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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Blue ribbon committee work concludes

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

The Grosse Pointe Public School System blue ribbon facilities committee didn't agree on everything during 18 hours of discussions over six

meetings held September through December. One area of consensus, however, was the district has critical needs. According to a live survey conducted at one of the meetings, 95.1 percent of 41 committee members present said they

would support a voter-approved bond to address critical needs identified by Plante Moran Cresa.

PMC was engaged by the Board of Education to review building capacity based on GPPSS guidelines and provide

a five-year enrollment projection and 10-year capital plan. According to the report, those needs amount to \$111 million. The complete report, which includes a summary of costs by major item by school, is available at gpschools.org.

Other areas of agreement among committee members: the district has declining enrollment and, while school buildings have capacity for additional students based on

See **SCHOOLS**, page 3A

Pointes testing Medstar EMS delivery system

By Anthony Viola
and Melissa Walsh
Staff Writers

Grosse Pointe Farms, Woods and City are exploring a new joint emergency medical service system with Medstar. Per a 90-day trial agreement in effect since Oct. 22, the three cities share two roving Medstar ambulances.

The agreement and trial comes on the heels of the City losing Beaumont Hospital's ambulance service in September. Beaumont transportation dropped the service due to a shortage of medics, said City Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni.

Dedicated ambulances and paramedics housed at Beaumont Hospital, Henry Ford Cottage Hospital in the Farms and at the Woods Public Safety Department were replaced by two Medstar ambulances on standby for the three Pointes around the clock.

The Shores and Park continue to run in-house EMS services. The Park has basic EMT service, while the Shores employs 13 paramedics, three per shift.

Farms Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen said emergencies in Grosse Pointe should be covered well relying on the two Medstar ambulances for the Farms, City and Woods, in addition to the emergency-response terms of the mutual-aid pack, which is still in effect for the six communities of the Farms, City, Woods, Shores, Park and Harper Woods.

"If the system works and is done properly it should work as good or better than what we had," Jensen said. "We're watching."

At the end of the trial period, the directors will be provided final statistics on how well the new system worked.

"We'll look at the number of runs, the time of the runs, the responses," Poloni said. "Those are the most crucial things. Can they provide the service they are promising us?"

If they feel the system is adequate, Medstar will give an estimate on cost for the service.

Poloni, Woods Director of Public Safety John Kosanke and Jensen have all said the new system is working well so far.

"I can tell you we have not had a problem in Grosse Pointe Farms with excessive response times," Jensen said. "We monitor all the times. We monitor when they call in. We monitor them when they're on scene. We monitor them when they call out at the hospital. We have records on all that."

Jensen admitted, "There were a couple bumps in the road when we switched." He said his department worked through getting online with Medstar's dispatch system and getting the equipment needed to integrate with the new system.

Poloni said every time a run goes out, especially

during the trial phase, a report hits his desk. He said although there were some hiccups near the beginning of the trial as they switched over, the issues have been ironed out and response

times have been reduced to an acceptable range.

With the new service, Medstar is able to pull in additional ambulances if the two are

called to a run. According to Poloni, there are always two ambulances ready.

Woods Director Kosanke said twice in November, 10 to 11

ambulances responded, testing Medstar's capabilities for providing as many ambulances as needed during a high volume of emergencies.

"If we had just one ambulance here, there's no way we could handle that volume," Kosanke said. "I think it's working fine so far, but we're in the test phase."

In a proposal to Woods City Administrator Bruce Smith dated March 7, 2017, Medstar Chief Executive Officer Kolby Miller made the case for eliminating the station-based crew in the Woods, stating, "...there is significant opportunity to increase service, reduce response time and reduce clinical risk."

Depending on ambulance crews on patrol for

See **MEDSTAR**, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Merry and Bright Nights

Victoria Blanc and John Stchur enjoy the warmth of the fire at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House's VIP member preview night Wednesday, Dec. 6, of its Merry & Bright Nights offerings for the holidays. Members got to see the estate's holiday decorations, inside and outside, before Merry & Bright Nights opened to the public. They enjoyed live entertainment in the Grand Gallery with a special holiday performance by blues singer Shahida Nurullah. The event is now open to the public. For more information on the Merry & Bright Nights and how to purchase tickets, visit fordhouse.org.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Jill Courson

Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Created a weekend retreat for young cancer survivors and their co-survivors



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North students post threatening Snapchat

By Mary Anne Brush and Melissa Walsh
Staff Writers

Quick actions by students in response to a threatening SnapChat resulted in swift police intervention and a safe environment at Grosse Pointe North High School Friday, Dec. 8.

“Last night a student decided to take a picture of himself and a gun,” said Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Gary Niehaus. “There was no caption to it, but he sent it to one of his friends, who sent it with a caption underneath saying there would be a shooting. He sent it to a third friend, who added there will be a shooting like Columbine.”

The original photo was sent as a Snapchat, and a caption — along the lines of “Don’t go to school today” — was added by the second student as a Snapchat Story, according to a Nixle alert.

Detective Ryan Schroerlucke said at 6:15 a.m., Friday, Dec. 8, a North administrator alerted the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department of the threat based on an anonymous call. Woods police began an investigation immediately, interviewing the suspects and their parents in their houses. At one of the houses, police apprehended a family-owned shot gun one of the suspects said he used for the photo.

Schroerlucke also obtained a search warrant to receive data records from Snapchat.

Meanwhile, two public safety officers arrived at the school to provide police presence as the students arrived and to verify the two suspects did not show up. During the day, a North student told school administrators a third North student posted a caption saying, “Don’t go to school. It’ll be like Columbine.” The student was removed from the school and interviewed by police.

The intent of the Snapchat was to get North to close, according to one of the suspects. “The student did not

anticipate the snap spreading so quickly,” Schroerlucke said.

Later Friday, when the Snapchat files arrived to Woods police, Schroerlucke observed the gun in the picture was not the same gun taken from a suspect’s house. Officers returned to the house and confiscated a gun matching the gun shown in the photo “and cleared the home of all guns,” he said.

All three students will remain separated from the school pending the completion of the investigation, Niehaus said. According to Schroerlucke, parents of all three suspects are cooperating.

“It is important to thank our students who quickly notified the administration about the image,” North Principal Kate Murray stated to parents in an email. “Their quick action allowed police intervention before school so together we could provide a safe and secure learning environment.”

“Today’s post and added captions provide an opportunity for parents to again discuss responsible communication via social media with their students,” Murray continued. “As a school system and community, we must take all posts seriously. The district is grateful for the quick work of Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety and their help to communicate information as quickly as possible.”

Monday, Dec. 11, Schroerlucke submitted the Woods Public Safety report on the matter to the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office. He said he expects the prosecution to bring charges as early as this week.

Referring to Snapchat and other social media, Schroerlucke said, “When you share photos, they’re deleted from the viewing accounts, but everything is stored in cyber world and accessible by police and susceptible to hackers.” He added hackers not only can see the content, they can pick up the geo location too.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Care packages for the troops

Evonne Schott, right, and Linda Bahar and friends were at it again this time collecting, packaging and mailing over 350 boxes for two troops in the Middle East. In the boxes were items for the soldiers such as beef jerky, crackers, protein bars, oatmeal, aspirin, eye drops, deodorant, baby wipes, ear buds, hand cleaners, allergy meds, hand warmers, toilet paper and 30 cases of Monster energy drink. Last July, Schott sent boxes and she heard back that the troops were stuffing their backpacks with some of the items before leaving on a mission. Between the two donation drives they were able to send about 565 boxes to the Middle East supporting 900 Marines with a shipping cost of \$9,000 and enough money left over to get a Marine home for Thanksgiving and another home for Christmas.

SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1A

class size limits determined by the board, they are fully utilized to meet current educational program needs.

The PMC study and committee work grew out of one of four focus areas of the district’s strategic plan — infrastructure and technology. Goals of this focus area are to list improvements and repairs; prioritize a master list with the Board of Education and stakeholders; develop financing options; create a blueprint for future-ready classroom; and enhance safety and security.

The path to meeting those goals begins with taking care of those critical needs, according to Superintendent Gary Niehaus. Niehaus presented his recommendation to the board at the regular meeting Monday, Dec. 11, during a report on findings of the blue ribbon committee.

“I think one of the things we took away from (the blue ribbon facilities planning process) was an awful lot of information,” Niehaus said. “A lot of people ask, so Dr. Niehaus, what did you get out of the blue ribbon committee? Honestly, we got two things out of this. One

was a critical needs list. And secondly, we got a very firm number on where we are with our enrollment. Both of those were critical in making some determinations on where we go with our facilities plan for the next five or 10 years out.”

Niehaus recommended a critical needs bond referendum of \$111 million in November 2018. The two-series, 20-year bond would be issued in 2019 and 2022 and represent a proposed increase of 1.5 mills. For a \$200,000 house with an estimated taxable value of \$100,000, this would result in an annual cost of \$150. For a \$400,000 house with an estimated taxable value of \$200,000, the annual cost would be \$300.

Included in the critical needs bond proposal are roofing, masonry, plumbing, bathrooms, electrical, safety, secure vestibule entrances, cabling, network infrastructure and energy/operational savings. Not included are computers, tablets and end user devices, furniture, expansion of district footprint and water/sewer piping.

Niehaus also recommended the creation of an oversight advisory committee to set priorities and monitor bond spending, with progress reports posted on the district website. Funds from

the first bond issue would focus on the middle and high schools, which are not subject to closure according to committee consensus.

Closure and repurposing of buildings are still on the table, according to Niehaus. For example, the first floor of the administration building at 389 St. Clair could be leased to generate operating revenue to offset the cost of keeping buildings open. The oversight advisory board will monitor potential closures to avoid unnecessary spending.

PMC Partner Paul Wills supported the recommendation of a bond referendum.

“Take care of your critical needs first. You’re down about \$10 million for every year you don’t pass a bond,” he said.

BOE President Brian Summerfield, who served on the blue ribbon committee, said, “The committee meetings (offered) a great insight You

definitely can tell by the recommendations that certain things were very clear. First of all, everyone knows we have critical needs. (It’s) undisputed and it has to be taken care of right away, so it’s not surprising the recommendation is for a big capital bond here because it’s the only way that you can fund it. This has been vetted; lots of discussion on it. I think that the committee answered our first question, which is, is this credible, is it verifiable and how is it sustainable? I think that question was answered.”

Niehaus thanked members of the blue ribbon committee for their time and expertise and said the report presented to the board is “a draft of what we think we need to do.” The next step is to talk to others in the community. Town hall meetings to discuss the PMC report and bond referendum will commence in the spring.

Park Mobile app could come to Park

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Park is working to make it easier to pay the parking meter — via an “app.”

Park Mobile is a smart-phone-based parking service; it is currently being used in the City of Grosse Pointe, and it is similar to the Detroit parking mobile application.

“If you don’t have change in your pocket,” said Nick Sizeland, assistant to the city manager, “you can go to your phone and pay with your card.”

A parker with the app set-up enters the zone and space number, selects the amount of time and the application charges a credit card.

There is a small administrative fee, 35 cents, for the parker.

No new parking meters will be purchased. Park Mobile provides green stickers that are applied to the current meters with the zone and space numbers and rates.

The new system would add convenience and the ability to add on time from where ever, Sizeland said.

“So, say you are at a restaurant and you know you are getting close to an expiring meter,” Sizeland said. “You can go right on your phone and simply buy another hour, and it will charge right to your account.”

City management is still in talks with Park Mobile, but once an agreement is made, Sizeland said it should only take four to six weeks to get up and running.

May this season bring you the gifts of peace, hope and happiness

Merry Christmas

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JILL COURSON

Create it and they will come

By Karen Fontanive
Staff Writer

When life hands you lemons, make lemonade. In the case of City of Grosse Pointe resident Jill Courson, she not only made the proverbial lemonade, but shared it with dozens of others. And continues to do so.

On July 13, 2012 — Friday the 13th, as she likes to point out — Courson was diagnosed with triple negative invasive ductal carcinoma — a fast-growing breast cancer with the worst survival prognosis. The diagnosis capped 10 months of upheaval for the St. John Hospital & Medical Center audiologist: a divorce, house loss, move with her two sons into a rental home, driving her oldest son to South Carolina for his freshman year of college and her youngest son beginning his sophomore year at Grosse Pointe South High School.

The single mother turned to a few close relatives and friends for the support she needed for chemotherapy and a double mastectomy with reconstruction. To coordinate care and support,

she created a closed Facebook group, Jill's TaTas — Tough & Tenacious Allies — of 28 of her closest friends and family. "I put together an awesome team much like a coach does when he puts together an all-star team," Courson said. "Some people were organizers, others provided laughter and cheer, others were drivers and stayed with me at appointments." Her extended support system included friends and teammates "from tennis, volleyball, IBEX and other dear friends who all circled me with love and support."

During treatment and recovery, Courson heard others talk about breast cancer retreats — a place where patients could escape, find solace and freely discuss what they were going through.

"It is nice to talk to someone about the issues surrounding treatment and recovery," Courson explained. "What did you do with your scars, femininity, intimacy, identity, reinvent yourself?"

When she started looking for retreats, she found they were for the cancer survivor or the survivor and a spouse or

the young children of a cancer survivor. Courson wanted something for herself and a co-survivor or caregiver. "Caregivers are co-survivors and how much they've gone through, they need support, too."

So, she created what she wanted: Bosom Buddies, a retreat for physically active, young, single cancer survivors and their co-survivors. She conducted her first retreat August 2015, and held the third retreat this past August. It is limited to 20 attendees of survivors and co-survivors. "I wanted it to remain small so we could build a bond and support each other. With a bigger group, you lose that. I want new people and want them to have a great weekend," Courson said. And as someone who has always been physically active — volleyball, tennis and cycling are among her passions — she wanted the retreat to include fitness activities for the body, as well as the mind and spirit.

Through her work, Courson learned of The Carls Family Village at DeSales Center on Lake Vinyard in Brooklyn, owned by The Holley

Institute, and rents the facility for the weekend. For \$130, attendees spend two nights with meals and participate in a program of events geared to keep minds and bodies active. This year's retreat included a welcoming gathering, yoga, kayaking and paddleboarding, a sunset pontoon ride and bonfire, guided imagery and reflexology. She publicizes the retreat through another closed Facebook group, aptly named Bosom Buddies, comprised of cancer survivors, co-survivors and other interested parties. The retreat fills up within 10 days of first notice.

Those in Courson's circle of friends and family are well aware of the time and effort she puts into the annual retreat — her house has been known to be laden with gift bags for the event — and the time and talents donated. "People say, 'Jill can you take some money?' 'Can I help pay for someone who can't afford it?'" Now she can. Courson created a 501(c)3 in the hopes of creating a second event during the year, reimbursing those donating their time and helping defray the cost for those who might not be able to



Jill Courson
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JILL COURSON

afford the event fee. She'd even like to hold an event in another part of the country. "If someone has a ranch in Utah they'd like to donate..." For now, Courson, who received her benchmark five-year clean bill of

health in August, continues spreading the word and planning the fourth Bosom Buddies retreat in August 2018. To learn more about Bosom Buddies or donate, email Courson at bosombuddies501c3@gmail.com.



Participants in the 2017 BosomBuddies retreat at The Carls Family Village in Brooklyn.

MEDSTAR

Continued from page 1A
12-hour night shifts mitigates "the well-documented sleep cycle impact on waking crews to perform clinical procedures," Miller wrote. Medstar's "state-of-the-art predictive demand computer system" will "provide 168-hour per week deployment models to insure the shortest response times to emergency requests," Miller ensured, and "services would continue as currently required through Mutual Aid Agreement." The Medstar proposal appeared on the March 13, 2017, Woods Committee of the Whole agenda; however, the topic has not yet appeared on a city council agenda. During the March 13 meeting, Woods Mayor Robert Novitke stated his preference for emergency medical respond-

ers familiar with the community. Kosanke expressed concern for the potential delay in communication between public safety officers and medics. When a medical emergency call comes in, Kosanke explained, the dispatcher takes the information, keeps the caller on the phone and calls Medstar to dispatch an ambulance. However, PSOs respond to every ambulance run, he added. All patrol vehicles are equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), and with this agreement the Pointes gain access to Medstar's mass casualty trailer and rehabilitation trailer for large fire-fighting operation. The cross-training of public safety officers includes firefighter and paramedic, emergency medical technician and medical first responder. Every three years Woods

PSOs renew medical-response capability licenses, Kosanke said. "When there's an emergency most likely it's a policeman who will first arrive on the scene," he said. "We don't want to see that skillset go away just because we did something different with our ambulance service." "We've made it clear that the residents in the Farms — and I'm sure they have in the Woods and City, too — demand top-notch service," Jensen said. "And we've been told, 'You will get that top-notch service.' However, on a non-life-threatening call, potentially a broken arm or falling out of bed, the times may not be as fast because they're not going to go lights and sirens through a neighborhood for someone that fell out of bed or broke their arm. But we've made it clear that excessive times aren't acceptable at all."

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

City of Grosse Pointe

Speedy

While parked on Cadieux near Kercheval 4:40 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. After pulling over the driver, it was discovered he had three current suspensions, three warrants and expired registration. He was arrested for driving with a suspended license, speeding and the expired plate.

No son of mine

Officers were called to a residence in the 400 block of Neff 10:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8. The resident said her son, 29, from the City, broke out four back door windows in an attempt to retrieve car keys belonging to his father. The suspect does not have a driver's license. The victim stated he does not live there and does not have permission to be in the house. When officers arrived they observed the suspect "extremely intoxicated" with lacerations on his hands. He was arrested for breaking and entering.

Counterfeit bill

A counterfeit \$100 bill was passed to a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval Sunday, Nov. 26. The business's bank informed the owner of the counterfeit bill later in the week after the cash

drop was made. It was the only \$100 bill accepted that week. Unfortunately, by the time it came to the business owner's attention the security cameras from that day had already been written over. —Anthony Viola Report information about these and other crimes to City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Prescription drugs

A Sterling Heights woman was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, on Morningside near Vernier. While parked behind the station, an officer observed a vehicle matching the description of a possible drunk driver made to Shores police. The officer pulled out, followed the Jeep and almost immediately observed the driver swerving between the lines traveling westbound on Vernier. The officer initiated a traffic stop, but the driver continued until reaching Morningside, turned right, then stopped in the middle of the lane. As the officer contacted dispatch, the driver put the vehicle in reverse and backed into the police vehicle. The officer made contact with the driver, who was disoriented and unaware she had crashed

into police. She denied drinking but admitted to taking prescription medication. A field sobriety test was administered, which the driver failed. She was arrested for OUID. A bottle of Alprazolam, filled that day and missing 18 pills, and an empty bottle of Hydrocodone was confiscated from her vehicle. —Anthony Viola Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Park

Grinch on the loose

Christmas decorations and items were stolen from businesses and porches of residences the last week. A Christmas wreath and floral decoration, valued at \$110, was stolen from a business in the 16000 block of Mack overnight Monday, Dec. 4, to Tuesday, Dec. 5. A red wooden chair was stolen from a porch in the 1300 block of Harvard sometime between Wednesday, Dec. 6, to Thursday, Dec. 7. A \$25 Christmas decoration of "dueling doves" was stolen from a porch in the 1300 block of Three Mile overnight Friday, Dec. 8, to Saturday, Dec. 9. A package containing a \$58 scarf was taken from the back door of a house

in the 1200 of Kensington Sunday, Dec. 10. Change taken Loose change was stolen from vehicles in the area Friday, Dec. 8. \$7 in quarters was taken from a car in the 1200 block of Lakepointe. \$21 in change was taken from a vehicle in the 1100 block of Whittier.

Double trouble

A 20-year-old Dearborn man was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 6, in the 16000 block of Jefferson for possession of narcotics. The man was then arrested for larceny two days later when he attempted to steal a police bike while being released from custody.

Suspects arrested

Two Detroit men were arrested 11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, for a series of larcenies in the 1000 blocks of Audubon, Bishop and Yorkshire. Police responded to a call from a witness, investigated, tracked and arrested the men. —Anthony Viola Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313)822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Sudden death

At 3:19 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, public safety offi-

cers responded to an emergency call reporting an unresponsive man at his home in the 400 block of Cloverly. The man's wife said her husband, 40, had a history of high blood pressure. Finding the man unconscious on the living room floor, officers administered CPR and performed one shock with the AED in their scout vehicle. Medstar paramedics arrived and continued revival efforts, which failed. He died at 4 p.m. The Wayne County Medical Examiner arrived to collect the body and determine cause of death. —Melissa Walsh Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Concealed weapon

Police arrested a 28-year-old St. Clair Shores man at 9:14 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, for driving without a driver's licence and carrying a large knife without a concealed weapon license. —Melissa Walsh Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

When police pulled the man over for driving with a defective brake light at Hawthorne near Mack, they recovered an 8-inch sheath with a 4-inch blade. Too high to drive Police arrested a 25-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man after finding him passed out in the driver's seat of an idling vehicle in the 21000 block of Mack at approximately 3:30 a.m. Sat. Dec. 9. Lying in the vehicle near the man, officers observed a cell phone "with an ample amount of an unknown white powder on it" and a pipe. After waking the man, officers found in the vehicle a pill believed to be Clonazepan, marijuana in a container, grinder and pipe, as well as a scale and bag of cocaine with a straw and razor. Officers performed field sobriety tests on the man and charged him with operating while under the influence of drugs and possession of cocaine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia and issued him a citation for PBT refusal. —Melissa Walsh Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.



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Grosse Pointe News

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JOHN MINNIS: Publisher
TERRY MINNIS: Vice President
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor

OUR VIEW

Thank you
for your
support!

Once again we continue to be amazed and humbled by the support we’ve received from the community. Our ribbon cutting last month with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and the open house following was standing room only! There had to be more than 100 well-wishers who showed up, and many joined us in the ribbon cutting photo ... talk about a “flash” mob!

We are truly blessed with a beautiful space above the Village Grille in the “heart of Grosse Pointe.” Everyone who visits is impressed with the finishings of the former financial firm offices and, of course, our view is one of the best in The Village. It is a thrill to be here.

We have received many complaints about people having trouble finding us. We are located at 16980 Kercheval at Notre Dame, but if you go to Google Maps, it sometimes comes up as 16980 Kercheval Place, Grosse Pointe Park. We are working with a certified Google representative to get that fixed. Even UPS has trouble finding us. Many of our packages are being redirected to 96 Kercheval on The Hill, where we haven’t been in five years! (The daytime UPS guys says it’s not him!)

Our door is by the alley, which is called Kercheval Place, but the door faces Notre Dame. Our name is on the door, but we have yet to get signage quotes. We are on the second floor and there is an elevator to the right. Drop by for a visit!

Good news: Our phones should be working better! As we mentioned in an earlier editorial, we went with a new, cloud-based, IP phone system rather than haul the old PBX system from the former Mack Avenue location. The problem with the IP phone system, however, is that it requires a robust internet connection. We signed up for an AT&T fiber line to be installed, but that took over six weeks ... even though there was fiber right outside. Also complicating the matter was, guess what, our router was sent to the wrong address and returned!

We are happy to announce the router did finally arrive Monday, and we are up and running at 50mbps — up and down! (Geeks know that is good!)

We had a great time during — and in — the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade. Editor Jody McVeigh and Publisher John Minnis rode in a red convertible supplied by Jeff Laethem, a Chamber board member. We were delighted by all the well wishes received along the parade route. Thank you!

We also received many good compliments while handing out hot chocolate and cookies during the parade, and thanks to Dan and Julie Lemanske for letting us use the Village Grille’s fenced off patio



Grosse
Pointe
Past

A Hendie coach and excursionists pass the Provencal-Weir House when it was on Lakeshore and Provencal Road circa 1890.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GUEST OPINION By William E. Brown, National Association of REALTORS

GOP tax reform is tax hike
on middle-class homeowners

When it comes to supporting middle class homeowners, the tax reform bill released in Congress misses the mark, plain and simple.

First, while the bill nearly doubles the standard deduction, it preserves the mortgage interest deduction only for existing mortgages and new purchases with loans of \$500,000 or less. According to our analysis, this nullifies the homeownership incentive for all but roughly 5 percent of the country. That makes America’s century-old tradition of encouraging homeownership through the tax code all but obsolete.

The bill doesn’t stop there. It imposes a new cap on property tax deductions (at \$10,000) and eliminates the widely used deduction for state and local income (SALT) or sales taxes altogether. That means nearly every tax filer in America will experience “double taxation” on his or her income.

Realtors are also strongly concerned about proposals to alter the capital gains exclusion, which homeowners use when they sell a home under current law. This longstanding provision helps

Americans preserve the equity in their homes for their retirement and other long-term needs, but that protection is further limited by the GOP House bill unveiled this week.

While there are some differences, the legislation closely tracks the House Republican blueprint for tax reform released last year. Our analysis of that reform proposal found it would deliver an \$815 average annual tax increase on middle-class homeowners.

What we’re left with is an outright assault on homeownership in America: less incentive to buy a home, fewer protections in a home sale, and higher taxes for middle-class homeowners.

We realize this is just the beginning of a much longer discussion, and we don’t believe this is the outcome that House leaders intended or House members want. Realtors believe, as GOP leaders do, in the promise of a better tax system.

This legislation in its current form simply isn’t the way to get there.

William E. Brown is the 2018 Immediate Past President of the National Association of REALTORS.

space at Notre Dame and Kercheval. It worked out perfectly.

Finally, we are pleased with the more than 500 new and renewal subscriptions we received during our annual \$25/year one-week special after Thanksgiving. It is gratifying that so many readers saw the value in continuing to receive the Grosse Pointe News, their “Community Newspaper,” every Thursday in the mail.

The Grosse Pointe News, as the “Official Newspaper” of Grosse Pointe, is the only subscription-based newspaper in Grosse Pointe. As such, we hold a special obligation and responsibility to serve

the Pointes and report the official news of all the five Pointe communities.

As many readers have undoubtedly noticed, we have added Harper Woods to our coverage area. The sister community to our north and west does not have a newspaper of its own, yet it shares many services with the Pointes, including part of our school district and a public safety mutual aid pact. Harper Woods is also a member of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. As we have often said, what is good for Detroit, our neighbor to the south and west, is good for Grosse Pointe, and the same can be said of Harper Woods.

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LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters longer than 250 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters to the editor may be emailed to editor@grossepointenews.com.

Samaritans
with guns
prevent crime

To the Editor:

I am responding to the Nov. 23 article, “Moms demand action on gun safety.”

What lowers the gun violence and does stop crimes? It is a good person with a gun. Some police chiefs may disagree with this, but remember many of them are hired by politicians and not elected by citizens; thus, to keep their job they must adhere to the political body view-

point.

Some people state the good Samaritan may be shot by officers arriving to the scene. This is true. By the same token, a plain-clothes officer also may be shot. There are many incidents where good people with a gun prevented more people from being shot by a criminal. I found eight incidents where innocent people’s lives were saved. I will leave it to the editorial staff’s discretion how many they print.

♦ Thorton, Colo., a gunman entered a

Walmart and killed three. Armed customers did pull out their weapons to protect themselves and family and did not go “Rambo” like the anti-gun people like to claim. The gunman was captured.

♦ The recent shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, was stopped by two good Samaritans, one an armed NRA member who became involved and stopped the shooter from continuing his violent rampage.

♦ Aug. 1, 1966, University of Texas at Austin tower: A man took position and opened fire killing 14 innocent people. Good Samaritans got their guns out and kept this shooter pinned down, probably preventing more deaths.

♦ Jan. 16, 2002, Appalachian School of Law, Grundy, Va. A disgruntled student shot two school officials. Four other students, two

of them armed, were able to subdue the killer and hold him until police arrived. In the week after the event, only four of the 208 news stories mentioned the two students who stopped further carnage were armed.

♦ Dec. 9, 2007, New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo. An armed church security guard took cover, identified herself and “took down” a man who entered the church after killing two people earlier in the day.

♦ April 17, 2015, May 5, 2015 and May 3, 2017 are more dates where armed, responsible gun owners saved lives.

A criminal does not obey laws. More gun laws will not prevent criminals from committing crimes. In fact, the crime rate will increase because the criminal knows he or she will face less resistance.

MARGARET POTTER
Grosse Pointe Woods

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Jody McVeigh

The Christmas tradition



My dad was a chemical engineer at General Motors more than 30 years before retirement. He worked long, hard hours to support his wife and three kids, then switched gears to Dad mode on weekends. He commanded respect — and got it — from my brothers and me. He was strict and structured and still is the most regimented person I know.

And I love him for it.

His routine was unaltered during his working

years. Come home from work. Change clothes. Read the newspaper. Eat dinner with family. Unwind in front of the television. Wash, rinse, repeat. He and I are both creatures of habit and we don't handle change very well.

An introvert to the core, I am very much my father's daughter — except in one area.

He's a romantic.

It's kind of hard to tell. He's quiet and likes his alone time, but he has such a tremendous, inspirational love for my mother. Sure, he criticizes nearly every meal she cooks because it's not as good as his mother used to make. He teases her for her choice of clothing, hairstyle, perfume, shoes, etc. He grows impatient waiting

for her to leave a restaurant, church, the grocery store because she loves to stop and chat with friends and strangers and he just wants to go home.

My mother's a saint and one hell of a good sport.

But I digress.

This column is about the romance.

Every Christmas since they wed — they celebrated 47 years Dec. 5 — my father hides a piece of jewelry on the Christmas tree. Sometimes it's hanging among the tinsel. Sometimes it's wrapped around an ornament. Often it's a necklace, but sometimes he'll mix it up with a ring or bracelet. Then he winds up the ceramic music figurine in the nook. The one that plays "O

Tannenbaum." And when my mom hears the soft notes of my dad's favorite Christmas song fill the air, she knows it's her cue to start searching.

Every year she seems surprised. That he's still up to this old trick, this old tradition that speaks volumes to me of their love. Every year she scours the tree and my dad sits back and watches, a wide grin on his face as he anticipates the big find. Every year it brings tears to my eyes, watching my parents set an amazing example for me, my husband (who hasn't quite caught on to the romantic nature of the gesture — hint, hint) and my younger brother, who still comes home every Christmas.

It especially touches my heart when I think of

all my parents have been through. Numerous health issues (Mom just had her second hip replaced last week and Dad's hospitalizations are so frequent they know his name and antibiotic preferences) are just the tip of the iceberg.

Most amazing to me is their courtship. As the story goes, way back in 1970, my father was invited to his co-worker's house for dinner one night. The co-worker, Bud, and his wife, Eileen, invited the sweet girl next door to join them.

A few dates later, a proposal.

A few weeks after that, a wedding.

Following their whirlwind, three-month courtship, my parents have managed not only to maintain their marriage

nearly 50 years, but foster and grow their love, devotion and commitment to each other and their family. They've shown my brothers and me what a happy, though sometimes trying, marriage should look like.

I know it's often said girls marry their fathers and while it's true my dad and my husband both watch a ton of sports — I'm talking 24-7 sports, 365 days a year — the two of them aren't remotely alike. My husband is more like my mom — chatty, social, doting — but definitely not romantic (just like me).

So while we agree we shouldn't steal my parents' Christmas tradition, I think it's time we create one of our own. Any ideas?

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1942
75 years ago this week

YOUTHS NABBED IN ROBBERY ATTEMPT: Park police are holding two Detroit men, 20 and 18, for an attempted robbery of a house at 1123 Devonshire.

The owner of the house was away at the time. The next door neighbor called police indicating a car was parked in front of the house and he saw two people walk toward the rear yard.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TO BURN BRIGHTLY INSIDE ONLY: Detroit

Edison is letting its customers know the government has requested outside holiday lighting should be abandoned this year to help save on coal costs. It is not an order, but a request.

1967
50 years ago this week

HIGH SCHOOLS' BOUNDARY SET: The Grosse Pointe Board of Education set the boundary between North and South high schools as the existing boundary line between the attendance area of Kerby and

Monteith elementary schools.

STATE COMMISSION APPROVES WOODS SEWER BOND SALE: The state municipal finance commission approved the sale of drain bonds by the Woods amounting to \$1.66 million for the installation of eight relief sewers in the city.

All but two of the new installations will be done by the Wayne County Drain Commission. The city will construct needed relief sewers between Hawthorne and Brys immediately east of Mack and the Grosse Pointe School District will underwrite the cost of the

necessary line to serve the Grosse Pointe North High School area at Morningside and Vernier.

1992
25 years ago this week

EDUCATORS PREDICT 'ROBIN HOOD' PLAN ISN'T HISTORY YET: The battle against the "Robin Hood" school finance reform act is, at best, only half over, according to Grosse Pointe school officials.

At issue is the District Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Base Sharing Act, dubbed

Robin Hood because it takes money from "wealthy" out-of-formula school districts and redistributes it to "poorer" in-formula school districts. Adopted by the Michigan Legislature in 1991, Robin Hood was enacted as part of a program to reform public school financing in Michigan.

FIRM HIRED TO LEVEL GUTTED CLEANERS:

The burned out Crown Cleaners building should be coming down soon, according to Grosse Pointe Park officials.

The building owner applied for a demolition permit from the Park's building department. On his application, he said he has hired a firm to raze the building and backfill and rough-grade the site.

COUNCIL STALLS LAND PLAN IDEA: It took several years for the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council and developers to decide the best use for the property at Ridge and Moran.

When it was all said and done, the council approved a site plan and rezoning of the three-acre parcel to build four new homes.

And little has happened since, prompting the developer to apply to have one of the four lots put into the Wayne County Land Bank TURBO program to help attract a buyer to construct a new home.

BROWNELL DISCUSSION HEATS UP: It isn't a matter of will a structure be built at Brownell Middle School. The heated debate now centers on just how big or small the multipurpose room will be.

— Karen Fontanive

New air breathing systems OK'd

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Council approved 60 percent of \$17,458 for a new self-contained breathing apparatus fill station and cascade system for its Public Safety Department Monday, Dec. 11. The remaining 40 percent will come from the City of Grosse Pointe pending approval from its council Monday, Dec. 18.

agency response where they have to don their firefighting equipment," said Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni.

Poloni said the current system is 20 years old and is in dire need of upgrade.

"The system is no longer MiOSHA compliant and it does not fill the bottles to the capacity," Poloni said. "So both of those are a violation."

Because the Park is a larger city and has more bottles to service, the

split is consistent with how the two cities have divvied up cost for shared resources, Poloni said.

"In light of the fact we are not in compliance and this constitutes a significant safety issue I move we accept the chief's recommendation," Councilmember Daniel Clark said. "I would like to note that although it may not be a budgeted item, we did pass a recent bond proposal that specifically stated we would utilize

funds to provide our Public Safety Department with needed equipment."

The motion passed unanimously with Councilmember John Chounaird absent.

"Does the chief in the City support this?" Mayor Robert Denner asked tongue in cheek.

Poloni, who is also the Director of Public Safety in the City of Grosse Pointe, assured Park council, "He is 100 percent behind this."

2007
10 years ago this week



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LETTERS

Continued from page 6A

Rooftop bar raises concerns

To the Editor:

In Grosse Pointe Park, we have a building on Mack being redone. It will be another bar. However, the owner wants to put a patio/bar on his roof. He even has stairs installed.

The bars/restaurants in many of our Grosse

Pointe communities are right on top of the residential areas. I know that's a problem here in Grosse Pointe Park. After doing research on this, I found it to be very negative for neighborhoods. Noise, bad language, music, etc., cannot be contained on a roof. There's no building to contain it. Sound carries — especially at night.

Privacy and safety can also be a factor. Children in the area can be

exposed to all the bar language. In this day and age, who is to say that an inebriated person who may have a concealed gun, gets mad and starts shooting. Bullets go farther on a rooftop than in a building. Bars and restaurants are competitive so roof bars can start springing up everywhere.

I think this should be a concern for all the Grosse Pointes.

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Pierce students perform holiday variety show

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

The spirit of Kris Kringle paid an early visit to Pierce Middle School during Michelle Stackpoole's seventh- and eighth-grade drama class production of "Kristmas on Kercheval" Thursday, Dec. 7.

The variety show of holiday musings and memories represented the students' own work written over three days as part of an Offstage Production workshop by Tracy Spada, resident stage manager at the Tipping Point Theatre in Northville. Spada took the students' journal entries and homework assignments and arranged them into a reader's theater performance of storytelling, poetry, monologues, jokes and songs.

The collaboration between Stackpoole and Spada grew out of a friendship formed when they worked together on Tipping Point Theatre's inaugural show after it opened a decade ago. Between her role as music



PHOTOS BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

Above, Michelle Stackpoole's drama students saw the script the first time the morning of Thursday, Dec. 7. Right, they spent class time in rehearsal, with professional director Tracy Spada helping with stage blocking.

director at Grosse Pointe North High School and joining Pierce's faculty as drama and broadcast journalism teacher, Stackpoole took a two-year sabbatical to perform professionally. Spada, in addition to being a member of the Screen Actors Guild, directs plays and musicals at Northville High School; Stackpoole, a trained dancer and choreographer, choreographed several of her shows.

The collaboration on "Kristmas on Kercheval" was the first time the two have worked together as

teachers. The production came together in three class periods, Stackpoole said.

"The first day (Spada) had the kids make a list of words about the holidays — the first things that popped into their minds. She asked them to write about their favorite Christmas gift, their worst Christmas gift." They also wrote poems, rewrote lyrics to a Christmas song and recalled "the sights and smells and sounds and scents of Christmas and one of their favorite Christmas memories."

"Usually my workshops last a bit longer, but we were in here literally less than four hours," Spada said. "Some of the students hadn't been on stage before. We're kind of throwing them into the fire with that. And on top of that, they're performing something they've written, which is a double whammy. We're not giving them time to be afraid."

On Thursday morning, the students read through the script for the first time and began the transition from the page to the stage. By the after-



Students performed for the student body at the end of the school day.

noon, they performed for Stackpoole's sixth-grade drama class as a dress rehearsal. The entire student body was invited to the final performance at the end of the day.

Favorite Christmas memories included a new pair of pajamas, sledding at night, eight days of gift exchange and watching candles burn out on Hannukah, and reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas" aloud. Things that brought Christmas to mind were reindeer, ice skating, the Grinch, candy canes and cookies.

Less pleasant were ugly sweaters and Christmas stress. Favorite gifts were tickets to the Rose Bowl and "Phantom of the Opera" and least favorite gifts were underwear, a toothbrush, a hand-me-down sweater and a Pez

dispenser without any candy.

In the script, students discussed the sensations most reminiscent of Christmas.

"The texture of the holidays is the smooth plastic of wrapping paper, the hard interior of the car and the rough feel of peppermint bark," said Adam Brien. "It smells like hot chocolate, brisk air and pine trees. It sounds like people laughing and the hum of a car engine."

"If I were to close my eyes and think of Christmas, it would smell like candy canes, cinnamon and gingerbread," said Olivia Walton. "If I could hear it, it would sound like a carol. It would taste like cookies and apple pie. If I could feel it, it would feel joyful and merry."

Power to Puerto Rico

Exploring global issues classes generate support

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

In exploring global issues, a semester-long class taught at both Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools, students broke into groups to work with mentors from local non-profit organizations. The students came together, however, in a joint fundraising effort to help Puerto Rico.

The idea grew out of a visit from Rev. Faith Fowler, executive director of Cass Community Social Services.

"In the global issues class, we talk a lot about the issues that are going on in the world," said Darcy Graham, a senior at North. "We were discussing how our country hasn't really done a lot to help Puerto Rico even though they're U.S. territories. We were discussing that we wanted to help them out, but we didn't quite figure out how yet. We were brainstorming with South and then Rev. Faith Fowler came in and she talked to us about what she was doing with her organization to help Puerto Rico and we thought we'd raise

money to help them."

Fowler told the students she was trying to get as many solar-powered generators as possible to Puerto Rico due to the lack of power. The generators grew out of Cass's Tiny Homes project, a program giving low-income Detroiters an opportunity for homeownership.

"For the Tiny Homes we developed rather primitive, but functional, solar generators," Fowler said. "And then (Hurricane) Maria hit Puerto Rico and we ended up taking 50 generators down there."

Another shipment of generators is designated for schools without power, many of which serve low-income students. Fowler plans to return to Puerto Rico in January to assist in making sure the generators are up and running.

"I think these kids can understand what it would be like if we didn't have

lights, if we didn't have fans, if we didn't have computers, if we couldn't charge our phones," Fowler said. "We understand what it was like during the Northeast blackout of 2003 — we were days with no lights. Imagine five to six months."

North and South classes hope to raise enough money —

approximately \$500 for one generator — through lunchtime bake sales and a competition between the two high schools called Penny Wars.

"Penny Wars is just the easiest way to make money because it is all money," said Eva Ciaramitaro, a North senior. "Each school gets their own bucket. Pennies

are positive points and silver coins and dollars are negative points to the other competitor. Any dollars and silver coins you put in your bucket, you're making the other team's points lower." For example, a contribution of \$1 to North's bucket would result in a loss of 100

See POWER, page 9A



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PHOTO COURTESY OF LORY LAROSE

Music of the night

Former Broadway star and 1986 alumna of Grosse Pointe North High School Sandra Joseph, front row middle in red, posed with members of North's choirs following "Music of the Night: An Evening with Sandra Joseph," a benefit concert at the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center Nov. 30. Proceeds benefit North's performing arts program and The Sandra Joseph Performing Arts Scholarship Fund.



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PROUDLY SERVING THE POINTES AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Director puts the instruction into technology

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Christopher Stanley, director of instructional technology for the Grosse Pointe Public School System, has a clear approach when it comes to technology: the student always comes first.

Stanley began his career in education as an English teacher at Redford Union Schools from 2008 to 2009 and Fraser High School from 2009 to 2015. While he was at Fraser High School, his principal, David Richards — a known technology innovator according to Stanley and now superintendent of Fraser Public Schools — invited him to pilot a hybrid program incorporating online learning into the classroom. This experience changed Stanley’s philosophy on what technology and classroom learning look like.

Stanley taught the hybrid class four years before becoming a technology coach — or 21st century teacher — spending part-time teaching and part-time mentoring



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Christopher Stanley, in his office at 389 St. Clair, works with the administrative team to coordinate instructional technology for the district.

teachers in the use of technology. This led to “deep and great conversations about learning and possibilities” when technology is incorporated into the classroom.

“It was such a great opportunity working with that district as a whole and helping to lead a lot of those conversations about what does that look like,” he said.

Similar conversations

began in the district when Stanley came on board as director of instructional technology last April to replace the former director of technology, who retired.

Stanley was in his second year as associate principal at L’Anse Creuse High School North when Sara Delgado, principal at Kerby Elementary School and a fellow member of the Galileo Institute for

Teacher Leadership at Oakland University, alerted him to the opening.

“I was minding my own business one day and Sara was like, hey, did you hear about this position in Grosse Pointe?” Stanley said. “I looked at her and said, ‘That’s for a director of technology. That is not me.’ And she said, ‘Take a look at it again.’”

When he realized the position focused on incorporating technology into the classroom, his interest grew.

“What I was really sold on here in this district is that they’re taking the approach of what we were talking about in Fraser,” Stanley said. “It’s not just about technology; we want to focus on student-centered learning. When they were looking for someone to fill this position, they were looking for someone with a background in education. So it’s kind of a perfect fit, actually.”

Two major initiatives in his first year were the migration from two email

systems — Outlook and Gmail — to Gmail and an exclusive Google platform and the announcement of a “one-stop shopping” K-12 learning management system. After forming an LMS advisory committee made up of teachers from all levels and administrators, Stanley announced at the regular meeting of the Board of Education Dec. 11 the committee’s selection of Schoology as the LMS best suited to the district’s K-12 needs. Initial implementation begins in April with a full rollout planned fall 2018.

“I think a Learning Management System is going to be something to really help drive our vision of where we want to be when it comes to using technology,” Stanley said.

While a smooth migration to Gmail — including summer workshops for more than 280 staff members and three workshops during the district’s professional development day Nov. 7 — is behind him, much work lies ahead to implement the new learning management system, among other plans for the future.

Said Stanley, “I’m so excited to be working in

What is an LMS?

A learning management system provides all the tools a school needs to create engaging contents, design lessons and assess student understanding.

According to Christopher Stanley, “It’s an entire platform for students not only to be able to receive information from their teachers, but to collaborate.”

An advantage of one LMS is students can go online, check their schedule, receive a syllabus, see their assignments and grades all in one place.

The LMS advisory committee selected Schoology because it met what members determined were the most important criteria: ease of use for all parties; student-centered learning; G Suite integration; a notification app for parent communication; and in-house grading. It also came highly recommended by the Troy Public District.

“We were looking for that robust platform that could produce a one-stop shop for us,” Stanley said.

this district. These are some of the most phenomenal teachers that I’ve ever seen before. They’re outside-the-box thinkers and our students are that way as well. Just to be part of this leadership team has been awesome.”

Teacher of THE WEEK

Angeline Baratta

School: Grosse Pointe Academy
Years at GPA: 6
Grade/Subject: Grade 2
Nominated by: Jennifer Kendall, assistant head of school
Assistant head quote: “Angeline Baratta is a caring teacher who puts the needs of her students in front of everything she does. Ang creates a student-centered teaching environment and individualizes the teaching of reading and math for each student. She has become an integral part of our forensics program leading students in grades 5-8 to winning outcomes at the local forensics meet.”
What do you enjoy most about teaching? My kiddos! Working with 7- and 8-year olds, my job is never boring. We often keep each other laughing with funny stories and comments. I feel so fortunate that I get to spend all of my days with them. Their energy and love of learning truly make it easy and fun to come to work every day. I love listening to their ideas and seeing the way their minds work. We learn something new from each other every day! But it goes beyond the teaching and aca-

demics. It’s about getting to know each one of my students and making personal relationships and connections with them.
Describe a teaching accomplishment you’re proud of or a “teachable moment” you experienced. I have been teaching my students about growth mindset and persevering through difficult tasks. In math, we just learned about subtraction with renaming. I had a student who was struggling with this skill and ready to give up. She kept telling me, “Miss Baratta, I can’t do it!” We got out some math tools and used the hands-on approach to solve the problem. We worked diligently until the light bulb went off. Let me tell you, there is nothing more rewarding than teaching a lesson and seeing their faces light up when they finally understand. My students now know that if they are going to say, “I can’t do it,” they have to finish that statement with the word “yet!”
Please share a book or person that has inspired you or your teaching. An amazing friend and coworker, Beth Ahee, inspired me to become a



COURTESY PHOTO

teacher. After graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in communications and having no idea what career I wanted to pursue, I was asked to become Beth’s aide at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Working with Beth and witnessing her love of teaching and the impact she was making on her students lives, I was inspired to do the same. Beth persuaded me to go back to school to get my teaching certificate and I could not be happier with my decision. There is no other job I would rather be doing.
Favorite quote: “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” — Maya Angelou

POWER: *Continued from page 8A*

points to South.

Penny Wars kicks off Friday, Dec. 15, during the North v. South basketball game. Spectators are encouraged to empty their pockets or contribute change from concession purchases to the cause.

Fundraising will continue Monday, Dec. 18, through Thursday, Dec. 21, concluding before the holiday break. Students will raise awareness through social media, flyers, posters and TV announcements.

Community members are welcome to participate by dropping money off at North or South’s school office. Donations also may be made directly to Cass Community Social Services at casscommunity.org.

In addition to the penny competition, students are making progress with their individual groups. For example, students working with Steve Windom, area director for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Michigan chapter, helped organize “Talk Saves

Lives,” a brief introduction to suicide prevention Tuesday, Dec. 19, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact Windom at swindom@afsp.org or (810) 730-2667 for more information.

Several of the nonprofit organizations are involved in special projects for the holidays. Students working with the Full Circle Foundation helped organize a dance for students and one guest each at North’s Commons Wednesday, Dec. 13. The Front Porch is collecting books for parents to pick up to give to their children for the holidays and the

Coalition on Temporary Shelter has a donations room and students are helping sort through it to put together a store for parents and their children to come in and select gifts for one another.

“I love (this class),” said North senior Julian Hollowell. “I’m glad I took it. At first I didn’t know what it was. I walked in here not knowing what it was, but now that we’re halfway through the semester, it’s like such a joy to take this class. I’ve learned so much and learned about the problems that we face, but don’t do anything about. It’s making me want to make a change in our society.”

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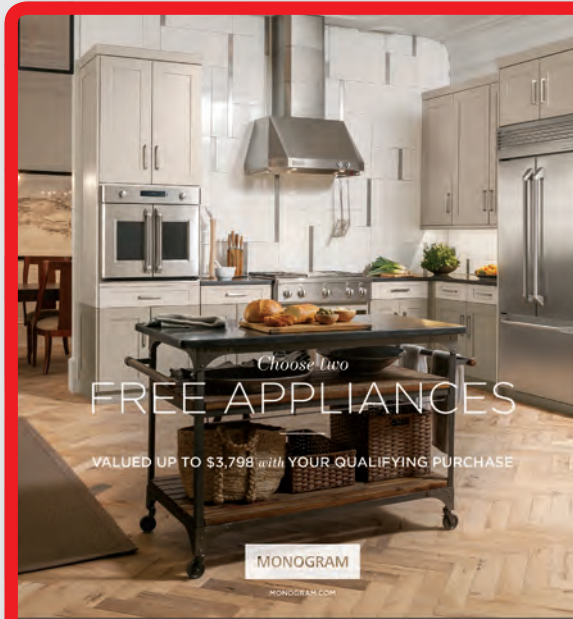
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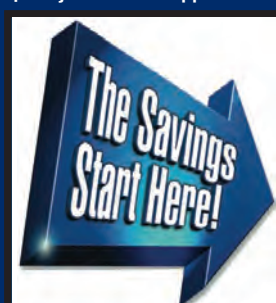
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FEATURES

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Best foot forward Farms man hikes Appalachian Trail

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

According to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, in 2016, the success rate of hiking the Appalachian Trail was around 20 percent. Of the estimated 3,377 people who attempted a thru-hike that year, only 685 completed the journey.

For hikers attempting a southbound hike, Maine to Georgia, the number of attempts has increased from 256 in 2010 to 489 in 2017.

One of those nearly 500 hikers was Grosse

Pointe Farms resident Jack Griffin, 22. The Grosse Pointe South High School graduate spent much of his summer and early fall accomplishing what so many others before him have failed to do.

“It feels sort of like what I’ve been working up to in my life,” he said. “I’ve always loved being outside. I’ve always had a thirst for adventure.”

During his sophomore year at Albion College — where he majored in English and history with a concentration on creative writing — people

started asking him what he wanted to do after graduation.

“My buddy and I came up with the Appalachian Trail as an answer to that question,” he said. “We figured it would allow us to put off deciding what we’ll do with our lives. Then when we graduated, we had no choice — we had to either do it or be phonies. It was a daunting undertaking, but I was really excited about it.”

Griffin and his pal started at Mount Katahdin in Maine and trekked 2,189.8 miles to Springer Mountain in Georgia, though Griffin estimates the official distance is a bit off.

“There’s a lot more walking involved in walking the trails than going straight through,” he said. “A lot of people say it’s 3,000 miles because you have to go off and find water and shelter.”

The trip began June 7. Three days later, he wanted to come home.

“There were two moments when I thought about quitting,” he said.

“Three miles in on the second day, we stopped at our first water source and our pump broke.”

The trail, however, boasts a community of hikers willing to loan equipment or a helping hand. That community wasn’t immediately available the third day when Griffin found himself facing 100-degree heat, no water filter and no one to ask for help.

“For 10 miles I didn’t see a soul,” he said. “I found a stream, but I had no filter.”

He was severely dehydrated when his friend found him, gave him iodine tablets and helped him rehydrate.

Much later in his journey, Griffin faced a situation that once again found him questioning his resolve. While hiking through Virginia, the largest state on the trail at nearly 600 miles, Griffin turned a bend and

came across a ravine.

“I saw a person 20 feet down in the ravine,” he said. “I called out, then I went down to check on him. He had no pulse. He was cold We spent the whole day trying to get law enforcement out there.”

“We spent the night in town and were back on the trail the next day,” he continued. “It was the best medicine to just walk it off and keep on hiking. If I had stopped, I’d be here and not thinking about anything else but that body.”

Griffin completed the task Oct. 31, before rejoining his family in the Farms. Griffin is the oldest of Peter and Jennifer Griffin’s four children.

“I wanted to do something amazing,” he said. “It certainly is amazing in theory, but it’s a very mundane thing to do —

walking every day, mostly to look for water or shelter and being really tired.

“But the very best part is getting to the top of a mountain,” he continued. “It’s the most satisfying thing you can do. Three-quarters of the Appalachian Trail is called the Green Tunnel. There’s nothing but leaves and trees. But when you get to the top of a mountain and you’re exhausted, there’s nothing more satisfying than looking out and seeing miles and miles.”

He said he enjoyed the wildlife as well, laying eyes on three types of moose, loons “singing their haunting songs” and bears, which he said weren’t scary at all, but rather reminded him of fat dogs.

See HIKE, page 4B



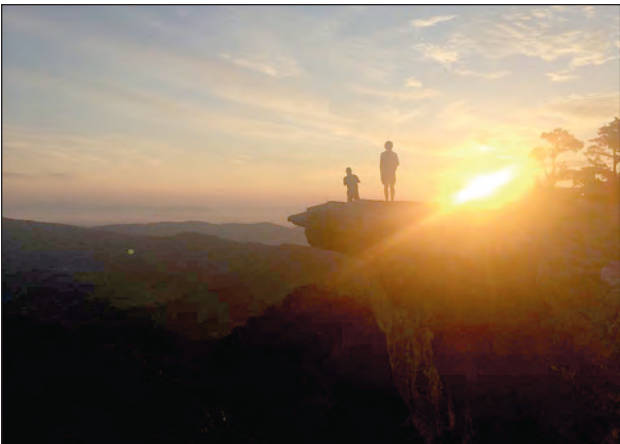
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACK GRIFFIN

Jack Griffin on Springer Mountain in Georgia.



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2B | FEATURES

AREA ACTIVITIES

Women’s Connection

The Women’s Connection of Grosse Pointe presents “Beautiful Bells in Concert,” performed by Classical Bells, Thursday, Dec. 14, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:30 p.m. Call Ellie Kaye at (586) 295-0775 or Jan Baumann at (586) 243-2241.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men’s Ecumenical Breakfast meets 7:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Grosse Pointe North High School Principal Kate Murray speaks. Reservations are not required; all are welcome. Breakfast is \$7. Call (313) 882-5330.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross offers blood drives 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe; and 11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Register at redcrossblood.org.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists’ Association pres-

ents the following programs at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms:

- ◆ The exhibit “When the Sun Goes Down” runs through Sunday, Jan. 14. A reception and awards ceremony is 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17.
 - ◆ 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 9 to 30, “Pen and Ink with Al Sonnenberg.”
 - ◆ 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 9 to 30, “Acrylics with Al Sonnenberg.”
 - ◆ 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to Feb. 6, “Landscape Painting in Oil and Acrylic with Ed Duff.”
 - ◆ 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20 and 21, “Black and White Woodcut Workshop with Nobuko Yamasaki.”
 - ◆ 3:30 to 6 p.m. Mondays, Art After School, a new club sponsored by GPAA offering artists of all ages the chance to work together and share ideas.
- For information, call (313) 881-3454.

Lake House

The Lake House, 23500 Pare, St. Clair Shores, offers the following programs:

- ◆ Drum Circle 2 to 3 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. Instruments are provided, but participants may bring their own percussion instruments as well.
- ◆ Gentle mat yoga 6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays and chair yoga noon to 1 p.m. Thursdays. No experience is needed and all ages are welcome.
- ◆ Knitting for beginner and intermediate levels 1

to 3 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of each month. Reservations are requested.

For more information about these activities, call (586) 777-7761.

Senior Men

The Grosse Pointe Senior Men’s Club meets 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. All men older than 55 are invited. Lunch is \$15 and jackets are suggested.

Woman’s Club

The Grosse Pointe Woman’s Club will meet at noon Wednesday, Dec. 20, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. After a light lunch and a sing-along accompanied by Clara Graham on the piano, a representative from the Montrose Center of the Salvation Army will speak. Members are asked to bring gifts for children, mothers and monetary donations for the Salvation Army.

Guests are welcome at our meetings. For reser-

ations, call Sue Plath at (313) 884-5081 by Saturday, Dec. 16. All other questions about the club should be directed to president Pam Zimmer at (313) 926-6726.

Overeaters Anonymous

An Overeaters Anonymous group meets 7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at Bethel Lutheran Church, 26400 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores. Use the rear door to get to the basement classroom. Newcomers are welcome at OA, a 12-step recovery program for people who have problems with food or weight. Visit oagreaterdetroit.org or call Mary B. at (313) 410-5283.

Senior Ladies

Groups of ladies are invited to join the Grosse Pointe Senior Ladies Club for lunch and card games 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cost is \$13. Call (313) 881-5931.

Van Elslander

The Van Elslander Cancer Center offers free 45-minute gentle yoga

classes for female cancer patients and survivors 12:30 to 2 p.m. Mondays, followed by a short support session. The class is appropriate for people in or out of treatment; physician clearance is required. Call Jessica Chapman at (313) 647-3004.

H3

Hope, Healing and Health offers its Healing Hearts Circle open bereavement support group 6 to 7:30 p.m. the second to fourth Wednesday of each month at 22811 Greater Mack, Ste. L2, St. Clair Shores. Call (313) 335-2006.

The center offers its Healing Heart Circle for Bereaved Parents at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at 22811 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores. Registration is required. Call (586) 335-2006.

SOC

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

- ◆ noon to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, Defer Elementary School Choir performs holiday songs. Reservations are required.
- ◆ 11:30 to 11:45 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, December birthday celebration, including free lunch, cake and keepsake photo for people with December birthdays. Reservations are required.

For information, call (313) 882-9600.

La Societe des Jardinieres

La Societe des Jardinieres meets 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at the home of member Kathie Smith for the group’s annual Christmas party. Dinner will be served, followed by a “Sparkle Sparkle” secret Santa gift exchange. Also members will decide on a charity it will support this Christmas season. Debby Wolney and Kathie Smith co-host the evening.

NAMI

The National Alliance on Mentally Ill Eastside meets 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at Henry Ford Cottage Hospital, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Call Barb at (313) 886-8004.

BNI

Business Network International meets 7 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call Ryan Marier at (313) 638-7526.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Lisa Kalinski, MA, LPC

Improving communications with teens

Q: I am worried I am not setting the right tone in my home for open communication. I have a 13-year-old and hope I’m not too late to change that as she moves further into the teen years?

A: It’s not too late to work on better communication and trust with your children. We have a system called pro-active parenting that includes these seven key behaviors:

1. Show interest in their activities, likes and dislikes
2. Listen carefully to what your child says without saying what they did wrong or should have done differently
3. Find ways to agree with them; say “Yes” whenever you can
4. Focus on the desired behavior,

rather than the one to be avoided

5. Build children’s images of themselves as trustworthy, responsible and cooperative
6. Expect the best from them and encourage them often and vigorously
7. Help them understand how their actions affect others.

Every child has a unique personality and issues and obstacles to overcome, which make parental responsibilities even more challenging. But the sooner you learn to engage, listen and respond, rather than critically react, the better you can maintain meaningful trust, dialog and the ability to affect change and growth in your teen.

Lisa Kalinski, MA, LPC, currently serves as the Clinical Director for New Oakland Family Centers — Wayne and



Ingham counties. Her primary responsibilities include managing the day-to-day operations of the Outpatient and FACE to FACE Partial Hospitalization Programs. Lisa received her Master of Arts in Professional Counseling from Oakland University.

To reach Lisa, please email lkalinski@newoakland.org or call (734) 422-9340. New Oakland Family Centers 24-hour Crisis Line: (877) 800-1650. New Oakland Family Centers is a member of The Family Center’s Association of Professionals.

The Family Center’s mission is to serve our community through programs and resources vital to today’s families. As a non-profit organization, it is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit familycenterweb.org, call (313) 447-1374 or email info@familycenterweb.org.

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10:00 AM Sunday Worship

5:00 PM Candlelit Service

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Salute to veterans

War Memorial aims to feed 1,000 veterans, their families

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Registration is open for The War Memorial's third annual 1,000 Christmas Salutes. In partnership with Justin Verlander's Wins for Warriors Foundation, the program aims to provide 1,000 free meals to veterans, military members, first responders and their guests. "We partner with them for several events, but this is our signature event in partnership with them," said Kara Noto, director of media and communications at The War Memorial. "Many events we host are specifically for veterans alone. This is an event that is a treat for the whole family." The event, which takes place Sunday, Dec. 17, offers three seating times for attendees: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2:30 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. While previous events have been structured around musical performances, this year offers a variety of activities. "We have a bit of everything," Noto said. "Screenings of 'The Polar

Express,' visits with Santa, performances in house, crafts for kids and a beautifully catered meal. You can come and experience those things in any order you choose. We have a goal of serving 1,000 meals to veterans and their families." The event is free, though tickets are required. They may be reserved online at war memorial.org/holidays. "Reserve a time and bring as many family members as you'd like," Noto said. "If your service member is home, they are free to join us. It doesn't need to be someone who lives here full time. Veterans can come on their own or bring the whole family. We want to make sure we keep the program open to as many people as possible for as long as possible." The mission of Wins for Warriors is to empower U.S. military veterans and



A father and son share a touching moment at last year's 1,000 Christmas Salutes.

as a regional base to honor and support generations of Michigan military veterans," said President and CEO Charles Burke. "Programs and partnerships like 1,000 Christmas Salutes are an affirmation of our commitment to continuously expand upon that duty and to extend our gratitude to the families that have stepped up to serve." To reserve seats at 1,000 Christmas Salutes, visit war memorial.org/holidays or call (313) 881-7511.

On another note

The War Memorial continues its winter programming with EAT, or Engage Aspire Taste, through summer 2018. With series partner EdibleWOW, EAT brings together War Memorial Chef Frank Turner with industry leaders — including Brut Detroit, Tito's Vodka, Social Sushi, Bell's Brewery, Detroit City Distillery and The Wine Counselor Michael Schafer — to showcase the crème de la crème of culinary masterpieces, wine and spirits. Noto said a subscription to the programming would make a great gift for foodies. "It offers the opportunity to gift an experience rather than a thing," she said. "There's never more than 25 people at this private tasting event It's not just the cattle-call tasting with free wine and nowhere to sit. It's done right." For more information, visit war memorial.org/eat or call (313) 881-7511.



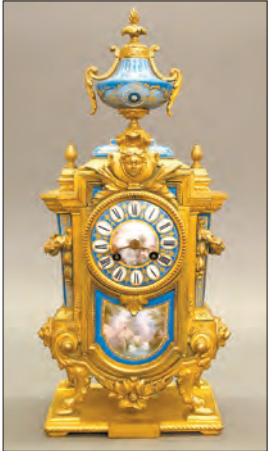
Veterans and their loved ones at a previous event.

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4B | FEATURES

HIKE:
Continued from page 1B

Griffin kept a journal of his adventure and plans to transcribe his notes and add detail. He also kept in touch with his parents throughout the trip. “I don’t think my parents were especially surprised; I’d been talking about it for two years,” he said. “I was very fond of ‘Into the Wild’ when I was in high school. I wanted to pull a Chris McCandless, but survive and do things smarter than he did.

“The Appalachian Trail is a really difficult undertaking, but it’s not about physical strength,” he continued. “It’s all about wanting to do it. Anything can be accomplished. Anyone can do it. The biggest takeaway is that all it takes is putting one foot in front of the other, one step at a time.” Looking ahead, Griffin said he’d like to continue his quest for the Triple Crown — hiking the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail and Continental Divide. “I have a lot of dreams,” he said. “And I think that would be fun.”



Griffin on Mt. Washington, New Hampshire.



Saddleback Mountain, Maine.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACK GRIFFIN



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PASTOR’S CORNER By the Rev. Randy Boelter

Emmanuel: God present with us” Matthew 1:23

Christmas is coming. Having a hard time finding that perfect gift? God has a suggestion: Give his love by being present to others.

Giving presents is a laudable custom in this “season of giving,” for our giving reflects God giving us his son, Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem among us. Our gifts celebrate his hands-on, redeeming love for us.

Sharing God’s love with others by being truly present to them is the better gift we can give. Being present isn’t just about us “putting in time” or being in the same room with others. A recent commercial satirizes a family at dinner immersed in social media failing to show connection with or love for each other. Sadly, this disconnected living can play out widely at Christmas. Relationships matter to God and he wants them to matter to us. Living

without being present can be most cruel and unloving.

The message of Christmas is simple. While we distance ourselves from God and others, God does not separate himself from us. Mercifully, graciously, he sent Jesus his son to earth to be Emmanuel, “God present with us.” Christmas is God not distancing himself from us, but coming in visible flesh to rescue us from present and eternal isolation.

At Christmas, God gifts us visibly in Jesus with his love and grace to comfort us and to help us be present to others. Celebrate his coming this Christmas. His grace will work in you, moving you beyond buying presents to being present to others with his love.

Boelter is the pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Woods.

CHURCH EVENTS

First English

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, presents its Sunday School Christmas Pageant during the 11 a.m. service Sunday, Dec. 17, featuring children preschool through fifth grade singing traditional Christmas hymns.

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, morning worship begins 10 a.m. and three candlelight services are offered in the evening. At 5 p.m., a special children’s time is featured. Before the 7:30 p.m. service, music is performed at 7:15 p.m. At 11 p.m., Holy Communion is offered with music beginning 10:45 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31, the New Year’s Eve service begins 10 a.m. Epiphany worship takes place at regular times Monday, Jan. 8.

The church presents its 11th annual Christmas Tree Walk and Afternoon Tea, spotlighting the 35-plus lighted and decorated Christmas trees on three levels of the church and other decorations throughout the complex, culminating in a festive afternoon tea.

The self-conducted walks take place noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27. The tea, chaired by Waynette Hostetler, chairwoman of the Women of the Church, takes place in The Luther Center and includes tea sandwiches and an assortment of sweet breads, cookies and crème puffs along with hot tea.

Freewill donations and nonperishable food gifts for the pantry will be accepted. RSVP by calling (313) 884-5040.

United Methodist

Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts several holiday worship services Sunday, Dec. 24, beginning with its 9:30 a.m. worship service. A family service begins 5 p.m., a candlelight service begins 9 p.m., a college reception begins 10 p.m. and a candlelight service with chapel begins 11:15 p.m. Call (313) 886-2363.

St. Paul Evangelical

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of Bible and book studies. Newcomers are welcome.

- ◆ The Rev. Justin Dittrich leads Bible study at 9:30 a.m. each Tuesday in the Harms Fireside Room.
- ◆ Prayer Vigils for Peace take place 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, starting with a short video followed by discussion.
- ◆ The Naomi Circle Women’s Group meets in the Bethany Room for Bible study and fellowship at 12:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.
- ◆ The Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Bethany Room.

Call the church office for more information: (313) 881-6670.



Charlie Jogan, a fifth-grader at Maire Elementary School, was all smiles at the spaghetti dinner.

St. Ambrose Feast Pasta dinner raises funds for charity

St. Ambrose Catholic Church hosted its annual spaghetti dinner Friday, Nov. 10, to raise money for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Ambrose Conference. In fiscal year 2017, the council was contacted by 270 households representing more than 1,000 people for help with energy assistance, food, clothing, appliances and household items, beds, furniture and rent and mortgage assistance.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Henry Rennpage, Cara Davidson, Tony Rennpage, Miles Rennpage, Nick Rennpage, Emily Rennpage and Nora Rennpage sit down to a family dinner at the event.



Volunteers dish out pasta and sauces to people attending the fundraiser.

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Christmas Eve Services, December 24
10:00 a.m. Advent IV, Morning Prayer Service (No Communion)
7:30 & 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion Services
No Services on Christmas Day

The First Sunday After Christmas, December 31
8:30 a.m. - The Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. - Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas-Tide

Sunday Services of Holy Communion
8:30 a.m. - The Holy Communion with Sermon and Organ Music
11:00 a.m. - The Holy Communion with our Professional Choir

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9:30am
Sunday School

11:00am
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Holy Eucharist
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Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

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WORSHIP SERVICES

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SUNDAY
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9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

MONDAY
7 p.m. - Worship Service
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study

Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
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St. Michael’s Episcopal Church
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Facebook: St. Michaels Episcopal Church Grosse Pointe Woods
stmichaelsgpw@gmail.com www.stmichaelsgpw.org

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey we invite you to walk with us as we walk with Jesus

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.

Joan Dittmer Cunningham

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Joan Dittmer Cunningham, 86, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017.

Joan was born Feb. 21, 1931, in Detroit, to Hazel and Andrew Benoit. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sisters, Virginia, June, Mary Jane, twin Joann; and husbands, Harlan Dittmer and William Cunningham.

Joan is survived by her sons, Mark Dittmer (Linda) and Brian Dittmer (Michelle); grandchildren, Kacey Muccino (Mike), Jessica Dittmer, Travis Dittmer (Stefanie) and Ryan Dittmer (Samantha) and great-grandsons, Charlie and Lucas Muccino.

Joan was fun-loving and treasured her family. She will be greatly missed and remembered by those who knew her.

A private memorial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Michigan at hom.org.

Barbara Ann Austin

Barbara Ann Austin, nee Deck, passed away peacefully Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. She was 77.

Barb is survived by her husband, Rowland Austin; children Mark Austin (Sue), Jeff Austin (Mary Beth) and Amy Schaden (David); grandchildren, Alex and Michelle Austin, Ryan, Jack and Andrew “A.J.” Austin and Thomas, Sara and Mary Schaden.

She was predeceased by her parents, Lester and Loraine Deck, and sister and brother-in-law, Mary Lou and Archie Grieve.

Barb was born Nov. 7, 1940, graduated from Grosse Pointe High School and earned a business degree from Western Michigan University. She dedicated her life and time to her family and friends and engaged in volunteer activities through several organizations including the Junior League of Detroit. She held numerous leadership roles including vice president of the organization. She spent many years working with her father-in-law in the interior design field.

Barb enjoyed boating on the Great Lakes and traveling with family and friends. She was active with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and the Clinton River Boat Club, where she unselfishly gave her time and talents to many committees, events and activities.

Visitation will be held 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A service celebrating her life begins at 11 a.m. Interment will be at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association at alz.org.

Suzanne H. Bashara

Suzanne H. Bashara, 82, died unexpectedly Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, at her home.

She was born Dec. 2, 1934, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, to Marc and Navarine Chappus. She grew up in Windsor and came to Detroit as a young woman. She was employed as an executive secretary in a law firm.

Suzanne’s hobbies included needlepoint, painting, golf and travel. She was a member of Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Suzanne is survived by her children, Meribeth Meyers (Robert) and James Scott Simon; and granddaughters, Violet and Rosealie. She also is survived by her sister, Dawn Bowsher. Her husband, The Honorable George N. Bashara, predeceased her in 2002.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods. Inurnment will be in the church’s memorial garden.

Donations may be made to Michigan Humane Society, c/o Development Department, 30300 Telegraph, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025, American Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, D.C. 20090-6929 or the animal welfare organization of the donor’s choice.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Justin Allen DeVooght

Justin Allen DeVooght, 40, passed away suddenly, but peacefully at home, Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, with his family near.

He was born March 24, 1977, in Detroit, to Rex DeVooght and Lori Wilkerson-Raymond.

Justin is survived by wife, Lashawn DeVooght (nee LaBarge); children, Alexandra DeVooght and Grant DeVooght; parents; grandparents, Mary DeVooght, Virginia Wilkerson and Carolyn and Edgar Root; siblings, Allen and Kelly Thiede, Jordan DeVooght, Jeremy and Amy DeVooght, Jefferson DeVooght, Sean and Courtney Gose and Gareth Gose; stepbrothers and stepsisters, Andy and Vincent Winter, Kimberly Raymond, Logan Diedrich and many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He also is survived by his beloved dogs, Claudius P. Longfellow and Otto Von Bear.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Dennis DeVooght, Carl Wilkerson and Jack Boyd.

Justin’s greatest pride in life was his family. He was a devoted husband and father who enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his wife and children. Justin was a land surveyor and longtime employee of Kem-Tec, an engineering, surveying and environmental services company in Eastpointe. He told family and friends he had an awesome job that allowed him to be a kid and play in the woods every day.

Justin had many hobbies, including teaching himself middle English so he could read J.R.R. Tolkien stories in their original form, finding obscure and random factoids to drop into conversations at just the right time, feeding his dogs way too many treats, finding new craft beers to try and painting miniatures. His most beloved hobby by far was preparing for and playing Dungeons and Dragons games with his friends.

Visitation will be 1 to 4 p.m., with eulogies at 3 p.m., at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe



Joan D. Cunningham



Barbara Ann Austin



Suzanne H. Bashara



Justin Allen DeVooght



Christina Meyer Cox



Robert Andrew Martin

Woods.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 296 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or at gpaas.org.

Christina Meyer Cox

Christina “Nina” Meyer Cox passed away Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, surrounded by her loved ones, after a long courageous battle with cancer.

Born Sept. 10, 1985, in Tokyo, Japan, Nina’s life and heart were as full as the adventures her travels took her over the 32 years of her life. Nina graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and went on to the University of Notre Dame, graduating summa cum laude in 2008 with a bachelor degree in architecture and French language. After exploring her passion as an architectural designer, Nina attended the University of Michigan, earning an MBA from the Ross School of Business in 2014.

For three years, Nina worked for ExxonMobil Finance in Fairfax, Va., and Houston. Nina contributed as an analyst in internal audit and more recently in special projects with downstream controller’s, but made an even greater impact on her mentees, peers and colleagues.

Nina was feisty and fearless, kind and thoughtful. She loved quality time with family, Notre Dame football, cooking, quilting works of art and salt. Nina’s passion for life was fulfilled when she met Aaron in 2015 and this fall, had the wedding of her dreams.

Nina led a life full of learning, adventure, fun and love of others. Her beautiful, sweet and fun-loving spirit will be affectionately carried on by her husband, Aaron; parents, Chris and Cindi; and brother, Nick.

A celebration of Nina’s life will be 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, with a reception following the service.

Donations may be made in honor of Nina to the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation at crohnscolitisfoundation.org or the Colon Cancer Alliance at ccalliance.org.

Robert Andrew Martin

Robert Andrew “Bob” Martin, 85, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, surrounded by his loving family, after battling Alzheimer’s disease.

Bob was born June 15, 1932, in Detroit, to Isabel Louise (nee Hart) and Franz Herbert Martin. He met the love of his life, Elizabeth Ann “Betsy” Huette, in the auditorium at Grosse Pointe High School, and they were married Aug. 21, 1954, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church and honeymooned at the family cottage along the Au Sable River in Grayling.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College in 1954 and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1957. He was a law associate at Schmidt, Smith, Howlett and Halliday in Grand Rapids from 1957 to 1961, before moving to Grosse Pointe Woods and joining the family business, F.H. Martin Construction Co. He served as president of the company from 1974 to 1995.

He was a member of the Michigan and American Bar associations, Associated General Contractors (serving as the Detroit Chapter president in 1974, and on the national board beginning in 1988, chairman of the municipal utilities division, executive committee member and life director). He also was a member of the American Arbitration Association, serving on the commercial arbitration panel beginning in 1989, and acted as a mediator/arbitrator of construction industry disputes for many years until his full retirement. He and Betsy traveled extensively through his involvement in construction associations, attending conventions and making friends across the country.

Bob was honored with the Construction Icon Award from the Detroit chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction in 2003, and was inducted as a Distinguished Constructor to the Michigan Construction Hall of Fame in 2007.

He and Betsy raised five children, Cathy (John Leverenz), Peg (Jim Rohrkemper),

Barbara (Andrew Glassberg), Andy (Sue) and Jim. He was blessed with 11 grandchildren, Lisa (Patrick Coletta), Johnny (Neena), Matt (Vanessa), Kimmy Leverenz; Christine, Jeff (Taylor), Eric Rohrkemper; Sarah and Emily Glassberg; Alissa and Hailey Martin and one great-granddaughter, Ava Leverenz. He also had a Swedish “daughter” through a student exchange program, Ann Charlotte, and was “grandpa” to her children, Miriam, Emelie and Elias, as well.

Bob was active in the lives of all his children and grandchildren and many fond memories were created around the breakfast table, at the frequent birthday and holiday gatherings and especially at the family cottage in Grayling. He loved the cottage, spending hours fly fishing in the Au Sable River or just sitting in his favorite spot watching the river go by. Music also was important in his life, from playing the string bass in a jazz band in the early years, singing in choirs and glee clubs, to piano lessons starting at age 60, and even joining the Lakeshore Barbershop Chorus at age 80.

Bob also enjoyed playing golf and tennis and was a longtime member of Lochmoor Club, where he served as president in 1986-87. He also was a member of the Detroit Athletic Club, where he played squash and bowled for many years and was an avid contract bridge player.

He was a gentle man, always with a smile on his face and a song in his heart, and he will be truly missed.

A memorial service was held Dec. 13 at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Donations may be made in Bob’s memory to the Alzheimer’s Association, 25200 Telegraph, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48033 or alz.org/gmc; Anglers of the Au Sable, 471 S. Stephan Bridge Road, Grayling, MI 49738 or ausableanglers.org; or to Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or gpcong.org.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

See OBITUARIES, page 7B

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OBITUARIES:
Continued from page 6B

Robert McGrath

Former Grosse Pointe resident Robert McGrath of Inverness, Ill., passed away peacefully Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, surrounded by his loving family. He was 77.

Born Oct. 23, 1940, in Flushing, N.Y., to John Bernard and Madeline (nee Areson) McGrath, Bob graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1959. He attended the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. and graduated from Michigan State University in 1964. He married Christine “Chris” Scanlan Sept. 14, 1968, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms. Bob retired from Illinois Tool Works in 2005 after nearly 30 years with the company.

A family man, honest and devoted, Bob will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him.

Bob is survived by his wife, Chris; children, Maureen Hahn (Steve); Sheila Edstrom (Matt), Craig McGrath, Michael McGrath (Shannon) and Kate McGrath; daughter-in-law, Kathleen McGrath and 15 grandchildren. He also is survived by his sister, Barbara Logan.

He was predeceased by his parents; son, Brian

McGrath; sister, Jane Crossley and brothers, John McGrath and Peter McGrath.

A funeral Mass was held Dec. 11 at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Palatine, Ill.

Share a memory at smithcorcoran.com.

Janet K. Dunn

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Janet K. Dunn, 71, passed away Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, at St. John Hospital & Medical Center in Detroit.

Born Aug. 29, 1946, in Bay City, to Harry C. and Gertrude E. (nee Gonyaw) Niedzielski, Janet graduated from T.L. Handy High School in Bay City and earned a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University. She was a former treasurer and member of the Junior League of Detroit and a member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. She also was a former member of the Grosse Pointe South Mother’s Club and Kerby Elementary School PTO.

Janet is survived by her daughter, Jennifer L. Dunn and many loving relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to

Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 296 Chalfonte Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or at gpaas.org.

Arrangements handled by Penzien-Steele Funeral Home, Bay City.

Ralph Fraser McDonald

Ralph Fraser McDonald, 92, passed away Friday, Dec. 1, 2017.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jean; daughter, Susan Stover (Jim); son, Mark (Joselyn); grandchildren, Mike (Kate) and Amy (Mike) and great-grandson, Grayson.

He was predeceased by his son, Robert.

Ralph served in World War II as an Air Force radio operator. He graduated from Wayne State University and spent his career in the insurance industry, but his greatest passion in life was his family. He also loved sports and was a lifelong fan of the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions and Michigan Wolverines.

A memorial service will be held 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Donations may be made to Beaumont Hospice, c/o Beaumont Health Foundation, P.O. Box 5802; Troy, MI 48007.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.



Robert McGrath



Janet K. Dunn



Robert Kasper D.D.S.

Robert Kasper D.D.S.

Former Grosse Pointe Woods resident Robert Kasper D.D.S. passed away Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017, in Naples, Fla. He was 95.

Bob was born May 13, 1922, in Hamtramck. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces at age 21, when World War II was in full force. He trained to fly the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress four-engine bomber. He flew 35 missions over Germany as part of the 511th Squadron of the 351st Bombardment Group, stationed in Polebrook, England. Once Germany surrendered, Bob continued to pilot transport planes over the Pacific until Japan surrendered. He was decorated with the Air Medal six times.

Once discharged in 1945, Bob enrolled at the University of Detroit through the GI Bill, where he studied liberal arts and later enrolled in the School of Dentistry. Bob ran a dental practice in Detroit until his retirement in 1984.

Bob was married twice to women he often referred to as two of the most wonderful women you would ever want to know. His first wife, Mary Elizabeth Kasper, predeceased him in 1998. His second wife, Jo Ann (nee Lovisa) Kasper, predeceased him in 2013.

Bob was a longtime member of Lochmoor Club, as well as Our Lady

Star of the Sea Catholic Church, in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Bob relocated full-time to Naples in 2009, where he was an avid golfer at Naples Lakes Country Club up until the end of his life. He was a volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County and a member of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church.

Bob is survived by his stepdaughter, Laura Lovisa and her partner, Lara Creasy; stepson, David Lovisa, his wife, Caroline and their children, Nicholas and Harrison Lovisa; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Joyce M. DeGalan

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Joyce M. DeGalan, 93, died Monday, Nov. 27, 2017.

Born July 12, 1924, she was the beloved wife of Charles R. DeGalan for 67 years. She was the loving mother of Peter DeGalan (Sungkyung), Julie DeGalan (Bryon Middlekauff), Valerie DeVos (John), Colette Zimmermann (Ralph), Camille DeGalan (Martin Dawson) and Nicole Krishnan (Mohan); dear grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of four. She also is survived by her sister, Margaret Getts (Johnson).

Donations may be made to the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48202 or a charity of the donor’s choice.



Norman Eric Abey

Norman Eric Abey

Norman Eric Abey, 94, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017.

A resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, Norman was born March 1, 1923, in Stratford, Ontario, Canada. He spent three years in the U.S. Army Air Forces assigned to the 40th Bomber Group in India. He was a life member of the VFW, the Grosse Pointe Senior Men’s Club and a member of the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church.

Norman was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn Jean Abey, Aug. 1, 2001.

A memorial service will be 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 211 Moross Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Easing spiritual distress is vital in finding comfort at end of life

Death is a spiritual experience.

No matter a person’s cultural or religious beliefs, most everyone becomes introspective in their final days as they strive to put their life’s purpose into perspective and find closure. For many, this creates spiritual strife hospice can help minimize.

Hospice was founded on the principle “total pain” those with life-limiting illnesses suffer consists not only of physical discomfort, but social, psychological and spiritual distress.

Hospice’s holistic approach addresses all these areas to achieve comfort at end of life, including four dimensions of spiritual suffering Hospice of Michigan has helped patients navigate more than three decades.

◆ **Forgiveness** — Individuals often are consumed with unfinished business at end of life, which includes making amends with family and friends. “I often hear ‘There’s someone I need to say something to or I need to make some things right,’” said Karen Monts, practice manager, counseling services for HOM. People have a need to give and receive grace from those with whom they have been at odds over the years.

◆ **Hope** — Even within the context of dying, people remain hopeful on many fronts and hope is a tremendous antidote to spiritual suffering. They may look to realize unfulfilled bucket list experiences; participate in milestone occasions with family and friends, such as birthdays or weddings;

solidify their legacy or realize any number of goals and dreams.

◆ **Meaning** — People have a universal need to feel their lives have had purpose. Many struggle to see the positive impact they have had on others or contributions they have made to society. Helping them reflect on the mark they’ve made in the world is critical in achieving spiritual peace.

◆ **Relatedness** — People have an innate need to connect with others and their communities. As individuals reminisce about relationships at end of life, they take stock of what they’ve lost and gained with family members, friends and co-workers. Embracing important relationships reinforces relatedness, which contributes to spiritual harmony.

In assessing the needs of patients under HOM’s care, interdisciplinary teams work together to develop holistic plans that include guidelines for alleviating the four dimensions of spiritual suffering. Plans are tailored to each patient’s unique set of values and cultural and religious beliefs.

Some patients may refuse interventions as suffering is an important concept for many religions. Some doctrines teach pain is a sign of weakness or punishment. Others believe it’s an honor. Either way, patients who are strong in their faith can feel obliged to endure agony, challenging the traditional support hospice staff provides in delivering comfort care at end of life.

Diane Smith, spiritual care coordinator for HOM, recalls a patient

who followed the Rudolf Steiner school of thought, rooted in the belief there is a connection between pain and suffering, illness and death and the highest a human being can attain. As a result, the patient believed suffering was advantageous and refused to accept pain medication or any comforting words or actions Smith offered.

“She wanted an end-of-life experience that was true to her beliefs,” said Smith, “and it wasn’t my place to change her mind. She was open to teaching me about her doctrine, so I joined her on the journey she wished to take. She was incredibly strong in her faith, so trying to understand her belief system was the best way I could support her.”

For those who embrace spiritual care at end of life, HOM envelops patients with a “sacred space” dedicated to providing emotional healing and a satisfying end-of-life experience by:

◆ Honoring life to the end.

◆ Being witness to the spirit of life.

◆ Recognizing the sacredness of leaving; honoring the feelings of loss.

◆ Ensuring patients and families achieve their quality-of-life goals.

While hospice can play a significant role in helping those with serious illness achieve spiritual peace at end of life, it is always the patient’s decision what that journey entails, a choice HOM respects.

“We ultimately only provide what the patient desires,” Monts said.

For more information, call (888) 247-5701 or visit hom.org.

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Karmanos Cancer Institute honors 2017 Heroes of Cancer

Two Grosse Pointers recognized as outstanding champions who advocate for all cancers

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute presented its 2017 Heroes of Cancer at an awards ceremony Nov. 15, recognizing champions in 15 categories. Nearly 200 guests attended the evening reception, emceed by Ann Delisi, radio and television personality and host of Ann Delisi's Essential Music on

WDET 101.9 FM. "This year's event builds upon Karmanos' long-time tradition of honoring those who distinguished themselves in the fight against breast cancer," said Katrina Studvent, chief development officer "Beginning with this year's event, Karmanos Cancer Institute is honored to expand these awards to recognize those who continue to champion and advocate for survivors of all types of cancers. Heroes of Cancer recognizes the extraordinary achievements of those dedicated to making life better for all cancer patients and their families, advocate for early detection and prevention of cancer and work toward one day eradicating the disease completely." Justin Klamerus M.D., president of Karmanos

Cancer Hospital, also reiterated the importance of acknowledging those who champion for all cancer survivors. "Karmanos focuses solely on cancer and treats more than 200 types of this disease, which is why we are pleased to expand our heroes recognition," Klamerus said. "There are many who have supported Karmanos and those we serve, whether it be through philanthropy, community service or media stories; those who create research that paves the way to develop new treatments; employees whose expertise and compassion is felt by our patients and those who have shown great courage in the fight against all cancers. As proud as I am of what we do at Karmanos, we know this fight to end cancer is a team effort.

Progress happens because there are people working on this from all directions, including the heroes we honor. It will take all of us working together to end cancer for good."

Two residents of Grosse Pointe received awards at the ceremony — Steven Lagocki of Grosse Pointe Woods and Gloria Heppner Ph.D., of the City of Grosse Pointe. Lagocki, a registered nurse with Karmanos' Ambulatory Services, received a Compassionate Caregiver Award, which honors health care professionals whose treatment of cancer patients has been marked by exceptional technical skill, combined with sensitivity and compassion.

Most days, Lagocki can be found in the Wertz Infusion Center at Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. He was drawn to oncology nursing because he has always felt a connection to his patients. He loves working in an outpatient setting because of the bonds he forms with his patients and their family and friends. Lagocki's daily mission is to make people smile, especially while they undergo treatment. His patients describe him as full of positive energy, professional, knowledgeable and exceptionally caring.

Many have said he treats them with kindness, love and compassion, as though they were members of his own family. His colleagues and supervisors also recognize his talents and have singled him out for his hard work and dedication since joining Karmanos three



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA A. ELLIS
Gloria Heppner Ph.D., center, of the City of Grosse Pointe, recently received Karmanos Cancer Institute's inaugural 2017 Heroes of Cancer Dr. Gloria Heppner Innovative Science Award. Presenting the award were Justin Klamerus M.D., president, Karmanos Cancer Hospital; and Wei-Zen Wei, PhD, of Karmanos Cancer Institute and Wayne State University School of Medicine.



Steven Lagocki was honored for compassionate caregiving.

years ago. "I love being a nurse and cherish the ability to make a positive impact in people's lives," Lagocki said. Heppner, a retired associate vice president with the Division of Research at Wayne State University, received the Dr. Gloria Heppner Innovative Science Award, which honors an individual or organization that has proven suc-

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Artist to address: Where you get your ideas

"After the Sun Goes Down," an exhibition organized by the Grosse Pointe Artists Association and juried by Brigit Hutteman-Holz, will be at The War Memorial through January. The show includes the works of 34 artists. The public is invited to join the artists for a lecture and awards ceremony at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, at The War Memorial.

Hutteman-Holz will offer her thoughts on "where do you get your ideas" and award prizes. Hutteman-Holz was exposed to art at a very young age in the studio of her uncle German artist Werner Holz, who is noted for his fantastic realism. Now living in Grosse Pointe Park, Hutteman-Holz is recognized as one of North America's leading encaustic artists. She exhibits her work in galleries around the world and has won best-of-show awards from the United Kingdom to Florida.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brigit Hutteman-Holz



COURTESY PHOTO

"Water Solstice," watercolor by Isabel Schillace

The heart of the matter

Until he was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat around this time last year, Dino Bakalis, 68, of Grosse Pointe Park, was cycling 150 miles each week. That’s when he began experiencing heart palpitations and trouble breathing.

Suddenly, he no longer was able to ride his bike long distances, lift weights in his home gym or spend time in his home workshop.

Atrial fibrillation, or afib, is an irregular heartbeat that causes the heart to work inefficiently, reducing the ability to exercise and increasing the risk of stroke.

In April, Bakalis had a procedure called catheter ablation which stops afib in its tracks. The procedure works by building a wall of scar tissue around the vein that emits the irregular heartbeat, thus preventing the arrhythmia from traveling to the rest of the heart.

Beaumont provides the latest ablation technologies and is one of the highest volume centers for ablation treatment in the state.

Following the procedure, patients traditionally wore a bulky, awkward heart monitor on their belt or in a sling 14 days to ensure the arrhythmia had been resolved. Such a monitor would affect a person’s ability to sleep, bathe and exercise.

Instead, Bakalis was able to use a biosensor called the Zio patch. About the size and thickness of a large watch, the Zio patch is worn on the chest over the

heart. As a result, he was able to get back to doing the things he loves — cycling, exercising and working in his home workshop — almost immediately after surgery.

“I preferred using the patch,” said Bakalis, retired from a family-owned construction business. “No tapes or wires. It didn’t hold me back at all. I was able to garden and take part in all my typical routines.”

Because the technology is convenient, patient compliance rates are much higher than with traditional monitoring, said Bakalis’ cardiologist, David Haines M.D.

In addition to patient convenience, the patch helps physicians more accurately diagnose cardiac arrhythmias by providing concise, transparent and actionable reporting.

“It used to be about sorting through reams of biometric data or finding the needle in the haystack,” Haines said. “But not anymore. The information this device provides is complete, reliable and easy to interpret. We no longer have to sort through hundreds of pages of EKG readings to detect a possible arrhythmia.

“Dino is a good guy with a good result from a catheter ablation,” Haines continued. “His recovery was fueled by a new and better way to collect heart rate data. We couldn’t be more pleased with the outcome.”



Dino Bakalis of Grosse Pointe Park recently treated for afib with an ablation procedure at Royal Oak Beaumont.

St. John Health Foundation names new board members

St. John Health Foundation has announced new members to its Board of Trustees.

Michael LoVasco of Grosse Pointe Farms represents the third generation of family in the insurance industry. He is executive vice president for LoVasco Consulting Group, which he cofounded with his father, Gene LoVasco, in 2013. Michael LoVasco works with LoVasco Consulting Group’s benefits team to provide financial modeling, peer review, strategy and project management. Previously he worked for Deloitte in New York City.

LoVasco chairs the finance committee for the St. John Health Foundation Board.

Pam Meyer of Grosse Pointe Farms is president of the Fontbonne Auxiliary of St. John Hospital & Medical Center. She had a long career in advertising sales, predominantly broadcast sales, and also was a realtor. Meyer is past president of the Grosse Pointe Friends and Neighbors Club.

Daniel Roma of the City of Grosse Pointe, who has been serving on the board since 2012, is continuing his third term. As the new president of The Guild of

SJHMC, he also represents the organization on the board. Roma has served on several guild and foundation board committees and chaired the annual guild dinner. He is chief financial officer for National Coney Island Inc.; National Chili Company. His career spans finance and real estate development.

St. John Health Foundation coordinates philanthropic efforts for St. John Providence’s East Region, including St. John Hospital & Medical Center, St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital and St. John River District Hospital.

HEROES:

Continued from page 8B

cess with initiatives that help advance cancer research.

This inaugural award was presented to Heppner by Wei-Zen Wei Ph.D., the Herrick chairman of cancer research at Karmanos Cancer Institute and professor, department of oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Heppner is a trailblazer in cancer research. Scientists around the world still refer to her work to advance the understanding and treatment of cancer. Last year, she was recognized by Cancer Research, the

official journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, for publishing one of the 48 most influential scientific articles in the 75-year history of the journal.

Heppner began her career in the 1960s. She earned her undergraduate, graduate and doctorate degrees from the University of California Berkley, did post-op research at the University of Washington in Seattle and was associate professor of pathology at Brown University before moving to Detroit in 1979. Heppner was then hired as the chairwoman of immunology and later became scientific director, as well as

professor of the Michigan Cancer Foundation, now known as Karmanos Cancer Institute. After several decades of innovative research, Heppner led research for WSU by serving as associate vice president for research until her retirement last year. Heppner also mentored many junior scientists to become leaders in cancer research.

“What an extraordinary honor,” Heppner said. “The Karmanos Cancer Institute, and before that the Michigan Cancer Foundation, are known worldwide for innovation and quality. This has always been a team effort.”



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Building stronger bonds

Harper Woods Mayor Ken Poynter said he is happy with the coverage his city has received in the Grosse Pointe News. So happy, in fact, he resubscribed to the newspaper after a short hiatus.

“I think it’s important that Harper Woods be covered simply because Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes are at the far reaches of Wayne County,” he said. “The six of us have to stay together. To stay together we have to be aware of what’s happening in the community. I credit the Grosse Pointe News for attempting to bring us together again.”

Monthly Harper Woods coverage began April 2017, and appears the second Thursday of each month. Stories have ranged from the city’s Hope Not Handcuffs and Pedal to Porch programs to its Neighborhood Improvement Plan and 9/11 memorial dedication.

Also last April, Harper

Woods Deputy City Manager Joe Rheker was asked to join the Advisory Board of the Grosse Pointe News — just one more step toward blending the lines between the communities.

Harper Woods also is a member of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and various civic organizations; approximately half of Harper Woods is part of the Grosse Pointe Public School System; a public safety mutual-aid agreement, K-9 unit and Special Response Team is shared; and mayors and city managers of all six communities meet quarterly.

Grosse Pointe’s Services for Older Citizens and Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services also serve Harper Woods. The city also participates in the Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast and Santa Parade.

“We have to truly present a united front,” Poynter said. “We don’t simply want to be known



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Harper Woods Mayor Ken Poynter and Grosse Pointe News Publisher John Minnis reflect on an issue of the Grosse Pointe News. Poynter recently reinstated his subscription to the paper.

as the ‘and’ community — the Grosse Pointes ‘and’ Harper Woods. We somehow want to be equal partners in keeping the area good, clean, safe and livable. It’s good for families and it’s good for businesses. We need to reach out to each other and help each other always.”

Poynter said he hopes to join forces with the five Grosse Pointes for

other events to build an even stronger bond between neighbors.

“We are certainly willing to participate and help in any way we can,” he said. “We’re a forgotten area of Wayne County. That’s why it’s so important for all six of us to stay together. We’re fortunate in that we can call upon each other for aide.”

— Jody McVeigh

Library hosts events

The Harper Woods Public Library, 19617 Harper, hosts several upcoming events:

- ◆ An Evening with Santa
- Santa Claus visits the library 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, where he will read stories and perform magic tricks for children before youngsters are invited to talk to him one-on-one. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras.
- ◆ Holiday Cookie Exchange
- A cookie exchange is planned 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13. Participants are asked to bring two dozen homemade cookies or candy to

share, a container in which to carry cookies home and a copy of your recipe. Registration is required and spots are filling up, so call soon.

- ◆ Gingerbread House Workshop
- Drop in for this family holiday event 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23. All materials are provided.
- ◆ Drop-In Family Fun Time
- Beat cabin fever 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, with a family story time of songs, rhymes and play in the Once Upon a Time Room.

For more information, visit harperwoodslibrary.org or call (313) 343-2575.

Kindle appointed mayor pro tem

By Debra Kaszubski
Special Writer



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOE RHEKER

The Harper Woods City Council recently appointed councilwoman Valerie Kindle as mayor pro tem. Kindle, who first was elected to council in 2013, will serve in that capacity until the next regular city council election in November 2019, according to Clerk Leslie Frank.

Harper Woods Mayor Pro Tem Valerie Kindle takes the oath of office. Kindle was elected to city council in 2013. She is the first African American to serve as mayor pro tem in Harper Woods.

Per the Harper Woods city charter, the council person who receives the highest votes in the general election becomes mayor pro tem. Kindle received 1,042 votes in the Nov. 7 general election.

Kindle is the first African American to serve as mayor pro tem in the city.

“I am very proud, but it is also a little sad that in this day and time it is still a history-making issue,” Kindle said.

As mayor pro tem, Kindle said her goal will remain the same.

“I am committed to keeping property values rising, maintaining our excellent city services, supporting a strong public safety department, continued economic stability, enhancing community activities and also to promote volunteerism in our community,” she said.

While on council, Kindle has worked with different organizations to enhance the city’s economic outlook for the city. She has worked with DTE to bring better lighting and has networked with other Michigan cities, she said.

Kindle has lived in Harper Woods since 2002. A mother of two, she is enrolled at Ferris State University where she is studying criminal justice. She has worked for Michigan Works and the state of Michigan in the past. She served on the Harper Woods Planning Commission and Ordinance Committee. She is vice president of the Friends of Harper Woods Public Library and president of her homeowner’s association. In addition, she is active with the Harper Woods Lions Club.

Harper Woods homeowners, business receive beautification awards

By Debra Kaszubski
Special Writer

Edward and Sharon Smith weren’t trying to win awards or any type of recognition when they planned, planted and groomed their lush garden. That’s why the couple, who moved to Harper Woods two years ago, were especially surprised when they won an award from the city’s Beautification Committee.

“I’m happy to do something to beautify my home. But when you do something to beautify your home and it’s noticed, it makes you feel even better,” Sharon Smith said. “It’s going to make me keep working hard.”

The Smiths were one



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE RHEKER

Seven residences and one business were awarded Beautification Awards by the Harper Woods Beautification Committee.

of seven homeowners recognized for their pristine property. Harper Woods residents Karen Kohfeldt, Matthew

Silvola, John Cruz, Danielle Laudazio, Jim and Nicole Miller and Larry and Tiffany Jones received awards as well. Exway Electric earned recognition for its landscaped lot.

Beautification Committee members judged the nominated properties in the summer when the gardens were in full bloom.

“The homes were aesthetically pleasing to the eye,” said Mitzi Giles, Beautification Committee chairwoman. “They didn’t have to have a lot of flowers or plants, but they should be pristine. We were looking for homes that were neat and well cared for.”

Winners received a

plaque at the Nov. 20 city council meeting. Photos of their homes will be featured in the city calendar.

The goal of the Beautification Committee is to recognize homeowners who take pride in their homes, with the goal of keeping Harper Woods a charming city.

“The reason I moved to Harper Woods was because my neighbor’s house looked so beautiful,” said Edward Smith. “If it hadn’t been for people trying to keep their property up, I wouldn’t have moved to Harper Woods. I was looking at Grosse Pointe and Roseville, but my neighbor’s house sealed the deal for me.”

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WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE
AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED
VEHICLES

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on December 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2001 Mini Bike Moped	LUAHYG10981007865
2008 Dodge Magnum	2D4FV47T58H109969
2006 Pontiac Grand Prix	2G2WP552461264918
2000 Chevy Impala	2G1WF55E6Y9257846
1999 GMC Yukon	1GKEK13R8XJ803051
1999 Toyota Corolla	2T1BR12E3XC120016
2008 Chevy Malibu	1G12G57B98F225767
2017 Homemade Mini Bike	A1702002040
1998 Chevy Cavalier	1G1JF5241W7161353
2008 Saturn Outlook	5GZER13778J185131
2007 GMC Acadia	1GKEV13747J160476
1998 Ford Explorer	1FMYU22X5WUB31077
2008 Dodge Magnum	2D4FV47T88H238871
1999 Pontiac Sunfire	3G2JB524XXS810349
2002 GMC Envoy	1GKDT13S122426691
2001 Ford F150	2FTRX08L11CA19233
2008 Mini Bike Moped	LUAHYG10781021375
2016 Mini Bike Moped	A6M12AAACGWM00460
2012 Mini Bike Moped	A1208042713
2005 Mini Bike Moped	T0720016050079052
2014 Mini Bike Moped	A1407002738
2005 Chevy Trail Blazer	1GNET16S256156614
2003 Toyota Echo	JTDBT123930264710
2002 Pontiac Bonneville	1G2HX54K624216815
2002 Mercury Cougar	1ZWFT61LX25621354

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: December 8, 2017
PUBLISHED: December 14, 2017

A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
HAS SCHEDULED A 30 DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD
FOR ITS PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

30 Day Public Review Period:
Thursday, December 14, 2017 – Monday, January 15, 2018

Notice is given to any and all interested parties that the draft 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Harper Woods, Wayne County, Michigan will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the following locations during regular business hours:

- Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Ave.
- Harper Woods Public Library, 19601 Harper Ave.
- Harper Woods Neighborhood Economic Development Center, 20010 Kelly Rd.

The draft plan is also available for review on the City’s website: www.harperwoodscity.org. The City of Harper Woods is preparing this five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing by mail to Harper Woods City Clerk’s Office, located at 19617 Harper Ave., Harper Woods, MI during regular business hours. Please contact the City of Harper Woods’ Department of Parks and Recreation at (313) 343-2560 with questions or comments or for alternate accommodations.

GPN: 12/14/17

ASK MR. HARDWARE By Blair Gilbert

Using safer ice melters for winter’s wrath



Blair Gilbert

Q: What do you recommend for melting ice off our two-year-old patio? We paid enough to worry about ruining it.

A: Most of the damage done to concrete in the winter is due to the freeze/thaw of water. During the day, often the weaker ice melts and the daily high and sunshine melt snow into water. Then late at night, temps go into the low teens and that water freezes and expands, causing all kinds of damage to your concrete.

When comparing prices and performances on the products below, remember this tip: Calcium chloride is the most expensive per pound, but when used properly — and sparingly — melts more ice per dol-

lar. Also when used sparingly, it will bother very few pets and not the lawn or flowers. It also is the safest for preventing damage to concrete.

Here are some popular products used to reduce the dangers of slippery ice.

- ◆ Sand, the anti-slip product, is by far the safest for cement. Enough sand can make those icy spots safe without any damage to your new concrete. Its drawback is it can be messy and does not have any melting properties. It costs about \$4 for 50 pounds.
- ◆ Salt, or sodium chloride, is the cheapest of the ice melters and, moderately used, provides the best bang for the buck if temperatures don't go below 20 degrees. Its main drawback is its damage to plants and grass. Cost is about \$7 for 50 pounds.
- ◆ Fertilizer, or ammonium sulfate, is a high-nitrogen fertilizer. It is one of the harshest ice melters for concrete. Its benefit is fertilizing the lawn and adjacent greenery rather than killing it. However, due to the damage it has caused to concrete, it is no longer ready available.

- ◆ Blends using potassium chloride, magnesium chloride and others are all mid-temperature melters. They melt ice from 10 to 20 degrees or so, depending on the blend. There are many to choose from. Look for ones with calcium chloride in the ingredients. Cost varies from \$7 to \$12 for 50 pounds.
- ◆ Calcium chloride is by far one of the best ice melters. It melts ice down below zero degrees and is gentle to cement and carpeting. However, it is one of the most expensive of all the products available, but the most economical when spread properly. It costs about \$17 for 50 pounds.
- ◆ Pet Guard for us pet owners is a urea-based ice melter with no salt. It is safe for children, pets, lawn and flowers. Cost is about \$18 for 20 pounds. We have a small Labradoodle and I haven't had any issues yet using calcium chloride sparingly.

Contact Mr. Hardware at Gilbert's Pro Hardware, (586) 596-7276 or blair@mrhardware.com. For past "Ask Mr. Hardware" columns, visit mrhardware.com.

A fond farewell

Pointe Fitness & Training Center recently said goodbye to a long-time member who is moving away. Jon Stanski has found a home in the hearts of Pointe Fitness staff.

Approximately 12 years ago, Stanski sustained a brain injury after falling down stairs at his home. He was in a coma one month and had to learn to walk and talk again.

Stanski began going to Pointe Fitness around 10 years ago and the gym quickly became a constant in his life. When he first began working out, he used a walker; then graduated to a cane. Back then, family members drove him to the gym; now, he rides a bike from his home a mile away. When he began using the treadmill, Stanski had to use a cane. Now he walks unassisted.

"Jon is a testament to



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pointe Fitness & Training Center owner Ken Welch, Dana Davenport, Jon Stanski and Brad Beddow hold the sign well-wishers from the gym signed for Stanski on his last day.

what strength training can do for you," said Ken Welch, owner of Pointe Fitness.

"I feel very good and strong since working out and now I am moving to Atlanta and have already found a gym to go to so I can continue to work out," Stanski said.

His last day at Pointe Fitness, many came by to wish Stanski good luck. Dana Davenport, an employee at Pointe Fitness, said, "Whenever you ask Jon how he is, he always says, 'A little bit better every day.'"

Share Joy!

Merry Christmas

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

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2017 LINCOLN MKX

A/Z plan pricing with \$1,000 Lease renewal and \$0 Due on Delivery. Includes first months payment, acquisition fee, waived security deposit; excludes title, and license fee. Some payments higher; some lower. Not all leases will qualify. Take new, retail delivery from dealer stock by 01/03/2018.

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\$586* /MO.

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\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
VIN#1LH5627029

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Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:30am-8pm • Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30am-6pm • Saturday 10am-3pm

'TIS THE SEASON

For Giving Back,

which is exactly what Ray Laethem Motor Village
wants to do with your help!
We have partnered with the Toys for Tots Foundation
as a local toy drop location.



Locally, Toys for Tots is extremely understaffed and had to move toy collection pickup to early this week. Jeff Laethem worked with Sergeant Johnson to extend the toy collection as far out as possible and will personally deliver toys to Selfridge this Friday, December 15th.

Help us help local Metro Detroit children in need this season!

**Toys for Tots Collection
ends this Friday, December 15th at 1 PM.**



THANKS FOR HELPING OUR FRIENDS IN NEED.

Ray Laethem Motor Village is rewarding donors for their generosity by issuing a **\$20 coupon voucher** good towards any future service/installed accessories or a **\$250 discount voucher** towards the purchase of a new or pre-owned vehicle.

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\$20 discount available on services and installed accessories only. \$250 discount is available with the purchase of a new or pre-owned vehicle only and cannot be used on previous vehicle purchases. Voucher is non transferable and not for resale. Service/ Installed accessories voucher good until Thursday, March 1, 2018. Purchase discount voucher is good until Wednesday January 31, 2018. To qualify for vouchers- \$10 minimum toy value or \$20 minimum monetary donation. One voucher per person. Some restrictions apply, see dealer for full details.

RAY LAETHEM

MOTOR VILLAGE



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https://www.raylaethemchryslerdodgejeep.com/season_of_giving/

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17677 Mack Ave, Detroit, MI 48224
<http://www.laethemgmc.com/Season-of-Giving>

SPORTS



Gary & Jeannie Patrosso
Gary Patrosso - Director - Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors
garyp.realty@gmail.com
313.770.0359

Team Patrosso
Gary & Jeannie



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Boys hockey

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils upset CK

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys hockey team posted one of the biggest upsets of this young season, beating perennial state power Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood 3-2 last weekend at Eastside Hockey Arena.

“Tonight we were hard on the forecheck and winning those 50-50 puck battles,” assistant coach Sam Shaheen said. “Cranbrook is always prepared and we knew we had to play hard to match their intensity. We did that tonight and won a huge game.”

The host Blue Devils came out and put two goals on the board in the first period.

Senior Alex Strehlke scored at the 7:20 mark and junior Andrew



PHOTO BY BRIAN MCKENNA

South goalkeeper Cam Mills, No. 31, was one of the three stars for the Blue Devils in their upset win over Cranbrook Kingswood.

Vyletel scored less than a minute later to make it a 2-0 game.

Senior Garrett Bollenbacher assisted the first goal, while Strehlke and junior Garrett Benoit assisted the second.

The Blue Devils took the 2-0 lead into the locker room, but the Cranes got on the board in the first minute of the second period, scoring on a power play.

It was 2-1 after the second period before the

Cranes followed the same script, scoring on a power play in the first minute of the period. This time it came at the 16:01 of the third stanza and all of sudden it was a 2-2 game.

The Blue Devils did a good job of killing off the rest of a five-minute major penalty and with 8:31 left in the game, junior Conor McKenna redirected a shot from the point that went high over the shoulder of Cranes senior goalie

Drake Bradshaw for the go-ahead goal.

Bollenbacher and sophomore John McShane had the assists to help the Blue Devils take the 3-2 advantage.

The Cranes put a ton of pressure in the Blue Devils’ zone, but senior goalie Cam Mills stood his ground and kept the visitors at bay.

South also lost 5-0 to Trenton to stand 1-3 in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League and 2-3 overall.

Girls basketball

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Impressive defense

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North’s girls basketball team ran its record to 3-0 last week, beating Sterling Heights 44-21 and Utica Ford 55-29.

The host Norsemen received a triple-double from junior Julia Ayrault in the win over Ford. She netted 23 points, 12 rebounds and 10 steals, plus added four blocked shots, as the Norsemen cruised to the win.

The Norsemen led 9-0 two minutes into the opening quarter and stretched it to 18-7 after one quarter.

It was 30-15 at the half and they broke it open by outscoring the Falcons 18-4 in the third quarter to lead 48-19.

The Falcons had no answer to Ayrault at either end of the court. Her 6-foot 2-inch frame and quickness allowed her to dribble in the lane and sink mid-range jump shots or score easy put-backs off rebounds.

On defense, she was able to anticipate possi-

ble cross-court passes and step in front to intercept them.

Junior Rachel Liagre had her best game, scoring 11 points, including a couple of baskets off dribble penetration moves into the lane.

After that, junior Rachel Sexton had five points, followed by junior Regan Sliwinski with four and senior Josie Ciaravino with four.

The Norsemen forced 33 turnovers and the only negative for the home team was its 22 turnovers.

The visiting Norsemen jumped out to a double-digit lead, 14-3, against Sterling Heights and led 25-8 at the half.

Once again they used a trapping, up-tempo defense to get steals and easy transition baskets on the offensive end.

Ayrault led the way with 15 points, 12 rebounds and five steals, and sophomore Michelle Bodnariuk had nine points.

North plays at Chippewa Valley Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Girls basketball

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Knights post win in CHSL opener

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

After starting the season with a couple of non-league losses, the University Liggett School girls basketball team put one in the win column early last week.

The visiting Knights beat Academy of the Sacred Heart 42-25.

It was also their first game in the Catholic League Intersectional Division.

“We continue to improve,” head coach John Bandos said.

He is right as the Knights improved their scoring. The 42 points is the most in their three games this season and the victory moved the team to 1-0 in the division and 1-2 overall.

It was 4-4 after the first quarter, but the Knights used a 17-4 second quarter to lead 21-8 at the half.

The Knights won the third quarter 9-7 and the fourth 12-10 to win by a comfortable margin.

Freshman Delaney Garvey had 19 points to lead the team, followed by sophomore Melanie Zampardo with eight and senior Lauryn Holliday with four.

Seniors Maria Pas and Delaney Bandos, plus

junior Izzy Brusilow, had three points apiece. Sophomore Kaitlyn Gray rounded out the scoring with two points.

More info

University Liggett School has confirmed the appointment of Mark Miller as the Upper School girls’ varsity tennis coach.

Miller will begin coaching when the tennis season begins in March.

“Liggett has always had a winning history in tennis and I’m excited to be a part of that legacy,” Miller says. “I’m looking forward to working with the student-athletes, families and athletic department to make an impact on the court.”

A Grosse Pointe native, Miller has coached at Eastside Tennis & Fitness Club in Detroit, the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas, and the Bent Tree County Club in Dallas.

He also has been the head professional and director of junior development at High Point Tennis Center in Plano, Texas.

Miller has experience coaching beginners and more seasoned athletes. Several of his players

have gone on to play in national junior tournaments and earn college scholarships.

“Liggett’s team has the potential to be No. 1 in the state,” Miller says.

Athletic Director Michelle Hicks said, “I’m excited about the years of tennis experience Mark brings to our program and about his enthusiasm for teaching the game and developing players.”

“I look forward to him joining the Liggett coaching staff and working with our student-athletes.”

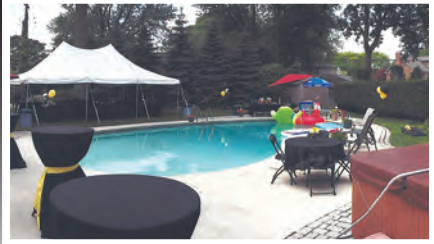
Last season, the Knights did not make the state finals as a team, but Melanie Zampardo earned a spot in the No. 1 singles flight.

She earned two points and looks to be even stronger as the team’s No. 1 singles player.

Liggett’s last girls state championship was 2002 and the program has 20 state titles since the lower divisions began conducting Michigan High School Athletic Association state tournaments in 1979.

Before that, Liggett had won another dozen state titles and is one of the most decorated tennis programs in state history.

1043 BERKSHIRE GROSSE POINTE PARK



This turnkey, 4 bedroom, center entrance colonial is a “2017 GP Park Beautification Award Winner”. Completely refurbished inside and out and located in the prestigious “Grosse Pointe Manor Sub”. The interior features include 2 full and 2-1/2 baths, finished hardwood flrs, newly refurbished kitchen w/stainless steel gourmet quality appliances (subzero refrigerator, 6 burner gas Thermador range, GE Premier built in microwave) granite countertops, breakfast rm, spacious living rm, formal dining rm, cozy den, beautiful master suite, open circular floor plan, completely finished basement/rec rm and laundry/utility rm. Exterior features include a new gable front exterior w/stone accents & chimney, new siding & roof on a HUGE fenced, pro-landscaped park-like lot w/ Marcite inground pool, pond w/ waterfall, spacious masonry patio and hot tub.

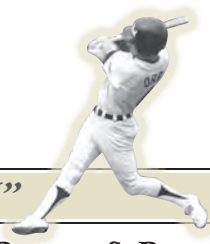
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Synchronized swimming

GROSSE POINTE DOLPHINS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN HARTNETT

Giving back

The Grosse Pointe Blue Dolphins synchronized swimming team was the coat collection champions at Grosse Pointe South last week. The varsity club was collecting warm weather gear as all teams and clubs at the school joined in to see who could bring in the most warm weather gear. The Blue Dolphins were champions and brought the most. The girls won two gift cards they will use for a pizza party and some special coaching from an expert synchronized swimmer next month.

College signing

GROSSE POINTE NORTH



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Running north

Grosse Pointe North senior Kate Wozniak, seated center, signed a National Letter of Intent last week to run cross country and track at Northwood University under head coach Michael Roberts. Joining Wozniak at her signing were her parents, father Bob Wozniak, and mother Amy Wozniak, seated, and standing from left, North boys cross country and track head coach Diane Montgomery; Kate’s sister Elizabeth Wozniak; and North girls cross country head coach Scott Cooper. Northwood is a NCAA Division II program competing in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Sign up for camp

Registration is open for the 2017 Grosse Pointe South Baseball Holiday Hitting Camp from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 28, and Saturday, Dec. 30, at South’s main gymnasium, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. The camp is for players in second to eighth grade. Only seventh and eighth graders from outside Grosse Pointe South district boundaries may attend this camp due to Michigan High School Athletic Association rules.

The objective is to provide detailed instruction on the fundamentals of the game of baseball by teaching proper mechanics in a safe and positive atmosphere. Emphasis is on instructional, not recreational. All instructors are South baseball coaches, as well as college and high school players. The camp directors are Dan Griesbaum, 35-year head coach of South’s varsity baseball team, and his long time assistant, Matt Reno. The cost is \$60 per session or \$100 for both

days. Players must bring their own bat and helmet, if possible. An enrollment form must be filled out and there are no refunds once the camp starts. Players will be age-grouped and rotate through several hitting stations. Mail in the registration and check, payable to Grosse Pointe South Dugout Club, to Dan Griesbaum, 835 Hidden Lane, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. The brochure can be downloaded from the South baseball website, gpsouthbaseball.com.

Boys basketball

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Webb dominates

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Junior Ryan Webb scored a career-high 28 points to power the Grosse Pointe North boys basketball team to a 60-52 road win over Eastpointe East Detroit last week. It was the Norsemen’s season opener. “Ryan was dominant in the post and the guys kept feeding him the ball,” head coach Ron Kochan said. “I liked our effort on the road in the opener. We need to get to work and fix some things, but overall I was pleased with the game. “It is nice to get a win on the road against an

athletic team.” Webb led the way in the opening quarter, scoring nine of the Norsemen’s 11 points. After an 11-11 first quarter, the visitors won the second quarter 20-13 to take a 31-24 halftime lead. The lead went to double digits in the third quarter as they controlled the tempo and played a more patient, half-court game. The Norsemen had only seven turnovers through three quarters and built a 45-33 lead. The Shamrocks quickened the tempo and forced six turnovers to turn the 12-point deficit to five, 45-40, with a 7-0

run. Kochan put Webb back in the game and he responded with 13 points in the final four minutes to help the Norsemen secure the victory. Junior Troy Herd chipped in with nine points and sophomore Cameron Perrino had six points on two three-point baskets. Senior Henry Zalewski had five points, while junior Joe Ayrault had four points and a team-leading eight rebounds. The Norsemen made life easier by converting 16 of 22 free throws and turning the ball over just 13 times. Grosse Pointe North is 1-0 overall.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Knights drop opener

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School boys basketball team began its season last week, losing 44-35 to visiting Sterling Heights Parkway Christian. The undersized Knights had trouble defending the Eagles, which had a starting five who stood 6-feet 2-inches or taller. “We had matchup problems, but it comes down to we didn’t execute the way we needed,” head coach Chris Housey said. “We stood around too much on the offensive end in the first half. I liked our fight in the second half and kept it within reason. Our second-half effort is something positive to build on.” The Knights fell behind 14-5 after the first quarter and 25-9 at the half. Most of the Eagles’ baskets in the first half came in the paint and the nine points from the home team were a result of poor shooting. Housey told his players at the break they needed to move more and run the offense. The game plan was followed in the third and fourth quarters, which

I liked our fight in the second half and kept it within reason. Our second-half effort is something positive to build on.” The Knights fell behind 14-5 after the first quarter and 25-9 at the half. Most of the Eagles’ baskets in the first half came in the paint and the nine points from the home team were a result of poor shooting. Housey told his players at the break they needed to move more and run the offense. The game plan was followed in the third and fourth quarters, which

the Knights won 26-19. “Our scorers got going in the second half and started to make some shots,” Housey said. “It’s the first game and we have things to work on. We will be a better team when our younger players get more experience.” Senior Anthony George led the way with 13 points and five rebounds, while senior Casey Scoggin had 11 points and six rebounds. Junior Charlie Amine had five points. Liggett is 0-1 overall and plays at Lutheran Northwest Friday, Dec. 15.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils drop two

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South boys basketball team will put its 59-30 loss to Dearborn Divine Child in the rear view mirror in a hurry. The Blue Devils, playing in the annual Boys Basketball Calihan Challenge at Calihan Hall Sunday afternoon,

fell behind early and never found any rhythm against the Falcons. It was 15-4 after the first quarter and 25-13 at the half. The Blue Devils were outscored 18-7 in the third quarter to quash any hopes of a comeback. Head coach Troy Glasser knew his youthful Blue Devils would have trouble against the

experienced Catholic League foe. They finished with 27 turnovers. Junior Luke Adams and senior Theodore Niforos led the way with eight points apiece and junior Chase Tomlin had five. Earlier in the week, South lost 55-49 to Detroit Edison Public School Academy to drop to 0-2 overall.

Girls basketball

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Teaching moments

Grosse Pointe South girls varsity basketball head coach Kevin Richards, right, talks to his Blue Devils during a timeout in its 58-43 home loss to Utica Eisenhower. Later in the week, South traveled to Utica and lost 42-30 to drop to 1-2 overall. Richards fields a young team with only three seniors on the roster.



CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
90 Kerby Road, January 8, 2018, 7:00 pm

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS will hold the following Public Hearings on January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

a. Public Hearing to hear request to approve the conditional use for the occupancy, of the proposed one-family residential structure design at 375 Kercheval, (which is located in the R-1 one-family district), by the Historical Society of Grosse Pointe for use as an office and resource center.

All interested citizens are requested to attend the Hearings. Public comments will be received during the Public Hearing, orally. If you are unable to be present at the Public Hearing, please submit your written comments to the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, by January 5, 2018. For further information please contact Terry Brennan, Public Services Director, at (313) 885-4285. Plans are available at City Hall for review. Note: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk’s Office at 313-885-6600 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

G.P.N.: 12/14/2017

Boys hockey

GROSSE POINTE NORTH



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH ATHLETICS

Battle royale

Grosse Pointe North captains, from left, J.D. Allor, Thomas Supal, Austin Albrecht and Connor Albrecht, and their teammates couldn’t contain one of the top teams in the Macomb Area Conference last week, Macomb Dakota. The Norsemen lost 6-1 and dropped to 1-6 overall.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Home win

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School boys hockey team posted a 9-1 home win over Allen Park Cabrini last week.

The Knights ended the game via the eight-goal mercy rule when senior Sean Detloff scored at the 5:07 mark of the third period.

The Knights scored in the first two minutes of the game when senior Spencer Stefani tallied with freshman Ryan Warezak and sophomore William Nicholson assisting.

Five minutes later sophomore Tristan Reilly scored, with seniors Dylan Paulsell and Spencer Warezak drawing the assists.

It was 2-0 after one period and the home team had a 15-2 shot advantage.



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Liggett senior Spencer Warezak, center, is on a torrid scoring pace.

In the second period, junior Luke Zinn, Paulsell on the power play, and Stefani scored goals as the domination continued. Reilly, Nicholson and junior Caden Lewandowski had assists on the second and third goals.

The Knights put the game away as four different players scored goals in the third period.

Junior Dan Bowel, assisted by Detloff, scored at the 15:40 mark, while freshman Tommy Campau tallied at the 14:41 mark. Junior C.J. Morris had the lone

assist.

It was 8-1 when Detloff scored on the power play at the 7:51 mark. Spencer Warezak and Lewandowski had the assists and Detloff’s goal over the goalkeeper’s right shoulder ended the game.

The Knights had a 36-13 shot advantage and senior Nathan Alcantara earned the win in net, stopping 12 of the 13 shots.

Later in the week, Liggett lost 5-2 to host Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard to fall to 4-1 overall.

Girls hockey

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Knights split two

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett girls hockey team remained undefeated with a 7-0 home win early last week over Detroit Country Day.

The Knights scored two goals in the first 90 seconds of the game and cruised from that point. Junior Kate Birgbauer scored at the 13:59 mark and senior Olivia Yates scored at the 13:33 mark to make it 2-0 before the blink of an eye.

Yates and senior

Maddie Hamilton assisted Birgbauer’s goal and Hamilton had the lone assist on Yates’ goal.

The home team put three goals on the board in the second period with Yates netting two and senior Kate Zinn lighting the lamp.

Hamilton assisted on Yates’ first goal at the 9:14 mark and the other two goals were unassisted.

In the third period, Yates scored her fourth goal of the game, assisted by Hamilton and Birgbauer, and sopho-

more Arika Vreeken scored with two minutes left to cap the offensive output.

Sophomore Katherine Carron and Zinn had the assists.

In net, sophomore Eve Bournias posted another shutout.

On Monday evening, Liggett dropped its first game of the season, 2-1 at Farmington Hills Mercy.

With the loss, the Knights fall to 3-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League and 5-1 overall.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils win two

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South girls hockey team dominated its home game last week against Livonia Ladywood, yet came up short.

The Blue Devils had nearly twice as many shots on net and kept the pressure on the Blazers’ defense and goaltender.

However, they lost their first game of the season 2-1 as the puck just wouldn’t go in the net for head coach John

Weidenbach.

The Blazers scored at the 5:03 mark of the first period and the 6:16 mark of the second stanza to build a 2-0 lead.

Despite the deficit, the Blue Devils, shift after shift, would have possession of the puck deep in enemy territory. Every shot was stopped until junior Alice Williamson scored an unassisted goal at the 7:32 mark of the third period to make it a 2-1 game.

Weidenbach pulled junior goalie Madeline

Kelly late in the game to get the extra attacker on the ice. They had a couple of solid shots on net, but the puck never crossed the goal line.

This was the first of three games in three days for the Blue Devils.

The second was a road contest against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood and the final was a road contest against Walled Lake. The Blue Devils won both games 4-2 and 10-0 to move to 5-1 overall.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Winning streak ends

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls hockey team saw its four-game winning streak come to an end last week after los-

ing 1-0 to host Northville.

“McKenzie Obermok played great in goal, we just couldn’t score,” head coach Casey Quick said. “We probably had 20 good opportunities to score, but Northville’s

goalie stopped all of them.”

With the tough defeat, the Norsemen dip to 2-2 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League and 4-2 overall.

Swimming

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils get solid results in opener

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys swim team lost its season opener 71-58 to Livonia Stevenson last week.

The Blue Devils won the 400-yard medley relay as Thomas Jogan, Ethan Briggs, Matthew

Melican and Matthew Koueiter had a time of 3:08.83 and Briggs took the top spot in the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 24.48.

Koueiter won the 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 27.00 and the duo of Jared Pearson and Peter Costello took third and fourth in the

event with times of 30.33 and 31.80.

Melican won the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 53.10 and in the 800-yard freestyle relay South’s squad of A.J. Rizer, Ethan Rothenbuhler, Pearson and Ryan English took second at 7:52.14.

Jogan was runner-up in

the 50-yard freestyle at 23.77 and Melican won another event, taking first in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 54.08. Daniel Klepp was third with a time of 1:01.65.

Koueiter and Pearson finished first and third in the 100-yard breaststroke with times of 58.27

and 1:03.86 and in the 850-yard freestyle relay, the Blue Devils’ foursome of Jackson Jogan, Joshua Dixon, Rothenbuhler and Rizer finished second with a time of 8:47.30.

Ethan Kinkade was second in the 50-yard butterfly with a time of 2:05 and in the 200-yard

freestyle relay Pearson, Rizer, Klepp and Kinkade placed second at 1:36.53.

Briggs won the 100-yard individual medley with a time of 57.19 and the Blue Devils won the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, as Thomas Jogan, Melican, Koueiter and Briggs had a time of 3:21.58.

Wrestling

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Solid beginning

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North wrestling team finished 2-3 in last weekend’s Warren Cousino Tournament.

Three Norsemen finished undefeated on the day as Artan Berisha and Ray Hamilton were each 5-0 and Nick Volpe was 1-0.

Logan Ladach, Elliot

Lyman and Erickson Glazard each finished 4-1 and Dirk Dreiborg was 3-2.

Ava Taylor was 1-1 and James Ware was 2-3 as North beat Marysville 40-27 and Grosse Pointe South 39-36.

The Norsemen lost 58-15 to Cousino, 42-39 to L’Anse Creuse North and 48-32 to Macomb Dakota “B” team.

North also lost to Armada 45-30 and Memphis 36-33 earlier in the week.

The Norsemen who went 2-0 were Hamilton and Berisha.

Other competitors were Ladach, Ware, Mackenzie Martin-Turner, Owen Brown, Ryan Duncan, Lyman, Dreiborg, Taylor, Julian Martin-Turner, Corey Burton, Volpe and Joe Passalacaqua.

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Grosse Pointe News

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December 22 8am-12noon
December 25 Closed
December 26 - December 28 Open 8am-5pm
December 29 Open 8am-12noon

January 1 2018 Closed
January 2 Open 8am-5pm

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES
December 28th Issue (deadline December 26, noon)
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Announcements

100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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King Crossword

Solution for last week's puzzle 12/7/17

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I	D	L	E		A	R	E	A		A	C	E
R	E	E	F		P	I	C	T		L	E	T
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O	D	D	I	T	Y		U	L	T	I	M	A
				N	E	O		L	E	A		
C	L	A	D		G	A	S		N	E	R	O
L	A	C		C	U	R	T		G	M	A	N
A	S	H		B	R	I	E		L	I	N	T
W	H	Y		S	T	A	R		E	R	G	O

ACROSS
1 Piece of beef- cake?
5 Chevy Equin- ox, for one
8 Competent
12 Stretch out
14 Hoofbeat sound
15 News corre- spondent
16 Golf target
17 Air safety org.
18 Big drip?
20 Get more magazines
23 In the twinkling — eye
24 Chopped
25 One with an exciting social life
28 "Absolutely"
29 Sand forma- tions
30 Homer's inter- jection
32 Wasp's weapon
34 Culture
35 Jaromir of hockey
36 Odds' oppo- sites
37 Fluffy dessert
40 "Hail!"
41 Mischievous tykes
42 TV host Jerry
47 Apportion (out)
48 Follow too closely
49 Organic com- pound
50 Hot tub
51 "Zounds!"
DOWN
1 "For — a Jolly Good Fellow"
2 Last (Abbr.)
3 Neither partner
4 Stabbed
5 Long story
6 Salt Lake athlete
7 Fact-checker, often
8 Sore
9 United nations
10 Lounge about
11 Dueler's sword
13 Eat away at
19 Supermarket stack
20 Shaft of sun- light
21 Former mates
22 Birds' home
23 Title holder
25 Hints at
26 Advantage
27 Reddish horse
29 "CSI" collec- tions
31 Day fractions (Abbr.)
33 Dutch river
34 Get back at
36 Satanic
37 Marceau's forte
38 Portent
39 Doing
40 Operatic solo
43 Drivel
44 Joke
45 Greek H
46 Scarlet

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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47					48							
49					50				51			

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Solution Time: 21 minutes

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Solution for last weeks puzzle 12/7/17

		1		5					2
2		3		6				7	
		6			8	3			
		9	1			4		8	
4				5				3	
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		4			2			6	
8			7	1		9			
	5			4					7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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12/14/17

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JOHN'S PAINTING Interior/Exterior Repairing: Damaged plaster, drywall, cracks, windows puttying, caulking. Fire/Water damage insurance work. All work guaranteed G. P. References License/Insured Free estimates Senior Discount (313)882-5038

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Exceptional Service. Attractive Offers.
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2017 ATS SEDAN LUXURY COLLECTION

0% APR / 72 MONTHS
FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS¹

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HR359094

2017 ESCALADE LUXURY COLLECTION

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED
GM EMPLOYEES AND ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS

\$599 36 MONTHS
\$4,000
PER MONTH² DUE AT SIGNING
AFTER ALL OFFERS

No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra.
Mileage charge of \$.25 per mile over 30,000 miles.

COURTESY
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HZ317261

2017 XT5 LUXURY COLLECTION

ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED
GM EMPLOYEES AND ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS

\$299 36 MONTHS
\$3,300
PER MONTH² DUE AT SIGNING
AFTER ALL OFFERS

No security deposit required. Tax, title, license extra.
Mileage charge of \$.25 per mile over 30,000 miles.

1. Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment is \$498.00. Some customers will not qualify. Not available with some other offers. Take delivery by 12/31/17. See dealer for details.
2. Payments are for a 2017 Escalade Luxury Collection with an MSRP of \$86,925. 36 monthly payments total \$21,564. Payments are for a 2017 XT5 Luxury Collection with an MSRP of \$41,825. 36 monthly payments total \$10,764. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GM Financial must approve lease. Take delivery by 12/31/17. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 30,000 miles. Lessee pays for maintenance, excess wear and a disposition fee of \$595 or less at end of lease. Not available with some other offers.

GENESIS CADILLAC

ABOUT US
Genesis Cadillac is your hometown dealer, proud to serve the Grosse Pointe Community with integrity, value and amazing customer service.

GenesisCadillac.com

LOCATION
19900 Nine Mile Road
St Clair Shores, MI
48080

SALES & SERVICE
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Open Saturdays

COLLISION REPAIR SERVICE
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\$18,083.53
SALE PRICE



2017 Chevy Cruz LT

- Convenience Pkg
 - Keyless Entry
 - Remote Start
 - Heated Seats.
 - 16" Aluminum Wheels
- Stock #H3541306

MSRP
\$24,005.00
SAVINGS
\$5,921.47

\$167 24 \$999
PER MONTH MONTHS DOWN

\$20,321.75
SALE PRICE



2017 Chevy Malibu LT

- Convenience Pkg
 - 1lt Preferred Equipment
 - Remote Start
 - MyLink Radio
 - 18" Aluminum Wheels
- Stock #HF271542

MSRP
\$27,135.00
SAVINGS
\$6,813.25

\$206 24 \$999
PER MONTH MONTHS DOWN

Locally owned and operated family business:

- Shop from home, we will bring the vehicle to you & handle all of the paperwork online
- Courtesy Transportation when your vehicle needs service
- Valet Service, we will pick you up and drop you off
- Collision Repair Center, state of the art facility, lifetime warranty.

If you have been waiting for the right time to get into a new Chevrolet, that time has arrived. During the month of December, you pay what we pay, GM Employee Discount for Everyone on all remaining 2017 models. Including a limited supply of Corvette, Camaros, Malibu, Cruze and Trax models.

\$18,688.86
SALE PRICE



2017 Chevy Trax LT

- Convenience Pkg
 - Cargo Pkg
 - 16" Aluminum Wheels
 - MyLink Radio
- Stock # HL287679

MSRP
\$24,355.00
SAVINGS
\$5,666.14

\$165 24 \$999
PER MONTH MONTHS DOWN

\$31,016.00
SALE PRICE



2018 Chevy Silverado

- Allstar Edition
 - 17" Aluminum Wheels
 - Trailering Pkg
 - Keyless Remote
- Stock #JZ103789

MSRP
\$43,135.00
SAVINGS
\$12,119.00

\$296 24 \$999
PER MONTH MONTHS DOWN

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All prices reflect GM Employee and Eligible Family Members Discount and include credits for applicable incentives including but not limited to; bonus cash, demo allowance, courtesy vehicle allowance, bonus tags, competitive lease, lease conquest or loyalty offers in effect at the time of printing. Payments are subject to qualifying for highest credit tier and subject to credit approval by the lender and do not include costs for tax, title, plate and CVR fees. Leases are 10,000 miles per year unless otherwise noted and do not include excess wear, damage or over mileage. A disposition fee maybe required at lease turn in. Pictures may not reflect the actual vehicle being offered. Offers are valid through 12/31/2017. See dealer for complete details.

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12/14/17