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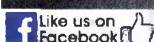
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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 77, NO. 35, 26 PAGES  
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SEPTEMBER 1, 2016  
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## St. Paul reopens

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — St. Paul is open to traffic the length of the city from Cadieux to Fisher and back.

Road crews worked since spring repairing the foundation and laying new asphalt. Also replaced are curbs, gutters, sidewalk ramps and driveway approaches.

The project cost \$1.28 million, funded by a 2.5 mil road millage City of Grosse Pointe voters approved in 2014 for citywide roadwork for up to 15 years.

### Fisher Road

Nearing an end is replacement of a 4-inch water main with one twice as large on Fisher between St. Paul and

Maumee across from Grosse Pointe South High School. Work was bid at \$262,496.

"We are done connecting mains and have put in temporary asphalt for the sidewalk until the streetscape project can get started so we have everything set before school starts," said Peter Dame, city manager.

Grosse Pointe Public Schools begin the academic year Tuesday, Sept. 6.

"DTE Energy is working to patch their hole at Fisher and Maumee," Dame said. "They, hopefully, will be done before school starts."

Construction of a new Fisher streetscape is held off until owners of Fresh Farms Market finish building their new, larger store this spring.

## Irby resigns as treasurer

By Kathy Ryan  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The 'help wanted' sign is out at Woods city hall.

City Treasurer DeeAnn Irby has tendered her resignation, effective Sept. 9. She has been city treasurer/comptroller the past eight years.

While no reason was given for the resignation,

Irby told the council she will be spending more time with her family and assisting with her elderly father who lives up north.

The city council, meeting as a committee of the whole at a special meeting called Wednesday, Aug. 24, reviewed the job description for treasurer and options to be used in posting the opening on

See RESIGNS, page 4A

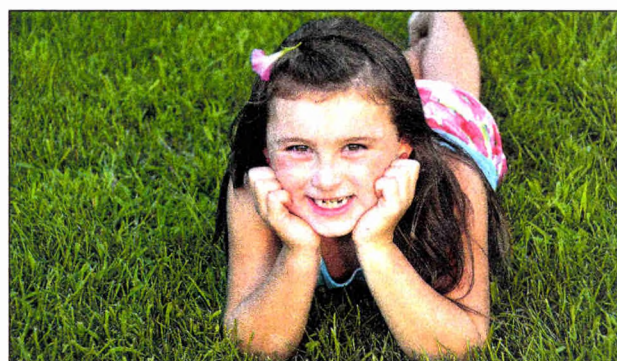


Above, Lynn and Jerry Wiszowaty used the sidewalk as their dance floor as they danced to the music of the Sun Messengers. Right, while her brother and mom sat on a blanket on the lawn, Lydia Sharpe decided to lie on the grass to listen to the music.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Music on the Lawn

Grosse Pointe Woods hosted its third and summer's last Music on the Lawn Friday, Aug. 26. The Sun Messengers performed and a crowd of around 200 attended to sit in lawn chairs and enjoy the sounds.



From left, Lyla Dwaihy, Grace Logan and Alison Logan dressed up for Music on the Lawn to dance the night away.



Evie Berger, Ruby Berger, Jillian Nixon and Maddie Pflaum gathered on a blanket to talk, laugh and listen to the music.

## The winner is ...

Grosse Pointe South's duo of Chandler Duff, left, and Charlotte Brecht block a kill attempt by Grosse Pointe North's Maddy Martinbianco during the first of two regular season battles between the longtime city rivals. Another packed house at South took in the non-league match. For complete results, see page 1C.



PHOTO BY PETE BALAYA

## Flood report due this month

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Consulting engineers are studying the cause of more than 200 basements flooding during heavy rains two weeks ago in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Preliminary findings issued within days of flooding Tuesday, Aug. 16, indicated a power outage at the Neff Road pumping station.

Also, an overheated electrical panel caused shutdown of the station's largest pump.

Repairs to the control panel had the pump operational by Saturday, Aug. 20, municipal representatives said at the time.

"Everything has been working for all the storms this past week," said Peter Dame, City of Grosse Pointe manager.

Engineers will compile their findings in a report to city officials.

"No date on that yet, but it will be within the month," Dame said.

— Brad Lindberg

Opinion ..... 6A  
Public Safety ..... 7A  
Community ..... 1B  
Obituaries ..... 7B  
Sports ..... 1C  
Classified ads ..... 4C  
Schools ..... 1D

Pointer of  
**Interest**

See story, page 4A



### Sergio Barcena

Home: Grosse Pointe Park  
Sculptor and jewelry maker showing wares at Art & Apples Festival



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PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Gary Bresnehan, president of the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club and a resident of the City, shows U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence the club's election headquarters at 17860 Mack, City of Grosse Pointe.

## Dems operate from Mack office

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Democrats are focusing on the November election from a field office on Mack.

Eastside efforts for local, state and national campaigns are coordinated out of the office that opened Sunday, Aug. 28, at 17860 Mack near the intersection of Rivard, City of Grosse Pointe.

"We'll join forces as one, big Democratic team to wage a very aggressive campaign in our community with volunteers," said Gary

Bresnehan, president of the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club and a resident of the City.

Club members are collaborating with Michigan Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign and the Hillary Clinton campaign for president.

"Anybody who wants to support our candidates and get more information can come to the office," Bresnehan said. "You can pick up campaign signs, volunteer to do phone banking and literature drops. We'll have organizers on site to help volunteers and candidates."

U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence attended the grand opening.

## Full Circle proclamation

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — If winning is marked by incremental victories, then a \$48 profit at the Osius Park concession stand is a big credit to students at the Full Circle Foundation.

Students employed at the concession stand were among Full Circle representatives receiving Grosse Pointe Shores proclamations from Mayor Ted Kedzierski Tuesday, Aug. 16.

"It's our pleasure to honor the good work of the Full Circle Foundation," Kedzierski said.

"As long as you guys keep coming, we'll continue to serve you," said foundation student Yarnell Waller, 20, of Harper Woods. "Thank you so much."

The charitable foundation teams with Grosse Pointe public schools to provide disabled and special needs students classroom education, real-world work experi-

ence and life skills.

Shores resident Karl Kratz cofounded Full Circle six years ago with Mary Fodell, a retired Grosse Pointe public school teacher from the City of Grosse Pointe.

"A lot of it is training to get them jobs down the road, but, also to live on their own," said Kratz.

Current enrollment is 26, he said.

The organization operates the Upscale Resale Shop at 17006 Mack near Cadieux in Grosse Pointe Park, the Edible Garden on the grounds of Riverview Rehabilitation Center (formerly Austin High School) on East Warren in Detroit, plus laundry, culinary, Internet skills and internship programs.

"I thank those who support the concession stand and the resale shop," Waller said. "We really appreciate seeing your lovely faces. It means a lot to us."

The concession stand opened last summer. It was operated initially by Coney Island,

then Coney Island in conjunction with Full Circle and, this summer, Full Circle alone.

"This is the second year these young people have been given a great opportunity," said Sue Banner of St. Clair Shores, one of the foundation's administrators and a retired employee of the Grosse Pointe schools.

Full Circle celebrates the harvest at the Edible Garden 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, according to Banner. A tractor is displayed by Mahindra North American Technical Center, in Troy, which Banner said donated \$7,500 to the foundation.

On Thursday, Oct. 27, the foundation hosts its Glitz & Glam fundraising celebration at the Roostertail in Detroit.

"We throw a mean party," Banner said.

For more information about the Full Circle Foundation, call (313) 469-6660 or visit fullcirclefdn.org.

## Thirsty trees see red

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Stressed-out trees are casting shades of autumn.

Drought and prolonged heat this summer prompt premature leaf change.

A line of overlapping maples on lower Warner declare their plight with red leaves on the side facing the southern sun and above the sidewalk and roadway.

"It's going to be drier on that side of the tree than the other, because it's more exposed to the sun and is closer to the pavement," said Karen Burke, consumer horticulture assistant at the Michigan State University Extension office in Macomb County. "The pavement heats."

"There's a reflective effect," said Brian Colter, Grosse Pointe Park city forester. "People call me worried about their elm leaves over the street turning prematurely yellow. They're relieved to hear its probably just



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Premature fall color of maples trees on Warner in Grosse Pointe Farms indicate moisture and heat stress.

additional heat reflected off the roadway."

Stress-induced leaf change is widespread.

The MSU extension service published notices in 2012 and 2013 about early leaf change. Both attributed faux fall shades to "moisture stress" and drought causing "reduced growth of branches, small leaves and early fall color," respectively.

Additional symptoms in deciduous trees are leaf scorch, brown outside edges or browning between veins, according to "Caring for trees in a dry climate," a guide published in 2010 by the Colorado State University extension service.

"People notice browning at the top of trees," Burke said.

Despite recent thunderstorms, long periods without rain parched the soil "bone dry three feet down," she said, citing soil samples.

"The soil is so hard it cannot absorb moisture from rain, so it runs off,"

Burke said. "The same thing happens when watering lawns and trees."

She recommends watering trees with a soaker hose or drip irrigation. Both methods lose less water to evaporation than sprinklers.

"If you water slowly, the soil has time to grab and absorb it," Burke said.

"Big trees consume an enormous amount of water," Colter said.

A general rule of deep watering trees is to apply 10 gallons per inch of trunk diameter, according to the Colorado report, tailored to residents of the states' "semi-arid, shortgrass prairie that would have few trees without irrigation."

It takes about five minutes of hand watering from a garden hose under medium pressure to distribute 10 gallons of water.

A 4-inch diameter tree, therefore, should be watered for 20 minutes.

# GrossePointe

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## "Chamber Chat"

**Pointer of Distinction Awards**

Nominations are now open to publicly recognize outstanding students, businesses, individuals and nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated excellence and a passion in the community. The Pointer of Distinction Awards will be celebrated at the Chamber's Annual Dinner on Thursday, January 26, 2017. Call the chamber for a nomination form, 313.881.4722.

**2016 POD Winners**

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| Excellence in Nonprofit: | SOC   |
| Excellence in Business:  | LaModa International Hair Design                    |
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# Fix bikes on the fly for free

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — As a freewheeling bicycle rider, Jenny Boettcher sometimes finds her tires short of air.

“I’ve ridden down the street wishing I had an air pump,” said Boettcher, executive director of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe. “At gas stations, you have to put money in a pump to get air.”

If Boettcher’s tires stay inflated long enough

for her to ride across Wayne County to Plymouth, she’ll find:

In the quiet and cultured repose of the Plymouth District Library, director Carol Souchock works in her office to the satisfying clank of open-end wrenches and a hissing air compressor.

A bicycle fix-it station is outside her window. Free tools hang from a rack. Free air flows through a nozzle.

“It is used daily by all types of people, from Ann Arbor Touring Society group rides

down to parents fixing toddlers’ four-wheel bikes,” said Souchock. “Teenagers on a regular basis utilize the air.”

She arranged installation, inspired by the popularity of a station at a library in upper New York.

“It is a perfect fit for our community, which is a heavy biking community,” Souchock said.

Back to Grosse Pointe. The first of a half-dozen free bicycle fix-it stations at public spots in the Grosse Pointes is scheduled to be located this month at a bus stop

near the driveway to Shores city hall on Lakeshore above Vernier.

“With all the interest in biking, it’s a perfect location for the first station in the area,” said Mark Wollenweber, Shores manager. “So many people bike down Lakeshore.”

The Chamber of Commerce is splitting the \$1,300 cost with the city.

“Mark Wollenweber sought support from the Chamber Foundation to purchase a fix-it station,” Boettcher said.

Fix-it stations are intended for simple repairs, such as changing wheels or tightening a seat, according to Bryan Breslin, co-owner of Bikes Blades & Boards in Grosse Pointe Park.

“They usually have wrenches attached by braided steel cables so they don’t get on their own wheels and disappear,” Breslin said. “You can fix a flat tire because they have a wrench to take the wheel off and on, and a compressor to put air in the tire.”

“We’re going to be ordering multiple fix-it

stations throughout the Grosse Pointes,” Boettcher said.

They’re funded by Wayne County.

“(Commissioner) Tim Killeen (D-Detroit) is going to give us \$10,735 left over from the parks millage to put more of these around the Grosse Pointes,” Wollenweber said.

“The (parks) department approved it because they’re open to the public,” Killeen said. “Anybody can stop by and use them. If we need more, I’ll allocate (more funds) next year.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Incoming parks and recreation supervisor Chad Craig with retiring supervisor Terry Solomon.

## Craig appointed P&R supervisor

By Kathy Ryan  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Chad Craig has one of the best offices in all of the Pointes.

As the new supervisor of the Parks and Recreation department in Grosse Pointe Park, Craig can step out of his office at Windmill Pointe Park and see the lake and marina to his right and the swimming pool and Lavins Center to his left.

“What I see just walking out of my office is the best part of this job,” he said. “The amenities we offer, the lake, the marina, the pool, the Lavins Center and all it has to offer. It’s a great place to be. I can’t believe how fortunate I am.”

Craig, 32, is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a degree in recreation and comes to the Park position after positions in Oklahoma and Portage.

While he grew up in Sturgis, his wife, Stacie Werthmann, grew up in Grosse Pointe and is a Grosse Pointe South High School grad. The

couple lives in Grosse Pointe Park.

Craig takes over from Terry Solomon, who is retiring after more than two decades of directing a department that has seen enormous growth during that time. The construction of the Lavins Center, two movie theaters, the Tompkins Center and the skating rink at Patterson Park all have been done with Solomon’s oversight.

“This department has been her passion for over 25 years,” Craig said. “These are tremendous shoes I’ll be filling, but Terry has been a huge help. We’ve been working together for the past month. Terry is extremely detail-oriented and she leaves a tremendous amount of information for me to work with. She has files on every event that has occurred during her tenure. I’m set for success.”

While Windmill Pointe Park has been busy all summer with pool and marina activities — Craig noted he appreciated the

See P&R, page 8A

## Foundation and PSOs on a roll

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — There’s something disarming about a policeman on a bicycle.

“It’s not as intimidating as being in a police car,” said John Shook, president of the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation. “They just blend in and are part of the community.”

For those reasons and more, the foundation donated two mountain bikes plus related equipment to the public safety department.

“It’s a good community relations tool,” said Officer Justin Strohmeyer, in charge of the five-man bike patrol unit. “Citizens like seeing officers on bikes.”

Bike officers on the overnight shift sometimes patrol the darkness in relative silence.

“We use them strategically,” said Chief Stephen Poloni. “If we’re having larcenies in an area, we’ll put out a bike officer.”

The foundation, a non-profit charity, was established more than 30 years ago to enhance the city with things not normally paid by tax dollars, such as the new playscape dedicated two years ago at Neff Park.

“We thought it would be great to give police officers exposure to citizens,” Shook said of bike



PHOTO FROM THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

Officer Justin Strohmeyer, left, in charge of the five-man City of Grosse Pointe bicycle patrol unit, shows off two mountain bikes donated last week by the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation. From left after Strohmeyer are Foundation President John Shook, Chief Stephen Poloni, Mayor Dale Scrace, Sgt. Joseph Adams and Officer Thomas Martindale.

donations valued at \$4,000.

“The foundation has always been very generous to help the city and police department,” Poloni said. “We don’t normally have the budget to buy this type of wish-list item.”

Police bikes are heavier-duty than normal.

“They have disc brakes

for good stopping power,”

said Strohmeyer. Officers haul equipment, including ticket books and first aid supplies, in a bag or on a rack over the back wheel.

“They have a headlight, and red and blue lights front and rear,”

Strohmeyer said. “We certainly appreciate them.”

The city now has three new bikes. Four 15-year-old models will be sold.

For more information about the foundation, visit [cityofgpfoundation.org](http://cityofgpfoundation.org).

## Correction

The Aug. 25, story, “Serving up new courts and lot,” should have reported a 1 mil, one-year property tax levy in Grosse Pointe Shores generates \$262,000 for municipal park improvements.

## The Week Ahead

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 2

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods city offices are closed for an unpaid fulough day. Rubbish pickup stays on schedule.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 5

◆ City offices are closed for Labor Day.  
◆ The Grosse Pointe Woods Community Bridge Walk, 9:30 a.m. at Lake Front Park.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 6

◆ “Images of Sound with Lonnie and Clyde,” a poetry reading with musical accompaniment by writer Lonnie Hull DuPont and violinist Clyde McKaney, 12:45 p.m. at Services for Older Citizens, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. Call (313) 882-9600.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

◆ Annual Senior Citizens’ Day, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lake Front Park. Cost is \$7 for residents, \$10 for non-residents.  
◆ Camp Wind-Y-Mill, 2 p.m. at Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park. Reservations required.

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# Art and soul

## Park resident featured in Art & Apples Festival

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

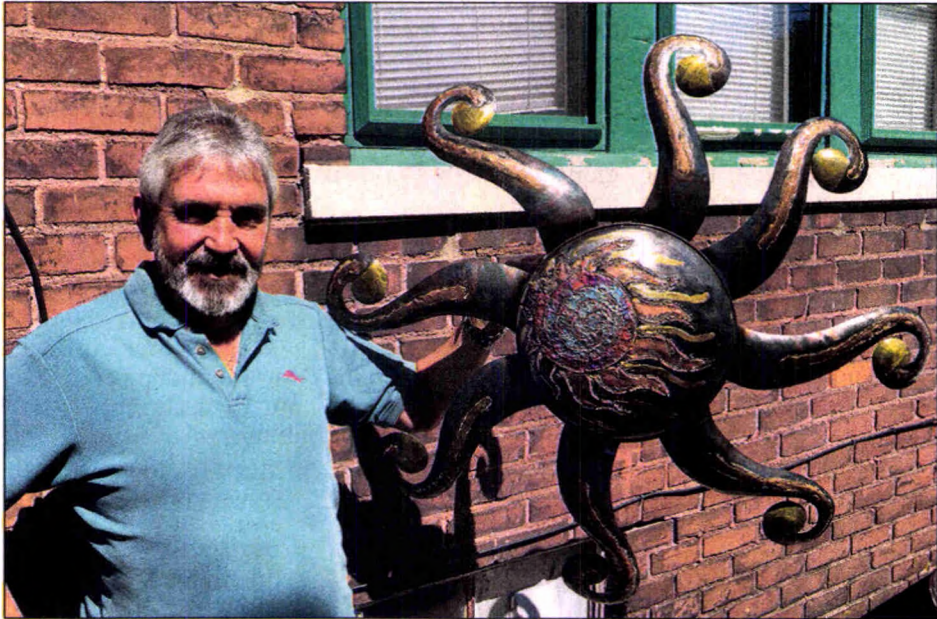
When Sergio Barcena moved to the United States 34 years ago, he wanted to find a home near water — somewhere he could sail and fish and find inspiration for the art he loves to make.

Grosse Pointe Park was the perfect fit.

"It's close to the water and I like sailing," he said. "We lived on the water in Mexico."

Barcena displays and sells his work — sculptures in copper, steel and bronze, as well as hand-crafted jewelry — at the 51st Art & Apples Festival, sponsored by Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester, Friday, Sept. 9, to Sunday, Sept. 11. The fair is one of the largest juried fine arts fairs in the country and attracts nearly 200,000 attendees each year.

Barcena, originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, spent years studying metals and jewelry in San Miguel de Allende, a unique and historic town, he said. He befriended an artisan and art teacher in San Miguel, who gave Barcena a job.



Sergio Barcena's sculptures are among the juried artwork appearing in the Art & Apples Festival Sept. 9 to 11.

"He taught me a lot of different medias," he said. "He was a very fine jeweler, too, working with different wires and metals."

Barcena started using glass and brass for his work, then moved to other metals and uses leather in his jewelry. He was drawn to the media through his interest in using hand tools to produce decorative arts in various metals. He experiments with different surface decorating

techniques, including heat and chemicals, to bring out unique colors and textures in his work. He said he enjoys using different tools, learning how to make tools and working with torches.

"The inspiration for my sculptures comes from growing up on the ocean," he said. "I use various gauges of wire and sheet metals to fashion one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry."

When he moved to the United States, he adapted

an American feel in his work, particularly southwestern style, but the call of the water was strong, too.

"I'm a fisherman, too,

so I do a lot of nautical," he said.

"It makes me happy people really appreciate it," he continued. "Every piece is unique and different. What I make is one of a kind and that makes all the difference .... It makes people happy."

Barcena, who has a law degree but prefers the stress-free career of making art, shows his work in fairs across the country, including Chicago, Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas.

"Normally when I do an art fair, I demonstrate, so I bring my torch and my tools and I make jewelry," he said, adding he's been showing at Art & Apples for more than 20 years.

He also has a booth at the Renaissance Festival called The Leather

Jeweler, where he makes and sells his work.

Barcena and his wife, attorney Heather Gust, both love fishing and have competed in tournaments. They also like boating and travel, spending time in Mexico in colder months.

"We spend time there in the winter," he said. "I take classes while I'm there, learn new techniques, new tools."

Barcena races out of Bayview Yacht Club and gets his other summer-time kicks on the golf course. He and his wife — who have two sons, Frank and Arthur — also love to spend time in the Upper Peninsula.

"Mexico only has spring and summer," he said. "Here you have everything. It's nice."

For more information about the Art & Apples Festival, visit [pccart.org](http://pccart.org).

PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

## City boosting fund balance, hopes for higher bond rating

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The bar is raised and set in stone regarding the city's savings policy.

A practice begun in 2007 to maintain a 20 percent rainy day fund is being boosted to 25 percent and put in writing.

"We had a policy that hadn't been formally adopted, even though it had been followed," said Kimberly Kleinow, finance director for the City of Grosse Pointe.

City officials made it official this month.

Municipal auditors often recommend cities have 15 to 20 percent of the annual general fund in reserve for emergencies.

Reserves are described formally as an unassigned fund balance and, informally, as a rainy day fund.

Either way, it comprises residual funds "technically available for any purpose," according to the city's new policy. "The use of fund balance is appropriate for one-time expenditures to avoid creating a structural deficit."

"The policy is based on the Michigan Governmental Finance Officers Association's model," said Peter Dame, city manager. "Having a formally

approved fund balance policy demonstrates the city's commitment to making sound financial decisions and maintaining a very high level of financial stability."

"The last few years, we've ended the fiscal year with a surplus," said Mayor Dale Scrace. "This is using some of the surplus we think we'll have from last fiscal year to bump fund balance to 25 percent."

Increased reserves were among priorities the city council endorsed in March.

Council members adopted the higher balance during the same meeting, Monday, Aug. 15, they announced intentions to issue \$2.2 million in bonds for water main upgrades.

The timing is tactical.

Scrace and colleagues hope strengthening the city's reserves earns a higher bond rating, which translates into paying lower interest on bonds.

"Rating agencies look for that," Scrace said. "Agencies won't look at the rating until you're ready to go out for bonds because they have to rate the bonds."

The city is rated AA+, one notch behind the highest possible, AAA, as are Grosse Pointe Farms and Shores.

"We're hoping to get AAA," Scrace said.

## RESIGNS:

Continued from page 1A

several professional websites.

Among the minimum requirements are a bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, public administration or equivalent field; minimum five years' experience in municipal finance; and the ability to work cooperatively with the city administrator, appointed officials and department heads.

The starting salary is listed in the \$80,000 to \$85,000 range, with a defined benefits pension and health benefits.

A brief job description for the treasurer includes developing operating and capital budgets, fiscal forecasting, overseeing city investments, handling bonding, refinancing and debt management

and working with external auditors. The treasurer also oversees general ledger accounting, purchase orders, payroll and tax billing, collection and disbursement.

A complete listing of the treasurer's responsibilities can be found online at [gpwmi.us](http://gpwmi.us).

Qualified applicants should send a cover letter, resume, salary history and letters of reference to Lisa Hathaway, City Clerk, City of Grosse Pointe Woods, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 or [lhathaway@gpwmi.us](mailto:lhathaway@gpwmi.us). The closing date for applications is Monday, Sept. 12.

Irby told the council she will be available by phone to assist with any questions the staff may have, but did not wish to enter into a formal consulting agreement.

## Grosse Pointe News

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# New director, familiar face

By Kathy Ryan  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — If you think the new director of public safety looks familiar, you're right.

John Kosanke, a 26-year veteran of the department, took over the role of director this week, following his predecessor Bruce Smith's move to city administrator.

Since joining the department in 1990 as a public safety officer, Kosanke has risen through the ranks to the top spot, with just a brief break earlier this summer, when he retired with the rank of lieutenant. Once the director's position was posted, Kosanke applied.

"Once the position came open, I knew I wanted to come back," Kosanke said.

According to Smith, Kosanke was the top candidate out of three finalists.

"He has served this department as a patrol officer, a traffic officer and command officer," Smith told the city council prior to its vote on Kosanke. "He was the

unanimous choice of the interview panel."

Kosanke, 50, has roots in Grosse Pointe Woods, as his parents and other relatives are residents in the town he serves. He grew up on Detroit's eastside, graduating from DeLaSalle Collegiate High School and Sienna Heights University with a degree in public safety studies. He currently attends the School of Police Staff and Command at Eastern Michigan University.

"This is a course that focuses on executive development in police departments," Kosanke said. "It gives you what you need to lead and develop a department."

Kosanke said one of his first orders of business will be to hire new staff members, including patrol officers and dispatchers, with staff numbers being down due to promotions and retirements. He's working on getting up to speed on the consolidation agreement with Grosse Pointe Shores for dispatch and prisoner services. Another priority is professional development.

"This is a good department," he said. "We are



John Kosanke was named director of public safety in the Woods.

professionals, which is what our residents expect. People call us when they are having problems and they expect that problem to be solved."

Kosanke recalled with a laugh the first "problem" he encountered his first day on the job July 1990.

"I was working midnights and the first call I was sent on was to assist a resident who had a bat in the house," he said. "I looked at my supervisor and he just said, 'Let's go.' Not only was I a police officer, but an animal control officer as well."

A resident of New Baltimore, Kosanke literally takes his public

safety work home with him, where he serves as deputy fire chief for the New Baltimore volunteer fire department. He is a member of the Macomb Police Chiefs Association, the Macomb County Fire Chiefs' Association and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 102.

Kosanke said he appreciates the support from residents and encourages them to become more involved.

"We need them to call us when they see something that just doesn't seem right," he said. "Far too often, after a crime occurs, people will say they had seen something but hesitated to call us. My message to them is don't hesitate."

## One extreme deserves the other

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Rumblestrip roadways are routine in winter because the freeze-thaw cycle buckles the driving surface.

Something similar happens during the long, hot summer.

"It's common when you have repeated days of high temperatures," said Terry Brennan, director of public services in Grosse Pointe Farms.

In winter, moisture enters cracks in the roadway, freezes and expands, creating ridges and voids that collapse into potholes.

Likewise in summer, moisture conspires with thermal expansion of road surfaces to cause

buckling.

"It can happen a couple of inches," Brennan said.

While ridges of the unexpectedly jarring kind are a relatively minor issue in the Pointes so far, they can range in consequence from a beverage-spilling bump to a tire-popping hazard.

"Usually, expansion joints take care of buckling," said Brett Smith, Shores public works director. "Usually, if the roadway is cracked, it's a little more flexible."

Concrete buckles more than asphalt, which has more give.

"Concrete goes through a process of expansion when it's very hot, and it contracts during winter months," said Stephen Pangori, execu-

See EXTREME, page 8A

## Banks arraigned on fraudulent loan charges

By Kathy Ryan  
Staff Writer

**DETROIT** — State Rep. Brian Banks was arraigned last week in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges stemming from providing false information on a loan application submitted in 2010 to a credit union.

Banks, who is seeking to retain his Michigan House seat in the Nov. 8 election, is being charged with three felonies and a misdemeanor. He faces two counts of uttering and publishing false information and two counts of using false information to obtain a loan from the Detroit Metropolitan Credit Union. Banks said he needed the loan to pay for a review class before tak-

ing the Michigan State Bar examination. If convicted he could face up to 14 years in prison. He also is being charged with being a habitual offender, based on previous bad check charges.

According to Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, Banks filed

fraudulent employment papers with the credit union when applying for a \$3,000 loan. Banks received the loan, but failed to make payments in a timely manner. Banks eventually reached a settlement with the credit union and the settlement amount has been paid.

Banks was released on a \$5,000 bond.

Banks, a Democrat from Harper Woods who represents Grosse Pointe Woods and a small section of Grosse Pointe Shores, seeks a third term in the House. He faces Republican Will Broman in the November election.

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OUR VIEW

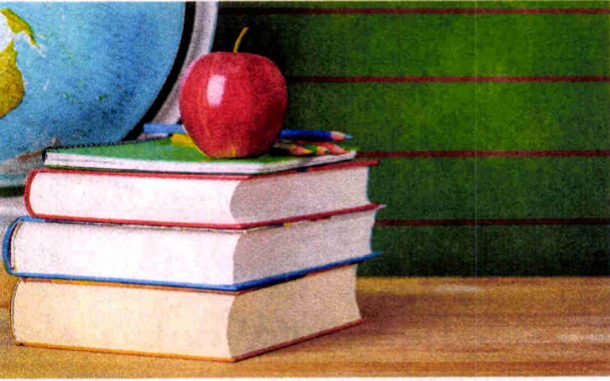
A tale of two cities — and their borders

Last week the New Jersey nonprofit EdBuild released a report on America’s most economically segregated school district borders. The Grosse Pointe Public School System and Detroit Public School System ranked top on the list. Detroit students were reported at 49 percent poverty level, while the study’s methodology estimated the Grosse Pointe poverty rate at 7 percent.

According to Superintendent Gary Niehaus, the report undercounted the level of poverty impacting GPPSS schools significantly, with the real percentage closer to 15.47. And while acknowledging the need to strengthen funding for traditional public education in every community, Niehaus cited Proposal A — a financing mechanism in which taxes collected for the schools go to Lansing and are redistributed to the districts on a per-pupil basis — as a complicating factor negatively impacting public education in Michigan in general.

Beyond a discrepancy in poverty levels or a debate on state funding woes lies a basic flaw in the study’s findings. No discussion of disparities between Grosse Pointe and its neighboring Detroit is complete without a thorough examination of decades of corruption, mismanagement and even criminal activity plaguing Detroit schools. Whether DPS receives less or equal per-pupil funding will continue to be irrelevant until those funds are managed properly and adults charged with serving the city’s children are held accountable.

More on the report and the 1974 Milliken v. Bradley case, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision with far-reaching repercussions, is available on page 2D.



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Pure Grosse Pointe

A young boy holds his nose underwater in the Grosse Pointe Woods Lake Front Park pool, seemingly hiding from the new school year, which starts Sept. 6.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

GUEST OPINION By Maurice Paine

New GMO bill changes food labeling, bringing confusion

President Obama has signed a GMO labeling bill that will change the way food is labeled right here in Michigan. The bill will require food manufacturers to label all foods that have genetically modified ingredients.

Opponents of the bill are calling it the DARK Act, or Denying Americans the Right to Know, saying it is vague on what qualifies as a genetically modified product and doesn’t enforce clearly marked labels.

Some products excluded would be highly-refined oils and sweeteners because although they started out as genetically engineered foods, after highly processing them, they would no longer be considered genetically modified under the bill. Animal products like milk, butter, eggs and meat also will be exempt from labeling even if the animal is fed GMO products.

The non-GMO labeling process might further restrict millions of Americans from obtaining complete product information by excluding



those without access to technology. The bill, in many cases, forces shoppers to use smartphones to help identify if a product is GMO with a QR code read by an app or by calling a 1-800 number. This use of technology to read an ingredient label discounts more than 50 percent of America’s lower income and rural populations who don’t have access to smartphones as stated by the Pew Research Center.

The unequal opportunity for all consumers to easily identify GMO foods is concerning and discriminatory. Scanning

a QR code using an app or calling a 1-800 number to check every item in a grocery store is seemingly impossible.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 89 percent of corn grown in the U.S. is genetically modified. GMO foods are controversial even though the U.S. Department of Agriculture deems them safe.

Consumer watchdog organization, Non-GMO Project, dedicated to protecting non-GMO food supply through education and marketing support for verified brands,

is rightfully opposed to the bill stating, “The loss of any chance for meaningful mandatory GMO labeling means that retailers continue to have a critically important job to do in educating shoppers.”

Many stores are dedicated to providing products clearly labeled and will continue to do so even after the new regulations are enforced. It is important for consumers to know what they are purchasing and have the resources to make educated decisions.

The regulations will take two years to go into effect, in which time the U.S. Department of Agriculture has to finalize standards and qualifications to identify GMO and non-GMO products.

I urge you to contact Congress members to encourage them to fight for GMO labeling that is more accessible and transparent. Contact Sen. Debbie Stabenow at (202) 224-4822 and Sen. Gary Peters at (202) 224-6221.

*Paine is the manager at the Grosse Pointe Better Health store.*

I SAY By Jody McVeigh

Getting to know you

I was 22, a new graduate of Central Michigan University with a degree in English, taking a tour of my first newsroom, the Advisor & Source newspapers in Shelby Township. My associate editor, Joe Warner, led me to the back of the building and popped open a supply closet so I could adequately fill my desk with the appropriate news-gathering tools: notebooks, pens, paper-clips.

He asked what size notepad I wanted to use. “I don’t care,” I said. “Pretend like you do.” My news career began not with the classes and tests and essays at Central, but with the simple advice from a man who became my mentor and now, after 20 years in the business, my predecessor. Again.

Joe Warner took me under his wing for the first 10 years of my career, then left his office, desk and duties to me as he went on to work at the Daily Tribune in Royal

Oak, then the Grosse Pointe News, where he’s been at the helm nine years.

After he left, I served 10 years as editor of the Source, a small weekly paper that continued to grow smaller as the economy took a hit, resulting in layoffs, cut corners and paychecks and suffering morale. I stayed with that organization because I grew up with a sense of loyalty. My father worked for General Motors his entire career, through good and bad, and I thought that was just how it was done. So I stayed and I suffered for this business of news. And I forgot to care.

When I came to the Grosse Pointe News 16 months ago, any guilt I felt for leaving my former employer didn’t last long once I was introduced to this community. Much like Joe wrote in his column last week, I fell in love with Grosse Pointe my first day, after my first meeting at Morning Glory with members of

the Grosse Pointe War Memorial team.

From there, I met members of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and their office neighbor, attorney Ted Everingham. Lunch at The Hill followed and the rest of the day flew by, but not without a trip down Lakeshore.

These 16 months have flown by and I’ve had a blast working with Joe, who has been a dear friend — and still a mentor — the 20 years I’ve known him. Now, once again he has bequeathed to me his job. And once again, I am honored that he has confidence in me to do this work.

I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know many business owners, leaders and members of the community in the short time I served as community editor. I’ve enjoyed relationships formed, partnerships built and friendships forged. I’ve enjoyed learning to care again — about the job and the people we serve.

I look forward to meeting more of you and hearing your stories as editor of this distinguished newspaper, of which I am proud to be a part. Thanks to Joe’s early-on advice, I do care and I want you to, too.

I look forward to the next chapter of this journey, meeting more of you and learning more about this community. I invite you to stop in at the office and say hello.

And while I’ll miss Joe and wish him all the best on his next adventure, I’m grateful he entrusted me with this position. I’m setting goals and making changes and I’m open to receiving your input. What would you like to change or improve in the Grosse Pointe News? What do you want to see that isn’t appearing? Feel free to reach out with your ideas or to say hello.

McVeigh is editor of the Grosse Pointe News. Contract her at jmcveigh@grossepointe-news.com or call (313) 343-5590.



# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

## Grosse Pointe Park

### Jewelry taken

A resident of the 1000 block of Lakepointe told police Friday, Aug. 5, a television technician was working in a room in her house. After the technician left, the homeowner noted a ring, valued at \$20,000, was missing. Police continue to investigate.

### Bikes stolen

Three bikes were taken this past week. Sometime between 2:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 22, a blue Schwinn mountain bike was taken from the 15000 block of Kercheval. The bike was locked. Wednesday, Aug. 24, a bike was taken from the rack at Pierce Middle School while the student was at registration. The third bike, which was unlocked, was taken from the bike rack at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch at 1:35 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, but police recovered the bike the next day in an alley near the library.

—Kathy Ryan  
*Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.*

## Grosse Pointe Woods

### Car break-in

A Woods resident out for an early morning walk Sunday, Aug. 21, thought it odd when she started finding mail for a Norwood resident strewn along Mack Avenue. She collected the mail and carried it to the Norwood house. Along the way she found more mail and some items of clothing. She also found a car with a window smashed out. A neighbor alerted police, who were able to locate the owner of the car who was also the owner of the mail and the clothes. Police found fingerprints on the car and continue to investigate.

### Hit and run

Police received a call at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21, from a motorist who witnessed a car drive the wrong way through a turn-around lane on Mack, hit a pole and flee the scene down Anita. While searching the area, police found a car with significant front end damage and a flat tire. The driver, an 18-year-old Woods resident, failed a field sobriety test and was taken into custody.

### Tow truck hit

While assisting with an accident at 4 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, on Morningside, a tow truck was hit by another car driven by a 26-year-old Woods resident. The driver appeared to be intoxicated, but refused a breathalyzer test. He was taken into custody. Two hours later he agreed to take the test and, at that point, registered a .16 blood alcohol content. He was arrested.

—Kathy Ryan  
*Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety,*

(313) 343-2400.

## City of Grosse Pointe

### 26 suspensions

Police arrested a 30-year-old male motorist from Detroit at 11:41 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, for violating 26 suspensions of his driver's license.

A patrolman pulled him over on northbound Cadieux near Mack for operating a black 2007 Chevrolet Impala with a cracked windshield and missing rearview mirror.

### Tight lipped

Officers responding to the sighting of an unknown man and woman trying to open the door of an oil change shop in the 18100 block of Mack near Fisher at 4:54 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, found the man, 19, of Grosse Pointe Park, sitting on the front step.

"(He) refused to supply a driver's license or give verbal information who he was," reported an officer.

Police arrested him for being disorderly and learned his identity.

The female reportedly walked away on Fisher before officers arrived.

### Home free

An employee of Chase Bank faced a deadline last week to return \$6,387.01 he's accused of embezzling from the branch on Notre Dame in the Village.

The suspect is a 35-year-old man from Sterling Heights, a bank representative told City police Monday, Aug. 22.

"(He) has been given until Friday, Aug. 26, to return the money," reported a patrolman. "At this time, Chase Bank is only asking for a police record and no further action to be taken by us."

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

## Grosse Pointe Farms

### Honest answer

Been drinkin'?, a patrolman asked a 27-year-old man from Castle Rock, Colo., during a traffic stop for making an illegal U-turn from southbound to northbound Moross at Mack shortly after 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28.

"Yea, some," the man reportedly answered.

He protested taking a one-legged balance test.

"OK, you guys are just (messing) with me," he reportedly said.

Officers cited him for having an open bottle of whiskey in his 2016 Dodge Dart and a .07 percent alcohol level in his blood.



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### Two of a kind

A patrolman cruising the Mack Avenue border above Moross made two drunken driving arrests on consecutive nights within the same hour.

At 3:49 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, the officer arrested a 34-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man for having a .22 percent blood alcohol level while operating a green 2004 Jeep four-door near the intersection of Elizabeth.

At 3:04 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, the officer caught a 25-year-old man from Harper Woods with a .25 percent blood alcohol level while driving a 2010 Ford Focus at the corner of Hillcrest.

Both arrests developed from routine traffic stops.

### Holly cut

For the second time since Wednesday, Aug. 17, someone vandalized holly bushes in front of a house on Radnor Circle near the Kercheval alley on the Hill, the female homeowner told police Saturday morning, Aug. 27.

"This time, she wanted to make a (police) report in hopes of stopping people cutting her holly," reported a patrolman, noting "branches scattered across the sidewalk" near the alley.

### Crack

Police said they found crack cocaine in a maroon 2000 Ford Ranger pickup truck operated by a St. Clair Shores man, 20, being investigated on Mack near Hillcrest at 5:07 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, for running a red light.

"(He) stated he was on probation for possession of marijuana," said an officer. "(He) stated he did not know where the crack, on the front passenger seat, had come from."

Officers arrested him and are seeking to take possession of the pickup under drug forfeiture statutes.

### Flagged

A Farms man, 46, attending the season-opening football game at Grosse Pointe South High School Thursday, Aug. 25, told police the next morning he'd been threatened by a fellow male resident, 39.

"(The complainant) stated (the other man) made multiple threats to 'kick (him)' in public at the game," reported a public safety officer. "He further stated (that) on Tuesday, Aug. 23, (the suspect) stood (on the road behind) his residence threatening and shouting profanities. (The complainant) was not home, but his wife witnessed the incident."

The complainant reportedly is worried for his and his family's safety.

"(I) advised (him) if he or his family have further unwanted contact with (the suspect) to not hesitate to call 911 immediately," said the officer.

### Hot tip

A man living on Meadow Lane reported unknown thieves stole two pieces of jewelry worth nearly \$10,500 from his house and fled in an unknown direction, according to police.

The theft happened in late April or early May, he told police last week.

"(He) stated he needs a police report for insurance purposes," said an officer.

Missing are a woman's \$7,200 gold heart pendant with diamonds and an 18 karat diamond ring worth \$3,295, according to police.

### Fore

A big hitter on the Country Club of Detroit driving range is suspected of launching a golf ball off the property and into the driver-side window of a 2006 BMW two-door parked curbside on eastbound Kercheval near Waverly during the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 25.

The damage was reported by a 17-year-old Farms male at 6:29 p.m.

A responding officer found shattered window glass in the roadway and a yellow golf ball in the gutter.

"It appears to be a range ball from the country club," reported the officer. "Numerous others, matching this ball, were on the ground along the fence line at the (club)."

### Trek taken

A 14-year-old Grosse Pointe High South School students's transportation options became limited when the red and black Trek mountain bike he rode to football practice Tuesday morning, Aug. 23, was missing by lunchtime.

He'd parked the bike unlocked near the baseball field next to a faculty lot.

### Green bike gone

A 24-inch fluorescent green Specialized mountain bike was believed stolen between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, from the backyard of a house in the first block of Handy.

### Copper stolen

Scrappers stripped copper plumbing from an unoccupied house in the 300 block of Chalfonte between Thursday, Aug. 11, and Tuesday, Aug. 23, according to a listing agent from Grosse Pointe Woods.

"(I) observed handprints on a rear window," reported a public safety officer. "A screen with a cut on it was in the base-

ment. The milk chute door near the back door was open. A key to the back door was in the chute."

### Letter missing

A man living in the 400 block of Cloverly suspects his monthly pension check was purloined from his mailbox, he told police Tuesday, Aug. 23.

He couldn't confirm delivery of the check nor saw anything suspicious, but is concerned because a postal carrier usually delivers the check the same day each month.

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

## Grosse Pointe Shores

### Boozed up

A drunken 31-year-old Grosse Pointe woman was arrested at about 2 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, while driving an unlit 2016 Jeep on southbound Lakeshore at Fontana Lane, according to police.

Her husband, 35, was in the front passenger seat and another man, 36, of Detroit, in back.

"The vehicle had an overwhelming odor of intoxicants," reported the arresting officer. "The second passenger was unconscious and would not wake up when officers attempted to get him out of the vehicle."

Medics took the Detroit man to a hospital while officers booked the woman for having a .16 percent blood alco-

See REPORTS, page 8A

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City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**ZONING VARIANCE REQUEST**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 110 of 2006 the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, as amended, and the Grosse Pointe City Code, that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Grosse Pointe Council Chambers at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI. The Zoning Board of Appeals will consider the variance requests for the following property owner:

Ms. Jillian Schmuhl – 420 Rivard Blvd – Variance from Sec. 90-405(1), Front Yard Fence Height.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on September 16, 2016. If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800.

**Julie E. Arthurs**  
City Clerk

GPN: 9/1/16



REPORTS:

Continued from page 7A

hol level.

Won't stop

A 34-year-old Hamtramck woman with an Iraqi passport for identification was arrested during a traffic stop on northbound Lakeshore at 9:33 p.m. Monday, Aug. 22.

A patrolman monitoring traffic at Oxford tried to pull her over for operating a tan 1998 Honda without headlights.

She reportedly disregarded the cruiser's siren, flashing lights and spotlight until stopping a half mile up the road at Fontana Lane.

"She stated she did not know she was being stopped," said the arresting officer.

Farms K-9 handler Officer Tim Harris and Duke the drug-detecting German shepherd investigated an odor of mari-

juana in the Honda. "Duke indicated on the driver and passenger side, the center console and a purse on the passenger seat," Harris said. "(I) could not locate any narcotics."

Officers impounded the car.

U.S. Border Patrol agents are trying to determine if the woman is in the country legally.

Speeding drunk

A man being investigated for speeding a white 2016 Jeep Patriot 52 mph on northbound Lakeshore at Hampton was arrested shortly before 2 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, for drunken driving.

The man, 23, of Grosse Pointe Woods, had a .20 percent blood alcohol level, according to police.

— Brad Lindberg

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

EXTREME:

Continued from page 5A

tive vice president of Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick consulting engineers, often retained by Grosse Pointe communities.

Expansion joints between sections of concrete roadway grow wider as surfaces shrink

during cold weather. Foreign objects clog the gaps, interfering with expansion during hot weather.

"(Expansion) joints, filled with debris and rocks, are not working as originally designed," Pangori said.

Although asphalt streets are less likely to buckle, concrete curbs are more susceptible.

P&R:

Continued from page 3A

welcome he received with the Park swim team winning the Lakefront Swimming Association championship just in time for his early August arrival. The pool's traditional Labor Day closing doesn't mean things will slow down.

"The first project we're undertaking is the work on the deep end of the pool," Craig said. This will complete the re-marking of the entire pool, a project started last spring before the pool opened. Plans also are underway for the annual Halloween in the Park, scheduled Saturday, Oct. 29.

Craig will oversee

maintenance of the marina once it closes in November and then will shift to the opening of the ice rink at Patterson Park.

He's also exploring programs that could be offered during school breaks, using the Lavins Center for special activities to help keep children entertained.

He encourages residents to watch the Park Communicator for news on programs and special activities.

"The Park is a great place to be, with two beautiful parks, Windmill Pointe being the active park and Patterson Park our passive park," he said. "We really have the best of both worlds."

Accused larcenist getting his just desserts

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A long and repetitious morning of mainly misdemeanor cases in municipal court neared completion close to noon.

Sgt. Alan Gwyn, the silver badge on the left chest of his blue uniform randomly reflecting ceiling lights, stood near a video screen bolted to a side wall of the courtroom and said quietly with a grin to an onlooker sitting in the front row, "Are you ready for dessert?"

Gwyn's gag is likely old hat in the courtroom career of accused car thief and larcenist Mark Paul Dessert, 44, of St. Clair Shores.

Dessert appeared at a probable cause conference in City of Grosse Pointe Municipal Court, Judge Russell Ethridge presiding, Thursday, Aug. 25, by video from the Wayne County Jail.

Dessert stood facing the camera, a larger-than-life image looming from the video screen.

He canted his head to his right — viewer left — rested his right cheek in his right hand and wore a county-issued yellow pull-over and pants sharply defined against white-tiled walls in the background.

His thin build, dark hair and mustache matched the description given by a Farms man reporting someone



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Mark Paul Dessert, 44, of St. Clair Shores, on screen, is accused of car theft and nearly two dozen car break-ins in the Grosse Pointes this summer. City of Grosse Pointe Municipal Judge Russell Ethridge wouldn't lower Dessert's \$150,000 bond.

breaking into an unlocked car in the 400 block of Lexington an hour before daybreak Thursday, Aug. 11.

"I think this is the guy who called me a (expletive) when I arraigned him," Ethridge said of Dessert.

"He did that to judge Rumora, too, yesterday," added Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Gary Bresnehan, referring to Dessert's video arraignment by Grosse

Pointe Farms Municipal Judge Matthew Rumora Wednesday, Aug. 24, for larceny of a financial transaction device, legal-speak for a credit or debit card.

"He's a real piece of work, that guy," said Farms Detective Lt. Richard Rosati. "You shouldn't call judges

(names), not someone who's making decisions on your life. But, then again, making good decisions hasn't been this guy's forte."

Dessert, being held in county jail on \$150,000 bond, is suspected of stealing and entering unlocked parked cars in the City, Farms and Park.

"He's probably done upwards of 20 or more larcenies from auto," Rosati said.

Incidents virtually stopped with his arrest by Harper Woods police Aug. 12.

In City court last week, Dessert's court-appointed attorney, Malita Barrett, said, "He informed me he wished to waive his right to his preliminary exam."

Ethridge bound over Dessert for arraignment

in Wayne County Circuit Court Thursday, Sept. 1, on charges of receiving and concealing a stolen 2012 Jeep, plus auto theft.

The five-year maximum sentence for auto theft is enhanced to possible life in prison because Dessert's criminal record rates him an habitual offender.

"We needed to address the issue of bond," Barrett told Ethridge. "Mr. Dessert informs me he has a job he can go to. He does masonry. He's requesting a personal bond so he can go back to work and continue."

A personal bond, or personal recognizance bond, doesn't require posting unless the defendant misses a court date.

"The people request the bond remain the same," Bresnehan said. "He's got a significant prior record for fleeing and eluding, resisting and obstructing, and an assortment of theft and auto-related cases."

"Anytime I see fleeing and eluding and an habitual (charge) that could be a life felony, I'm concerned about the defendant's appearance (in court)," Ethridge said. "These are serious offenses. So, your motion for bond reduction is denied."

"So, you're telling me ..." Dessert blurted until his audio was severed.

"I don't know if he has a great deal of respect for the system," Ethridge said.

Farms purchases house for municipal use

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Vacant houses make better neighbors than fences.

In Grosse Pointe Farms, a house located across from the driveway to the public safety garage at city hall is now a municipal asset.

City officials authorized its purchase for \$150,000.

"From a public safety stand-

point, we don't think it's a good idea to have a home in such close proximity to public safety vehicles that are entering and exiting at all hours of the day and night," said Shane Reeside, city manager.

He envisions adapting it for storage or as quarters for an ambulance crew.

"Before we do anything, we want to speak with all neighbors, address their needs and concerns and make sure the city is being a

good neighbor," Reeside said.

The house, located at 312 Beaupre Lane — to the right of city hall — has two bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths and is in good condition.

Pointe Realtor Beline Obeid informed municipal officials last month the property was going to market.

"It's directly across the (parking) pad to the public safety department," Reeside said. "It's not conducive for residential use."



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## Garden party celebrates 10 years

### Proceeds benefit lily pond restoration

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

In celebration of the Junior League Gardeners' 75th anniversary, the club hosted a fundraiser for the Belle Isle Conservatory with other garden clubs.

The 2006 event garnered so much support, consequent fundraisers have been hosted by various clubs ever since. The Garden Party on Belle Isle has become one of the top fundraisers for the island, grossing more than a quarter million dollars during the years.

Its 10th anniversary party takes place 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, and is co-chaired by Robin Heller and Janice Ellison. It's hosted by the Garden Club of Michigan, Grosse Pointe Farm and Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Garden Club and Junior League Gardeners.

"The party has grown over the years," Heller said. "It's a simple cocktail party, but last year we had over 600 people attend. This year, we hope for a strong repeat .... Attendance has grown from garden club members to a cross section of people from the metro area."



The Garden Party on Belle Isle takes place 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13. The event includes cocktails, live music and an art installation.

COURTESY PHOTOS

The party includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, music by Ben Sharkey and art installations by Laurie Tennent Botanicals.

"She will be doing an installation of her artwork for the party — over a dozen pieces," Heller said. "What makes her art unique and interesting is that she really enjoys the architecture of plants. She reflects on the structure of the plant .... She came down to the conservatory during the summer and was given pieces of the plants. I'm hoping some of those might be used in what she'll be displaying."



Proceeds from the event benefit the restoration of the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory's lily pond, which, incidentally, was the benefactor of proceeds from the first event 10 years ago.

"We've come full circle in some ways," Heller said, adding the infrastructure of the conservatory and aquarium, as well as the gardens around them, need continual updates.

when the city really was unable to allocate funds to the upkeep of the island and its attractions," Heller said. "This was one way to help from a garden world perspective something that is a treasure. This was a small way to help."

Proceeds from previous garden parties have been used for plant signage in the conservatory, garden staircases, flagstone pathways and bronze statue restoration, as well as a study to examine the possibility of reopening the pass-through connecting the conservatory and aquarium.

"It was designed as one unit," Heller said of the two buildings, noting the pathway closed years ago. "There's no longer a pass through, so in 2014 the (garden party) money was raised to look at what it would take to create that combination of the two buildings."

"The conservatory and aquarium need a multi-million dollar overhaul," she continued. "So there will be a larger project than our scope that will be happening with those two buildings .... Our repairs to the pond will help toward that larger

view, but are not the ultimate fix."

Heller said the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has helped stabilize and improve the island, but much more work is left to be done.

"Until then, we'll do things to keep things going," she said. "We're proud of the fact we could mobilize and join together the cadre. I don't know of another project where whole garden clubs and the Grosse Pointe community have gotten together to support."

Heller said the party is a success not only because of its benefit, but also because of its location, "on the lovely conservatory grounds and with the interior skyline of Detroit," she said. "It's a fun thing to do and continue on."

The 10th annual Garden Party at Belle Isle is sponsored by Talmer Bank and Trust. Mrs. William Clay Ford is honorary chairwoman.

A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information and tickets, visit [belisleconservancy.org](http://belisleconservancy.org).

Family barbecues are among the activities offered by the Grosse Pointe Newcomers Club.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Welcome to the neighborhood

### Newcomers Club returns to the Pointes

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

For 63 years, the Grosse Pointe Newcomers Club gave couples new to the Pointes an opportunity to meet, network and make friends. But old-fashioned bylaws and dwindling interest led to the club's demise in 2010.

When Molly and Jeff Hohlfeldt moved to Grosse Pointe Woods in 2013, Jeff Hohlfeldt's parents urged them to join the club as they settled into their new home, "so we reached out and found it's nonexistent," Molly Hohlfeldt said.

"So we just kind of made friends as we went," her husband added. Those friends included Molly and Nathan Dupes, who moved to Grosse Pointe Farms in 2013. Together, with a few other new friends, they decided to



revamp the Newcomers Club.

"We wanted to give it a try, bring it back and make it what it was before," Molly Hohlfeldt said, adding the club's membership peaked in the 1990s at 250 members. "We want it to be a welcoming environment .... People move here and want to meet people. There's not much else out there that is like this."

The Newcomers Club was revived last year, offering five events to families new to the Pointes. The Hohlfeldts are co-presidents while the Dupes share vice





presidential duties.

"Our mission is to bring together people new to the area, here for the first time or moving back," said Jeff Hohlfeldt, vice president of Northern Industrial Manufacturing. "Now the economy's coming back. A lot of people are moving to the area .... We want to be an avenue for introducing new friendships."

The new club offers more relaxed rules. Previously, members had to be married couples and memberships were limited to three years. Now, anyone new to the area is welcome, married or not, and members can stay involved as long as they want.

"We're being a little looser on what it means to be new to Grosse Pointe," Nathan Dupes said. "To help start things

See NEW, page 8B



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# Coming SOON Preventing falls in the home

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

## Grannie Nannies

Grannie Nannies, for grandmothers who babysit their grandchildren, meets 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, at Big Boy Restaurant, 20710 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call (313) 882-9600.

## Detroit Zoo

The Detroit Zoo offers free admission to Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county seniors age 62 and older and a caregiver 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7. Senior Day also includes free parking and rides on the Tauber Family Railroad, as well as live music, tram tours, bingo, a scavenger hunt, a senior resource area and zookeeper talks. Call (248) 541-5717 or visit [detroitzoo.org](http://detroitzoo.org).

## SOC

Services for Older Citizens, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers the following programs:

- ◆ "A Matter of Balance Workshop," 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 20 to Oct. 13, with facilitators Jackie Thomas and Rosanne Ficaro. The class teaches practical strategies to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels. Class is limited to 12 participants.

- ◆ An Alzheimer's caregivers support group meets 6 to 8 p.m. the third Thursday of each month, facilitated by Carolyn Van Dorn of Nursing Unlimited and Marian Battersby of Home Instead.

Nearly 80 percent of adults older than 65 who visit emergency rooms report falling as the cause of injury. Falls may occur due to imbalance or diminishing strength. They may be linked to health issues or medications or aging. But there are ways seniors can lessen the occurrence of falling, starting in their own homes.

"Falls are the leading cause of injury and most common cause for hospitalization for trauma in older adults," said Julie Zablocki, clinical nurse manager at St. John Hospital & Medical Center, Acute Care of the Elderly Unit. "In the home, there are a few things to do to prepare a safe environment."

Zablocki said removing extraneous clutter, making sure pathways are free of phone or electrical cords, tacking down rugs and making sure carpet on stairways is firmly attached are

a few ways to prevent falls. She also suggested seniors don't climb onto chairs to get to items out of their reach.

"Make sure the home is well lit, use night lights, have flashlights handy," she said. "And in the bathroom, install grab bars in the shower and by the toilet seat, use bathmats."

She insisted seniors who need assistance from medical devices like canes and walkers use those items instead of holding onto furniture to get around the house.

"And wear appropriate shoes that have a snug fit and a low heel," she added. "Don't walk around in stocking feet."

Sometimes medications can play a role in falls, so medications should be reviewed with doctors.

"Even over-the-counter medications can make seniors more drowsy, dizzy, unsteady," Zablocki said.

Balance can be of issue to seniors with hearing and eye-

sight problems, too, so those areas should be regularly tested so any problems can be addressed.

Even healthy seniors can be prone to falls because they may not be as flexible as they used to be. Strength training and exercise is important to build muscles, balance and flexibility.

"The trend now is yoga and tai chi," Zablocki said. "Those will help get balance and coordination down, so when they move around the home, they'll feel more confident .... Tai chi, Pilates and yoga are exercise programs that are recommended to get that balance retraining and strength as well."

Zablocki said falls aren't necessarily a normal sign of aging, but they may be related to medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease or even depression or arthritis.

While some age-related changes that may perpetuate

falls include failing eyesight, imbalance and the slowing of reflexes, "sometimes things just happen," Zablocki said.

Regardless of the cause, it's important for seniors to remain safe.

"So many of our older adult patients feel so independent so they don't want to use canes or walkers, because they're not cool. But if they used them, they probably wouldn't have had that fall," said Zablocki, who is board certified in gerontological nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. "Remind them their safety is a key priority. When an older person falls, it's a very long recovery. They fracture easier, their bones are softer. They should know it is acceptable to use these devices. But if they are unsteady or unstable, they might want to have a friend or family member with them when they go out to run errands, so there's standby assistance for them."

# The Encore Years: Betty Nelson

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Betty Nelson will tell you she's not that interesting.

The Grosse Pointe Farms resident, who turns 86 Sept. 4, just considers herself lucky.

Her days and weeks are full of appointments and classes and outings and bike rides — and if there's music, you can pretty much count on Nelson being there.

The two-time cancer survivor — she beat pancreatic cancer in 1997 and breast cancer in 2011 — doesn't know where her energy comes from and she's too busy to give it much thought anyway.

"I don't think anything motivates me," she said. "I'm lucky. Half of my friends are either dead or in homes or aching all the time."

Nelson grabbed her independence early and let it grow. After two divorces, she raised her two sons on her own and flourished, working secretarial jobs at a variety of businesses, from Motorola to Deloitte. After retiring in 2002, she "went to part-time for the health care," she said.

Nelson said she gets up at 6 a.m. to water the flowers and keeps going long after dark.

She goes to yoga at the Grosse Pointe War



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Betty Nelson makes sure her days are filled with activities.

Memorial Mondays and Thursdays, weeds the gardens at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House and goes to ZenGa class Tuesdays, attends chair yoga in Roseville Wednesdays and at the Lake House Thursdays.

"I'll knock myself out to get there," she said of the Lake House program. "The last 10 minutes, they let you sleep .... It's total relaxation."

Fridays are her house-keeping days, but she always has breakfast with a friend.

"I mow my own lawn and shovel my own walk," Nelson said. "I feel so lucky that I can mow the lawn. I call it exercise."

Nelson also visits her sister, who has Alzheimer's disease, several times a week and takes other friends out on the town or to appointments and errands.

Her book club meets one Saturday a month and Sundays are for

Bible study.

"In the meantime, I ride my bicycle," she said. "I've biked across Michigan 15 times with PALM, Pedal Across Lower Michigan."

Her first time was in 1996 just after her cancer surgery. She and her sister bought mountain bikes and took the six-day, 300-mile ride across the state.

"We had never ridden, but we learned along the way," Nelson said, adding she's still a member of the Slow Spokes bike club.

Five years ago, just after her second cancer surgery, she biked from Key Largo to Key West and "we had a wonderful week."

Another big part of Nelson's life these days is music. She played song flute in third grade and her father bought her a saxophone when she was 11.

"I didn't play for 30 years, but when they

started the Grosse Pointe Band 23 years ago, I played with them," she said. "Now I'm in the Heritage Band, Belgium Band and the Mummers Band .... I don't play well, but it's fun."

Band practice between the three groups is Wednesdays and Thursdays, but Nelson still makes time Thursday nights to attend concerts in the Park and then head to Marge's Bar for the live music there. Monday nights this summer, she can be found listening to live music at Blossom Heath and Sunday nights, she goes to Lake St. Clair Metropark for the live music.

"You can't believe the dancers. It's just a show watching everybody," she said.

Nelson pulls weeds on Belle Isle four or five times a year; ushers for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Ford House, Fox Theatre and Detroit Opera House; volunteers during DSO concerts at the Ford House and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church; and was a People Mover volunteer after 9/11 and during the Super Bowl. She has subscribed to the

Grosse Pointe Theatre for 30 years and the Detroit Opera House for 20 years.

She has camped every Labor Day weekend for 15 years in Grand Haven, where she rides a bike and sleeps in a tent. She spends Wednesdays in the summer at the park with her great-grandchildren.

"That's why my car has so many miles," she said of her extensive travels. "But I can't quit driving because I'm lucky I still can."

Nelson, who has early stage macular degeneration, has three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She loves watching movies and television, going to the Detroit Institute of Arts and on boat tours and used to race sailboats with her girlfriends at the Detroit Yacht Club, where she was chairman in 1966.

"Honestly, I'm busy all the time," she said. "I just have (energy). It's true and it's amazing. I just feel very lucky."

"Eighty-six sounds (old), but as long as I can, I'll keep moving .... I'm always finding new things to do."

We have partnered with Services for Older Citizens to start a new conversation in our community — a conversation that challenges old stereotypes. In coming months, the Grosse Pointe News and the SOC Communicator will feature residents who are in their "encore years," highlighting the fantastic opportunities that come with advanced life experience. Do you know someone who is breaking the stereotypes of aging? We are looking for individuals who are doing any number of things that previously were not associated with people 60 or older. Have a suggestion? Call or email Deb Miller at (313) 649-2104 or [dmiller@socservices.org](mailto:dmiller@socservices.org), or Jody McVeigh at (313) 343-5590 or [jmcveigh@grossepointenews.com](mailto:jmcveigh@grossepointenews.com).

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Advantage Living Center in Harper Woods will be represented in the resource area. Stop by and mention the Grosse Pointe News for a special gift.

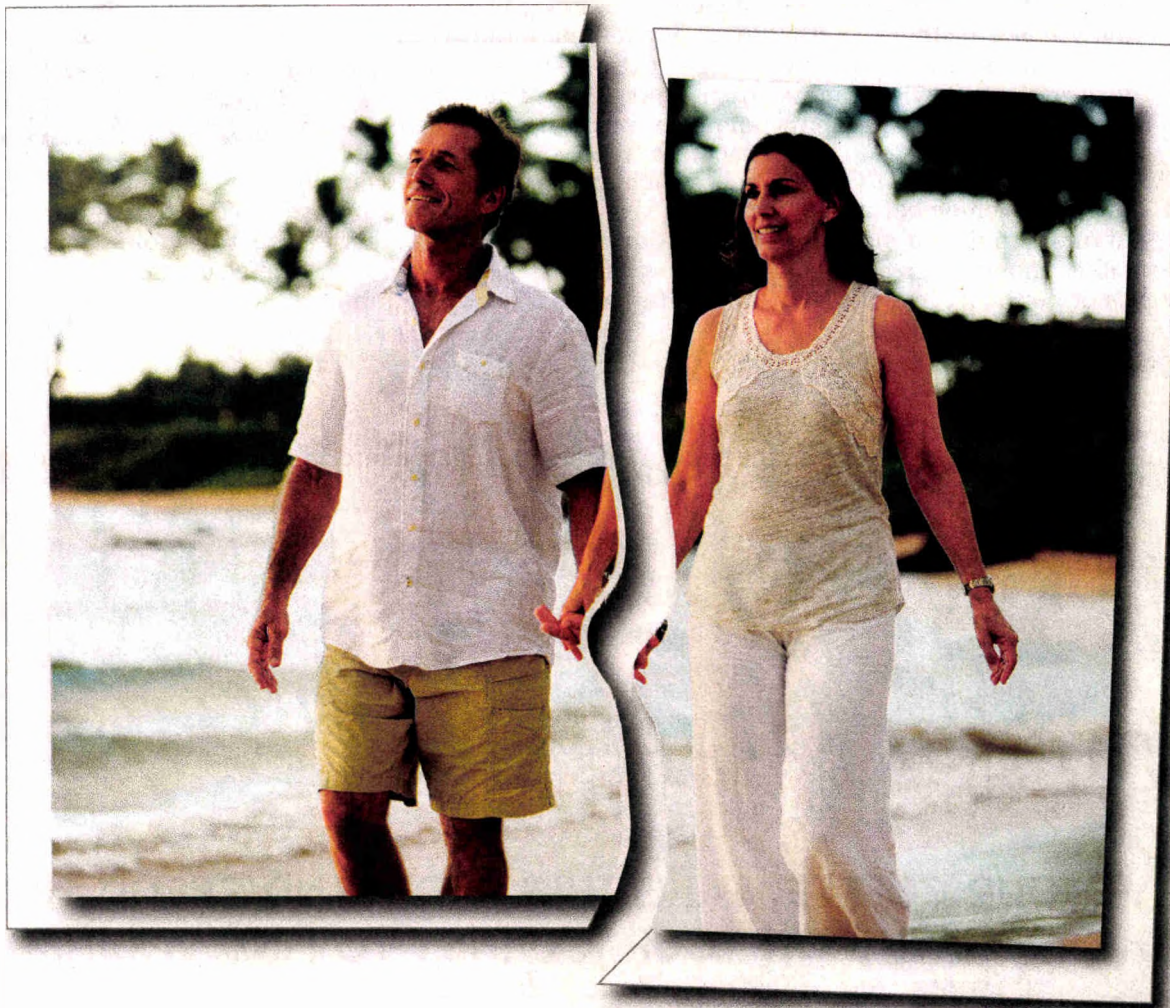
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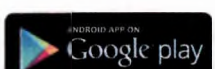
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## 4B | COMMUNITY

ASK THE EXPERTS By Lacea Zavala MSW, WMSW

## The ABCs of safe sleep explained

Q: I keep hearing about the ABCs of safe sleep. What are they and how can caregivers best protect infants while they sleep?

A: September is Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month in Michigan, initiated to try to combat the nearly 150 preventable infant deaths annually in the state due to unsafe sleep environments. We are losing one baby every three days and 10 babies every

month in Michigan. Once categorized as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and believed to be unpreventable, we now know many of these deaths are due to suffocation from unsafe sleep environments and therefore are preventable.

The acronym "ABCs" is helpful in remembering how infants should be sleeping. Babies should sleep alone, on his or her back, in a crib and

in a smoke-free environment. Infants should be alone in their crib, with no other objects — pillows, blankets, bumper pads, etc. — and with a tight-fitting sheet over a firm mattress. The baby should be put to sleep on their back, not their side or stomach, which are positions that make it easier to choke. Adult beds, couches, strollers, bouncers and car seats are not safe places to sleep.

# The Family Center

ASK THE EXPERTS articles


Finally, there should never be your home smokes, make smoke around a baby. sure they smoke outside, Exposure to smoke makes change their clothes after sleep-related deaths five times more likely. If someone in

See EXPERTS, page 6B

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tion and assistance about Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement insurance and Medicaid, including help with benefits, initial and open enrollment changes and assistance with claims, denials or other issues.

Open enrollment is Saturday, Oct. 15, to Wednesday, Dec. 7.

SOC offers its annual Medicare 101 program 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, featuring facilitators Deborah Wagner and Micki Nowinski, Michigan Medicare and Medicaid

counselors. They'll cover a variety of topics for individuals becoming eligible for Medicare or who want a general overview.

Topics include what Medicare does or does not cover, current premium costs, alternatives for supplementing

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## 6B | CHURCHES

PASTOR'S CORNER By the Rev. Ben Van Arragon

## Bad news?

In a 2014 study entitled "The Burden of Stress in America," the Harvard School of Public Health identified a strong correlation between chronic stress and the consumption of news media. Nearly half of participants claiming to be under "a great deal of stress" identified news media as a contributing factor.

Through traditional sources like papers, television and radio and online platforms like social media, we have the potential to be exposed to the news every waking hour. Given the ubiquity of news information, commercial news sources

and professional pundits constantly compete for our attention. How do they get it? Focus on the sensational and the life-threatening. I'll never forget one television ad for the local news that began, "Your garage — a potential death trap. Tune in at 6." How could I not tune in at 6? My life depended on it.

The problem is not that we are bombarded with news. It's that we are bombarded with bad news. Our news diet consists heavily of the worst in human behavior and potential threats to our life. At an instinctive level we can't look away. We're wired to pay attention to signs of dan-

ger. And yet emotionally and spiritually the very flow of information we think is helping us actually is poisoning us. Anxiety — a state of prolonged hyper-vigilance toward possible threats — exhausts our bodies and taxes our immune systems. It leaves us cranky, reactive and self-protective, which in turn erodes our relationships and decimates our capacity for grace or creativity in the face of adversity.

What's the antidote? Shut out the news? Impossible. The alternate? Sift your news through the filter of faith. Faith in the God of the Bible, who claims, repeatedly, to be in control of every facet of the universe and circum-

stance of your life.

Psalm 112: 6-9 testifies, "Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor ...."

Faith in God translates into a life of decreased anxiety, increased hope and heightened generosity. Fatigued and fearful of bad news? Try faith.

Van Arragon is pastor of First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Park.

## EXPERTS:

Continued from page 4B

smoke outside, change their clothes after smoking and wash their face and hands before touching a baby.

Just as our views of wearing seatbelts have changed over the years, today we know better about infant safe sleep and so we do better. Our grandparents may have slept with our parents in their beds and our parents may have put us to sleep on our tummies. Just because we survived does not mean it was the safest for us. Please share what you have learned with others, especially caregivers, so we can prevent these tragic deaths of our babies.

For more tips on safe sleep practices, read the full article on familycenterweb.org. For additional resources about Michigan's Safe Sleep Initiative, visit michigan.gov/safesleep.

Lacea Zavala MSW, LMSW, is a supervisor at the Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center, a program of The Guidance Center in Detroit, and is a licensed macro and clinical social worker. She

earned her Master of Social Work degree in community organizing and interpersonal practice from the University of Michigan School of Social Work and teaches part-time at the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Education, Health and Human Services. Zavala is a board member of Child's Hope and the Mayor's Task Force for the Well-Being of Children and Families. She may be reached at [Lzavala@guidance-center.org](mailto:Lzavala@guidance-center.org) or (734) 785-7705, Ext. 7291.

The Family Center serves as the community's hub for information, resources and referral for families, individuals and professionals. Its mission is to serve the community through programs and resources vital to today's families. As a nonprofit organization, it is completely supported by community donations. All gifts are tax-deductible. To volunteer or contribute, visit [familycenterweb.org](http://familycenterweb.org), call (313) 432-3832, email [info@familycenterweb.org](mailto:info@familycenterweb.org) or write to: The Family Center, 20090 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.

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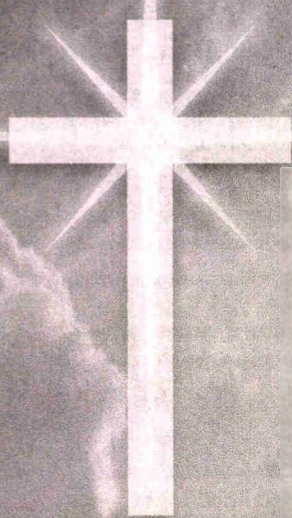
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# OBITUARIES

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

## Helen Artman Strek

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Helen Artman Strek, 82, died at home Friday, Aug. 26, 2016, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Jan. 27, 1934, in Ruth, and graduated from St. James High School in Ferndale in 1951 and Marygrove College in Detroit in 1955. Helen received a teaching certificate and taught grade school in the Detroit public schools.

She married Otto E. Strek in 1959 and raised three children, Mary E. Strek (Gregory Lewis), John O. Strek (Deborah) and Peter J. Strek (Sandra). She served as a volunteer with Focus: HOPE as part of a firmly held desire to make the world a better place. Later, she returned to teaching as a reading specialist in the Detroit public schools after receiving a master's degree in education from Wayne State University. She retired to devote time to her grandchildren, Jeremy, Rebecca and Rachel Lewis and Stephanie and Jonathan Strek. Her later life was brightened by the addition to her family of Sandra's daughter, Heather Marie (Bryan Scott), and first great-grandchild, Boston.

Helen's interests included travel, golf and volunteer activities, especially the Bon Secours Assistance League. She also enjoyed spending time with her sisters, Phyllis Kozlowski and Sharon Downes, with whom she shared a lifelong bond.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 3, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The family will receive visitors beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Outreach/Mission Program, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

## Jim Thrasher

Jim Thrasher, 90, passed away Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016.

Born Dec. 12, 1925, to May and Pierce Thrasher, Jim spent his summers growing up at Lake Erie Country Club in Amhurstburg, Ontario, Canada. Jim graduated from Denby High School where he met Roma, whom he later married.

Jim served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, teaching parachute jumping and participating on the diving team. After graduating from Wayne State University, Jim married Roma and raised two children. He was the owner of Pointe Kitchen Center Inc., a kitchen and bathroom remodeling company.

Jim participated many years in the Grosse Pointe Badminton Club. He enjoyed golfing and could be found sailboat racing Wednesday nights out of Grosse Pointe.

He will be missed deeply by those who loved him.

Jim is survived by

Roma, his wife of 64 years; children, Leslie Edsall (Rich) and Kim Thrasher (Glenn Richter); grandchildren, Julia Stoddard (Eric), Ben Edsall, Britain Richter (Ashley Moree) and Raleigh Richter and great-grandchildren, Wyatt and Hudson Stoddard and Greyson Richter.

A private memorial service will be held in October.

Donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Public Library Gift Book Program at [gp.lib.mi.us/support-your-library/](http://gp.lib.mi.us/support-your-library/).

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

## Marion Joan Maurer

Grosse Pointe Park resident Marion Joan Maurer, nee Parker, died Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016, at ShorePointe Village in St. Clair Shores. She was 91.

She was born in Detroit to Myrtle and John Parker and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater arts from Michigan State University. In the early years of television, she worked as a puppeteer on a children's television show in the Detroit area. She moved to California where she worked in human resources at a department store and met Thomas James "Jim" Maurer, whom she later married.

Marion was an active volunteer throughout her life with Christ Church, Grosse Pointe public schools, Meals on Wheels and the Bon Secours Assistance League Gift Shop. She was an avid chorister, singing with the Christ Church and Rackham choirs.

Marion is survived by her sons, John Maurer (Mary) and Peter Maurer; daughters, Molly Maurer (William Foss), Marsha Maurer (Ruth Heiden) and Margaret Maurer Gentile (Mark Gentile); grandchildren, Anita Foss, Joanna Foss, Shawn Marie Wolfersdorff, Dean Maurer, Nicholas Maurer, Clara Heiden, Kimberly Ellsworth, Joseph Gentile, James Gentile, Tony Gentile, David Gentile, Erich Maurer, Gretchen Maurer and great-grandchild, Oskar Wolfersdorff.

She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas J. Maurer; grandson, T.J. Maurer; sister, Dorothea Squiers and brothers, Norman Parker and David Parker.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse



Helen Artman Strek



Jim Thrasher



Marion Joan Maurer

Pointe Farms.

Donations may be made to Marion's favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Hospital at [stjude.org/site](http://stjude.org/site). Select ways to give; find more ways to give; memorials & dedications; memorial pages. In the search for a gift fund box, type Marion P. Maurer.

## Patricia Lynch Zavell

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Patricia Lynch Zavell, 88, died Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016, at ShorePointe Nursing Facility in St. Clair Shores.

She was born April 15, 1928, in Rochester, N.Y., attended Seton Hill College and graduated from the University of Rochester. She earned a master's degree in social work from Smith College.

Patricia began her career in social work in the Rochester area and later moved to Michigan to pursue an opportunity with Henry Ford Hospital. It was there she met Dr. Paul Zavell, whom she later married. Patricia was a devoted wife and mother of five children, encouraging, supporting and loving them in every aspect of their lives.

She returned to her career in social work with the Harper Woods school system counseling children and their families. She retired from the school system and devoted time to her family. She cared for her husband until his death in 2007.

Patricia enjoyed many activities. She played tennis, golf and bridge. She volunteered with many organizations including Pregnancy Aide, Bon Secours Assistance League and the St. Paul Altar Society.

Patricia is survived by her children, Mary Anne Glowacki (Mark), Jeanne Archibald (Jack), John Zavell M.D. (Beth), Peter Zavell M.D. (Susan) and James Zavell J.D., as well as her grandchildren, Ellen and Anne Glowacki, Sarah and John Archibald, Amy Mary and Paul Zavell and Joseph and Jackson Zavell.

Visitation will be held 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 2, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitation begins at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

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



Patricia Lynch Zavell



Justin "Jud" L. Moran

## Justin "Jud" L. Moran

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Justin "Jud" L. Moran, 83, died peacefully at home Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016, surrounded by his loving family.

Jud is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Carol; their children, Elizabeth Hickey (Michael), Louis H. Moran II (Nancy) and Susan Moran Campbell (Michael); grandchildren, Shannon E. Moran, Louis H. Moran III, Colin J. Moran, Christine N. Campbell, Colleen C. Campbell and Nicholas G. Campbell; two brothers-in-law, their spouses and many nieces and nephews.

Jud was predeceased by his parents, Louis H. and Effie Moran, and brother, James C. Moran.

Jud was born Oct. 2, 1932, in Portland, Ore., where he graduated from Central Catholic High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of Notre Dame.

Upon graduation, he entered the U.S. Army, where he served as a 1st Lieutenant in Japan and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal upon discharge. Returning to the United States, Jud married Carol Graham of York, Pa., whom he met while at Notre Dame and she attended St. Mary's College next door. They settled in Portland, where Jud eventually entered the advertising field as an account executive with N.W. Ayer & Sons. In 1964, he was transferred to their Detroit office. Thereafter, Jud held a number of positions in advertising and marketing, including at a number of advertising agencies, a furniture outlet and a land development company. In 1972, Jud was hired as a marketing executive at the Bank of the Commonwealth. This began a long banking career. He ultimately became an independent banking consultant, marketing expert and the spokesman for the Michigan Banker's Association. In addition to advising clients, Jud was

frequently sought out by the media to discuss the banking topic of the day and was a frequent guest on J.P. McCarthy's morning show on WJR radio. Jud also penned the monthly "Bank Marketing Forum" in the Michigan Investor. Drawing from these monthly columns, Jud authored the book "Marketing Strategies for Community Banks," published in 1987. Jud continued serving a few of his clients right up to his death.

The grandson of Columbia River Pilot Michael Moran, Jud developed a love for sailing and boating at an early age. With the purchase of a 19-foot lightning sailboat in 1966, Jud and Carol began their Great Lakes sailing and boating adventure which spanned their ownership of four sailboats and two powerboats. They were 43-year members of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and Jud also served as a port captain and rear commodore of the Great Lakes Cruising Club.

Never a fan of Michigan winters, Jud and Carol found a warm weather retreat in Stuart, Fla., where they spent each winter at their Hanson's Landing condominium since 1995.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitation begins at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

## Loopy about water mains

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — More than a decade of water system improvements are scheduled to conclude in the next couple of years with construction to increase water pressure for everything from daily consumption to fire fighting.

"It's the tail end of a 10 to 15-year plan," said Dale Scrace, mayor of the City of Grosse Pointe. "Basically, it's finishing some major loops to increase flow and balance pressures."

"Most of the work is intended to complete the creation of an improved water circulation system with a large-diameter looped main," said Peter Dame, city manager. "This will increase water pressure."

Two years worth of construction is likely to start next year and end in 2018.

Water main work is to take place on:

- ◆ Cadieux from Kercheval to Charlevoix,
- ◆ Maumee from Roosevelt to Washington, plus various valve replacements along the road;
- ◆ Washington from Maumee to St. Paul, Waterloo to Mack and
- ◆ Notre Dame from the alley to the 700 block.

"They will be coordinated with street improvements," Dame said.

Roadwork is funded by an up to 15-year, 2.5-mil millage approved by voters 2014.

### Bonds

City officials intend to fund water work by issuing up to \$2.2 million in tax-free bonds.

"Bond rates are very favorable now," Scrace said. "We approved a notice of intent to issue bonds. Once city council approves language of the bonds, it goes to the market. It's a few months away."

"Tax-exempt bonds carry a lower interest rate," Dame said.

Municipal officials' quest for low rates is related to increasing financial reserves to 25 percent of the general fund, thereby pressing bond rating agencies to raise the city's grade from the current AA+ to AAA, the highest.

"In conjunction with the issuance of new bonds for water mains, the city will be seeking to refinance existing parking bonds to reduce payments on bonds for the Village parking structure," Dame said. "That will cut the cost of issuing this new bond in half."

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NEW:

Continued from page 1B

off, we're opening it to people (from Grosse Pointe) who've been away for school or work." Added Molly Hohlfeldt, "Even if you've just moved back in the last few years, you're welcome to come."

The club has around 60 members of varying ages, who meet once a month for group activities, as well as sporadically for pop-up and happy hour events. Some gatherings are family friendly, welcoming to

children, while others are for adults only.

"We try to spread out to different businesses, too," Molly Dupes said.

Activities have included feather bowling, a euchre tournament, theater trip and barbecue at a member's home. Organizers would like to add an annual volunteering event to the mix as well.

Activities serve as networking opportunities, too, Molly Dupes said, an opportunity for members to make connections with people and local businesses. Many members are working profes-

sionals.

"In most families, both spouses are working. People are busy," said Nathan Dupes, an attorney.

Added Molly Dupes, who works in client finance with Dentsu Aegis Network, "We all have full-time jobs. This group is for all ages, singles, couples, with or without kids. We want to engage with people and get to know people."

"It's nice on a professional level to connect with them," said Molly Hohlfeldt, a realtor with Adlhoch & Associates. She added because

working professionals are busy, participation isn't mandatory for members. "Come to whatever you want. Get out of it as much as you want. We just want it to grow."

Local restaurants have been happy to host Newcomers Club events, which are easy to spot as pink and green balloons dot every party.

Upcoming events include an outing to Blake's Apple Orchard and Cider Mill Saturday, Sept. 10; a University of Michigan/Michigan State University tailgate party Saturday, Oct. 29; and an Ugly Sweater Holiday

Party Saturday, Dec. 10. These are in addition to its spontaneous gatherings.

Molly Dupes said the group is open to new ideas and suggestions for events.

Molly Hohlfeldt said the club would like to have a presence at community events as well. They've already included club information in new homebuyers' welcome kits, offer literature at schools and are working with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce to get the word out.

The club's Facebook page includes all of its

monthly events, happy hours and pop-ups as well.

"There really is a big, pent-up demand for something like this," Jeff Hohlfeldt said. "People are trying to find avenues to get connected. This is a low-pressure way to get out there."

Anyone interested in joining the group may email [gpnclmember@gmail.com](mailto:gpnclmember@gmail.com) or visit the club's Facebook page. Dues are \$30 per person, per year.

"We want to make sure we offer value with all that we do," Molly Hohlfeldt said.

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## FOOTBALL

### Sweet win

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The University Liggett football team opened the 2016 season with an impressive 13-0 win over last year's Division 8 runner-up, Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes.

"Our defensive line was the key to the game," head coach Dan Cimini said. "We were going to force their good quarterback to throw the ball."

Lakes opened the game by recovering an on-side kick. They drove inside the Knights' 10-yard line, but the defense held and got the ball back on downs.

The Knights were able to keep the ball away from Lakes' potent offense by playing ball control.

Senior quarterback Connor McCarron accounted for the only points of the first half, kicking two field goals in the second quarter.

Knights sophomore Connor Barthel recovered a fumble on the first possession of the third quarter.

The Knights turned the turnover into a touchdown as McCarron hit



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

**Liggett's Tre Caine tries to break free of a tackler during the Knights' win over Waterford Lakes.**

freshman Drew Zelenak with an 18-yard pass play and followed that with a 9-yard pass to senior Jackson Walkowiak.

A 22-yard pass from McCarron to senior Tre Caine put the ball at Lakes' 10-yard line.

On second-and-goal, Caine took a direct snap and ran in for the clinching touchdown. McCarron kicked the extra point and it was 13-0 with 4:16 left in the third quarter.

Junior Colin McMann recovered a fumble on Lakes' next possession and the Knights defense got the ball back on down on the visitors final possession.

For the game, McCarron was 13-of-19

for 274 yards and Caine caught five passes for 72 yards and ran for 58 yards on 15 carries with one touchdown.

Walkowiak caught five passes for 150 yards and others with receptions were Zelenak and sophomore Brady McCarron.

Defensively, seniors Sam Durno, Darren Huang, Teddy Wujek and Caine, plus junior Des Darby and Brady McCarron led the way with several tackles for loss, two quarterback sacks and forcing both fumbles.

Brady McCarron had a team-high 12 tackles to go with an interception.

Liggett is 1-0 and hosts Detroit Chavez at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1.

## VOLLEYBALL

### South trips North

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Host Grosse Pointe South hosted city rival Grosse Pointe North in an early season non-league match last week.

The two warmed up with matches against Farmington and Lutheran North. South split, losing to Farmington in three games and sweeping Lutheran North in two, while North won two games against both Farmington and Lutheran North.

With a large student section cheering on, the Blue Devils defeated the Norsemen 25-11, 25-21 to get a leg up in the season series. The two meet again at North Oct. 4.

"The girls always step up for North and we got a lot better against them," South head coach Kevin Nugent said. "We played OK against Farmington and Lutheran North and then very well against Grosse Pointe North."

"This is our first matches of the season

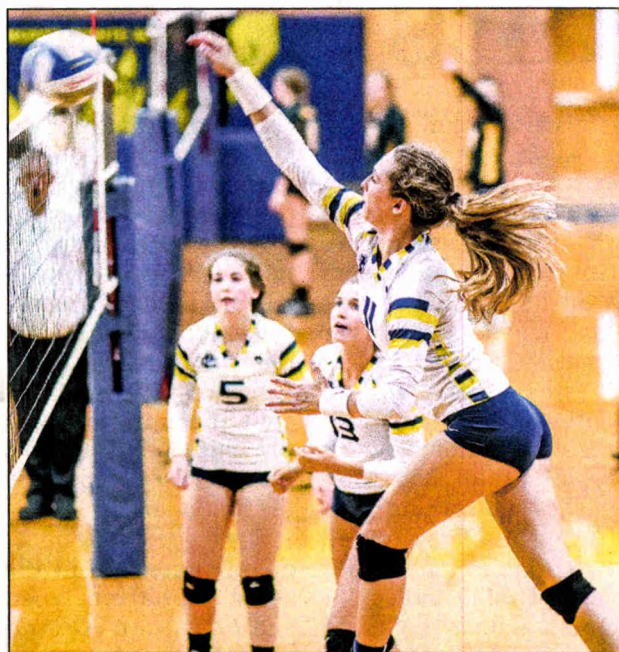


PHOTO BY PETE BALAYA

**South senior Lexi Kohut goes up for a kill during the Blue Devils' win over Grosse Pointe North.**

and it took a couple of games to get the rust off."

Leading the way for the Blue Devils were hitters Lexi Kohut, Kate Satterfield and Chandler Duff. Emma Andreason and Rachelle Wolfe served well and the trio of hitters had the fortune of receiving solid sets. Charlotte Brecht also played well for the Blue Devils.

"The girls played well in our matches against Farmington and Lutheran North, but stumbled a bit against South and I don't know why," North head coach Chelsea Brozo said. "We see South again at our place the first week

of October and I know we will have a better showing than tonight."

Leading the way for the Norsemen in the three matches were Abby Kanakry, Meredith Kraus and Katie Snow, with 16, 14 and 12 kills, respectively.

Stephanie Roy and Regan Sliwinski were also standouts for the Norsemen, which stand 5-4 overall.

South traveled to Alpena last weekend and won the Alpena Tournament with a win over the host team.

The Blue Devils, 7-1 overall, beat Mio, Alpena and Tawas.

## SWIMMING

### All-Americans shine

Five student-athletes added their names to the long and storied list of High School All-Americans Swimmers from Grosse Pointe South High School.

The National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (NISCA) has recognized Jacob Montague, Ethan Briggs, Cameron Francis, Patrick Waterston and Claire Young as 2016 High School All-Americans. The top 100 times achieved nationally each year qualify as All-American and the ranking includes students from both public and private high schools.

Montague, who has earned a scholarship to swim for the University of Michigan this fall, turned-in top 100 performances this year in the 200-freestyle, 200-individual medley, 100-butterfly and 100-breaststroke.

He also was recognized as an All-American in 2014 as a member of a South relay and in 2015 for top 100 national performances in the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke.

Montague, along with Briggs, Francis and Waterston, turned in an All-American performance at the Division 2 Michigan High School State Meet this year.

The quartet placed second in the 200-medley relay, just missing first by .68 of a second.

The same quartet also achieved an All-American consideration



PHOTO COURTESY OF TODD BRIGGS

**South's Claire Young earned All-American status and is swimming for Eastern Michigan University.**

time in the 400-freestyle relay, but finished in 113th place, just outside the top 100, but as a consolation prize, set a new school record in the event.

Young became a two-time All-American swimmer this year by recording a top 100 time in the 100-backstroke, turning in her All-American performance at the Division 2 girls' state meet where she was crowned state champion in both the 100-backstroke and the 200-IM. Young also was recognized as an All-American in 2015, also in the 100-backstroke.

She earned a scholarship to swim for Eastern Michigan University this fall.

NISCA was formed in 1934 and started the All-American award pro-

gram the same year. Approximately 160 Grosse Pointe South swimmers have been recognized as High School All-Americans.

South's first All-American is thought to be John Brink in 1942 when he won the 150-IM at the Michigan High School State Championship.

It was only the 150-IM because butterfly wouldn't be invented until about 1955.

South's first All-American relay was in 1947 when Jenks (backstroke), Essert (breaststroke) and Kildow (freestyle) won the 150 yard medley relay. South's first female All-American was in 1990 when Kim Higel won the 100-backstroke at the Michigan High School State Championship.



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Football

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Defense lifts South

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

It wasn't pretty, but in the end Grosse Pointe South's football team won its season opener last week, 14-6, over Detroit Cody.

The Blue Devils' defense was outstanding, limiting the Comets to less than 250 total yards and forcing four turnovers. They forced two fumbles, and junior Jacob Hinkle and senior Aidan Comes each had interceptions.

"We weren't great, but good enough to win tonight," head coach Tim Brandon said.

The Comets led 6-0 when senior Rashod Baker scored on an 11-yard run midway through the first quarter. They tried a two-point conversion, but it was stopped.

On the ensuing possession, the Blue Devils marched 79 yards in 10 plays and tied the game when senior quarterback Logan Mico threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Michael Braker.

Junior Cam Shook split the uprights with the extra point and the Blue Devils led 7-6 late in the first quarter.

The biggest play of the game came late in the second quarter when senior Aidan Comes intercepted a pass and returned it to the Comets' 7-yard line with only a couple of minutes left before halftime.

Mico scored on a run behind his center on third-and-goal and Shook kicked his second extra point to complete the scoring.

In the second half, defenses dominated the



PHOTO BY PAUL KANIA

South's Michael Braker is focused after hauling in a pass from quarterback Logan Mico.

game as neither squad could mount much of a rally.

The Comets had one final try to score late in the game, but a muffed punt return was recovered by senior Henry Wilson and the home team ran off the final 76 seconds to win.

Mico completed nine passes for 91 yards and one touchdown, while junior Jhordan Rush had 18 carries for 47 yards

and two receptions for 15 yards.

Wilson caught two passes and carried the ball three times for a combined 30 yards.

Others with receptions were Braker, and seniors Dan Hessburg and Connor Brannagan.

Grosse Pointe South is 1-0 overall and travels to Utica for its Macomb Area Conference White Division opener 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1.

Field hockey

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Ladies win

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Foul weather forced the Grosse Pointe South girls' field hockey team to play only the first half of its non-league home game against Dearborn last weekend.

The Blue Devils won 2-0 as senior tri-captain Carson Dennis tallied

both goals. The first came at the 14:07 mark and the second came with 4:57 remaining off a pass from Rose Williamson off a penalty corner.

"Our team was able to use field switches and transitions to their advantage," head coach Monica Dennis said. South is 1-1 overall.

Tennis

LIGGETT

Knights win quads

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

So far, so good for the University Liggett boys' tennis team.

Head coach Mark Sobieralski and the Knights won two more quad meets last week to improve to 9-0.

"The kids are playing some nice tennis and beating good teams we lost to last year," Sobieralski said. "We are working on some things to get better, but overall it was a good day at the office."

Earlier in the week, Liggett beat U-D Jesuit 6-2, Port Huron Northern 6-2 and Sturgis 8-0.

Last year, the Knights tied PHN 4-4 and lost 6-2 to U-D Jesuit.

The Knights' singles players were T.J. Dulac at No. 1, Christian Ilitch at No. 2, Casey Scoggin at No. 3 and Andrew Starico at No. 4.

At No. 1 doubles were Thomas VanPelt and Maddie Fozo and Davey Sekhon and Alec Azar played No. 2 doubles.

Spencer Warezak and Craig Buhler played No. 3 doubles and Matt Lesha and Victor Logan played No. 4 doubles.

Last weekend, Liggett defeated a team right behind them in the Division 4 state rankings, Traverse City St. Francis, 8-1. The Knights blanked Parma Western 9-0 and Grosse Ile 9-0.

Patrick Ilitch played No. 5 singles and won his three matches.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen beat DN

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

A punishing running game and a solid defensive effort allowed Grosse Pointe North's football

team to win its season opener last week, 24-7, over host Detroit Northwestern.

The offensive line paved the way for senior running back Jared Jordan to

rush for a career-high 241 yards on 27 carries and two touchdowns.

"I wanted to throw the ball more, but we were able to control the game by running it, so we stuck

with it," head coach Frank Sumner said.

A solid kicking game also paid big dividends as senior Kevin Topciu opened the scoring with a 29-yard field goal.

The Norsemen used a 10-play, 99-yard drive capped by Jordan's 8-yard touchdown run. Senior George Brophy kicked the extra point.

Northwestern scored later in the second quarter to make it a 10-7 game at the half.

It was all Norsemen in the second half as Jordan raced 32 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter and Brophy kicked the extra point to make it 17-7.

The defense turned in a big play as senior defensive end Dillon Webb tipped a pass, which senior strong safety Caleb Powers intercepted and returned 32 yards for a touchdown.

Another Brophy PAT made it 24-7 and concluded the scoring.

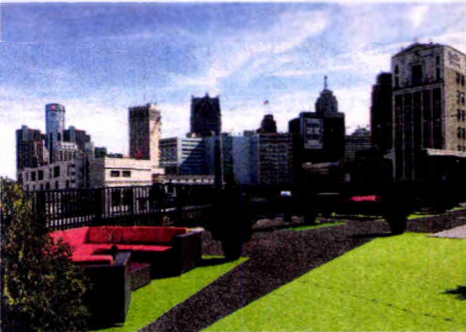
Webb led the defense with nine tackles and two quarterback sacks.

Grosse Pointe North is 1-0 overall and hosts L'Anse Creuse in its home opener at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1.

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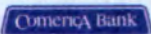




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GROSSE POINTE SOUTH, NORTH

Blue Devils, Norsemen give chase

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys' tennis team played another tough foe last week, Ann Arbor Huron.

The Blue Devils lost 8-0, but singles players Sean Miller and Michael Willard, as well as the No. 4 doubles team of Sam Packer and Kenneth

Prather, played closer matches.

Last weekend, the Blue Devils were halfway through their tournament at Huron before the heavy rains and storms halted play.

North results

Grosse Pointe North boys' tennis team traveled to Grand Rapids last week to battle several top-ranked squads.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature didn't cooperate and the Norsemen played only two teams, East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Northern.

Against EGR, Hunter Williams won his No. 2 singles match 6-3, 6-3, while the No. 1 doubles team of Jack Williams and Ben Zacharias also won, 6-3, 6-1.

The No. 3 doubles squad of Blake Graham and Ethan Aziz won 6-1, 6-2 to round out the victorious flights in a 5-3 loss.

The Norsemen lost 6-2 to FHN as Hunter Williams won again, 0-6, 6-1, 10-6, and Jack Williams and Zacharias won again, 6-4, 6-4.

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### Cross country

#### GROSSE POINTE NORTH GIRLS



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER

## Victory

Grosse Pointe North girls' cross-country team beat Warren Mott 15-50 last week in its season-opening meet run at Vernier Hill. Pictured in white above are, from left, Stephanie Schaefer, Josie Ciaravino, Valerie Matula and Jenna Miller who helped the Norsemen beat Mott, coached by Mark Urquhart, who is the former high school teammate of North head coach Scott Cooper. The Norsemen's top finishers were Lauren Sickmiller, Michaela Cosgrove, Julia McLellan, Kate Wozniak, Katie Louwers, Meg Pangborn and Erinne Lubinski. One standout from last season was Sarah Michalik, who worked very hard in the off season, moved from about 40th on the team to a top 10 runner on the varsity, beating her best time from last season by more than a minute.

#### GROSSE POINTE NORTH BOYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANE MONTGOMERY

## Earned

Members of the Grosse Pointe North boys cross-country team earned mileage shirts. They earn shirts in 500 mile increments for mileage they complete on their own, either outside of season — summer runs/winter training — or on second runs on practice days. Calvin Riley, kneeling center, has reached the 2,500 mile mark. Pictured above are runners, front row from left, Mike Ciaravino, Will Ferguson, Riley, Ryan Race and Will Hoffmann; and back row from left, Noah White, Patrick McCowell, Evan Nyquist, Shane Gafa, Spencer Szczepanski and Tyler White.

#### GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

## 2nd place

Grosse Pointe South girls' cross-country team raced to a second-place finish at East China Park competing in the season opening Mariner Invitational.

Fifteen teams competed from the metro area, with Macomb Area Conference Red Division opponent Romeo winning with 40 points, followed by South with 49.

South was led by senior Reanna Raymond, who placed third in the 95-runner field. All seven South runners earned medals.

Finishing second for the Blue Devils was junior Abby Hurst, eighth overall, followed by sophomore Abbey Guevara, 11th, senior



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ZARANEK

Grosse Pointe South girls' cross-country team members, from left, Marie High, Reanna Raymond, Emily Dodge, Abbey Guevara, Kaleigh McCarron and Devon Krasner, finished second at the Mariner Invitational. Abby Hurst is not pictured.

Marie High, 13th, freshman Kaleigh McCarron, 14th, sophomore Devon Krasner, 23rd, and senior Emily Dodge, 27th.

"This was a very good start for our team," head coach Steve Zaranek said. "Romeo was extremely tough and earned the win. We had a good blend of all four grades and all handled the first meet pressure well. Our girls are certainly eager for our next

competition and the opportunity to improve."

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### Volleyball

#### LIGGETT

## Knights winning

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

University Liggett girls' volleyball team hosted one of Class D's perennial state powers last week in its 2016 home opener, Marine City Cardinal Mooney.

After winning the opening game 25-22, the Knights dropped the next three, 25-15, 25-23, 25-19.

"We played as well and better than Mooney in spots, but we had a few spots where we gave up 4-5 point swings and that was the difference in the match," head coach Derek Arena said. "We hope to use a match like this, against a good team, to get better."

The first game was back and forth with the Knights coming up with a couple of big plays down the stretch to win it. However, they didn't have the same intensity in game two and the score was a lopsided

loss.

Cardinal Mooney came out on first in games three and four, building leads of 23-14 and 18-9 before the home team woke up and made things interesting.

In game three, it was junior Delaney Bandos's serving which helped them creep within a point at 23-22 before Mooney was able to squeeze out a win and take a 2-1 lead.

In game four, it was senior Rebecca Lohman's serving which gave Mooney fits and allowed the home team to make it close.

Bandos finished with 18 service points and 45 digs, while Lohman had nine service points, 21 digs and four kills.

Olivia Ponte had 10 kills and four blocks and Isabella Cubba had five kills and two blocks. Teagan Cornell was a defensive wall, collecting 34 digs, and Amelia Doetsch and Mary

Weiermiller combined for 20 assists as setters.

Last weekend, Liggett finished 2-2-1 in the Oakland Christian Invitational.

In pool play, the Knights lost 25-16, 25-11 to Oakland Christian, tied Royal Oak Shrine 25-17, 19-25, beat Livonia Clarenceville 25-6, 25-11 and beat Clarkston Everest Academy 25-17, 25-21.

In the semifinals of the gold bracket, the Knights lost 25-15, 21-25, 15-12 to Southfield Christian.

Lohman had 15 kills, 25 service points and 50 digs in the five matches, while Bandos finished with 15 service points and 71 digs.

Teagan Jones chipped in with 14 kills and Isabella Cubba had 11 kills.

Teagan Cornell had 15 service points and 39 digs to go with Amelia Doetsch's 41 assists.

Liggett improved to 7-3-1 overall.

### Soccer

#### NORTH, SOUTH & LIGGETT

## Knights, Norsemen win, Blue Devils fall

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The University Liggett boys' soccer team went on the road for its season opener last week.

The Knights opened with Auburn Hills Oakland Christian and were tied 1-1 at the half in their Michigan Independent Athletic Conference opener.

A 5-1 second half propelled Liggett to a 6-2 victory.

"We got a nice win over Oakland Christian this evening," head coach David Dwaihy said. "It was 1-1 at half-time and the boys turned it up a notch in the second half."

Christian deRuiter and Nolan Ondersma had two goals apiece to lead the Knights, while George Thanasas and Zach Elliott also tallied.

Recording assists were Ferg Roby, deRuiter, Thanasas, Ondersma and Spero Kefalonitis.

Defensive standouts

were Sam Brusilow, Brandon Johnston, Elliott and Roby, and Anthony George got the win in net.

Liggett is 1-0 overall and in the MIAC.

#### North results

The pressure was on as the Grosse Pointe North boys' soccer team opened division play last weekend hosting Anchor Bay.

The Tars scored a goal early in the first half and withstood a furious second half from the Norsemen to prevail, 1-0.

"We were a little flat in the first half and we got after the boys at the half," head coach Eric Vanston said. "We played a good second half and had chances, but couldn't convert."

"It's a tough loss, but I'm happy the guys played hard and were in position to tie it on several occasions."

Earlier in the week, North beat L'Anse Creuse 4-1 behind goals from Dylan Watts, Max Murray, Tommy Teftsis and Thanos Hedglin.

Grosse Pointe North is 0-1 in the Macomb Area Conference White Division and 2-1 overall.

#### South results

Head coach Francesco Cilano knows early season games are meant as a learning tool.

His Grosse Pointe South boys' soccer team lost 3-1 to visiting Utica Ford last week, but was happy with the effort.

"We gave them a good game," he said.

The Falcons scored at the 25-minute mark of the first half, but Blue Devils senior Ryan Kotas tied it with a goal three minutes later.

Last weekend, the Blue Devils lost 4-1 to host Plymouth, dropping to 1-4 overall.

#### City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

##### Public Notice - Ordinance No. 427

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 427 amending Section 78-143 of the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances regarding changes to the combined water and sewage rate structure for bi-monthly billing frequency. This Ordinance will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 427 is available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am to 5 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Julie E. Arthurs  
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GPN: 9/1/16

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**57 Vernier Rd.** Grosse Pointe Shores, Saturday September 3. 10am-3pm, bedroom sets, clothes, household & decor. Jewelry dishes and more.

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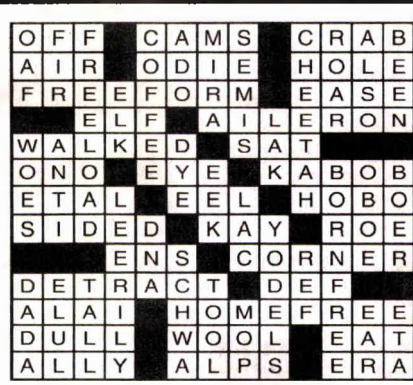
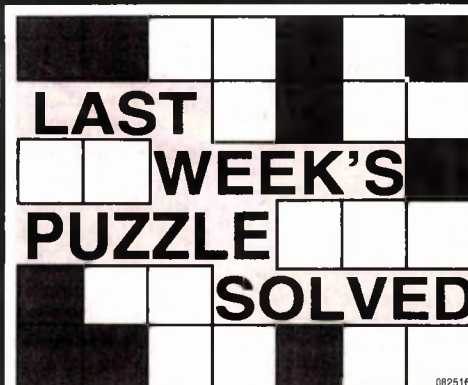
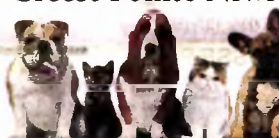
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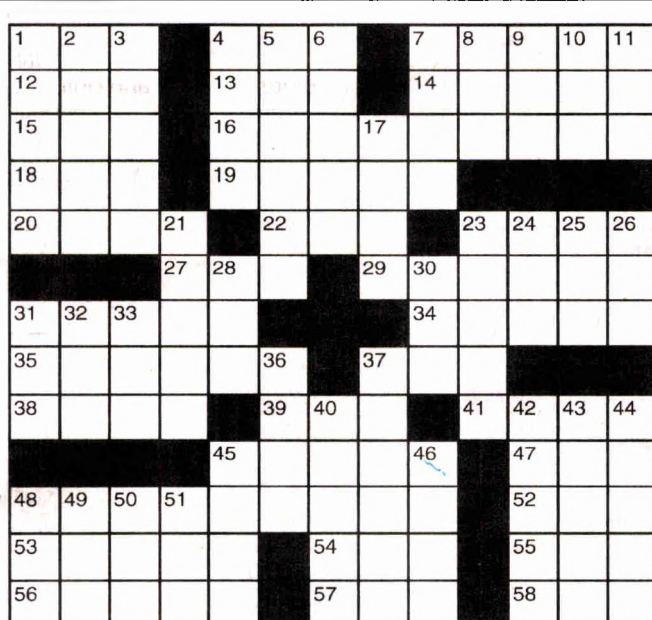
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- 1 The girl
- 4 Possesses
- 7 Man of morals?
- 12 Crone
- 13 Oklahoma city
- 14 Give birth to, on a farm
- 15 Fix the outcome
- 16 Record-setting fast-baller
- 18 Craft from far off
- 19 Jack
- 20 Ricochet, in billiards
- 22 Bachelor's last words
- 23 TV clown
- 27 They're between mus and xis
- 29 Someone who carries a torch?
- 31 Some skirts
- 34 Passenger
- 35 Easily built home
- 37 Held a meeting
- 38 Abhor
- 39 Carte lead-in
- 41 Dreyfus defender
- 45 Go
- 47 Sharp turn
- 48 She played Granny



Clampett  
Sapporo sash  
Heals  
Id counter-part  
Negative prefix  
Heron's cousin  
In medias —  
Work unit

## DOWN

- 1 Bush
- 2 Israeli port
- 3 Incite
- 4 Williams of country
- 5 Handsome youth
- 6 Dieter's lunch

7 Dermatologist's case  
8 Listener  
9 Willy  
10 Eggs  
11 Nerd-pack occupant  
17 Acknowledge  
21 Bowie's weapon  
23 Shut out  
24 Peculiar  
25 Last letter  
26 Bobby of hockey  
28 Can. neighbor  
30 Geological period  
31 Speedometer abbr.  
32 Playwright

Levin  
Trawler need  
Boxer Max  
Ferocious  
See 42-Down  
With  
Down, depleted atmos-pheric region  
Toil  
Gerontologist's study  
For fear that  
Grandson of Eve  
Lemieux milieu  
Carpet  
Mess up  
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Exercise

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*New Episode: WSU Department of Music Concert*

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*"Autism Pt 2" presentation*

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*Another Look at Spring 2016: Garden Tour*

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**Great Lakes Log—11 a.m., 5 p.m., 11 p.m., 5 p.m.**  
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# SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS

## Districts divided

Report reveals data about economic segregation PAGE 2

3D NORTH/GPPSS | 4D GPA/MICA

# Link Crew leaders welcome freshmen

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

The transition to high school can be a turbulent time for adolescents. The stress, anxiety and discomfort associated with such a change often results in a decrease in academic achievement and a difficult social adjustment, studies show.

Link Crew, a high school orientation and transition program, is designed to help freshmen. In the process, it also helps junior and senior leaders who have stepped up, said Joe Drouin, a teacher at Grosse Pointe North High School and one of six program coordinators.

"It's all about building culture and relationships and helping students understand what it means to be a North student," said Principal Kate Murray of what has become a tradition at the school.

The program was created by the Boomerang Project under the assumption, as stated in its motto, "you get back what you give."

"It's a scary thing when you think about it," Drouin said. "(Freshmen) go from being a big fish in a small pond with three middle schools feeding one high school. All of a sudden they get thrown into high school and things change. They go from being top dog to low man on the totem pole and we don't want them to feel that way. We want them to feel that what they have to say is just as important as what upperclassmen have to say."

Students apply the previous spring before entering their junior or senior years. The number of Link Crew leaders accepted depends on the projected enrollment of the incoming ninth grade, Drouin said. The first year there was a small incoming ninth grade so only 70 Link Crew leaders were accepted. This year coordinators accepted 81 leaders out of nearly 200



COURTESY PHOTO

North celebrated its newest members during Freshmen First Day Wednesday, Aug. 24. Link Crew leaders met in the gym to prepare before leading a pep assembly welcoming the ninth graders.

applications. Typically 10 incoming ninth graders are paired with two upperclassmen — a junior and a senior.

"They'll have an automatic connection right away," Drouin said. "That upperclass intimidation doesn't exist. The freshmen know there are at least, if not more than, 81 upperclassmen that are there to help them to make sure they find out what we do at North and that they do it right."

Drouin said they "draw from non-traditional leaders," adding they often select students "passed over because they don't have the grades to be in an AP class or they are not as popular and may not be voted into SA (Student Association), but they want to do something. It gives them validation."

Link Crew faculty coordinators try to avoid selecting students who are overextended.

"We want kids who want to give back to their community, but they have the time to give back," Drouin said, adding they have turned away students who are top in their class, but overextended with multiple sports, leadership activities and a full load of advanced placement courses.

The program kicked off Monday, Aug. 22, and Tuesday, Aug. 23, with coordinators spending three hours each day training Link Crew leaders in the gym, with students giving up free time or summer sports practice, Drouin said. Freshmen First Day Wednesday, Aug. 24, began at 7 a.m. as they "prepped" the gym before welcoming ninth-graders with a pep assembly, including creating a human tunnel for the freshmen to run through.

"The idea is everybody belongs, they've got a place," Drouin said. "We're going to learn some things and have some fun along the way."

Part of that fun was an hour of completely student-led activities. Link Crew leaders took the ninth-graders into the school and were alone with their group for about an hour and a half, Drouin said.

"They have a list of games that they play. Each game is designed to break down the walls and the freshmen realize, we're here to make new relationships, bring back old relationships, make some relationships stronger. We're here to learn about ourselves."

"Whatever their background, socioeconomically or racially, they're here for the same thing," Drouin continued. "Deep down, they're having the same experiences and they're led by 17- and 18-year-olds who are going through the same things they are or who have gone through the same things they are."

The program, in its fourth year at North, boomerangs back to help the leaders as well.

"The first year we did it, we didn't know what

to expect," Drouin said. "We kind of rushed into it, but we did it right. We went through the right steps. We started getting emails from graduating leaders the following year about how much it helped, how much it prepared them for high school."

"It helps the freshmen, it helps the juniors, it helps the seniors," he continued. "It helps the school."

During the school year, freshmen meet with their Link Crew leaders at

least once a month, rotating between social and academic interaction. Past events have included a tailgate for the freshman football game, "Cocoa and Cram" in the library before finals and a dodgeball tournament to raise money for a cause. Program coordinators received a lot of help from "local guru of Link Crew" Kevin Ozar, Drouin said. Ozar, a Grosse Pointe resident and teacher at North Farmington High School, leads the program at his school and trains teachers on how to train Link Crew leaders.

"He is a trainer of the trainers," Drouin said. "Our program at North can emulate his program at North Farmington because he's helped us so much."

Early in the program's development, Drouin asked a friend who is a graphic artist to design a logo. That logo, depicting a hammer and shield, is printed on Link Crew T-shirts and on a banner. The hammer represents the foundation built.

"The shield is to protect our culture," Drouin said. He believes the logo accurately reflects the program.

"The relationship and rapport that (students have) built — it doesn't end," he said.

## Registered and ready to go



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Registration for Grosse Pointe North and South high schools took place last week. Here, junior Taft Peck picks up his class schedule from Jan Warner, a special education classroom assistant. Volunteer Rosanna Fleming helps out at the table.

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Are Grosse Pointe schools to blame for economic divide?

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

A report released by EdBuild Tuesday, Aug. 23, revealed data about economic segregation in American schools, suggesting arbitrary district lines increase the chasm between the “haves” and the “have nots” by confining poor students to under-resourced schools. At the top of this list are Detroit Public Schools and the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

EdBuild is a New Jersey nonprofit “created to rethink schools and rebuild communities,” according to its LinkedIn profile. The report, “Fault Lines: America’s Most Segregating School District Borders,” tells a familiar tale of segregation, poverty, inequity and the failure of states and school districts across the country — with the 50 most segregated school district borders concentrated in 14 states, most in the Rust Belt region — to close the achievement gap in spite of repeated efforts and good intentions.

GPPSS Superintendent Gary Niehaus deftly fielded questions from reporters, from the Detroit News to Huffington Post, pointing out the district’s efforts to promote diversity and an inclusive environment (see related article on page 3D). Moreover, his office responded to the



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

A recent report listed Grosse Pointe and Detroit as America’s most segregating school district border.

report in an email, stating, “the study has undercounted the level of poverty impacting our schools significantly. Based on our data, 15.47 percent of our students are in poverty. The studies’ methodology only estimated our poverty rate at 7 percent.”

Wherever the fault for those “fault lines” lies, Niehaus can address only the district he serves and efforts underway to relieve racial tensions or educational disparities in the Grosse Pointe community. The economic downturn in 2008 led to an opening of borders of

*‘The fact, too seldom acknowledged, is that district boundaries themselves compound the inequalities that our public schools were intended to conquer. In present day America, we allow invisible lines to determine the fate of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.’*

FAULT LINES: AMERICA’S MOST SEGREGATING SCHOOL DISTRICT BORDERS  
EdBuild

sorts, with lower property values and more rental opportunities, absent former discriminatory practices, allowing families — black and white — from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to move in and take advantage of the school system. Meanwhile, promising GPPSS graduates are launching careers in Detroit and opting to live in an increasingly vibrant urban community.

Yet little progress has been made since the U.S. Supreme Court landmark ruling in the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka case, declaring state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students to be unconstitutional. The EdBuild report, addressing separate and unequal school systems 62 years later, blames the structure of education funding. According to the report, the “over reliance on locally raised property taxes to fund public schools gives wealthier communities the permission to keep their resources away from the neediest schools. This creates a system of school district borders

that trap low-income children in high concentrations of poverty, while more privileged peers live in better-resourced communities, often right next door.”

However, while the report cites the disparities between Grosse Pointe and its next-door neighbor as its most glaring example, it does not address the lack of leadership in Detroit schools or the waste, corruption, mismanagement and even criminal activity plaguing the school system for years. Nor does it mention Detroit receives nearly the same per-pupil amount from the state as Grosse Pointe and charter schools do.

Niehaus offers another perspective.

“What’s clear is that we need to find a new way to strengthen funding for traditional public education in every community. The attack on public education in Detroit has cost us dearly as charter schools expanded and weakened public schools and districts across the state. Complicating the unbridled expansion of charter schools is our ongoing struggle with Proposal A as a financing mechanism,” Niehaus

wrote. “Since Proposal A was passed in 1993, taxes collected for the schools go to Lansing and are redistributed to the districts on a per-pupil basis. When that Michigan legislation was passed, the intent was to raise all districts to an agreed upon standard without penalizing the communities that chose to tax itself more to support education. Since then, districts that were spending more than the agreed upon level of funding per pupil have only been able to levy gap millages to keep funding at that 1993 level. That is a severe handicap in a globally competitive education industry and Michigan is falling behind as a result.”

EdBuild points to the 1970 Milliken v. Bradley case as a watershed moment in the increasing divide. According to the report, “a group of African-American parents, in partnership with the Detroit chapter of the NAACP, filed suit against the state of Michigan, alleging that government action had led to racial segregation in the Detroit school system.” In response, the district court “ordered state officials to craft a desegregation plan that included not

only the city of Detroit, but also the districts in the surrounding suburbs.”

In 1974, the Supreme Court overturned the lower court ruling in a 5-4 decision, “finding that Detroit was indeed segregated, but neighboring districts could not be compelled to take part in a solution. Chief Justice Burger wrote that school districts were autonomous entities and their boundaries should be considered sacrosanct.”

This decision, according to the report, paved the way for the economic injustice and disparities in educational opportunities between Detroit and Grosse Pointe today. While Brown v. Board was viewed as a story of hope and courage on the road to justice, creating a constitutional right for every child in this country to equal opportunity for a quality education, the Milliken ruling two decades later diminished that right, relegating responsibility for the education of Detroit’s children to the inadequacies of a failing city and crumbling school district. Meanwhile, Grosse Pointe inhabitants hold tight to their property values, district-drawn boundaries and residents-only right to attend local public schools.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, in his dissent to the Milliken case, weighed in: “The rights at issue in this case are too fundamental to be abridged on grounds as superficial as those relied on by the majority today. We deal here with the right of all of our children ... to an equal start in life and to an equal opportunity to reach their full potential as citizens. Those children who have been denied that right in the past deserve better than to see fences thrown up to deny them that right in the future. Our nation, I fear, will be ill-served by the court’s refusal to remedy separate but unequal education, for unless our children begin to learn together, there is little hope that our people will ever learn to live together.”

Funding at a Glance

|                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| State Foundation allowance for DPS:   | \$7,434 for fiscal year 2016 |
| State Foundation allowance for GPPSS: | \$9,864 for fiscal year 2016 |
| Non-homestead                         |                              |
| DPS:                                  | \$1,650 — GPPSS: \$997       |
| State Aid                             |                              |
| DPS:                                  | \$5,784 — GPPSS: \$6,974     |
| Subtotal                              |                              |
| DPS:                                  | \$7,434 — GPPSS: \$7,971     |
| Hold Harmless*                        |                              |
| DPS:                                  | 0 — GPPSS: \$1,893           |
| Total (Foundation)                    |                              |
| DPS:                                  | \$7,434 — GPPSS: \$9,864     |

\*The Hold Harmless maximum varies by district.

Proposal A was intended to “raise all ships” to an agreed-upon minimum by changing the funding structure for school districts, without penalizing districts that spent more per pupil already than in 1993. Before Proposal A, all school districts were essentially self-funded and the tax dollars collected for education stayed within the local schools. But some districts were running out of funds and some seniors were being taxed out of their homes. Since Proposal A passed, school taxes go to the state and are distributed to districts using the per-pupil formula.

The state legislators and governor have approved a higher per-pupil increase for districts like Detroit and lower per-pupil increase for districts like Grosse Pointe.

—from the Superintendent’s Office

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WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
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AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED  
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Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on September 13, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1995 Oldsmobile Aurora       | IG3GR62C7S4134496 |
| 2002 Chrysler Sebring        | IC3EL46R32N125868 |
| 1992 GMC Vandura             | 2GDEG25K1N4508779 |
| 2008 Jonway 4 Wheeler        | L8UTCNPB78Y010077 |
| 2001 Mercedes S430           | WDBNG70J51A172800 |
| 1998 Ford Escort             | 3FAKP1132WR186139 |
| 2009 Chevrolet Impala        | 2G1WT57K891293808 |
| 2005 Chevrolet Malibu        | IG1ZS52F55F295917 |
| Go Cart (red)                |                   |
| 2000 Lexus ES300             | JT8BF28G5Y5082051 |
| 2004 Infiniti QX56           | 5N3AA08C14N804643 |
| 1999 Chevrolet Lumina        | 2G1WL52M8X9265904 |
| 2008 Chevrolet Malibu        | IG1ZG57B884279752 |
| 2006 Kia Amanti              | KNALD124265087304 |
| Mini Bike (orange)           | L45PAELS4E2022088 |
| Mini Bike (red)              | T0720015120035468 |
| 2001 Chevrolet Astro Van     | IGNEL19W51B138012 |
| 2000 Jeep Cherokee           | IJ4GW48SXYC292660 |
| Mini Bike (blue)             | 306XG50502440     |
| 2005 Chevrolet Malibu        | IG1ZT54895F284995 |
| 2006 Chevrolet Impala        | 2G1WT58K369153970 |
| 2004 Ford Focus              | 1FAFP38Z24W148847 |
| 2000 GMC Yukon               | IGKEK13T6YJ139667 |
| 2013 Jeep Patriot            | IC4NJPFA4DD197152 |
| 2000 Pontiac Grand Am        | IG2NW12E5YM712337 |
| 2001 Dodge Durango           | 1B4HS28N11F639959 |
| 2003 Lincoln LS              | ILNHM87A83Y691400 |
| 2001 Pontiac Bonneville      | IG2HX54K914297324 |
| 2001 Saturn SL1              | IG8ZH52811Z227365 |
| 2004 GMC Envoy               | IGKDS13S542340290 |
| 2003 Dodge Caravan           | ID4GP25B13B134141 |
| 1995 Ford Ranger             | 1FTCR10A8STA62264 |
| 1996 Dodge Ram P/Up          | 1B7HF16Z7TS050585 |
| 2003 Chrysler Town & Country | 2C4GP44323R243518 |
| 2007 Lincoln MKZ             | 2LMDU68C67BJ09014 |
| 2002 Chevrolet Suburban      | IGNFK16Z92J109058 |
| 2001 Nissan Xterra           | 5N1ED28Y91C556433 |
| Mini Bike (red)              |                   |
| 1999 Buick Regal             | 2G4WB52KXX1444786 |
| 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix      | IG2WP52K51P130666 |
| 2004 Chevrolet Suburban      | 3GNFK16T74G128160 |
| 2006 Pontiac G6              | IG2ZG58N574153285 |
| 2004 Chevrolet Malibu        | IG1ND52F44M636792 |

The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Sgt. Thomas Teatsorth  
Traffic Safety Section

POSTED: August 24, 2016  
PUBLISHED: September 1, 2016

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# North marching band “thrilled” to perform at amusement park

Grosse Pointe North High School’s marching band performed at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, Friday, Aug. 26. After the performance, students spent time enjoying the park. The band has been busy in August preparing for North football games. It will also perform at the Grosse Pointe Shores Park at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Creating and sustaining a plan for cultural proficiency

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

If Keith Howell had his wish, every student in Grosse Pointe would feel safe, loved and important. The director of pre-K and elementary instruction for the Grosse Pointe Public School System believes these are the keys to success in education and the best way to achieve them is through building relationships and creating connections.

Each child also would have an advocate, said Maureen Bur, director of secondary instruction — “someone in their corner who is always going to maximize their potential.”

Ensuring the success of every student is built into the district’s mantra: “One GP: where everyone learns, every day.” Howell and Bur live and breathe by this ethic, working with other administrators, building principals, teachers and staff to achieve the goals laid out in a strategic plan developed by 42 stakeholders and unanimously approved by the board of education last year.

Two guiding principles of that plan — embracing diversity and global awareness — took front and center this summer as administrators came together for intensive training in cultural proficiency.

Virginia Winters, a consultant with Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, led discussions during one and a half days of administrative profes-

sional development. The group began by getting to know themselves, Howell said. Part of the process was examining how they are shaped by their own experiences.

“We’ve always looked at making connections and now we’re doing it through a cultural lens,” he said. “Culture is pervasive in teaching and learning.”

Guided by Winters, the group looked at culture as transcending racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.

“Culture is experiential. It’s life experience,” Bur said. It has to do with “how we interact with others. The culture of who I am as a person and family and what experiential culture have I been exposed to.”

Discussions revolved around the reading of the book “Cultural Proficiency: A Manual for School Leaders.”

“Ginny has taken us through some deep level thinking through a cultural autobiography,” Howell said. This involved school leaders exploring their backgrounds, where they came from, their childhood belief system, how they’ve grown as adults and how they view the world.

“As an educator, you can’t just look through your own lens,” Howell said, adding there is a difference between tolerating a person’s differences and viewpoints and accepting them.

“People have a differ-

ent way of thinking and it’s not wrong. It’s right for them,” he said.

Involving teachers is the next step in the process, Bur said, asking them “to engage students, ask what their experiences have been and how we can build a bridge.”

Formal measures include partnering with the Office of Civil Rights, University of Michigan, Oakland Intermediate School District and local NAACP chapter to facilitate forums and safe spaces for students and

wrote Rebecca Fannon, community affairs manager, in an email.

Building a plan for sustained action, engaging students in a dialogue so it is a “two-way street” and supporting the community at a higher level are all key components of their focus, Bur said.

Another is closely examining the curriculum.

Howell said, “Our focus is to continue to have a culturally responsive curriculum, make sure we’re facilitating for students, staff and community a

*‘Our focus is to make sure we have a culturally responsive curriculum.’*

KEITH HOWELL  
Director of pre-K and elementary instruction

community to engage in conversations about diversity.

Many of these steps took place last year among staff and students at Grosse Pointe North and South high schools, according to Superintendent Gary Niehaus’s office. A district-level diversity team including staff, community members, parents, students and representatives from the Office of Civil Rights and NAACP also has been formed and met several times to continue to develop coordinated components of this plan. Moreover, the district has developed “targeted, thoughtful staff recruitment tools that have increased the diversity within our staff,”

way to celebrate the unique background of students and staff while accepting human differences and guiding our diversity work through our guiding principles.

“Kids need to see themselves in the curriculum that they’re learning and in the classroom,” he continued. “How do we continue to support our teachers in creating an environment that is connected to everybody?”

The year will kick off with principals sharing what they learned with their staffs. Discussions will continue throughout the year in staff meetings. In addition, the University of Michigan partnership will give voice to students and staff and help with a

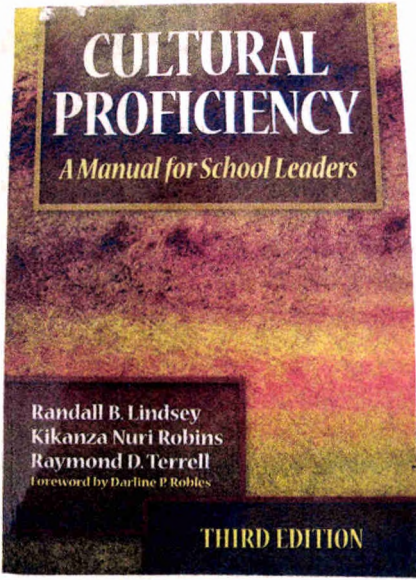


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

GPPSS administrators met over the summer for facilitated discussions on strategies for building cultural proficiency in the district.

long-term needs assessment. A critical part is asking for student input and identifying students from North and South to participate in yearlong leadership experiences focused on diversity and cultural proficiency.

At the middle school level, a group of teachers will attend Wayne RESA half-days for extended professional development. Elementary teachers attended last year, sharing their learning in meetings with staff from other buildings and grade levels.

“The key part is ... how do we make this sus-

tained?” said Bur, adding efforts need to amount to more than a response to isolated events. “How do we sustain the conversation and the learning? What can we take and learn from that and what can we learn together? Because we’re stronger together than as individuals.”

Howell said he views the process not as a challenge, but as an opportunity.

“We feel it is our culture and we want it to be a natural thing imbedded in what we do,” he said. “We don’t want this to be a new thing. This is just how we operate.”

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