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Grosse Pointe News

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Vol. 65 • No. 52 • 38 pages

Grosse Pointe, Michigan

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December 23, 2004



9 weeks until Feb. 22
School Millage Vote

INSIDE

- The cost of watching cable television in the Pointes will be going up an average of 6.2 percent. Page 3A
- The future looks brighter for a section of Grosse Pointe Woods that has been plagued with occasional long-term power outages. Page 3A
- A reception at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center on Monday, Dec. 20, turned out to be a happy belated homecoming for 21-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods Olympic gold medalist Carly Piper. Page 17A
- Grosse Pointe North's basketball team bounces back from a loss to Detroit Country Day with a victory over Redford Catholic Central. Page 1C

WEEK AHEAD

Thursday, Dec. 23

City offices of the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods will be closed through Monday, Dec. 27.

Rubbish pickup will remain the same in all the communities. Farms residents are requested to have rubbish placed outside by 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 24.

Friday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve.

Make sure fires in fireplaces are put out at night so that Santa can make safe passages through chimneys.

The Grosse Pointe Shores Village Office will be closed through Monday, Dec. 27.

Saturday, Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

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Photos by Robert McKean

Lighting up Lakeshore

Everyone is commenting on how many properties are decorated along Lakeshore this year, such as the one above. Don't take our word for it. Go for a ride and see for yourself!

Below is an out-of-this-world shot of Santa's sleigh and reindeer.



Living Nativity

Christ the King Lutheran Church held its 20th annual Living Nativity Dec. 25, on the front lawn of the church. This year's event featured a camel named Godfrey.

Shown with Godfrey are Dana Koepp and Amanda Josefak.

Zoning overlay set for condos on Lakeshore

Planned unit development designation still a long way from project approval

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

A developer wants Grosse Pointe Farms officials to hurry up and rule on month-old plans for 12 condominiums on Lakeshore.

"We did submit the drawings a month ago," Michael Monahan of the Monahan Co., told the city council this week. "We're waiting for comments and (are) anxious to comply with whatever you need. The delay is very punitive. We would like to expedite the process as much as possible."

"We want (the plans) looked at by city administration," said Mayor James Farquhar.

"It's been almost four weeks," Monahan said. "They haven't finished yet," said Farquhar.

Monahan has teamed with the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, owners for more than two years of adjacent houses at 50 and 60 Lakeshore, to replace the vacant dwellings with three manor-like structures.

Each structure will contain four luxury condominiums. Individual units are expected to sell for about \$2 million.

Condo-backers see a first-ever opportunity for owners of large Pointe homes to downsize to a low-maintenance lifestyle without having to forgo comfort or leave the community.

"This would be a low lot-coverage-style of development," said William Gilbride, chairman of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association and the War Memorial's attorney. "It

would preserve and protect the views of the neighbors on both sides of the property as well as across Jefferson (sic) and could be a spectacular use of the property."

Opponents of the proposal said introducing multiple-unit dwellings into an exclusive single-family district would harm property values and detract from the neighborhood's character.

"More than 200 of our neighbors have signed petitions that have voiced strong opposition to this property being developed for anything other than single-family residences," said Dr. William O'Neill, whose house at 66 Lakeshore is next door to the proposed development.

Discussion came this week as council members voted unanimously to designate 60 and 50 Lakeshore a planned unit development, or PUD district.

"(A PUD) is a mechanism simply to allow the council more flexibility in restricting and working with the developer to make sure whatever goes there is in the best interests of the community," said Councilman Louis Theros.

"I totally understand the interests of the War Memorial," O'Neill said. "They will make millions of dollars off this property. I totally understand the interests of the developer, Mr. Monahan. He stands to make a great deal of money. What is the interest of Grosse Pointe (Farms)?"

"Better control over what gets developed there, whether it is single-family residence homes as you desire, or as condos as the War Memorial desires," Theros said.

"Why not make a PUD (along) the whole (of)

See PUD, page 2A

POINTER OF INTEREST

Craig Wilson

Home: City of Grosse Pointe

Age: 27

Family: father, Phil; mother, Donna; brother Perry

Occupation: Musician and actor

Quote: "Music is something I can put across in my own words the way I want to say it."

See story, page 4A



Craig Wilson

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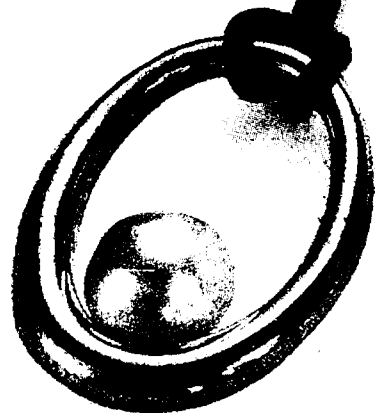
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yesterday's headlines

50 years ago this week

■ A new ordinance in Grosse Pointe Park forbids truck drivers to park their vehicles more than 30 minutes on public rights of way.

Police Chief Arthur Lowers says the rule is aimed at large-type commercial vehicles, such as automobile driveway trailers.

■ Grosse Pointe Park's hopes of a deathless year are shattered when a 50-year-old Detroit woman is killed a few feet inside Park city limits while crossing Mack at Bishop.

■ Another municipal parking lot is added to the Village.

City of Grosse Pointe officials say the lot south of Kercheval and east of Notre Dame will provide room for 45 cars.

25 years ago this week

■ Pointe city leaders will have to wait until next year to learn if they must convert from five individual municipal courts to a District Court system in 1980.

State lawmakers didn't act on a bill mandating the court conversion in the Pointes before it broke for Christmas recess.

■ Sparky Herberts opens on lower Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park.

The moderately-priced, informal restaurant promises a touch of class with antique tables, chairs, marble floors and suspended lighting.

Menu items include deep-fried zucchini, key lime pie and New York strip steak.

■ Gini Bruce and Anne Day share Most Valuable Player award as Grosse Pointe South High School's girls' basketball team celebrates its fine season during fall sports night.

Bruce and Day, both guards, led the Blue Devils to an 18-4 record, good for second place in the Eastern Michigan league.

10 years ago this week

■ Grosse Pointe North High School students Jonathan Opdyke, Arul Thirumoorthi, Meredith Chan, John Gleason and Heather Hollidge qualify for the second part of the 38th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Michigan section of the Mathematical Association of America.

■ In an effort to prevent trouble between neighbors, members of the Grosse Pointe Woods city council pass an ordinance requiring all downspouts in the city to be directed away from other people's property.

■ Administrators at Grosse Pointe North and South high schools consider using Breathalyzers at school dances to combat the problem of intoxicated, disruptive students.

"There are a lot of schools that have Breathalyzers and found them to be helpful," says Mary Beth Herrmann, South principal.

5 years ago this week

■ If the first two games of the season are any indication, Grosse Pointe South High School's boys' basketball season isn't going to be one for the faint of heart.

The Blue Devils pick up their first victory beating Notre Dame 61-59 in double overtime. South dropped its opener 47-46 at Hamtramck earlier this week.

■ The Pointe Youth Soccer Association Mustangs under-16 team wins first place in the first division of the Michigan Youth Soccer League.

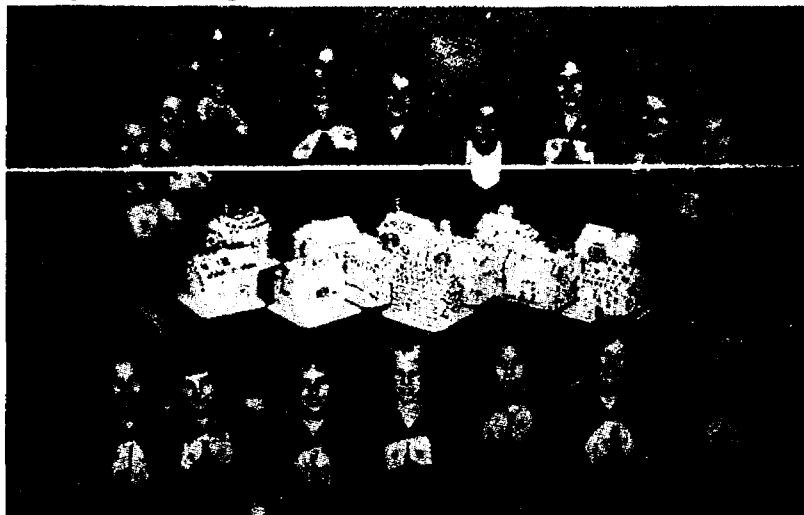
"This team was outstanding because it was the culmination of several years of hard work and focused development," says coach Ed Egnatios.

■ Grosse Pointe Shores trustees review results of a mailed survey regarding an activities center proposed for Osius Park.

Some 1,266, or 50 percent, of questionnaires comprising the survey are returned. Of those, 51 percent support having a recreation center while 46 percent do not. Three percent of respondents have no opinion.

— Brad Lindberg

50 years ago this week



Girl Scouts build Christmas houses

The housing shortage, candy houses that is, was lessened to a great degree when Girl Scouts of Maitre Elementary School's Troop 1047 got together and built pretty candy houses to add to Christmas decorations. The entire project was under the direction of Leader Mrs. William Adams and co-leader Mrs. Michael David at the school. Also the troop baked 60 dozen cookies and delivered them to the patients at the Marine Hospital. Surrounding the houses are, from left, first row: Anne Bippus, Judy Crockett, Elizabeth Adams, Kathleen Mylrot, Pixie David, Julie DuCharme and Virginia Barnes. Back row are Beverly Smith, Grace Jeffries, Barbara Van de Water, Holly Pasco, Suzanne Lewis, Beverly Butler, Judy Carrier, Cheryl Lyman and Sharon Sweeny. (Photo by Fred Runnels. From the Dec. 23, 1954 Grosse Pointe News.)

PUD

From page 1A

Lakeshore so you can have total control of it," O'Neill said.

"Because nobody asked us to PUD that," Theros said.

"They (the developers) asked if they could have it there," Farquhar said after the meeting. "We wanted to do it anyway. It was a mutual agreement. It makes sure we have more control of whatever goes in there."

A PUD establishes additional regulatory authority over existing zoning ordinances.

"It's what we call an overlay in the sense that the existing R1-AA (single-family) zoning district would not be changed," said William Burgess, city attorney. "But the council would overlay a PUD district designation on the parcel, such that additional city control on the development or redevelopment of that cite would be given."

"Frankly, I expected the War Memorial to be against the PUD," said Terry Davis, councilman. "It restricts their freedom tremendously."

Before the PUD overlay, War Memorial officials could have subdivided the properties into at least seven separate single-family parcels without council permission.

Now, because of the PUD,

"the owner of that property has to come to the council and negotiate a development plan, whether condos, nested housing, seven single-family homes or one home," Davis said.

Not according to Gilbride. "I have read the ordinance," he said. "If our site plan for condos is denied, the zoning will revert to R1-AA."

"(Passage of the PUD) is not an action that approves a particular site plan," Burgess said. "It's certainly not a vote in favor of condominium development or any other specific kind of development. There would be at least two public hearings, potentially more."

In addition, members of the Farms Historic District Commission last week voted to designate 60 Lakeshore a historic resource. Their action blocked a demolition permit for the 102-year-old house until the council makes a ruling.

"The public will have a chance to see the (Monahan and War Memorial) proposal (and) comment on it a number of times before the first spade goes in the ground," Davis said.

Pointers who attended the meeting weighed in.

David Cornillie, who owns a house on Edgemere one block from the proposed


condo site, supported the PUD and "the flexibility it would provide for the development of 50-60 Lakeshore."


"I have no objection to condos, (but) if I lived in that area, you would have a tiger by the tail," said Tom McCleary, a Farms homeowner on Radnor Circle about five blocks inland from the properties in question. "These people bought in a residential community — prime residential property — and they had every expectation that would continue. The (city) council has an obligation to residents of the Farms to keep it a residential community."

Condominiums are inevitable, but I don't think that prime property is the place to put the first."

Ronald Lamparter, a former Woods resident now living in Grosse Pointe Shores, supports the idea of condominiums.

"I'd like to become a resident of the Farms," he said. "I remember riding my bicycle along Lakeshore when there were a bunch of old estates. One by one these estates came down and were subdivided. The War Memorial is trying to preserve the character that made Grosse Pointe what it still is today in many people's minds."


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Advertising copy for Section "B" must be in the advertising department by 10:30 a.m. on Monday.

Advertising copy for Sections "A" and "C" must be in the advertising department by 3:00 p.m. on Monday.

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Stock market activity winds down at year-end

Prior to 1990, trading activity on the NYSE slowed to a crawl as Christmas and New Year's Day approached. Most individual investors and all institutions had completed their portfolio trades by Dec. 15, leaving a only a few tax-loss trades for the last minute.

Management and employees not involved in trading or back-office deliveries were permitted longer-than-usual lunch hours. Stock brokers devoted special time for face-to-face meetings with their customers. Members of the buying departments (corporate finance, public finance and research) felt compelled to visit out-of-town clients or prospects.

This is also the week that employees are typically given their Christmas distributions, from the reception desk to the mail room.

Since investment banking and stock brokerage always involve cash investments, cash gifts are much preferred over turkeys, hams or fruit cakes!

The annual Christmas party of the brokerage was usually scheduled on a Friday night in mid-

December at a private club or in a private area of a restaurant near Griswold Street.

Somehow, somewhere, the ladies changed to party attire. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails were served. The less said the better. During the early post World War II era, the major banks were staffed with all-male officers. Their Christmas parties coincided with annual promotion time after the early December directors' meeting.

NBD's gala black-tie dinner rotated every other year between the Book Cadillac and Statler hotels. Some of the newly hired assistant cashiers had to rush out to rent tuxedos for the evening. Lucky that LTS already had a tux that hadn't "shrunk" since college days!

Year-end tax losses

Every December, LTS reminds readers to review their unrealized gains and losses. The harvesting of tax losses can increase tax efficiency.

Early in LTS' banking career, the bank's operating committee approved a

Let's talk...
STOCKS

By Joseph Mengden

Treasury bond swap (simultaneous sale and purchase of other bonds) which would book large tax savings at year-end.

In that era, all security sales involved physical delivery of the bonds, which

were made on a next-day basis. But same-day "cash sales" could usually be arranged.

The bank's tax-loss bond swap involved \$27 million sales and a like amount of purchases, a huge transac-

tion in the 1950s. And the sale date was Dec. 31, when trading and deliveries closed at 2 p.m. for the holiday.

There would be no problem if the buy-side failed delivery, because the cash proceeds of the sell-side would lie idle at the Fed over the holiday.

But the other way around, the buy-side clears and the sell-side fails, would create a \$27 million overdraft on the year-end bank statements!

About 1 p.m., the Fed phoned confirmation that the buy-side had cleared. Because of the early bank closing, LTS had pulled the "work late" pink slip. Everyone else left saying, "Happy New Year!"

About 3 p.m., the Fed phoned again saying wire confirmation had not yet arrived. Holding the Fed on one phone, LTS called New York on another phone. The NYC bond dealer confirmed they had made timely physical delivery to the Fed at 1:12 p.m., which LTS relayed to the Fed on the other phone.

At 4 p.m., the Fed again called saying they had heard nothing from their wire room. LTS told the Fed, "Go ahead, put through the transaction, and let's go home!" LTS was still then a bond clerk, not an authorized officer.

On Jan. 2 at 8:30 a.m., the Fed called advising LTS that the wire confirmation, dated 3:15 p.m., Dec. 31st, had been trapped in their teletype system, but all was OK.

Only then did LTS tell the boss the story. The boss

Stock Market at a Glance	
Friday Close, 12/17/04	
Dow Jones Ind.....	10,650
Nasdaq Comp.....	2,135
S&P 500 Index.....	1,194
Euro	1.3289
Crude Oil (Bbl.).....	46.28
Gold (Oz.).....	441.60
3-Mo. T-Bills.....	2.19%
30-Yr. T-Bonds.....	4.84%

put his hand on LTS' shoulder, and we shook hands!

New Year's ahead!

New Year's, birthdays and graduations are times to plan ahead.

For LTS, it is also a time to slow down. Much as LTS enjoyed writing the 416 articles over eight years, next week's Dec. 30 article will be LTS' last weekly copy.

In 2005, LTS will appear once a month, on the second Thursday of each month. No more rewriting last week's market trivia; LTS will feature estate planning, tax strategies, market trends and new economic developments.

Mark your 2005 calendar for LTS on Jan. 13 and Feb. 10. Thank you for your loyal readership and encouragement. Happy holidays!

Joseph Mengden is a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe and former chairman of First of Michigan. "Let's Talk Stocks" is sponsored by the following Grosse Pointe investment-related firms: John M. Rickel CPA, P.C. and Rickel & Baun P.C.

Improve your digital prowess



OK, no more excuses! You sat around all last year knowing you should get off the couch and do something. Here it is.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System is offering beginner classes for those who know nothing about personal computers. (And you thought I was talking about exercise.)

It's called Computers Made Simple 1 and 2. It will be held on Mondays, from Jan. 24 to March 7, at 7 p.m. (No class on Monday, Feb. 14.)

It's a hands-on experience in a relaxed atmosphere. It reminds me of one of my favorite cliches. I'd rather show my ignorance than keep it. Yes, they will start by showing you how to turn it on. You can't get anymore basic than that.

There are two other courses the school system is offering you might find of interest.

If you have used Microsoft Office, but have let your skills get rusty, they have a Microsoft Office refresher course. It's four weeks long and is held on Thursdays beginning Feb. 24. Besides refreshing your old knowledge, they will also teach you some new tricks. Again, it's a hands-on experience.

If you've taken a look at eBay and wished you could sell some of the valuable junk — er, I mean, antiques — in your basement or attic, there is a class about selling on eBay. It looks complicated with all the 50 cent words, but what you need to know is which words are important and which ones you can ignore. Think of it as CliffsNotes for eBay.

You'll learn how to set up your own account, do research and mail items you have sold.

This reminds me, does anyone want a purple, team T-shirt from the champion Michigan Panthers of the long defunct U.S. Football

league? It's still in the original, sealed, plastic bag and never worn. Didn't think so.

However, if you think I'm trying to slip one past my editor for free advertising, you are right. He never reads the middle of my column. I'm sure of this because he still publishes them. Ed.

The Neighborhood Club is also offering some interesting computer classes.

The have basic classes for Microsoft Windows, the operating system on most computers. They have two separate classes on different nights. There goes the old, "I'd love to, but that's my bowling night" argument.

The club also has a class on e-mail and the Internet you might want to check out.

My photography hasn't gotten any better with the switch from film to digital. I might take the next class.

The Neighborhood Club is offering two separate classes on digital photography. One for beginners and a step up class for those familiar with digital photography who want to improve their skills.

If you don't know where the batteries go in your camera, I highly recommend the first class. I'm also recommending the second class for my editor. He's the one who took the picture attached to this column. Ed.

All-in-all, the club is offering seven different classes. If your Winter Program Guide was lost while wrapping presents, they will be happy to give you another one. Stop by the Neighborhood Club at 17150 Waterloo in the City or call them at (313) 885-4600.

Have a tech question or subject you would like addressed in this column? Want to comment or add your two cents worth? My e-mail address is mtmaurer@comcast.net.

Business people



Bruno



Buydens



Dickson



Hancock



Hudson



Klimko



Shumate

Twenty-four Butzel Long attorneys have been chosen by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers of America 2005-06 edition. Those attorneys include:

• **James C. Bruno** of the City of Grosse Pointe, who specializes in corporate mergers and acquisitions, securities law, international trade and finance law.

• **Robert G. Buydens** of Grosse Pointe Shores, who specializes in employee benefits law.

• **Andrea R. Dickson** of Grosse Pointe Farms, who specializes in labor and employment law.

• **John P. Hancock Jr.** of Grosse Pointe Park, who specializes in labor and employment law.

• **Robert A. Hudson** of Grosse Pointe Farms, who specializes in corporate mergers and acquisitions and securities law.

• **Justin G. Klimko** of Grosse Pointe Woods, who specializes in corporate mergers and acquisitions and securities law.

• **Jack D. Shumate** of Grosse Pointe Park, who specializes in environmental law.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has announced an executive order creating the Council for Labor and Economic Growth, which is intended to focus on developing strategies to prepare Michigan's workers for the 21st century.

The order creates the business-led council and replaces the current Michigan Workforce Investment Board. The council's members include key leaders from business, labor, community colleges, universities, community-based organizations, local workforce boards, the K-12 education community and government. The council will recommend strategies to encourage and stimulate innovative responses to Michigan's workforce challenges.

The new council has been reorganized to comply with federal workforce law which requires a 73-member board. Grosse Pointe Shores resident **Mary Thornton**, general director of GM University, was one of those members appointed to the board.

Grosse Pointe Park resident **Jay A. Kennedy**, a shareholder with the Detroit law firm of Abbott Nicholson, PC, was recently elected secretary of the taxation Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Mr. Kennedy is a University of Michigan Law School graduate who has practiced in the areas of corporate and individual taxation and estate planning for almost 25 years. He is a former chairperson of the Business Entities Committee of the Taxation Section, and most recently served as editor of the Section 57's Michigan Tax Lawyer publication.

Fifteen Clark Hill attorneys were named "Best Lawyers in America." Among them include **Fred W. Batten**, **Daniel J. Scully** and **Martin C. Oetting** of Grosse Pointe Farms; **Douglas J. Rasmussen** of the City of Grosse Pointe and **D. Kerry Crenshaw** of Grosse Pointe Park, all of whom work in the firm's Detroit office.

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Relationship debt: Marrying for love and money

Many Australians refer to it as sexually transmitted debt; here in the United States, it is often referred to as relationship debt. Regardless of what you call it, any debt procured by a spouse or loved one has the potential to affect us all and is becoming a growing problem throughout the nation. Chances are, if you aren't a victim, you may know someone who is. The good news, though, is that relationship debt can be treated and prevented.

Relationship debt may be invading your home and you may not even know it. Mike Sullivan, director of education for Take Charge America, says that although relationship debt has not yet gained formal recognition in the United States, it is spreading quickly, and quietly, throughout the nation. Once this silent relationship debt is contracted, it is extremely difficult to remedy.

For these reasons, Sullivan suggests that, as with any disease, consumers should take precautionary actions to prevent relationship debt before it's too late.

Relationship debt occurs when legal responsibility for an incurred debt is transferred from one person to another. In most occasions, the unwary victim contracts this sort of debt directly from his or her partner and becomes exposed to unforeseen and unintended financial obligations. Under these circumstances, guarantors (usually women) receive no direct financial benefit from the borrower's loan, and often find themselves at high financial risk.

In relationship debt cases, if the initial borrower fails to meet minimum loan payments, the lender can demand that the guarantor repay the principal loan as well as any unpaid interest

fees and penalties. If the guarantor is unable to meet this obligation, the lender can legally seek to collect any security, including the guarantor's home, savings, or other assets.

Consider "Anna," a 65-year-old Arizona woman who, 10 years ago, began dating a younger man who needed funding for his many inventions. In the beginning, Anna lent money to her boyfriend.

Once the two married, Anna's husband charged credit cards to the limit, forcing Anna to dig into her retirement funds to pay the bills. Anna also guaranteed a loan which her husband used to open a business that failed after eight months.

The two divorced after only three years, leaving Anna with over \$10,000 in past due credit card bills and a \$30,000 business loan. Her retirement account was depleted.

"I will be working for the rest of my life to catch up from these debts," Anna said. "Worse yet, I have no retirement savings or husband to help out if I should become ill or unable to work."

Relationship debt can happen to anyone — married or not — if financial dealings become intertwined with a partner.

According to a recent 2003 study titled, "Darling, Please Sign This Form: A Report on the Practice of Third Party Guarantees in New South Wales," the majority of women who signed joint loans with their male partners did so willingly.

Most such loans were undertaken to support family businesses, which were typically owned by the men. According to the study, guarantors generally agreed to sign the joint account for emotional rather than financial reasons.

Other reasons provided by the study included trust in the borrower, misunderstanding or misinformation about the transaction, and individual pressure from the borrower or other family members.

Sullivan says that taking precautions to prevent relationship debt is important for everyone.

"Consumers may have trouble dealing with the topic of relationship debt, especially when it comes to preventing it," Sullivan said. "People in loving relationships may not be able to see themselves as potential victims, simply because of the trust they have in their partners. Nevertheless, couples need to realize that they must protect themselves individually just in case something should go wrong."

Sullivan offers the following tips for couples to safeguard and prevent themselves from succumbing to relationship debt.

Applying for loans

- **Good people can be bad with money.** Of course your significant other is honest and trustworthy! But if he or she had great financial skills, you wouldn't be getting asked for money.

- **Do not guarantee any unsecured loans during the first seven years of a relationship.** It takes time to establish a relationship, and adding a financial burden on top of the other challenges can doom the relationship. Make sure everything else is stable and settled before risking financial assets.

- **Determine who will make loan payments and from what source and watch it.** If one's significant other is supposed to make a payment from business proceeds on the 15th and can't, that is a sign that the plan

isn't working, and commitments aren't being met. Failure to meet commitments dooms many relationships and most business plans.

- **Don't feel pressured.** If you have to prove your love by making or guaranteeing loans, you are just like the 16-year-old pressured for favors. Never give a loan under those conditions and never make those decisions in the heat of the moment. All loan commitments should be made before noon in the presence of unbiased witnesses.

- **Limit your risk.** Don't guarantee an entire loan if the lender only needs a down payment or partial guarantee. Share risk as you share love.

- **Understand all aspects of a transaction and read the fine print.** While people in love want desperately to trust their partner, taking on financial commitment should not be undertaken with blinders on. Each person who signs the document needs to read and understand the document and the responsibilities he or she is agreeing to before signing.

- **Make sure that the loan can not be amended without the guarantor's knowledge.** Many people with relationship debt problems find themselves in more debt than they ever imagined possible. Changes to agreements can sometimes be made solely by the borrower while arguably

committing the guarantor.

- **Seek legal advice.** Hire an outside party to assess the situation before securing a loan. The lawyer will know the history of the loan and can help to minimize the damages if things go bad.

"Consumers need to be aware of the consequences of relationship debt, especially before signing loan transactions," Sullivan said. "However, loans should be considered only as a last resort after careful financial budgeting and planning have been thoroughly completed. By taking preemptive steps, relationship debt throughout the nation can be controlled and defeated."

Metro East Chamber of Commerce hails five Pointe area volunteers

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

The Metro East Chamber of Commerce recently recognized 10 individuals as 2004 Volunteers of the Year. Five of those individuals hail from the Grosse Pointes.

Each individual was chosen as a representative of each member city by their level and intensity of community involvement.

Grosse Pointe Park resident Scott Kilpatrick was named for his efforts in resurrecting the Grosse Pointe Park Business Owners Association and enhancing the business climate in that area.

Brett Marshall of Grosse Pointe Shores was named for being instrumental in making the Shores a Tree City USA. He was also cited for his involvement in the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation and for lending his knowl-

edge in helping the village combat the emerald ash borer, which has been plaguing ash trees in the area over the past few years.

Dr. Michael Skaff was also commended with his work with trees. A member of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission for the past seven years, he was instrumental in publishing "The Trees of Grosse Pointe Woods," a guide that informs residents of the different trees within the city and its parks. He also participates in the annual Arbor Week program, which is presented to over 300 third-graders in the five elementary schools in the Woods.

Edward Smith Jr. of Grosse Pointe Farms was commended for the volunteer efforts he has contributed to Cottage Hospital. At 82, Smith donates about 60 to 80 hours a month to the hospital. He

also volunteers his time helping out with recreational activities at Pier Park and has served as election chairman in the Farms for over 25 years.

City of Grosse Pointe resident Sandi Witke was cited for her work with the Grosse Pointe Beautification Commission and her work in planting annuals each year at Neff Park.

George Munger of St. Clair Shores, Judith Warren-Wright of Roseville, Robert Buffa of Fraser and Tim and Kathy Folmar of Harper Woods were also named 2004 Volunteers of the Year.

"Everybody was fantastic," said Jessica McPherson, executive director of the chamber. "It was an honor to meet them and to learn they had so much care and concern for their communities."

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DTE Energy sheds light on Woods outages

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

The future looks brighter for a section of Grosse Pointe Woods that has been plagued with occasional long-term power outages.

Officials of DTE Energy met as promised with Woods officials on Monday, Dec. 20, regarding complaints of power outages in an area bordered by Mack, Vernier, Aline and Marter which services about 1,500 customers.

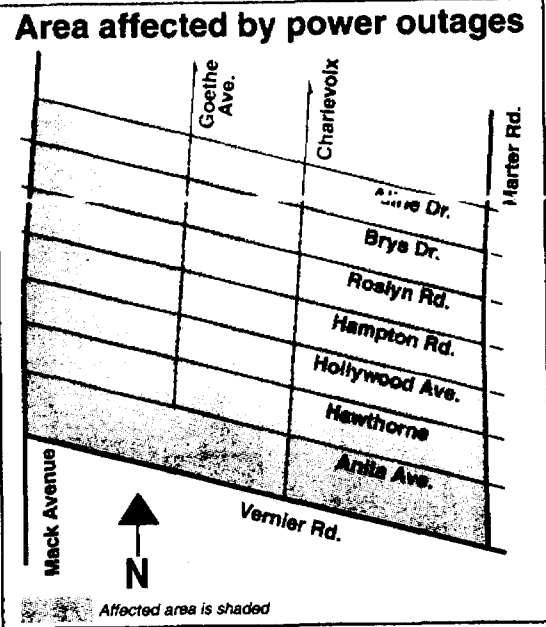
Residents and business owners have claimed that power often goes out during times of peak demand several times a year for extended periods of time for the past 13 years. Repairs and upgrades were made in the area in 2002, and no outages were reported in 2003. However, two outages in that section on Aug. 3 left customers without power for

about 12 and four hours, and another outage left customers in the dark for about 25 hours between Oct. 30 and 31.

"They addressed some of the specifics of the last power outage (on Oct. 30)," City Administrator Mark Wollenweber said. "There was a break in an underground line in the area of Mack and Vernier. Those repairs have been made, and they will be repairing another 200-foot section of underground line."

Wollenweber also said that DTE Energy representatives addressed other allegations and concerns.

"They told us they would be looking at how to equalize the distribution of power to its secondary customers in that area," Wollenweber said. "They also told us that we were not over capacity at



the Vernier substation, but at some point they would be looking at building a bigger substation at Kelly and Erin (in Eastpointe) that could provide more power here if needed."

Wollenweber also said Edison representatives would meet with members of the city council to update them with their progress at one of their work sessions at the end of January.

Joe Cazen, a corporate and public affairs official with DTE Energy who met with Woods officials, could not be reached for comment before press time.

Crescent Sail clears the deck for \$2m refit

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Members of a nearly 80-year-old sailing club who pride themselves on running a tight ship are weighing anchor to renovate their property on Lake St. Clair.

"The buildings are old; the harbor needs changes; and both need money," said Paul Lady, head of the steering committee at Crescent Sail Yacht Club.

Lady said the club's 280 members have approved spending \$2 million to improve the club's facilities near the foot of Kerby Road in Grosse Pointe Farms.

"The \$2 million will not fix all the problems," he told members of the Farms council this week. "We must set priorities and plan phases of improvements."

"As a group, we are often described as the definition of frugal. The club operates on a minimum of cash and a maximum of member work hours. That's both a virtue and a vice. It's finally time to address some of the problems our frugality has created."

Paul Lady
Crescent Sail Yacht Club

Farms audit brings good tidings

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Members of the Grosse Pointe Farms finance department can take off their rain slickers.

"We've weathered a pretty bad storm," said John Modzinski, city controller.

Despite four years of state funding cuts totaling \$1 million and a bad securities market that has many communities earning less than 1 percent on investments, the Farms ended fiscal year 2004 in June with more than \$2 million in undesignated funds.

Next year's budget calls for a tax cut of .125 mills.

An additional \$1.6 million from the current budget has been put aside for upcoming improvements.

Projects include harbor renovations and construction of a combined community building-warming shelter-concession stand at Kerby Field that could pay for itself.

"(The Farms) is in good financial condition," said Bruce Berand, senior partner with Plante & Moran, auditors. "We don't say that to many of our clients."

Plante & Moran's audit this week gave the Farms an unqualified rating, the highest possible.

The finding comes a few weeks after Standard &

Poors increased the Farms bond rating from AA- to AA+, making it less expensive to borrow money.

"That bodes well for the residents," Modzinski said. "We're in an extremely sound financial condition."

The rating change drew an estimated .5 percent savings last month on a \$2.1 million bond issue for water system improvements and a community building under construction at Pier Park.

"I commend our controller, John, for a job well done," said Councilman Terry Davis, chairman of the finance committee.

"A lot of municipalities are in financial trouble or are going to be in financial trouble, with state shared revenues reduced in Michigan," Berand said.

He said some communities are earning only .85 percent on investments. Modzinski said the Farms last fiscal year yielded a combined 4.1 percent return on total investments.

Auditors estimated reduced state revenue sharing from 2001 through next fiscal year 2005 will have cost the Farms more than \$1 million.

"We managed to absorb that hit," Modzinski said.

He said city finances benefited from a growing tax

base of residents improving and expanding their properties.

The median value of an owner-occupied residence in the city is \$292,100, according to an analysis of economic conditions by Modzinski and Shane Reeside, city manager.

"The average home sale price has virtually doubled over the past decade, illustrating the strength of the community as an attractive location to settle and raise a family," the report reads.

While property values and investments generate revenue, Farms officials faced higher costs for health care insurance.

"Health care coverage has doubled in the last seven years, but that's not atypical," Modzinski said.

Efforts to minimize such increases included membership in a consortium with the other Pointes to negotiate health care coverage directly with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Direct negotiations eliminate the expense of a middle man.

In addition, new coverage plans saved roughly 10 percent.

"The policy has a higher co-pay on prescription drugs, but we still have good coverage," Modzinski said.

Savings from other areas

of city operating includes paying off the purchase of seven acres of land at Mack and Moross.

"We made our last payment in 2004," Modzinski said. "Ten years ago, we needed one mill to make payments. Now it's all gone."

At Kerby Field, a two-story community building is expected to pay benefits due to an arrangement with Nextel Communications.

Cellular equipment will be located on the second floor according to a 30-year lease with inflationary increases.

"We're paying for the building and getting paid back over time," Modzinski said. "If inflation stays low, we're essentially getting the building for free."

Nextel has allowed the farms to hook up to a generator during electrical emergencies.

"We are going to be able to hook up to that generator for our sewer pumping station (at Kerby and Chalfonte)," Modzinski said. "That way we don't have to bring in a million-watt generator when we have a blackout."

Modzinski said the agreement "couldn't have come out any better."

Crescent was founded in 1933 in Detroit for "men of moderate means," Lady said.

"As a group, we are often described as the definition of frugal," he said. "The club operates on a minimum of cash and a maximum of member work hours. That's both a virtue and a vice. It's finally time to address some of the problems our frugality has created."

In 1958, club members relocated the facility to a manmade peninsula in the Farms. The property was donated by Henry Joy. The club is for sailors. Powerboats are not allowed.

"Crescent is an icon of the Grosse Pointes, with its panorama of small boats sailing along Lakeshore," Lady said.

"It's a great club," said Mayor James Farquhar. "We are lucky to have you in our city."

"We will possibly need consideration from the (city) council to create a practical

plan that meets both the needs of the club and Farms," Lady told council members. "We hope you will view our request with favor in light of our special needs. You will hear about our project as plans develop."

Crescent's clubhouse occupies some of the driest land in the Pointes.

The club's policy of not selling alcohol nor, officially, allowing consumption on land contrasts with the site's roguish past.

During Prohibition, rum runners from Canada used the peninsula as a landing point. In summer, shipments arrived by boat. In winter, they came by car driven over the frozen lake.

Crescent's renovation plans venture into a sea of regulations.

Permits are needed from the Army Corps of Engineers, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Farms.

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Cable bills to go up 6.2 percent in 2005

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

The cost of watching cable television at home in the Pointes will be going up an average of 6.2 percent.

"It was a business decision by Comcast to have the packages match the value that's offered," said Jerome Espy, director of communications for Comcast's southeast Michigan region.

In recent months, Espy

said Comcast added two new channels to its lineups for subscribers of the expanded basic service on up. One of those channels, Comcast Local on Channel 8, which debuted in October, features many high school and college sports and cultural events in the area.

"There are a lot of Grosse Pointe sports featured on that channel, plus there are a lot of events in the Grosse

Pointe area that will be considered," Espy said.

Espy said Comcast has also recently added TV1 on Channel 163, a channel dedicated to adult African-Americans, to the Grosse Pointes/Harper Woods system.

The rate increases for Comcast customers in City, Farms, Park, Woods and Harper Woods will go into effect in January. Rate increases for Comcast customers in Grosse Pointe Shores went into effect this month.

The current and upcoming rate increases are lower than rate increases of previous years, which averaged closer to 7 percent per year.

There were no rate increases for Internet services provided by Comcast.

However, rates for cable TV in the City, Farms, Park, Woods and Harper Woods

are still above what is charged to customers in the Shores, who share service with residents in St. Clair Shores, who are also offered services from WOW Internet and Cable.

Mark Dineen, senior vice president of WOW said: "Currently, we have no plans to expand our service outside our current 42 communities. Rather, our near term focus is delivering our current customers superior service."

While none of the local government officials have expressed dissatisfaction with the rate increases, Woods City Administrator Mark Wollenweber said: "If there's any interest in another carrier coming to the area, we'd love to hear from them. Competition does make for some very favorable rates."

City funds PAATS \$10k

City of Grosse Pointe officials are giving the bulk of more than \$12,000 in transfer funds to a local public transportation system.

Of \$12,120 available, \$10,120 is being given to Pointe Area Assisted Transportation System, or PAATS.

"PAATS provides transportation to either the handicapped or elderly for medical, nutritional, social and recreation purposes," said Brian Vick, assistant city manager.

The organization is supported by all five Pointes and Harper Woods.

The \$2,000 balance is allocated to the City recreation department to offset the cost of recreational trips. Destinations include county

parks, swim team functions, hands-on museum, zoo and sporting events.

Allocations come in the form of Municipal Credit Funds and Community Credit Funds.

"These funds are distributed to communities in the (SMART bus system based on state law and the voter-approved SMART tax," Vick said.

Money is distributed to communities in the SMART area based on the 2000 Census.

"These funds must be spent on transportation programs that are operated and administered by the community or transferred to another community-based transportation system," Vick said.

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Songwriter: music is the key

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

You can go home again.
Craig Wilson does. Every day in different places.

Wilson was home in a Manhattan recording studio cutting tracks for his new compact disc.

He's home today in the City of Grosse Pointe where he grew up.

He'll be home tonight at Cup-A-Chino Coffee House in Grosse Pointe Park performing songs from the CD.

"There's all sorts of ways to express the feeling of home," said Wilson. "There's home in a literal sense of where I live now; home as where I've come from; home as in the people around me who make it feel like home; and home being another person I feel so comfortable with."

Those variations on a philosophical theme tie together songs Wilson wrote for his CD titled, what else, "Home."

"It was meant to be a demo," Wilson said. "Then things started snowballing and the songs came alive."

Wilson's songs are a folksy blend of acoustic rock with tinges of pop. He plays guitar with his self-named band accompanied by bass, percussion and, on some tracks, keyboards.

"My music comes from personal experiences, my own or things I've heard about," Wilson said.

The creative process works differently with each song. Some songs flow onto the page. Others have a grueling gestation.

"As with any art, it's work," Wilson said. "The challenge is to make work behind the scenes not look like work when the product comes out."

"Home" contains songs based on a number of sources and different points of view. If his songs are colors on a canvas, he said "Home" would have comfortable images shaded green and blue.

"The CD explores the meaning of the word home, which I discovered after I selected songs for the CD," Wilson said. "There's definitely a journey and story to the CD."

On disc, that story begins with a song about letting go and ends with a song about acceptance.

"The songs go from upsetting and sad, losing somebody, to ecstatic and totally happy, to somewhere in the

POINTER OF INTEREST



Craig Wilson

middle, which is where life normally is," he said.

The theme culminates with the last song, "The Shortest Road Home."

"I really like this song," Wilson said. "It's a song that says whether I'm here with you or apart, whether we're happy or upset, whatever is going on in our lives, I'm always at the end of the shortest road home."

Wilson's road has taken him from clubs and coffee houses from the Midwest to East Coast.

He's played Club 500 in Detroit and CBGB's in Manhattan.

CBGB's stands for Country, Blues and Bluegrass. The dingy little dive is revered in pop music circles for being the jumping off point for a slew of influential bands, including the Talking Heads, Patty Smith and members of the punk scene.

"CBGB's is really no different than any small club or bar," Wilson said. "It's small. It's old. But it's the history."

Wilson is touring to support "Home."

"I would love to make a living doing what I love," he said. "I am now, but I'm scrounging to do it."

Wilson's musical story began with a guitar he received on his 10th birthday.

He wasn't a prodigy. The guitar gathered dust under his bed until he joined the choir during his sophomore year at Grosse Pointe South High School.

"I thought it was going to be an easy class," he said.

He learned otherwise. Singing isn't as easy as it sounds.

"I'd never sung before," he said. "I was not very good at all. It drove me nuts."

Wilson said he's the kind of person who hates being bad at something, especially when people around him are good at it.

"I worked really hard," he said.

Wilson applied the same energy and determination to singing as he had practicing four hours per day during his freshman year on the varsity swim team.

He even took guitar lessons from a contractor hired to renovate his parent's kitchen.

"Things started coming for me," Wilson said. "I realized I might not be so bad at this."

Now 27 years old and a product of Western Michigan University's music theater program — and veteran performer in the Kalamazoo club and bar scene — Wilson is a singer-songwriter who fills gaps between gigs acting, preferably on stage.

He performed the title role in "Pippen" with the Civic Theatre production in Kalamazoo. He was in "Twelfth Night" at New York's Shakespeare in the Park series.

"I love audiences," he said.

But music takes priority.

"Music is something I can put across in my own words the way I want to say it," Wilson said. "Acting, if you're doing it right, should come out as your own words, but I love the feeling of having a blank canvas. Nothing there. And being able to pour out exactly what I'm feeling at that time in my own words."

Craig Wilson performs at Cup-A-Chino Coffee House, 15104 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park tonight, Dec. 23, at 8 p.m., Wilson's CD "Home" can be purchased at live shows or from the Web site www.cdbaby.com.



Shiner lobbies Santa

Shiner the border collie asks Santa, "Please, please please, may I have a goose for Christmas?" Shiner, the most popular employee of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, was hired a few years ago to scare away geese from the Grosse Pointe Shores estate's manicured grounds. He's done such a good job, most of the messy birds have flown the coop.

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USAF SC Mk II

Among the more than 300 flying machines preserved at the United States Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, one is singled out this week and profiled on the museum Web site: www.wpatb.af.mil/museum. This week the museum features the SC Mk II, a craft that alights in the blink of an eye and is fast enough to go everywhere in the world in one night. Here, from the Web site, is the official Air Force story of SC Mk II, commonly known as Santa Claus' sleigh: The Santa Claus sleigh was the first known aircraft to utilize multiple hooved animals to propel itself through the air.

This sleigh was designed, built and flown by pioneer aviator and generous elf Mr. Santa Claus of Peoria, Ill., who had a lifelong wish to deliver gifts to all children in the world. The pre-production aircraft flew several successful flights in 1903 until the 10th mission when the sleigh stalled and crashed, sending the rotund pilot into a pile of hay. The propulsion units (62 French hens) escaped injury. Post-flight analysis indicated the vehicle was underpowered and a search for an alternate form of propulsion began. Santa also began to look for a larger area where he could perform his flight tests safely. He found an ideal area in North Carolina, only to learn it was already being used by two brothers from



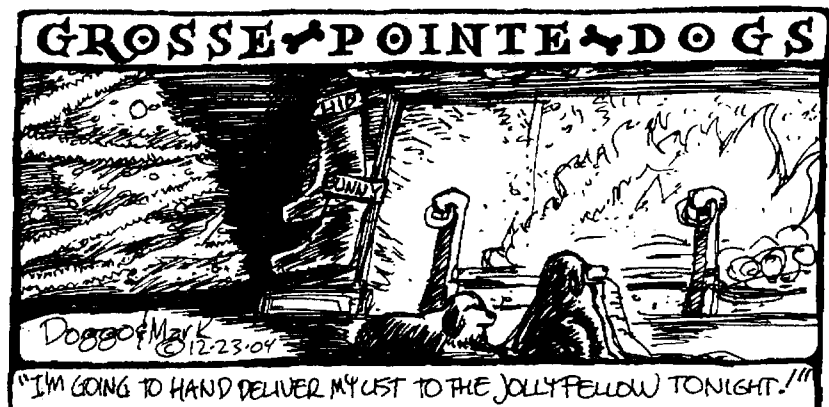
Ohio. Undaunted, Santa turned to the snow covered expanse at the North Pole. Once settled in, Santa met eight flying reindeer at the local coffee shop. The reindeer volunteered as propulsion units for the upcoming flight tests. Flights with reindeer at the North Pole were satisfactory, but the sleigh still proved underpowered, especially when loaded with a bag of toys. The S.C. Sleigh Mk II, was developed with the addition of one more flying reindeer who also had a very shiny nose. The new reindeer gave the sleigh all-weather capability in addition to improved flight performance, allowing delivery of toys even during foggy Christmas Eves. Santa Claus's sleigh remains in service and flies one mission each year on Christmas Eve. Santa has promised to donate the sleigh to the Air Force Museum after the Mk III version (essentially an

Mk II with anti-skid skids) has completed flight tests. **Specifications for SC Mk II:** • Span: six feet, with Santa's arms outstretched during flight. • Length: Sleigh only — seven feet. Sleigh with nine flying reindeer — 40 feet. • Height: 4-foot-10. • Weight: Empty — 300 pounds. • Maximum load with toys for all the girls and boys — 2,546,879 pounds. • Armament: Nine pairs of antlers, optional coal for particular stockings. • Engines: Nine flying reindeer (Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner (a.k.a. Donner), Blitzen, and Rudolph (the one with the shiny nose.) • Cost: Paid for with private funds and in the true spirit of giving. **Performance:** • Dash away speed: The blink of an eye. • Cruising speed: Fast enough to visit all the homes in the world on Christmas Eve. • Range: Reindeer — Frequent stops for sugar and oats as required; Santa — frequent stops for cookies and milk. • Service ceiling: Up near the moon. • Crew: One jolly old elf.

The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) will track Santa's progress beginning Christmas Eve. Santa's route will be posted, with updates, on: www.noradsanta.org.

Grosse Pointe News
December 23, 2004, Page 9A

The Op-Ed Page



Visit the Grosse Pointe Dogs website: <http://gpdogs.keenspace.com>

Streetwise

Question of the Week:
Is it better to give or to receive?



Gary Mitchell

"It's always better to give. It is even a better pleasure to give to people who don't have as much."

Gary Marshall
Grosse Pointe Shores

"Give. It makes me feel so much better when I give than to receive."

Mary Matuja
Grosse Pointe Shores



Mary Matuja



Brett Marshall

"Give. It gives you that warm, Christmas fuzzy feeling."

Brett Marshall
Grosse Pointe Shores

"Give. The more you give the more you receive. It's amazing. I've always found you get much more back. It's extremely rewarding."

Gordon Holness
Grosse Pointe Shores



Gordon Holness



Brett Smith

"It is absolutely better to give than receive. The blessing you get from giving lasts for eternity. But the blessing you get from receiving only lasts a moment."

Brett Smith
St. Clair Shores

"Give. It's good to give to someone who needs."

Rose Garland Thornton
Grosse Pointe Shores



Rose Garland Thornton

If you have a question you would like asked, drop us a note at 96 Kercheval on The Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or email to editor@grossepointenews.com

fyi

by Ben Burns

Small world

On Sept. 8, the day that her three children started school in Randle, Wash., Army Maj. **Mary Proffit-Flecha**, an '82 South graduate, arrived in Iraq for a year-long assignment as a Civil Affairs Team chief.

When she is at home, Maj. Proffit lives in Glenoma, Wash., about 110 miles southeast of Seattle off U.S. 12, which originates right here in Detroit as Michigan Avenue. Her brother **Tim** lives here in the Pointes, and her father, **Malcolm Proffit**, lives in the City of Grosse Pointe. Her mother, **Nancy**, died in 1999.

The 18-year service veteran is part of the Stryker Brigade near Mosul commanded by North graduate **Col. Robert Brown**, who was featured in this column a few weeks ago. Neither one knew the other was from the Grosse Pointes.

Maj. Proffit's work in civil affairs, which is responsible for rebuilding, puts her in meetings and communication with sheiks, community leaders, the Iraqi National Guard and touring American celebrities.

Maj. Proffit is a fine writer, who has reported in detail on such things as a visit to Mosul by Sopranos star **James Gandolfini** and banquets with Kurdish chieftains. There are



As Civil Affairs Team chief, **Maj. Mary Proffit**, a 1982 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate, gets to meet many sheiks and leaders, as well as the everyday people in Iraq.

moments of lightness and levity for the troops, but there are also times of heavy hearts.

In this season of celebration, lest we forget those men and women defending our freedoms at places around the globe, I would like to reprint parts of a letter Maj. Proffit sent to her hometown newspaper in Washington State, The East County Journal, that was published Nov. 19.

"It is late afternoon, almost dark, and I felt the need to write to you all again today. ... I think it is important for you to know what a memorial service for a fallen soldier is like..."

"... This is the worst imaginable part about this

deployment: the fact that is always in the background is that at any time, any one of us might be called to make the ultimate sacrifice in support of our mission.

"I will not mention the name of today's soldier. His family has been notified, but I would rather not use his name. Know that he was 20 years old, single, Catholic and well liked by his peers. He died in a fire fight with insurgents..."

"Every fallen soldier has a memorial ceremony at the operating base where they lived. Today's ceremony had hundreds of soldiers in attendance. Each memorial service has the same basic

See FYI, page 15A

Points about the Pointes

The year is about to end....what have you done to preserve our sense of community?

As most residents of the Pointes would admit, we live a blessed life compared to most of our country. We have beautiful parks, fine city services, good schools, and, most of all, a true sense of community that are the envy of other communities across the United States.

This sense of community and my kids being able to ride their bikes to visit Grandma and Grandpa were the driving forces in my wife Mary Ann and I making the decision to move

back to the Pointes from Bloomfield Hills. It was without question one of the best decisions we have ever made.

As residents, we have a responsibility for preserving this sense of community for future generations by getting involved in our city governments, community service organizations and our schools. Our children also need to be involved. Isn't what we have worth the time and effort?

....**Ahmed Ismail** (ahmed.ismail@comcast.net)

Late delivery on our frame shipments means an early Christmas present for you!



Three of our largest frame vendors missed delivery dates on our Christmas order of photo frames. We gave them the option...take all of the frames back or let us put them on sale at an incredible, low price. Their choice?

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS COLUMN ARE THOSE OF THE WRITER AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROSSE POINTE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE GPM PLAYING COMMISSION AND/OR THE DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA EDUCATION BOARD.

Christmas continues to confound

At the risk of being politically incorrect, we would like to wish our readers a very, merry Christmas.

The talk around the water coolers in offices this year is whether it is incorrect to say "merry Christmas." Many, including UPS (see Michael Goodell's column below), have opted for "happy holidays."

In our discussions here, most people take a practical approach. When speaking or sending cards to Christian relatives and friends, they use "merry Christmas." When sending cards to business associates or friends (and relatives) who are not



Christians, they favor "happy holidays" over "happy Hanukkah," etc.

It seems we in the media make a bigger deal out of this than normal people do.

The story of Christ is an amazing one. In the days of Mary and Joseph, everyone was expecting the Messiah to deliver them from Roman authority and to set up a powerful, wealthy, earthly kingdom.

Christ took them by surprise. He brought a kingdom, but not the kind the religious leaders of the time expected. Christ brought the kingdom of heaven to Earth in a human form.

Jesus further confounded the conventional wisdom of the time by not being born in regal surroundings, but rather in a manger, a barn where animals are kept. The king, the Messiah, born in such lowly circumstances defies human understanding.

The story of Jesus is one that would appeal to Americans. We believe greatness can be born at any level of society.

Throughout his life, Jesus continued to dumbfound the leaders of the time. Rather than travel in style, he walked dusty roads. Rather than becoming a religious elite, he was an

itinerant preacher.

Rather than hobnobbing with the "righteous," he ate with tax collectors and other notorious sinners. Rather than living in a plush home sheltered from the elements, Christ was homeless.

Today and for more than two millennia, Christians have been looking for the return of Christ, just as the Jewish people had been looking for the Messiah when Jesus was born.

But will we recognize the Christ when he returns? Many of us expect him to return in splendor and glory. What if he returns as a homeless person?

That is something to ponder this Christmas season. So when you get that solicitation from the Gleaners Food Bank or from your church, be sure to give generously. After all, you don't know whom you could be helping.

Merry Christmas!

Robert G. Edgar
Publisher

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Unto you a holiday is born

By Michael Goodell
Grosse Pointe Farms

The United Parcel Service is running a television advertisement this month in which a customer announces that she is no longer a "box slider." In the past, she says, she mailed her holiday gifts. The experience is illustrated with the depiction of a long line of people pushing their stacks of boxes ahead with their feet. This year, she took her packages to the UPS Store, where they were packed and shipped, and she was out of there in no time.

The ad appeals to those who regard long waits at the post office as one of the least attractive parts of the season. With its promise of liberation from box sliding, with undertones of backsliding, that simple, of evangelical public confession, the ad offers regenerative hope for those wise enough to take advantage of the company's promise of assistance.

The glaring flaw in the ad was the reference to "holiday" gifts. Why "holiday" gifts? Why not "Christmas" gifts?

Over the years, we have seen the steady censorship of traditional Christmas themes in public displays, owing to some misguided interpretation of the First Amendment's prohibition of a state mandated religion.

Have we reached the next stage of the process, where the word "Christmas" has become anathema, where corporations shy away from using the word out of a fear of offending the public? When did Christmas become so controversial?

Steve Holmes, a company spokesperson, strongly denies that UPS is afraid of Christmas. "UPS does not run from the word Christmas," he said. He points out that the company has used Santa Claus in past advertisements, portraying UPS employees as Santa's helpers.

"It isn't a matter of political correctness," Holmes says of the use of the word holiday. Rather it is an attempt to pursue all seasonal shipping. "We want the Christmas business, the Hanukkah business, the corporate giving business," he says. (Holmes went on to vigorously deny rumors that the company had instructed its employees to avoid saying "Merry Christmas" to customers.)

Still, one wonders why the ad showed a woman who was obviously sending Christmas gifts referring to them as holiday gifts. Is that how peo-

ple actually speak? If the main message of the ad was to promote the convenience of the company's shipping services, then surely that message would have been delivered even if the woman had spoken naturally.

As Holmes himself confirmed, "There is no question that the mass of packages moving in December are Christmas packages." Surely those inclined to ship Hanukkah or year-end corporate gifts would be able to discern that the services offered by UPS would benefit them, too. After all, the message would not have been, "We only ship Christmas gifts."

This point applies to the larger issue of the self-censorship of Christmas in which an increasing number of businesses, public offices and even individuals are engaged. "Happy Holidays" has replaced "Merry Christmas" as a catchall greeting. The fear of offending is threatening to efface the public face of Christmas.

There is no reason for this to be so. There is nothing inherent in the holiday of Christmas, as presently celebrated, which should be offensive to anyone, any more than the sight of a Menorah should offend a gentile or the sight of a red-nosed reindeer should offend an animal rights activist.

Even if an individual does have issues with the concept of Christmas, surely the burden should lie on that individual and not on the vast majority of the population which acknowledges the holiday.

Despite the fact that the holiday is popularly celebrated, doing so is in no way mandatory. If you don't like Christmas, ignore it. Granted, it having been commercialized the way it has, ignoring it is easier said than done. Yet the overwhelming obligation of gift buying will remain at times a pernicious burden, regardless of what it is called.

If you are filled with Christmas spirit, you should feel free to express your happiness. It is for many, as the song says, "The most wonderful time of the year."

If you despise the season, either because you believe the commercialism obscures the true meaning of Christmas or because it offends your secular impulses, get over it. Move on. There are plenty of other things more worthy of your indignation than a Christmas tree or a sleigh with eight tiny reindeer.



Address comments to cartoonist Phil Hands at phands@grossepointenews.com or go to www.philtoons.com

Thanks from the Goodfellows

To the Editor:

A big thanks to all the people and businesses who contributed to the success of the Grosse Pointe Woods Lions Club Goodfellow Street Sales. "No child without a Christmas," proceeds from the sale of the papers, help to make this dream a reality.

Lions Club members were seen selling papers on Mack near Vernier.

You can still make a difference this Christmas by writing a check to "Goodfellows," and mailing it to 1154 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.

The Lions Club is a 501(c)(3) charity, which means all donations are considered tax deductible.

Edward Goosen
Chairman
Grosse Pointe Woods
Goodfellow Street Sales

Health Services, Farms Market, Freezing Pointe Ice Cream and Candy Shop, Friends of the Grosse Pointe Library, Gelato Cafe, The Greenhouse Salon, Grosse Pointe South Mother's Club, Grosse Pointe North Parent's Club, How Inviting, Jumps, Kennedy & Company, LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists, The League Shop, Leon's on The Hill, Maier-Werner Beauty Salon, Mutschler Kitchens, National City Bank of the Midwest, The Pointe Pedlar, Salon Rielle, Saga Communications Inc., Something Special Gifts, Tassels, and The Jane Woodbury Shop.

Dave's Haircutting Shop, The Discovery Shop, and Surtsey's Productions Inc., hosted auction items.

The following businesses and individuals provided unwavering support: Comerica Bank, Higbie Maxon Agney Realtors Inc., Johnstone & Johnstone Real Estate, Robert Loomis & Associates, Raymond James & Associates, Russell Development, and Gary M. Wilson, Esq.

Da Edoardo's, Henry J's Cafe, The Hill Seafood and Chop House, Jumps, and Mary Wells donated and served fine tastes at the preview party.

Several businesses and individuals provided door prizes: Cottage Hospital Assistance League, Joseph DuMouchelle Gemologists and Auctioneers, Lynne Strickler, Edward Nepi Beauty Salon, Grosse Pointe Athletic Club, and The Upper Crust. D.J. Kennedy and the Strickler family provided a wreath and tree to be auctioned by Bob DuMouchelle. The Grosse Pointe Barber Shoppers and The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus provided the sounds of the holidays.

Thanks is also due The Grosse Pointe News for their support in publicizing all these events.

In all, \$6,000 was raised to support The Family

Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods as this non-profit organization assists parents and professionals in the challenging task of raising healthy children in a complex world.

To learn more about classes, resource guides, newsletters and referral services, call The Family Center at (313) 432-3832.

Diane Strickler
Director
The Family Center
of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods

Department stores

To the Editor:

With all the discussion about what to do with the Jacobson's building, I wonder what would be going on if, in the mid-1930s, the J.L. Hudson Co. would have built a five-story department store. It was considered.

Frederick A. Hartwig
Gaylord

Letters

Thanks for moving 'last 100 books'

To the Editor:

As director of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, I want to thank all the children, parents and teachers who helped us move our "last 100 books" from the Park Branch on Kercheval to the new Ted and Carolyn Ewald Memorial Branch on Jefferson.

Children and teachers from Pierce Middle School, Trombly Elementary, and Defer Elementary lined up from the entrance of the Park Branch to the entrance of the Ewald Branch.

We could not have done it without them and their enthusiasm tells me the new Ewald Branch library is going to be a popular place in the near future.

Unique community events such as this are part of what makes Grosse Pointe such an exceptional place to live and work. We are proud of the beautiful new facility that we will soon be turning over to its rightful owners, the taxpayers of Grosse Pointe.

Hopefully, those who took part in our very special event, the "Book Brigade," will fondly remember their personal contribution to our beginning.

Vickey Bloom
Director
Grosse Pointe Public Library

The Family Center gives thanks

To the Editor:

For a second year, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods held a two-week silent auction of holiday decorations in the shops and businesses on The Hill and Fisher Road.

The auction items were previewed at a progressive party on The Hill Nov. 17, and families were given the opportunity to visit Santa, make ornaments, and go on a treasure hunt on two Sunday afternoons during the auction.

This multifaceted fundraising event had amazing support from 48 businesses in our community!

The Family Center wishes to thank the following businesses for decorating an item for auction and donating the proceeds to our organization: Brooks Brothers, The Colosseum Salon & Day Spa, Bon Secours Cottage

Letters welcome

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your Letters to the Editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. Longer letters will be edited for length and all letters are subject to editing for content. Include a daytime phone number for verification or questions.

The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday.

Send letters to Editor, Grosse Pointe News, 96 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. 48236; or fax them to (313) 882-1585. Letters may also be sent e-mail to: jminnis@grossepointenews.com

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For your holiday shopping convenience we are now open Sundays from 11am - 6pm

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Gratiot at 10 1/2 Mile in Roseville
www.rosevillepowersports.com

Marjorie Osborne Brink

Marjorie Osborne Brink, 86, of Grosse Pointe died on Friday, Dec. 17, 2004.

Though her family home was in the small east Texas town of Bethany, she was born May 22, 1928 in Shreveport, La., where she attended elementary and high schools.

Mrs. Brink graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. During her college years, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. She made friends easily, and was admired and loved by many. The student body elected her as one of the 10 most popular and beautiful "Blue Bonnet Belles" on campus. After graduation, she taught admiring and devoted third graders in a little country school in Greenwood, La.

She and her college sweetheart, Bill O. Brink, were married in Shreveport on February 1941. Later, they made their home in Grosse Pointe and were happily married for almost 64 years.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Brink was active with the Women's Association of Goodwill Industries and served on many committees. Her favorite was the annual Goodwill Industries Antiques show for which she served one year as co-chairman. She was an active member of the Village Garden Club of Grosse Pointe and the Libri Club. She enjoyed gardening, flower arranging for friends, golf and bowling in her younger years. She was an avid bridge player and enjoyed playing in charitable tournaments with friends.

She is survived by her husband, Bill O. Brink; her son, Barrett O. (Ann) Brink of Grosse Pointe Farms; her daughter, Dianne Brink (Donald) Flanagan of Santa Barbara, Calif.; her grandchildren, Nicole (Guthrie) Paterson of New York, N.Y., Kirby Sanders Brink, Barrett O. Brink II, Hadley Brink, Emery Brink and Shaw MacAdam Talley of Santa Barbara, Calif., who recently returned from Paraguay as a Peace Corps volunteer; her brothers-in-law, Glenn H. Brink of Heritage Village, Southbury, Conn. and John Earl (Suzanne) Brink of St. Petersburg, Fla.; her sister-in-law, Darlene Brink Llewellyn of Sarasota, Fla., and 13 nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service for family will be conducted at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. Mrs. Carol B. Marks, director of pastoral ministries, a longtime personal friend of the family, will conduct the ceremony and spread the ashes in the columbarium garden at the church.

A memorial service for her many dear and loving friends will be held at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church to be announced at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, a hospice or a charity of one's choice.

July 23, 1932, in York Harbor, Maine, to Charles and Kathleen Young.

In 1950, she graduated from Grosse Pointe High School. She attended Hillsdale College for two years.

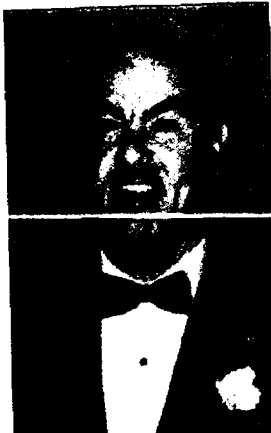
She was a 40-year member of the Grosse Pointe Theatre. She was also involved in the Fine Arts Society of Detroit and the Theatre Arts Club.

In addition to the theater, Mrs. Diebel was interested in music, painting and travel.

She is survived by her husband, John Diebel; her brothers-in-law, Dr. Donald Diebel and Nelson Diebel; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 18 at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grosse Pointe Theatre, the Fine Arts Society of Detroit or the Theatre Arts Club.



Peter L. Hage

Peter L. Hage

Peter L. Hage, 58, of Grosse Pointe Woods died on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2004 in St. John Hospital in Detroit.

Mr. Hage was born in Detroit on May 12, 1946, to Deeb and Adele Hage. He attended St. Philip Grade School in Detroit and graduated in 1964 from St. Martin High School in Detroit.

He played football, baseball and basketball in high school, earning First Team All State in his senior year.

Mr. Hage was president of King Koil Mattress Company in Roseville.

He and his wife, Julie, have been married for over 22 years. Their 1982 wedding took place at their home.

After his father became ill and could no longer work, Mr. Hage purchased a home for his parents. He continued to help his parents for the rest of their lives.

His family and friends will miss his beautiful smile, vibrant personality and his love of life. He touched the lives of all who knew and loved him. Words cannot describe how much they will miss him.

Mr. Hage is survived by his wife, Julie; his daughters, Jennifer (Terry) Perrino, Heather (Russell) Kosalski, and Angela Hage; his sons, Jeffrey (Stacey) Traver and Jason Traver; his grandchildren, Christian and Cameron Perrino, and Ryan Kosalski and his brother, Philip (Martha) Hage.

He is predeceased by his parents.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on Dec. 11 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. Interment is in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pregnancy Aid, 17325 Mack, Detroit, MI 48224.



Patricia Edmunds Huether

Patricia Edmunds Huether

Patricia Edmunds Huether, 88, of St. Clair Shores died on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004.

On April 2, 1916, she was born to William P. and Geraldine Maryott Conway in Detroit.

Mrs. Huether attended Hillsdale College. She was a member of Mu Alpha Chi sorority.

An avid duplicate bridge player, she attained lifemaster status in 1976.

She is survived by her husband, Robert L. Huether; her daughter, Brenda "Debbie" Crandall Hennessy; her son, William C. Edmunds; her step-daughter, Terri Huether; her step-son, Robert J. Huether; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

See OBITs, page 7A

Richard L. Dietz

Richard L. Dietz, 76, a City of Grosse Pointe resident, died on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004, at St. John Hospital in Detroit.

Born on Dec. 27, 1927, in Omaha, Neb., he was the son of Rudolph and Margaret Dietz. In 1952, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

Mr. Dietz was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. After the war, he met his wife, Marg, on a blind date, thanks to one of his Army buddies and a grade school friend of Marg. As a result, they enjoyed 47 wonderful years of marriage.

He spent his entire career working on armored vehicles and tanks, starting in the Army at Fort Knox and continuing throughout his 37 years with Cadillac Gage in Warren. He worked on the M60, M48, M1 and M1A2 vehicle programs. Most significantly, he was part of the team that developed the stabilization system that allows tanks to shoot on the move.

Mr. Dietz was very active in the Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church, serving on the vestry as deacon, trustee and a past president. He enjoyed playing golf and watching sports, but he especially enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Mr. Dietz was a true gentleman. He was patient, loving, kind and had a wonderful sense of humor.

He never complained; and never had an unkind word to say about anyone.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Kennedy Dietz; his daughters, Gretchen (Patrick) McKernan and Amy Dietz; and his grandchildren, Kelsey and Darby.

He was predeceased by his parents, Rudolph and Margaret Dietz; his sisters, Hazel, Irene, Betty and Alice; and his brother, Jack.

A celebration of Mr. Dietz's life will be held on his birthday, Monday, Dec. 27, at Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church, 2411 Iroquois Ave. in Detroit. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church, 2411 Iroquois Ave., Detroit, MI 48214.



Ann Y. Diebel

Ann Y. Diebel

Ann Y. Diebel, 72, of Grosse Pointe Park, died on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004 at St. John Hospital & Medical Center in Detroit.

Mrs. Diebel was born on

From page 6A

She was predeceased by her first husband, Lester A. Edmunds and her parents, William and Geraldine Conway.

Memorial services were held on Sunday, Dec. 20 at A.H. Peters Funeral Home. Interment is in Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or to an organization of the donor's choice.

Company Certified Public Accountants in Chicago, Ill. Mr. Krueger was a former member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and current member of the International Al Jolson Society.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary Krueger; his children, Robert (Jeri), Julia (Edward) Maconochie, John (Lisa) and Rebecca (John) Spagnuolo, his grandchildren, Annie, Cathy, and David Krueger; Kylie Maconochie; Jessica, Sarah, and James Krueger; and Christina, Leia, Andrew, Johnny and Michael Spagnuolo.

A private family service was held at Lakeshore Presbyterian Church, St. Clair Shores on Dec. 19.

Memorial contributions may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mount Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207.

Lois M. Martin

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Lois M. Martin, 79, died on Friday, Dec. 3, 2004.

Mrs. Martin was born April 4, 1925, in Detroit to Clarence and Maude Gallagher. She graduated from Southeastern High School in 1942 and the University of Detroit in 1946. She was a teacher in East Detroit until 1949.

She was a member of the Grosse Pointe Questers Group and Bon Secours Assistance League. She was past president of Grosse Pointe Lawyers Auxiliary and Grosse Pointe Garden Club.

Mrs. Martin enjoyed collecting antiques and spending time at her summer house on Harsens Island.

She is survived by her sons, Daniel (Bernadette) Martin and Michael Martin; her daughter, Mary (William) Keegan; her grandchildren, Elizabeth Martin, Rebecca Martin, Daniel Martin, Rachel Martin, William Keegan, Martin Keegan, Laura Thompson and Caroline Martin; and her brother, Thomas A. Gallagher.

She was predeceased by her husband, David V. Martin and her son, David Martin.

Interment is in Mount Olivet in Detroit.



James Thomas Pendy

James Thomas Pendy

Former Grosse Pointe resident James Thomas "Jim" Pendy, 46, of Cape Coral, Fla., died on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2004, at Hope Hospice in Cape Coral.

Mr. Pendy was born to Dr. John M. and Elizabeth (Van Walleghe) Pendy in Detroit.

He graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School and attended Macomb Community College.

For 15 years, Mr. Pendy

worked in the lumber business, first with Causeway Lumber and, recently, with Raymond Building Supply in North Fort Myers, Fla.

He was a member of the board of directors of the Cape Coral Babe Ruth Association and was the coach of his son's team. He was a communicant of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Cape Coral.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Pendy, his children, John M. II and Kathleen Pendy; his mother, Elizabeth Pendy of St. Clair Shores; his brother, David (Susan) Pendy and his sister, Margaret Zimmerman of Sterling Heights.

He was predeceased by his father, Dr. John M. Pendy.

A memorial service was at the chapel of Coral Ridge Funeral Home in Cape Coral. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Shores. Interment will be in Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Hospice, 2430 Diplomat Pkwy. E., Cape Coral, FL 33909.

Katharine Walker



Katharine Walker Pingree

Pingree

Katharine Walker Pingree, 95, of the City of Grosse Pointe, died on Monday, Dec. 13, 2004, at Bon Secours Hospital. She was born on Feb. 13, 1909, to Emery Lafayette and Mabel Claire Scott Walker in Philadelphia. She grew up in Wawutosa, Wis. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

Mrs. Pingree was a member of Delta Gamma fraternity, the Country Club of Detroit, Founders Society-Detroit Institute of Arts, Junior Group of Goodwill Industries and the Michigan Humane Society.

She is survived by her children, Susan Hooker Dotson and Jay Scott Hooker; her stepchildren, Lewis Lee Smart III, Stephen Elliot Smart and Charles Hazen Pingree; her grandchildren, Kelly Dotson White and Paige Dotson Peabody; her great-grandchildren, John Robert White, Michael Jay White, Patrick Dotson White and Charlotte Worthington Peabody.

She was predeceased by first husband, William Plumber Hooker; her second husband, Lewis Lee Smart Jr.; and her third husband, Gilbert Bissell Pingree; her parents; and her sisters, Elizabeth Mays Peters and Virginia Lou Whitacre.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 26 at 4 p.m. at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, in Grosse

Pointe Farms.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit, MI 48211.

Alice Stroh Sanborne



Alice Stroh Sanborne

Former Grosse Pointe resident Alice Stroh Sanborne, 81, died Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004 in Galloway, N.J.

Born on Jan. 28, 1923 in Grosse Pointe, she was the daughter of Bernhard and Alice (Kratzet) Stroh III, and great-granddaughter of Bernhard Stroh, founder of the Stroh Brewery in Detroit.

Mrs. Sanborne graduated from Ogontz Junior College in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1942. She was married to her husband Paul F. Sanborne Jr. for 56 years. They lived for 46 years in Spring Lake, N.J., where they operated Sanborne's Gift Shop. After moving to Galloway in 2002, she devoted her time to her family.

She is survived by her two sons, Peter (Wendy) Sanborne of Scottsdale, Ariz. and Stephen (Colleen) Sanborne of Northfield, N.J.; her daughter, Joy Kaplan and her fiancé Art Hood of Egg Harbor Twp., N.J.; her sister, Joanne Sibley of Grosse Pointe; her brother, Bernhard (Mary Lee) Stroh IV of Flint; her grandchildren, Jennifer Kaplan, Pamela Zuker, Joseph Kaplan, Garrett, Christopher, Michael and Adam Sanborne; her four nieces and nephews; and her good friend and caregiver, Luda Lanovenko.

She was predeceased by her husband Paul F. Sanborne Jr.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, Dec. 18 in Northfield, N.J. Interment is in West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1851 Old Cuthbert Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

Patricia White Schriever

Grosse Pointe resident Patricia White Schriever, 80, died Friday, Dec. 17, 2004, at St. John Hospital in Detroit.

Born in Detroit on Dec. 12, 1924, she was the daughter of Gilbert Greenway and Frances Ellen (Pierce) White.

In 1974, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from Wayne State University.

Mrs. Schriever was the owner of Amber Tool and Engineering, LLC.

She was a member of Grosse Pointe Yacht Club,



Patricia White Schriever



Anne Watkins Taliaferro

Bayview Yacht Club, Lochmoor Club and Grosse Pointe Power Squadron.

Some of her interests included word puzzles, computer games and boating.

Mrs. Schriever is survived by her daughter, Barbara P. Schriever; her sons, Fred G. (Suzanne) Schriever Jr. and Stephen W. (Sheila) Schriever; her grandchildren, Fred G. Schriever III, Robert W. (Traci) Schriever, Kimberly S. Schriever, Kathryn P. Schriever and Stephen W. Schriever Jr.; her great-grandchildren, Brianne Madison Schriever; and her sister, Ann Taylor.

She was predeceased by her husband Fred G. Schriever; her parents, Gilbert and Frances White; her sister, Elise McCartney and her brother, Gilbert Greenway White Jr.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 21 at St. James Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Interment is in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. James Lutheran Church, 170 McMillan, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or to the American Lung Association.

Anne Watkins Taliaferro

Former Grosse Pointe resident Anne W. Taliaferro, 90, of Loveland, Colo., died Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2004, at McKee Medical Center in Loveland.

Mrs. Taliaferro was born

Oct. 29, 1914, in Grand Rapids to Charles G. and Cecil (Hastings) Watkins. She spent her childhood in Grand Rapids and graduated from Grand Rapids Central High School.

On June 29, 1940, she married William Muir "Bill" Taliaferro at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids. They met as result of a friendship between Bill and her older brother, John Watkins.

The couple spent their early years living in Minneapolis, Des Moines, Seattle and Pittsburgh, while Mr. Taliaferro was establishing his career in sales and management. During these years, they made many lifelong friends. By 1953, they settled in Grosse Pointe with their two young daughters.

Mrs. Taliaferro was a

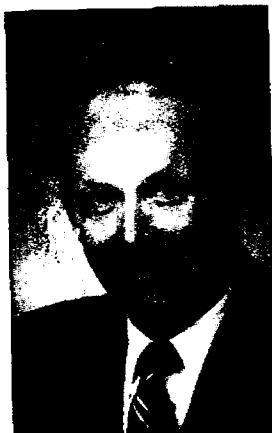
See OBITs, page 16A

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Robert J. Krueger

Robert J. Krueger

Robert J. Krueger, 74, of Grosse Pointe Farms died on Friday, Dec. 17, 2004, from complications of a stroke.

Mr. Krueger was born on Dec. 7, 1930, in Fargo, N.D., to James and Zelda Krueger.

He graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He received a Master of Business Administration degree from Michigan State University in 1974. He was certified as a public accountant in Illinois in 1960 and in Michigan in 1966.

Mr. Krueger was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1954.

In 1995, he retired from National Bank of Detroit as senior vice president and general auditor. He began his career in the commercial audit department at Peat Markwick, Mitchell &



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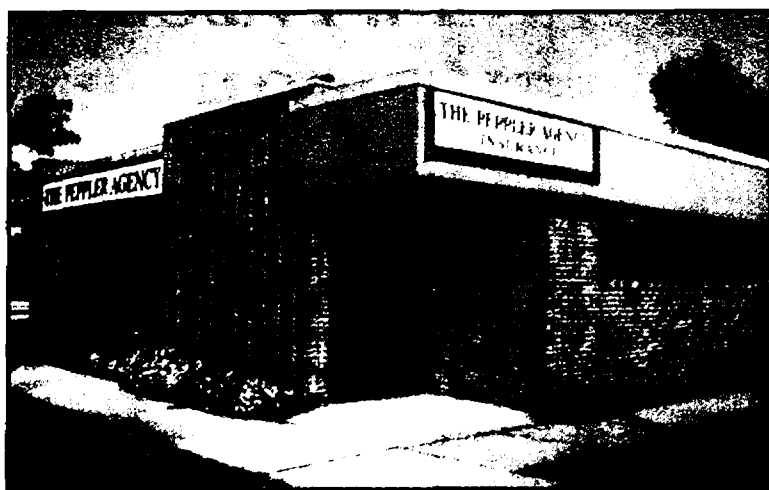
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South staff goes 'punk' for COTS

The students at Grosse Pointe South High School found a way to publicly humiliate the school's teachers and administration and, at the same time, to help a good cause.

Since the students raised approximately \$2,500 for the Coalition for Temporary Shelter (COTS), 12 staff members, including Grosse Pointe South High School Principal Al Diver, were obligated to come to school on 2 consecutive days with hair either red or green. They dyed their hair green for Thursday, Dec. 16, and red for the next day.

The idea was the brainchild of John Monahan who is a member of the student group, Kids Organization for COTS (KOCOTS). He and

the other KOCOT members approached the school's administration about being involved in the fund raiser.

"It was such a creative idea that the kids had," said Diver. "The staff was happy and excited to be involved."

The students ranked the staff members by seniority and reluctance to dye their hair; then they established incremental goal levels. At the lowest level \$150 KOCOT faculty advisor Brian McDonald would sport a colorful mane. The big prize was Diver, at \$2,000.

The level right below Diver was Michael Wasilewski, South's English Department chairperson who has been teaching there for 25 years. The students in his classes alone contributed \$1,000 to

the fund raiser.

On both days, the lucky twelve arrived early to have students spray paint their hair. They even kept their locks painted during their drive home.

"At stop lights, I received many dirty looks from people in the other cars," said Diver. "It was a real eye-opener on how people are judged by their looks."

McDonald and the student KOCOT members went on a shopping spree at Target buying all sorts of clothing, toys and other goodies for the children at COTS. On Dec. 19, McDonald, disguised as Santa, and the students threw a party for the children at the shelter.

- Beth Quinn



Richard Elementary kindergarten student, Sam Bruslow, shows off one of the beaded ornaments his class made for the Kercheval pavilion Christmas tree in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Richard kindergartners decorated tree

When Patti Willard read Brad Lindberg's article in this newspaper that the Grosse Pointe Farm's Christmas tree was in need of ornaments, she immediately went into action to ensure that the tree was amply decorated. The tree is located in the pavilion on Kercheval — a short distance from her children's school,

Richard Elementary. "Richard students pass by the tree almost every day; so I thought that this would be a good community project for them," Willard said.

She approached Richard's kindergarten teachers — Nancy Schulte, Courtney Kaye and Kelsi

Cueter — about having their students make ornaments as class projects. They came up with the idea of incorporating the project with a mathematical unit on patterning, counting and sorting by fives.

The Willard family donated the materials of red and green beads and pipe cleaners from which the students made wreaths during math class. The wreaths' design followed the pattern of five red beads alternating with five green beads.

On Dec. 10, the students and teachers were joined by parents and Grosse Pointe Farms city officials in a tree lighting and decorating ceremony.

Grosse Pointe Farms Mayor James Farquhar Jr. randomly selected a student, who coincidentally was Willard's son, Patrick, to help him push a button to light the tree.

"I was surprised that he picked me," Patrick Willard said.

After the tree was lit, the students scurried to place the miniature wreaths on its branches. Parents and teachers noted with humor that all the ornaments were placed at eye level of a five year old.

"I'm happy that we decorated the Christmas tree," said kindergartner Maddi Paolucci. "It looks nice."

- Beth Quinn



At Grosse Pointe South High School, Al Diver was transformed from principal to punker for two days as a fundraisers for COTS.

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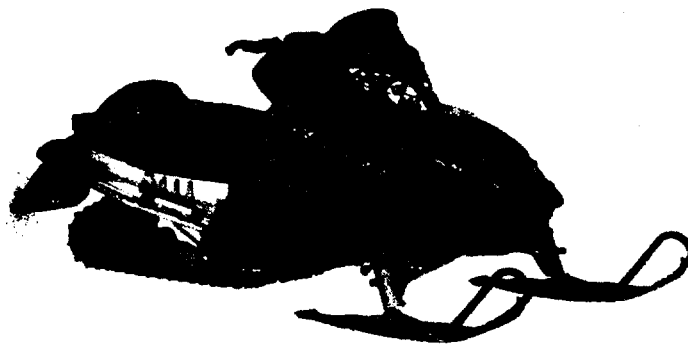
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Parcells students in geography bee

The Parcells Middle School Geography Bee was held on Dec. 9. Twenty-five students from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades participated this year.

The class champions in the Parcells Geography Bee are from left to right, Matthew Vengalli, 7th grade winner and overall runner-up; Jamie Ding, 8th grade winner and overall champ for the third year in a row; and Chris Jenkins, 8th grade winner.



Montieth students build teepees

The 3rd and 4th graders in Mr. Fisher's class at Montieth Elementary were really getting into the spirit of the Native American studies. As part of their social study unit, each student selected a Native American name, joined a tribe and studied the culture of their adopted tribe. Then each tribe constructed and decorated teepees or wigwams. There were three of each and all were actual size. The students re-enacted life in their adopted tribes.

Fikany Rotary scholarships awarded

The James & Jeanette Fikany Rotary Book Scholarships were recently rewarded to four 8th grade students who are high achievers attending middle school in Grosse Pointe. They were rewarded with a \$50 book store gift card and a \$500 scholarship for books and supplies when they reach college.



Above, Brownell Middle School eighth-grader Anna Liang of Grosse Pointe receives her award from Joseph A. Fikany and James A. Fikany Jr.

Below, Parcells Middle School eighth-grader Jamie Ding of Grosse Pointe Shores holding his award stands with James R. Fikany Jr.



Above, St. Clare of Montefalco Middle School eighth grader Stephen Peck of Grosse Pointe Park receives a scholarship from James R. Fikany Jr..

Below, Pierce Middle School eighth grader Sarah Siwak of Grosse Pointe Park receives a scholarship from James R. Fikany Jr..



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Safety

From page 22A

trying to shoplift two bottles of champagne worth a combined \$108.

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, shortly before 5 p.m., the man ran to his vehicle when an employee confronted him trying to exit the front door with champagne hidden under his coat.

The man was wanted in Madison Heights on unspecified charges.

Violates parole

A man wanted in Detroit for violating parole on cocaine charges was caught possessing marijuana during a traffic stop last week in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Officers saw the man Tuesday, Dec. 14, at about 9:30 p.m., driving a white 1997 Chrysler Cirrus with only one headlight on east-bound Mack near Kerby.

A pat-down search turned up a small container of marijuana strapped to the man's left leg near a tether.

He was wanted in Center Line for failing to appear in court on a traffic charge. Records showed he had nine license suspensions.

Hats off to dad

On Monday, Dec. 13, at 9 a.m., a 71-year-old Grosse Pointe Park man tried to pick a fight with a 25-year-old male teacher assigned to a community school within a Grosse Pointe Farms public high school.

Police said the man was angry because his son had been forced to remove his hat in class.

The father reportedly squeezed the teacher's hand in an intimidating manner and said to the teacher, "Do you want to take my hat off?"

Police are compiling witness accounts.

The father reportedly grabbed the teacher's belt, pulled him close and said, "Let's go outside and talk. Let's get away from these chicks and settle this outside."

Officers logged the incident as assault and battery.

"(The teacher) does not want to turn this into an assault but finds it uncomfortable with (the father) being around the school," police said.

Burned out

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 12:34 a.m., Grosse Pointe Farms police arrested a 42-year-old Detroit man for driving drunk on westbound Mack near Kerby.

The man's blood alcohol level measured .134 percent. Officers had stopped the man for driving a car without functioning tail lights.

Lousy customer

A drug store in the Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms has a customer who is always wrong. Store representatives said the 48-year-old Detroit man is no longer welcome.

"(An employee) states (the man) comes into the store on a daily basis and steals liquor," police said. "He has been verbally warned not to enter the store anymore. (Company representatives) wish to prosecute."

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 2:30 p.m., a clerk saw the "tall and lanky" man stash a \$30 bottle of vodka under his coat. When confronted, he gave up the goods and bolted out the back door. He ran to a blue Chevrolet pick-

up parked a half-block away in a hospital emergency lot.

Police traced the license plate, which was registered to a Pontiac Grand Am, to an address in the 5500 block of Kensington.

"This subject has several outstanding warrants and possibly matches (the) description of the suspect in this incident," police said.

Child neglect

Grosse Pointe Farms police said a 35-year-old Detroit woman seemed nonchalant Monday, Dec. 13, at 4:11 p.m., about leaving her two children — 7 years old and 4 months old — unattended in a running vehicle parked behind a grocery store on Mack near Moross.

"(She) showed no genuine concern regarding the incident," police said.

She reportedly said, "I only wanted to run into the store for a minute."

Officers cited the woman for leaving a running vehicle unattended and informed her they would seek a warrant for child endangerment and neglect.

"At this point (she) became emotional and started to cry," police said.

Car stolen

Between Friday, Dec. 10, and Tuesday, Dec. 21, thieves took a black 2004 Chrysler Concorde parked in the driveway of a house in the 400 block of Madison. The residents were out of town.

8 suspensions

A 43-year-old Detroit man with eight license suspensions was caught driving Saturday, Dec. 18, at 12:11 a.m., on westbound Vernier in Grosse Pointe Shores.

A patrolman said the man's 1992 Oldsmobile had only one working headlight. The man was released at 2:30 a.m. on \$100 bond.

Drunk at wheel

A 39-year-old St. Clair Shores man had a .169 percent blood alcohol level when investigated for drunken driving Friday, Dec. 17, at 10:19 p.m., in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Police said the man had been weaving his white 1999 Cadillac four-door on north-bound Lakeshore from Stratton.

He told officers he'd consumed two glasses of wine at his mother's birthday party.

The man posted \$100 bond and was released at 6:10 a.m.

Finds BB gun

On Thursday, Dec. 16, shortly after 3 p.m., a woman jogging in Grosse Pointe Shores found an Air Soft BB pistol on Lakeshore near Oxford.

She turned in the weapon at police headquarters.

Jumps curb

On the night of Monday, Dec. 13, an unknown driver jumped the curb and damaged turf in the 500 block of Ballantyne in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Police discovered ruts nearly 15 feet long and 4 inches deep. Officers also found skid marks on the south tire curb of Fairford from the direction of Grosse Pointe Woods.

A nearby resident remembered a loud grinding noise at approximately 8 p.m.

Power surge

A power surge in Grosse Pointe Shores on Tuesday,

Dec. 14, at 2:50 a.m. knocked out streetlights for a short time.

"When lights came back up, lights on southbound Lakeshore between Duval and Roslyn, including side streets, remained dark," police said.

.254 BAL

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 12:28 a.m., a 37-year-old Detroit man was caught speeding and swerving a 1993 Plymouth on Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe Shores.

He tested positive for a .254 percent blood alcohol level, more than three times the legal limit of .08 percent.

Officers monitoring south-bound Lakeshore near Roslyn said the man was driving 11 miles per hour over the speed limit.

He was released at 8 a.m. on \$100 bond.

Sightseeing

On Monday, Dec. 13, at 10:14 p.m., a 47-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was sent on her way shortly after being investigated for driving erratically on Lakeshore near the border with Grosse Pointe Farms.

"She was just looking at Christmas lights in the area," police said.

— Brad Lindberg

Bike stolen

A boys' 24-inch Schwinn mountain bike was reported stolen from a bike rack at a school in the 20600 block of Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods sometime between 3:30 and 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10.

Camera

scammed

A store in the 19300 block of Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods reported a Panasonic remote monitoring video camera stolen sometime between 4 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12, or between 9 a.m. and noon on Monday, Dec. 13.

Coat stolen

An Eddie Bauer leather coat was taken from an unlocked 2002 Ford Explorer parked in the 1100 block of Harvard in Grosse Pointe Park sometime between Sunday, Dec. 12, and Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Suspected thief caught

A 21-year-old Detroit man was arrested by Grosse Pointe Park public safety officers for the theft of a computer from a building in the 15000 block of Mack in Detroit at 7:32 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 13.

The officers caught the man upon hearing the sound of breaking glass in the area.

Guitar picked off

A package containing an Ibanez guitar left on a front porch in the 1300 block of Buckingham in Grosse Pointe Park was stolen sometime during the night of Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Caps nabbed

Four center caps were taken off a set of chrome rims of a white 1998 Cadillac parked in a parking lot in the 20900 block of

Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods sometime between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

X Box marked the spot

An X Box game console and video game were taken from a house in the 1300 block of Wayburn in Grosse Pointe Park sometime between 5 and 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Stolen cars

A 1996 Dodge Caravan was stolen from a parking lot at Mack and Somerset in Grosse Pointe Park sometime between 6 and 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

A 1998 Chevrolet Caprice parked in the street in the 1400 block of Nottingham in Grosse Pointe Park was stolen sometime during the night of Friday, Dec. 17.

Broken windows

The Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety responded to two separate reports of car windows being broken during the night of Thursday, Dec. 16, in the 1200 block of Devonshire and the 1200 block of Audubon.

Gruesome greetings

Someone left a pig's head with a Christmas card addressed to a family on the front porch of a house in the 1900 block of Van Antwerp in Grosse Pointe Woods sometime between 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17, and 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Smoked out

A 19-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man was arrested for violating the county public health code by an off-duty Mount Clemens narcotics detective.

While walking to a store in the 20400 block of Mack in the Woods at about 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, the off-duty detective saw the man and a friend looking into cars.

On his way out of the store, the off-duty detective saw the man and his friend in one of the cars. Suspicious of what was going on in the car, the officer identified himself to the men and asked them to get out of the car. During a pat-down of the Woods man, the detective found a small box containing marijuana inside a pants pocket.

Woods officers were called in to assist with the arrest. They also found and confiscated a wooden baseball bat inside the Woods man's car.

No more free lunches

A manager of a restaurant in the 20100 block of Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods finally had proof to turn in an employee who he believed had been stealing food from the workplace for the past year.

The manager claimed he saw the employee, a 24-year-old Detroit man, place \$38.12 worth of food in his car after he carted some garbage to a Dumpster in the back of the restaurant shortly before 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18.

The man was turned over to Woods public safety officers,

who released him pending theft charges and confirmation of three outstanding warrants out of Detroit.

Damaged car

The owner of a 1993 Buick reported her car was damaged while parked in a parking lot in the 20200 block of Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods between 1 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19. A 1/4-inch hole was found in the hood of her car.

Suspected thief caught

Grosse Pointe Woods public safety officers caught one of two men who they believed were trying to steal a car in the 19700 block of

Edshire on Sunday, Dec. 19.

A witness called the public safety department at 8:47 p.m. when she saw two men who looked as if they were trying to steal a 2000 Pontiac Montana. It was believed the two men took off when they were spotted by the witness.

A few minutes later, one of the men, a 19-year-old Detroit resident, was spotted by officers in the area of Morningside and Fairford. Officers found a flip phone on the man which was reported missing from the Montana.

He was charged with attempted vehicle theft and being in possession of stolen property.

— Bonnie Caprara

Stay safe while shopping this holiday season

Holiday shopping can be a time of fun and merriment, but preoccupied shoppers can be easy targets for burglars.

With these helpful tips from the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the nation's focal point for crime prevention, you can make your holiday shopping experience a happy one.

- Park in a well-lighted area. Leave the car locked and with the windows closed.

- Enjoy the decorations and merchandise at the mall, but stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.

- Beware of people lurking in parking lots or near merchandise pickup areas.

- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay with checks or credit cards whenever possible.

- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling loosely. Put your wallet in your front pants pocket or in an inside coat pocket.

- Don't get overburdened with packages;

always keep one hand free.

- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard if they get separated from you in the mall or store.

- File receipts in your wallet immediately; identity thieves can get important personal information from them.

- Be aware of people standing near you in checkout lines at retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc. Identity thieves with a camera cell phone could be taking a picture of your credit card with your name and credit card number and expiration date.

- Stay alert for staged mishaps, such as someone bumping into you or spilling a drink on you. Your momentary distraction could provide just the opportunity a purse-snatcher or pickpocket needs.

- Don't leave packages and boxes visible through car windows. Lock them in the trunk, or take them directly home.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will be considering the following proposed ordinance for a second reading at its meeting scheduled for Monday, January 3, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Municipal Building. The proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the Municipal Building, 20025 Mack Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The above Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend.

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 50 by Adding Sections 50-6 thru 50-16 to Establish Policies for Issuance of Liquor Licenses

Louise S. Warnke,
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 12/23/2004

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

REGULAR MEETINGS & WORK SESSIONS
CITY COUNCIL
CALENDAR YEAR 2005

The Regular Meetings occurring on the following dates are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the City Council Chambers located on the second floor of City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236 (313.885.6600).

January 10, 2005	June 20, 2005*
January 24, 2005*	July 11, 2005
February 7, 2005	August 8, 2005
March 7, 2005	September 12, 2005
March 21, 2005*	September 26, 2005*
April 4, 2005	October 3, 2005
April 18, 2005*	October 17, 2005*
May 9, 2005	November 14, 2005
May 23, 2005*	December 12, 2005
June 6, 2005	

* Indicates Work Session or Additional Council Meeting, as needed, scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Shane L. Reeside,
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 12/23/2004

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

SPECIAL NOTICE
RUBBISH SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS 2004

There will be no interruptions of residential or commercial rubbish pick up during the Christmas week.

However:

All Rubbish Routes regularly scheduled for Friday, December 24, 2004 will be collected before 11:00 a.m. Please have trash ready by 7:00 a.m.

G.P.N.: 12/16/2004
12/23/2004

Thank You,

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

SPECIAL NOTICE

Rubbish Schedule for New Years 2005

There will be no interruptions of residential or commercial rubbish pick up during the New Years week.

However:

All Rubbish Routes regularly scheduled for Friday, December 31, 2004 will be collected before 11:00 a.m. Please have trash ready by 7:00 a.m.

G.P.N.: 12/23/2004
12/30/2004

Thank you,

Department of Public Works

Street fight

City of Grosse Pointe police doubt a 17-year-old Detroit man's claim of innocence regarding a street fight Thursday, Dec. 16, at about 3:30 p.m., in the 400 block of Washington.

The teen initially denied an altercation occurred, but cuts on his face and hands told otherwise. He then claimed to be walking with four friends from a Grosse Pointe Farms high school when a second set of four unknown males pulled up in a black Ford Taurus and attacked.

"(I) believe the perpetrators and victim did know each other, as did all witnesses," said a City lieutenant. "(I'm) leery of (his) explanation for being in the area so far away from Detroit."

The man was accompanied by three 15- and 16-year-old teenage male high school students living in lower Grosse Pointe Park. The fourth man, 26, was a former student at the school.

Worthless warning

On Thursday, Dec. 16, at 11:20 a.m., a 38-year-old Detroit man with five outstanding warrants and numerous driver license suspensions was caught speeding a vehicle with falsified license plates in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Police said the man was traveling 35 mph in a 25 mph zone on Kercheval near Lakeland.

"The license plate on his 1989 Mercury expired in July 2004 but carried a 2005 sticker," police said.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

The man was wanted in Detroit on five warrants totaling \$600. Detroit authorities told City police to "advise and release" the offender.

Mail stolen

Someone is tampering with private mail deliveries to a City of Grosse Pointe woman living on Dodge Place.

In the latest incident, on Tuesday, Dec. 14, the woman reported an express envelope had been opened and emptied.

Head injuries

A 91-year-old Grosse Pointe Farms woman is recovering from head injuries suffered when knocked to the pavement in an alley behind a grocery store on Kercheval in the Village district of the City of Grosse Pointe.

On Monday, Dec. 13, shortly before 10 a.m., the woman was walking to her car parked in a handicap spot when a 47-year-old Park man driving a 2002 Chrysler Town & Country exited the lot, entered the alley and hit the woman's shopping cart.

Medics took the woman to a City hospital for treatment of head and leg injuries.

"(The man) states he bumped the victim's shopping cart as he was turning to enter (the) alley," said a police officer. "(He) states he saw the victim, stopped and barely touched the shopping cart."

"He stated he watched her fall back on her head," said another officer.

The man got out of his car and gave assistance.

"(The woman) was transported to (the) hospital with injuries to the back and side of her skull," police said. Officers described her condition at the time as "alert and coherent."

Jewel heist

A former Grosse Pointe Farms woman now living in

Oxford discovered last week that someone last fall stole more than \$7,300 worth of jewelry from her former house in the 200 block of Merriweather.

She suspects the theft happened in September or October while the property was up for sale.

"(She) believes it may have happened during one of three open houses," police said.

Stolen jewelry consisted of gold chains, medallions, earrings and a \$4,200 14-carat, two-tone diamond bracelet in a box taken from a bedroom closet.

Car full of drinkers

A 21-year-old Mount Pleasant man was arrested for drunken driving on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2:20 a.m., in Grosse Pointe Farms.

A patrolman discovered the man's white 1996 Oldsmobile Cutlass blocking the intersection of east-bound Moross at Mack.

"I did not have anything

to drink," the driver reportedly told police.

Officers measured his blood alcohol level at .134 percent.

Of four passengers, a 19-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods woman had a .091 percent blood alcohol level. Officers cited her for being a minor in possession of alcohol. A second 19-year-old Woods woman refused to take a preliminary breath test to determine her blood alcohol level.

A 22-year-old Shores man and 21-year-old man, both intoxicated, were released.

Car fire

On Saturday, Dec. 18, at 5:56 a.m., Grosse Pointe Farms public safety officers extinguished flames in the passenger compartment of a 1989 Oldsmobile Delta 88 parked in the driveway of a house in the 400 block of Calvin.

"It appears the fire originated in the area of the driver's seat," said an officer.

Fake passport

Grosse Pointe Farms police encountered the trail of a 36-year-old Middle East man who presented a falsi-

fied passport the evening of Friday, Dec. 17 when seeking treatment for back pain at a hospital on the Hill.

The man received a dose of pain killers and quickly left the facility.

A suspicious employee watched him hire a cab for a one block ride to a parked, full-sized brown Chevrolet. The man got in the car and drove away.

Officers found several falsehoods on a copy of the man's passport.

"Signatures on the passport and hospital documents look dramatically different," police said.

The man had identified himself to hospital personnel as being from Washington but visiting relatives in Oak Park. Officers traced the license plate on his car to an apartment in Clio.

State records warned police to use caution when dealing with the man.

Thief caught

Employees of a store in the 18300 block of Mack in Grosse Pointe Farms corralled a 19-year-old Detroit man last week for allegedly

See SAFETY, page 23A

City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

FINAL PROJECT SELECTION

At a Public Hearing held on MONDAY, December 13, 2004 at 7:30 P.M. by the City of Grosse Pointe City Council the following projects were selected to meet federal guidelines and service objectives and was approved as follows:

• Approved a transfer of 2003 Community Development Block Grant Funds from Planning Programs to Public Needs (SOC). Funds total \$15,235.09

GPN: 12/23/2004

Julie E. Arthurs,
City Clerk

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - PAPER YARD WASTE BAGS:

Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2005, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing the following items: 100,000 2-ply multi-layer wet-strength brown kraft paper yard waste bags over a two-year period. Copies of specifications and bid sheets may be obtained from the City Clerk. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

G.P.N.: 12/23/2004

Louise S. Warnke,
City Clerk

City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan
Wayne County, Michigan

CODE NO. 12-03 ORDINANCE NO. 373 ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 14 (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 301 OF ORDINANCE NO. 192, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO PROMOTE, PROTECT AND PROVIDE FOR, IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, COMFORT, CONVENIENCE AND GENERAL WELFARE IN THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS, THE CONSERVATION OF PROPERTY VALUES IN THE CITY, ITS CHARACTER AS A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, AND THE GENERAL TREND THEREIN OF BUILDING AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENTS; TO ESTABLISH DISTRICTS IN THE CITY; TO REGULATE THE USE OF LAND AND STRUCTURES THEREIN AND TO REGULATE AND RESTRICT THE LOCATION OF TRADES AND BUSINESSES, AND THE LOCATION OF STRUCTURES DESIGNATED FOR SPECIFIC USES; TO REGULATE AND LIMIT THE HEIGHT, AREA, BULK AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURES; TO REGULATE AND DETERMINE THE AREA OF YARDS, AND OTHER OPEN SPACES; TO LIMIT AND RESTRICT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHICH MAY BE HOUSED IN DWELLINGS; TO PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM OFF-STREET PARKING FACILITIES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ORDINANCE; TO PROVIDE FOR A BOARD OF APPEALS AND ITS POWERS AND DUTIES, AND TO PRESCRIBE THE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE."

The City of Grosse Pointe Farms Ordains:

Section 1. Section 301 (Zoning Map) of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, being Ordinance No. 192, Code No. 12-03, as previously amended, is hereby further amended to designate certain land (which land is zoned R-1AA One-Family Residential), as indicated on Zoning Map Amendment No. 14 of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, which map is attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance, as "Planned Unit Development Area No. 1." Said Planned Unit Development Area No. 1 shall, commencing upon the effective date of this Ordinance and continuing until this Ordinance is lawfully amended or repealed, be subject to the provisions of Section 1518 of the Zoning Ordinance. The foregoing designation is made upon the submission of a preliminary application on behalf of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial for the development of a planned unit condominium development, provided that any future development or redevelopment of Planned Unit Development Area No. 1 shall at all times be subject to strict compliance with Section 1518 of the Zoning Ordinance, the other applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, and all other applicable ordinances, laws and regulations.

Section 2. In all other respects, Ordinance No. 192, as previously amended, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after its enactment or upon its publication, whichever is later.

Enacted: December 13, 2004

G.P.N.: 12/23/2004

Shane L. Reeside,
City Clerk



Wild Lights at zoo

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Sharon Pfeuffer and her son, Andy, put finishing touches on a holiday tree that's part of the DTE Energy Foundation Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo. Pfeuffer, a maintenance manager at DTE, is a member of the company's Green Team. The group of employees and retirees volunteers to work on environmental projects in the community. Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo features more than 400,000 lights, 60 animal sculptures, concert, refreshments and more. Sponsored by the DTE Energy Foundation, the holiday spectacular runs through Dec. 30. For a schedule and more information, visit www.detroitzoo.org.

City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES DECEMBER 13, 2004

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor James C. Farquhar, Jr., Councilmembers Douglas F. Roby, Jr., Peter W. Waldmeir, Therese M. Joseph, Joseph T. Leonard, Charles S. Terry Davis III Louis Theros.

Those Absent Were: None.

Also Present: Messrs. Burgess, City Attorney; Reeside, City Manager; Tepper, Assistant City Manager; Ferber, Director of Public Safety.

Mayor Farquhar presided at the Meeting.

The Council approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, which was held November 15, 2004, as submitted.

The Council approved the Minutes of the Closed Session, which was held November 15, 2004.

The Council accepted the Audit for Fiscal Year June 30, 2004.

Following a Public Hearing, the Council adopted the proposed Zoning Map Amendment (Planned Unit Development Overlay) (PUD) for 50/60 Lake Shore Road Code No. 12-03, Ordinance No. 373.

The Council rescheduled the Public Hearing for the proposed Soil Erosion Ordinance to Monday, January 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

- The Council approved the following from the Consent Agenda:
 - Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Contract
 - Proposed Schedule of Council Meetings, 2005.
 - (See attached list for publication)
- The Council received the Public Safety Department Report for October, November, 2004.
- Approved the purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Station for Public Safety.
- Approved Yard Waste Disposal Contract.

Upon proper motion made, supported and carried, the Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 90 KERBY ROAD, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN 48236, ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. THE MEETING IS PUBLIC. INTERESTED PROPERTY-OWNERS AND RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. RESIDENTS MAY ALSO VIEW THE AGENDA AND MINUTES ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE: WWW.CI.GROSSE-POINTE-FARMS.MI.US/

James C. Farquhar, Mayor

Shane L. Reeside City Manager/City Clerk

GPN: 12/23/04

The first of many, many Frog Fur Friends arrives

Fundraising event involves all the Grosse Pointes

The first of many giant Fiberglass frogs has been delivered to the Pointes in advance of Frogs Fur Friends (as in Frogs for Friends).

The fundraiser is being fashioned after the hugely successful Cows on Parade in Chicago, Turtles on Mackinaw, and DogTown in Birmingham.

Approximately 50, oversized, larger than life, decorated, painted and otherwise colorfully adorned frogs will be displayed throughout the Grosse Pointe area from early June to Oct. 1, 2005.

On Oct. 8, frogs will be auctioned off at the Frogs Fur Friends Emerald Ball and Auction Gala Event. Proceeds will go to two local non-profits: Children's Home of Detroit and the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

Artists interested in submitting a design concept can pick up an application at the following locations:

- Grosse Pointe Artists Association on the corner of Maryland and Jefferson in the Park,
- Maniscalco Gallery of Fine Art,
- Rainy Day Art Supply Co.,
- Center for Creative Studies,
- Wayne State University Department of Art and Art History, room 150 and
- Scarab Club Detroit.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 4. Artists also can call the Hop Line at (313) 417-3588 and request an entry package.

Organizers are looking for sponsors to adopt a frog. Request a sponsors package on the Hop Line.

On Jan. 7, a Web site will

be up with downloadable applications and commitment forms.

The official Hot to Hop Adoption Party is scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 3, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Northern Trust Building located on the Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms.

This fun event will introduce sponsors to participating artists, as well as, provide the first glimpse of a painted frog, by well known local artist, Nance Aitchison. The evening will include food, cocktails, and music.

Photo by Jessica McCartney

A frog is displayed at Kennedy & Co. Standing are, from left, Dennis Andrus, Kathy Kluge, D.J. Kennedy and Debbie Conn. Seated from left are Stacey Andrus and Donna Brian.



Marine toy drive at Mack & Moross in the Farms

This is the second Christmas season that U.S. Marines have been invited to collect Toys for Tots at Rick Gram's service station at Mack and Moross in Grosse Pointe Farms.

"Response has been excellent," said Gram, a resident of Grosse Pointe Shores.

During a few hours last Friday people dropped off enough toys to fill the cargo area of a Humvee.

"The public is very generous," said Pfc. James Wang of Troy. Wang serves with Marine Wing Support Squadron 471 Detachment Bravo at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens.

Among a stream of people who pulled into the station to donate brand new toys for needy children, Annie Gaca of Grosse Pointe Farms gave ice skates.

Wang's dress blue uniform drew a lot of attention during the toy drive.

"All the girls have been waving at him," said Sgt. Joe Shinaver of Toledo, Ohio.

In the photo at left, Annie Gaca of Grosse Pointe Farms donates to Toys for Tots, a Christmas gift-giving campaign for needy children the U.S. Marines founded decades ago. With Gaca at the British Petroleum station at Mack and Moross are Pfc. James Wang of Troy, Sgt. Joe Shinaver of Toledo, Ohio; Cpl. David Finch of Oklahoma and Pfc. Kirk Eggleston of Dearborn Heights.

For more information see www.toysfortots.org.



FYI

From page 9A

format: There is a display up front (either in a chapel, or in our case, the theater, which is part of a huge tent. It can seat 500 people, and most seats were filled today). The display has the soldier's boots, ID Tags, weapon and helmet. If there is a picture of the soldier, it is part of the display as well.

"The chaplain begins with a prayer. Then the battalion commander speaks; the soldier's company commander speaks; then several of his friends speak to tell everyone what that person was like.

"It is very emotional and brings all of us together as a family of grieving soldiers. The chaplain then does a reading, and what follows that is probably the most emotional part of all: the roll call. This is absolutely heart-wrenching.

"The company first sergeant will call out a name, and the soldier will reply 'Here, first sergeant!'

"The first sergeant repeats this with several other names. Then he calls out the rank and last name

of the deceased soldier, and there is silence. Again he calls out, this time with the rank, first name and last name of the deceased soldier, and there is silence...

Then for a third time the first sergeant calls out the rank, first name, middle name and last name of the deceased soldier. While he is doing this, there is a 21-gun salute. When he calls out the soldier's name for the third time, the silence is followed by the bugle playing of taps.

"Everyone was choked up, and the first sergeant really had a tough time calling out the soldier's name. The final part of the memorial is when every soldier files by the display and gives the fallen soldier a final salute.

"Again it was heart wrenching, but at the same time, gave closure to those grieving, and solidified our resolve to not let his death be in vain. His fellow soldiers, who were beside him when he fell, will be back out there tomorrow, continuing their mission."

Adopt a Soldier

North High School Assistant Principal Tom Beach and his family took part in North attendance officer Judy Preston's



"Adopt a Soldier" program with more than 150 men and women of Col. Brown and Maj. Prophet's Stryker Brigade. He included his e-mail with his package and received this reply:

"My name is 1st Lt. Matthew Raymond, the soldier whom you sponsored and sent the package and letter to. I would like to say thank you to you and all the wonderful people who have been sending my soldiers and me such wonderful gifts. I am a platoon leader in C Troop, 2-14 Cavalry, and I am in charge of 18 men. The items that we have been receiving on a consistent basis have been a great reminder of why

America is such a special place. The entire Grosse Pointe school system has been amazing in its generosity toward us. I know all felt very humble after seeing the outpouring of kindness from people such as yourself. My mother lives in Three Rivers, Mich, and if I get the chance to visit her after I come back from here, I would love the chance to go to dinner with you and your family..."

Ben Burns of the City of Grosse Pointe is a professor in the journalism program at Wayne State University. He can be reached at burnsben@comcast.net or by phone at (313) 882-2810.

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Suggested Retail \$10.00

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Serving the Grosse Pointe Area for 19 years

From page 7A

By 1953, they settled in Grosse Pointe with their two young daughters.

Mrs. Taliaferro was a homemaker and an active volunteer in the community as a member of Christ Church Grosse Pointe and the Junior League of Detroit. For 47 years, she volunteered at the Foundation for Exceptional Children in Grosse Pointe, where she loved the children and the work.

She was a passionate bridge player. She was also an avid letter writer and enjoyed challenging crossword puzzles.

Since 1954, many of her happiest times were spent near Frankfort, at a family cottage on Crystal Lake. She eagerly anticipated visits with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for months in advance.

In 2001, Mr. and Mrs. Taliaferro moved from Grosse Pointe to Loveland, to be closer to their daughter and her family.

She is survived by her husband, Bill Taliaferro, of

Loveland; her daughters, Cee (John) Ward of Poteau, Okla., Page (Bud) Frick of Fort Collins, Colo.; her grandchildren, Ed (Pam) Palmquist of Columbia, Miss., Ginger (Roderigo) Palmquist-Atencio of Orlando, Fla. Diana Frick of Helena, Mont., Lauren (Dave) Tremblay of Denver, and Kyla Frick, of Fort Collins, Colo.; and three great-granddaughters.

She was predeceased by her brother John Watkins.

A memorial service was held on Dec. 5 at the Spiritual Life Center at Good Samaritan Village in Loveland, Colo.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Foundation for Exceptional Children, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; or to the Benzie Shores District Library, 630 Main Street, P.O. Box 631, Frankfort, MI 49635.

Alexander L.**"Sandy" Wiener**

Grosse Pointe resident, Alexander L. "Sandy" Wiener, 96, died on Monday,

Dec. 13, 2004 of arteriosclerotic coronary vascular disease.

Born on Feb. 18, 1908, in Philadelphia, he was the son of Edward and Katherine (Loder) Wiener.

Mr. Wiener graduated from Cheate School and Yale University where he was a member of the football and tennis teams.

Following his graduation, he came to Detroit as an executive in the foreign division of the Chrysler Corp. He was transferred overseas, residing in Antwerp, Belgium, Zurich, Switzerland and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

After military service in the U.S. Air Corps from which he retired as Major, he became chairman of the board and president of Insto-Gas Corporation in Detroit. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1970.

Mr. Wiener was an avid gardener and a student of genealogy. He was a well-known tennis player during the 1920s, winning many doubles tournaments with

Bill Tilden. He was active in local tennis, serving five years as the chief official of the National Junior Tennis Championships in Kalamazoo; an officer of the Eastern and Western Tennis Associations and past board member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I. He ran a very successful invitational tennis tournament at the Grosse Pointe Club for 20 years.

He was very active at Christ Church, serving on many committees; the vestry with two terms as senior warden and 26 years as head usher.

His other great interest was Yale University for which he served on committees in New Haven and Detroit. For 20 years, he was chairman of the Detroit Committee for interviewing and recommending qualified high school students, and in doing so, he established standards for a generation of Yale students.

His wife, the late Ellanore B. Wiener, said sometimes he was referred to in Grosse

Pointe as "Mr. Tennis," "Mr. Christ Church" and "Mr. Yale."

He was a member of the Grosse Pointe Club, Yondotega Club and the Yale Alumni Association of Michigan. He was a former officer of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, St. Luke's Home and St. Peter's Home for Boys.

Mr. Wiener also was a life member of the Sons of the Revolution, Society of Colonial Wars, Baronial Order of Magna Charta, Society of the War of 1812, Order of the Crown of Charlemagne, Descendants of the Garter and the Air Force Association.

He is survived by his sons, Alexander L. Wiener Jr. of Ann Arbor and Edward McIntosh Wiener of Elmhurst, Ill.; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild and his sister, Katherine Dubois of Gwynedd, Pa.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ellanore B. Wiener.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, Jan. 7, at 4 p.m. at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

**Helping others in need**

The Mason Elementary Student Council wanted to give gifts to children at The Children's Home of Detroit. The student council decided to have a pencil and eraser sale to raise money to purchase gifts for the children. The students raised over \$100. They were able to purchase a variety of craft items for the children.

Travel plans — focus is on family

It's over the river and through the woods for most Michigan holiday travelers this year, confirms AAA's latest travel survey. A whopping 87 percent of Christmas travelers will visit relatives this year — the highest number in three years (64 percent in 2003 and 65 percent in 2002) — and 82 percent of travelers will stay in relatives' homes (versus 44 percent in 2003).

Overall, an estimated 1 million Michiganders have planned a Christmas vacation this year, says AAA. The number represents a 66-percent increase over last year, when 600,000 travelers were predicted. "The leisure travel market is continuing to grow back to pre-9/11 levels," said Cathy Green, vice president of sales and service for The Auto Club Group (ACG). "For domestic holiday travel, however, we're seeing a resurgence in more traditional, family-oriented travel patterns."

According to AAA Michigan's holiday travel survey, slightly more than half of those traveling (53 percent) will be traveling outside of Michigan during the upcoming Christmas holiday, down from 84 percent in 2003.

Based on projected requests for TripTik routings and AAA Travel air reservations, the most popular destinations outside Michigan this winter are:

- 1) Orlando, Florida
- 2) Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- 3) Nashville, Tennessee
- 4) Naples, Florida
- 5) Daytona Beach, Florida

Other survey findings:

- More travelers will take a car, truck or van to their final destinations this holiday (68 percent versus 52 percent in 2003). Thirty-two percent will fly to their final destination — a decrease of 12 percentage points from last year.

- The average Christmas vacation will last seven days and the cost will average \$774.

Michigan motorists can expect to pay about 39.4

cents more for a gallon of gas this year (\$1.858 as of Dec. 8), compared with last year at this time.

The official 54-hour Christmas holiday period begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, and runs to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26. The 2004-2005 New Year holiday period (also 54 hours) begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, and runs to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005.

During last year's 102-hour Christmas holiday period, there were six traffic fatalities reported by the Michigan State Police. Of the six fatal crashes, two (33.3 percent) involved alcohol. Restraints were not used by five of the six victims who had them available.

During last year's 102-hour New Year holiday period, six people died in six fatal traffic crashes. Of the six fatal crashes, one (16.6 percent) involved alcohol. Restraints were not used by four of the six victims who had them available.

Michigan's safety belt law requires that the driver and all front seat passengers be buckled, children under the age of four must be in a child safety seat, preferably in the back seat, and children up to age 16 must be restrained no matter where they're riding.

AAA Michigan urges motorists to allow extra time, buckle safety belts, get plenty of sleep and avoid alcohol.

WWII Army Association plans tour of Italy

The 5th Army Association World War II, Italy, is offering a 10-day final tour of Italy departing from New York on Wednesday, June 15, 2005.

The association will visit Rome, Venice, Florence, Pisa, Sorrento and the American Military Cemetery near Anzio.

For more information, contact Sy Canton at 5277B Lakefront Blvd., Delray Beach, FL 33484; phone (561) 865-8495.

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2005 Chrysler 300 Limited is a terrific winner

By Greg Zyla

We test drove the 2005 Chrysler 300 Limited — base price: \$26,770; price as tested: \$33,550. Chrysler has a real winner on its hands with the distinctive-looking 300, which is priced far below that of its luxury competitors. From one of the smoothest rides we've enjoyed to gas mileage (19 miles per gallon city, 27 mpg highway) that belies the power of the 3.5-liter V-6 engine, the Chrysler 300 is a hit.

The 300 Limited is a touring car reminiscent of the 1970s: big, roomy and fancy enough to make a statement anywhere. The 300 has a stout nose — unusual for a luxury look — but the high front grille somehow works with the low-profile top half of the car to give the 300 just a touch of menace in its stance.

The 300 model starts with the base 300 and moves up to the 300 Touring, 300 Limited and ultimate 300C. While the first three models feature V-6 power, the latter has the same 5.7-liter Hemi engine that was revived for the new Dodge Magnum. A 300C SRT8 is also coming soon, Chrysler promises.

The 300 holds an important place in Chrysler history. First produced in 1955, the Hemi-powered 300 was

a big winner in early NASCAR races and recognized for pushing new technology. The 300 letter series ended in 1971 while special "non-letter" 300s continued until 1979.

The terrific ride in the 300 is built around the four-wheel "independent ride" suspension. It seems to glide over rough roads yet holds up well in cornering at higher speeds with its all-speed traction control and power rack-and-pinion steering.

Chrysler ditched the LH line and its front-wheel drive and made rear-wheel drive standard for the 300, a move that isn't surprising

considering today's technological advances such as the traction control that make handling better in bad weather. You can also get the 300 in all-wheel drive if preferred.

Of course, it's not hard to enjoy the ride when surrounded by such comfort inside. The 300 Limited features a smooth, soft leather interior, set off nicely by the antique look of the gauges, which feature a white background illuminated by light-green backlighting. We also like the gearshift for the standard four-speed automatic transmission, which is mounted on a full-length

floor console trimmed in wood grain.

Anything you'd expect in a luxury car is standard on the 300, and the Customer Preferred Package (\$2,495) adds features like auto-dimming rear-view mirror, temperature and compass gauge, two-zone auto-temperature air conditioning, heated front seats, electronic vehicle information control, traveler/mini-trip computer, security alarm and steering-wheel-mounted audio controls.

Another option on our Limited is the AM/FM stereo, four-disc CD, MP3 and GPS navigation system

for \$1,595, plus Sirius Satellite digital radio for \$325. It offers great sound at your fingertips.

Other important numbers include a 3,742-pound curb weight, 18-gallon fuel tank, 15.6 cubic feet of trunk space and a 120-inch wheelbase.

The great thing about the 300 series is that everything about it says luxury — except the price. The base 300 is a steal at just under

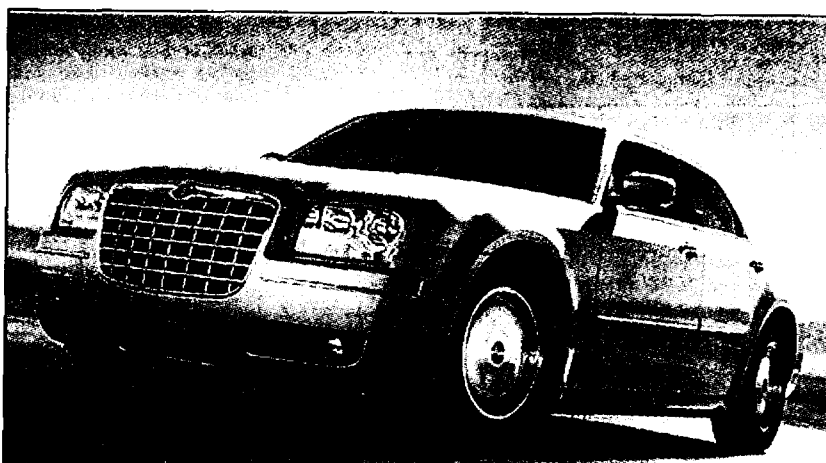
\$23,000, and even the top-of-the-line 300C in all-wheel drive stays below \$35,000. This reality has to have the competition sweating dollar bills.

We rate the new Chrysler 300 series a strong nine on a scale of 10.

Likes: Aggressive, original look. A thrill to drive. Price.

Dislikes: Isn't distinguished enough from the Dodge Magnum.

— King Features Syndicate



2005 Chrysler 300 Limited

How to change your engine oil

By Ryan Newman

Most people don't have the luxury of a pit crew who can change four tires and refuel a race car in less than 16 seconds but everyone needs to take automotive maintenance seriously or it will cost a pretty penny in the end.

You don't have to be a NASCAR driver to know that you can keep your car running at peak performance by changing the engine oil as recommended by the owner's manual. Regular and routine car maintenance will extend the life of your car and, perhaps most importantly, save you money. Engine oil left too long can slow you down by leading to deposit and sludge build-up in your engine, reducing your car's performance and ultimately engine life. Changing your oil regularly is important, even off the racetrack.

Choose a flat spot in your driveway, garage or (in my case) race shop, to park your car. Oil may leak, so be prepared to guard against stains with a newspaper or large towel. You also will need to familiarize yourself with your vehicle, choose the right engine oil and ensure you have the proper tools and supplies at your disposal. Changing your oil will take approximately 30 minutes. The average cost for the replacement oil and new filter is \$15 to \$20 and will vary with the vehicle you drive and grade and brand of engine oil you select.

Check under your car to be sure you know where the oil pan, drain plug and filter are located. I'm a huge antique car buff and have a variety of "toys," so getting to know each car is important. On most cars, the drain plug will have a hexagonal head and

the oil filter will be on the side of the oil pan. Refer to your owner's manual detailed charts if you get confused or don't know where something is located. It's always better to know ahead of time, than to be surprised in the middle of a project. Under the hood, locate the engine oil fill cap to install the new oil and have the engine dipstick handy to measure new oil level.

Your owner's manual offers specifics on the best type and amount of oil for your vehicle and the right size of oil filter. Oils come in different weights and blends, and so many brands your head will spin. To avoid confusion always remember: synthetic oils provide the best overall performance for vehicles and driving conditions. Mobil 1 is a sponsor of Penske Racings stable and, in my opinion, it's the best brand of oil.

1. Owner's manual — This handy book should come with your vehicle.

2. New oil — Refer to your owner's manual for the recommended quantity and viscosity grade of new oil.

3. New oil filters — Refer to owner's manual which will list preferred size for vehicle.

4. Oil drain pan — Purchase one at an auto parts store.

5. Box or socket wrench — An auto parts store can help you make the right choice.

6. Oil filter wrench — Refer to your owner's manual and buy a wrench that matches the size of the oil filter you purchase.

7. Funnel — This is handy for installing new oil.

8. Dipstick — Normally under the hood of your car.

Before you begin, be safe and make sure the car is

turned off and the engine is cool. The car should be in park or, if you have a standard, the car should be in first with the emergency brake set. Follow these steps and you will be on your way to keeping your car running for years to come:

1. Locate the oil pan and drain plug.

2. Place drain pan under the drain plug. Remove the drain plug and allow used oil to flow into the drain pan.

3. When draining is complete, replace drain plug and make sure it is secure.

4. Remove the old filter and pour excess oil in the drain pan.

5. Dab some new engine oil on the gasket around the top of the filter before you install to ensure easy removal next change. Screw in the new filter by rotating clockwise-do not screw in too tightly.

6. Once the filter is secure, pop your hood and remove the oil cap. Insert the funnel and add the manufacturer's recommended amount of new oil.

7. After oil is added, use your dipstick to measure proper levels as specified in your owner's manual.

8. Check under your vehicle for leaks.

9. Start your engine, allow your car to idle briefly and check again for leaks.

10. Remember to carefully dispose of your oil. There are regulations to ensure that oil is disposed of properly and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency now charges large fines for improper disposal. Save your oil bottles and place old oil in them for disposal. Check how to dispose of the filter and used engine oil.

I know all of the above may sound like a lot, but it's

really pretty easy and well worth it. Changing your oil regularly will extend the life of your engine and improve your car's fuel economy. I have won races this season because of good fuel economy, so we must be doing something right.

Ryan Newman is NASCAR NEXTEL Cup driver of the No. 12 ALLTEL/Mobil 1 Dodge Intrepid.



SAY "HI" TO HYBRIDS

Now that all-electric vehicles (EV's) have fallen into disfavor, owing to limited range and long recharge times, automakers have turned their focus to gas-electric hybrid vehicles. Hybrids are able to cut emissions and improve efficiency by marrying a conventional gasoline engine with an electric motor that runs off a battery pack and gets recharged by the gas engine during normal driving. Additional charging also comes from "regenerative braking," in which the momentum of the braking vehicle converts the electric motor into a generator. While the initial cost of a hybrid vehicle is typically more than that of a conventional one, tax breaks are offered by both

federal and state governments, including a one-time IRS deduction.

With gas prices being as high as they are, people are becoming more sensitive to the need to conserve. Gas-electric hybrid vehicles improve fuel efficiency and cut emissions. Are you in the market for a vehicle? Visit MEADE LEXUS OF LAKESIDE at 45001 Northpointe Blvd., on the north side of Hall Rd. between Van Dyke and Schoenherr for a wide selection of new and pre-owned fuel efficient Lexus vehicles that are practical and fun to drive. Call us at 586-726-7900. Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year!



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Eclipse

From page 20A

the looks.

The leather front seats are a highlight of the interior, which offers a surprising amount of space up front. In fact, head and legroom weren't an issue at all. And, yes, there is a back seat, but you won't get eight legs in this Spyder. We could accommodate only one rear-seat passenger at a time, and they had to sit across the seat simply to have somewhere to put their legs. There's a crowd in a sports car anyway.

The power soft-top is easy to remove, with a quick release of two handles, and stows in the small trunk.

The soft-top, interestingly, has a glass rear window plenty large enough to aid visibility.

Mitsubishi offers a strong safety package with dual front and front-side air bags, side-impact door beams, lower child-restraint anchor system, and energy-absorbing steering column. Other highlights include a 210-watt Infinity six-CD audio with seven speakers and steering-wheel-mounted controls, 12-way adjustable driver seat, and rear-window defroster with timer. Everything is standard on the GTS test model (the only "extra" is \$595 for destination and handling). The base

Spyder starts at just more than \$25,000.

The Spyder delivers 20-miles per gallon city and 27-mpg highway EPA ratings. As we said, it's not a tiny car, weighing in at 3,395 pounds. Other important numbers include a 100.8-inch wheelbase and a 16.4-gallon fuel tank.

The Spyder operates in a crowded sports-coupe market, but with its powerful engine and comfortable and safe size we certainly would put the Eclipse Spyder on the shopping list. We give it an 8.5 on a scale of 1 to 10.

Likes: Racy, yet sophisticated look. Sportronic transmission.

2005 Mazda3 — 'nice car'

By Greg Zyla

This week, we're behind the wheel of the 2005 Mazda3, a youth-oriented car that offers great value for money spent — base price: \$16,615; price as tested: \$20,240. Our bright-red Mazda3 resulted in many "nice car" comments from the younger set. The best news, however, is that you'll pay \$280 less on the base price in 2005 than you would have for a 2004 model.

Available in four-door sedan and hatchback models, our "s" model was powered by a 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine that is 100 percent Mazda-built. An adequate 160 horsepower at 6,500 rpm and 150 pound-feet of torque at 4,500 rpm will keep you moving, although we'd still like to see 15 more horses under the hood. (A 148-horse 2.0-liter powers the base "i" model.)

Our tester came with the optional four-speed automatic with manual shift gate for an additional \$900. Also on the option list were beautiful 17-inch wheels and tires for \$490. Front and side air bags, head-protector curtain side air bags and ABS are all grouped in another option package for \$800, which we highly recommend. Our "3" also had a nice moonroof and six-disc CD package for \$490 that, when added to the \$545 destination, resulted in a \$20,240 bottom-line sticker.

Mazda3's exterior design features prominently the "Zoom Zoom" attitude promoted in Mazda's national advertising campaigns. We especially liked the way those 17-inch wheels looked with the flared front and rear fenders, which made the "3" way more assertive. Mazda's short, high rear

deck extends the lines flowing from the front of the vehicle for a powerful appearance. However, due to its short rear area, there's less cargo room than some may need.

Inside, Mazda3 is far roomier than the car's exterior would indicate. A red backlit three-gauge instrument cluster and three-spoke steering wheel with integrated audio and cruise controls make for easy viewing, programming and listening. The sporty-style seats are comfortable, although I couldn't find my "favorite" spot. Other noteworthy cabin features include a huge glove box that can hold really big items, like a laptop computer.

Mazda3 is still the segment leader in front- and rear shoulder room and one of the best in class for knee clearance, thanks to the longer wheelbase. Thus, four adults can travel in comfort. If you want to seat five, pity the center rear passenger.

On the road, the MacPherson-strut front design unites with a rear suspension that borrows from the E-link system on the larger Mazda6, giving the Mazda3 a classier feel. The result is excellent road-holding ability, especially on twisty, narrow country roads. The ride is a bit on the firm side, but it's built that way.

As for safety, you'll receive all the goodies, most of which are standard equipment. Features like a collapsible brake pedal that breaks away in the event of a severe frontal accident to minimize foot injuries — a feature also found in Mazda6 and RX-8 — are what make this car worth lots more than the base price.

Important numbers include a wheelbase of 103.9 inches, 2,696-pound curb weight, EPA numbers of 24-

mpg city and 29-mpg highway, 11.4 cubic feet of cargo space and a 14.5-gallon fuel tank.

We gave the front-drive Mazda3 hatchback a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10 in its debut last year, and again give its 2005 sibling a strong 9 for the new year. It's really a fun, affordable vehicle.

Likes: Price, quality, looks, great safety features.

Dislikes: Limited cargo space, more horsepower would help

— King Features Syndicate

2004 Eclipse Spyder GTS convertible

By Greg Zyla

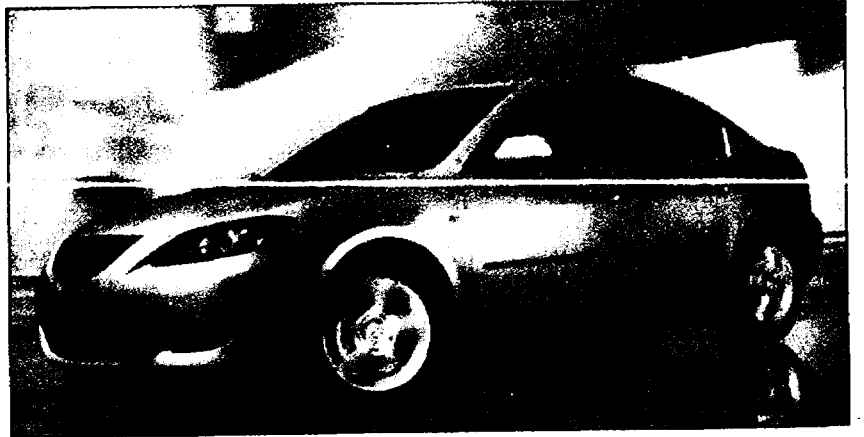
We had a blast testing the 2004 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder GTS two-door convertible, a sports coupe with some size to it in addition to function and looks — base price: \$30,399; price as tested: \$30,994.

The Spyder GTS is Mitsubishi's premier Eclipse offering. It takes the \$20,000 base and adds \$10,000-plus in performance goodies and convertible design.

Think of the Spyder as an entry in the "Fast and Furious" street world, but one that doesn't need any tweaking. From engine to exhaust to looks, it's ready to go.

At the heart of its performance is the 3.0-liter, 24-valve, multi-port fuel-injected, variable-induction V-6 — more engine than this car needs, but that's what makes it so fun to drive. The Spyder is responsive from a dead stop and continues taking off "like a shot" from midrange up. At work are 210 horsepower and 205 foot-pounds of torque.

We put the Spyder through its paces on some winding back roads, where



2005 Mazda3

we gained an appreciation for its handling. Mitsubishi isn't charging \$30,000-plus just for sports car looks, as Spyder includes rack-and-pinion steering with rpm-sensing power assist, sport-tuned four-wheel independent suspension, sport-tuned gas-filled shock absorbers, front and rear stabilizer bar, and front strut-tower brace.

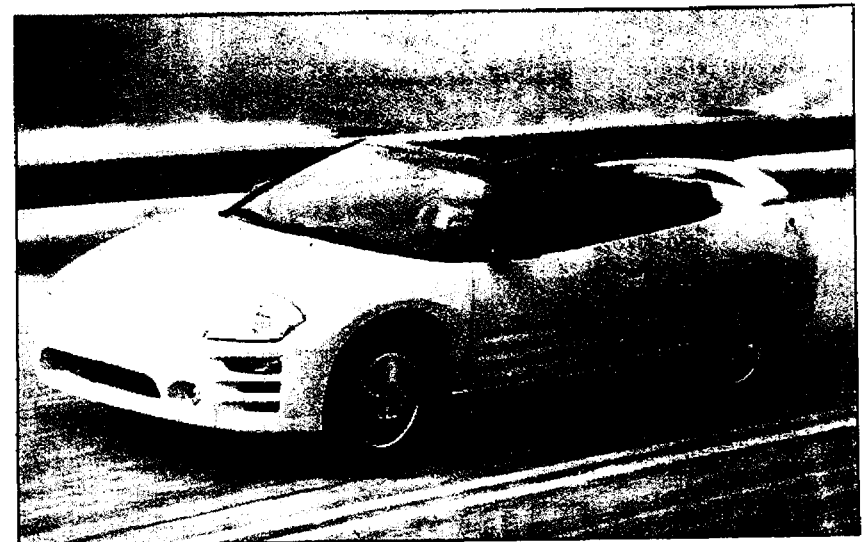
Translation: It corners nicely. The Spyder also has power-assisted, ventilated four-wheel disc brakes, anti-lock braking and traction control, all of which work well.

The beauty of today's technology is that you can have a sports car with a convenient automatic transmission, but also offers — as the Spyder does — a chance to shift.

The Sportronic four-speed clutchless shifter makes back-road cornering all the more fun.

Continuing with performance, Spyder's 17-inch V-rated Goodyear Eagles are a fine set of performance tires, but we'd like to see what low-profile tread would do to

See ECLIPSE page 21A



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Woods welcomes home its Olympic gold medalist

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

A college student home for Christmas break, Carly Piper had lots of people to visit — family, friends, neighbors ...

... the members of her local city council ...

... the mayor ...

... her local state representative ...

... and about 120 members of the public, many of whom she never met before.

A reception at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center on Monday, Dec. 20, turned out to be a happy belated homecoming for the 21-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods Olympic gold medalist. It was the first chance Piper had to get a heroine's welcome between winning the gold medal as part of the United States 800-meter relay team in Athens and starting her fall term at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August.

It was also the first chance many young swimmers in programs such as Pointe Aquatics, the Woods Warriors and the Grosse Pointe North High School

Norsemen got to meet Piper. Dozens of kids — mostly girls and a handful of boys from 8 to 18 stood in line to shake hands and take pictures with and get autographed pictures from Piper.

"It was really cool meeting someone who won a gold medal," said Jordyn Parent, 8, of the Woods and a member of Woods Warriors swim team, after she got Piper's autograph.

"I liked meeting her a lot," said Regan Brandt, 8, of the City of Grosse Pointe and a member of the Pointe Aquatics swim team, who let photographers and her mother take pictures of her and Piper.

Many of the adults were just as starry-eyed over the gold medalist.

"I'm impressed," said state Rep. Edward Gaffney, R-Grosse Pointe Farms, who awarded Piper that evening with a proclamation from the House of Representatives. "She sits for as long as it takes to autograph pictures for the kids. None of this has gone to her head. She's an excellent role model."

Despite her tall, strong

and lean frame that holds a gold medal around her neck well, Piper still maintains a shy and bashful persona.

"I plan to relax, swim, and of course take time just to be here," said Piper of her rest of her holiday vacation plans.

Photos by Bonnie Caprara
In addition to catching up with friends, family and neighbors over her Christmas holiday break from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Grosse Pointe Woods resident Carly Piper met with about 120 fans from 8-year-old Woods resident Jordyn Parent, above in white jacket, to Woods Mayor Robert Novitke and state Rep. Edward Gaffney, R-Grosse Pointe Farms, below. The Woods held a special homecoming reception for Piper, who won an Olympic gold medal as part of the United States 800-meter relay swim team in Athens in August.



City of Grosse Pointe audit an unqualified success

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

The City of Grosse Pointe is going to need a bigger piggy bank.

The city has more than twice the funds generally recommended to handle future needs and is a decade ahead of making payments to its pension fund.

Those and other reasons are why auditors this week gave the community's finances a star rating for the

third year in a row.

"We're giving you an unqualified opinion," said Jenilyn Norman, senior associate of Rehmann Robson CPA in Troy. "It's the best we can give."

Auditors determined that at the end of the fiscal year the city had an unreserved, undesignated fund balance in the general operating fund equivalent to 25.5 percent of the annual general fund expenditures.

"The governmental finan-

cial Officers Association (GFOA) recommends the city maintain available balances on the general fund between 5 and 15 percent," said Glen Mach, city finance director. "These funds are sustained to meet the government's future obligations."

"You have a very health yfund equity," Norman said. "The parking fund increased as a result of parking meters."

The unreserved fund bal-

ance increased more than \$1.3 million from 2003 to 2004. Much of the increase came from transferring funds.

"We have transferred the entire capital projects fund into the general fund," Norman said. "It should be part of the general fund."

The pension fund balance is 441 percent over-funded.

"We're estimating 10 to 12 years before we have to contribute," said Mike Overton, city manager.

Mach said maintaining large fund balances has become a greater challenge over the last few years due to cutbacks in state revenue sharing.

"The city has taken a proactive role to implement cost saving measures," he said. "No expenditure is being taken for granted. All vendors are being reconsidered for standard supplies; health insurance plans have been modified; an alternative electric choice supplier

has been selected, and an alternative workmen's comp insurance carrier is being considered."


"You're looking pretty good," Norman said. "Revenues are still exceeding expenses. These are a few of the measures the city has taken to meet the challenge of more difficult economic times."


She doesn't foresee problems "assuming the general fund continues to cover expenses for the marina."

Trim the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest


Congratulations to the following winners!

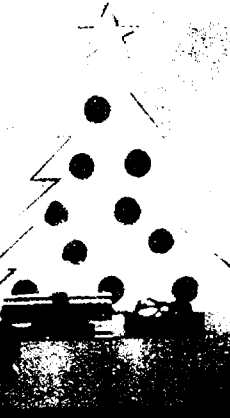
Ages 7 and younger

 **Jenni Gmelner and Emma Carabulea**
6 and 7 years old
Monteith Elementary
Teacher: Mr. Nowasad
(Village Toy)


 **Marko Tomovski**
8 years old
Monteith Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Peterson
(Wistle Stop)

8-10 years old

 **Hannah Muller**
10 years old
Richard Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Wrosch
(Rainy Day Art Supply)

 **Alexa Brown**
9 years old
ULS
Teacher: Miss Kelly
(Let's Go Blue)

11 years and older

 **Amanda Rose**
11 years old
Brownell Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Lovelace
(The Pomme Shop)

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Angels

From page 1B
participate in making an important sound effect. Prior to the three shows, jingle bells will be on sale for \$1 as a smaller fund raiser for the elevator. The director will cue the bells' owners to ring them after the famous line about angels getting their wings. The cast includes R.J. Stewart, one of the original cast members of the 1939 film classic "The Wizard of Oz." Stewart, as a child, appeared as one of the "Lollipop Guild" in the

famous film. He takes on the role of Clarence, the angel who gets his wings by helping George Bailey, the main character in the piece, realize his worth as a human being.

"When I started directing R.J., I said to myself, 'Oh my gosh, I'm directing someone who worked with Judy Garland,'" Bufalini said.

Judge William J. Giovan of Grosse Pointe is also in the cast portraying three different characters — Joseph, Bert and Mr. Welch.

He has been a member of Grosse Pointe Theatre since 1965, and appeared in its original production of "Charley's Aunt" in the 1960s.

Grosse Pointer Tim Reinman, last season's Will Rogers in "The Will Rogers Follies" and winner of GPT's Best Actor award last season, portrays George Bailey. His wife and son are also involved in the production. His wife, Marie, is the costumer for the production; and their son, Connor, takes on the role of young Harry Bailey and also Pete, one of the Bailey children.

"This production is a family affair all-around," Selvaggio said. "It's a story that all members of the family will enjoy seeing."

Bufalini's children are also involved in their father's production. Angelina Bufalini, a professional broadcaster, will appear as Mary Hatch (Bailey). Dante Bufalini, a Grosse Pointe North High School senior, completes the family's trio of involvement by doing onstage sound effects during the presentation.

Mike Evans, also of Grosse Pointe, is a longtime actor for GPT and was seen last season as Franklin D. Roosevelt in "Annie." He portrays Uncle Billy and Mr. Gower. He has also been seen frequently in local and national television commercials and on episodic television.

Emma Kruse, seen as Annie in GPT's "Annie" last season, takes on the roles of Zuzu and young Mary, among others. Joey Krebs will be seen and heard as young George Bailey and other voices.

This production is Weber's theatrical debut. He plays the parts of man No. 2, the sheriff and the radio announcer in the show.

He was amazed at the talent and expertise of peo-

ple who tried out for parts in the play.

"There were probably 40 very talented people who were carrying portfolios, resumes and glossy professional photographs of themselves," he said. "And I had nothing."

He was even more amazed to get a part in the play.

"They certainly didn't pick me because of my audition or my talent," he said. Weber was recruited by Selvaggio to try out for a part.

"Every time I would talk to Mark (Weber) at the War Memorial about one of our productions, I would see a sparkle in his eye; so I suggested that he try out for the play. I think he has a future in amateur theater. He seems to love it."

The theater group wants to raise \$10,000 from the three performances. Last spring, the group presented its first check of \$10,000 to the War Memorial.

"Sales of the tickets for

"A Wonderful Life" have been brisk. We are so excited about raising that amount of money in one day," Selvaggio said. "This is the most we have ever raised in such a short period of time."

Selvaggio is overseeing the theater's fundraising effort for the elevators. Once the curtain is drawn on "It's a Wonderful Life," Selvaggio will start organizing the next fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, June 26. It will be an afternoon theater tea which will showcase elegant period costumes and where each table arrangement will be custom-designed by professional decorators.

"We are actually trying to reach our \$50,000 goal in two years instead of five years as we pledged," Selvaggio said.

Tickets are a minimum donation of \$15, with a minimum donation of \$10 for seniors (60 and over) or students with a valid ID. Call (313) 881-4004.

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11:30 am Out of the Ordinary
12:00 pm Economic Club of Detroit
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1:30 pm Inside Art
2:00 pm The Legal Insider / Consumers Corner
2:30 pm The John Prost Show
3:00 pm Things to do at the War Memorial
3:30 pm Musical Story Time Jamboree
4:00 pm Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)
4:30 pm Young View Pointes
5:00 pm Positively Positive
5:30 pm Watercolor Workshop / Senior Men's Club
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9:00 pm Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)
9:30 pm Pointes of Horticulture
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10:30 pm Inside Art
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11:30 pm The S.O.C. Show
Midnight Vitality Plus (Aerobics)
12:30 am Pointes of Horticulture
1:00 am Who's in the Kitchen?
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2:30 am Out of the Ordinary
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The S.O.C. Show

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Babies

Jonathan Foster Bidigare

Ted and Kelley Bidigare of St. Clair Shores are the parents of a son, Jonathan Foster Bidigare, born Nov.

18, 2004. Maternal grandparents are Denise Bolian of Sterling Heights and Jerry Foster of Rochester. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bidigare Sr.



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December 23, 2004

Angels raise money for War Memorial elevator

By Beth Quinn
Staff Writer

If trainee angel Clarence is right that "every time you hear a bell ring, it means that some angel's just got his wings" then on Dec. 30 a lot of angels will be donning new wings.

Bell ringing and all sorts of other sound effects will be produced for "Marty Bufalini's — 'It's A Wonderful Life, The Radio Show'" being presented by Grosse Pointe Theatre on Thursday, Dec. 30 at 4, 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the William Fries Auditorium at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

All proceeds from this presentation will benefit the "Access for All" elevator project at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, which broke ground just recently and will finally provide complete barrier free access to all levels of the War Memorial facility.

"Handicap access has been a problem for us for a long time," Grosse Pointe War Memorial president and cast member Mark Weber said.

The Grosse Pointe Theatre made a pledge to raise \$50,000 for the project in five years.

"Since the War Memorial is our theatrical home, we really wanted to step up to the plate to show our love and commitment to it," said Theresa Selvaggio, the show's producer. "We decided to raise money by doing what we do best — great theater."

The production is the brainchild of Marty Bufalini, Grosse Pointe resident and radio personality. He is also the incoming pres-



Marty Bufalini is writer/actor/director of Grosse Pointe Theatre's special performances of "Marty Bufalini's — 'It's a Wonderful Life, The Radio Show.'"

ident of Grosse Pointe Theatre for the 2005-06 season. He is acting as director of the production and also appears in the cast as Mr. Potter.

He offered this material as a way to help raise funds toward GPT's pledge, and as a way to say "Merry Christmas" to the community in a completely unique way.

He also is a consultant to the Henry Ford Museum and came up with the concept several years ago when the museum approached him about presenting historic radio broadcasts.

A few years later, "Marty Bufalini's — 'It's a Wonderful Life, The Radio Show'" was performed at Second City Theatre in Detroit. The response from the audience was so favor-

able that it ran for four consecutive years from 1999 to 2002 during the holidays.

"I would have people come up during our meet and greet session after the performance and tell me that they would be coming back the following year," Bufalini said.

Performed as an actual radio broadcast onstage, this production will take the audience back to the 1940s when radio was America's primary home entertainment. Bufalini developed this script so people could experience what he calls "theater of the mind."

Before television, Americans would gather around the radio and their imaginations would be carried by the actors and the sound effects to see the story in their minds.

"Canada and England still have thriving radio shows," he said. "It is a lost art here in America. To young people today, this is a novel medium. I have been surprised by how much kids enjoy the show."

Through minimal set decorations and show set-up, audiences can experience a New York style network radio show when radio shows were performed live before a large studio audience while being broadcast to thousands of homes throughout the country.

The play also re-creates the actual timing format of an old radio show. A countdown cue is given from the network to the engineer and then to the director who takes over the airwaves and the show is on. The director,

similar to a conductor, uses hand signals to cue the actors and sound effect crew.

Since the Grosse Pointe Theatre wanted to create a nostalgic reality of mass entertainment before television, nearly all the sound effects are performed live using mechanical devices.

The production uses Bufalini's extensive personal collection of radio and sound effect props. Vintage microphones are used and actors dress in 1940s attire.

"We were careful to pull costumes that closely match the working clothes which radio show actors would have worn to work in the '40s," Selvaggio said. "They would wear their street clothes into the studio and start performing."

In addition to the authentic props and costumes, Bufalini predicts that the audience at Fries Auditorium will be visually entertained by watching how the various sound effects are produced.

"Most people are fascinated to see how sounds, like ice crackling, are made," Bufalini said.

When he was writing the play, Bufalini did extensive research on sound effects.

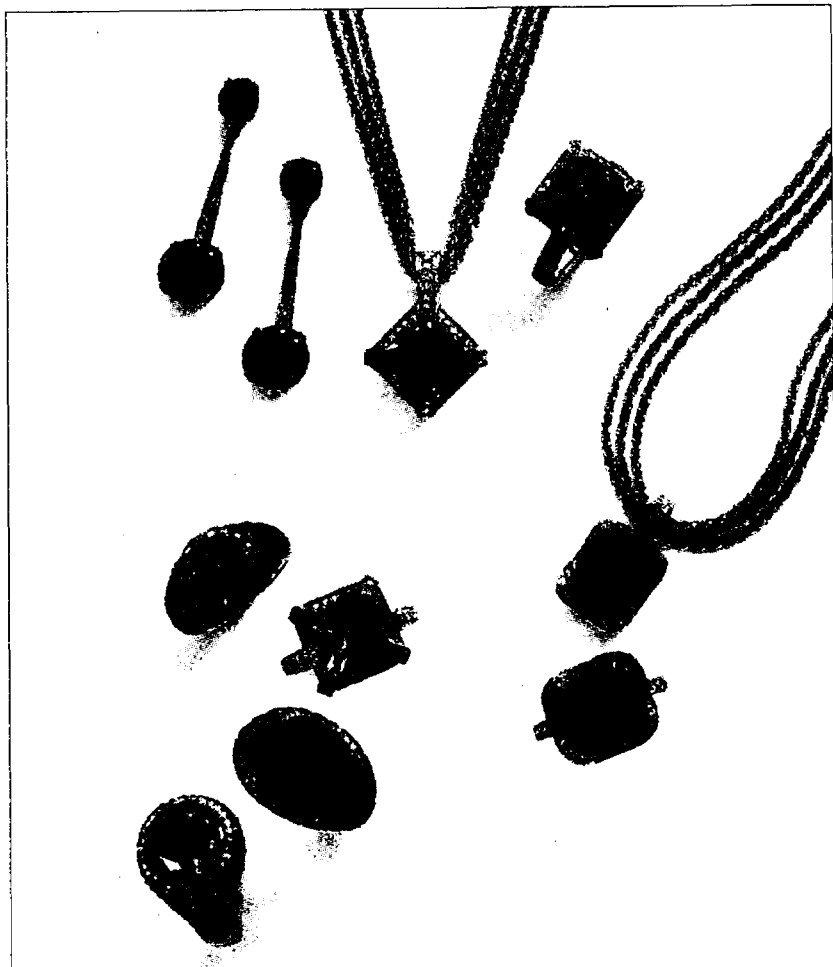
"I hunted down and talked to old radio sound effect guys and spent hours in the library combing through books on the subject," he said.

During the Dec. 30 performances, the audience will have a chance to

See ANGELS, page 8B




Members of the cast of "Marty Bufalini's — 'It's a Wonderful Life, The Radio Show,'" from left, standing are Judge William Giovan, R.J. Stewart, Mike Evans, Mark Weber, Angelina Bufalini, Marty Bufalini, Tim Reinman, Sharon Hocevar, Ralph Cochrane, Rick Hawley; kneeling, Joseph Munem, Francesca Passalacqua, Connor Reinman, Megan Breen, Emma Kruse, Joey Krebs and Dante Bufalini.



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10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist
(Nursery Available)
e-mail: office@stmichaelsgpw.org

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Grosse Pointe Farms
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9:45 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Worship and Holy Eucharist
Nursery available
Wednesdays
Noon-12:30 p.m.: Holy Eucharist
Phone: 884-0511
Visit our website:
www.stjamesgp.org

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

December 24th
5:30pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 26th
10:30am After Christmas
After Glow
17150 MAUMEE 881-0420
Rev. John Corrado, Minister

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Tuesday - Thrift Shop 10:30 - 3:30
Wednesday - Amazing Grace Seniors
every second Wednesday at
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Windmill Pointe Park 11:00 - 3:00
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Pastor: Rev. Henry L. Reinwald

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January 2, 2005 - Christmas II
January 2, 2005 - Epiphany
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with entrance in the median strip
of Jefferson at Woodward
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marinerschurchofdetroit.org

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375 Lothrop at Chalfonte
881-6670
Christmas Eve - December 24th
4pm - Worship w/ communion
7pm - Worship w/ communion
10:30pm-11pm - Pre-service Music
11pm - Worship w/communion
Sunday, December 26th
10am - Worship w/ communion
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Rev. Frederick Harms, Pastor
Rev. Morsal Collier, Assoc. Pastor

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10:00 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL
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First English Ev. Lutheran Church

Vernier Rd. at Wedgewood Dr.
Grosse Pointe Woods
884-5040
8:15 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Dr. Walter A. Schmidt, Pastor
Rev. Barton L. Beebe, Associate Pastor
Robert Foster, Music Coordinator

Grosse Pointe Woods PRESBYTERIAN Church

"We Live Our Faith"
886-4301
19950 Mack (between Moross & Vernier)

Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Family Service
11 p.m. Candlelight Service
Dec. 26, 2004 One Service 10 a.m.
Service of Remembrance &
Reflections
Jan. 2, 2005 One Service 10 a.m.

E-mail: gpwpcchurch@aol.com • Web site: www.gpwpc.org

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CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. Family Service
Rev. Jim Monnett, Jr., preaching
Prelude Music at 7:00 p.m., & 9:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. Lessons, Carols & Holy Communion
Rev. William C. Yeager, preaching
10:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols
Rev. William C. Yeager, preaching
5:00 & 7:30 p.m. - Crib & Toddler Care
December 24th - 7:30 a.m.
Ecumenical Men's Friday Breakfast
December 26th - Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. only
10:45 a.m.-12:15 a.m. Crib/Toddler Care
No Ecumenical Men's Friday Breakfast December 31

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The Christmas Season at St. Ambrose Catholic Church

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2004
CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 4:00 P.M.
FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2004
CONCERT AT 11:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE
MIDNIGHT MASS AT 12:00 A.M.
MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY AT 8:30 A.M.
MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY AT 11:15 A.M.
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2004
MASS AT 8:30 A.M.
MASS AT 11:15 A.M.
NEW YEAR'S EVE
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2004
MASS AT 4:00 P.M.
NEW YEAR'S DAY
SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2005
MASS AT 10:00 A.M.
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2005
MASS AT 8:30 A.M.
MASS AT 11:15 A.M.
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2005
MASS AT 4:00 P.M. - CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005
MASS AT 8:30 A.M.
MASS AT 11:15 A.M.
St. Ambrose Catholic Church is located at
150901-Hampton Road between Wayburn
and Maryland, one block north of Jefferson,
just west of the Grosse Pointe Park City Hall.
Telephone: (313) 822-2814.

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

375 Lothrop at Chalfonte * 881-6670
Christmas Eve
4:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.
Worship with Communion
10:30 p.m. Music prior to 11 p.m. service
Sunday, December 26th
10 a.m. Worship with Communion
New Years Eve
6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper
7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday, January 2nd
10 a.m. Worship with Communion
Rev. Frederick Harms Rev. Morsal Collier

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4:00 p.m. - Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II
with Children's Pageant and the Choir of Men and Boys
8:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II
sung by the Choir of Girls and Men
10:30 p.m. "Messe de Minuit pour Noelle"
Charpentier
sung by the Choir of Girls and Men with Chamber
Orchestra
11:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II
sung by the Choir of Men and Boys

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II
SUNDAY, December 26
8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II with
Blessing of Toys
followed by Christmas Cookie Fellowship
The Rev. Bradford G. Whitaker, Rector
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(313) 885-4841 - www.christchurchgp.org

Christ Episcopal Church Detroit

Christmas Eve, December 24th
5:30 p.m. Childrens Christmas Pageant
10:30 p.m. Candlelight Mass featuring
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Christmas Day, December 25th
9:00 a.m. Christmas Mass
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Christ Centered and Caring - Committed to Youth and Community
Sunday Worship - 11:00 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM for Age 2 - Adult
Middle School Youth meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Senior High Youth meet Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
21336 Mack Avenue Grosse Pointe Woods
Phone: (313) 881-3343 Web Page: www.gpbc.org

Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Friday, December 24, 2004
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 9:30 p.m.
Prelude Music - 9:00 p.m.
Meditation: "The Christmas Gift"
Peter C. Smith, preaching
Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists
Sunday, December 26, 2004
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Meditation by Louise J. Prues
Church School: Crib - 2nd Grade
8625 E. Jefferson at Burns, Detroit
Visit our website: www.japc.org 313-822-3456

St. John's Episcopal Church

Woodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50)
NEXT TO COMERICA PARK
www.stjohnsdetroit.org
(313) 962-7358
Friday, December 24th, 2004
Christmas Eve
4:00pm Children's Pageant w/ Communion
10:30pm Carol Prelude Service
11:00pm Festive Holy Communion Service
December 25th - Christmas Day
11:00am - Low Mass in the Chapel
Sunday, December 26th, 2004
7:30am Morning Prayer, 8am Holy Communion
10:00am Holy Communion
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still believe the Bible is True

The magic of mistletoe endures

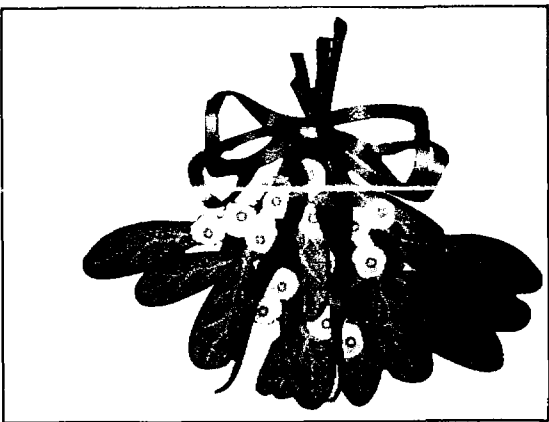
How many of us have stood under mistletoe in an entrance hall to steal a kiss from someone we love or admire? I always wondered where that custom began. Legend has it that Druids (Celtic priests living in ancient Gaul, Britain and Ireland) cut mistletoe with a golden sickle either at the winter solstice or six days after the year's first new moon in order to capture the plant's special powers. Then at a great feast on New Year's eve, mistletoe boughs were divided and hung on the altar and above doorways. Hanging them at midnight offered protection which led to the more recent hanging of mistletoe as a Christmas decoration. Mistletoe as a plant includes 200 different

species of the genus *Phoradendron*, which is broken down into four separate scientific names that seem to be used interchangeably. The type used for Christmas decoration is *Phoradendron serotinum*; it has green rounded edged leaves with white berries. If the white berries were eaten by a child, it was considered certain death. Even though they were considered poisonous if consumed, D. Eicher in a Denver Post article on Dec. 15, 1986, reported: "Doctors found that 14 children who ingested mistletoe suffered no serious toxicity. They also analyzed 318 cases of mistletoe ingestion reported to the Food and Drug Administration and found no toxic symptoms or



reported deaths." The toxicity of the plant is still a concern, but it may not be the worry we once thought it was. Goldthwaite, a small town in west central Texas, calls itself "the mistletoe capital of the world," with more than a million packages of the plant sent out each holiday season all over the country, according to V.M. Bryant, Jr. in his book "Why We Kiss Under the Mistletoe at Christmas." This informational goody is from "Mistletoe Man," one of a series of herb-related mystery books by Susan Wittig Albert. "Mistletoe Man," as with the other China Bayles mysteries, has bits of herbal information as part of the stories. It's a great gift suggestion if you have a mystery loving gardener on your list.

How mistletoe grows
Mistletoe is a hemiparasitic (meaning it acts partially as a parasite, similar to an orchid), growing in forests on many deciduous trees. Although it was once thought that oak trees were the only place mistletoe grew, we have now learned that mistletoe especially likes apple trees. Mistletoe is always produced by seed, often dropped by animals or birds, particularly missel thrush, who devour it. In a few days the seed sends out a thread-like root that pierces the tree bark to form a connection through which nutrients and water pass from the host to the plant. Considered by many foresters across the country to lower timber quality, the dwarf mistletoe, *Arceuthobium serotinum* can live in harmony with trees for decades in diverse natural forest ecosystems. Charles Darwin described natural ecosystems in balance, such as forest food chains where birds like woodpeckers eat the insects that, in turn, eat the mistle-



Mistletoe kisses
But what about kissing under the mistletoe? Scandinavian folklore says the sun god Balder was killed by the wicked Loki's mistletoe dart. The plant was feared and hated as the wicked instrument of death and betrayal. But Balder's mother, the goddess Freya, redeemed it in honor of her son, decreeing that mistletoe should become a symbol of peace and reconciliation. From that time on, enemies who met under a clump of shining mistletoe would lay down their arms and declare a truce. That is why it is hung in doorways today, and a kiss of peace and loving kindness bestowed on all who enter. (From "Mistletoe Man.") While none of us will run out to make mistletoe part of our gardens, the fact that the herb has held its own in folklore, and now with its medicinal properties under study in this country, says plenty about this plant. If

you've chosen to hang mistletoe in your home this holiday season, I hope you enjoy sharing a piece of this information with your guests. And grab a kiss for me. Kathleen Peabody is an Advanced Master Gardener who lives (and gardens) in Grosse Pointe Woods. Reach her online at kmaslanka-peabody@sbcglobal.net.

What's going on?

- Visit the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory on Belle Isle with its poinsettia display through the holiday season. Consider making a donation as the Conservatory celebrated its 100th birthday in 2004.
- An Organic Gardener Certification program begins in January in Ann Arbor. Project Grow Community Gardens, in conjunction with Washtenaw Community College, gives home gardeners and professional landscapers the knowledge and skills needed to establish and maintain vegetable and ornamental gardens organically. Call Project Grow at (734) 996-3169 for more information.
- The Grosse Pointe Garden Center holds its annual meeting at noon, Friday, Jan. 21, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Luncheon will be followed by a program, "Celebrate the Seasons." The cost is \$15 for members; \$17 for nonmembers. Advanced reservations and payment are required.
- Winter Gardening Series meets from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, Jan. 22 and 29 and Feb. 5 at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit.
- Sponsored by the Detroit Garden Center, this year the popular Winter Gardening Series focuses on gardening both indoors and out for the first-time gardener, those who garden and need new ideas and guidance and seasoned green fingers.
- Join the Detroit Garden Center and its instructors for a pleasant romp through all things green in January when we think we only have catalogs to remind us of spring. The three-class series is \$20 a class; \$55 for the series. Call the Center at (313) 259-6363 to register.
- Michigan State University Extension - Wayne County offers its Master Gardening courses beginning in January. Call (313) 833-2925 for details about the Saturday morning classes held in downtown Detroit.

Master Gardener class begins 1/8/05

The Michigan Master Gardener program is a horticulture education and volunteer leader training program offered by Michigan State University Extension. Prerequisites are an interest in plants, a personal commitment to volunteerism and an enthusiasm for sharing knowledge with others.

- Integrated Pest Management
 - Growing Backyard Fruit
 - Vegetable Gardening
 - Diagnosing Plant Problems
 - Woody Ornamentals
 - Composting & Vermiculture
 - Water Quality & Native Plants
 - Volunteering
- The fees are \$240 for Wayne County residents; \$280 for out-of-county residents; \$440 for two members of the same household who share a book; and \$260 for horticulture professionals paying by business check.

Applications may be picked up at the Wayne County MSU Extension office at 640 Temple, 6th Floor, Detroit. To have an application mailed, call (313) 833-3417. Applications and checks are due by Wednesday, Jan. 5. Acceptance is based on the application. Those not accepted will get their checks back.

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To become certified as a Master Gardener, participants must pass weekly quizzes and the final examination, and volunteer 40 hours within one year of completing the class. Wayne County MSU Extension will offer the Master Gardener class at the MSU Extension offices, 640 Temple, 6th Floor in Detroit. The 13-week class will start on Saturday, Jan. 8, and will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Topics to be covered include:

- Intro to Plant Science
- Soils for Plant Growth
- Flower Gardening
- Organic Gardening
- Propagation
- Lawn Establishment.

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Cash Bar Begins at 8:00pm, Table Settings: \$8 or 10 people per table
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Live Entertainment (from 9:00pm thru 1:00am)
Champagne Toast at Midnight
Breakfast Buffet New Year's Day
All Inclusive Total Package \$375.00 Black Tie Optional Party Only \$145.00 per couple or \$85.00 per person
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The best time of the year

From the time I was a child to now, many years later, Christmas has always been my favorite season. When I was small, the fact that Christmas celebrated the birth of Christ didn't make much of an impression on me. I was far more concerned with Santa Claus and the presents he would bring.

I was a Depression baby, so there weren't a lot of presents, but back then, our expectations were not high. One or two presents seemed quite adequate.

How our expectations have expanded over the years.

About 40 years ago, a cartoon in the New Yorker magazine showed Santa Claus in a store holding a child in his lap, while a long line of children waited their turns. The woman in charge of keeping the line moving told the children as they approached their turn, "Limit your requests to eight please."

Eight presents seemed exorbitant, but presents were not that expensive in those pre-technology days. Eight presents today that might include electronic games and other tech offerings could use up the savings of the average family.

The Christmas when I was about 5, my heart's desire was a doll that said "Mama" when she was

Senior Scene

By
Ruth
Cain



turned over. She also opened and closed her eyes.

A few years later I wanted a far more sophisticated doll that came onto the market, a baby doll that wet her diapers when given water in a bottle. My mother wisely did not buy me the doll, partly because it cost more than an ordinary doll that had been toilet trained.

I think God also whispered in her ear that I would someday have seven children, and the number of diapers I would change would be more than I could imagine.

When my children were little, skates, sleds, games and mechanical toys were the norm. One Christmas when ice skates were given, it rained without letup throughout most of Christmas vacation. It didn't seem to bother the children too much because they had other games and toys to play with. And

there was no school.

Another Christmas, we bought small desks with seats attached for the two older children. My husband and I didn't think about the fact that they came in boxes and had to be assembled. There was no safe place to do that in the house before Christmas; so we had to wait until the children fell asleep on Christmas Eve.

Despite telling them Santa would not come until they were asleep, every so often a head would appear at the top of the stairs and a voice would ask: "Has Santa come yet?"

I think we finished the job at about 2 a.m.

Neither my husband nor I were mechanically inclined and following directions to put something together was a challenge. No matter what we assembled, there were always extra screws and bolts and sundry other small pieces left over.

Had the manufacturer included extra pieces in case we lost some? Or would the whole thing fall apart because those pieces had not been used?

Nothing ever fell apart, but I think it was just dumb luck.

Christmas was not only about gifts. An important part of the celebration was the music. There's an old

story about the minister who greeted worshippers on Christmas morning with, "I wish you 'Happy Easter,' because that's probably the next time I will see many of you."

For years I was convinced that it was primarily the beautiful music that brought so many to church. As a child I found the music at most Sunday services decidedly less appealing than those at Christmastime.

Further, on Christmas morning everyone in church was smiling and friendly, extending warm Christmas greetings even to strangers. There was no such bonhomie at the usual Sunday services.

The great colors of Christmas — rich reds, greens, silver and gold — satisfied my need for the dramatic. The sparkling lights added to the stunning effect. I find lights on even the simplest Christmas tree quite beautiful.

Today when I drive down Lakeshore, I feel like a child, saying "oh" and "ah" when I see the magnificent displays.

Christmas celebrations have changed greatly over the years. But whatever the changes, Christmas continues to delight me.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas.

If you have a message for Cain, you can reach her at ruthcain@comcast.net

PET/CT improves diagnostic accuracy

By Dr. John Kalabat
Special Writer

In the fight against diseases like cancer and coronary artery disease, physicians have had a number of powerful therapeutic tools at their disposal to give patients the best chance at a positive outcome.

But equally important are the exceptional diagnostic tools available today that help them make a more accurate diagnosis that can lead to an improvement in patients' quality of life.

One of those advanced tools is the PET/CT scanner. This noninvasive, state-of-the-art device combines Positive Emission Tomography (PET) and Computed Tomography (CT) technology in a single device, producing highly detailed, 3-D images.

These two separate technologies actually have been around for several decades — CT since 1974, and PET since 1980.

PET scans are used to locate and distinguish between cancerous and benign growths in the body, while CT scans reveal the location, size and shape of masses, but cannot distinguish benign from malignant.

While both tests were useful for tumor detection, radiologists had to compare the images by "eyeballing" them because no technology existed to marry the images up precisely.

Then in 1998, the first PET/CT scanner became operational at a Pennsylvania medical center, and radiologists had the precision they needed to make earlier, more accurate diagnoses.

Basically, the PET/CT scanner helps your physician decide on the best course of treatment for your condition. Its CT function provides anatomic information by taking pictures of cross-sections of your body, which are called "slices," while the PET function provides information about metabolic and cellular function that's invaluable for diagnosing lymphoma and melanoma, and breast, colorectal, esophageal, head and neck, and lung cancer.

It can even detect subtle cases of cervical and ovarian cancer, both notoriously difficult to diagnose by other means. The technology also can be used to determine the extent of coronary artery disease, to investigate brain tumors, to help diagnose Alzheimer's disease, to pinpoint the source of seizure activity for persons with epilepsy, and much more on the horizon.

In addition, PET/CT can better distinguish those patients who may benefit from surgery from those who may not, preventing unnecessary surgeries on the patients who wouldn't benefit from it.

Finally, PET/CT is valuable in showing whether a residual treated mass still has viable tumor and helps distinguish scar from tumor, both of which were big problems before the advent of PET/CT.

The scanner works by fusing the PET and CT images into one. A qualified radiologist uses the images to pinpoint metabolic abnormalities sometimes as small as 4 or 5 mm. Surgeons, oncologists and radiation therapists can then use the images to plan a precise treatment plan, giving patients the best chance at a positive outcome.

If you've ever had an MRI or CT scan, then you already have a good idea of what the painless PET/CT procedure is like. First, you'll be given a radiopharmaceutical tracer fluid by IV about 45 minutes before the scan. Then you'll be asked to lie on a long platform that will move you slowly into position in the machine.

But unlike many conventional MRI and PET scans, the gantry of the PET/CT is less like a tunnel and more like an oversized doughnut, and since you're not completely enclosed, you're a lot less likely to feel claustrophobic. The entire process takes only about 45-60 minutes, which is about half the time of a traditional PET scan, and all you have to do during that time is relax and lie very still.

In fact, it's not unusual for patients to fall asleep during the scan.

Studies have confirmed the effectiveness of the combination PET/CT as a diagnostic tool. In a German study, for instance, researchers compared

imaging results from a combination PET/CT, CT alone and PET alone. The study found that in whole-body tests for malignant tumors, 84 percent were correctly staged, or diagnosed, with PET/CT, compared to 76 percent when using PET and CT scans were reviewed side-by-side, 63 percent when using CT alone, and 64 percent when using PET alone.

St. John Hospital and Medical Center now offers high speed PET/CT scanning through its Van Elslander Cancer Center. For more information, talk to your primary care physician or call St. John Hospital Imaging Services at (313) 343-3545.

Dr. John Kalabat is a radiologist and nuclear medicine specialist on staff at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

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Hypnotherapy talk offered at VECC education night

A program about medical hypnotherapy will be presented from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 13, at the Van Elslander Cancer Center (VECC), at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

Medical treatments and procedures can be experienced more comfortably through medical hypnotherapy.

Find out how patients can relax and alleviate pain and anxiety through visual imagery, breathing techniques and self-hypnosis. Learn how to take control and relax through a wide variety of procedures.

Cheryl Beshada, certified medical hypnotherapist, will lead the discussion and answer questions in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

Beshada is the hypnotherapist for the Valade Healing Arts Center in the VECC.

The VECC is located behind St. John Hospital at 19229 Mack and Moross, east of I-94.

To register or to get more information, call (866) 246-4673.

Free VECC Community Education Night programs are held the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Van Elslander Cancer Center at St. John Hospital and Medical Center is a member of St. John Health, a provider of inpatient care in Southeast Michigan and one of the largest employers in metro Detroit.

St. John Health provides comprehensive prevention, primary care and advanced treatment programs with more than 125 medical centers, and eight hospitals spanning five counties.

Know Your Skin

by Lisa A. Manz-Dulac, MD



Vitiligo is a condition where patches of skin lose the ability to create pigment, causing irregular light blemishes that can be large or small anywhere on the body. While the cause of vitiligo is poorly understood, it is not contagious, and though not a serious health condition itself, it may indicate another problem that needs to be addressed.

Although the appearance of vitiligo may decrease in winter as pigment in our skin fades, treatment to control and reverse depigmentation is a long term process, often taking several years to address; therefore ongoing treatment in winter is critical to ensure that improvement continues.

Two different strategies are employed when

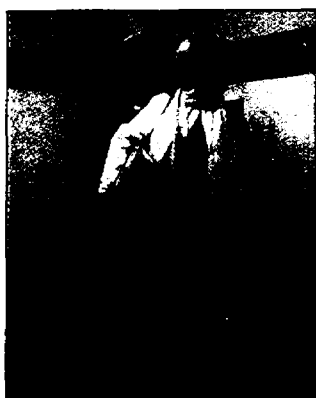
treating vitiligo to re-pigment affected areas and depigment surrounding areas to more closely match the affected skin. New pigment formation is promoted using topical steroids, or by light-activated drugs used in combination with ultraviolet treatments (PUVA). Depigmentation is accomplished using bleaching agents. And patients are further advised to use sunscreen to make the condition less noticeable.

If a patient is suffering from a condition associated with the vitiligo, such as hyperthyroidism, treatment for that health issue is also required.

To learn more about vitiligo and its treatment, contact your dermatologist or call us at Eastside Dermatology, Dr. Lisa A. Manz-Dulac and Associates with offices in Grosse Pointe and New Baltimore. You can reach them at (313) 884-3380.

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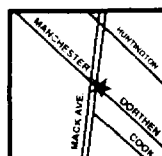
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The gift of sensitivity

By the Rev. Frederick Harms
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

This is a difficult time for many people. When there is cheer, expectant joy, plans for Christmas parties and feasts, we need to be aware of many among us who have difficulty with the holiday season.

They may be experiencing a loss, a chronic and agonizing illness or the remembrance of a loved one's death. Bright lights and decorations may not be a source of joy for them. We need to be sensitive to those around us.

Scripture invites us to "weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice." (Romans 12:15) We are called to be a listening presence to those who need us by their sides, not providing answers that are offensive, but a love and compassion that will begin to restore hope.

Many among us carry burdens too great to shoulder alone. We need each other. We need God's love and understanding. We need Christ to take the brokenness from us and reassure us once again that God's gift of life, peace and hope is not an empty promise.

In this time of gift giving, why not give the gift of sensitivity?

Remember a friend or a neighbor who is struggling. Visit the one who is lonely and confined to home or to a care center. Jot a note or send an e-mail to someone who is battling chronic pain and illness and let him or her know you are thinking of and keeping him/her in prayer.

Set a place at your banquet table and invite another who has no place to go for the holidays. Write a letter, send some flowers or, better yet, be physically present for one who is sorrowing over a loved one's death.

In our family, a niece is far away in Iraq serving in the military. She will not be able to spend Christmas with her family here in the United States. We have sent her a care package and have let her know that she is in our prayers every day.

Think of those around you, near and far, who would greatly benefit from the "gift of sensitivity." In the love and spirit of Christmas, give this gift of love and caring.



Tea and Fashion Show

The Amity, Faith, Grace, Hope and Peace Circles of First English Ev. Lutheran Church presented a Tea and Fashion Show last month to highlight their service projects.

The circles meet every month and plan activities of service to the congregation and the community. Primary projects are the annual Fall Craft Show, a Spring Rummage Sale, Lenten Luncheons and Dinners, Sunday Coffee Hours and an annual party for the residents at Luther Haven.

As part of the Women of the Church, members also attend two meetings a year that are also open to the community, featuring luncheon or dessert and a program.

Past presidents of the various circles are shown. In the back, from left, are Dorothy Woodard, Jacki Stein, Betty Blohm, Nancy McCarthy, Beverly Jackson and Carol Sauter. In the front, from left, are Harriett Riffenburg, Dorothy White and Jeannette Jobbitt.

'Look Good, Feel Better' workshop

The Van Elslander Cancer Center (VECC) at St. John Hospital and Medical Center will present Look Good... Feel Better, a free program for any woman undergoing cancer treatment. The next session is from noon to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10, at the Center.

Look Good... Feel Better is a national program dedicated to helping women manage the appearance-related side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. The program teaches women how to camouflage the side effects with cosmetics, wigs and scarves through a partnership between the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, National Cosmetology Association and American Cancer Society.

Look Good... Feel Better helps women focus on regaining their confidence and self-esteem and switches the emphasis from being a victim to being a survivor. It helps them resume or continue their daily lives in the workplace, home and community.

To register, call (866) 246-4673. The VECC is located adjacent to St. John Hospital at 19229 Mack at Moross, east of I-94.

St. John physicians receive awards from WSU

Three St. John Hospital and Medical Center physicians were recently presented College Teaching Awards by Wayne State University School of Medicine. The awards are presented in recognition of a faculty member's dedication to teaching medicine and contribution to the professional development of medical students.

Those honored are: Dr. Muhammed Beeai of Grosse Pointe Woods, an internal medicine physician, Dr. Mohamad Fakih of the City of Grosse Pointe and Dr. Leonard Johnson, also of the City of Grosse Pointe, both infectious disease physicians.

All of the physicians are assistant professors of medicine in the department of internal medicine at the university's School of Medicine. Awards are based on a minimum of three years of accumulated evaluations from graduate students, medical students, residents, and/or postdoctoral fellows.

"The physician awards granted by the Wayne State University School of Medicine to Drs. Beeai, Fakih and Johnson reinforce the high caliber and dedication of our teaching faculty," said Dr. Noel Lawson, vice president of medical affairs at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

"The well-deserved honors are a tribute to these individuals and a credit to St. John Hospital and Medical Center's academic programs, the department of internal medicine, and, indeed, our entire medical staff."

Windmill Pointe Garden club

The Windmill Pointe Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at Waves restaurant for a subscription luncheon and a talk on "The Ash Borer" by Brian Coulter.

Alzheimer's support group

The Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group meets on the second Monday of each month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Inservice Room at the Nursing Care Center, at Lakeland and Jefferson, north of 10 Mile in St. Clair Shores.

Those who are caring for or affected by a loved one who has Alzheimer's disease or dementia are encouraged to attend.

For more, call Jeanene Gauthier at (586) 779-7032.

Nearly 4, still not talking

By Mary Beth Langan and Theodore G. Coutilish
Special Writers

Ted is feeling jealous of Andrew these days.

Nearing 4 years old and dealing with Fragile X Syndrome, Andrew doesn't talk.

He screams unexpectedly, whines often, hand-flaps, paces, gives poor eye contact, avoids touch, can't focus for more than a few seconds and is hypersensitive to most sensory input.

Not exactly the makings of a popular child.

So, naturally, you would think his unusual behavior and sudden noises would repel non family members.

The opposite is often true. Some children and his teachers like being around him.

Recent examples:

- During a visit to the home of friend, Andrea Abram, Mary Beth was asked by Andrea's son, Adam, 4, if she could let Andrew play with him alone while she and his mommy went for a walk.
- Excuse me? Andrew alone? Playing together without adults? God bless Adam.
- Andrew's teacher, Ms. Marinell, told us during a parent-teacher conference at Barnes Early Childhood Education Center that she would like to teach Andrew until he is 10 years old.

Go back 30 years, and Ted's Sunday School and Greek School teachers couldn't wait 10 minutes before kicking him out of class. Ms. Marinell and Andrew's other Barnes teachers — Ms. Karen, Ms. Kelly, Ms. Dianne, Ms. Sharon, and Ms. Angie — openly share a fondness and love for Andrew.

God bless them all.

- Lauren, Andrew's 2-year-old first cousin, responded to her 4-year-old sister Susan's request to get married together by saying, "No, I want to marry Andrew."

Are you kidding? Andrew? Marriage material? God bless Lauren.

Does this boy have Mojo or what? Where's Dr. Evil? Look, there's Mini Me.

Let's face it; in spite of his differences from the average, neurotypical child, Andrew is pretty groovy. He's also lovable, affable, a chick magnet and as his Yiayia often says, "He's the kind you just want to care for and love."

The torch has been passed.

Andrew has it, whatever "it" is. His dad doesn't and may never have had it.

Long live Prince Andrew "Austin Powers" Coutilish.

Yeah, baby!

Grosse Pointe residents Theodore G. Coutilish and Mary Beth Langan created this column to share experiences from their journey as parents of a child with Fragile X syndrome. Send your questions or comments to tcoutilish@dmac.wayne.edu or mblangan@hotmail.com.

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10:15 a.m.	Church School
10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. Carol Eucharist for Children and Families

9:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist and Sermon

CHRISTMAS DAY

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Friday, December 24, 2004

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10:45 p.m. Pre-service Music

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25, 2004

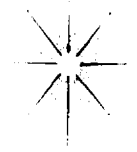
11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Festival Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday

December 26, 2004

10:15 a.m. Worship and Holy Eucharist

Christ the King Lutheran Church



December 24th -

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Special Music

December 26th - 10:00 a.m. Special Worship

December 31st - 7:00 p.m. New Years Eve Worship

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Prepare it ahead, bake on Christmas morning

Christmas morning means something different to everyone. Some people rise early to attend church services. Others sleep in and stay in their PJs all day long. Either way, it's the perfect morning to serve your family a rich, warm breakfast that begins the night before Christmas.

I got this recipe for baked (made in advance) French toast from a special cookbook put together by the Lucente family of Clinton Township. The following version of a breakfast favorite breaks all the fat, sugar and calorie rules we try so hard to live by. But what the heck, Christmas only comes once a year.

Baked French Toast

1 1-lb. loaf French bread cut into thick (1 1/2-inch) slices on the diagonal
8 eggs
2 cups milk
1 1/2 cups Half & Half
2 teaspoons vanilla
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
3/4 cup butter (1 1/2 sticks)
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
3 tablespoons light corn syrup
 Grease a 9- by 13-inch (or similar sized) baking

À LA ANNIE

By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff



dish and arrange the bread slices on the bottom, side by side, but not overlapping. Beat together the eggs with the milk, Half & Half, vanilla and the cinnamon. Pour the mixture over the bread slices, cover and refrigerate overnight. There is a lot of egg mixture.

The next morning, pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees. In a small saucepan, heat together the butter, brown sugar and corn syrup. Cook, stirring often, until the mixture is well-combined and just begins to bubble.

Pour the syrup evenly over the top of the soaked bread slices. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or so, until golden brown. Serve hot with a side of your favorite breakfast meat (my choice is turkey sausage). A sprinkle of powdered sugar rounds out this holiday presentation.

Slackers march to a different drummer boy

We all know that when it comes to the holiday season there are two types of people in the world: the super organized, who have lights up, cards mailed, gifts bought and wrapped and sitting under the tree, all finished by Nov. 29. Then there are those, whom I'll call the more laissez-faire types, who take down the Halloween decorations in mid-

December, send out Christmas cards after New Year's Day and are still frantically wrapping gifts the day the tree is hauled out onto the front lawn.

Before you start pointing fingers, let me say that I've been trying to qualify for the first group for years.

I mean, who doesn't want to be among the elite who calmly complete all holiday tasks on time without so much as breaking a fingernail?

But the truth is, I'm a big, fat Christmas slacker. In my defense, it's not really my fault. It's just that during the Christmas season all of the organized people of the world make the rest of us look bad.

I mean, at any other time of the year you can mostly coast along, missing a birthday here or a special event there without calling a lot of attention to yourself.

Not so in December. It's then that the super-orga-

nized people shine, and you're left standing alone among the unsent cards and packages, exposed as the major slacker that you really are.

It's not as if I don't try to mend my ways. Each year I make lists. I make schedules. I make empty promises of doing better. This year, I dropped the bomb during Thanksgiving dinner.

I turned and looked my husband straight in the eye and said, "This Christmas we're going to be organized! We're putting up the lights tomorrow, getting the tree on Saturday, and sending out cards by the first of December!"

He smiled at me weakly; not because he's being condescending, mind you, but because I say this every year.

OK, I can understand why he's a bit skeptical.

Sticking to a schedule during the holiday season is iffy at best. At first everything is going along nicely. Then you miss the deadline for taking the family picture for the Christmas card, which in turn throws off the sending-of-the-cards deadline which, in turn, throws off the gift buying deadline because now you're frantically addressing cards and trying to catch up.

And so it goes on and on, until there's no way

Family Daze

By Debbie Farmer



you could possibly catch up, unless somehow Christmas Eve gets moved closer to Easter.

What makes matters even worse is that almost everyone around me is part of that unfathomable race of super-organized people.

All of my neighbors have had their Christmas decorations up since the end of November, and right now my friend Janet is lounging about her house in reindeer slippers (an early gift) up to her ears in snow globes and wrapped presents.

Sure, I could always start our Christmas season sooner, but I have a feeling that no matter how far back I go, I'd still end up hanging the outdoor lights on the house the day before Christmas Eve.

If you ask me, an easier way to seem organized is to hang around people who are even bigger slackers than you are. I mean, com-

pared to my friend Linda, who still has a glow-in-the-dark skeleton taped to her front door, I'm overwhelmingly efficient.

However, this year I'm going to do what any unorganized and slightly desperate person would do: change my goals. If there's one thing I've learned during all this time being a parent, it is that if you keep expectations low enough it's easy to exceed them.

So now my main priority isn't getting the lights up by Dec. 25; it's untangling them.

Instead of having all of the presents wrapped, it's finding the paper I bought on sale for half price last year.

And instead of having all of the Christmas cards sent out before Christmas Eve, it's getting them sent out sometime before, say, Easter Sunday.

Hey, sometimes, during the Christmas season, you just have to choose your battles.

Debbie Farmer is a humorist and a mother holding down the fort in California. She's the author of "Don't Put Lipstick on the Cat." She can be reached at www.familydaze.com, or by writing familydaze@oasisnewsfeatures.com.

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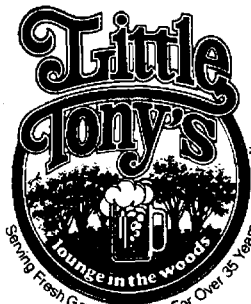
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51st annual White Christmas Ball helps newborns

Gasps of amazement were heard from guests as the doors to the ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton Dearborn opened and they saw the spectacular decorations for "The Magic of a White Christmas," St. John Hospital and Medical Center's Fontbonne Auxiliary's 51st annual White Christmas Ball.

More than 475 people attended the black-tie event on Dec. 10, which, along with sponsor contributions, resulted in \$210,000.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and go toward the purchase of Omnibeds for newborns who need environmental support due to very low birth weight.

Each unit is a combination radiant warmer and an incubator, which may help foster more rapid growth and healing and decrease the length of hospital stay.

The use of highly sophisticated medical equipment gives these babies the best chance at survival and good health. Until now, separate incubators and warmers have been used, and newborns had to be moved from an incubator to a warmer for all medical procedures (including surgery), and then back again.

Use of the Omnibeds will eliminate any stress that may be caused by moving the babies for treatment. The cost for each unit is \$40,000.

Providing skilled nursing and medical care for both premature and term infants born at St. John Hospital and Medical Center is the mission of the NICU. This 35-bed nursery is the only Level III facility on Detroit's east side.

As a regional referral center, many community hospitals on Detroit's east side and as far away as Michigan's thumb area transfer their critically ill newborns to St. John for care.

Patricia Cosgrove chaired this year's White Christmas Ball. The event honored the physicians from the NICU at St. John Hospital: Dr. Ali Rabbani, Dr. John T. Adams, Dr. Maria L. Duenas, Dr. Renato S. Casabar, Dr. Deepak Patel and Dr. Nicholas C. Relich.

The evening included cocktails, take-home photos, dinner and dancing to the music of the Simone Vitale Orchestra. An afterglow event featuring "works-of-art" desserts and special drinks completed the evening.

For more information, contact Kameya Shows at the Fontbonne Auxiliary office at (313) 343-3675.



Patricia Cosgrove was chairman of the Fontbonne Auxiliary's White Christmas Ball, held on Dec. 10. She is shown with her husband, Bill Cosgrove.



White Christmas Ball Honorary Chairs, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Physicians and their spouses are shown. From left, are Dr. Nicholas Relich and Wendy Relich; Edward Novack and Gayle Novack; Dr. Mahdokht Rabbani, Dr. Ali Rabbani, Dr. Maria Duenas, Dr. Zenas Dickinson, Mita Patel; Dr. Deepak Patel, Dina Casabar; and Dr. Renato Casabar. They all played an instrumental role in raising more than \$210,000 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

Photos by Jay Truba

Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots program, run by local Marines for underprivileged children, recently got a boost. A black-tie event held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial gathered hundreds of toys, including some 30 bicycles, for needy children.

Event coordinators were Donna and Brian Satterfield and Janet and David Cornille, shown below. The event was started by the two couples. Each couple invited 20 more couples to be sponsors; then each sponsor couple invited 15 more couples.

The result was a group of 375 people who enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, desserts and an evening of dancing at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, while collecting Christmas presents for hundreds of children. Marine Lance Cpl. Kobi is shown above with two of the bicycles.



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After sorting and organizing food donations, the committee members went grocery shopping with cash donations.

The GPBR Community Services Committee assembled the baskets. Grosse Pointe South High School Key Club members and students from St. Paul Middle School and Brownell Middle School delivered the baskets.

Recipients were senior citizens recommended by Services for Older Citizens

and other needy families.

The Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors was founded in 1986 to serve the needs of Realtors in the Grosse Pointe Community. The Board now represents more than 400 real estate agents in the Grosse Pointe area who are members of the National Association of Realtors.

Members agree to abide by the National Code of Ethics and Professional Standards. Membership also includes 50 affiliate members from the real estate industry who do not actually buy or sell homes but provide other services helpful to home buyers and sellers.

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December 23, 2004

South places four on All-State field hockey team

Grosse Pointe South keeps reaping the rewards from its state championship field hockey season.

Four Blue Devils players were named to the Division I All-State team selected by the head coaches in the divi-

sion. Senior co-captain Andrea Caralis earned first-team honors, as did juniors Margi

Scholtes and Ali Morawski. Another senior co-captain, C.C. Mengel, received hon-

orable mention. "Each one of these girls is a great player in her own right, but the best part of their game is that they are team players who make everyone around them better," said coach Monica Dennis, who received a post-season honor of her own when she was named TopOfTheCircle.com United States Coach of the Year.

"There may be better players on other teams, but there are no better team players than these four girls."

Caralis, an attacking forward, led South with 17 goals, and she collected eight assists. She always seemed to be in the right place at the right time, and led the Blue Devils in game-winning goals.

"She's a thinking man's player," Dennis said. "Her game continued to improve all year. She has a knack of anticipating a play before it happens, and knows exactly when to switch wings to lead a break."

Scholtes, a center back, scored two goals and led the team with 24 assists. Known for her powerful stroke, Scholtes played a major role in South's dominance in controlling the middle of the field.

"Margi was as much of a threat on offense as she was on defense," Dennis said. "Using her speed, she pushed us up the field so a number of players could join in on the attack."

Morawski finished with 13 goals and 14 assists. She scored the only goal in South's 1-0 victory over Ann Arbor Huron in the state championship game.

"She has tremendous vision of the entire field," Dennis said. "No matter how tired she gets, she continues to work her tail off and motivates others to do the same." Morawski and Scholtes were co-most valuable players for South.

Mengel played sweeper for every minute of every game this season. She solidified a defense that allowed only 12 goals in 18 games.

"She was my brick wall," Dennis said. "She is a joy to watch. Her technique at tackling is awesome, and her speed and timing are impeccable."

Mengel was the recipient of the Blue Devil of the Year award for exhibiting team leadership and school spirit.

South finished 15-1-2, and won the regular season Division I championship in addition to the state title.



Four members of Grosse Pointe South's state championship field hockey team received All-State honors. They are, from left, C.C. Mengel, Ali Morawski, Margi Scholtes, and Andrea Caralis.

Defense, Bramos carry North to victory over Catholic Central

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

If there's one thing that has made Grosse Pointe North basketball coach Matt Trombley the happiest about his team, it's the way it has played defense.

"I like our defense a lot," Trombley said after the Norsemen split a pair of non-league games last week. "We've been causing people a lot of problems with the way we've played defense."

North gave Redford Catholic Central some problems defensively, especially at the start of the second half, in the Norsemen's 78-

62 victory last Friday.

Defense wasn't the problem when North dropped a 55-50 decision to Detroit Country Day a couple of days earlier. It was the Norsemen's offense failing to adjust to the Yellowjackets' defensive system.

North took control of the Catholic Central game in the second half after leading 36-31 at halftime. And once again it was the defense and Michael Bramos that were the catalysts.

The Norsemen scored three baskets in the first minute of the third quarter. Bramos scored two on fast

breaks after turnovers, and Marcell Maxwell scored the third after a block by Bramos.

"Michael was able to get out on the break and scored 13 points in the (third) quarter, but another big key was the way we played defense as a team," Trombley said. "At one point we had three steals in a row that we converted to baskets."

"I was really happy with the intensity they came out with in the second half. They were determined not to lose twice in the same week."

In addition to scoring the

first six points of the third quarter, the Norsemen closed out the quarter with a 7-0 run to take a 56-44 lead into the final period.

The Shamrocks got within nine points after a three-point basket by Antyrio Raimier with 4 1/2 minutes left in the game, but North answered with a 10-2 spurt to open its biggest lead of the game at 72-55.

"It was a good game for us," Trombley said. "CC plays a different style than we're used to. They like to push it up the court and it forced us to get back quickly on defense."

Bramos finished with 29 points and 10 rebounds. He also had four blocks and four steals.

David Klein, Maxwell and Henry McCain each finished with 11 points for North. Maxwell and McCain also had eight rebounds apiece.

McCain scored nine of his 11 points in the first half while making his first start of the season.

Aras Butkunas led Catholic Central with 20 points, and Raimier finished with 19.

North wasn't able to match its first half with its second half against Country

Day.

"I think the first half was our best half all year," Trombley said. "We caused a ton of turnovers. We wore them down and caused some major problems. It looked like we were going to blow them out of the water."

Bramos scored 15 of his 23 points in the first half as North opened up a 27-16 lead.

The Yellowjackets, who lost a home game to North last season, weren't going to go down again without a fight.

See NORTH, page 3C

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The Grosse Pointe Eagles won the seventh grade championship at the St. Clare of Montefalco Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament. In front are Nick Hess, left, and Carl Collins. In the second row are Dean Butts, left, and Bryan Brown. In the third row, from left, are Mark Ghafari, Chris Shirar, Jarvis Wise, Marc Palazzolo and Benjamin Rossi. In back, from left, are coaches Mitch Shirar, Jerome Wise and E.F. Rossi. Not pictured is Pat Kennedy.

Eagles repeat as champions

The Grosse Pointe Eagles seventh grade basketball team won its division championship for the second straight season in the St. Clare of Montefalco Thanksgiving tournament.

The Eagles played three games in the week-long tournament, capping their run with a 35-17 victory over Royal Oak Shrine of the Little Flower in the championship game.

In the opener, the Eagles had a fine defensive effort in beating Northville Our Lady of Victory 30-7.

Seven Eagles scored at least four points, and the Eagles had a 30-14 advantage in rebounding. The Eagles also had 14 steals.

In the second game, a 44-27 victory over University of Detroit Jesuit Academy, the Eagles displayed an open floor game that led to many fast-break baskets.

Rebounding tenaciously

and shooting 56 percent from the field, the Eagles broke out to a 16-2 first-quarter lead and kept the pressure on the Cubs throughout the game.

U-D's outside shooting in the third quarter closed the gap a bit, but the Eagles started the fourth quarter with three baskets off steals to secure the win.

The championship game against Shrine was tight for the first half as the scrappy Shrine squad was diving for loose balls and putting full-court pressure on the Eagles.

Grosse Pointe led by only five points at halftime, but the Eagles' combination of outstanding rebounding and fast-break offense broke the game open in the second half.

Both teams shot well from the outside and displayed great intensity in a well-played contest.

The Eagles again had seven players with at least four points, and they had a total of 40 rebounds. Combined with the timely shooting, it was too much for Shrine to overcome.

In each of the three victories, all nine Eagles made significant contributions as the shared the ball, played tenacious defense and hit the boards.

Eagles players are Bryan Brown, Dean Butts, Carl Collins, Mark Ghafari, Nick Hess, Pat Kennedy, Marc Palazzolo, Benjamin Rossi, Chris Shirar and Jarvis Wise.

The Eagles, coached by Jerome Wise, E.F. Rossi and Mitch Shirar, are in their third season.

The Eagles are scheduled to play in tournaments in South Lyon and Pinckney, along with a tournament in Canada.

Frazier-Herdoiza win fourth consecutive Midwest Open

The edmund t. AHEE Midwest Open mixed doubles tennis tournament could be called the Amy Frazier-Steve Herdoiza Invitational.

Last weekend's 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Diana Ospina and Steve Campbell in the championship match at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club gave Frazier and Herdoiza their fourth consecutive title.

It was the eighth championship in the tournament for Frazier and the sixth for Herdoiza.

Frazier and Herdoiza felt that they came out a little flat, and they gave the Ospina-Campbell team credit for taking advantage with its aggressive play.

Ospina was playing in her fourth Midwest Open final — all with different partners — while Campbell was in the final for the second time

in three years.

Both teams executed well in the second and third sets. The difference was Frazier's experience on the WTA tour, where she is the 26th-ranked player, and Herdoiza, a former ATP tour performer, having been Frazier's partner for all six of his titles in a seven-year span.

The slim margin of victory was provided by two service breaks in the second and third sets.

Ospina, currently in the top 200 on the women's circuit, was in her seventh Midwest Open. Campbell, once ranked 75th on the men's tour, is a teaching pro at the Wimbledon Racquet Club.

The tournament featured a unique blend of participants. Former Grosse Pointe North player Brian Kean teamed up with his high

school coach of seven years ago, Cathy Hackenbarger.

Sue Seiter, who works at the Hunt Club, was the partner of Van Winitsky, the 1977 United States Open and Wimbledon junior champion and the former top-ranked junior player in the world.

Eleven nationally-ranked junior players from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Canada competed in the tournament. Eight players from the Grosse Pointes also competed, along with teams from Ohio and Georgia.

Frazier and Herdoiza collected \$2,600 for their championship while Ospina and Campbell received \$1,300 as finalists.

The Midwest Open continues as the longest-running United States Tennis Association-sanctioned mixed doubles only event in the country.

Soccer referee training class offered

A soccer referee training class will be offered at Grosse Pointe North High School on four Saturdays in January and February.

The class dates are Jan. 15, 22 and 29, and Feb. 5. Classes will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

The class will prepare students to referee under-9 and older Grosse Pointe Soccer Association house league games, metro travel games and Michigan Youth Soccer League travel league games.

The minimum age for students is 12.

Pre-registration is

required.

The cost of the class is \$50.

To pre-register, go to the

GPSSA house league highlights

UNDER-8
Chargers 4, Hurricanes 2

Goals: Tyler Rheume 3, David Myckowiak (Chargers).

Assists: Max Ertzschoff, Graham Eger (Chargers).

Comments: The Chargers tied the game late in the first half and won it in the second half, as both teams played well.

Chargers 6, Eagles 0

Goals: Graham Eger 2, Tyler Rheume 2, David Myckowiak, Zachary Doe (Chargers).

Assists: Eger, Rheume

Website: MSYSAreferree.net.

Call GPSSA referee director Karen Ridgway at (313) 884-7769 with any questions about the class.

UNDER-10
X-Factors 7, Comets 0

Goals: Kate Wacker, Nicholas Lupul 3, Maurice Edwards 3 (X-Factors).

Assists: Lupul, Ellie Chambers, Edwards (X-Factors).

X-Factors 4, Chargers 1

Goals: Nicholas Lupul 3, Ellie Chambers (X-Factors); Carmen Beneditti (Chargers).

Comments: It was a hard-fought game despite the final score.

Norsemen are at their best in victory against Brother Rice

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

There's no such thing as a sure thing in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League.

Grosse Pointe North learned that lesson last Saturday when the Norsemen dropped a 4-3 decision to Port Huron Northern.

The defeat, which left North 2-2-0 in league play and 5-2-0 overall, came on the heels of one of the Norsemen's best games of the season — a 3-0 victory against league rival Brother Rice.

This doesn't appear to be a vintage season for Northern, but the Huskies proved that they can be dangerous if their opponent doesn't play its best.

"You can't take anybody in the league lightly," said North coach Scott Lock. "We didn't play inspired hockey. We didn't do the things that we were successful doing against Brother Rice."

For the second road game in a row, the Norsemen didn't arrive at the rink in time for their proper warmups because of circumstances beyond their control, and it's probably no coincidence that those are North's only defeats this year.

"We came out in the first

period like we were skating on concrete," Lock said. "We were horrible. We had only four shots on goal."

The Norsemen were probably lucky to come out of the period only trailing 1-0. It quickly became 2-0 when PHN scored a power-play goal early in the second period.

Jon Tibaud scored for North to cut the lead to 2-1 after two periods, but the Huskies scored another power-play goal early in the third period to make it 3-1.

North, which finished with a 43-17 advantage in shots on goal, made a furious comeback and tied the game on goals by Mike Rourke and Jim Solomon.

"For about a five-minute span we just peppered them with shots," Lock said.

With about a minute remaining in the third period, the Huskies called a timeout to set up a play from a faceoff and it paid off in the winning goal.

It was a different story against Brother Rice, which has become one of the Norsemen's biggest rivals.

"We have a lot of good rivalries against the teams in our league, but I guess because we see Brother Rice so often — they're always in our regional — it's become one of our better rivalries,"

Lock said.

Last year, the Warriors beat North in the regional championship game and the Norsemen seemed determined not to let that happen again.

"We played really well," Lock said. "We outshot them 38-13. Their goalie was outstanding. We dominated from beginning to end. It was our best game all year."

Tibaud scored a pair of first-period goals — one shorthanded and the other on a power play — and Colin Brown added a power-play goal in the second period for North.

"We've had good special teams play all year," Lock said. "Now we need to work on our 5-on-5 a little more."

Jordan Zielke was in goal for the Norsemen. He wasn't tested a lot, but the saves he had to make were difficult ones. He also collected an assist.

Jeff Rohrkemper also played a strong game for North.

"He had two assists and played extremely well," Lock said. "He sprung Tibaud for a breakaway and he set up Colin's power-play goal."

"The whole team played well. We were short some people because of injuries, but everybody who played made a contribution."

Blue Devils bounce back with a shutout against Dearborn

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's hockey team didn't spend time dwelling on another disappointing defeat at Trenton.

The Blue Devils bounced back from the 6-4 loss to the defending state Division II champions with a 3-0 shutout of Dearborn.

"We wanted to make sure we didn't have a letdown against Dearborn after the great effort but disappointing loss to Trenton," said South coach Bob Bopp.

Those concerns went by the wayside in a hurry, even though the game wasn't played like Bopp had hoped for.

"Dearborn is a good team, but we would have preferred a game like Trenton with lots of up and down play, so we could use our speed and depth to wear them out," Bopp said.

Instead, it was a penalty-filled contest that took away much of the game's flow.

South came out strong in the first period, and took a 1-0 lead at 6:29 on Anthony Swancoat's power-play goal from Joey Parke, who made an outstanding play to get Swancoat the puck.

"The pass and the goal would make a highlight film," Bopp said. "I don't think you can move the puck any better than we did on that play."

A little more than four minutes later, Mac Brookes got a pass from Tom Porter in front of the net and beat the Pioneers' goalie.

"Dearborn has a good goalie, so I was thinking there wouldn't be a lot of goals in this game," Bopp said. "That was really a big goal for us."

It stayed 2-0 until there was 3:57 remaining in the third period. Ryan Abraham scored from linemates Tim Shield and Mike Lewandowski.

"This line has played great for us," Bopp said. "Ryan is off to a great start with seven goals and two assists in seven games. When I picked him for the team, I knew he was a very good player, but he has been outstanding. It will be great to have him here for three years."

Brad Allemon turned back 27 shots to record the shutout.

"He was tested, but made all the saves," Bopp said.

It was also a confidence booster for Allemon, who was the victim of three Trenton goals in a 38-second span in the final minute of the second period after replacing the injured David Hollidge.

"I couldn't fault him," Bopp said. "There wasn't much he could do. There were deflections and we didn't get rebounds cleared."

"I never lost confidence in Brad, but coming right back and getting a shutout had to be good for his confidence. Our goalies have done a great job. Brad and David each have two shutouts, and having those guys in goal gives us a chance to win every game."

South came out flying in the Trenton game and dominated the first period, although Frankie DeLaura's goal was the only one of the period. Tom MacEachern fed DeLaura a pass from behind the net and he one-timed a shot past Trenton goalie Eric Styles. Bryan Mansfield also assisted.

"It was important to score first in their rink," Bopp said. "Frankie has been off to a great start, scoring a lot and also piling up the assists."

Abraham made it 2-0 with 1:48 left in the period when he shot the puck into the net as he was falling to the ice. Porter and Swancoat had the assists.

"I thought we were clearly the better team in the first period, but one period doesn't win the game," Bopp said.

The second period was more evenly-played, but Hollidge turned back all of Trenton's chances, including some spectacular saves.

However, Hollidge injured his shoulder during a pileup in the crease early in the period.

He continued in the game and stopped a breakaway by Trenton's Brian Thomson with about two minutes left in the period, but Hollidge finally had to leave the game.

Once Hollidge was gone, it seemed to give the Trojans a new life.

They swarmed the net and got a power-play goal from Phil Bouchard on a shot from the point that was deflected in front at 14:08.

Twenty-six seconds later, Thomson scored on a rebound. With 14 seconds left in the period, Jacob

Schering put Trenton ahead 3-2.

It was a stunned South squad that skated off the ice at the end of the second period.

"I didn't even get a chance to talk to the team between periods," Bopp said. "Hollidge was in a lot of pain and was being attended to, and we had three players with cuts getting attention. We had just given up three goals in less than a minute, so we were clearly set up for disaster heading into the third period."

South, however, wasn't about to go home without a fight.

Midway through the third period, Parke made a perfect play to tie the game at 3-3. Mansfield got his second assist.

"The way Joey has played every game this year has shown why he is such a great player, and why he was selected to the All-State team as a junior," Bopp said. The coach also praised Mansfield, who was strong on both ends of the ice.

"Bryan has been a great addition to our team," Bopp said. "He is here for his defensive play, but he is very talented offensively, and has six assists in five games."

Trenton went ahead to stay on a goal by Brad Lyons on another deflection at 9:03, and the Trojans made it 5-3 on Bouchard's second goal of the game from a scramble in front of the crease at 12:14.

Abraham cut the lead back to one when he redirected Taylor Ryan's shot into the net at 13:46.

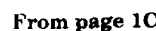
South pulled Allemon for an extra skater with about a minute remaining but Trenton foiled the strategy with an empty-net goal by Schering with 29 seconds to go.

"It was tough to lose and there is no excuse for giving up three goals in the last minute of a period, but you still have to be happy with the way the team played," Bopp said.

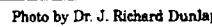
"We looked like a very quick, confident team and certainly played well enough to win."

South, now 6-1-0, is idle until the Alpena Tournament on Dec. 28 and 29. The Blue Devils open against the host team.

The other two teams are East Kentwood and University of Detroit Jesuit.



Maxwell had 10 points, as North had only two players score in double figures.



Marcell Maxwell makes a layup for Grosse Pointe North despite the efforts of Detroit Country Day's Alex Legion.

Thomas earned scores of

7.7 on both floor and bars.

with an injury.

Thomas also had a good

The team regional qualify

ing score is 118.

They also won two tourna-

The Breakers took on the

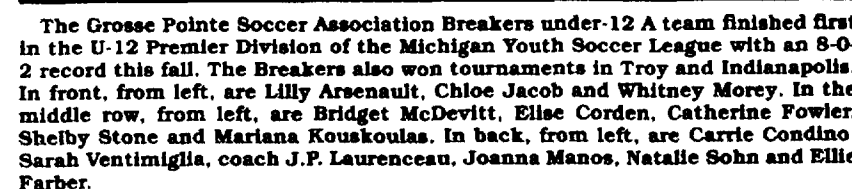
North girls s

The Norsemen dominated most of the third period, outshooting the Blazers 12-5, but Ladywood tied the game

The Norsemen are 3-2-1 in the Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League and 3-4-0 overall.

It's the first time in three years that a South wrestler has placed in the very competitive 32-team tournament.

Fliers have been sent, but any alumni player not receiving one and wishing to play in the game should call Peggy Klein at (313) 885-3069, Sharon Fromm at (313) 884-7068 or Nancy Klick at (313) 884-2731.



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WAYBURN, 2 bedroom remodeled lower. Freshly painted, super clean. Smoke free. \$775/month, includes water. (313)882-7558

DETROIT- 9135 Courville, 3 bedroom, basement, \$650/month. Andary Realty, (313)886-5670

GUILFORD, 1 bedroom upper, garage parking. \$475, heat included. No pets. 1 1/2 month security. 313-938-1938, leave message.

LARGE 2 bedroom upper, 733 Tennessee, new wood floors, \$550/month. (313)410-1899

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LARGE 2