
- PHIL
- SHADOW
- SLEEP
- SUN
- TOWN
- WINTER

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.

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### Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **HIBERNATE**

The verb **hibernate** means to sleep through the winter in a den or burrow to save energy.

The groundhog **hibernates** about six months a year.

Try to use the word **hibernate** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### News Photo Pose

Find a newspaper photo with one or more people in it. Mimic the pose of a person. Can you hold it for 10 seconds? Find another photo and repeat.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Apply syllabication rules.



What's round, covered in cheese and tomato sauce, and is very sleepy?

ANSWER: A P I Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z

### Write On! Hello, Spring!

#### Hello, Spring!

What does spring look like where you live? Write a description of some of the signs of spring in your area.

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# SPORTS



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## Girls hockey teams begin final stretch of season with big wins

By Mike Adzima  
 Sports Reporter

There is just about a month to go in the girls hockey regular season, and the teams from University Liggett, Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South are all looking to add to their win totals in the final stretch. During the past week, all three teams managed to pick up big wins while avoiding any tallies in the loss column.

### Liggett

The Knights had back-to-back games last weekend that both ended up with wins. The offense dominated in both games while defense and goaltending were virtually impenetrable with the Knights outscoring opponents 13-1 over the two games.

The first contest was last Friday, Jan. 26, with Liggett going on the road to face Orchard Lake St. Mary's. The Knights had an early lead and dominated the third period to



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Liggett's Sofie Ancona tallied four goals in the team's 6-0 win over Ann Arbor Skyron Jan. 27.

cruise to a 7-1 victory.

Louisa Dragovic and Miranda Alcalá opened the scoring in the first period to put the Knights up 2-0 after one frame. Sofie Ancona had the only goal of the second period to make it 3-0 going into the third.

St. Mary's cut Liggett's lead down to two goals early in the third period, but that was only momentarily. The Knights then surged for four unanswered goals to secure the win, scored by Ancona, Sullivan Estes and two by Anna Claire

Dopke.

Liggett returned home the next night on Saturday, Jan. 27, to take on Ann Arbor Skyron (Skyline-Huron). The story of the night was Ancona, who helped lead Liggett to a 6-0 victory with four goals in the

game.

"Everything bad, you have to pull some good lessons out of it and last year (Ancona) not being able to play was the bad but the good was it helped her develop her communication skills with the team," Liggett girls hockey coach Casey LaFrance said about Ancona's role on the team. "You can see that that's how she approaches certain things, always helping other teammates learn and it's nice that she can be a strong leader among them to help give the whole team confidence."

The other two goals for Liggett in the win over Skyron were scored by Stella Smiatacz and Allie Roth. Madeline Hexter got the start in net and finished the game with a shutout.

The two wins over the weekend helped to expand Liggett's unbeaten streak that has lasted nearly three calendar years. With the regular season ending in just

a few weeks and playoffs on the horizon, the main concern for Liggett is not becoming too comfortable with just winning games.

"With any good team, you definitely have to watch and be aware that they can slip up at any moment," LaFrance said. "Coming back from the holiday break, I think we had a little bit of falling asleep and being complacent with where we were. We definitely hit it hard in practice letting the girls know that it's not just enough to show up to the rink...Reinforcing things like the forecheck and aggressive style of play that we really try to get the girls to come to the table with."

Liggett faced cross-town rival Grosse Pointe South on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 8 p.m. after press time. The Knights then head on the road to Chelsea to face Washtenaw United at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

See HOCKEY, page 6D

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Benard playing lights-out for Blue Devils

By Meg Leonard  
 Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South girls varsity basketball captain Maddy Benard is playing lights-out for the 2023-24 Blue Devils and is on pace to achieve career highs in scoring, rebounds and assists this season.

She also holds the school record for 6.2 steals a game, which she set last season.

Not bad for someone who as a young girl wasn't sure if basketball was for her.

She gave everything a shot at first. Her mom, Laura, a former swimmer, wanted Maddy to give the pool a try. Dad Steve, who owns a gym and is South's boys varsity basketball coach, saw a hoops career for his daughter.

Ultimately, the choice became her own. "My mom actually

Grosse Pointe News

**Maddy Benard**

School: Grosse Pointe South  
 Sport: Basketball

Sponsored by Expert Heating & Cooling

wanted my brother and I to be swimmers, but I just hated it so much," she said. "I tried out all sports, but I did not like basketball at first actually."

She took an instant liking to gymnastics, but

that proved short-lived. "As soon as my mom saw me getting tall, she pulled me out right away."

Soon after, basketball started to click.

"As I got older, I realized I was getting better at basketball, which made me enjoy it more."

Based on her skyrocketing high school career and the remarkable junior season she's having, it appears Benard made the right decision.

She began playing basketball at the Neighborhood Club in early elementary school and quickly advanced to

travel ball around fourth grade. She continued improving as a middle schooler before arriving at Grosse Pointe South, where she made varsity as a freshman.

But midway through her inaugural high school season, Benard tore her ACL in a game against Dakota. She underwent surgery and grueling rehab. Afterward, she concentrated on getting stronger — mentally and physically.

"It took a lot to get back to where I am now," she said, emphasizing her positive mindset. "... I looked at it as a temporary thing, like I know it's affecting my life at the moment but nine months later, I'm gonna be back and I'm gonna be better."

"Once you get your surgery, you have it in your head, 'I'm fixed now,' but you have to get stronger and build your strength back."

Benard said she has learned how crucial becoming stronger has been both to her comeback and her game, and credits her trainer, A.W. Canada, from her dad's gym, for helping her get there. She also said it took until the beginning of the current season to

feel back to 100 percent.

"You just have to get your momentum back," she noted. "You don't realize how long it's going to take."

Kevin Richards, her head coach at South, has known Benard since she was little, helping her develop as an athlete. He said Benard is a special player, which has been especially evident during the month of January, during which his team captain has been on an offensive tear.

On Jan. 17, Benard dropped 17 points against L'Anse Creuse North. Two days later, she knocked down a season- and career-high 34 points against Eisenhower. She followed that up the next game with 23 points in a close 50-46 loss Jan. 23, against archrival Grosse Pointe North.

"Maddy played unbelievable (against North)," Richards said. "These past four games she's been like that. Any time you can get Grosse Pointe North to come out in a box and 1, you know you have a special player." (The box and 1 defense is often used against teams with one great offensive player.)

"That hasn't happened a lot of times (against North), but that just shows the respect they have for her and what she was doing to good defenders."

At 5 feet, 8 inches, ("5 feet, 9 inches in basketball shoes," she said), Benard said she believes her length is an asset.

"Definitely my length helps me a lot on defense and that definitely translates on the offensive side," she said. "I feel like I help my teammates a lot and help them get shots even when I'm getting (good



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

See ATHLETE, page 4D

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## 2D | SPORTS

## GPS boys hockey snaps losing streak

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Going into its road game against Allen Park last Saturday, Jan. 27, South boys hockey had lost seven games in a row. The Blue Devils were in desperate need of a win, something they had not experienced since Dec. 16, and finally got what they had been looking for with a 4-2 victory over the Jaguars.

"We talked about the second half of the season being like a new season and unfortunately we didn't start off with as many wins as we were hoping in that second half," South boys hockey head coach Alan Korolewicz said. "Definitely getting the win (against Allen Park) was important, not only just to get a win, but you hope it can be infectious. The feeling of winning is a lot better than the alternative, and you hope it becomes infectious and the team keeps wanting to feel that way."

Allen Park jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first period, but South bounced back in the second to take the lead. After that, the Blue Devils never looked back on the way to capturing their first win in

over a month.

Four different players scored South's four goals in the win. Drew Brady, Hayden Crane, Anderson Tigges and Jack O'Keefe all found the back of the net. Brady and Crane also had two-point nights by adding assists to go along with their goals.

The four goals against Allen Park were the most South had scored in a game since its last win on Dec. 16, a 13-0 victory over Grosse Pointe North. During the seven-game losing streak, the team had

ply scoring," Korolewicz said. "There's not a drill or a tactic you can come up with that will suddenly get your team to score a lot more. You just have to be able to generate opportunities and from that perspective, that was probably the most frustrating thing."

The seventh and final loss of South's streak came last Thursday, Jan. 25, with a 3-1 defeat to Cranbrook. The Cranes are one of South's divisional opponents in the MIHL, a league that is notorious

result could give the Blue Devils momentum going into the final stretch of their schedule. South still has a couple of MIHL league tests in front of them to close out the regular season. With several losses in the league this year, the Blue Devils still feel that the challenging conference schedule has been beneficial.

"We play in the best high school hockey league in the state and we do not have a night off," said Korolewicz. "There's no game on



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South hockey celebrates at the final buzzer on Saturday, Jan. 27, after securing a 4-2 win over Allen Park, the team's first win since Dec. 16.

*"The hope is that we can finish out the regular season with a strong record with the games we have remaining. We really do believe that we could be that team that nobody really wants to play in the playoffs. There's always some teams that get really dangerous toward the end of the season and nobody wants to see them once the tournament starts, and we believe we can be that team."*

SOUTH BOYS HOCKEY HEAD COACH ALAN KOROLEWICZ

only scored three goals in a game just once, making lack of offense perhaps the biggest concern while the team was struggling.

"The main thing we weren't doing was sim-

for being perhaps the most competitive conference in the entire state.

While the win over Allen Park will not go down as an MIHL league victory, the

our schedule where you can point to a team and think that's a team we should probably beat. It's very difficult to compete in the league, but if you want to be considered one of the best pro-

grams in the state, you want to be in that sort of situation."

South faced Orchard Lake St. Mary's on the road Tuesday, Jan. 30, after press time. The team heads into the annual MIHL Showcase this weekend hosted at Kennedy Ice Arena in Trenton. The Blue Devils begin the showcase at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, taking on Detroit Country Day. After that, they face off against Saline at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

Following the MIHL Showcase, there are just four games left on the regular season schedule for the Blue Devils. After that, it is time for the state playoffs to begin. South is hoping

that playoffs will prove to be a tournament where anything can happen, and that they can build late-season momentum that translates into possible post-season success.

"The hope is that we can finish out the regular season with a strong record with the games we have remaining," Korolewicz said. "We really do believe that we could be that team that nobody really wants to play in the playoffs. There's always some teams that get really dangerous toward the end of the season and nobody wants to see them once the tournament starts, and we believe we can be that team."

## Knights get big win under bright lights; ups and downs continue for Norsemen

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

As the calendar flips to February, the final stretch of the boys basketball regular season is approaching fast. University Liggett and Grosse Pointe North have both had their share of rocky moments so far, but are looking to keep building momentum with some wins in the second half of the season.

The Knights captured a pair of big wins last week, including one that players will surely remember for a long time, while the Norsemen followed up a milestone victory with a harsh defeat.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett's Jackson Fetter gets set at the free throw line in the Knights' game against Lake Shore at Little Caesars Arena on Jan. 24.

**Liggett**

The Knights got the thrill of playing on the big stage at Little Caesars Arena last Wednesday, Jan. 24, taking on Lake Shore. Liggett found itself locked in a tight game under the bright lights of the Detroit Pistons' court, but held on in the final moments

to take down the Shorians 51-48.

"It was such a great experience for the team and I told them that a lot of people don't even get an opportunity to like this," Liggett boys basketball head coach James

Scott said about his team's win at Little Caesars Arena. "I just wanted the guys to make the most of the moment and stay locked in on the goal of winning the game as well...It was a great experience and the guys were juiced up and ready to play."

Last Wednesday's game was tight practically the whole way through. It was the

Knights who were often holding on to a slight lead, including a 15-12 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

The Knights built up their lead even further in the second quarter, making the margin about as wide as it would be all game. Liggett held Lake Shore to just seven points in the quarter while the offense extended the lead to eight, making it

27-19 Liggett at halftime.

While Liggett's defense managed to keep Lake Shore quiet near the end of the first half, the Shorians stormed back to begin the third quarter. The Knights managed to stay ahead, but Lake Shore narrowed down the margin again until Liggett found itself ahead by just two points, 37-35, entering the final quarter.

The teams were then deadlocked in a close fight for the final eight minutes. The game got down to the final seconds with Liggett still ahead when the Shorians hit a late three-pointer to pull within one. The Knights then made a couple of free throws that took the lead back to three, and the Liggett defense was able to hold off the final shot attempts from Lake Shore to escape with the win.

"We kind of let them back in the game because we had some turnovers down the stretch and didn't make free throws the way I would want to close a game out," Scott said about the close finish. "On the defensive side, we got the stops that we needed to and rebounded the basketball...I was happy but told the guys that we need to be better to not put ourselves in that situation where it comes down to the last possession or two."

The Knights had three players reach double-digit points in the win. Ian Flynn led the team with 14 points. Jackson Fetter had 12, half of those points coming from the free-throw line, and Marvin Hartfield finished with 10 points.

Liggett returned to its home court the next night on Thursday, Jan. 25, for a Catholic League matchup against Shrine Catholic. The game was a low-scoring, defensive battle that the Knights ultimately came out on top of with a 34-25 win. Flynn and Sean Harris were Liggett's leading scorers with 10 points each.

The Knights went on the road to face Everest Collegiate on Tuesday, Jan. 30, after press time. The team is on the road again for its next game at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, at Cardinal Mooney.

**North**

Last week, like much of the season, had its ups and downs for the Norsemen. The team was able to snap a losing streak with an exciting win, only to have that momentum stifled a couple of nights later.

North went on the road to Romeo last Wednesday, Jan. 24, still in search of its first MAC White win. The Norsemen were able to get it, but not without some sweat, as they emerged victorious 56-55 in overtime.

"After the game we were finally like 'we got one'," North boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson said about beating Romeo. "...Being able to finish and battle, we battled through adversity and came out with a win and we needed one to kind of get us going."

Leo Perettie led the team with 24 points in the win while Vasili Vasilos finished with 13 points.

See HOOPS, page 4D

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purposes of considering amendments to the permitted uses and additional use standards of the Zoning Ordinance. The amendments consider year-around outdoor cafes, rooftop dining, home-based business, and mixed occupancy for properties along Mack Avenue.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office, up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at 313-343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at [www.gpwmi.us](http://www.gpwmi.us).

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at 313-343-2426 or e-mail [building@gpwmi.us](mailto:building@gpwmi.us).

Paul Antolin  
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 2/1/24

## City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will be considering the following proposed Ordinance amendments for second readings at its meeting scheduled for February 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers/Court Room of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center. The proposed Ordinance amendments are available for public inspection at the Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS BY REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 32, SIGNS, AND REPLACING IT WITH AN UPDATED AND REORGANIZED CHAPTER 32, SIGNS.**

Paul Antolin  
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 2/1/24



# James breaks South's 3-point record in Blue Devils' 68-60 win over Dakota

By Meg Leonard  
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South junior guard Tory James had a record-setting, red-hot hand on a cold winter's night Friday, Jan. 26, helping propel the host Blue Devils past Dakota 68-60.

James had 27 points in the win, including a school-record eight three-pointers.

"Tory was able to get his looks because of the defense they run," head coach Steve Benard said. "They run a match-up zone. They've run it for years and they do a great job coaching (at Dakota). They usually get better as the season goes on, but those were the looks that we were getting and we were able to knock them down."

The energy in South's gym with a full lower bowl and loud student section and pep band spoke to the importance of the MAC Red matchup. South entered the game in the division lead with an undefeated 7-0 record (11-3 overall), while Dakota sat at 4.5 games behind at 3-5 in the Red.

The Blue Devils and Cougars tipped off in what would become a physical and sometimes sloppy first quarter. The teams came out of the

first eight minutes knotted up 12-12.

South took a 28-21 lead with just under three minutes left in the second quarter, paced by straight three-pointers from James. Vince Vachon helped extend the lead by banking a three before the half ended, with South holding on to a comfortable 33-23 lead.

Despite being up, Benard said he hoped his team would clean up its play in the second half.

"A lot of our sloppiness had to do with the defense they play," he said. "They play the matchup zone so sometimes it's hard to figure out. They're not playing (man-to-man), they're covering space but it looks like man, so that's kind of where the sloppiness comes from. Then we had some turnovers in the first half that our team usually doesn't make."

The Blue Devils started the third quarter by keeping the ball moving. Karter Richards drew a foul just under a minute in, sinking a free throw then setting up Nate Davey for a monster dunk to put South up 37-23. A nice turnaround jumper from James had South humming 39-25 before Dakota's Matthew Bommarito hit a three to

quiet the crowd, but only momentarily.

Vachon hit a three soon after on an assist from Richards for a 42-30 lead with 4:07 left in the third quarter.

James hit his fifth three on the night to give South a 15-point lead, 45-30. The teams exchanged scoring opportunities and trips to the free-throw line, including James getting fouled on his sixth three-pointer of the night. The quarter ended with the Blue Devils leading 54-40.

Benard said this was a game where his team lacked defensive identity.

"Any time you play Dakota, they are big, strong and athletic and they're gonna be physical with you," he said. "... Our defense isn't where we want it to be. Sometimes we play teams like we played tonight and I don't know what our identity was tonight. Last season we would play defense in the half court. Today we were a little bit more up and down, so we need to get an identity as to what it is moving forward."

The fourth quarter maintained the night's excitement and included a Richards dunk with an and-one, a mid-range jumper from Vachon and a charge drawn by James



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

South's Tory James sinks one of his school-record eight three-pointers in last Friday night's 68-60 win.

Michelotti. Still, Dakota closed the gap 58-52 with just under three minutes left. The Cougars hit a big three to make it a 66-60 game with 22 seconds to go before Davey drew an off-the-ball foul and hit one of his two free throws.

Davey was fouled again with nine seconds left, hitting his first attempt for a 68-60 lead, but missing the second. That's the way the game ended, pushing South to an 8-0 division record

with two league games left in the regular season.

The first game was against Stevenson Tuesday after press time. The second will be for at least a share of the MAC Red title on the road against 7-1 Roseville at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5.

Benard said as his team hits the final stretch of the regular season, the team has their work set out for them.

"I would like to see them better at the free throw line. That's a

toughness thing," he said. "All my kids can shoot. We shoot the ball really, really well, so for us to go 13-for-27 or -26 at the free throw line is unacceptable."

We're earning our free throws and we're getting our spots on the floor to get fouled with toughness, and then we're going to the line making one or missing two. That can't happen if we want to be a championship team," he added. "Still work to do, always."

# North girls hoops best Blue Devils

By Meg Leonard  
Senior Editor

Tough defense, hustle and opportune scoring helped Grosse Pointe North girls varsity basketball come away with a tight 50-46 win over rival Grosse Pointe South Tuesday, Jan. 23, but the same adjectives could be used to describe South's effort throughout the game, according to North's head coach Gary Bennett.

"I think that it was a great rivalry game and both teams really competed hard and did a lot of really good stuff," he said immediately after his team's win. "And it was anybody's ballgame at the end. We just ended up finishing the game better than they did."

South's head coach Kevin Richards agreed.

"Obviously we had a few opportunities late, but I don't think that was the story of the game," he said. "They were a little tougher than us. I thought the first half we weren't getting some 50-50 balls and I thought we defended them well and we did everything that we asked (our players) to do."

Both teams struggled to find much flow in the first quarter, each playing tight defense and causing plenty of turnovers and limited scoring opportunities. North found the basket more frequently and finished the quarter up 13-4.

The teams settled down in the second quarter. After hitting the floor hard in a collision and leaving the court for a few minutes, South's Maddy Benard bounced back to give the Blue Devils some rhythm by hitting a three as part of her nine-point second



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

North's Eva Borowski tries to break through the Blue Devils defense.

quarter. Elsa Bachert added eight points for South, but North's Jenna Winowiecki answered with seven points of her own, along with four points from Natalie Babcock and a free throw from Ella Richardson, which helped North keep the lead at halftime, 25-21.

Richards said he told his Blue Devils to pull it together during the half.

"At halftime we talked about effort," he said. "(I) got on Alex Lupo as far as rebounding and 50-50 plays and even how she was defending, and she answered the second half. She rebounded with intensity and defended and got 50-50 balls," noting the kind of weapon South potentially has in Lupo.

"I was really, really happy. She's smart and she recognized the ability of what she can do. If we can get that out of Alex, we're gonna be a really good team and she's

gonna be a really good player."

The third quarter saw both teams heat up, starting with Benard, who was fouled out of the gate by North's Eva Borowski on a three-point try. Benard made all three free throws to close South's gap to a single point, 25-24.

Then it was Lupo's turn.

With 6:30 left in the third, North's Babcock got whistled for the foul on Lupo's three-point attempt. Lupo made two of three free throws to give South its first lead, 26-25.

From there the teams alternated scoring and South found itself ahead 30-27 with just under four minutes left in the quarter. The Blue Devils secured its biggest lead of the game 34-28 after Benard drove down the middle of the key for a basket. Winowiecki answered right back with a three-pointer to slow

South's momentum. North successfully defended Benard on a three-point attempt, but the Norsemen ended the quarter down 34-31.

"I actually think we played pretty good defense for most of the game," Bennett said. "I think Maddy (Benard) made some really tough shots over people where she was guarded. I thought she had a fantastic game."

Just a minute into the fourth quarter, Borowski scored to pull North closer 34-33. The Norsemen regained a 35-34 lead when Babcock made two free throws at the 6:50 mark.

From there, the teams exchanged shots. Freshman Clara Bachert hit from three to put South up 37-35, but Babcock scored to tie things up with five minutes left. After two straight South scores to go up 41-37, Bennett called a time out.

"You need to pass the ball," he told his team. "You can't give that stuff up. Those last two baskets shouldn't have happened. You have to have the presence of mind out there."

The Norsemen responded.

Richardson scored right out of the timeout to make it a 41-39 game. After a basket from Benard, Julia Liagre swept the ball to a waiting Winowiecki, who knocked down the three to make it a one-point South lead.

North took the lead with just under three minutes to go when Babcock scored and got fouled. She made her free throw for a 45-43 lead, then hit another free throw to extend the lead with a minute to go.

Benard made a three to tie things up 46-46. Winowiecki got fouled with 29 seconds left, missing the first but sinking the second free throw.

Borowski hit a free throw after an Elsa Bachert foul to give North a 48-46 lead, before North stole an inbound pass and Babcock sealed the deal with a basket for a 50-46 win.

"We had to play really good D and get our shots," Babcock said. "Our main focus was defense and just stopping them from getting easy shots. ... It wasn't over until the buzzer went off."

Babcock said her team could feel the intensity of the rivalry throughout the game.

"It's definitely one of the most intense games so far in the season," she said. "I mean we knew it was going to be close."

Bennett said he was impressed with players on each side, but in light of South's 20 turnovers, North took care of the ball.

"I mean give (South) credit; it was a really great game," he said. "I think down the stretch we took care of the ball like we hadn't been doing the rest of the game. Not turning the ball over is key. And what happened to South is they made a few at the end and we scored off of them and those were absolutely critical points."

North sits in second place in the MAC Red at 6-2 after a 53-43 loss Monday night to Dakota and is 13-2 overall. The Norsemen hosted Eisenhower Wednesday after press time.

South is in fourth place in the MAC Red at 4-4 and 6-7 overall after beating L'Anse Creuse North 57-32 on the road Monday, Jan. 29. They headed to Port Huron Wednesday after press time.



# 4D | BASKETBALL



Maddy Benard, left, sets up South's offense against North Jan. 23.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

## ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

shots) too."

The ability to see the court in a way some teammates or opponents may not is a reflection of Benard's high basketball IQ. That vision comes in part from being "coach's kid," who talks about and watches basketball nearly as much as she plays it.

To her, being a coach's kid means "being a leader and doing the little things that a normal player wouldn't think to do."

Benard continues to improve her game through hard work, but also benefits from measuring herself against her older brother, Anthony, a former Blue Devils great and current Division 1 basketball player at Mercer College in Macon, Ga.

"It's always a big competition with us, so I always want to be better than anything he does," Benard said of her older sibling. "But in a way, our games are very similar. I hate to say it, but I do get a lot from him."

With the regular season drawing to a close and playoffs on the horizon, Benard hopes to achieve both individual and team goals before she closes out

her high school career next year.

As a team, she hopes for this year's Blue Devils squad to make a good run for the district crown. "Before the season, I knew we were (a young team) ... but we are super aggressive and super fast," noting her team also has built good chemistry.

She also hopes to beat North, an accomplishment that has escaped her thus far, though the Blue Devils fell just four points shy of the Norsemen in the teams' most recent game.

On the individual side, Benard has set her sights on becoming one of South's thousand-point scorers. She estimated she currently sits somewhere in the high 600s for career points.

She also plans to follow in her brother's footsteps and play college basketball.

She already has gotten looks from the University of Buffalo in New York and Loyola and DePaul in Chicago. She is ranked No. 12 in the Detroit Free Press Top 100 players, No. 19 on the Detroit News Top 20 players and is included in M-Live's Top 25 Players to

Watch in 2023-24.

All in all, Benard and the Blue Devils are heating up at the right time.

"Our defense is really strong and we give a lot of teams trouble offensively," she said. "I think we are building up our confidence and have a swagger."

"As you gain that confidence, you play more freely and you get into a little groove."

## 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).



Maddy Benard, left, scrambles for a loose ball against North's Eva Borowski.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

## HOOPS:

Continued from page 2D

While the Norsemen hoped that the win over Romeo would give them some much needed momentum, they had a tall task in front of them to close out last week. North returned to its home floor on Friday, Jan. 26, hosting Warren

Lincoln.

The Abes are currently ranked as high as No. 2 in the state according to The D Zone, and looked the part in last Friday's game at North. The Norsemen put up a fight early on, but were ultimately no match as Lincoln rolled to a 62-33 victory.

Both teams came out swinging and had some

success scoring early on. North was getting quality shots to fall, especially from beyond the three-point line, and jumped out to a 17-13 lead after the first quarter.

Lincoln flipped the script in the second quarter, boosting its own offense while its defense gave North a bit of a harder time than it did to open the game. The Abes

outscored the Norsemen 18-5 in the second quarter, but North was still within single digits only trailing by nine points at halftime.

However, the second quarter seemed to be the indicator of how the rest of the night would go. Lincoln's explosive offense was too much for the Norsemen to handle and their defense held

North to only eleven points in the entire second half.

"We played them good in the first quarter and know that they're one of the best teams in the state," Johnson said. "... My main message after the game is don't let what happened in that game, especially the second half, dictate our entire week and what we've

been doing or where we're going... We have to wash that taste out of our mouths quick."

North went on the road for another MAC White contest against Eisenhower on Tuesday, Jan. 30, after press time. The Norsemen come back home at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, to host the Rockets of New Haven.

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6D | SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH DUGOUT CLUB

# Standing in the Hall of Fame

Grosse Pointe South's baseball program inducted seven former players into its inaugural 2024 Hall of Fame class in front of 100 guests, including family, former coaches and teammates as well as current players Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier community center. Each inductee was coached by legendary Blue Devils head coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. and made a unique impact on the championship program, including playing at the collegiate and professional levels. The 2024 class includes, from left to right, Cam Gibson, Adam Abraham, Marcus Wysocki, Chris Getz, Kevin Schroeder, Kevin Brennan and Dan Griesbaum Jr.

## HOCKEY:

Continued from page 1D

### South

The Blue Devils faced off against Ann Arbor Skyron last Friday, Jan. 26, in front of their home crowd at East Side Arena. Just as Liggett would end up doing one night later, South had little trouble with Skyron as the Blue Devils dominated a 6-0 win.

After a scoreless first period, Ruby Lenhard, Tinley Gram and Abby Evans helped put South in front 3-0 in the second. Two goals from Anne Wayman and another from Hannah Sun in the third period sealed the win for the Blue Devils, with goalie Rosie Smith getting the shutout.

On Monday, Jan. 29, South traveled to Taylor for an exhibition contest against the Belle Tire 19U team. While the game was just an exhibition, the Blue Devils still managed to avoid a loss, coming out with a 1-1 tie. Molly Reynolds scored South's lone goal.

The Blue Devils had a

crosstown clash with University Liggett on Wednesday, Jan. 31, after press time. South plays again at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, taking on Grosse Pointe North.

### North

The Norsemen had a relatively quiet week, playing just one game Wednesday, Jan. 24, with North at home facing off against Washtenaw United. The Norsemen won 6-1.

Ava Villani and Josie Cueter scored in the first period to give North an early 2-0 lead. Cueter added another in the second period, along with a goal by Paige Martin to double the lead going into the third.

While Washtenaw scored their lone tally in the third period, North got two more goals, scored by Cameron Beers and Kate Kasuba, to close out the win. Maddie Pflaum made 20 saves in net for North while getting the win.

North celebrates senior night at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, hosting Grosse Pointe South at East Side Arena.

## 2024 SPORTS CALENDAR FEBRUARY

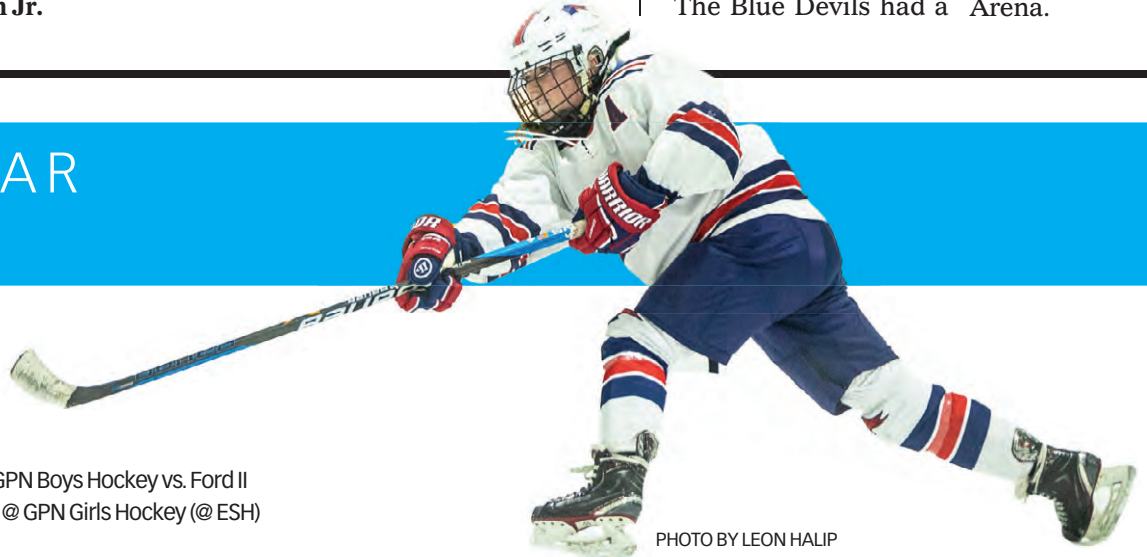


PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

### 1 THURSDAY

- » 5:50 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Country Day (@ Trenton)
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. Madison
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- (@ GPN)
- » 7:45 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Ford II
- » 8 p.m. - ULS @ GPN Girls Hockey (@ ESH)

### 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)

### 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 Tourn.)
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tourn.)
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops @ Lutheran NW

### 3 SATURDAY

- » 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

### 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 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

### 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



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- » 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 Tourn.)
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tourn.)

### 14 WEDNESDAY

- » TBD - GPS Wrestling Regionals (@ GPS)
- » TBD - GPN Wrestling Regionals (@ TBD)
- » TBD - Gymnastics League Meet (@ Groves)
- » TBD - ULS Boys Hockey @ Gibraltar Carlson
- » 6:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey @ PCEP

### 15 THURSDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops @ Bloomfield Hills
- » 5 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. M1 Griffins
- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey vs. Country Day
- » 6:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Greenhills
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tourn.)
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey @ AA Skyron

### 16 FRIDAY

- » TBD - GPS Wrestling Indiv. Regionals (@ TBD)
- » TBD - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Port Huron
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tourn.)
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tourn.)

### 17 SATURDAY

- » TBD - GPN Wrestling Indiv. Regionals (@ TBD)

- » GPS Girls Wrestling Indiv. Regional (@ TBD)
- » TBD - GPN Boys Hockey vs. SCS- TBD
- » 12 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ PHN
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Traverse City

### 18 SUNDAY

- » No events scheduled

### 19 MONDAY

- » No events scheduled

### 20 TUESDAY

- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tourn.)

### 21 WEDNESDAY

- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Cranbrook
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. ND Prep

### 22 THURSDAY

- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive MAC Red Diving (@ TBD)
- » 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics Last Chance Meet (@ GPN)
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. Denby

### 23 FRIDAY

- » 6 p.m. - GPS + GPN Boys Swim & Dive MAC Red Meet (@ GPS)
- » 6 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey @ Mid Mich. Alliance
- » 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics Last Chance Meet (@ GPN)
- » 6:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Greenhills
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. TBD (MAC Tourn.)
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops @ Dakota

### 24 SATURDAY

- » 12 p.m. - GPS + GPN Boys Swim & Dive MAC Red Meet (@ GPS)

### 25 SUNDAY

- » No Events Scheduled

### 26 MONDAY

- » 3:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. OLSM

### 27 TUESDAY

- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Lakeview
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ Westfield Prep