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DECEMBER 11, 2014
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Woods moves fireworks to park

By John McTaggart
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The city's Fourth of July fireworks display promises to be drastically different in 2015, thanks to the city council's unanimous vote, Monday, Dec. 1, to move the event.

Past shows were at Parcels Middle School on Mack Avenue. Next year's show will be at Lake Front Park along the water.

The change of venue comes on the heels of a 2014 event marred by violence, mainly from a large contingent of youths who gathered for

the fireworks display, some of whom were affiliated with gangs, according to officials.

"We had a flash mob," Mayor Robert Novitke said.

The decision to move the venue was one not taken lightly by anyone involved in the process, Novitke said.

"We talked about everything," he said. "Everyone had their chance to say something and this was the consensus."

The longtime mayor added several options were on the table including forgoing the event all together.

In the end, the option to move the fireworks to

Lake Front Park was something everyone was willing to try.

"We'll do them there next year and we'll then take a look and make an assessment from there," Novitke said.

There are still several steps needed before the display in July, however, steps that include

answers to questions such as whether to allow residents to bring guests into the park or not, and just how the move may effect sponsorships, among other things.

"There are still a lot of things to be done," Novitke said. "A lot of

See WOODS, page 9A



In the Park

Santa greeted dozens of Grosse Pointe Park residents last week. Above and right, Santa listens to holiday songs performed by the Defer Elementary School fifth grade choir, directed by Elizabeth Moses. Below, Abigail Rhodes and her brother, Noah Rhodes, give Santa a hug.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Far left, Santa gets the key to the city from Mayor Palmer Heenan. At left, Blake Denner woke up from his nap and was a little quiet when Santa asked what he wanted for Christmas. The only thing missing at the annual tree lighting was snow.

Harwood steps down

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Tom Harwood informed the board of education he will not request his contract be extended beyond its June 30, 2015, expiration date.

His notification to the board was in a letter given Thursday, Dec. 4, to board president Joan Dindoffer. A special meeting of the board was scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 10, to accept Harwood's notification and to officially begin the process of filling the superintendent's position.

Harwood's decision to not seek a new contract was not a surprise to veteran board observers. In March, the board narrowly renewed his contract for one year, with several board members voicing concerns at that

See HARWOOD, page 9A

Farms audit a peach

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A municipal audit is being celebrated at city hall.

"We had another robust financial performance for the city," said Councilman Louis Theros, chairman of the Grosse Pointe Farms finance committee.

The latest Farms municipal audit, for fiscal year 2013-14 ended June 30, documents a \$115,000 addition to undesignated fund balance, a reserve account.

The new balance equals 28 percent of the 2014-15 general fund budget.

The percentage also is a two-point increase in financial reserves from last year's level and eight points beyond the 20 percent cushion auditors recommend for safe standing.

"As a result of having excess revenues over expenditures, fund balance stands at \$3.7 million," said John Lamerato, Farms controller and treasurer.

The city's municipal pensions also are in good shape.

"One (general employee) is 96 percent

See FARMS, page 9A

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Pointer of Interest
See story, page 4A



Lt. Eddie Tujaka

City of Grosse Pointe
Public Safety Department
Grosse Pointe Theatre actor
in "White Christmas."



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Christmas on Lakeshore a great night

By Joe Warner
Editor

Two local groups will provide an evening of a capella Monday, Dec. 15.

Christmas on Lakeshore will feature The Grunyons and Noteworthy at 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial's Fries Auditorium.

The shared stage for the night includes two well-known groups.

Noteworthy was formed in 1978 by two women who were college friends at Smith. Billed as a "no fella a capella," the group includes 15 women from the Grosse Pointe area.

One of the members, Tracy Allen of Grosse Pointe Farms, said the group enjoys their Tuesday night "group therapy," with wine, chocolate, sisterhood and music.

Allen, who has been with the group for 30 years and is a former director, said it's an opportunity to perform at different events, often in front of friends and family.

"Everyone shares a common quest for excellence and our co-directors nurture that," said Allen, who owns Global Resolutions PLLC and is a mediator, arbitrator and adjunct professor of alternative dispute resolution and several universities.

"Our preparation for a performance is a combination of many factors: selecting music appropriate to the occasion; who we think the audience will be; what season we are in; style of music

we seek to present; and whether our audience has heard us before."

The group has two CDs, available on their website and Facebook page, along with iTunes.

Co-directors of Noteworthy are Susan Weiss and Barb Widener. First sopranos are Mimi Crawford, Deborah O'Brien and Danielle Dumont. Second sopranos are Barb Widener, Annie Jarzembowski, Tracy Blatt and Jill Max. First altos are Cheryl Van Tol, Susan Weiss, Liz Frost and Callie Lewicki. Second altos are Tracy Allen, Carol Rhoades, Debi Ihrle and Susan Durant.

Over the years, Noteworthy has opened for the Rockettes at the Fox, sang in the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade and performed at Disney World and Millenium Park in Chicago.

The group performs for a variety of events including family and holiday parties, private club events, anniversaries, weddings and more.

"We are most pleased to be doing a community concert again this year, again with The Grunyons," Allen said. "It is a great source of joy for all of our members to share music and fellowship with others."

Phil MacKethan, a member of The Grunyons, feels the same way.

The Grunyons, according to their website, have a long history in the area as well.

"In 1949, eight local Yale graduates, yearning to continue the remarkable singing tradition of



The Grunyons and Noteworthy return to the Grosse Pointe War Memorial for an a capella performance Monday, Dec. 15.

their university and especially the style of the Yale vocal ensemble, the 'Whiffenpoofs,' banded together to form this group.

"The name 'Grunyons' was chosen for reasons now lost to anyone's specific memory, but the ensemble soon expanded to a more versatile group of sixteen, drawing in men associated with other university musical experiences. The organization has continued since, offering its special brand of a capella close harmony and entertainment to scores of audiences throughout southeast Michigan and beyond.

"The Grunyons are now into their "middle ages", alumni of some ten other colleges, an age range of approximately 35 years, several new vocal arrangements to update an extensive repertoire, and an enthusiasm for life and music which some say defies description. Perhaps it was best summed up in an introduction by a



young student leader at a school assembly who was 'happy to present the Grunyons, a bunch of middle-aged businessmen who really love to sing.'"

Members of The Grunyons includes: 1st tenors, John Gilbert, Sandy McMillan, Bob Montgomery and John Prost.

Second tenors includes Anthony Alcantara, John

Birchler, Bill Flom, Ron Fredrick, Philip MacKethan and Tim Malefy.

Baritones includes Steve Redding, Rick Spina and Bob Wollard.

Bass vocals include Adam Alcantara, Jeff Beggs, Ken Faw and Bob Shrobbree.

Tickets are available for Monday's show through members of Noteworthy or at

Posterity: A Gallery, 17005 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe. Or call (313) 884-8105.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial is located at 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

For more information, visit noteworthyings.com or thegrunyons.com.

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Holiday event

The Grosse Pointe North choir performed at the Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Social last week.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Mary Harper won a bottle of wine wearing a Santa suit when her name was pulled in the raffle and she said she wasn't going to open it until Christmas because Christmas was her 85th birthday. Above, Noreen Szymborski won a silver and gem necklace from Joseph DiMaggio Jewelers.

Police take heat for investigation

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Under questioning from both the defense and prosecution, Park public safety officers responsible for the investigation into the murder of Jane Bashara admitted their department made several missteps in the investigation.

Problems included failing to review footage from security cameras, inadequate witness statements and failure to utilize assistance from other law enforcement agencies.

But it was a blistering cross-examination of Park Detective Michael Narduzzi by Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Lisa Lindsey that stunned veteran court watchers.

In March 2012, you were called to the prosecutor's office, where we

introduced you to the Michigan State Police and told you to ask for their help, but you did not utilize their services, did you?" she asked Narduzzi. He admitted they hadn't.

Narduzzi, who wasn't named co-officer in charge of the case until January 2013, said he was at the scene Jan. 25, 2012, when Jane Bashara's body was found and said Detroit Police homicide officers had taken charge of the scene.

Lindsey also questioned him as to why Bashara's girlfriend, Rachel Gillett, who came to the Park police station just days after the murder to talk to police, was sent home and why Chief David Hiller, three days after the murder, named Bashara a person of interest in the case without consulting with any other

police agencies.

"Your department chose to make a unilateral decision without consulting the Detroit police, is that correct?" Lindsey asked.

Narduzzi said "yes." "The prosecutor's office had a recurring problem with your department," Lindsey stated. "In spite of your inexperience in dealing with homicides, you chose not to seek help."

Lindsey said her department had to re-interview several witnesses because there had been no face-to-face meetings with those witnesses conducted by Park police. Instead, witnesses had been given a questionnaire consisting of 20 questions put together by Capt. David Loch, who was, until January 2013, the sole officer in charge of the case.

Lindsey also asked

Narduzzi about his and Loch's failure to turn in reports on time and to follow her directions.

"You would not do what I asked you," she said. "On more than one occasion, did I indicate to you that 'I know you're overwhelmed, but it's time for you two to put on your big girl panties and go to work?'"

"I think you said 'big boy pants,'" Narduzzi replied.

Under questioning from defense attorney Michael McCarthy, Loch said he had not picked up Jane Bashara's clothing from the Wayne County medical examiner, nor did he request security videos from the building on Mack where Bashara said he was during the time his wife was murdered.

"We did not have a pro-

See HEAT, page 6A

Shed anger escalates

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — While one of the market sheds straddling Kercheval has been moved a few yards, the fact the sheds remain into December caused yet another round of heated discussion at a council meeting.

At previous council meetings, city manager Dale Krajniak said the sheds, used by vendors at the city's summer farmers market, would be taken down in November when the market closed for the season.

While city attorney Dennis Levasseur said the removal of the sheds is part of ongoing discussions with Detroit about redevelopment in the area, many in the audience disagreed.

"Those sheds went up before any agreement with Detroit was discussed," one resident told Levasseur at the Monday, Dec. 8, meeting. "The city put them up, and the city can take them down."

The closing of Kercheval at Wayburn through traffic has caused plenty of friction. Many saw the sheds, erected this past summer on the area where Kercheval was closed, as a barrier against Detroiters coming into the Park. Protests and heated discussions at Park council meetings have followed.

Mayor Palmer Heenan has taken offense at those who question the closing and he made his feelings clear again at Monday's meeting.

"We are the best run city in all of Michigan because we have a city manager and a city clerk who love working with our citizens," he said. "I hate seeing people putting us down."

He also praised the development currently being done in the area.

"Progress is made by encouraging people, not discouraging them," Heenan said. "I can't believe there are people who are unhappy. You

have personality problems if you are."

One vocal critic, Graig Donnelly, filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Park, and obtained records indicating \$175,000 was spent by the Park on the closing of Kercheval, including paving and cement work, landscaping, the market sheds and awnings and consulting work.

When he questioned the council if the funds had been approved by the council, he was told the money for the work actually came from TIFA funds, and did not need council approval.

But, it was the question of who within the city approved the closing Kercheval to traffic that brought even more questions, with Krajniak insisting there were discussions of the closing at both the planning commission and city council level.

When pressed to provide an answer to the question of when the closing was actually approved, Levasseur lashed out.

"We're in negotiations with the City of Detroit," he said. "These are important talks. What you need to do is listen to us. You seem to have this dire need to have a response."

Even with the continued challenge to closing, several residents did speak in support of the city's decision, and those people received high praise from Heenan.

"This has become a wonderful meeting," he said. "I'm in tears over how wonderful you people are."

Donnelly once again rose and asked the city for an answer on when the closing of Kercheval was approved by council.

After consulting with Levasseur, Heenan ended the council meeting and moved the council into a closed session, over the objections of Donnelly, who said ending his meeting violated his rights under the Open Meetings Act.

The Week Ahead

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

- ◆ Pierce Middle School's choir presents its winter concert at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe North High School choirs' holiday concert begins at 7 p.m. in First English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

- ◆ The K-Line Trolley is available from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. to take residents along Kercheval to shop or stop at a restaurant.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores mayor's hours are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. To make an appointment, call (313) 881-6565.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe North High School choirs present their holiday concert at 7 p.m. at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adult tickets cost \$10 and student and senior citizen tickets cost \$5. Tickets are available at Wild Birds Unlimited and at the door.
- ◆ Finish it Friday is from 9 to 11 a.m. at Grosse Pointe Public Library, Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Complete Christmas handmade projects sitting by the fire.
- ◆ The Grosse Pointe

- Historical Society holds an open house at 6 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House Museum. The public can attend.
- ◆ The Grosse Pointe South High School jazz band presents "Yule Be Boppin'" at 7 p.m. in South's auditorium.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe North High School choir's holiday concert begins at 7 p.m. at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

- ◆ Visit with Santa Claus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will be on Kercheval between Cadieux and Neff in the Village.
- ◆ Santa's Village is the site of activities for children from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grosse Pointe Library Foundation members wrap holiday gifts free from 1 to 4 p.m. at Central branch.
- ◆ President and CEO of New Detroit Inc. Shirley Stancato is the 2 p.m. speaker at What's Ahead? an east side community workshop on racial diversity. The workshop is at Salem Memorial Church, 21230 Moross, Detroit and is sponsored by DiverseGP. For more information, e-mail gpdiverse@gmail.com.
- ◆ Tours of the

- Provencal-Weir House Museum and the LaBelle Country Store is open from 1 to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Author Arthur Woodford, signs his book "The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores" from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House Museum, 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre presents "White Christmas" at 2 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Tickets cost \$24 and can be purchased at gpt.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

- ◆ Hanukkah begins
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre presents the musical, "White Christmas" at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

MONDAY, DEC. 15

- ◆ The Grunyons and Noteworthy, both a cappella groups, present a program at 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Advance tickets cost \$15 and are available at Posterity: A Gallery in the Village. Tickets at the door cost \$20.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods city council meets at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers.
- ◆ The City of Grosse

Pointe council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers.

- ◆ Chat with Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen, D-Detroit, from 9 to 10 a.m. in Grosse Pointe Park's municipal building. For more information, call (313) 224-0920.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

- ◆ Grosse Pointe South High School's band-orama begins at 7 p.m. in the school gym.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores council meets at 7 p.m. in city hall.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre presents the musical, "White Christmas," at 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe North High School's band-orama begins at 7 p.m. in the school gym.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre presents the holiday musical, "White Christmas," at 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Tickets cost \$24 and can be purchased by calling (313) 881-4004.
- ◆ The Grosse Pointe Library Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Woods branch, 20680 Mack.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Policing our streets while patrolling the stage

By Mike Trudel
Special Writer

After almost 30 years, Senior Lt. Eddie Tujaka knows the drill well: Arrive early, change out of civilian clothes, change into required apparel, review the marching orders with the rest of the team and make sure everything you need is in working order and where it needs to be before you begin your rounds. As the clock hits 8 p.m., it's time to begin. As a highly-trained and decorated public defender and military veteran, this sounds like the beginning of Tujaka's typical work day with the City of Grosse Pointe's public safety department. It's also exactly what takes place before a performance at Fries Auditorium as he joins Grosse Pointe Theatre actors and crew getting ready to entertain 400 theater-goers. Tujaka and an energetic cast and crew will be lighting up the stage in the next two weeks as GPT once again brings the Irving Berlin holiday classic, "White Christmas," to the Grosse Pointe War Memorial for a nine-performance run, from Saturday, Dec. 13, through Monday, Dec. 22. Tujaka's path to GPT is as unique as his tremendous mustache. "About four years ago I

was the lead investigator in a very high profile homicide investigation," he said. "After we ended up getting first-degree homicide convictions on the parties involved we were approached by the Discovery Channel to appear on a crime investigator show. They filmed here for 10 days and I was involved for eight of those shoot days, reenacting plain clothes surveillance scenes and being interviewed on-camera. It really sparked my interest in theater and my daughter, Jessica, told me about a show at Grosse Pointe Theatre, "A Trip to Bountiful," that was holding auditions. There was a part for a sheriff that I figured I might have a shot at, and got it. "Even though I was brand new everyone accepted me with open arms. I had a fantastic time with the show, the cast, the crew, director Ron Bernas, and from that moment I was hooked. Now, when I see a show and I think there's a part for me, I'm there." That's an understatement. Since catching the bug in 2011, Tujaka has been seen onstage in "Jekyll & Hyde," "Oklahoma" and "Big River," "Rehearsal For Murder, The Drowsy Chaparrone," "Gypsy," "Legends of the Lake" and was a member of the

ensemble in last season's production of "Les Miserables." Tujaka portrays a retired general in "White Christmas," the same role he played in last season's production. "Eddie is a curmudgeonly old general and I was a curmudgeonly old actress and we just had a blast playing these crotchety old people," GPT performer Beverly Dickinson said. "He may own the hotel and like to bark out the orders, but it was quite clear I was in charge." Getting cast in this many shows in just over three years is quite impressive, but it also is a testament to Tujaka's effervescent personality. He's got that tough guy policeman persona, but he's also got a soft side. This is not lost on his director in "White Christmas." "He's a character, he's definitely a character, he can do anything we throw at him," said director Don Bischoff. "The wisdom and nice demeanor he has makes him special." "Theater has become my release from the stress of work," Tujaka said. "I don't golf or fish, this is my hobby and I'm around some of the most wonderful people. They're now lifelong friends." Performance dates and times for "White

Christmas" are 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, and Thursday, Dec. 18; 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21; and 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22. Tickets for White Christmas are \$24. Group rates are available. For tickets and information call (313) 881-4004. Purchase tickets in person at the Grosse Pointe Theatre ticket office at 315 Fisher Road, City of Grosse Pointe (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or buy tickets online atgpt.org. There is a \$3 per ticket surcharge for online ticket purchases.



City of Grosse Pointe public safety Lt. Eddie Tujaka enjoys the stage of the Grosse Pointe Theatre.

Duke has a tail, needs a vest

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — A love of animals and puns is shared by people providing bullet-resistant vests for police dogs. Vested Interest in K-9s is a nonprofit providing free protective vests for dogs. A company manufacturing vests advertises, "We've got your K-9 partner covered with our custom-sized K-9 armor." Jokes aside, a vest could be a lifesaver for the Grosse Pointes' new public safety German shepherd, Duke. Nationwide, 105 law enforcement K-9s died in the line of duty so far this year, according to the Officer down website. Duke's handler,

Officer Tim Harris of the Grosse Pointe Farms public safety department midnight shift, is seeking a vest through Vested Interest, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Massachusetts. "Our mission is to provide vests for law enforcement dogs across the country," said Sandy Marcal, founder. "We've provided 1,130 vests in 40 states." "I sent an application to get a vest for Duke," Harris said. Vests cost \$950. They have five-year warranties and are made to order by Armor Express in Central Lake, near Traverse City. Marcal's group finds sponsors for applicants. Upon finding a sponsor, it takes about 10 weeks to make and deliver a vest, she said. "We have vested every

dog that applied and met the criteria," Marcal said. "We haven't turned any dogs away." Sponsors come from everywhere, not just communities with K-9 teams. Some sponsorships serve as memorials, with dedications embroidered on vests. "If one person pays \$950 to cover the cost of the vest, it also covers the embroidery," Marcal said. She founded the nonprofit in 2009. "I used my love for animals and my background in accounting to network with people to raise money for dogs," Marcal said. For more information about Vested Interest in K-9s, visit vik9s.org or contact Marcal at info@vik9s.org.

Farms a repeat winner

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — For the 21st consecutive year, Grosse Pointe Farms won a Government Finance Officers Association's certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. "For the third consecutive year, we got an award for outstanding achievement in popular financial reports for our financial

summary booklet," said John Lamerato, Farms controller and treasurer. "Only six cities in Michigan received both awards," said Councilman Louis Theros, chairman of the finance committee. The booklet is due for delivery to residents and businesses in a couple weeks. Mark Hurst, a municipal auditor from Plante Moran, said the booklet and comprehensive municipal audit for fiscal

year 2013-14 are "designed for transparency." Sections of the 15-page booklet define financial terms, such as special revenue funds, debt service and enterprise finds. Other sections illustrate, with bar graphs and pie charts, changes in taxable values, revenues and expenses, the number of construction permits issued and such things as voter turnout and police arrests.

Editor's note

The offices of the Grosse Pointe News will be closed Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Christmas day, Thursday, Dec. 25. The offices will reopen at 8 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26. The offices will close at noon Wednesday, Dec. 31 and remain closed Thursday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day. The Grosse Pointe

News will open at 8 a.m. Jan. 2. The Christmas issue of the paper will be delivered Dec. 24, and the New Year's issue will be delivered Dec. 31.

THE NEW TESTAMENT ENQUIRER
November 30, 2014
Unwed Mother Births King???

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Closing arguments next

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

DETROIT — The defense rested its case on Thursday, Dec. 4, closing out the ninth week of the Bob Bashara murder trial.

Calling just four witnesses, as opposed to the nearly 70 witnesses called by the prosecution, the defense relied on testimony from two former friends of Jane and Bob Bashara to make its case, as well as testimony from the two Grosse Pointe Park public safety officers assigned to the investigation of the January 2012 murder of Jane Bashara.

Bob Bashara is facing five charges, including first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit first degree murder, solicitation to commit murder, witness intimidation and obstruction of justice. Two additional charges, suborning perjury and felony firearm, were dismissed by Judge Vonda Evans earlier in the trial.

If convicted on the murder or conspiracy charges, Bashara will face a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

Witnesses called by the defense included former friends of both Bob and Jane Bashara.

Scott McSkimming said he had worked on several fundrais-

ers with the couple at St. Michael's Church in Grosse Pointe Woods, including the annual fireworks festival and a November 2011 campaign to raise money for a new roof at the church.

He stayed in contact with Bashara after Bashara was arrested for attempting to hire a hit man to kill Joe Gentz. He said Bashara called him several times from jail, asking McSkimming to contact several government officials, including the governor, congressmen and Wayne County commissioner Tim Killeen on his behalf. He told McSkimming that the prosecution's case against him was "political."

McSkimming never contacted anyone and is no longer in contact with Bashara.

The second defense witness, Lois Valente, testified to her friendship with Jane Bashara, and said Jane was concerned that Bob "was getting into some weird stuff." She said Jane was upset and embarrassed over her husband's behavior, and suspected he was having an affair.

She also described a trip the Basharas had taken to Las Vegas in 2008.

"The family had come home, but Bob stayed behind and incurred a large gambling debt,"

Valente said.

She said Jane Bashara expressed concern over the couple's finances, telling Valente that Bob Bashara had badly mismanaged their joint real estate holdings, and that just a few years before, the couple "was at risk of losing everything."

Valente also said she and Jane had discussed divorce, but just days before she was murdered, Jane told Valente that she was going to try to make her marriage work.

"She told me, 'If they could build it once, they could do it again,'" Valente testified.

Valente also made it quite clear that she was testifying on behalf of Jane Bashara, not Bob.

"I'm testifying because you subpoenaed me," she told defense attorney Lillian Diallo. "I'm not here as a friend of Bob Bashara."

The final question in the case was put to Bob Bashara himself, when Evans asked him if he wanted to take the stand in his defense. Bashara declined.

Closing arguments in the case were to be presented Wednesday, Dec. 10, with jury deliberations expected to begin Thursday, Dec. 11. Once a verdict is reached, a story will be published on grossepointenews.com.

Values continue to rise

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Taxable values increased last fiscal year by 1 percent, the first rise in four years.

The trend is escalating.

"This current year, we had a little over 3 percent increase in value," said John Lamerato, Grosse Pointe Farms controller and treasurer.

Next year's increase is forecast to be more than 10 percent.

The city isn't able to capture all of the increase, taxwise, because state law limits the rate of property tax increases.

"At least things are improving," Lamerato said. "Property values are increasing and houses are selling."

Of each \$1 the Farms collected last year in property taxes, 29 cents paid for city services, which is down 1 cent from last year.

The balance of tax receipts went to schools, the county, zoo, art institute, special education and libraries.

Figures come from Lamerato and the annual municipal audit for financial year 2013-14, ended June 30.

Of \$12.8 million in revenue the Farms collected during the fiscal year, 73 percent came from property taxes.

General fund expenditures totaled \$12.7 million.

Public safety represented 35 percent of expenditures, followed by:

- ◆ public works, 12 percent;
- ◆ general government operations, including administration, city council and legal costs, 10 percent and
- ◆ recreation and culture, 9 percent.

HEAT:

Continued from page 3A

tol for picking up clothing from the morgue," Loch admitted.

"So you never looked at Jane's clothing to see if there was dirt on them?" McCarthy asked.

Lindsey also cross-

examined Loch, and while she kept her frustrations in check, she did get Loch to admit that he mishandled the investigation of some leaf samples found in the Bashara garage and on Jane

Bashara's socks and did not turn over findings from a botanist from Michigan State University for at least a month after receiving them.

Loch said he sent the samples, collected in January 2012, to MSU in September 2013, but did not follow up with MSU on results until November 2014.

"I made a terrible mistake by not turning it over in a timely manner," Loch told Lindsey. "The responsibility for that falls solely on me."

"And that was in keeping with your pattern of

not turning things over, correct?" Lindsey asked.

Under cross from Lindsey, Loch said his department had not taped interviews with Joseph Gentz, who admitted to killing Jane Bashara.

"And you never called Detroit homicide and say, 'You might want to get over here,' did you?" Lindsey asked.

Following the testimony of the two officers, defense attorneys said they were shocked at the veracity of Lindsey's cross examination.

"I have never seen anything like we witnessed

today," said Lillian Diallo.


Park police chief David Hiller defended his department.

"I was very disappointed that this department was criticized by prosecutors during a trial," Hiller said. "To state this department was incompetent is grossly unfair. Since Jan. 24, 2012, this department had one goal and that was that those responsible for the murder of Jane Bashara be brought to justice. This was an extremely complicated and complex case for all agencies involved."

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GROSSE POINTE SANTA CLAUS PARADE - Friday, November 28th was brisk but the sidewalks were filled with families and friends to welcome and celebrate the holiday season. I hope everyone enjoyed the 39th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade!

Jennifer Palms Boettcher

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the many people who helped make this year's Santa Claus Parade such a big success! Thank you to our generous sponsors whose financial support made this entire event possible. Thank you to the Police and Fire Departments and volunteers who kept everything organized and everyone safe. Thank you to the parade participants who made the parade so enjoyable for all. And thank you to all who attended the parade. Remember to support your local community-Shop Local!

“DECK THE STORE” Contest - Visit www.grossepointechamber.com to view a list of participating storefronts and vote for your favorite.

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Grosse Pointe News



Leadership Summit

The American Psychiatric Association Division of Diversity and Healthy Equity in Partnership with Community Network Services, the Northeast Guidance Center and Marygrove College hosted a 2014 Leadership Summit in Detroit on the Marygrove College campus. The purpose of the summit was to promote diversity and the elimination of mental health disparities in communities and the issues relevant to economic recession and its effect on the mental health of local communities. Sherry Ellen McRill, MA, LLP, a resident of Grosse Pointe Park, a limited licensed psychologist and presently vice president of the Northeast Guidance Center, attended the event. Above, Pastor John Smith, president of the board of CMS, Tom Watkins, CEO of Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Authority, Michael Garrett, Community Network Services, Dr. Michele Reid, MC, McRill, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Dr. Annette Primm, keynote speaker, deputy medical director of the APA, and a participant from the board of directors CNS.

Shores seeks marina plan

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — As for the marina fund deficit, this, too, shall pass.

The city's marina deficit reduction plan, required to be filed with the state treasury department, recognizes that a major component of marina expenses will decline in coming years.

"The deficit elimination plan is, basically, to say time will pass and the depreciation expense will go away," said Councilman Bruce Bisballe, chairman of the Grosse Pointe Shores finance committee. "Depreciation expense starts to reduce over the next three years because the lifespan of the asset is expired at that point."

A recent draft of the annual municipal audit quantified what city officials were saying for months. The marina fund

is losing money.

"You have more debt than assets, which leaves an unrestricted net position of negative \$14,470," Aaron Stevens, an auditor with Abraham & Gaffney certified public accounts, told the city council Tuesday, Nov. 18.

City Manager Mark Wollenweber, citing the fund's \$350,000 available cash, said depreciation creates a "paper deficit." "It's really not an indication of financial trouble," Bisballe said. "We're not going to repossess boats in the marina or anything."

"We always knew we had stress in that fund," said Mayor Ted Kedzierski.

"The marina is not going to be self-supporting," Bisballe said. "It cannot generate enough revenue to support itself on a long-term basis."

The market for boat slips is too competitive for the city to raise rental rates to cover expenses, according to city officials.

"We are going to require a contribution from the general fund to support the marina on an ongoing basis," Bisballe said.

Also, a municipal bond advisor is being solicited to refinance \$3.8 million in bonds, issued in 2007 at 4 percent, to redesign

and build the marina.

Interest payments alone are about \$168,000 per year.

"In 2011, we started making principle payments of \$50,000 plus interest," Kedzierski said. "The principle goes up as high as \$150,000."

Refinancing can't happen until 2016 because the bonds include a no-call provision, he said.

The Shores AA+ bond rating may facilitate refinancing.

"The capital market for a municipality at AA+ would probably allow us to pay 2 percent on those bonds as opposed to 4 percent," Kedzierski said. "That's a significant savings."

Bonds were issued based on the harbor reaching full rental occupancy, which doesn't happen.

There were 10 vacant slips this year, according to Councilman Robert Barrett.

"We could have recommended to council to allocate money out of the general fund to cover (the deficit) and we would not have to file a plan," Bisballe said. "But, that doesn't bring to light what the marina costs to operate and the longer-term strategies we need to adopt to do reduce costs."

Family donates K-9 share

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Of the hundreds of payments recorded in the municipal check registry, one that won't reappear until at least 2019 is a \$2,500 payment for the city's annual share of the public safety K-9 team.

The team, part of the Grosse Pointe Farms public safety department, is shared among the five Points and Harper Woods.

Each community thereby contributes \$2,500 annually.

The same with Grosse Pointe Shores, except residents Greg and Sharon Peters are covering their city's obligation for five

years.

"They made a commitment to take care of the services for the Shores for \$12,500," said John Schulte, Shores public safety director. "We're very grateful for their assistance."

"That's a huge help," said Farms Officer Tim Harris, handler of K-9 Duke.

"Both my husband and I come from families of police officers," said Sharon Peters. "We understand the dangers they face each day to keep our city safe."

Harris and Duke are on call for service in the six suburbs.

"It helps my three children and five grandchildren who are spread out between the Woods,

Park and City," Sharon Peters said. "Having the K-9 unit available gives us a peace of mind."

"They can call any time for a track or search," Harris said. "That goes for all the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods."

Most of the K-9 program is funded for five years by Gretchen Valade, owner of the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe on the Hill in the Farms.

Duke's name, honoring Duke Ellington, is indirect homage to Valade.

The Peters' offer was received after Shores finance director Rhonda Rickets on Oct. 22 issued \$2,500 annual payment to the Farms, which returned it.

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GROSSE POINTE NEWS MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the Grosse Pointes the most relevant, accurate and timely information in our print and online publications.

OUR VIEW

Important decision for this community

Speculation about the future of Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Tom Harwood became a moot point when Harwood announced he will not seek another contract.

A letter to board of education president Joan Dindoffer on Thursday, Dec. 4, told of Harwood's exit plan when his contract ends June 30, 2015.

The letter was the worst-kept secret in town as the news became official Monday, Dec. 8.

Harwood has taken plenty of heat during his tenure as superintendent, especially during the failed technology bond earlier this year.

His year-to-year contract was eventually renewed by the slimmest of margins, but changes in the board during the November election likely meant more changes in the future.

To Harwood, we say thank you. This tenure wasn't easy and that's not all your fault. Whether certain decisions or issues were handled the right way or the wrong way are now a part of the past.

For any errors, Harwood also did much good for the district. There is no doubt he cared.

But this is a turning point and it's important the board of education understand what's at stake here.

There is no room to choose a bad superintendent here. And while that sounds obvious, this is perhaps the most important time in the history of Grosse Pointe's public schools.

With all of the positive going on in the region right now, Grosse Pointe's schools can't take a step backward.

Grosse Pointe's public schools have to do more with less money. They have to be creative in funding the needs that keep this district one of the top in the world.

Let's not pretend people don't move here for the school district. They do. Just as they do for our shopping districts, our restaurants, our parks, city services and beautiful houses.

Those with children looking to move here care about the schools first. The schools help with the value of the whole community.

The schools need a strong leader and right out of the gate, this new board faces it's most important challenge right away.

We implore the board to scout the nation for a great leader here. The next superintendent may or not be someone from Grosse Pointe or Metro Detroit. You have to look everywhere.

This is an important decision for everyone who lives and works in the Grosse Pointes.

Great parade

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce did a great job with this year's Santa Claus Parade. Thanks, too, to the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Parade, all of the sponsors and donors and the Grosse Pointe War Memorial for taping the event.

Ted Everingham is the perfect parade voice for our community.

It's a ton of work. And each year it's an amazing event. Thanks to all involved.

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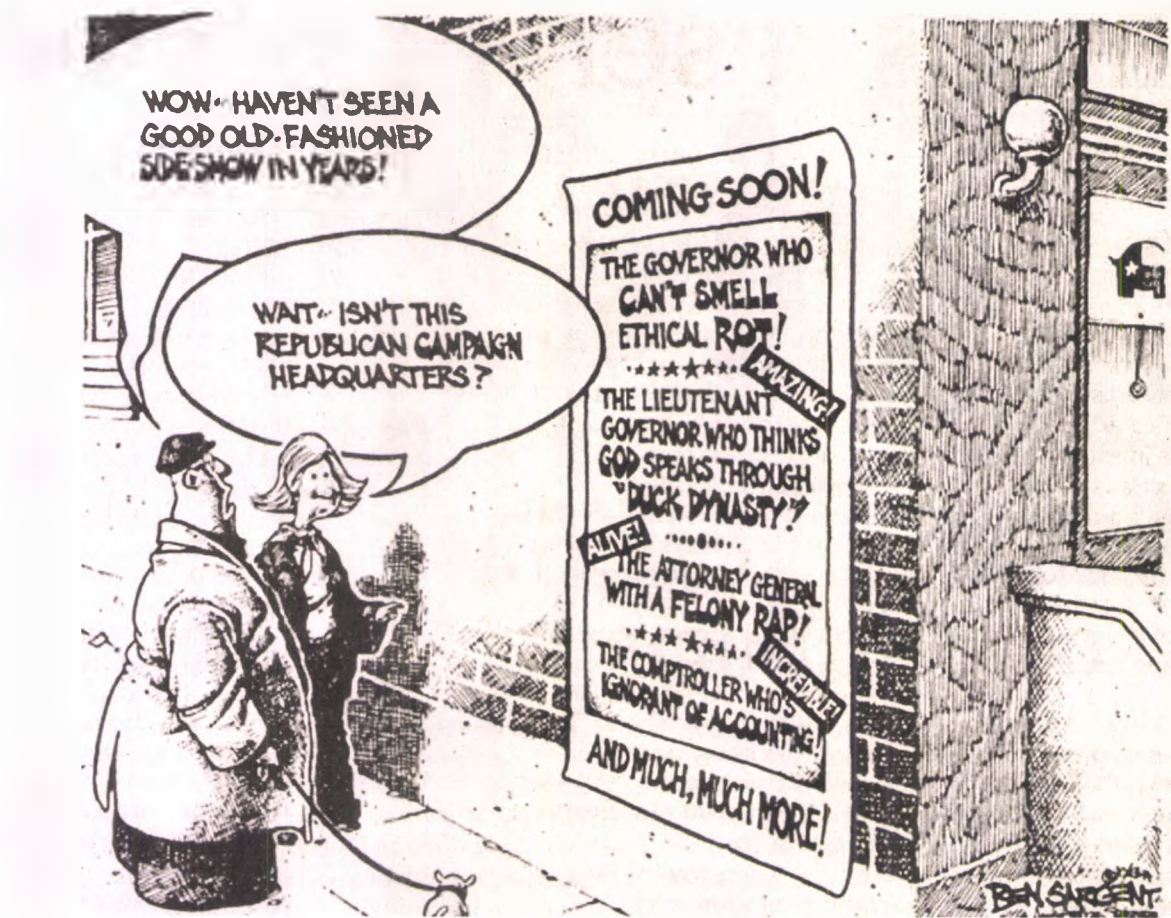
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LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed. Longer letters may be edited for length and all letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include a daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters to the Editor can be e-mailed to jwarner@grossepointenews.com.

Crime in the Pointes

To the Editor:

In reading the crime watch in the Grosse Pointe News each week, it allows me to be able to pay attention to what is reported and imagine what isn't reported. I am really tired of Grosse Pointers who keep their heads buried in the sand, if you will, and think it (crime) isn't going to touch them. Well, it's time to wake up and accept the fact crime is and will continue to plague our communities, not so much from the inside but the outside. It's just what it is. It's not just the Pointes, it's all counties and communities where people live, work and play. It's a real shame that working people can't keep the things they work hard for and the parasites from the outside, a few from the inside, feel that they can maliciously and insultingly take from us individuals and squander for their own purposeless lives.

You can blame whomever you want for their

choices or reasons for their actions, but until we start putting hot sauce and gun powder in our grits, it's going to keep sending the message that Grosse Pointe, and other established communities, is going to be their "cash cow."

Detroit is growing and recovering beautifully. It's an established communities of hard working people are facing the same thing, a little more intense, but still, the same threat. Chief Craig is an awesome chief who puts hot sauce and gun powder in his grits. All the chiefs in the Grosse Pointe communities need to do the same. All police departments need to be integrated with minority police officers. You figure the engine that runs our cars and trucks have parts that allow an engine to be an engine. Big, small, round or square they all make the engine run.

We live and work in racially diverse environments, everywhere, and I welcome it but to those who come to live in our neighborhoods for the wrong reasons, not to make it better but challenging, forgetaboutit!

Until people get tired of their cars and trucks sitting on blocks minus tires, kids going to the garage and their bikes are gone, plus many more assorted scenarios, it is going to continue. To those clueless individuals who continue to leave expensive laptops, money, purses, etc., in locked or unlocked cars, you need to wake up and smell the coffee. And I'm sure their insurance companies feel the same way. The solution, and there are many, look at your individual lives and lifestyles. Ask yourself how can I further protect my life, the lives of my family and belongings? What can I do to lessen an opportunist of being less successful with his or her criminal activities?

It's time we all live defensively. It means using good common sense and what I hear on the streets, well, there is not a lot to that in Grosse Pointe. Stop leaving your cute little dogs in cars while you shop. They steal them too. We are an easy target. Short of fortifying the perimeter, we need to take fortifying to a whole new level. It doesn't mean carrying guns, it means collectively getting creative in our own lives. All five pointes need to get together, brainstorm, share thoughts and ideas and create a plan for the present and the future of our community. The police can do what they do, but being pro-active, along with their support, we can be successful and once again, feel in control of our personal space.

M. PONKEY
Grosse Pointe Park

Take down the barricades on Kercheval

To the Editor:

I was in attendance at last night's Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting. I was surprised to learn that the City had not removed the sheds on Kercheval near Alter in November as I understood it had agreed to do last August.

I heard repeated refusals to answer two simple questions from Park residents by the mayor, city attorney, city manager and council members: "Who made the decision to erect the sheds?; When was the decision made?"

This conduct by Park public officials and employees flies in the face of recent comments by Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce President Sandy Baruah at the Grosse Pointe Chambers Business Expo last month. She said that we should be promoting regionalism and working together to move beyond the Detroit bankruptcy.

As a former Park resident, I am embarrassed by the communities' conduct. Whatever ends the Mayor and Council may have in mind and refuse to share with their constituents do not justify the means being utilized here.

As President Reagan might say were he alive today, "Tear down that barricade Mr. Mayor!"

KIRKLAND W. GAREY
Grosse Pointe Woods

GUEST OPINION By Greg Zyla

The Saga of Young Joe

With more drivers on the road this holiday season, it's time for our yearly column on the dangers of drinking and driving. DUI arrests continue to be a major problem nationwide, and the following story is too often repeated over and over across the land.

This is the saga of young Joe, a fun loving 21-year-old who is full of life, has lots of friends and is a good person. He also has a beautiful muscle car, a 1966 Chevelle SS396, he loves to drive. As Joe lives in a warm climate state, taking his car out during the holidays is a common occurrence.

Joe could be your friend, son, sibling, parent or your husband. He's having a great time at a holiday party, joining in on all the fun. He's overdone the eating and drinking, something many of us do each year.

Now it's 1 a.m., and time to head home. Joe

knows he's had one too many of the alcoholic beverages, but doesn't feel it will impair his driving abilities. Thank goodness he's alone in his Chevelle SS396.

Joe isn't aware that on this night, he'll become one of the more than 32,000 drivers that die in car accidents every year. Even though these numbers are the lowest since 1949, every 51 minutes an alcohol related fatality occurs somewhere in the United States, resulting in over 10,000 DUI fatalities annually. Further, his death will be recorded in the 25-percent group of impaired driving fatalities that occur between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration tracks all data available on alcohol related crashes and fatalities, and stresses that drunk driving is often a symptom of a larger problem: alcohol misuse

and abuse. The organization also notes that alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes cost more than an estimated \$37 billion annually.

Recently, NHTSA has seen improvements in the way motorists behave on roadways and in the safety of the vehicles they drive. NHTSA's 5-Star Safety Ratings Program and nationwide collaborations like 'Click It or Ticket' and 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' have key roles in making roads safer. Yet everyone must remember that with all the advances, more than 30,000 people die each year on the highway.

Back to Joe.

Joe is not aware he is speeding at 65-mph, and approaching a curve in the highway that should be taken at 35-mph. His reactions, meanwhile, have been slowed by the alcohol. Then, his cell phone rings and he's further distracted.

Joe is going too fast to make the curve. To make matters worse, he also forgot to buckle his seatbelt when he left the party. Before Joe even knows what is happening, his car is off the dark country road and headed directly toward a huge tree. His 1966 Chevelle SS396 does not have airbags.

There is no correcting. Joe's car hits the tree with a resounding crunch.

At 1/10th of a second, the car's front bumper and grillwork collapse.

At 2/10ths of a second, the hood crumbles, rises, and smashes into the windshield. The grillwork now disintegrates.

At 3/10ths of a second Joe is sprung upright from his seat. His legs are immediately broken, and his knees crash against the dashboard. The steering wheel bends under his grip.

See JOE, Page 10A

Shores reserves boosted \$181,000

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — An increase to the municipal rainy day fund during fiscal year 2014-15 continued a trend begun late last decade. “You’ve added to fund balance in each of the last five years,” Aaron Stevens, an auditor with Abraham & Gaffney certified public accounts, told the Grosse Pointe Shores city council Tuesday, Nov. 18. “Your general fund is in good shape.” Stevens’ presentation of a draft of the annual municipal audit, for June 30, revealed a \$181,000 additional to unreserved general fund balance.

The increase equals 13.5 percent of 2014 expenditures. The figure is less than last year’s 15 percent reserves, and also is less than the auditor’s recommended 20 percent. But, it would have risen to 21.3 percent without the citywide infrastructure improvements by Honeywell, Stevens said. Mayor Ted Kedzierski hopes the audit results strengthens the city’s bond rating, already raised last year by Standard & Poor’s from AA to AA+.

“We’re campaigning for AAA,” said Kedzierski. “AAA allows you to reduce bond costs.” As the Shores recovers from the recession, city

officials want to stay frugal. “It’s cost discipline, that’s all,” Councilman Bruce Bisballe, head of the finance committee. “You see a lot of business chop, then things get OK and they start slipping backward. We’re not doing that.” Kedzierski said the audit was good news. “Our expenditures were under our projected income,” he said. “Our income was reduced (because) of the Honeywell project, which was a major improvement to the community. The investment is supposed to pay off with long-term energy savings.

“We’re in better financial shape than previously,” said City Manager Mark Wollenweber. Some \$60,000 left over from the fiscal year was allocated to the retiree healthcare fund. “The bad news,” Stevens said, concerned a \$6.5 million unfunded pension liability. “It’s down the road, but its coming.” Kedzierski added perspective. “That number in March 2009 was \$7.1 million,” he said. “In the scheme of things, our finances are in pretty good shape.” Property tax receipts funded half of \$5,360,914 municipal revenue last year, a 3.8 percent decrease from the year

before. Of expenses, 31 percent funded general government operations. Public safety and public works each accounted for 27 percent of expenses. The water fund’s unrestricted net position dropped from 62 percent in 2010 to 32 percent last year, according to the audit. “Part of that difference is the settlement with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club,” said Kedzierski, referring to compensating the club \$400,000

over 16 years for overcharging water purchases from 2000 to 2007. “The marina fund was positive (\$271,000) in 2010,” Stevens said. “Now, you’re down to a negative (-\$14,000) net position, over the last five years.” The city must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury. “A marina is an expensive proposition,” Bisballe said. “We have to use resources to fund that.”

WOODS:

Continued from page 1A

questions to be answered in this process yet, a lot of decisions that have to be made.”

Despite those unanswered questions at this point in the ongoing process, the effects of last year’s event left little choice for officials. “There was absolutely no way we could continue,” he said.

“No way we could keep doing this the same way next year.” Woods resident, Tina Opzelewski, agreed. “It got scary there for a while,” Opzelewski, who attended last year’s event, said. “Me, person-

ally, I support this 100 percent. I want to enjoy the fireworks, but I want to feel safe while watching them. “What else can they do? I think it’s the best option they have to work with here.”

HARWOOD:

Continued from page 1A

time about Harwood’s ability to lead the district. At issue, some felt, were missteps by Harwood during his tenure, including problems with a visit to the district

by former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum and issues with the football coach at Grosse Pointe South High School. Many saw the defeat by voters in February of a \$50 million technology bond as a vote of no confidence in Harwood’s leadership. However, other board

members have cited Harwood’s accomplishments, including a balanced budget and exceptional staff development programs, as signs of his strengths. Harwood was named superintendent in July 2011. He has been with the district since 2006.

Before being appointed superintendent, he served as assistant superintendent for human resources, and director of special services. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board is 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at Brownell Middle School.

FARMS:

Continued from page 1A

funded,” Theros said. The percentage is 16 points higher than recorded in the prior fiscal year’s audit. “Our public safety pension is 109 percent funded,” Theros said. The figure is 3 percentage points greater than the prior period. Auditors gave the Farms a clean opinion, according to Mark Hurst, of Plante Moran accounting firm. “Everything was fine,”

Hurst said. He presented the findings during the Monday, Dec. 8, council meeting, the last of 2014. The 111-page audit report represents about 500 hours of work, Hurst said. “This is a comprehensive financial report,” he said. “It has a lot more information (and) is designed to be more transparent than the state requires. Probably 50 communities in Michigan participate in this program.” All municipal departments operated last year within or below their budgets, according to

Theros. “We maintained the same (14-mil) millage rate for the last four years, which is the lowest operating millage of the Grosse Pointes,” Theros said. “We try to operate lean and mean,” Lamerato said. The city spent \$1.3 million on capital projects last fiscal year, including \$631,000 on road improvements and \$171,000 for public works vehicles and equipment. “We’re able, without any tax increases, to keep up our infrastructure by transferring some excess funds from the general

fund to capital projects,” Lamerato said. “This year, we transferred \$604,000 from the general fund to the capital projects fund. “That included a \$200,000 supplemental transfer at the end of the year.” Without the \$200,000 transfer, expenditures would have increased only .8 percent from the prior year, he said. The Farms has an AA+ bond rating.

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I Remember When...

For nearly 75 years it has been the responsibility and privilege of the Grosse Pointe News to watch, listen and record how the five Grosse Pointes have grown, flourished and changed.

As the Grosse Pointe News approaches its 75th anniversary in November 2015, the staff invites the community to join with us in reminiscing about when there was still evidence of the strip farms to recent events impacting their lives.

We request our readers, their friends and family to send special memories of their home town — City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods. These remembrances of 200 to 250 words, for example, can be about the last item purchased at Jacobson’s, the first day of school, your first job or the

house you grew up in. A memory might center around a significant date or celebration, a business, organization, enduring friendships or the opportunities available living by Lake St. Clair.

Photos also are accepted. They can be dropped off, mailed in or sent as an attachment in jpg form. Photos will be returned if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

The first of your remembrances are to appear in January and focus on winter activities, events and the weather. Your letters will be printed regularly. The first 75 published submissions will receive a free year’s subscription to the Grosse Pointe News.

Send your stories to:
Grosse Pointe News, 21316 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 or 75years@grossepointenews.com.

Grosse Pointe News



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FWS | THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



It is common for charitable organizations to publish wish lists at the end of the year. However, these lists are year round, and Franklin Wright Settlements has been meeting the needs of and granting those wishes to thousands of men, women, children, seniors and families for over 133 years in the greater metropolitan Detroit area.

Have you ever wondered where the funds come from to support the many programs at Franklin Wright? Programs such as the After School Enrichment program, the Teen Center, the Annual College tour, Summer Enrichment program continue to enrich the quality of life for individuals in addition to strengthening, reuniting and building stronger families.

Franklin Wright is generously supported by United Way and other committed and giving donors, but the existence for additional resources to meet the growing needs of the community is real. The economic forecast for the city of Detroit is steadily increasing with a glimmer of hope, but there are other Detroit areas who continue to need the programs that Franklin Wright offers. Can Franklin Wright count on you, the community, to invest in a better tomorrow for every individual who walks through the door?

Monetary donations to support Franklin Wright programs are paramount, but we would like for you to use your imagination, as we have, to thumb through a holiday catalogue and create a wish list of what you would love to see a non-profit organization blessed with, not only during the holiday season, but year round. So what does a Franklin Wright wish list include? Well, thank you for asking. Do you have some spare time to help children learn to read? I don’t have to remind you what the statistics are in the city of Detroit regarding literacy; the rate is around 47 percent (functionally illiterate) for those who cannot read. We also need volunteers to help our children develop good study habits and prepare for the ACT. Franklin Wright could use a large bus to transport our youth and seniors. Were you aware that there are historic areas in the city

of Detroit unlike any in the United States that even our seniors have not explored? Franklin Wright has a full bowling alley that needs serious repair and we need sponsors to meet the needs of youth that annually go on the college tour, in addition to travel kits that include toiletries. Many of these students have never been outside of the city of Detroit, so suitcases, and even school supplies, are in high demand. Franklin Wright can also use recreational items and sporting equipment



including basketballs, volley and foursquare balls. The management and staff of Franklin Wright are excited about the continued good that will take place because you, the community, is willing to take ownership in this endeavor. We need your help with a “Spirit of Giving” to continue to impact the long term success of Franklin Wright programs and the community.

On December 13th, Franklin Wright will celebrate 133 years of commitment & dedication to the community at the annual **Spirit of Giving Gala** at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Join us for a spectacular **Evening of Elegance** as we honor Loretta V. Davis, President & CEO of Institute of Population Health (IOPH); Dave Meador, Vice Chair and CAO of DTE; Hiram Jackson, President & CEO of Realtime Media; and the nationally acclaimed Detroit Academy of Arts and Science choir, who will also perform in mini concert.

For more information regarding Franklin Wright Settlements’ Spirit of Giving Gala and its programs, please call 313-379-1000 x241.

Packages stolen from front porch

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A woman living in the 700 block of Rivard wasn't home during the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 2, when someone snatched three packages off of her doorstep.

Detective Al Gwyn, of the City of Grosse Pointe public safety department, indicated the theft was a byproduct of modern shopping trends, not directly connected with similar crimes reported during the holiday season in metro Detroit.

"More and more people are buying things on-line for delivery," Gwyn said.

The shipping company notified the Rivard homeowner that her packages were delivered.

"But, when she returned home, the packages were gone," said Officer Joe Adams

Gone are three sets of scuba masks, wool socks and a Password Journal worth a combined \$270.

The victim checked with a neighbor, who saw nothing unusual, Adams said.

Residents, businesses honored

By John McTaggart
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It's a time-honored tradition in Grosse Pointe Park.

Every year, the city's beautification commission selects a handful of business and residential properties and bestows upon them a very distinguished honor — a beautification award.

"It's really an honor to be selected," Grosse Pointe Park City Forester Brian Colter said. "It's something these residents and businesses are very proud of, and work very hard to achieve."

This year, the commission took nominations and decided on 28 residential winners and five business award recipients.

The residential award winners are found all over the city.

"We have the city divided into five different areas for our residential awards," Colter said. "And these areas are judged differently instead



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK

Residential winners of the beautification awards pose for a photo during a ceremony Nov. 6.

of against one another directly. This year we had at least five winners from each area."

Colter said the awards are presented based largely upon the curb appeal of the property.

"That is the key phrase," he explained. "It has to have the curb appeal. So if someone is driving by the street it really stands out. Did they do something in the past year that really adds to the appeal? That's part of what goes into the decision."

Award winners are presented with a plaque, a photo of the property and a yard sign to display, he said.

"The purpose is to encourage people to beautify their property or business," Colter said. "That's what it's really all about."

The year's winners included Ann Kraemer, Kathleen and Roland Grose, David and Donna Costa, Dhimitry Rapi, Nevrus Nazarko, Glenn Jones, Jim and Kristin Beardslee, Jim and Sandra Turnbull, Susan Auch, Jack and Geri Daly,

John Jones, Herman and Elizabeth Wang, Robert and Alison Larson, Frank and Sally Murray, Frederick and Linda Schaible, Edward Stroble III, James and Maureen Graham, Aamir and Parveen Siddiqui, Patrick Drummond Trust, Steve and Barbara Mallires, Tim and Cathy Buisch, Richard Davis and Helen Tigchelaar, Sr, Amer and Ms. Cynthia Aboukasm, William and Marion Cuneo, John and Joanne Hoyer, Jennifer and Brent Kuhar and Antonio Galinato.

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JOE:

Continued from page 8A

At 4/10ths of a second, the front of the car is completely destroyed and is now dead still. However, the rear end of the car is still traveling at 55-MPH, and the 850-lb. Chevy big-block engine and accessories are crunched into the tree.

At 5/10ths of a second, the impact rips Joe's shoes clean off his feet. The chassis bends in the

middle, and Joe's head is slammed into the windshield. The car's rear end begins its downward fall as the spinning wheels churn into the ground.

At 6/10ths of a second, the entire body of the car is twisted out of shape and the front seat continues to ram forward.

At 7/10ths of a second, Joe's chest is pinned against the steering wheel shaft. His internal organs crash against his rib cage.

At 8/10ths of a second, Joe is dead. He's now a statistic.

If you plan to host a party this year over the holidays or for the Super Bowl or Daytona 500, remember these important facts: You can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served alcohol to ends up in a drunk-driving crash; make sure all of your guests designate sober drivers in advance, or help arrange alternate transportation; stop serving alcohol at the end of the Super Bowl's third quarter or at the 300-mile mark of the Daytona 500; have phone numbers for taxi cab companies available; and finally, have everyone put their keys into a large bowl when entering the party and then take away vehicle keys if they get intoxicated.

In summary, it's not just young drivers like young Joe who die on our nation's highways. Many adult drivers become statistics, too, from similar alcohol induced or distracted driving mistakes. Plan your travel carefully this holiday season, and never be in a hurry. If roads turn nasty, pull off safely at a roadside rest stop or have a coffee at a restaurant.

Finally, if you must stop your vehicle to rest, never pull off and park on the side of a road — it's dangerous sitting there as the odds of being struck by an oncoming vehicle is very high.


Keep in mind that more deaths per mile traveled occur during holiday season. Have a safe 2014 Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc., and a safe New Year's Eve.


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City of Grosse Pointe

Grudge

About 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, a 47-year-old man from Howell showed up at a Dodge Place residence and threatened the 49-year-old homeowner, the homeowner told police.

The Howell man reportedly dated the homeowner's wife two decades ago.

"(He) fears the man is crazy and would do harm at anytime," said an officer. "(I) advised (him) to seek a personal protection order from Wayne County."

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about this or other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department at (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Wanted

A 28-year-old Clinton Township woman, wanted in Grosse Pointe Farms for prescription fraud, was arrested mid-afternoon Wednesday, Dec. 3, leaving a relative's house in the 400 block of Belanger.

Officers searching her reported finding 11 Ambien pills.

King of road

A patrolman at 2:19 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, saw the driver of a semi truck lose control on northbound Moross approaching Mack and crossed onto the grass median.

"There was no other traffic on the road," said the officer.

The driver, 33, of Monroe, reentered Moross and stopped at a red light.

"The driver's face (was) flushed and red," said an officer. "(He) had an unlit cigarette he was attempting to smoke."

He failed field sobriety tests, including balance, police said.

They took him to Cottage Hospital for his blood to be drawn and shipped to a crime lab for

Special event

The Spirit of Giving Gala black tie gala "An Evening of Elegance" will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave, Detroit, MI 48201. Proceeds from the event benefit Franklin Wright's extensive educational programs and are tax deductible. For more information regarding the Spirit of Giving and its programs, call (313) 579-1000 x241.

Public Safety Reports

analysis of alcohol and drug content.

Knives and drugs

At 7:13 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, a patrolman saw a man with two knife sheaves protruding under his untucked shirt standing next to a black 2002 BMW 330i four-door at the Mack and Moross service station.

A search of the man revealed a large "combat style" knife and a folding knife, the patrolman said.

"(He) appeared very excited and was possibly under the influence of a stimulating substance," said the officer. "(He) spoke in a loud, excited manner and waved (his) arms as he spoke."

Officers searching the BMW reported finding a pipe containing marijuana, a crack pipe and, in the trunk, 126 grams of marijuana in an open plastic bin.

The man displayed a medical marijuana card, but was cited for possessing the drug, narcotics paraphernalia and concealed weapons.

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Bike taken

A blue Diamondback mountain bike was stolen between 5:50 and 8:40 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, from racks near the Fisher entrance to Grosse Pointe South High School.

The bike is worth \$150, according to its owner, a 17-year-old Grosse Pointe Park man.

"(He) stated the bike was not locked," said a public safety officer.

Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Farms Public

Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Farms Public

Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Farms Public

Safety Department at (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Reaches for it

A man identifying himself as a retired police officer is charged with possessing a firearm while driving drunk.

Officer Tony Spina investigated the man, 57, of Detroit, at 12:03 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1, for parking a 2006 Lexus in the right lane of the 900 block of northbound Lakeshore.

"The driver kept attempting to reach for something on his right side," Spina said.

Spina told the man to stand still as two backup officers arrived.

"(I) reached towards the driver's right hip and found a fully loaded handgun tucked in his waistband," Spina said.

Officers said the pistol was a Smith & Wesson M&P .40 caliber. The M&P designation stands for "military and police."

"The driver identified himself as a retired Detroit police officer," Spina said. "(He) spoke with slurred speech and had watery, bloodshot eyes. (He) was swaying and having trouble maintaining balance."

The man registered a .25 percent blood alcohol level, more than three times the state legal maximum to operate a motor vehicle.

Officers arrested him for drunken driving and possession of a firearm while driving drunk.

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being arrested for driving without an operator's license on northbound Lakeshore near Fontana Lane about 4:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

A patrolman pulled her over for speeding a silver 2014 Ford Focus 20 mph over the 35 mph limit.

She was wanted on three unspecified warrants, one from Detroit and two in Dearborn, police said.

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Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department at (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

ATM card stolen

A woman in the 900 Block of Vernier reported Dec. 7 to police his ATM card was stolen, perhaps by a friend. The victim told police she loaned the card to her friend in November and it was used to purchase cigarettes at that time. After that, she believes the card may have fallen on to the floor of her vehicle where it was picked up by her friend and stolen. Since the theft, the card, and the attached account, have been used several times totaling \$1,028.50.

Thousands in jewelry gone

A resident in the 500 block of Sunningdale reported to police about \$14,000 in jewelry was stolen from her home while she and her husband were away in

Florida. The theft occurred sometime between Friday, Nov. 7, and Saturday, Nov. 22, according to the police report. The victim is having her house renovated and several contractors were allowed access to the house while the couple was out of town, the report stated.

Rides off

A child's bicycle was stolen from a house in the 500 block of Renaud Wednesday, Nov. 26. The victim said she was inside the house when she noticed a white male in his mid-20s, wearing jeans, a dark-colored winter jacket and a dark-colored cap riding the orange Trek bike down the driveway.

Needs more

Police officers were dispatched to the 20000 block of Mack Avenue after getting a report that a highly intoxicated white male was at a drugstore. When officers arrived, they discovered the suspect was attempting to

steal alcohol from the store which he had concealed in the waistband of his pants. When officers searched the suspect, they discovered a small bag of marijuana and second bottle of alcohol.

Ripped off

Four tires and the rims were stolen from a vehicle on the 2200 block of Roslyn Wednesday, Nov. 26. The victim told police he backed his vehicle into the driveway about 11 p.m. the night prior and locked the vehicle's doors. The next morning, he woke to find four tires and rims had been stolen off the vehicle. The front axle was propped up with landscaping blocks, while the back axle rested on the ground. The victim told police he heard a thud outside the home at approximately 3 a.m., but did not investigate the noise. According to the police report, each tire and rim was valued at about \$2,500, making the total loss of the incident about \$10,000.

Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department at (313) 343-2400.

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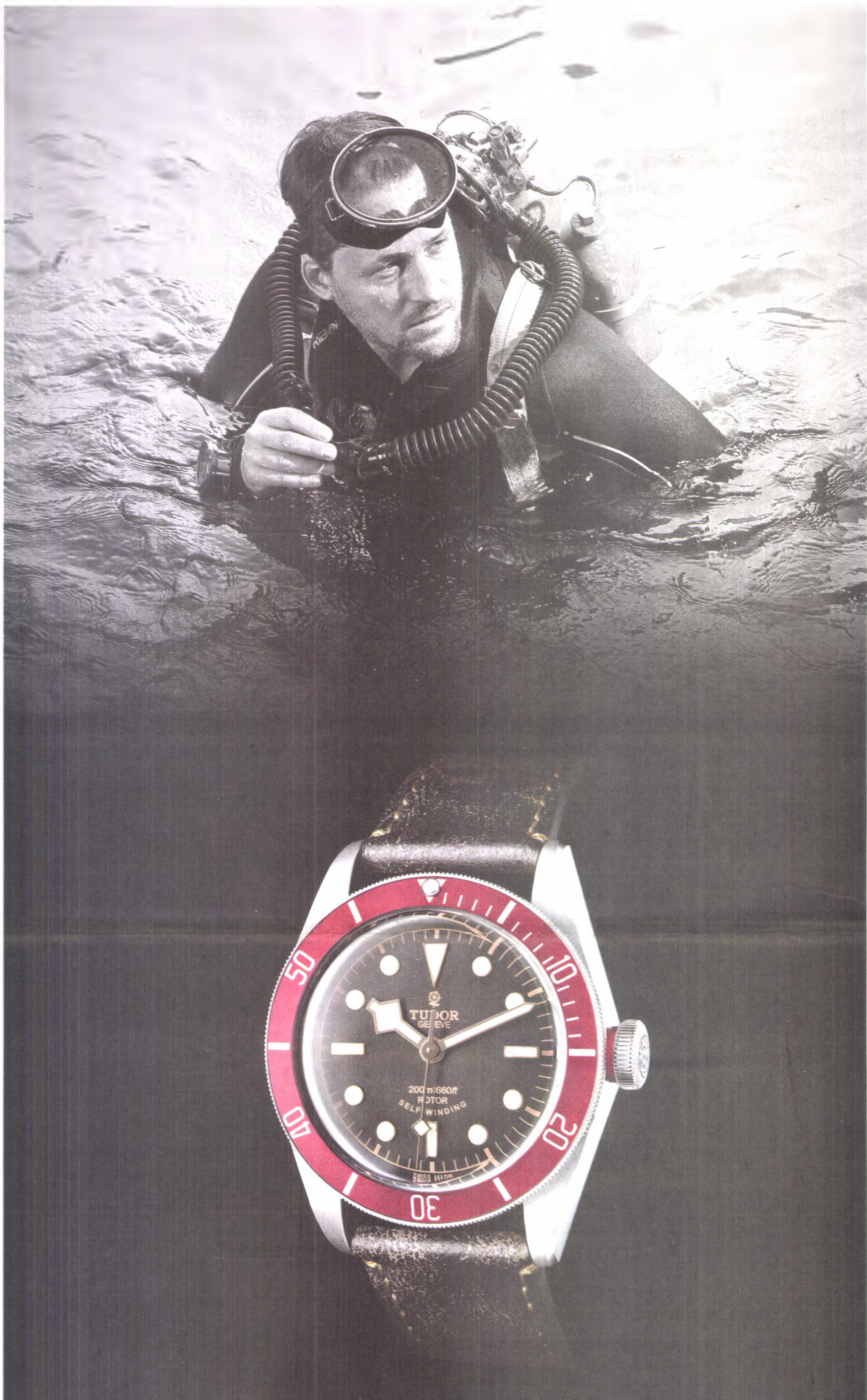
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3B ENTERTAINMENT | 4E HEALTH | 5B CHURCHES | 6B OBITUARIES

Pilots take part of Santa’s Michigan route

By Ann L. Fouty
Features Editor

While Santa Claus and his reindeer are still at the North Pole, 200 pilots are delivering Christmas presents to children in Michigan’s foster care system. This year, all 5,248 Michigan children in the Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc. network receive a minimum of three wrapped presents delivered by general aviation pilots in the organization’s Operation Good Cheer.

Grosse Pointe Farms pilot Robert Eger has been a volunteer since 2010, but was grounded due to his Cessna 182’s mechanical problems. He would have received an assignment Dec. 6 and flown out of Oakland County International Airport to land at one of 24 small Michigan airports.

Eger’s plane holds up to 500 pounds of cargo, however, the gifts don’t weigh that much, but it is stuffed, he said.

According to Eger, his daughter, Sydney, a junior at Grosse Pointe North High School, does the packing because she does it “scientifically.”



Volunteers line up to pack presents to be delivered to a small airport in Michigan where another set of volunteers will unload the plane. The gifts will be taken to children who are in the state’s foster care system.

“Sydney has become an expert at squeezing every last gift into the plane,” he said in his summation of the 2013 trips to Port Huron and Gladwin.

“The volunteers at Gladwin welcomed us with hot chocolate and pizza after we unloaded the plane. These people really work hard for the children,” Eger said.

“Each child has six things on their list,” said Sherry Brackenwagen, Child



PHOTOS COURTESY SHERRY BRACKENWAGEN

An empty hangar of Pentastar was filled with wrapped presents to be flown to Michigan children served by Child and Family Services.

and Family Services administrative assistant. “Each child lists their hobbies, personalities,

favorite color. We reach out to the donors and ask they purchase a minimum of three gifts.”

The wrapped donations are tagged with the recipients’ first names only and a destination designation.

Eger said he has delivered bikes, balls, scooters, dolls and all types of toys for children aged birth through 18.

Twenty Detroit trucking companies volunteer their drivers and trucks to pick up the toys at 29 metro sites and drop them off at the Oakland County airport at a hangar donated by Pentastar Aviation.

“Hundreds of volunteers show up to sort gifts to their destination,” Brackenwagen said.

Eger has flown to Jackson, Gladwin, Adrian and Port Huron. He, like other pilots, is not reimbursed.

“It is my understanding that it was a successful day and all of the presents were delivered,” Eger said Monday. “My daughter, Sydney, and I were both very disappointed that we could not fly in OGC this year. We will sign up for next year. We both feel it is a great program.”

Operation Good Cheer began in 1971 when Constantine Kortidis of White Lake approached the state organization to assure foster children could open Christmas presents.

Some 66 children received gifts that first year. Over the years, Operation Good Cheer grew across the upper and lower peninsulas and the need for a more efficient transportation method was sought. Kortidis started flying his Cherokee Six with Jerry Drew, retired air traffic controller, organizing the flights. Kortidis died in 2008. Drew remains the air traffic controller.

“We hope that our efforts and the efforts of the countless volunteers make Christmas a little merrier for these children. I know that it has for this pilot and his daughter,” Eger wrote.

Eger can be assured the children are grateful.

In January, Brackenwagen said, “Children will send thank you cards to our office. We will send them to the donor. We take pride 87 percent (of the recipients) send thank you cards. Some will color pictures.”



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Finish it Fridays

Above right, Kate DeMeester, Grosse Pointe Public Library assistant director, took advantage of the library’s Finish It Fridays, at Central Library to begin knitting a purple and blue scarf for a relative. The event takes place in front of the newly renovated fireplace and is held from 9 to 11 a.m. Fridays, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19. Anyone with unfinished crafts can work on them in the company of others, getting acquainted and exchanging ideas.

“This has been sitting in my basement for a year,” said Laney Corrado, above. “If not for this, I wouldn’t do it.” Corrado is making a topiary tree using strips of pink pages from the Financial Times. She saw the idea in the December 2013 issue of “Period Living,” an English magazine the library carries.

Whether a home decoration, a piece of clothing or a kitchen accessory, such as the cross stitched potholder at right, residents can spend two hours with other crafters. The library furnishes coffee, tea and hot chocolate. No reservations are necessary.



Portfolio Diversification



Suzanne Antonelli, CFP®
Senior Portfolio Manager

With all the investment options available, it can be difficult to cull through the morass of choices when building your portfolio. For the non-professional investor, this task is made increasingly difficult with all the existing products and the new products that keep being created purportedly for investment

purposes. Many sales people use the concept of portfolio diversification to sell their latest and greatest alternative investments. Portfolio diversification is simply an investment strategy that reduces risk by investing in a variety of assets. The concept can be summed up in one phrase: “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

I had a prospective client ask me to evaluate their portfolio of 15 mutual funds. They assumed, because they had so many funds, they must be diversified. However, when digging into the actual individual holdings, I found they had over 15% of all of their assets in one company – all the mutual funds were

buying the same or similar companies. This example illustrates that having a lot of investments does not mean you are diversified; you need a lot of different kinds of investments.

Essentially, there are three asset categories: stocks, which provide growth; bonds, which provide income; and cash, which provides stability and security. Your allocation to each of these general categories should be based on your investment goals, your risk tolerance, and your investment time horizon.

Once you have decided on your category allocations, you can work to diversify within those categories. This article will only address diversification in a

stock portfolio. Bonds are generally less volatile than stocks, offer lower returns, and are used in a portfolio to provide income. Bonds have a relatively low correlation to the stock market and offer balance to a portfolio. Stocks historically offer the highest returns, but with greater risk and higher volatility in the short term.

The portion to be allocated to stocks should incorporate various industries (i.e. financial, health care, technology, etc.), market capitalizations (small, medium and large companies) and geographic exposure to both developed and emerging markets across the globe. How you choose to allocate geographically, among

industries, and the size of companies will greatly alter your risk. For example, small companies are more volatile and riskier than large companies, but by adding a percentage of small company stocks to your portfolio you lower the overall risk of the portfolio.

When building your portfolio I recommend a straightforward mix of stocks, bonds, and cash utilizing the most cost effective and efficient investment vehicles to fill these categories. If you have the time and aptitude you can buy individual stocks and bonds; if not, you can fill your categories utilizing exchange traded funds or mutual funds. I recommend staying with the

basics; adding the latest fad in alternative investments (distressed securities, hedge funds, financial derivatives, etc.) generally benefits the seller of the product more than the investor.

All questions and comments are welcome.

Suzanne has over 20 years of experience in personalized portfolio management, tax and retirement planning, risk management, and estate plan execution and funding. She specializes in the unique financial needs of families, retirees, and women. Phone: 248-223-0122 Email: santonelli@sigmainvestments.com

2B | FACES & PLACES



New board

Fine Arts Society of Detroit's board members are, from left, Lisa Lechniak of Grosse Pointe Park, Gary Miller of Grosse Pointe Shores, Diana Jones-Kirby of Grosse Pointe Woods, Dave Wojtan, president Bill McCarthy, Donna Ridella, Steve Shrader of Grosse Pointe Park and Patti Phillips. The organization was founded in 1906 to promote the arts. For more information, visit fineartsdetroit.org.



Members of the Americana Ballet troupe perform selections from "The Nutcracker" at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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Holiday Happy Hour
Sat., December 20
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Jardinieres

La Societe des Jardinieres meets at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Sandy Magreta's house and dinner is served. Bring something silver or gold for a gift exchange. Members will donate to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen for their Christmas charity.

Grosse Pointe Woods.

Contact Ryan Marier at (313) 638-7526 for more information about the business-oriented group.

War Memorial

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial hosts a Sugarplum lunch from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, followed by dancers from Ballet Americana performing selected excerpts from "The Nutcracker." Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased by calling (313) 332-4074.

BNI

Business Network International meets at 7 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20388 Mack,

Woman's Club

The Grosse Pointe Woman's Club meets at noon Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial's Crystal Ballroom and features two speakers. A representative of the Salvation Army gives a brief message, accepts presents and donations. All presents should have a gift tag with the recipient's gender and age listed. Checks can be made out to the Salvation Army.

Frank Viviano of Viviano Flower Shop discusses how to create a winter container flower and plant display.

Meeting reservations must be made by Saturday, Dec. 13, by calling Susan Plath at (313) 884-5081. The cost is \$10.

For more information, call Peggy Hickey at (313) 407-1842 or Pam Zimmer at (313) 926-6726.

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Toastmasters

The Northeastern Toastmasters meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

For more information, call Wendy Bradley at (313) 884-1184 or Ron or Marcia Pikielek at (313) 884-4201.

NAMI

The National Alliance on Mentally Ill Eastside meets at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at Henry Ford Cottage, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

For more information, call Barb at (313) 886-8004.

SOC

Services for Older Citizens, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, seeks volunteers to help assemble holiday baskets for seniors from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. Volunteers also are needed to deliver the baskets after 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. To volunteer, call (313) 882-9600. Items to be put in the baskets also are needed, including dog and cat food, air fresheners, light bulbs, disinfecting wipes, soup, hard candy, stamps, envelopes, lip balm and paper products. Donations should be dropped off at SOC by Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Community chorus

Grosse Pointe Community Chorus presents its 62nd annual holiday concert, "We Need a Little Christmas," at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The 60-member chorus

See ACTIVITIES, page 4B

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A LA ANNIE By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff

A taste of summer right now



Who misses summer? I do, I do! This week I'm bringing back the taste of summer with a take on macaroni and cheese that pairs the winter classic with beef, ketchup, mustard and pickles — all the things you love about a warm weather cheeseburger. Yummy.

Baked Macaroni and Cheeseburger

4 1/2 to 5 cups cooked

elbow macaroni (or medium shells)
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 lb. lean ground beef (sirloin)
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic
1 - 15 oz. can diced tomatoes with juice
1/2 cup chopped dill pickle
1/4 cup ketchup
1/4 cup yellow mustard
2 teaspoons Worcestershire
2 cups Velveeta cheese, shredded or cut into very small cubes, divided
shredded lettuce, chopped tomato, sliced onion and chopped dill pickle for serving



PHOTO BY ANNIE ROULEAU-SCHERIFF

Annie's baked macaroni and cheeseburger brings a taste of summer to a cold winter's dinner.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Heat oil in a large skillet or wok over medium heat and brown beef

with onion and garlic until cooked through.

Add tomatoes, pickle, ketchup, mustard, Worcestershire and one

cup of the cheese. Cook and stir over medium heat until hot and bubbly. Lower heat and stir in pasta.

Cook for a few more minutes then turn macaroni into a greased three quart baking dish.

Scatter remaining cheese over top and bake at 350 for 20 minutes or so, until cheese has completely melted.

You can choose a different cheese for on top if you like, such as cheddar, American or Swiss.

What's on your cheeseburger?

Remove from oven and top with shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, thinly sliced onion and chopped dill pickles.

This super delish Mac and CB takes me straight back to Crabby Amy's Clam & Oyster Bar in Seaford, N.Y., cheeseburger wrap.

Awesome cheeseburger flavors, only available in the summer.



Gardeners

Mike Score, president of Hantz Farms, was the guest speaker at the Berry Memorial lecture at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Garden Center Nov. 12. Scott's presentation, "Let's Work Together," highlighted the history and success of the Hantz Farm transforming vacant and abandoned properties in Detroit to fields for new agricultural production. At far left is Robin Heller, the garden center's vice president, and in the center is Jean Azar, the garden center's president.

Dining on Mack Avenue

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4B | HEALTH

ASK THE EXPERTS By Michael Kelly

Your disabled child's special needs and adulthood rights



Q. My disabled child is turning 18. Can he continue publicly funded services we were able to get for him as a minor?

A. Once your child turns 18 your legal authority over him ends. As an adult his financial and care needs are his legal responsibility.

For a first step have your child apply for benefits under the Social Security Income (SSI) program at the local Social Security office if your child has less than \$2,000 of property in her own name. Once SSI is obtained, she is automatically eligible

for Medicaid. This opens the door to valuable community services not otherwise available; particularly regarding mental health.

Q. My child is not fully able to make informed decisions regarding his care and finances. How can I continue to step in and do that for him?

A. There are a number of steps you can take. These include:

- ◆ becoming representative payee for SSI payments,
- ◆ durable financial, medical and mental care powers of attorney,
- ◆ if necessary — guardianship and
- ◆ special needs trust.

Guardianship is a restrictive, expensive public process. The other listed tools pave the way for an enhanced

quality of life with the lowest degree of restrictions on an individual's rights, and are private.

For more detailed question and answer on this topic, visit the Family Center's website at familycenterweb.org.

Kelly is a licensed Michigan attorney with more than 23 years of estate planning, elder law and probate experience. He focuses on long term care planning/ Medicaid planning, and assisting families with probate matters.

Kelly can be e-mailed at kellymich@kellydr.com.

The Family Center serves as the community's hub for information, resources and referral for both families and professionals. Its mission is to serve the community through programs and resources vital to today's families.

The Family Center is a non-profit organization, all gifts are tax deductible.

To volunteer or contribute, visit familycenterweb.org, call (313) 432-3832.

E-mail: info@familycenterweb.org or write to: The Family Center, 20090 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.



PHOTO BY JOHN MISSION

Lending a hand

Some 10 Grosse Pointe Rotarians and 15 Interact Club high school students packaged food pallets at Gleaners Oct. 18. The food was delivered to area organizations and food pantries. Students and Rotarians were given "shopping lists" of food stuffs needed by various Detroit-area groups feeding the hungry.

Beating the winter blues

Beaumont HEALTHY POINTE

As the days get shorter and we anticipate the changes in season, many people find themselves feeling sad.

The "winter blues" are characterized by the mild depression, lack of motivation and low energy that many experience with darkening days. Winter blues are often linked to something specific, such as stressful holidays or reminders of absent loved ones.

What is it about the darkening days that can leave us down in the dumps? And what can we do about it?

Here are some tips that will help brighten up your winter days:

Lighten up

- ◆ Get as much exposure to sunlight (or a sim-

ulation of it) as possible.

- ◆ Use artificial light to mimic more hours of daylight.
- ◆ Keep curtains and blinds open as much as possible to let the light in.

Stay active

- ◆ Get some exercise to help raise your serotonin levels.
- ◆ Try a winter sport like skiing, ice skating, or snowboarding.
- ◆ Even less active hobbies like photography and nature walks can help.

Eat healthy

- ◆ Take a multivitamin, particularly one high in Vitamin D.
- ◆ Fight the urge to load up on carbs or sweets that will only make you feel worse later.

Mix things up

- ◆ Try a new hobby or

learn a new skill.

- ◆ Tackle a goal or count down to an exciting event in the future.

Improve your mood

- ◆ Volunteer or do something good for someone.
- ◆ Treat yourself to something you enjoy.

Be social

- ◆ Host a party.
- ◆ Laugh a lot. It's scientifically proven to boost your mood.

If your feelings last for several weeks, talk to a health care provider because the winter is a long time to be impaired and suffering.

Rebecca Palen is a clinical therapist and owner of H3-Hope, Healing & Health, LLC. For more information visit hope-healing-health.com or call (586) 335-2006

ACTIVITIES:

Continued from page 2B

is under the direction of Joseph Palazzolo. Ron Pietrantoni is the accompanist.

Advance adult tickets cost \$12 and can be purchased at Moehring Woods Florist, Do, by hair co., or by contacting grossepointecommunity chorus.org or at (313) 882-2482. Adult tickets at the door cost \$15 and children's tickets cost \$5.

AAUW

Grosse Pointe Michigan American Association of University Women hosts

its annual Christmas celebration from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, in the Alger House's reception room.

The meal and program are followed by Grosse Pointe Theatre's performance of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas, The Musical" at 2 p.m. in the Fries Auditorium.

The meal and program cost \$25; ticket price for the meal and musical is \$40.

The program speaker is Kathleen Conlon, who has a Master of Arts degree from Wayne State University, is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, affiliated with the American Federation of Television and Radio Actors and a member of Actors Equity. She gives an overview of her experiences in the entertainment profession and of the Grosse Pointe community theater.

Send check for the correct amount, paid to: "GPMI AAUW," to Marti Miller, 929 Woods Lane, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1154 by Friday, Dec. 12. Include names for whom the reservation is to be made.

Women and prospective members can attend.

Belle Isle

The Belle Isle Holiday Stroll is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, and features hundreds of poinsettias, in a variety of colors, in the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, and the YMCA's gospel group The Deep River Choir. The aquarium and Dossin Great Lakes Museum also are open.

The event is free.

WEDNESDAY SPECIAL
LOOK FOR OUR OFFER IN THE BLUE BOOK

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OWNERS:
Tamika Littleton - Graduate of Kaplan University where she earned a BS in Human Services - Gerontology with a background of hospice experience as well as operating a successful home care business.
LaTonya Floyd - Graduate of Madonna University where she earned a BS in Nursing. LaTonya is a practicing Registered Nurse of 13 years to date, with a solid medical-surgical background and extensive experience with patients with cognitive difficulties.

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RELIGIOUS EVENTS

Ecumenical
breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical breakfast begins with coffee at 7:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A buffet breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m. William Giovan leads the "The Forum Shoppers Quartet" in musical parodies of the law at 7:45 a.m. The meeting adjourns at 8:15 a.m.

For more information, call

Eric Lindquist at (313) 530-8656.

United Methodist

The annual Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church Cookie Mart is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13.

The holiday tradition features thousands of homemade cookies and sweets.

Proceeds benefit the United Methodist women's missionary work.

The church is at 211 Moross,

Grosse Pointe Farms Parking is behind the church.

St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church holds its fourth annual Sweet Noels holiday bake sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church. Homemade candies, cookies and a Sweet Noels cookbook will be on sale.

The Little Thrift Shop and Christmas Boutique will be open as well.



Kristy Irre, left, and Judi Lopinski are two of the many volunteers who are selling their homemade treats at the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church Cookie Mart.

The church's parking lot entrance is between the Mack CVS parking lot and Parcels

playing fields.

First English

Special seasonal music is featured at the 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, festival service at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Good News Singers and instrumentalists combine to perform several sacred classics of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The public can attend.

A nursery is available for children 3 years old and younger at no charge. A free will offering will be taken in

See EVENTS, page 9B

WORSHIP SERVICES

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

Sharing God's grace through Christ, we love, pray rejoice and serve

December 24, 2014
Christmas Eve

3:45pm Pre-service music
4pm Worship/Communion
Geared Toward Families with Children
7pm Worship/Communion
A Service of Lessons & Carols
10:45pm Pre-service music
11pm Traditional Candlelight
Worship/Communion

December 28, 2014
First Sunday of Christmas
9:30am Worship/Communion

375 Lochrop
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
313.881.6670
stpaul@stpaulgp.org
www.stpaulgp.org
Rev. Justin Ditttrich, Pastor

Grosse Pointe
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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Grosse Pointe Farms
886-2363

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30 am

CHURCH SCHOOL

9:45 am 4 yrs. - 5th Grade
10:45 am Middle School
11:00 am Adult Sunday School
Nursery & Toddler Care Provided
Rev. Judith A. May
Rev. Daniel Hart

FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

800 Vernier Road (Corner of Wedgewood)
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Sunday Mornings

9:30 am - Contemporary Worship
Sunday School
11:00 am - Traditional Worship
Nursery Available

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Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
313.882.5330 | gpmchurch.org

DEC. 14 WORSHIP SERVICES:

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT at 9 AND 11 A.M.

SERVICES 9 A.M., 11 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Free childcare in the morning;
Children's program at 9 a.m. worship

Peace? Hope? Love? Jesus!
celebrate
CHRISTMAS

Crosspointe Christian Church
Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service at 6:30 pm
www.YourC3.org



**Jefferson Avenue
Presbyterian Church**
Serving Christ in Detroit for over 160 years

Sunday, December 14, 2014

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Meditation: "Reveling in God's Glory"
Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11 • Peter C. Smith, preaching
Church School: Crib - 5th Grade

Join Us

**The Music Series Presents
"A Jubilant Song!"**

Featuring the Community Chorus of Detroit & Orchestra
Friday, December 12 - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 13 - 4:00 p.m.
For tickets and info, call the Church office

Parking Lot Behind Church 8625 E. Jefferson at Burns, Detroit
Visit our website: www.japc.org 313-822-3456

Grosse Pointe
WOODS PRESBYTERIAN
Church

Sunday Worship and Music
10:30am

Christian Education Hour 9:00am

*** Free Nursery Care Provided ***

Rev. Dr. Bob Agnew, Pastor
Mr. Noah Horn, Music Director

Special Music: Concerts on the Corner

Friday, December 12th @ 7:30p.m.

Madison Chorale



A Christmas choral treat including a Reception and Silent Auction



Sunday, Dec. 14 @ 10:30a.m.

**Annual Christmas
Cantata**

Featuring our choir and orchestral musicians

19950 Mack at Torrey Rd 313-886-4301 www.gpwpres.org



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Sunday, December 21, 5:00 p.m.

at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

Featuring Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Choir,
Motor City Brass Quintet, flute, oboe, harp,
two organs and handbells

Don't miss this joyful musical account of the Christmas story, presented in the beauty of our candlelit sanctuary filled with familiar carols and an opportunity for the entire audience to sing.

General seating admission is \$10 at the door. Young persons under the age of 25 (with a valid student ID) are admitted free of charge.

16 Lakeshore Dr. | Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
313.882.5330 | gpmchurch.org

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CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24th
5:00pm

MUSIC BY CAROLE MIHALO
WITH A MUSICAL PRELUDE BY

THE SS. PETER AND PAUL CHOIR BEGINNING AT 4:30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25th
12:00 Noon

MUSIC BY ANDREW HERBRUCK

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Located next to the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law at the corner of East Jefferson & St. Antoine Streets, across from the Renaissance Center. Security attended parking is available in the UDM Student lot on Larned Street behind the church.

6B | COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

Patrick M. DuFour

Patrick M. DuFour, 66, died Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014, in Macomb Township.

He was born in Bay City to George A. and C. Maureen DuFour and graduated in 1966 from Grosse Pointe High School. He attended Wayne State University and recently retired from Greektown Casino. An animal lover, he enjoyed being outdoors with his faithful dog, and golfing.

Mr. DuFour is survived by his sisters, Penny Bergeson (the late Martin), Mary Morrow (Brian) and Renee Greening (Robert); brothers, Richard (Vicki), Randy, James (Rubia) and George, and many loving nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents and brothers, Mark, Michael and Thomas.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at noon Friday, Jan. 3, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Margaret Moira O'Brien

Margaret Moira "Peg" O'Brien, 65, died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014, at home in Chicago.

Born in Chicago, she was the daughter of the late William M. O'Brien and the late Mary Jane Bryar O'Brien, and sister of Maureen O'Brien Doyle (Larry) and the late Kathy O'Brien Fox (Henry A.); proud aunt of Kelly D. Shiring, Christopher L. Doyle, Lisa F. Latchford, Peter Fox and Brian Fox, as well as nine great-nieces and great-nephews.

Ms. O'Brien graduated from The Academy of the Sacred Heart, Grosse Pointe Farms, and Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind. She did post-graduate studies at the University of Chicago and was an instructor in humanistic studies at Saint Mary's College. She later worked at Continental Bank, International Harvester and as an independent writer and consultant.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the National Shrine of Saint

Frances Xavier Cabrini, 2520 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago.

Donations may be made to Horizon Hospice at horizonhospice.org or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Lucie Palmer Beard

Lucie Palmer Beard, 92, died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014, at her home.

She was born in Arlington, Va., Feb. 20, 1922, to Hodijah and Mary Meade, grew up in Arlington and graduated from Washington-Lee High School.

In 1942, she married Ward Beard in Arlington and began their married life in Port Huron, where they started their family. They moved to Williamston, where they lived for 10 years.

Mrs. Beard attended Michigan State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude. She also earned a master's degree in library science from Wayne State University.

After moving to Detroit, she worked for Gale Research and then at Sinai Hospital as a medical librarian. She eventually was transferred to the Detroit Medical Center where she continued working as a medical librarian.

Mrs. Beard was a member of American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, the Easy Riders Bicycle Club and the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church and its Women's Alliance. She enjoyed playing bridge, making china, including designing, painting and firing the pieces in her own kiln, and gardening.

Mrs. Beard is survived by her children, Mary Beard Campbell (Steven), William Beard (Annette), Russell Beard (Diane), James Beard and Thomas Beard (Diane); grandchildren, Abbey, Sarah, Alex, Jennifer, Todd, Glenn, James, Daniel and Brittany and great-grandchildren, Griffin, Natalie, Addison, Brett, Landric, Ashtyn, Zoey, Connor, John, Adyn, Ashton, Chloe, Brecken, Amita and Silas.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ward, and grandson, Eric.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Association of University Women, 1111 Sixteenth St. N.W.; Washington, DC 20036.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Ann Barrett Johnson

Ann Barrett Johnson, 92, died Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014, in Sarasota, Fla., where she moved nine years ago to be near her daughter.

She was born March 2, 1922, in Detroit, to Dr. Wyman D. and Dorothy G. Barrett. She attended Liggett School and Grosse Pointe Country Day School and graduated from Baldwin School in Pennsylvania in 1939. After graduation, she attended Bennington College in Vermont.

During World War II, Mrs. Johnson served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps in a civil service capacity, driving Army vehicles, including tanks and trucks, mostly in Detroit, but occasionally, in other parts of the United States.

Mrs. Johnson lived most of her life in Grosse Pointe Farms where she had been an active member of the Neighborhood Thrift Shop, Junior League of Detroit, Sigma Gamma Association, Detroit Artists Market, Planned Parenthood League of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farm and Garden Club and the Society of Mayflower descendants. At one time, she served on the boards and as newsletter editor of these organizations.

She also volunteered at Bon Secours Hospital with the American Red Cross for nine years.

The Junior League of Detroit honored Mrs. Johnson with a first place award for a design that was a tactile gift presented to Helen Keller.

Mrs. Johnson enjoyed bridge, needlepoint,



Patrick M. DuFour



Margaret Moira O'Brien



Lucie Palmer Beard



Ann Barrett Johnson



Regina C. Lesinski



Herbert Alan Henschel

painting, reading, walking, dogs, astronomy and history. She valued her family and friends most of all and was a devoted patriot.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by her daughter, Carol Ann Carlson; great-grandson, Alexander P. Carlson and several nieces.

She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Joseph Warren Johnson; and brother, Wyman D. Barrett Jr.

Donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society at michiganhumane.org or Planned Parenthood Federation of America, P.O. Box 96735, Washington, DC 20007.

Regina C. Lesinski

Regina "Reggie" Lesinski, a 60-year resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014, at Beechwood Manor in St. Clair Shores.

Born Oct. 8, 1923, in Philadelphia, she came to Detroit with her parents at age 6, settling in Hamtramck. She graduated ahead of her class at Hamtramck High School in January 1941, and in lieu of college, she worked as a stenographer for an insurance company in downtown Detroit.

She met Walter Lesinski at Lutnia Singing Society and they married in 1947. The couple lived in Detroit until they moved to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1951. That same year, their first daughter was born and Mrs. Lesinski stayed home to raise her family and support her husband in his growing tool and die company.

Her husband died in 1972, leaving Mrs. Lesinski to raise her two teenage daughters and closing her husband's business in Clinton Township.

Once her family was grown, Mrs. Lesinski enjoyed traveling in the United States and abroad, playing bridge as often as she could, and reading a good book. She belonged to several women's clubs and enjoyed the many friendships of those she met there.

Mrs. Lesinski is survived by her daughters, Linda Marchildon (David) and Marcia Proven (Geoff), both of Grosse Pointe Woods; sister-in-law, Carol Bartos and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her brother, Leonard Bartos.

Cremation has taken place and, at her request, Mrs. Lesinski will be

memorialized by her family at a private service next year.

Herbert Alan Henschel

Herbert Alan "Al" Henschel, 77, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, in Detroit.

He was born June 5, 1937, in Detroit, to Herbert and Mary Constance "Ce Ce" Henschel. He was raised in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Gilmour Academy in Ohio. Following high school, he attended Michigan State University where he met Patti, also an MSU student, at the 1956 Rose Bowl. The couple married June 11, 1960, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Following his collegiate days, Mr. Henschel joined the U.S. Air National Guard and then worked for his grandfather's company, United Forge Inc., in Detroit, and stayed with the company until his retirement, rising to vice president and treasurer.

When not working, Mr. Henschel was a devoted husband and dedicated father. He and his wife enjoyed dancing, golfing and raising their three boys.

Mr. Henschel spent many winters coaching his sons' hockey teams and building backyard rinks so they could hone their skills. He almost never missed one of his sons' hockey, baseball or soccer games, track meets or other sporting events.

Mr. Henschel's other love was golf. He loved teasing it up with family and friends and spent many an hour at Lochmoor Club telling tales of the day's round. He was also a loyal Detroit sports fan and enjoyed attending many Tigers and Red Wings games with family and friends.

His family said his kindness, generosity, patience and sense of humor will be missed immensely.

Mr. Henschel is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Patti; children, Jeff, Greg (Elizabeth Kessler) and John (Kristin Messing Henschel); grandchildren, Katie, Alan "A.J.," Jack and Lilly; brother, John Gifford Henschel and many loving relatives and friends.

A memorial service celebrating Mr. Henschel's life will be held at a later date.

Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or the American Diabetes Association at diabetes.org.



Ralph E. Hinz D.O.

Ralph E. Hinz D.O.

Ralph E. Hinz D.O., 90, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.

He is survived by his wife of 12 years, Virginia (nee Hoffman); children, Brian (Jodi), Kevin (Iris), Jason (Gloria), David (Debbie) and Marie Elizabeth Dixon (Jeff); grandchildren, Kala, Ian, Ginny, Jonathon, Nicholas, Miranda, Alex, Zoey and Maggie and great-grandchildren. He also is survived by his brother, Ronald.

He was predeceased by Margaret Mary (nee Gardner) his wife of more than 40 years.

A proud and decorated veteran of World War II, Dr. Hinz served in the U.S. Army 79th Infantry Division medical corps during the invasion of Normandy and received multiple Purple Hearts. He recently was awarded the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government for his service.

After graduating from the Des Moines Still School of Osteopathic Medicine, he began his career as family physician and surgeon, and was most proud of the more than 4,400 babies he helped bring into the world. He taught at the University of Michigan and was an adjunct professor at Michigan State University.

His family said Dr. Hinz was a humble, devout and generous soul who loved parties with his extended family, Big Band music and playing drums with his combo in local senior homes. In 2002, he and his pre-war sweetheart, Virginia, were reunited and married. He was a longtime parishioner and usher at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 9 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Donations may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, MI 48207.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

See OBITUARIES, page 7B

Linville 'Gene' Stover, 89

Gene passed away on November 17, 2014, with his daughter by his side, at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

Gene was born in West Virginia, to parents Mary and Clayton. He was one of five children. He left home at age 17 and eventually joined the U.S. Navy at age 18. Gene spent over 2 years serving his country as a coxswain onboard the USS Helm. After his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1945 he moved to Detroit. He soon met Adell 'Tex' Andry and married in 1953. For many years, he worked two and three jobs including Chrysler, bartending, and gas station attendant.



In 1960, Gene and Tex purchased a little known store on Kercheval Avenue in Grosse Pointe Farms and it became, 'Gene's Club Party Store'. Gene nurtured a beautiful business that served the community for many years. He and Tex cared for and enjoyed each and every one of their customers. He was a gentleman, a legend, who served adults and children alike, with the same respect and care. No sale was too small. He many times remarked that penny candy paid his bills. In 1986, Gene retired and the store is now under the caring ownership of Jerry Stocking, as 'Jerry's Party Store'.

Gene enjoyed golfing and bowling with the men's club in Grosse Pointe. Throughout his bowling career, he was known to throw many 300 score games. He also was blessed with a beautiful singing voice and was proud to share his talent with his family and friends.

Gene was the dear father of Lindell (Robert) Blaich, who was always referred to as his doll. He was the loving grandfather to Megan and Bonnie. His 'girls' were his pride and joy. Gene was especially proud of his nephew, Mike Church (Val), and his niece, Jane Church. He was also the beloved brother of Ora Dierick. Gene was blessed with a wonderful and true friend, Jerry Smale.

Gene was predeceased by his loving wife and partner, Adell, his son, William, and his siblings, Zela, Freeman, and Virginia.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, January 24, 2015, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. Visitation with the family begins at 11:30 a.m. and the service will be at noon.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

OBITUARIES:

Loved ones remembered

Continued from page 6B

Arthur J. Krusz

Arthur J. Krusz, 88, died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, at Heartland Health Care Center.

He was born Nov. 19, 1926, in St. Louis, Mo., to August and Josephine Krusz. In 1944, after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a radio man. Just before he was to leave for overseas, the war ended. After serving in post-war China and surviving typhoid fever, he returned home and attended Washington University, in St. Louis, under the G.I. bill, graduating with a degree in art. It was there he met Doris Terrell, another art student.

In 1951, after graduating and marrying, the couple moved to New York so Mr. Krusz could pursue his passion to become an illustrator, although advertising would become his main career. They moved to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1962, where they raised their sons, Tom and Jim.

After retiring, Mr. Krusz spent several years teaching figure drawing at Macomb Community College. Over the course of his career, he illustrated books and board games and had several cartoons published in "Playboy" magazine. However, painting was Mr. Krusz's hobby and his life. Most of his spare time was spent in his basement studio painting landscapes, portraits and animals, mostly in watercolor. He regularly entered and received recognition for paintings in local art shows, including the 'Grosse Pointe

Artist's Association, of which he was a member.

Mr. Krusz is survived by Dorie, his wife of 63 years; son, Thomas and his wife, Tracey; grandchildren, Alex, Andrew, Elizabeth, Matthe, and Mary.

He was predeceased by his son, Jim.

Memorials may be made to the Grosse Pointe Art Center, 17118 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

Funeral arrangements are private.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Edward S. Watko D.D.S.

Edward S. Watko D.D.S., 94, passed away Friday, Dec. 5, 2014, at his residence in St. Clair Shores with his wife and family by his side.

He graduated from De La Salle Collegiate High School in June 1938 and served four years in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was honorably discharged April 1946, as a first sergeant. He graduated from University of Detroit Dental School in June 1952 and married Joanne Sweeney in July of the same year.

According to his family, Dr. Watko had a servant's heart. In addition to serving his country in the U.S. Army, he served many years on St. Lucy Catholic Church parish council, as well as being a eucharistic minister. For more than 40 years, he lovingly served his dental patients, even extending credit to those who had difficulty paying.

Dr. Watko's real love, however, was for his family, including his extended family. He was known for his encouraging spirit and positive outlook. From his experience as the only boy in a family of four sisters, he often credited that experience for his excellent listening skills and empathy. He loved spending summers with his wife and children and his sisters and their families in St. Clair, watching freight-

ers traveling up and down the St. Clair River.

Dr. Watko is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joanne; daughter, Trish; son, Edward (Cindy); granddaughter, Heather Allen (Jason); grandson, Paul Watko (Gretchen); great-grandchildren, Jack, Trent, Maddy, Mack, George and Kate, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his eldest daughter, Jane Louise Watko, who followed in her father's professional steps becoming a dentist and ultimately serving as a prison dentist in the Michigan Correctional System. He also was predeceased by his sisters, Margaret Watko, Kaye Staperfenne, Helen Swoboda and Leone Weeks.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 9 at St. Lucy Catholic Church, St. Clair Shores.

Donations may be made to Susan G. Komen for the Cure at komen.org.

Kathryn A. Smith

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Kathryn A. Smith, 89, died Monday, Dec. 8, 2014, at St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit.

She was born Aug. 28, 1925, in Detroit to William F. and Eleanor Krause and graduated from Southeastern High school in Detroit.

Mrs. Smith was a homemaker who enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren and staying active in her church.

Mrs. Smith is survived by her daughters, Joyce Crandall (Steve), Barbara Taber (Scott) and Christine Coderre (Keith); sons, Paul (Stephanie); daughter-in-law, Barbara Smith; 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She also is survived by her sister Grace Koeppe.

Mrs. Smith was predeceased by her husband, Richard E. Smith; son, Richard W. Smith; sisters, Margaret Knoer and Ruth Woods and brother, William Krause.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Bethel



Arthur J. Krusz



Edward S. Watko D.D.S.



Kathryn A. Smith

Lutheran Church, 26400 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores. Visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the church prior to the service.

Donations may be made to Cure SMA at curesma.org or Bethel Lutheran Church, 26400 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.

Donna Marie Imesch

Donna Marie Imesch, nee Cadieux, 86, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, in her home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

She was the beloved wife of John, her high school sweetheart, who predeceased her. She attended St. Ambrose Catholic School, then St. Paul on the Lake Catholic High School.

Mrs. Imesch was devoted to her family and is survived by her children, Robert (Mary), David (Beverly), Jay, Maryann (Gordon), Dona Marie (Shawn), John Joseph (Dawn) and Patrick (Kristyn). She spent many hours of enjoyment with her grandchildren, Ross, Erin, Alison, Josef, Anna, Jack, Jaymie and Sabel. She also was close to her four sisters, Shirley, Lorraine, Pat and Marjorie. Collectively, they were known in the neighborhood as the Cadieux Girls.

Mrs. Imesch was active outside the home with the Lawyers Wives Committee and St. Paul Altar Society, as a Bon Secours/Beaumont Hospital volunteer and with numerous fundraising events for St. Paul and St. Philomena parishes. A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 6 at St. Paul on the Lake, Grosse Pointe Farms.



Donna Marie Imesch



Eleanor Mary Zatina

Eleanor Mary Zatina

City of Grosse Pointe resident Eleanor Mary Zatina, 92, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2014, at ShorePointe Village in St. Clair Shores.

She was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, to Thomas and Bessie Zade. She attended Patterson Collegiate in Windsor and then Holy Names College, also in Windsor. In 1946, she completed a training program in medical technology at Providence Hospital in Detroit.

Mrs. Zatina was a clerk for Canadian Customs in Windsor prior to finishing her medical technology training. She then worked as a medical technologist at Providence Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital, before taking the same position in the medical department at Michigan Bell Telephone Co.

She was active in many parent and parishioner groups at Assumption Grotto Elementary School and Parish in Detroit. More recently, she was a member of St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church and sang in the St. Clare Resurrection Choir. Her family said she was an accomplished Lebanese cook whose greatest pleasure was opening her home to family and friends.

A member of the Michigan Bell Pioneers, Mrs. Zatina loved the Detroit Tigers, especially Charlie Gehringer, and could name the 1935 lineup. She could still call the balls and strikes correctly right through her final season of watching baseball this summer.

Mrs. Zatina is survived by her sons, Thomas A. Zatina (Tracey Goetsch) and Michael A. Zatina (M.D. (Katie); daughters, Patricia A. Zatina, Elizabeth A. Zatina (Michael McDevitt) and Mary A. Zatina (Kevin Prihod); grandchildren, Kristen Zatina, Jennifer Zatina, Dr. Dayna Egan (Scott), Clare McDevitt, Caroline Zatina, Shannon McDevitt and Bridget McDevitt and great-granddaughter, Hannah Mary Egan.

Mrs. Zatina was predeceased by her husband, Anthony; and brothers, Ralph Zade D.D.S., Theodore Zade and Kenneth Zade M.D.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 10 at St. Clare of Montefalco.

Donations may be made to the Dominican Literacy Center, 5555 Conner, Suite 1414, Detroit, MI 48213 or Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Note:

Deadline change

The deadline for obituaries for the Dec. 25 issue will be 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19.

PASTOR'S CORNER By Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray

Season to reaffirm faith in human spirit

The Advent season is upon us which means in the Grosse Pointes we have had our tree lighting ceremony and Santa ceremoniously entered the town as part of our annual community-wide parade.

The morning after Thanksgiving, my family and I stood at the corner of Lewiston and Kercheval, watching the entire ensemble of high school bands, clowns, unicyclists and floats do their admirable best to rival the previous day's grand parade in Detroit. On that day, my family and I enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving breakfast fundraiser at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, where more than 300 guests came together to park their cars, eat a warm breakfast among amazingly good company and watch the parade together from our frontage on Woodward Avenue.

My son, Hunter, delighted as the Kermit and Super Grover balloons made their way down that expansive boule-

vard, dancing in front of the television cameras for the second largest Thanksgiving parade in the country.

But Hunter's eyes went wide when Santa arrived on his sleigh, the majesty of it all convincing him irrevocably the Christmas season was on. Indeed, within days, our doorways at home were clothed in garlands and wreaths and lights.

Hunter had sat on Santa's lap and perfectly recited "Twas The Night Before Christmas," to which Santa turned to us and said, with a wink, "I have the best job in the world."

My wife, Cynthia, and I were putting together a holiday party for children at the seminary, while every morning Hunter runs around the house, desperate to find what shelf or mirror top the Elf on the Shelf has alighted on overnight, while wondering what special cookie or infinitely small toy he might find in his Advent calendar.

All of this is a lot of fun and it helps us approach with joy the very reason why we celebrate this

time at all, a season of anticipation and hopefulness as we approach the birth of Jesus.

There is much in the world that causes us concern regarding how "the least of these" are treated in society, how social divides seem to bring irreconcilable pain. But in this season, we refuse to believe that hope cannot defeat hopelessness, that the light will be swallowed up by the darkness.

This is a season during which we affirm the goodness of the human spirit must overcome whatever avarice and prejudice exists, that it is better to give than to receive and when one opens up one's home in hospitality to those who have less, to those whom society seems to have given up on, that one of them just might bear the very Son of God into the world.

The Rev. Murray is president and professor of systematic theology and preaching at Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit.

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present on Roll Call: Mayor Farquhar; Councilmembers; Wood, West, Theros, Ricci. Absent Were: Councilmembers Waldmeir and Joseph (Councilwoman Joseph arrived at 7:05 p.m.). Also Present: Messrs. William Burgess, City Attorney; Shane Reeside, City Manager; Derrick Kozicki, City Clerk; John Lamerato, City Controller/Treasurer; Terry Brennan, Public Service Director; Dan Jensen, Director of Public Safety; John Hutchins, Deputy Director Public Safety; Pamela Baker, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Farquhar Presided at the Meeting.

Councilmember Peter Waldmeir was excused from attending the Meeting.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 10, 2014, were approved as submitted.

The Minutes of the Closed Session held on November 10, 2014, were approved as submitted.

The Council accepted the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014, as presented by Plante & Moran.

Following a Public Hearing, the Council approved the Site Plan for BluFin Sushi, located at 1854 Mack Avenue, thereby granting an exception to the on-site parking requirements in the City Ordinance, subject to certain conditions.

The Council approved the Site Plan Review from Henry Ford Cottage Hospital, 159 Kercheval Avenue, as presented.

The Council, acting as a Zoning Board of Appeals, approved the variances, as requested, subject to certain conditions.

The Council approved the following on the Consent Agenda:

- a. 2015 City Council Schedule of Meetings.
- b. Wayne County Annual Permit Renewals.
- c. Pier Park Community Building Reservations Policy.
- d. Beautification Commission Appointments.

The following reports was received by the Council and ordered placed on file:

- a. Public Safety Report for November 2014.

Upon proper motion made, supported and carried, the Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 90 KERBY ROAD, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN 48236. THE MEETING IS PUBLIC, INTERESTED PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE CITY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. YOU MAY ALSO VIEW THE AGENDA AND MINUTES ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE: www.grossepointefarms.org

James C. Farquhar,
Mayor

Derrick Kozicki,
City Clerk

GPN: 12/11/2014

Holiday Gifting

Gift Ideas for Family & Friends

Opinion: Shop local all year

By Joe Warner
Editor

Grosse Pointe and the surrounding communities offer everything you need for the holidays. It's not quite last minute, but with less than two weeks

left until Christmas, our local businesses look forward to the flurry of shoppers, even if flurries aren't yet falling from the sky.

We ask you to support the businesses on the pages of this newspaper.

Their success is based on residents of the five Pointes. While it may be quicker to order something online, it isn't the

same as going into our great stores, talking to employees - and the owners in many cases - and finding the perfect gift for your loved ones.

And there's nothing better than meeting family and friends at one of dozens of great restaurants in the Pointes.

Each year, there are more choices. The holiday party business is brisk according to a couple restaurant owners I talked to this week.

Need something

catered, there are some great options for a holiday meal. Or leave the cooking to a restaurant so you can relax and enjoy some football.

We just had small business Saturday, but to us, we want every Saturday to be that. Grosse Pointe and Metro Detroit has plenty to offer.

Visiting our businesses is a win-win for our community, our shoppers and many wonderful stores with great selections and great service.

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Holiday Gifting

Gift Ideas for Family & Friends



EVENTS:

Continued from page 5B

the sanctuary and a reception, with refreshments, follows the service.

◆ The third annual women's candlelight Advent worship services begins at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15. The service features an evening of reflections and celebration of women of all ages. Rev. Chris Veres offers the message.

◆ A social hour follows the service. A self-guided tour of 45 lighted and decorated Christmas trees can be taken. The public is invited.

The nursery will not be staffed.

◆ The Sunday school Christmas pageant begins at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, and features children of the preschool through fifth grade.

First English is located at 800 Vernier at Wedgewood, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call (313) 884-5040 for more information.

Christ Church

Christ Church Chorale, soloists and orchestra perform G.F. Handel's "Messiah" at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at the door.

Christ Church Grosse Pointe is located at 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

St. Sabbas

St. Sabbas Orthodox Monastery, 18745 Old Homestead, Harper Woods, holds its sixth annual Christmas cookie walk beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20.



White Christmas

The Grosse Pointe Theatre presents the musical "White Christmas" at 1 p.m. Dec. 13, 14, 20 and 21 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14, 17, 18, 21 and 22 at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. For tickets, call (313) 881-4004 or visit gpt.org. Playing the leads, are from left, Tom Pagano, Danielle Caralis, Stephanie Butler and Ryan Gigliotti.

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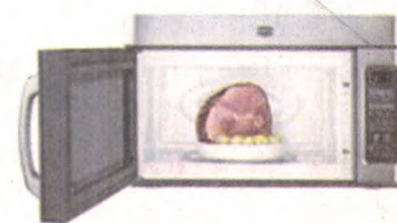
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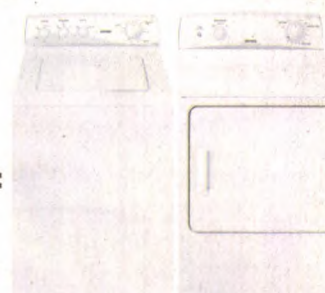
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GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

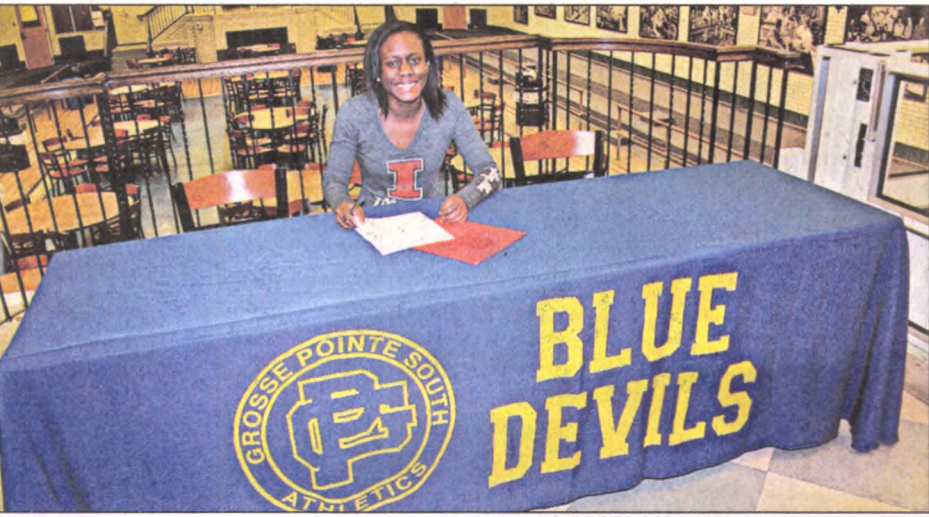


PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY HAWKINS

Playing in the Big Ten

Grosse Pointe South senior Cierra Rice signed a letter-of-intent to play college basketball on the University of Illinois women's basketball team under head coach Matt Bollant. As of Nov. 25, the Fighting Illini are 4-0 with wins over IPFW, Robert Morris, Memphis and Southern. Rice, an All-State guard for the Blue Devils' girls' basketball team and one of the top players in the state, joins a program which competes in the Big Ten, with Michigan, Michigan State, Purdue, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Indiana, Northwestern, Penn State, Ohio State, Maryland, Rutgers, Iowa and Minnesota.

LIGGETT

Opener a success

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

It wasn't pretty, but a win is a win, especially when it is a season opener.

That is what University Liggett girls' basketball head coach Omar Ahart said about last week's 63-55 win over Flat Rock

at Arbor Prep High.

"We played a good first half, but then got a little sloppy with the ball and Jessica (Rotzoll) was in foul trouble," Ahart said.

The Knights, behind Rotzoll, built a 29-13 half-time lead.

However, the bigger Flat Rock team used its size advantage in the post

to chip away in the second half.

Senior Lola Ristovski led the way with 24 points, while sophomore Nia Ahart had 14 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Rotzoll, a senior, had a double-double, netting 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Liggett is 1-0 overall.

HOCKEY

Early success

Liggett and South girls' hockey teams playing well PAGE 2C

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH GIRLS

Blue Devils off to perfect start

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

One game into the season and one victory for the Grosse Pointe South girls' basketball team.

The Blue Devils hosted Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy in their season opener last week, winning 72-45.

After a decent first half, the Blue Devils blitzed the Eagles 33-10 in the third quarter to open a commanding 69-30 lead.

The home team coasted

in the final quarter, improving to 1-0 overall.

"It's the first game and the girls played pretty well for the most part," head coach Kevin Richards said. "We knew Chandler Park had some nice players and they would push us."

The Blue Devils used their full-court press to create a lot of turnovers and get transition baskets to open a 21-11 first-quarter lead and 36-20 at the half.

Senior guards Cierra

Rice and Aliezza Brown led the Blue Devils, scoring 18 and 17 points, respectively. Rice also had eight rebounds.

Junior Benna Ames had eight points and eight rebounds, while also scoring eight points was junior Anna Carmody.

Senior Tamira McCoy-Moton and sophomore Sayanna Roy had six points apiece.

South improved to 2-0 with a 69-47 win over Cass Tech last weekend.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH GIRLS

Norsemen beat LW

By Jennifer Kusch
Special Writer

Grosse Pointe North girls' basketball team started its season off with a bang in its Dec. 2 home opener.

The Norsemen trounced Livonia Ladywood 57-37.

Junior Erin Armbruster led the team offensively, tallying 24 points and 14 rebounds.

"She finished around the basket really good,"

head coach Gary Bennett said.

Senior Meghan Lesha and a varsity newcomer, sophomore Katie Snow, also had strong performances.

Snow and junior Lauren Lesha (six steals) also did well in their free throws, with Snow securing points on both of her attempts.

She finished with 10 points, eight rebounds, five steals and four assists.

Senior Megan Lesha added nine points, six rebounds and three steals.

"For the first game, I thought there were a lot of positives and I thought that it also showed a lot of the things that we need to work on," Bennett said. "We made a lot of mistakes, and that's what we expect, and you just have to learn from those mistakes and move on."

North is 1-0 overall.

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Hockey

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH BOYS

Blue Devils de-rail DC

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South boys' hockey team used a three-goal first period to beat Dearborn Divine Child 3-1 in a Michigan Metro Hockey League game last weekend at Fraser Ice Arena.

Head coach Bobby McKillop's Blue Devils came out on fire and took it right at the Falcons.

These teams have traditionally played close games and this was no different.

In the first period, junior Graham Ryan scored on the power play

with sophomore Adam Pitters and junior Jonathon Theros collecting assists.

Just 90 seconds later, Theros stole the puck from a Divine Child defenseman and scored an unassisted goal, and with only 41.7 seconds left in the period, junior Will Poplawski tallied with Pitters and senior Brennan Ifkovits assisting.

The Falcons scored their goal midway through the second period and never mounted many quality scoring chances in the final period, thanks to the Blue Devils' good



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

South senior goalie Andy Jakub makes a save in the Blue Devils' league win over Dearborn Divine Child.

defense in front of senior goalie Andy Jakub. improved to 2-0 in the Michigan Metro Hockey League and 2-1 overall.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH BOYS

Tight game

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

First-year head coach Mike Maltese is getting his point across.

His Grosse Pointe North boys' hockey players are working harder, putting in gutsier performances so far this season.

The Norsemen, coming off a 1-1 record in the Alpena Tournament, played well, but lost 3-1 to U-D Jesuit in a Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League contest at Fraser Ice Arena.

The Cubs scored late in the first period and early in the second stanza to lead 2-1.

With 1:40 left in the second, senior Richie Filippelli scored, with senior Nick Cusmano and sophomore Alex Batts netting assists.

It cut the deficit to one goal and seemed to ignite the Norsemen.

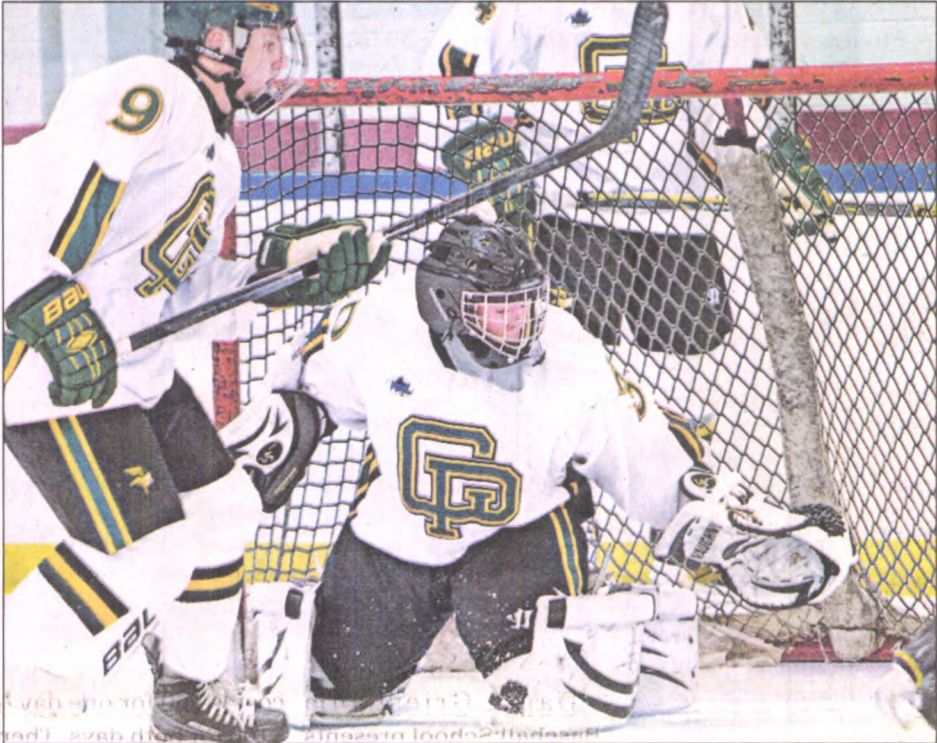


PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

North goalie Ben Borland played well in net against U-D Jesuit.

Throughout the third period, the Norsemen carried the play and created solid scoring chances. They hit goal posts twice to stay one goal behind.

After pulling senior goalie Ben Borland for an extra attacker, the puck squirted loose and the Cubs took advantage by skating the length of the

ice and scoring an empty net goal.

In the Alpena Tournament, North lost 3-1 to the host team. Freshman Austin Albrecht scored the lone goal with Cusmano and junior Brendan Nelson drawing assists.

In the second game, North blasted DeWitt 8-0 as Albrecht scored twice,

while junior C.J. Ramsdell, junior Adrian Quinlan, senior Jamie Keller, Cusmano, Filippelli and sophomore Marko Tomovski tallied one goal apiece.

They scored five goals in the first period to set the tone.

Grosse Pointe North is 0-3 in the MIHL and 1-5 overall.

LIGGETT GIRLS

Knights perfect after wins

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Four different players scored to lead University Liggett girls' hockey team to a 4-0 win over Walled Lake early last week.

Head coach Cassie Jaeckle played most of her younger, inexperienced players a lot of minutes to give them more ice time.

In the opening period, junior Allison Stapleton scored, assisted by junior Grace Scarfone and sophomore Riley Marchin.

At the 1:11 mark of the second stanza, Marchin lit the lamp.

Scarfone and sophomore Kara Francis collecting assists.

The host Knights gave themselves a little breathing room by scoring twice in the third period.

Sophomore Haley Malewicz scored at the 10:18 mark, assisted by senior Nicole Rosenberg and sophomore Katherine Fruehauf, and Francis tallied at the 3:14 mark, assisted by sophomore Emma Shell and freshman Olivia Yates.

Junior goalie Olivia Portillo posted her first shutout of the season.

Last weekend, Liggett traveled to Ann Arbor Pioneer and posted a second straight 4-0 victory.

The back-to-back shutouts give Liggett a 5-0 mark in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 standings.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH GIRLS

Another win

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South girls' hockey team played only its second game of the season last weekend, beating Northville 10-1.

Head coach Joe Provenzano and the Blue Devils started slow, leading only 1-0 after the first period.

Emma Frame scored the goal with Gennie Martin and Ellie Flom assisting.

The host Blue Devils scored three goals in the second period as Liz Sullivan and Carson Dennis lit the lamp. Dennis scored two goals.

Drawing assists were Abby Carrier, Lauren

Kramer and Maddalena Boyer.

In the third period, the Blue Devils' offense was unstoppable. They scored six times with Frame netting two to lead the way.

Other goal scorers were Kramer, Ava Russano, Carrier and Libby Erickson.

A slew of girls had assists in the final period. They were Flom, Erickson, Erin Brannagan, Grace Moody (two), Martin (two), Emily Van Der Hoeven, Russano and Sullivan.

Bella Strickler earned the win in net. She faced only a handful of shots.

Grosse Pointe South is 2-0 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH GIRLS

Norsemen net first win

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls' hockey team used a Devyn LaValley hat trick to finally break into the win column this season.

The host Norsemen beat Ann Arbor Huron/Skyline 6-0 behind LaValley's three goals.

Others with a goal were sophomore Jennifer Wiederkehr, her first at

the varsity level, junior Lindsay Gallagher and freshman Kylee Banaszewski.

Drawing assists were Gallagher, senior Cinnamin Aslanian and senior Kelly LaBarge.

It was a 1-0 game after the opening period before the home team broke it open by tallying three times in the second frame. Wiederkehr and Gallagher's goals were unassisted and came a minute apart early in the period.

LaValley put the finishing touches on her hat trick, scoring at the 4:48 and 2.8 mark of the third period.

Earlier in the week, North went on the road and lost 6-4 to Farmington Hills Mercy.

It had a 1-0 lead after the first period, but gave up five goals in the second to find itself behind 5-3.

Each team tallied in the third period to round out the scoring.

Head coach Joe Lucchese and Grosse Pointe North improved to 1-3 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 standings.

LIGGETT BOYS

Knights crush foe

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The newcomers to the University Liggett boys' hockey team were the driving force behind last week's 10-0 win over Airport Unified.

The visiting Jets were no match for the Knights, who scored five goals in

each of the first two periods to win in a game shortened by the mercy rule.

Freshman Ferg Roby led the way with two goals, his first two as a Knight. Freshman Charlie Fruehauf had a goal and assist.

Junior Harrison Wujek tallied two goals and

senior Stephen Campau had a natural hat trick in the opening period.

Senior Jacob Smith and junior Alexander Minanov scored the Knights' other goals.

Freshman Andrew Doppke drew his first start of the season and recorded the shutout.

Liggett is 4-0 overall.

Corrections

Grosse Pointe North junior Andrew Tomasi was misidentified in last week's winter sports preview.

He was in the team captains picture and is one of the three assistant captains for head coach Mike Maltese.

In addition, John Leone is a returning veteran of the boys' swimming and diving team and is expected to contribute in sprint freestyle, backstroke and relays.

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College signings

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH



PHOTO BY JOHN MCTAGGART

Big Ten bound

Grosse Pointe South senior Claire Platt signed a letter-of-intent to row for the University of Minnesota women's team under head coach Wendy Davis. In recent action, the rowing team sent its top varsity 8+ boat to the Head of the Charles, where the Gophers placed 17th out of 34 entries in the Women's Championship Eights. Minnesota's A boat was led by Lynn Hodnett and Tabitha Andelin, featuring Jessica Flakne, Kylie Andersen, Sara Scarbro, Rebecca Braak, Lisa Weeks, Madison Koch, and Taylor Gainey. Minnesota's lone boat finished with a time of 17:24.02, with the winning time being 15:44.79.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY HAWKINS

She is a Charger

Grosse Pointe South senior Katie Kish signed a letter-of-intent to play women's softball at Hillsdale College for head coach Joe Abraham. Hillsdale is an up-and-coming softball program which competes in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with Wayne State University, Findlay, Tiffin, Saginaw Valley, Lourdes, Ashland, Lake Superior State, Northwood, Ohio Dominican, Walsh, Malone, Lake Erie, Ferris State and Grand Valley State. Kish is a team captain for the girls' basketball team and for the girls' softball team at South where she had a solid 2014 season, batting .509 with a .704 slugging percentage and a .589 on-base percentage. She racked up 55 hits, 28 RBI, scored 59 runs and smacked 12 doubles.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

IUPUI

Grosse Pointe South senior Erik Romer, seated center, signed a letter-of-intent to dive for the Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis men's swimming and diving team under head coach Matt Bos. Joining Romer at his signing were, standing, South boys' swimming head coach Eric Gunderson, and seated from left, mother, Renee Romer, and diving coach, Tom Mulhern.



PHOTO BY JOHN MCTAGGART

Rowing

DETROIT BOAT CLUB

High schoolers earn medals

The Head of The Charles Regatta, the world's largest two-day rowing competition, celebrated its 50th race Oct. 18 and 19.

One of the world's pre-eminent rowing competitions, the 2014 event featured a world-class field of 11,000 competitors from around the world and United States, as well as more than 4,000 spectators.

Rowers from the Detroit Boat Club Crew gained two youth entries into this event.

Rowing is a varsity sport at both Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North high schools.

Rowers Michael Landuyt, a senior at South, and Sorin Koszyk, a junior at South, competed in the Men's Youth Double and finished seventh out of 42 boats.

Their finish guarantees an automatic entry into next year's regatta for the Detroit Boat Club Crew.

They are not new to this level of competition, having medaled in multi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID LANDUYT

Grosse Pointers Michael Landuyt and Sorin Koszyk compete in the Men's Youth Double in the Head of The Charles Regatta.

ple national and international regattas, including a bronze medal in each of the last two U.S. Rowing Junior National Championships.

They also won the double and placed first and second in the single scull event at the Grand Regatta in Lansing earlier in October against high school crews across

Michigan.

Rowers Jen Gmeiner, Noelle Perry, Paige Swegels, Bella Strickler, Olivia Kiehl, Grace Gulyas, Grace Mallires, Molly Packer and Claire Platt competed in the Women's Youth Eights.

They placed 32nd out of 85 competitors and also guaranteed an entry in next year's regatta.

BASEBALL CAMPS

Register for camps

Dan Griesbaum Baseball School presents its annual Holiday Hitting Camp, co-sponsored by Burke's Sport Heaven, Monday, Dec. 22, and Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe South High School main gymnasium.

The camp is for players in second through sixth grade.

Seventh and eighth graders may attend from outside the Grosse Pointe Public School System due to Michigan High School Athletic Association regulations.

Players are grouped according to age and the objective is to provide detailed instruction on the fundamentals of the game of baseball by teaching proper mechanics in a safe and positive atmosphere.

The emphasis is on instruction, not recreation.

The camp directors are Dan Griesbaum and Matt Reno.

All players must be pre-registered and the

cost is \$60 for one day or \$100 for both days. There is no refund once camp starts.

Make a check payable to Dan Griesbaum Baseball School and mail it to 835 Hidden Lane, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.

For further questions, contact Griesbaum at (313) 884-7834 or Reno at (313) 999-3487 or send an e-mail to Dan.griesbaum@gpschools.org.

The following week is a pitching camp held at Lakeside Baseball Club, 3538 Cadieux, just west

of Mack in Detroit.

The camp is Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30, and Griesbaum is the head instructor.

Those ages 8 to 10 go from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and players ages 11 to 13 go from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$60 for the three hours of instruction.

Make the check payable to Lakeside Baseball Club and mail it to 440 McKinley, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

For further questions, contact Griesbaum at the above e-mail address.

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For reservations & further info, call 313-963-9393



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Great job

During a school announcement, Monteith Elementary School student council put the word out to help feed local families by bringing food to help fill the Gleaners donation boxes. Monteith filled most of the 16 large boxes with donations with 1,003 pounds of food. Student council representatives above include Bryan Carney, Jack Howe, Sam Cosio and Kristin Krier. Teachers Elizabeth Wang and Vi Hadgikosti helped coordinate the food drive.



Singers gather 'round

Nine Grosse Pointe North High School students heard Sandra Joseph, Grosse Pointe North alumni perform at the Fox Theatre Nov. 23 in the "100 Years of Broadway" show. She sang "Michigan Christmas," "Think of Me" and "Angel of Music. Joseph has performed the character of Christine Daae in "Phantom of the Opera" for 10 years, longer than any other singer in the musical's history. Meeting following the performance were from left, Demetri and Peter Gritsas, Joseph, Matt Carlsen, Shannon McEnroe, Emma Puglia, Collen Squillace, Olivia Hoover, Jacqueline Squillace and Andrew Nurmi. Joseph lives in New York with her husband, Ron Bohmer, who performed the Phantom's part on Broadway, where they met.



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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Super day

Tom Harwood, superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, spent some time at Poupard and Defer elementary schools, to "connect directly with the students and get a real sense of the climate within the schools." When asked what he likes most about spending time at the schools, he replied, "The humor, the smiles, and the stories the students tell me. I love connecting with the kids. These kids are the heart of the school." At top, Harwood talks with the students at Defer elementary school during recess. Middle, Harwood laughs along with Poupard Elementary first-graders James Spivey and Morgen Barsh as they tell him their knock-knock jokes. Above, Harwood hands Poupard kindergartner Konnor Green a carton of milk to drink with his lunch. At left, Harwood watches as Defer Elementary student Liam Duffy shows the cool way his dad taught him to tie his shoes.

Parents of 8th graders take note

Parents of current eighth graders, whose children plan to attend Grosse Pointe North High School as freshmen in the fall of 2015, are invited to a special information night at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Grosse Pointe North High School on Wednesday, Jan. 7. Parents of current eighth graders, whose children plan to attend Grosse Pointe South High School as freshmen in the fall of 2015, are invited to a special information night at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Grosse Pointe South High School on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

These programs are focused on the ninth-grade curriculums of the two schools. Administrators and counselors will highlight the school's curriculum with a video followed by a short presentation emphasizing 9th grade scheduling procedures, class selections and the class of 2019 graduation requirements. Parents of eighth graders currently enrolled in public, parochial or private schools are encouraged to attend. The programs will conclude at 7:30 p.m. More information for North is available at (313) 432-3215. For information for South, call (313) 432-3519.

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2015 Lincoln MKC

By Jenny King
Special Writer

Alleluia! The navigation system on our elegant 2015 Lincoln MKC worked perfectly: it was like having a real person on board as it carefully guided us from the Detroit area to the Gilmore Car Museum in out-of-the-way Hickory Corners.

We thought the nav system might balk at finding what amounted to a crossing in the road, but it knew the way and the MKC provided a well-appointed interior with convenient controls and a welcome heated steering wheel for the trip.

The accessibility and usefulness of the controls were, we thought, a high point in our time in

Lincoln's first compact luxury utility vehicle. Everything the driver needed was within easy reach, so eyes could be directed at traffic and not the instrument panel.

The new MKC is available with front drive and all-wheel drive. Engine choices include a 240-horsepower 2.0-liter EcoBoost four or 285-horsepower 2.3-liter EcoBoost four. Both engines are available on the MKC with all-wheel drive; the front-drive model is powered by the 2.0-liter four. A six-speed automatic transmission serves both engines.

The smaller engine is rated at 29 miles per gallon highway. A careful driver can expect combined city-highway fuel economy of 21-25 miles

per gallon with either engine.

Prices for the MKC start at \$33,100. The \$48,000 test vehicle featured all-wheel drive and the 2.3-liter engine, plus a full complement of options from advanced safety equipment to panoramic sunroof, top-of-the-line audio, hands-free liftgate, navigation system, heated/cooled leather-trimmed seats up front and, of course, a heated steering wheel.

The real-time traffic updates - an optional service the owner pays for - alerted us to a traffic tie-up on eastbound I-94 in plenty of time to chart another course.

Equipment groups for the AWD model with larger engine include premiere, select and reserve. One thing you



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY KING

The 2015 Lincoln MKC

cannot order: more rear-seat room for passengers. We found scant leg and hip room for outboard seats and none for the

middle position. We also wondered what was up when the vehicle fishtailed at a modest speed on a curved winter road

which vehicles we were following showed no such adjustments - presumably from the stability control system.

Lexus RX 450h combines luxury, economy



PHOTOS BY JENNY KING

The 2015 Lexus RX 450h has a convenient standard display audio with rear backup camera. Display audio also provides a seven-inch monitor to view phone and vehicle information such as fuel economy, heating, ventilating and air conditioning.

By Jenny King
Special Writer

Lexus has packed a 295-horsepower six in its mid-size luxury utility vehicle, but with Toyota's gas-electric hybrid system at work, the RX 450h is rated at 30 miles per gallon combined city/highway driving. And it runs on regular fuel.

On assignment to cover the classic car auctions and the concours at Pebble Beach, we felt comfortable with this crowd in the test RX 450h with its modest styling, leather interior, 19-inch aluminum wheels, Intuitive Park Assist and an infotainment system that could provide us with not only

weather and road conditions but also stock info, fuel prices and sports updates.

In the latest RX, Lexus offers a driving "sport" mode that affects steering effort and provides throttle mapping and matching transmission. An "all-weather drive" mode uses a separate rear electric motor-generator to increase power to the rear wheels depending on road conditions and/or throttle response.

A "snow" mode slows accelerator pedal response to help reduce the possibility of wheel spin, Lexus said.

We were quite pleased with ourselves when we, using the navigation system, input our destina-

tions with the help of the interface knob on the center console.

The 2015 Lexus 450h has a base price of \$48,845. The test car was loaded with some \$9,000 in packages and single options. A \$3,060 premium package included an upgraded interior and, more importantly, safety features such as blind spot monitoring and auto-dimming outside mirrors. For an additional \$825, you can have a comfort package with rain-sensing wipers and heated and ventilated front seats. The multitasking navigation system runs \$1,915.

King is an automotive writer who lives in the City of Grosse Pointe.

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