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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 80, NO. 33, 22 PAGES
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August 15, 2019
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Wilsons honored

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — After meeting her late husband, Ralph Wilson, founder and owner of the Buffalo Bills, in 1990, Shores resident and Texas native Mary Wilson says he brought her to the Midwest, an area she considers to include Buffalo, N.Y., which was “one of the greatest things that’s ever happened in my life.”

Following years of charitable work to distribute much of the Wilsons’ wealth back into Detroit and Buffalo, the couple was honored at the July 16 council meeting with a proclamation.

“I’m going to go home and read this again,” Wilson said when presented with the plaque. “This is very moving and very special and Ralph would be very honored to be here in your presence.”

In addition to the plaque, two benches will be placed in Osius Park near the tennis courts in honor of the Wilsons, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Legacy on the Lake award recipients.

“The legacy award’s presented to an outstanding individual or family who displays leadership in giving to others in such a way that inspires and strengthens the community,” Mayor Ted Kedzierski said. “Mary and Ralph Wilson have been extremely charitable in giving. The village of Grosse Pointe Shores has greatly benefited

See HONOR, page 2A

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Open to two-way traffic

Recently restored two-way traffic at a Kercheval intersection is expected to bridge two local communities. The border between Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit has been reopened at Wayburn for the first time in about five years after a westbound Kercheval lane was completed Monday, Aug. 12. The move, designed to increase patronage at local businesses, also is expected to improve general relations between the Park and the nearby Detroit neighborhood. Some viewed various physical barriers that had been erected at the intersection as discriminatory, separating the predominantly black residents to its west from the predominantly white Park commercial district. An economic development plan for the location is being discussed by city officials.

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — After 29 years of service in the Shores public safety department, where he met his wife of 28 years, Jackie, Lt. William Nicholson retired Friday, July 26.

“I’ve known Bill for as long as he’s been here and our kids went to school together, so he’s a great friend,” Director of Public Safety John Schulte said. “... A lot of

training that he had over the years goes out the door with him.”

Like many young adults, Nicholson wasn’t sure what he wanted to do with his life growing up.

“I kind of fell into this accidentally,” he said.

An advertisement in a newspaper for an EMT class at Pontiac General Hospital is what sent him on his way.

“So I thought, well that could be interesting,” he said. “So I went to the class and that kind of

started opening doors and got me to here.”

After obtaining the EMT license, Nicholson went to work for a local ambulance company in Pontiac, which sent him on calls in Waterford, where he became interested in the fire department there.

His interest led him to volunteer and eventually become a full-time firefighter in Waterford.

“At the same time, or kind of at the same time,

See RETIRE, page 5A

Profeta recall language approved

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

It took three hearings, but on Aug. 8, the Wayne County Election Commission approved language on a recall petition against Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Trustee Christopher Profeta. The commission, made up of Chairman Freddie G. Burton Jr., chief judge,

Wayne County Probate Court; Secretary Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County clerk; and member Eric Sabree, Wayne County treasurer, voted 3-0 on the motion. Two previous petitions failed due to lack of clarity.

According to the new petition, Profeta voted at the regular meeting of the board June 24, in favor of a resolution

See RECALL, page 3A

Officers promoted

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Three Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety officers were sworn into newly ranked positions at a ceremony including their family and friends Monday, Aug. 5, at city hall. Detective Jeremy Pittman and Officer Daniel Kolar were promoted to sergeant, while Sgt. Anthony Blain was promoted to lieutenant.

“I hear nothing but great things about the department and I know that’s because of our great officers on the street and because of our chief,” said Mayor Robert

Denner, who swore in the three men.

Pittman, a former Pontiac police officer, has served as a firearms instructor and Youth Services Unit coordinator. He has received several forms of recognition, including the Chief Award for his work on two homicide investigations during a three-year period.

Kolar has served in positions including bike officer, EMT and Youth Services Unit officer during 24 years with the department.

Blain, with the department 18 years, has

See PROMOTE, page 4A

Shores lieutenant retires after 29-year career



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Bill Nicholson is the last original member of the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Fire Investigation Team.

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Kelly Konieczki
Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Signing Time Academy
associate director and founder
of Momcat’s Signing Academy



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Real estate agency celebrates 90 years

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

A favorite saying of the late Hugo S. Higbie was, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

That couldn’t be more true of the agency he founded, Higbie Maxon Agney Realtors, as the company celebrates 90 years in business. An anniversary party took place July 24 at 456 University Place, City of Grosse Pointe — at a house the Maxon Brothers Real Estate Firm listed in 1929.

“We just sold the house,” Higbie Maxon Agney owner Kay Agney said. “I went to list it to put it on the market — I sold it to them in the ’90s — and we had the old file.”

Struck by the irony of the connection, Agney asked the sellers if the agency could celebrate its anniversary there. “They said, ‘We love this house so much; it’s a great party for the house.’”

Additionally, Agney said, a friend’s aunt used to own the house and, “Her mother, out of college, worked for Hugo when he was at Sweeney and Moore.

“We had a lot of fun (at the party),” she continued. “Hugo’s daughter, Faye, was able to come. It was special, being able to do it in that house.”

Hugo Higbie found his real estate legs at Sweeney and Moore after graduating from Williams College in 1948. By 1967, he was ready to go out on his own and established the Higbie Realty Co. He hired the design team of Walter Buhl Ford and Harley Earl to design a logo for his new business. Though it’s been updated over the years, it remains essentially the same.

In 1972, Higbie acquired the Maxon Brothers Real Estate Firm and renamed his company Higbie Maxon Realtors Inc.

“Taylor Reese (the storefront) was Hugo’s



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HIGBIE MAXON AGNEY

Guests celebrate the agency’s 90th anniversary.



An early Maxon Brothers advertisement.

office,” Agney said. “When he bought Maxon Brothers, he bought this building, too.”

The agency has been on The Hill at its current location — 83 Kercheval — ever since.

“We love our location here,” Agney said.

Agney joined the firm as a sales associate in 1980 and learned a lot from Higbie in her early career.

“When I came here, it was Higbie Maxon,” she said. “Until the day he died, he always felt that hand delivery was better than email. ... He left those personal touches that we miss today.”

Those personal touches were highlighted during the anniversary event, for which Agney printed several Higbie quotes on cocktail napkins. He was a quotable guy, she said. Among the more notable were:

◆ “Remember, it’s about who you know.”

◆ “If you have problems, you must have



The progression of logos over the years.

business.”

◆ “Whatever you do, have fun.”

◆ “Character is what you have when no one’s watching.”

◆ “Grosse Pointe is the best kept secret.”

◆ “Let’s call the Davids.”

The latter quote references the real estate agency’s attorneys. The Davids were called whenever Higbie had a question — including what to do when Hollywood came calling.

Agney recalled a time when someone on the production team for the movie “Grosse Pointe Blank” called her for permission to use the agency’s sign in the movie. She presented the opportunity to Higbie, who answered her with, “Let’s call the Davids.”

“The producer grew up on the Eastside,” Agney explained, noting when she asked why he wanted to use this particular sign, “He said, ‘All the nice houses had your

sign on them.’”

After crossing their t’s and dotting their i’s, approval was granted.

“You see the sign two or three times in the movie,” she said.

That decision came before Agney was made partner in 2000, at which time her name was added to the logo. The agency took out a full-page ad in the Grosse Pointe News to celebrate.

Along with the updated logo, “all the ad said was, ‘The more things change, the more they stay the same,’” Agney said.

More change came in 2006, when Agney bought the agency. Higbie was never far, as he frequented the business until his death in 2012. Agney remembers with fondness her boss, her mentor, her friend.

“He was just a great guy,” she said. “If you look up the word ‘gentleman’ in the dictionary, it would say ‘Hugo S. Higbie.’ I was very fortunate and blessed.



Kay Agney and her daughter, Jamie Rae Turnbull.



Agney with Faye Higbie.

“We’ve tried to keep the same level of integrity through the years,” she continued. “I think all the agents here have that. ... I really believe it has been such a mainstay in the community here — starting with Maxon Brothers, Hugo Higbie stepping in when they retired. He was so involved in the community. I think we’re continuing his legacy of giving back to the community; the company has continued to support the community wherever, whenever we can. ... People see the sign and know it has been around a long time and that they can trust they’re going to have a great real estate experience. That’s been our secret — keeping our legacy involved.”

A team of professional agents and “great support staff” also keep things running smoothly, she said.

Agney said she has many fond memories of her time at Higbie Maxon Agney — “We had the first fax on The Hill. The bank would come down to fax when they needed

to send something.” — but intrigued readers will have to wait to hear them.

“It’s all going in my book,” she said.

“Thank you to all the people who entrusted us with one of the most, from an investment standpoint, emotional times, because there are a lot of emotions involved with buying and selling a house,” she added. “I want to thank the community for supporting us and continuing the business we’ve had.”

Agney, who has served as past president of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors and a founding director of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, said she and her agents take pride in “matching people and houses with imagination.”

“I get up every day and feel lucky with what I do; I’m very blessed,” she said. “We’ve always had a good time selling real estate. That’s what we strive for every day. I think Hugo would be proud of what we’ve done.”

HONOR:

Continued from page 1A

from their efforts and (they) hold a special place in the Grosse Pointe community, serving above and beyond on numerous occasions.”

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The benches will feature a plaque that reads “Mary and Ralph Wilson Champions 120-and-Over,” in reference to their combined ages at the time of a European tennis championship they won together.

“What people don’t know is Mary, in March of 2003, was a No. 1 ranked player in the country in singles in the masters division (in 60 and older), a two-time singles national champion and a three-time doubles champion,” Kedzierski said.

While Mary and Ralph Wilson have called this area home, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation they created is committed to serving both the community here and in the Buffalo area.

“Mary’s been an ardent advocate of the Buffalo Bills and the Buffalo area for the last 25 years and today devotes a significant amount of her time



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Mayor Ted Kedzierski honors Mary Wilson with a proclamation at the July 16 council meeting.

carrying on her husband’s legacy and passion for philanthropy, something she’s proud and honored to do,” Kedzierksi said. “As one of four life trustees with the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation, Mary’s committed to improving the lives of the people of western New York and southeast Michigan for years to come.”

Ralph Wilson also is featured on the Shores’ wall of honor at city hall.

“Mary and Ralph Wilson are not only

known for their deep commitment to the Grosse Pointe community, but also for establishing a legacy of philanthropy throughout the metropolitan Detroit area,” Kedzierski said. “Their efforts are an illustration of their dedication to one’s community and personifies the meaning of being persons for others. Their stewardship, charity and friendship continue to exemplify the meaning of loyalty to one’s community.”

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Izzy Donnelly was among the artists whose works were available for sale.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Summer on the sidewalk

The Village’s annual sidewalk sale took place July 26 and 27, and featured artists’ and merchants’ booths. Spencer Moore and Reland Moore color at the booth of speech-language pathologist Sara Martin, owner of Speech With Sara LLC, who wanted her booth to be interactive.



Addie Waller, Ryann Waller and Addi Molitor hula-hooped down Kercheval at the sidewalk sale.

Siren system purchased

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Grosse Pointe Woods City Council unanimously approved the purchase of a computer that supports storm siren systems at its Monday, Aug. 5 session. The system, which is used throughout the Pointes, helps alert residents to inclement or dangerous weather conditions. Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke urged the council to approve the \$6,167 cost of the computer, associated labor and other

expenses needed to update the system right away “rather than putting this off.” The system hasn’t been updated since 2011, Kosanke said. The onset of storm season in Michigan made the expense a priority, he added. The Woods will receive reimbursement from surrounding Pointes communities that also benefit from the siren’s use, according to the council’s budget projection.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

Financial officer selected for women in leadership program

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer



COURTESY PHOTO

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — The 16/50 Project, a program started last year through the Michigan Municipal League Foundation, kicks off again Friday, Aug. 23, with Shores Financial Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts among the selected attendees. “Their goal is to assist women to become more involved in the leadership process of local municipalities,” she said, “and the whole 16/50 Project is because, with women being 50 percent or more of the state’s population, women are only represented in local municipalities executive roles in 16 percent of the positions out there. So they’re just trying to give the tools to women to excel in their career.” Last year, Ricketts noticed a story about the program in a newsletter and found it interesting,

Rhonda Ricketts

so she decided to apply. The class size had been limited due to the program being in its first year, so she was one of the 101 candidates not selected. “I really wasn’t thinking about it this year and then I got an email saying, ‘Hey, we noticed you didn’t apply,’” she said. “So I applied again and this time I was accepted. ... I was surprised and proud.” This year the program selected 30 of the more than 100 applicants. “The reason that I

See WOMEN, page 4A

RECALL:

Continued from page 1A

directing administration to reconfigure GPPSS middle and elementary schools, with grades 5 to 8 attending middle school and kindergarten to grade 4 attending elementary schools. The petitioner, Genevieve Tusa, a Grosse Pointe Farms attorney, also filed recall petitions against GPPSS Board Secretary Kathleen Abke and Treasurer Judy Gafa. The first was rejected. According to the second, Abke and Gafa voted to close two elementary schools in the district. Abke and Gafa have filed an appeal with the circuit court. The next step is the circulation of the petitions



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

Reviewing the latest recall petition language Aug. 8, are Wayne County Commission members, from left, Cathy M. Garrett, Freddie G. Burton Jr. and Eric Sabree. for signatures within the school district. Profeta has 10 days from the ruling to file an appeal, at which point circulation must cease. As of press time, he has not appealed the decision. The circulation of petitions against Abke and Gafa must cease until the circuit court has ruled or after Aug. 31 — 40 days from the date of the

tion ballot has passed. Profeta said he was disappointed, though not surprised, by the decision. “I was hoping we could try to bring people in the community back together and it seems like we’re going to try to further divide, which is unfortunate, I think.” Profeta said he, Abke and Gafa have received grassroots support from a group of people “standing up to work with us. We’ve got a strong committee of residents that are backing a movement opposing the recall.” “The philosophy that I’m coming at it with is we can have different opinions,” he added. “We can disagree on votes and issues, but we can still work together for our kids.”

Who’s behind the recall?

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

The individual or group behind the recall — or their connection to a law firm located in Lansing — is unknown. Attorneys from Dykema Gossett in Lansing representing petitioner Genevieve Tusa, of Tusa Law, PLC in Grosse Pointe Farms, appeared at each of the three Wayne County Election Commission recall hearings. Listed on a Save GP Schools Super PAC filed with the Secretary of State July 17, are Randall Thompson from Fenton as treasurer and Renae Moore, an attorney with Dykema in Lansing, as the record holder. Neither responded to requests for comment or confirmation “GP” stands for “Grosse Pointe.” Tusa also has not responded to multiple attempts to reach her. Thompson, a GOP

strategist according to multiple news reports, is listed as treasurer on the Hardworking Americans Committee Super PAC. He also was the owner of the now-defunct website miconservativenews.com, head of the Michigan Faith and Freedom Coalition and executive director of the Coalition Against Higher Taxes and Special Interest Deals. According to his Facebook page, he is president and CEO of Integration Strategies in Fenton and served as former chief of staff for the U.S. Congress. Moore is listed as treasurer of Central Michigan Conservative Leadership. The Save GP Schools Super PAC missed its first campaign finance deadline and received a failure to file notice from the state Bureau of Elections. A subsequent filing listed a balance of \$8,000, incurred July 17, owed to Dykema Gossett

in Lansing “for compliance work and legal fees,” according to the campaign statement. Opposing the recall is the Committee to Keep Kids First PAC, which received its statement of organization from the office of the county clerk July 18. Treasurer Amy Weglarz, a former stu-

dent in the district and parent for 13 years, said her focus is on the district’s mission. “Keeping kids first is at the forefront of every single one of our board of education trustees, in particular the three that are up for recall,” Weglarz said. “I can’t think of a better thing than to do everything in my personal power to fight for them, because it’s fighting for our kids.”



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The Week Ahead

MONDAY, AUG. 19

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m. at city hall, 20025 Mack Plaza.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m. at city hall, 90 Kerby.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m. at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo.

TUESDAY, AUG. 20

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 9 a.m. at city hall, 795 Lakeshore.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m. at city hall, 795 Lakeshore.

THURSDAY, AUG. 22

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23

- ◆ Music on the Lawn, 7 to 10 p.m. in front of city hall, 20025 Mack Plaza. Music by Buggs Beddow and the Good Stuff and food from Walking Tacos.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24

- ◆ After 6 on Kercheval, 6 to 10 p.m. at 15200 Kercheval. Music by Atomic Radio.

Correction

The article in the Aug. 8 edition regarding the Grosse Pointe Woods city attorney’s resignation incorrectly stated that Chip Berschback is a partner in the St. Clair Shores law firm of Berschback, Berschback and Ethridge. It should have stated that the three attorneys are each sole practitioners sharing office space in St. Clair Shores.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Signing Time instructor offers ‘magic parenting tool’

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Kelly Konieczki was folding a load of laundry when her 16-month-old daughter, Matilda, tugged on her jeans to tell her a squirrel was eating a giant piece of pizza outside.

At 16 months, Matilda wasn’t old enough to verbalize this. Instead, she pointed to the window and made the sign for “squirrel.” When this wasn’t enough to capture her mother’s attention, she made the sign for “cheese.” It all clicked for Konieczki when, her interest piqued, she set aside the laundry and looked out the window.

Had Matilda not been able to communicate with her through sign language, “there are so many little moments I would have missed,” Konieczki said, including that moment of shared joy.

Konieczki first learned about baby signing at a hospital parenting group from another parent who was a speech language pathologist.

“What I was most interested in at the time was early communication,” Konieczki said. “Before they can talk, they can sign with you. I know babies know what they want to tell you; they just don’t have a means for communication. That just fascinated me and I got hooked. I started reading about it. They say it’s a window into their mind and it truly is.”

Konieczki went to the library, but learning this “beautiful, visual, 3D language” from books was difficult, she discovered. Then she stumbled on a music video series called Baby Signing Time. She brought it home to watch with Matilda, who was six to eight months at the time.

“Once she had her first sign, I was like, this is amazing. Literally at every age and stage, I was just fascinated.”

Even after Matilda started talking, using



COURTESY PHOTO

Kelly Konieczki, founder of Momcat’s Signing Academy, began teaching Sign and Play classes in 2011.

sign language helped clarify her speech, eliminating some of the frustrations children feel as a result of their failure to communicate.

“It became this magic parenting tool and I was like, everybody needs to know about this,” Konieczki said. However, when she looked around for classes, she found nothing. It was her husband, Steve, who suggested she “be the signing lady,” she recalled.

Through the Baby Signing Time! and Signing Time! series, she discovered a certification program called the Signing Time Academy. She received her basic certification and started offering Sign and Play classes to friends and acquaintances out of her Grosse Pointe Park house in 2011. While she uses American Sign Language as a tool, she emphasizes she isn’t certified to teach ASL.

Soon Konieczki expanded out of her house to local venues — coffee houses, parks and restaurants — to offer free classes. New families joined and “it kind of took off from there,” she said.

While Konieczki offers a variety of enrichment programs throughout the community, including indoor and outdoor loca-

tions through the summer, home base is Momcat’s Signing Academy — “Momcat” was a nickname a friend gave her — located at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church in Grosse Pointe Farms. Konieczki offers Sign and Play parent-child classes for ages 0 to 5 based on the Baby Signing Time! series. Sessions are offered in the fall, winter and spring.

Beginning in September, Konieczki will host monthly Story Times at the Grosse Pointe Public Library through December.

Part of Konieczki’s initial motivation to offer baby signing classes was her discovery what a crucial period it is in their growth.

“Eighty percent of your child’s brain development occurs before they turn 3,” she said.

It was Signing Time! founder Rachel Coleman who inspired Konieczki to expand this passion into a business.

Coleman, whose music video series, according to Konieczki, has made her “kind of a rock star” among the preschool set, developed the program because her own daughter was deaf.

“She would go into schools and do Story

Time there and teach basic signs because she was noticing her daughter was becoming isolated because nobody could communicate with her,” Konieczki said.

Coleman’s wish was that everyone would know a little sign language — just like they might know a little French or Spanish — so when their child ran into her child at the park, they would need to know only three signs — ‘hi,’ ‘friends’ and ‘play’ — to change her daughter’s world.

“And that really struck me,” Konieczki said. “A little sign language can go a long way for so many people. Can you imagine being a child in the school system and nobody (other than an aide) can communicate with you?”

While most of the children who attend Konieczki’s classes are typical hearing, she noted, children of all ages and abilities are welcome. In fact, it’s the difference her classes have made for a non-verbal children she is most proud of.

One mother whose son was on a tracheotomy was concerned his suction machine would be disruptive to the other children and families.

“It ended up working out perfectly,” Konieczki said. The mother contacted her after the class to say how grateful she was to bring her son to something “that wasn’t a therapy.”

Other parents raved after class about how their children never before sat still for so long.

“I always emphasize, I invite children to participate in my classes on their own terms,” Konieczki said.

This includes allowing children to move about the room rather than sit on a parent’s lap. Most become enrapt; signing, which involves whole body movement, becomes play to them, strengthening fine motor



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA ARONDOSKI / MOJO PHOTO

Konieczki dreams of creating an early childhood community center.

skills before they’re old enough to grip a pencil.

Shortly after getting certified, Konieczki received a phone call from Coleman inviting her to join the Signing Time Academy as a specialist. Konieczki currently serves as associate director, helping other instructors through the certification process — something she can do remotely. The company, based in Utah, has instructors all over the world.

Now that Matilda is 9 — she begins fourth grade at Trombly Elementary School in the fall — the two sign to each other less, although Konieczki said Matilda still knows the alphabet and enough basic signs to bridge the gap with any non-verbal child she may encounter.

Another way Konieczki connects with her daughter is through a shared interest in animals, nature and art. Konieczki earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting and photography from Michigan State University in 2003. After

she graduated, she pursued commercial art as a photo assistant for a commercial photographer specializing in automotive advertising. More comfortable with fine arts than the commercial art world, she worked as an art handler and installer for the Detroit Institute of Arts until her daughter was born.

Today she pursues art mainly as a hobby, painting pet memorial portraits for friends and rocks with inspiring messages for children and others in the community to find as part of the “Grosse Pointe Art Rocks” craze started two summers ago. She shares her creations on Instagram @momcatart.

Longterm, Konieczki’s vision is to create an early childhood community center incorporating a range of programs, from signing and music to art, yoga and nature-based activities.

“That is my dream,” she said.

Go to momcats-signing-academy.com for information about classes and services.

From left, Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Bob Denner; Sgt. Daniel Kolar; Lt. Anthony Blain; Sgt. Jeremy Pittman; and Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

PROMOTE:
Continued from page 1A

served as a detective, Youth Services Unit officer and IT supervisor.

His awards have included recognition for life-saving.

“We’re just so proud of the hard work that these guys put in over the years and that’s not

including the tests and studying that go along with advancement,” said Park Public Safety Director Stephen Poloni. “The recognition is well-deserved.”

WOMEN:
Continued from page 3A

applied was basically (because) I like learning more things,” Ricketts said. “If I could, I would’ve been a professional student.”

The first of five sessions taking place in Lansing through December will cover budgeting and executive development and presence.

“The first half of the class is going to be on budgets, which, OK, I think I know a lot about that,” Ricketts joked. “Hopefully there’s going to be subjects that I have no knowledge of that I’m going to come back to my office and (I’ll) know something more, so that’ll be great.”

Other classes will focus on topics including key financial areas, economic development, council/manager relationships and interviewing and negotiation.

“Over the last several years, I’ve watched Mark Wollenweber here as our city manager, and prior management over the years also, and it just amazes me the knowledge that especially

Mark has and the contacts,” Ricketts said. “So I’m just hoping I can grab some of that knowledge.”

She plans to take advantage of the network. “If I could, I would’ve been a professional student.”

The first of five sessions taking place in Lansing through December will cover budgeting and executive development and presence. “You learn so much from talking to people of other communities and what works for them and what their struggles are,” she said, “and if you can help one another, it’s just a wonderful thing.”

While reflecting on the concept of the 16/50 Project, Ricketts said she’s not sure there has ever been a woman in the role of city manager or city administrator in Grosse Pointe or neighboring communities. “You have to wonder, why is that?” she wrote via email. “Is there just no interest by women in these roles? I believe the city of St. Clair Shores recently had a woman finalist for their city manager opening though. This is just another topic that I am sure will be covered/answered in the Women’s Municipal Leadership Program.”

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Not my cousin’s keeper

After receiving notice to appear in court due to three suspensions on his driving record and a warrant for his arrest stemming from a traffic stop Saturday, July 27, a 30-year-old Detroit man suspected his cousin of giving his name to officers during the infractions.

The man provided proof he was at work during the time of the traffic stop and his aunt said the cousin had used the man’s name at a traffic stop in the past.

The court dismissed the warrant and issued clearances for the violations.

Suspended license

While on patrol at 1:21 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, an officer noticed a vehicle on Mack with a cracked windshield pulling a trailer with a defective brake light.

A LEIN/Secretary of State check showed the 52-year-old Detroit man was currently suspended three times with one prior additional suspension. He was arrested for driving while license suspended.

Attempted break-in

A 70-year-old Farms woman awoke Friday, Aug. 9, to find her patio chair moved against the wall under the kitchen window and the window screen was cut along the sides and bottom, creating a flap.

The window was locked and no other damage was observed.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Operating while intoxicated

An officer conducted a traffic stop on Moross at 10:27 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, after a report of a possible intoxicated driver.

The 27-year-old Casco man said he hadn’t had anything to drink, but had glassy eyes and smelled of intoxicants.

He refused to submit to a preliminary breath test and was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Wrong place, wrong time

When a Detroit woman was pulled over for having no verified insurance on file at 6:41 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, it was the 44-year-old Detroit passenger who was arrested due to a warrant out of Grosse Pointe Park.

Multiple suspensions

After noticing a vehicle on Chalfonte with a broken headlight at 1 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 11, an officer ran the 47-year-old Detroit driver through LEIN/Secretary of State to find multiple warrants, six current suspensions and one prior additional suspension.

He was arrested for driving while license suspended as well as for a felony no-bond child support warrant out of Wayne County.

Stolen vehicle

A 35-year-old Farms woman parked her unlocked silver 2017

Hyundai Tucson, license plate 6LAN43, in her driveway on Lexington around 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, with the keys inside.

When she awoke around 9 a.m. the next morning, the vehicle was gone.

Missing bike

After leaving his black and red Huffy mountain bike in his friend’s Lexington backyard overnight, a 14-year-old Farms boy found it gone in the morning Sunday, Aug. 11.

Operating while intoxicated

A vehicle was pulled over for driving 15 mph over the speed limit, riding the center line and swerving on Lakeshore at 12:58 a.m. Monday, Aug. 12.

The 20-year-old Detroit driver smelled of marijuana and his eyes were bloodshot.

He was arrested for operating under the influence.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Theft from vehicle

A diaper bag with credit cards and a driver’s license was found at the corner of Helen and Roslyn in the Woods at 8:40 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The items had been taken out of an unlocked vehicle on Hampton the previous night.

A Prada wallet and \$300 still are missing.

— Laurel Kraus

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Wrong way

A vehicle was pulled over at Mack and Neff after traveling the wrong way on a one-way street at 1:21 a.m. Friday, Aug. 9.

The 44-year-old Sterling Heights driver said he did not realize he had turned the wrong way and that he had not had any alcohol.

After completing field sobriety tests, he admitted to having two shots an hour prior. A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content at .089 percent and he was arrested.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Hit and run

Two parked vehicles in the 1900 block of Anita were damaged about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, before the distraught driver of a large SUV was committed to Ascension St. John Hospital for a psychological evaluation.

The 49-year-old driver was discovered in the 2000 block of Anita and told police she was looking for her boyfriend when she struck the vehicles. She argued with the man and was crying hysterically, police said.

The woman’s emotional condition led police to contact EMS. The damaged vehicles were drivable and no one was injured in the collisions.

Disorderly conduct

A 43-year-old man was arrested for disorderly conduct at Kroger, 20422 Mack, around 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5, after police found him armed with a BB gun in his waistband.

One witness reported having seen the man’s weapon before police arrived and the man had behaved erratically, including recording store managers on video with his cell phone.

The suspect was later taken into St. Clair Shores Police custody for an outstanding warrant.

Theft from a vehicle

Sixty dollars in cash, loose change and a bottle of cologne were among items stolen from a vehicle parked in the 1900 block of Broadstone during the early morning hours of Monday, Aug. 5.

Police said the vehicle’s owner told them it had been entered multiple times and a gift card was also stolen. The vehicle had been left unlocked.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Home invasion

Police are investigating a home invasion in the 16000 block of Jefferson after residents of a house there returned from vacation Monday, Aug. 5.

A rear door had been damaged and entered, and someone had rummaged through the house, police said.

The alleged crime occurred between noon Saturday, Aug. 3, and 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5.

Larceny from auto

A purse containing two passports, a debit card and \$50 was stolen from a vehicle parked in the 14000 block of Charlevoix between 10 and 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. The vehicle had been left unlocked.

Larceny from auto

A Louis Vuitton wallet, Ray-Ban sunglasses, reading glasses and \$10 in cash were stolen from a vehicle in the 1100 block of Kensington between 3 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11. The vehicle had been left unlocked.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 882-7400.

RETIRE:

Continued from page 1A

I became a dispatcher part time in Milford,” Nicholson said. “They asked me if I would like to go to the police academy and become a part-time officer, so I did that.”

After six years as a firefighter, he saw the public safety officer position opening in the Shores.

“Really there’s not a lot of public safety departments out there, so I wasn’t real familiar with that,” he said. “And then this allowed me to put everything together. I really liked it because you could be a police officer one minute, firefighter the next, EMT (and) you’d jump back and forth.”

Nicholson joined the Shores public safety department July 12, 1990.

“One thing that I find interesting is that you can go drive around the city and it pretty much looks exactly the same as it did 29 years ago, with the exception of the cars on the road are a little more modern, but a lot of the buildings and houses really haven’t changed, which I think is pretty cool,” he said.

Nicholson considers one of his greatest accomplishments over the years to be his part on the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Fire Investigation Team. It was formed in 2000 when the six cities each put a person on the team.

“I got sent to that training in 2000 and I’m the last original member of that still around,” Nicholson said.

Significant fires they worked on over the years include Grumpy’s Bar and Grill in Grosse Pointe Park, Coins & Stamps in the City of Grosse Pointe and the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, as well as the bigger house fires.

“I worked with some really good people over the years in that, both on the team and here,” Nicholson said.

The decision to retire was a combination of 29

years of service and his current long commute.

“We, about a year ago, inherited a house that my grandfather built in 1933,” Nicholson said. “It’s in Sylvan Lake, which is about an hour from here and ... that drive is kind of getting old, so I just felt that it’s kind of a good time.”

What’s next for him largely includes working on the house to fix it up and modernize it.

Nicholson also is hoping to continue working a day or two a week for one of the smaller police departments closer to where he lives.

“I’ve had a couple places offer me jobs and I’m just kind of trying to figure out which one’s going to be the best fit,” he said.

Nicholson plans to spend much of the summer months at his grandparents’ cottage in the Upper Peninsula and dive into his love for reading.

“On behalf of the entire department, we wish him and his family all the best,” Schulte said.

BCG promotes DoBiesz

Brieden Consulting Group, a leading employee benefit management company and consulting firm, recently announced the promotion of Debbie DoBiesz to vice president. DoBiesz will be responsible for the development of client management and administrative staff, as well as managing the oversight of process improvement initiatives.

Hans Brieden, president of Brieden Consulting Group, said, “Debbie’s continuous growth and positive impact on our clients has earned her this new opportunity. This role is essential to our growth strategies and we have all the confidence in the world Debbie will continue to positively impact the culture at Brieden Consulting Group.”



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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

ROBERT B. EDGAR: Founder and Publisher (1940 - 1979)
JOHN MINNIS: Publisher
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JODY MCVEIGH: Editor

OUR VIEW

Looking forward to November vote

It’s good to see some challengers showing up for the Nov. 5 municipal elections. Not only is it an opportunity to thrash out the direction of local policies in the various Pointes, this year also provides an opportunity for voters and city clerks to test-drive Michigan’s new election rules.

So-called off-year elections typically draw a miniscule voter turnout. Voter numbers are somewhat better when a mayor or city council member is challenged, but nonetheless rarely come anywhere near what a gubernatorial or presidential election would elicit.

The highest profile race is likely to be in the City of Grosse Pointe, where Councilmember Sheila Tomkowiak has filed against first-term incumbent Mayor Christopher Boettcher. Mayor Boettcher upset the previous long-serving mayor, Dale Scrace, in the last election.

In the Park, Farms and Shores, each current mayor is running unopposed for re-election. In the Woods, the mayor is in the middle of a four-year term.

But all five of the Pointes have contested council elections. Three seats are open in each case, with a mix of four or five incumbents and challengers on the ballot. In addition, the Farms will hold an election to fill the unexpired term of the late Councilmember Peter Waldmeir; six residents have filed for that position.

Issues aside, here’s what’s important about this election: Michigan voters approved major election changes in an initiative on the ballot last November. These include:

- ◆ No-reason absentee ballots.
- ◆ Registering to vote through Election Day if done with the local clerk (must have proof of residency).
- ◆ Ability to request and fill out absentee ballots in the clerk’s office ahead of the election, including for at least a few hours on the Saturday or Sunday before the election. (This often is referred to as early voting.)

Absentee ballots are to be available by Sept. 21. Oct. 7 is the last day to register to vote at locations (such as in a voter registration drive) other than in person at the clerk’s office.

This gives residents very little excuse not to vote. Absentee ballots are available for at least six weeks before the election to any voter who requests one. They can be filled out in the clerk’s office and left with the clerk, who must open the office for at least a few hours on the weekend before the election.

Even people who’ve never voted before, or may have let their registration lapse, have no excuse since they can show up at the clerk’s office through Election Day with proof of residency in hand and still get a ballot.

The biggest improvement here is the ability to register right through Election Day. Under Michigan’s previous system, registration closed a month before any election — just about the time most people start getting really interested.

Grosse Pointers would do well to use this year’s municipal elections to find what will work for them in next year’s much more crowded votes. The more voters this year the better.

THE COUNCIL CANDIDATES:

There are three open seats in each city, plus a separate election in the Farms to fill an unexpired term. Incumbents are marked as (I).

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores: Douglas Kucyk (I), Ryan Case, Danielle Gehlert, John Seago.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods: Art Bryant (I), Michael Koester (I), Richard Shetler Jr. (I), Kenneth Gafa, Seth Winterholler.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms: Sierra Donaven (I), Joe Ricci (I), Lev Wood (I), Timothy Neil Sroka.
- To fill unexpired council term: Anthony Chalut, Andrew Dervan, Jamie Dingeman, Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Catherine F. Saurbier, John W. Steininger.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe: Donald J. Parthum Jr. (I), John Stempfle (I), Matthew Boddy, David T. Fries, Terence A. Thomas.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Park: John E. Chouinard (I), Daniel E. Clark (I), Aimee Rogers Fluitt, Vikas Relan.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER HARDENBROOK

Pure Grosse Pointe

City of Grosse Pointe Foundation President John Shook, left, and Grosse Pointe Boat Club Past Commodore George Young recently presented City residents with a stationary tower viewer installed along the seawall at Neff Park. Residents cannot only get a close-up look of the freighters and yachts sailing past, but also most likely a good view of the many wind turbines across the lake in Canada. The plaque reads: “A gift to the residents of the City of Grosse Pointe from the Grosse Pointe Boat Club and Grosse Pointe Foundation.”

OUR VIEW

GPPSS, schools really rank

Grosse Pointe schools continue to show up very well when ranked by outside groups — something everyone should be shouting from the rooftops.

The most recent rankings come from Niche, a Pittsburgh-based firm. It gave the district an A-plus rating and listed it as fourth in Michigan. Every individual school but one had an A-plus rating as well (Poupard had an A).

It’s hard to know what hairs Niche splits to differentiate among districts with the same overall grade — such as an A-plus, in this particular case. The company says it sifts through massive amounts of data to analyze and rank cities, suburbs, schools and colleges. Some of the rankings include factors such as “self-reported by Niche users.” So some grains of salt are in order.

The overall grade comes from a compilation of several categories. The Grosse Pointe Public School System scored below A-minus in only one category: diversity (B-minus).

The three Michigan districts placing above Grosse Pointe also had their share of quibbles. No. 1 Novi had a B in resources and facilities. No. 2 Troy had a B-plus in resources and facilities and in food. No. 3 Bloomfield Hills got a B in diversity and a C-minus in sports.

Most notably in Grosse Pointe, eight of the nine elementary schools had an A-plus rating, led by Mason, which was listed as the third best elementary school in Michigan. Following close behind were Ferry (eighth), Maire (17th), Kerby (18th), Trombly (22nd), Monteith (28th), Defer (31st) and Richard (33rd). Although Poupard’s A rating put it at 170th in Michigan, that’s still well within the top 10 percent of the 1,903 Michigan public elementary schools in the Niche pool. Ferry, Mason, Trombly and Kerby also swept the top four places in the ranking for best public school teachers in Michigan.

The Pointes’ three middle schools and both high schools all earned an A-plus and were ranked among the top 20 in their categories.

The No. 1 district in Michigan, Novi, was 60th nationwide. Grosse Pointe was 84th nationwide among 11,850 districts — well within the top 1 percent.

It’s worth noting that both North and South also placed in the top 1 percent nationwide for this spring’s U.S. News and World Report rankings of high schools. U.S. News’ system is long established and appears more rigorous.

But no matter the system, Grosse Pointe schools continue to place well. More important, the rankings reach people who might actually be shopping for a district and a place to live.

Niche appears to be largely supported by real estate ads. Each school rating page is accompanied by pictures of houses for sale in the attendance area or nearby. Given that the district has already received advice to promote itself, the A-plus ranking from Niche can only help.

The Grosse Pointes also did well in a Niche list this spring of the best places to live in metro Detroit. All five cities made the top 25.

The current turmoil over declining school enrollment need not be a setback if the community can be seen as pulling together to make the district work at an even higher level. Many decisions remain, but the Pointes can only benefit by spreading the word about the many assets here.

A billboard went up this spring in the Park to express displeasure about potential school closings. How about one for people outside the area that touts the A-plus benefits of raising a family here?

OUR VIEW

MDCR exec. dir. should step down

Agustin Arbulu should resign. The executive director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights has not been fired despite sexist comments allegedly made to an aide when he was in Grosse Pointe for listening sessions at the request of the school superintendent.

The comments show surprising ignorance for someone in Dr. Arbulu’s position. He was here to explore issues tied into race, but surely he has or will encounter gender and sexual identity issues. Even in a private conversation, this simply should not happen.

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission, which oversees the department, has refused to fire Dr. Arbulu. Its chair said the commission prefers “a restorative justice model.”

Dr. Arbulu’s listening sessions here culminated in a recommendation that the district should delay its reconfiguration plans, but several board members defended the process and attacked the report — justifiably where it crossed the line from equity concerns into policy decisions, such as which schools to close.

The board then proceeded, on the same night Dr. Arbulu presented his report, to implement its plan. Since then, however, the board has begun taking up some of his other recommendations, including more training in racial equity and implicit bias.

Dr. Arbulu got a very mixed response here, but that’s irrelevant to his reported behavior. He cannot survive this loss of credibility when he is the point person for evaluating equitable treatment of everyone else in Michigan. He should step down.

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.

The opinions expressed in letters and guest columns are not necessarily views shared by the Grosse Pointe News.

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EDITORIAL

(313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh:

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Bob St. John:

Sports Editor

Eddie B. Allen Jr.:

Staff Writer

Mary Anne Brush:

Staff Writer

Karen Fontanive:

Staff Writer

Laurel Kraus:

Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt:

Staff Photographer

Barb Arrigo:

Editorial Writer

CIRCULATION

(313) 343-5578

Karl Juergens:

Circulation Manager

PRODUCTION

(313) 343-5573

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CLASSIFIED

(313) 882-6900 ext 567

Barbara Yazbeck Vethacke:

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I SAY By Jody McVeigh

Make summer about hotdogs, not hot dogs



I'm a sucker for animals. When I browse headlines each morning, I often can't help but click on "news" stories about silly dogs or stubborn cats — or even weird animal companions like a duck and a Labrador or a tiger cub and baby orangutan. Furry friends are total clickbait for me.

I love a comeback story, too. The ones that start out tough to read — animals abandoned,

abused or injured and left for dead — but turn into a "look at how amazing he's doing now with loads of medical care and the enduring love of his new family."

My friend, Shawnie, adopted a pit bull three months ago from an agency in Detroit. The dog had been found on the street, was malnourished and had some "behavioral issues."

In the past three months, Gracie has gone from skittish and skinny to social and on her way to being well-behaved. She's been well fed, well exercised and well taken care of. A few weeks ago, Shawnie posted a then-and-now photo and Gracie doesn't even look

like the same dog.

Yes, I love a good comeback story.

But animal stories also can be heartbreaking. Last week, Pedro, a chihuahua mix, was found in a 123-degree locked car in Denver. The tiny pup was suffering heat stroke and seizing when police smashed the window to rescue him. Initial reports indicated he showed signs of "neurological issues," i.e., brain damage. The story made me sick; the photos, sicker.

The next day I was somewhat relieved to read Pedro's body temperature was back to normal and, though the first 48 to 72 hours still are critical, he seemed

to be heading in the right direction.

His owner, rightfully, was charged with animal cruelty.

I'm a cat mom — thanks, Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society! — not a human mom. But don't think the ridiculous amount of child hot car deaths doesn't anger me.

As of Aug. 8, 30 children have died in 2019 from heat stroke inside a vehicle, according to the National Safety Council, or NSC. Ten of them were in Michigan. Last year, 53 children died of heat stroke inside a car and the nation averages 38 such child deaths each year.

But I digress.

According to the ASPCA, thousands of animals succumb to heat stroke and suffocation each year because they are left alone in vehicles.

Even on mild or cloudy days, temperatures inside vehicles — even with the windows cracked — can reach life-threatening levels, NSC reports. The temperature inside a vehicle can rise 30 degrees in 20 minutes, experts say, so even a 70-degree day can turn into 100 degrees in a locked car. Even a quick errand can be deadly.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals posted steps to take if you see a dog left alone

in a hot car: Take down the car's color, model, make and license plate number. Have the owner paged in the nearest buildings or call local humane authorities or police. Keep an eye on the dog and don't leave the scene until the situation has been resolved.

I get it; lots of dogs love going for rides with the windows down, their ears flapping in the breeze. I've seen the smile on Gracie's face.

Cats, not so much.

But if a trip in the car requires a stop, make sure your pet is permitted there with you. If not, drop them back at home; don't keep them trapped in the heat of your car.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1944
75 years ago this week

"TONY" SCORES NEW WIN IN POPCORN CASE: The battle of Tony the Popcorn Man vs. the Village of Grosse Pointe Park has gone to two rounds and thus far Tony has scored all the blood.

A judge granted a temporary restraining order against the Park's enforcement of its recently amended vendors ordinance against Ernest Kornus who has maintained a popcorn

wagon at Bishop and Jefferson for many years.

Residents are concerned for children living north of Jefferson who must cross it to get to "Tony" and for the additional people who frequent the popcorn stand who then meander down to the lake.

The case will be revisited in a month to six weeks.

STIR CREATED BY NUDE DRUNK: There was great excitement in the 1000 block of Wayburn when a man about 25 years old, much the worse for strong drink, was perambulat-

ing about the neighborhood completely naked.

1969
50 years ago this week

LEAF BURNING BANNED IN FARMS: The odor of burning leaves in the Farms will be absent from the scene this fall as the result of a unanimous vote by the Farms council to ban the burning of leaves and other combustible refuse within the city limits.

Obituaries: Celia Walker, Norman Parent Jr., Harry Elsworth

Campbell, Sophie Birgbauer, Paul S. Giffin, Ida M. Reiman, Perce C. Beatty, Ruby S. Peslar, Thomas W. McVeigh, Edwardine Thiery, Charlotte Wright, Walter G. Retzlaff, Verne Houghton, Harold C. Reynolds, Evelyn E. Hogan, Cynthia Frank, Charles J. Odenweller, Edgar M. Reitz, Benjamin H. deClaire, Elizabeth Van Dyke Brownson

1994
25 years ago this week

NEW LIBRARY CHECKS OUT BUDGET, MAKES CHANGES: After making a few adjustments to the budget it inherited from the Grosse Pointe Public School System, the new district library board last week adopted a \$2.6 million spending plan for 1994-95.

Grosse Pointe Public Library board members voted unanimously to adopt the budget and additionally approved hiring three employees and restoring operational hours which had been cut by the school board in June.

Obituaries: George J. Clutterbuck, John A. Fillion, Mary Ann Hashimi-Hamel, Wanda

Maxine Hartman, Salvatore Pompeo

2009
10 years ago this week

RIDGE RESURFACING BEGINS: The current resurfacing of Ridge begun this month means motorists using the road will have to contend with asphalt grinders and front-end loaders.

Construction is scheduled for completion in September.

Obituaries: John W. Carroll Jr., Archie Joseph McEachern, Hervey Cushman Parke, Daniel J. Popovic

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Once a Falcon, always a Falcon

St. Clare welcomes new leadership team

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

In returning to St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School in new roles, newly appointed principal Ann Crowley and assistant principal Samantha Cooley believe they are coming home. Cooley was formerly a teacher at St. Clare and Crowley’s three children — now 30, 28 and 25 — all attended the school.

Cooley said she “always wanted to be a teacher since I was a kid.” After beginning her career at St. Clare, teaching second grade her first year and a third- and fourth-grade split classroom her second, she taught second grade for a year at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic School in Bloomfield Hills.

She realized, however, she wanted to pursue a leadership position. A graduate of the University of Michigan — Dearborn, she is pursuing a master’s degree in educational leadership at Oakland University.

While Crowley was active at St. Clare as a parent, this is her first foray as an administrator. She brings with her 35 years of experience, the majority at Detroit Public Schools. She served in multiple roles, including teacher, instructional specialist, staff coordinator, assistant principal and principal. She also was a co-founder of Detroit Children First, an organization formed in 2007 to promote educa-



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Clare of Montefalco Parish the Rev. Andrew Kowalczyk with St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School’s new assistant principal Samantha Cooley, center, and new principal Ann Crowley.

tional justice for children living in poverty and urban communities.

Crowley began her career at St. Theresa Visitation School in Detroit after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan. She has a Master of Science degree in educational leadership from Wayne State University.

For the past six years, Crowley taught in Abu Dhabi and Sudan. After her youngest child departed for college, she decided to explore the bigger world — an idea she always encouraged with her students, from third-graders to middle schoolers.

“Practice what you preach,” she said. “When I was in Detroit Public

Schools, I started my day ... with the New York Times ... to say, the world’s a big place and you all need to see it. Don’t just think it’s just here in Detroit and local; the world’s big. The kids really got into that.”

She applied to a number of jobs and was hired in Abu Dhabi as an English teacher, working with elementary-age children as part of a dual Arabic and English immersion model.

Crowley remained three years before making a switch to the Khartoum American School in Sudan, where she taught the children of ambassadors and United Nations workers. She also coached a swim team.

A revolution in Sudan

resulted in her evacuation and political unrest in Venezuela deterred her plans to pursue teaching there for another two years. Instead, she returned to the United States, where she discovered St. Clare was in search of a new principal.

“The timing was perfect,” she said. “The post was there when I’m deciding what I’m going to do next.”

Coming full circle, from St. Theresa’s “all the way back to the Archdiocese and St. Clare,” was the answer she sought.

“This is your family for life,” she said. “When you get here, these people you’re with, these friends that you network with right now, you have a commonality and there’s that Catholic thread.”

This, according to Crowley, is in keeping with St. Clare’s participation in the Archdiocese of Detroit’s four dimensions “Unleashing Our Catholic Schools” — a focus on Catholic identity, bolstering already excellent academics, accessibility to all who seek Catholic education and sustainability for the future.

Part of their goal as “a united leadership team” is to have St. Clare viewed as both a diverse and unified community, said Cooley.

“Even though we are all diverse and we come from all different communities, when they come here, it is like one big family,” she said. “Which is why we decided to come back. I think it’s a testament to once a Falcon, always a Falcon.”

Work with civil rights department continues

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

The Grosse Pointe Public School System continues to work with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights despite the fact Executive Director Agustin V. Arbulu is precluded from participating while under investigation for allegedly making offensive comments about women.

The remarks were made to a male aide outside Pierce Middle School May 29, during a break from one of four listening sessions MDCR conducted on behalf of the school district.

The idea for the listening sessions rose out of the district’s ongoing relationship with the department to address issues surrounding race, equity and inclusion. Assigned as district liaison is Anthony Lewis, MDCR director of business and community affairs.

In his introduction to the morning listening session at Pierce, Niehaus said he called Lewis and said, “Anthony, what can you tell us because you’ve obviously been across the state of Michigan and there have been closures across Michigan. So what can we do as a community? What can you do to help us?”

The MDCR outlined its findings in a June report based on testimony from 30 community members and an additional 27 written comments.

In spite of a recommendation to delay the vote and “restart the process,” the Board of Education voted June 24, to close Trombly and Poupard elementary schools and move fifth grade from elementary to middle school. Changes go into effect for the 2020-21 school year, giving the administration a year for implementation.

While reconfiguration planning is underway, the administration is continuing its work with the MDCR to implement some of the recommendations from the report, in particular “training for the school board and staff district-wide on racial equity, implicit bias and structural racism” and tightening “the in-district transfer policy that has disadvantaged Poupard the school with the most students of color.”

In first steps on diversity training, Niehaus, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services Jon

Dean and Director of Secondary Instruction Maureen Bur met with Lewis and MDCR equity officer Alfredo Hernandez Aug. 12. Niehaus’s goal is to coordinate MDCR’s training with other diversity efforts, such as the work Wayne County RESA Intermediate School District consultant Ginni Winters has facilitated with parent groups and training Barry Checkoway, professor of social work and urban planning at the University of Michigan, has conducted with Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high school students.

Niehaus said he will continue to rely on his “long-standing relationship with Anthony” while fine-tuning a plan for the future.

Initial steps toward tightening the transfer policy are underway under the guidance of the Board of Education policy committee, chaired by Board Vice President Margaret Weertz with committee members Dr. Chris Lee and Christopher Profeta. The committee met Aug. 12, to review revisions to the current transfer policy before presenting them to the full board for approval.

The goal is to even out attendance at all schools by tightening the transfer policy while avoiding the segregation that has occurred at Poupard as a result of a disproportionate amount of transfers allowed under the current policy.

Out of a total of 350 transfer students as of 2018-19, 78 are out of Poupard, with only six transferring into the Harper Woods school.

Dean said the district receives between 50 to 100 transfer requests a year, resulting in the 350 total. About half are approved, some based on the initial request and others following an appeals process.

The revised policy restricts K-8 transfers, with current transfers remaining until the next level — i.e., from elementary to middle school — at which point students return to their home schools.

Exceptions would be made under extreme circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

“Keeping families together is an important thing,” said Dean. “When we can, we like to do that.”



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Ford House education team revamps tours

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford House has offered tours to school children for years, attracting students from Grosse Pointe to Port Huron. This summer, members of the education team sought ideas from area teachers on how to align their programming with state standards and meet the needs, interests and learning styles of all students, while employing new teaching strategies to increase engagement.

On Aug. 5, education team members Sheila Ruen, director of education, Mary Fishwick, docent coordinator, Emily Weiss, environmental education coordinator, and John-Duane Kingsley, education programs coordinator, gathered in the Lake Room in the main house to brainstorm with third-grade teachers. Serving on the newly formed advisory board were Jane Ellis, Ferry Elementary School in the Grosse Pointe Public School System; Suzanne Tuttle, Chippewa Valley Schools in Clinton Township; Stacey Goldman, Detroit Public School Community District; and Lauren Plotzke, Branch Line, a charter school in Livonia. “We’ve evolved our school tour and ... we’ve gotten some great feedback that’s really going to help us go forward and do a better job of meeting their needs and standards,” said Ruen at the conclusion of the morning session.

A focus of third-grade social studies is the history of Michigan. Standards include identifying questions histori-



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

From left, members of the social studies advisory board Lauren Plotzke, Stacey Goldman, Suzanne Tuttle and Jane Ellis met with Edsel and Eleanor Ford House education team members John-Duane Kingsley, Sheila Ruen, Mary Fishwick and Emily Weiss.

ans ask, using primary sources and drawing upon informational text and visual data.

“We’re really working on balancing Michigan history content with the family history and cultural context,” Ruen said.

Kingsley, whose focus as education programs coordinator is on the humanities, said the tours have introduced flatscreen TV panels in the rooms to show photos of different ways the Ford family used each room, from debutante parties to birthday and holiday celebrations.

While the room itself is devoid of decoration, students are asked to compare what is missing in the room to what is in the photo.

“Their tours have evolved quite a bit over the years,” said Ellis, a 30-year teaching veteran. “I’ve been coming for some time now. Teaching has evolved; so have their

tours. ... It used to be go to the next room, talk, talk talk. ... (Now they are) getting the children to ask questions about the room. What do you think this room is used for? Getting them to think like a historian. ... Their whole approach is ... more hands-on and more engaging.”

Tours lend themselves to “higher-level thinking, open-ended questioning, questioning guided toward creativity and critical thinking and open-ended thinking — trying to make more connections by themselves without being told things,” said Goldman.

For example, among ideas that emerged from the brainstorming session was for the education team to draw from vocabulary words third-grade students learn in class and incorporate them into the tours.

“That’s how you connect learning,” Ruen said.

Part of the social studies standards applies to Michigan’s early history and how American Indians and settlers adapted to, used and modified their environment. Kingsley said use of primary sources that are “site-specific — images of the house, the family, the use of the grounds, images that capture early settlement of Native Americans — ... really helps to put students in the role of junior historians (in) understanding how the family used the site and different settlements used the site and how it changed over time.”

The team is exploring expanding their tours and

programs into other areas of the curriculum, such as English and science, Ruen said. Opportunities will be enhanced when the new visitor’s center, under construction, opens in 2020, offering classroom space and hands-on activities related to the tour.

“We want to bring more schools from more diverse communities,” said Ruen. “Schools need a rationale for why they’re bringing their students here that has to align with the curriculum standards. We’ve been focusing on social studies standards, but some of the things we’ve done well with schools that have been coming also apply to the English standards. We realized we can maybe diversify our tour offerings — have a Michigan tour and another tour that has more to do with the Ford family and history, architecture and design, but relates to the English standards. We were trying to figure out how to pack it all into one, but now (we are) figuring out how we can tease out these two strands and have robust tours in both of these areas.”

These educational opportunities also will be made accessible to more students through scholarships for Title I schools covering transportation and tour costs.

The opportunity to “learn from people who have been a part of Ford’s educational program-

ming for years” has been particularly beneficial to the newly configured team of educators, Kingsley said. All but 12-year veteran Fishwick joined the staff within the last year and a half.

The teachers agreed the time was beneficial to them as well.

“This was the first teacher meeting I looked forward to in 10 years,” said Tuttle.

Ellis said she appreciated being asked for her input.

“This is the only place I’ve been to that has invited me and gotten my teacher feedback for how can we better serve you,” she said. “... They are willing to listen and change things around. Calling us in on our summers and saying, what do you think? How can we improve? That’s just amazing. We’re thrilled with that.”

The teachers’ role in the process doesn’t end with the meeting, Ruen said.

“There’s a second part to this. We’ve invited them all to come back to bring their grade level for a tour and then there’ll be a survey after that. We’ll get feedback to see how well or poorly we did.”

“Their tours are always great,” said Tuttle. “I expect nothing else but fabulousness. I’ve been coming over 10 years I can safely say and I’ve told them it’s still my favorite trip.”

College health checklist

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Students headed to college for the first time have a checklist for what they need to bring for their dorm rooms. They have a checklist for what they need to do when they arrive.

They also need a checklist focused on wellness and academic success, according to Bernadette Melnyk Ph.D., chief wellness officer at The Ohio State University.

Top on the list is establishing healthy habits, Melnyk said.

“Just like they’re scheduling classes, they should schedule in physical activity, healthy eating and stress reduction,” she said.

This importance is heightened by the increase in mental health issues in this age group, she continued, including anxiety and depression.

“Students have got to come in with a wellness focus and taking good self-care. Because if they don’t take good self-care, they won’t be academically successful and that’s a hard thing for students to really process and act upon because they want to perform so well in school. They think just study, study, study — although there’s a group of party, party, party too — but they have to realize that building in these healthy lifestyle activities is going to help them be successful in their schedule.”

Beware your chair

This begins with scheduling time for physical activity. The first step is learning the location of the campus fitness center.

“It doesn’t always have to be in a fitness center,” Melnyk said. “It could be three 10-minute breaks a day when they get out and go for a brisk walk. So many students sit. ... And we know sitting is the next smoking. Sitting is killing us. I always tell our students, beware of your chair. Research shows that if we sit three hours a day, we increase our cardiac risk by 30 percent. And if we sit five hours a day, that’s comparable on our bodies to smoking one and a quarter packs of cigarettes a day.”

See COLLEGE, page 10A



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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Grosse Pointe Public School System received high rankings among public schools in the state, according to Niche. Both Mason Elementary School, left, a National Blue Ribbon School, and Brownell Middle School, right, placed third in their respective categories.

District ranks fourth

Grosse Pointe public schools fared well in the 2020 best school rankings released last week by Niche, with 10 of 14 K-12 schools ranked in the top 25 in the state. Grosse Pointe Public School System placed fourth among 556 school districts in the state, with Novi Community School District at the No. 1 spot followed by Troy School District at No. 2 and Bloomfield Hills Schools at No. 3. Among top high schools, Grosse Pointe South High School placed 10th and Grosse Pointe North High School placed 20th. GPPSS middle schools also received high rankings, with Brownell Middle School placing third, followed by Pierce

Middle School at No. 7 and Parcels Middle School at No. 13. Five Grosse Pointe public elementary schools appeared in the top 25: Mason Elementary School — No. 3; Ferry Elementary School — No. 8; Maire Elementary School — No. 17; Kerby Elementary School — No. 18; and Trombly Elementary School at 22. Once again, GPPSS earned the top spot with teachers named best in Michigan and No. 1 among best places to teach in the state. Rankings, according to Niche, are “based on rigorous analysis of academic and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with test scores, college data, and rated collected from millions of Niche users.” Factors considered are academics, teachers, culture and diversity, parent and study surveys, health and safety, resources and facilities, clubs and activities and sports. — Mary Anne Brush

COLLEGE:

Continued from page 9A

Now is the time to establish healthy habits before they develop a chronic disease, she said. “One out of two adults have a chronic condition, but 80 percent are preventable with healthy behaviors. We have to start with young people.” Strive for five Healthy eating begins with choices. “What I always tell students is strive for five fruits and vegetables a day,” Melnyk said. “... I also tell

students the 80/20 rule: 80 percent healthy foods; 20 percent ‘want’ foods. “If we take away everything that somebody enjoys and wants, they’re just going to crave it more,” she added. While college campuses, in general, offer healthier food choices, sometimes stress can lead to emotional eating. “What students don’t realize (is) if you emotionally eat or you eat a big high-carb meal, you’re crashing an hour and a half later and then you’re sitting for hours and your energy keeps going down. I always tell students: you don’t need more time; you need more energy with the time that you have. And the way to get that is through physical activity, taking frequent recovery breaks throughout your day to get the physical activity in, and to eat healthier. And you’re going to be amazed at how much energy and alertness you have.” Just breathe As the first official university official in the United States with the title of chief wellness officer, Melnyk’s work spans evidence-based practice, intervention research, child and adolescent mental health

and health and wellness. “Students have to make their mental health a priority, she said. One way to reduce stress is by practicing daily coping strategies, whether it’s mindfulness or deep breathing. At Ohio State, she instituted a program called Mind Strong that teaches students cognitive behavior coping skills to help them deal with stress and anxiety. Social connections also are important to a student’s overall well-being. “Get involved with an organization really early on in college life,” Melnyk said. “Because the organi-

zations create a venue for you to make friends. And we know how important social support is. ... Don’t wait until a crisis to get help. If (students) find themselves so stressed that it begins to interfere with their performance, they’ve got to get help immediately before their grades start to drop and they get too far behind.” Get connected “I always tell everybody, know your resources,” Melnyk said. “Find local health care.” Many students arrive already with a physical health diagnosis, such as

asthma or allergies, or a mental health diagnosis, such as anxiety or depression. “It’s important they get connected to a primary care provider and a pharmacy right off when they get to school so they’re not waiting till the last day when their medication is getting ready to expire and then they’re trying to find a provider,” Melnyk said. With suicide the second leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 34, Melnyk stressed it’s particularly important not to wait for a crisis when it comes to a student’s mental health.



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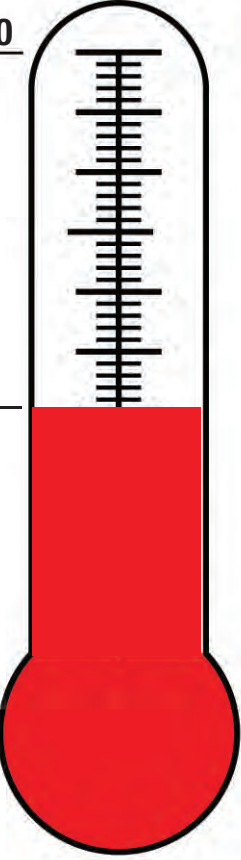
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The silent treatment
Free ‘silent disco yoga’ event benefits charity

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It didn’t take long for City Glow Yoga to catch on in Detroit and now, the free silent disco yoga event is finding popularity in Grosse Pointe as well.

It returns for a second time to University Liggett School at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, courtesy of Living Waters Yoga and CTYHOP Social.

“It’s so fun,” said Living Waters Yoga Detroit owner Lindsay Holder. “I love the fact it brings the community together.”

While it’s doing well now, Holder was skeptical when first approached with the idea of creating a yoga event in the city after opening her downtown studio. The suggestion was brought to her by a friend who owns CTYHOP, a Detroit-based headphone company. The concept involves participants wearing headphones and listen-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDSAY HOLDER

From left, Living Waters Yoga manager Pamela Burke, owner Lindsay Holder and Michelle Hicks, University Liggett School athletic operations director.

ing to music curated by organizers while forming yoga stretches, postures and poses that increase flexibility and release tension in the body.

“My first thought was that not everybody likes yoga and the headphones

thing is just weird,” Holder said. But because the silent disco party trend has taken off, she agreed to try it.

The first event, which took place in Detroit’s Beacon Park in April, “was 45 degrees and

raining — and we still had people,” she said. Since then she’s seen monthly attendance increase from 80 to more than 300. She’s hoping for 400 at the Aug. 15 event.

Since gaining momentum, City Glow Yoga has attracted the attention of Under Armour, who donated 400 yoga mats to the sessions. With CTYHOP donating headphones, the partnership has been a blessing, Holder said.

“I’ve been an athlete my whole life,” said Holder, who grew up in Grosse Pointe. “In the fitness world, you have to get people excited to work out. ... We had to



figure out a way to get people excited, bring the community together and benefit the studio.”

City Glow Yoga does all those things, she said. And she’s gotten support from community businesses who’ve donated food and beverages for the sessions. Holder credits her “great team” for their hard work in helping pull it all together.

Part of that team includes her mother, Grosse Pointe Park resident Sarah Holder, who runs Living Waters Yoga Grosse Pointe.

City Glow Yoga is free to participants, because, as Holder explained, “Yoga should be for everybody whatever their financial situation, their body situation, age-wise, ability-wise. It’s important to show people that yoga is for everyone.”

However, donations will be collected at the event. All proceeds benefit the Mercy Education Project, a nonprofit that helps empower low-income women and girls through education.

“It benefits women looking to get GEDs,” Holder said. “They came last month and we raised around \$500. We wanted to empower someone who’s under the radar, the underdog.”

When guests arrive to City Glow Yoga, they’ll receive a raffle ticket to win a prize from event sponsors, which include Under Armour, Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, University Liggett School and Living Waters Yoga. They’ll also get an Under Armour yoga mat and set of headphones courtesy of CTYHOP.

The event begins with registration and a meet and greet, where participants can mingle with other like-minded yogis, explore various vendors, take photos with hashtag props and enjoy free samples from JHouse Juice Bar. At 8 p.m., Holder leads participants in an hour-long yoga session in the John and Marlene Boll Campus Center, where she promised it will be dark to show off the glow from the headphones.

“Michelle Hicks, the athletic director, has been so willing to help,” Holder said.

To attend the free event, participants should reserve a spot by visiting bit.ly/2MPOabF. Space is limited. Guests are invited to bring their own mats, as well as a towel and water bottle.

See YOGA, page 6B

Grosse Pointe
Historical
Society hosts
history pop-up

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is hosting a pop-up tour of a vintage mid-century modern home on Lakeshore from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24.

The society invites guests to leave the 21st century behind and imagine themselves as the master or mistress of a mid-century masterpiece with a sweeping view of Lake St. Clair.

From the sinuous suspended staircase to the timeless turquoise kitchen, the house offers

all the hallmarks of mid-century modern style — clean lines, organic curves, varied materials and iconic colors.

Built in 1953 for the family of auto dealer Stark Hickey, 115 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, is a significant marker in Grosse Pointe history. It stands on property subdivided from “Drybrook,” the Truman Newberry Estate. That home, listed as one of the “Twelve Best Country Houses in America,” was built for the ages — and lasted barely 40 years. The Stark Hickey home



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BARNEY NOWICKI

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is hosting a pop-up tour of 115 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The mid-century modern house has many vintage touches.



Turquoise cabinets line the kitchen.

has stood more than 60 years and the style and design are still perfect for lake living.

Tours of 115 Lakeshore

will be guided by historical society docents and feature insights into mid-century modern architecture and garden



The entryway at 115 Lakeshore.



The bathroom was designed with a vintage touch.

restoration, as well as some 1950s-style touches.

Tickets are limited. Cost is \$15 for historical

society members; \$20 for non-members.

Tickets may be purchased online at bit.ly/2TebRM1.

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Gala committee member Stuart Grigg and chairwoman Mary Shafer, center, present a check for \$200,000 to Grosse Pointe Historical Society President Patricia O'Brien.

Check presented

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society's June 13 gala, "Music of the Night," drew a record number of people to the home of Jim and Patricia Anderson, aka Anderson Villa at 950 Lakeshore.

With attendance topping more than 500, the gala drew in a record amount of funds as well.

On Tuesday, July 30, gala chairwoman Mary Shafer and gala committee member Stuart Grigg presented a check for \$200,000 to society president Patricia O'Brien in front of the historic Provencal-Weir House on Kercheval.

"We had a great committee, a great house ... and the weather didn't put people off too much either," Grigg said of the event, which took place on a rainy summer evening.

Added O'Brien, "The food was excellent, too, and the host family was laid back and wonderful. That makes such a difference."

O'Brien also credited Shafer for her hard work getting the event organized. "She is awesome," O'Brien said.

Shafer, recently named the society's vice president of administration, said she's proud of the efforts of the committee.

"I'm very happy, because the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is close to my heart," Shafer said. "It offers our community so many resources. I'm excited to see it grow larger with a new building and exciting opportunities that are going to be available to the community."

Grigg said the hunt is on for a host house for next summer's gala, which serves as the society's biggest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds go toward general operating expenses to keep the society in business for the year.

— Jody McVeigh

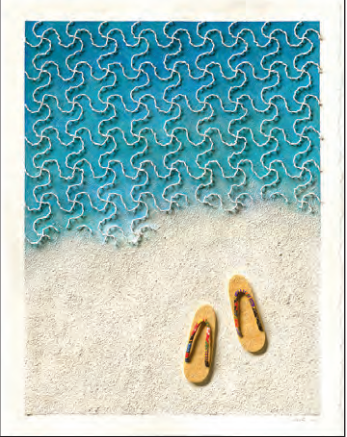
'Summertime Pleasures' opens with Aug. 15 lecture

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association is celebrating its new exhibition, "Summertime Pleasures," with a gallery lecture and awards presentation, featuring juror Ani Garabedian, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, in the Terrace Room at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

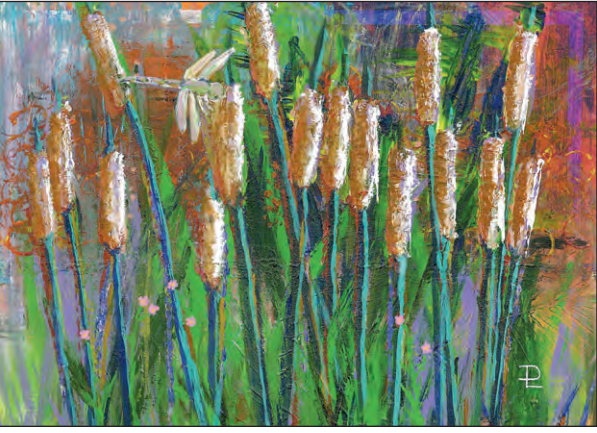
In the spirit of the theme, the association invites guests to roast marshmallows and make s'mores before the program.

The show features 43 works by 33 artists and captures the joys of summer. Most artists focus on the opportunity to contemplate nature's wonders when warmed by the summer sun.

The show is open daily 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Sunday, Sept. 8, in the Presidents' Room at The War Memorial.



Left, "Paper Sashiko #13: Beach" by Hiroko Lancour. Below, "Cattails" by Debbie Lotito.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

Detroit Concert Choir welcomes new artistic director

Auditions open for new singers

Entering its 33rd season, the Detroit Concert Choir welcomes Michael A. Mitchell as its new artistic director and conductor. Mitchell is the director of choral activities at Oakland University in Rochester, where he directs the university's three chorale ensembles and supervises the graduate-level choral conducting program.

The Detroit Concert Choir is holding auditions by appointment for the 2019-20 season Monday, Aug. 19, in Grosse Pointe Woods. The group seeks skilled singers who have the desire to be moved, inspired and challenged. Rehearsals are Monday evenings beginning Aug. 26, and alternate between Grosse Pointe North High School, Birmingham Groves High School and occasionally at churches in Royal Oak and Detroit. The choir presents six to eight concerts throughout metro Detroit each season.

To submit an audition



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael A. Mitchell is the new director of the Detroit Concert Choir.

registration form, visit detroitconcertchoir.org. For more information, call (313) 882-0118.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Camera Club

The Grosse Pointe Camera Club hosts a display of members' photography through Sunday, Aug. 25, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. The gallery is located in the lower level of the church. Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday or by appointment.

Libraries

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following programs at its branches:

Ewald — 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, (313) 821-8830

- ◆ Outdoor Fun at the Library, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15.
- ◆ Read, Rhyme & Play, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20.
- ◆ Seed Saving with Ben Cohen, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20.
- Woods — 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, (313) 343-2072**
- ◆ Drop-in Reader Dog, 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17.
- ◆ Playtime Pop-ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Aug. 22.

BNI

The Business Network International Pipeline Chapter meets at 7 a.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call Ryan Marier at (313) 638-7526.

The Business Network International East Side-Launchpad Chapter meets at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call Beth at (313) 690-5723.

NAMI

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Eastside meets at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, at Henry Ford Medical Center-Cottage, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Call Barb at (313) 886-8004.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers the following programs:

- ◆ Ask the Housing Specialist, 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20.
- ◆ Skin Cancer Screening Clinic, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28, with Nora Kachaturoff M.D.
- ◆ Body Alignment 101, 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays. Drop-ins are welcome.

Registration is required for all of these programs. Call (313) 882-9600.

Family Center

The Family Center presents "Youth Mental Health First Aid Training," from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, and Wednesday, Aug. 21, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The program is designed for adults who work with ages 12 to 18, but open to anyone. Advanced registration is required by calling (313) 447-1375 or emailing paige.domzalski@familycenterweb.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Gail Marlow with Motor City Mitten Mission speaks. Cost is \$10 and includes snacks; a cash bar is available. Visit grossepointerotary.org.

Blood drive

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack.
- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3, VFW 1146 Bruce Post, 28404 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4, Merrill Lynch, 17000 Kercheval, Ste. 220, above Trader Joe's, City of Grosse Pointe.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association hosts the following classes at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms:

- ◆ "Painterly White Line Printing with Nobuko Yamasaki," 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 16 to Oct. 7.
- ◆ "Composition for Painters with Vianna Szabo," 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19 and 20.
- ◆ "Encaustic Collage Workshop with Candace Law," 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26, at the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods. Call Wendy Bradley at (313) 884-1184 or Ron or Marcia Pikelek at (313) 884-4201.

Woods Community Center

The Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack Plaza, offers a trip to the Dow Gardens in Midland on Thursday, Sept. 5. Cost is \$40 for residents, \$45 for non-residents, and includes bus transportation, a tour of Whiting Forest, lunch at the Midland Center for the Arts and more. Reservations are required by Thursday, Aug. 29.

PFLAG

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. For information, email pflaggp@gmail.com.



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PASTOR’S CORNER

By the Rev. Jim Rizer

Don’t forget the heart

The tragic shootings in Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton have us reeling with sadness and have renewed a passion to stop these senseless acts of violence. While there is a tendency to identify one primary cause — gun availability, mental health, political rhetoric, etc. — and fix it, the problem is much more complex than that. All of these things play some contributing role and are worthy of addressing, but it is important we don’t forget to address the heart.

Jesus challenges us to not be content with merely legislating actions or patting ourselves on the back that our anger hasn’t spilled into murder.

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell” (Matthew 5: 21-22).

We are surprised to have murder equated with sustained anger or insults. Jesus wants us to understand that a heart of anger and hatred can lead to a variety of ways we can damage another, from assassinating character to maiming opportunities to actual physical violence. These acts are different in degrees, but all stem from the same heart.

It seems today that we aren’t very good at tending our hearts and are increasingly in a culture that accepts and even encourages fomenting anger.

The beauty of this teaching is that each of us can address this contributing factor now. What would it look like if we repented from getting comfortable with smoldering anger and recommit to tending our hearts so sustained anger finds no foothold? What would it look like if we graciously addressed the bitterness and anger in our community?

As we are saddened with these tragedies, let us not forget to address our hearts.

Rizer is the pastor of Living Hope Church. Visit livinghopeec.org.

St. Paul on the Lake welcomes new pastor

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Rev. Jim Bilot may be new to St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, but he’s not new to the area.

The new lead priest at the Grosse Pointe Farms church grew up down the street in St. Clair Shores. He and his siblings used to ride their bikes along Lakeshore or take family drives to Belle Isle.

“It’s nice being back on the east side,” Bilot said.

The fifth of six children, Bilot was a member of St. Germaine Catholic Church, where he was active throughout his high school and college years. He graduated from Lakeview Public Schools, then attended Macomb Community College and Wayne State University, graduating from the latter with a degree in business. He was called to Sacred Heart Seminary in 1986 and was ordained in 1992.

His first assignment was associate pastor of Church of the Divine Child in Dearborn. Since then, he’s served as associate pastor at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church in Bloomfield Hills, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Harper Woods and director of vocations for the Archdiocese.

In 2007, the Archbishop asked Bilot to return as pastor of Divine Child.

“I was surprised since

it is unusual for a priest to return to a previous assignment,” he said. “It is from Divine Child, after 12 years, that I now begin my assignment here at St. Paul.”

With a start date of July 1, Bilot has just more than six weeks under his cincture. He said he’s been warmly welcomed by the parish, but is still adjusting.

“I got caught in the people and their lives and the beauty of being in a parish ministry,” he said of Divine Child. “Each parish is unique as part of the body of Christ. Transition is about learning — learning the new names and faces, learning the staff and what their roles are. There’s a high learning curve as you get to know people. ... And it’s about them getting to know me. It’s a change for them. They loved Monsignor (Patrick Halfpenny). They miss him; they’re grieving him. I need to be attentive to the fact they need to adjust to the new guy. So it’s me getting to know them and them getting to know me; it takes time.”

Getting to know his parishioners, as well as members of the community, is among Bilot’s goals.

“St. Paul is part of not just Grosse Pointe Farms, but the whole of the Grosse Pointes and even Detroit,” he said. “It’s about serving the people



COURTESY PHOTO

The Rev. Jim Bilot is the new lead priest at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

in the parish and being part of the bigger community.”

Another of his goals is following the directive of the Archbishop’s pastoral letter, “Unleash the Gospel,” which asked all parishes to develop a missionary strategic plan.

“Unleash the Gospel is a vision for the Archdiocese,” Bilot said. “As a parish, we have to put together a strategic plan that follows the mission of that document, so I need to do a lot of listening and a lot of praying.”

“I believe the Holy Spirit will always be the guiding principal of the church,” he continued. “The Holy Spirit inspires

and guides. When I got the call to come here, I said yes, because it’s a call to obedience, not because I was forced. I trust the Holy Spirit is guiding us in this. ... My goal right now is to get to know the people, listen to the staff and put together the missionary strategic plan.”

Bilot, who also serves as adjunct spiritual director for seminarians at Sacred Heart, said he’s looking forward to serving the community and bringing the Lord into everyone’s lives.

“I feel blessed to be here and I look forward to getting to know people in the community and serve the best I can.”

Beaumont golf outing raises \$200,000-plus for cardiac care

The recent Grosse Pointe Classic at the Country Club of Detroit raised \$206,000 to benefit the renovation of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe. Landmark Healthcare Facilities and Flagstar Bank were among event sponsors.

More than 200 participants played golf, pickleball and Chicago-style bridge, followed by cocktails, a strolling dinner, gifts and prizes. A silent auction with 41 packages brought in

more than \$7,000.

The 2019 Grosse Pointe Classic committee included honorary co-chairs the Stevens family — Betty and G. John Stevens, Annie and Greg Stevens and Derek Stevens; golf co-chairs Powell Corbett and Julie Kaiser; bridge co-chairs Joannie Capuano and Nancy Donnelly; golf committee members Connie Ahee, David Cornillie, Karen Fox, Dainforth French, H. Richard Fruehauf, Beth

See GOLF, page 6B

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran rummage sale Sept. 6-7

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts the “East Side’s Largest Rummage Sale” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.

St. Paul’s annual rummage sale offers something for everyone — books, furniture, toys, holiday items, office supplies, household items, small appliances, sporting goods, baby items, electronics and more. Clothing is \$6 per bag and the boutique is filled with new, collectible and name-brand items at bargain prices. Come Friday for the best selection;



COURTESY PHOTO

Members Margie and Alan Huizinga sort and stage items for the rummage sale Sept. 6-7, at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.

return Saturday, when all items are half price.

Those with items to donate may drop them

off at St. Paul from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Monday, Sept. 2, or 7 to 9 p.m. Monday evenings through Aug. 26. Items must be clean, wearable and usable; hard goods must be unbroken and in good working order. The church is unable to accept Christmas trees, large pieces of exercise equipment, golf clubs, non-flatscreen TVs and personalized items. Boxed and bagged donations must be marked by category.

Funds raised are used to assist many organizations in need.

Visit stpaulgp.org or call (313) 881-6670 for information.

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OBITUARIES

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

Morrison Charles Marshall

Morrison Charles Marshall, 94, passed away Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019.

Born Sept. 1, 1924, in Detroit, to Duncan and Hilda (nee Klein) Marshall, Morrison attended Valparaiso University in Indiana, where he met Lois A. Reinking.

Morrison and Lois married May 17, 1947, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Fort Wayne, Ind. The couple lived in various cities, including Detroit, Grosse Pointe Woods and wintering in Clearwater, Fla., during their 72 years of marriage.

Morrison worked for the Atlas Dental Co., a family-owned dental laboratory business, which he ultimately owned, for 43 years. He was a certified dental technician. He was president of the Michigan Dental Laboratory Association in 1958 and the National Association of Dental Laboratories in 1969. He was a trustee for the National Board for Certification from 1970 to 1975. Morrison received numerous awards and tributes during his working career. He retired in 1985.

Morrison was Scottish dancing competitively at age 8, an accomplished pianist by his early teens and took flying lessons in high school. He earned a private pilot license and enjoyed taking family and friends for rides. He also was an ice boater, sailing his DN class boat on Anchor Bay and Cass Lake. He was a theater organ buff and took organ lessons after he retired. He enjoyed building radio-controlled airplanes and boats, sang with the Lake Shore Chorus Grosse Pointe chapter and the Good News Singers and was a 20-year member of the Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club and sang in the chorus.

His family was his number one priority. He was most proud to see his children graduate from college and happily married.

Morrison was the devoted and loving husband of Lois Marshall for 72 years; beloved father of Dale Marshall (Jennifer), Richard Marshall (Sally), Peggy McCutcheon (Rick) and Karen Dahn (Mark); cherished grandfather of Nathan Marshall (Anna), Heather Hanlon (David), Wendy Marshall, Kelly Marshall, Kristen Adams (Mike), Kyle McCutcheon (L o r n é), Kory McCutcheon, Steven Dahn (Jacklyn) and Sarah Dahn (fiancé Zach Noskey) and dear great-grandfather of Amelia and Declan Marshall and Braden, Hudson, Lincoln and Calvin Adams.

He was predeceased by his parents, Duncan and Hilda Marshall and sister and brother-in-law, Mary Lou McCoubrie (Jack).

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation begins at 10 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christ the King or Area 27 Special Olympics, Livingston County, 1420 Woodhurst Court, Howell, MI 48843.

William W. Killebrew

Grosse Pointe Woods resident William W. Killebrew, 95, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019.

Born Jan. 1, 1924, in Weakley County, Tenn., he moved with his parents to Detroit at age 2.

Bill attended Eastern High School graduating at age 16. After distinguished service in World War II in the European Theater as a member of the 283rd Engineer Combat Battalion, he graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Business and Juris Doctor degree in 1950.

Bill established a general law practice in 1950 in St. Clair Shores, from which he retired in 1988. Along with his practice, he served as corporation counsel for Grosse Pointe Shores, city attorney for St. Clair Shores and trustee and counsel for the Township of Grosse Pointe. Bill and his wife, Gerrie, enjoyed traveling worldwide and wintered in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Fla. He was an ardent golfer serving as president at St. Clair Country Club and on the board of directors at Lochmoor Club. Bill also was an avid poker player who up until the last year of his life, was driving himself to Motor City Casino in downtown Detroit to play Texas Hold'em.

Bill is survived by his wife, Gerrie; son, Kevin (Cathy); daughters, Cheryl Buhr (Jamie), Pamela Alessandro (the late John) and Kadra Peyser (Mark); stepchildren, Ken Woods, Cheryl Cusmano, Gretchen Miotto (John) and Heidi Korte (Bruce); grandchildren, William Buhr, Jamie Buhr (Abbie), Tommy Buhr (Emily), Dan Hoban (Annie), Kevin Hoban (Sari) and Hank Peyser (Jarvie); step-grandchildren, Jennifer, Kim and Nick Cusmano, Mark and Michelle Miotto, Meghan and Stephanie Korte, Kendall Woods, Vanessa Campbell (Nick), Chase Alessandro, Jason Dillaman (Natasha) and Erik Dillaman; great-grandchildren, Leo and Will Buhr, Faith and Lainey Hoban and Sadie Buhr; and step-great-grandchildren, Sage, Cara and Bree Dillaman.

Bill was predeceased by his former wife, Donna J.; son-in-law, John Alessandro and grandson, Matthew Peyser.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation begins at 10 a.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Bill to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org or at 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or the Jamie

Daniels Foundation in memory of Bill's grandson, Matthew Peyser, at jamiedanielsfoundation.org/donate or at 3011 West Grand Blvd., Suite 218, Detroit, MI 48202.

Caroline M. Kasuba

Caroline "Ky" Marie Kasuba passed away Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019, of congestive heart failure in Grosse Pointe Woods. She was 91.

Caroline was predeceased by her husband, Michael Francis Kasuba; brother, Albert and son-in-law, Fred Williams. She is survived by her daughters, Jayne (Fred Williams) of Grosse Pointe Park, Lynne (Charles Ferris) of Occidental, Calif., Karen of Davis, Calif., Tina of Newberg, Ore., Merri Kelley (Kevin) of San Diego and Tracy Zerr (Don) of Scappoose, Ore.; son, Michael J. Kasuba (Fionna) of Macomb; grandchildren, Samantha Van Dyke (Jace), Alexandra McClintock (Stephen), Rachel Kelley, Evan, Aaron and Kate Kasuba and great-grandson, Finnigan Van Dyke. She also is survived by her brother, John; sister, Kathryn Smith; cousin, Anne Kensek and many nieces and nephews.

Caroline was born March 9, 1928, in Twin Rocks, Pa., to John and Levon Stossel. She graduated from Blacklick Township High School in 1946. She married Michael F. Kasuba of Nanty Glo, Pa., Nov. 20, 1948, at St. Charles Church in Twin Rocks.

Caroline shared her love of life with those she encountered and always left an impression. She spent most of her adult life living in Michigan. She was a longtime Mount Clemens resident who was involved in the community for many years. She led an active social life surrounded by her large family and many friends. She had a lifelong love of learning and was an avid reader. Her other hobbies included history, politics, golfing, traveling and collecting antiques. Caroline spent her last years in Grosse Pointe Woods living at The Rivers independent living facility and made many new friends in her time there.

Her spirit will continue to be a part of her family's lives and memories.

A memorial visitation for Caroline will take place from 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 15, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods. Caroline requested no funeral services. There will be a private burial in Mount Clemens at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Caroline's memory may be made to The Helm, 158 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or at helmlife.org or Michigan Community VNA, 30800 Telegraph Road, Ste. 1728, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 or at vna.org.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.



Morrison C. Marshall



William W. Killebrew



Caroline M. Kasuba



Maria A. Cusumano

Maria Antonina Cusumano

Former Grosse Pointe Shores resident Maria Antonina Cusumano, 61, passed away Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, in Andover, Mass.

Born July 6, 1958, in Grosse Pointe, Maria earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Parsons School of Design. She continued her education in psychology through doctoral coursework at Antioch New England Graduate School. Forever a student of theology, she immersed herself not only in the Roman Catholicism of her birth, but also in Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism.

Professor Cusumano taught at Endicott College from 2001 through 2018 and held previous teaching appointments at St. Ambrose University and Saint Mary's College. Her areas of expertise included figure drawing, printmaking, Carl Jung and color theory. In addition to this experience, she held appointments at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Craft Museum, Davenport Museum of Art and the International Center of Photography. In her private practice, Maria's clients included the New York Public Library, The Jewish Museum and New Museum of Contemporary Art.

Maria pursued the practice of integrating philosophy, scholarship and photography into her daily life. Her poems and images have been included in a variety of publications including "Basic and Applied Social Psychology," "Emma Goldman Clinic Newsletter," "Psychological Perspectives," "Sage Woman Magazine" and "Iowa Woman Magazine." Maria's extensive floral gardens were another testament to her creative expression.

Maria is survived by her husband, Mark Towner; son, Marco Francis Cusumano-Towner; sisters, Flora, Frances and Theresa and brothers, Dominic, Vincent and Frank Jr.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, at The Church of St. Paul the Apostle, 405 W. 59th



Jean C. DeMeulemeester

Street, New York City. Donations may be made to the Maria Cusumano Scholarship Fund of the Essex County Community Foundation at eccf.org.

Jean Curtis DeMeulemeester

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Jean Curtis DeMeulemeester, 87, died Tuesday, July 23, 2019, at home after a brief battle with cancer.

She was born March 17, 1932, in Detroit, to Herbert and Pauline Glanert and was predeceased by her parents and son-in-law, Joseph Zahn.

Jean is survived by her husband, Raymond DeMeulemeester; children, Michael Curtis (Laurie), Patricia Curtis and Annette Ferriole (Steve); grandchildren, Sarah Zahn and Amy Zahn; stepchildren, Bruce DeMeulemeester (Sandy) and Susan Moore (Jeff); step-grandchildren, Zachary, David and Lisa (Matt) and step-greatgrandchild, Remi.

Jean married Daniel "Bud" Curtis July 1950. They raised three children, Michael, Patricia and Annette. The marriage ended in divorce.

She lived her last 17 years with husband Ray, whom she met while playing in the bell choir at First English Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Jean graduated June 1949 from Denby High School in Detroit and earned a Certificate of Achievement in piano pedagogy from Madonna University in Livonia in July 1993.

Jean's passion was music. As a pianist and teacher, she taught and performed in Wayne and Macomb counties.

Active in the music community, including membership in the Detroit Chapter of the National Guild of Piano Teachers, she helped organize recitals and accompanied students in solo and ensemble performances. She taught classes at The Helm in Grosse Pointe Farms and performed as part of her involvement in musical associations.

Jean was an avid dog lover and provided space in her home for an adopted dog.

A private service was held July 27 at A. H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Donations may be



Carolyn McCarren Ward

made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 296 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Carolyn McCarren Ward

Carolyn McCarren Ward, 87, passed away peacefully Wednesday, July 17, 2019, surrounded by family.

She was the beloved wife of Oliver G. Ward, who predeceased her; devoted mother of Michael, Elizabeth Berch (Adrian) and James (Rachelle) and loving grandmother of Oliver, Ian, Vincent, Isabella, David, Caroline, John, Audra, Margaret, Julia and Anthony. She also was predeceased by her brother, Robert.

Carolyn was a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe Park. She attended St. Clair of Montefalco grade school and graduated in 1950 from Sacred Heart Academy. She studied at Barat College of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, Ill., and then explored religious life for two years with the same order in Albany, N.Y. Returning to secular life, Carolyn dedicated the next 10 years to teaching grade school in St. Clair Shores at St. Lucy and Taylor Elementary and in Grosse Pointe Woods at Ferry Elementary. She also earned a master's degree in education at the University of Michigan.

After marrying Oliver, Carolyn devoted herself to her family and lived as a stay-at-home mom. She is fondly remembered for her wonderful home-cooked meals. She and her husband were active members of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Detroit Athletic Club and Lochmoor Club. After her children were grown, she went on to work many years at Oliver and his brother, John's, CPA firm, Ward and Ward. Carolyn also loved her Catholic faith and had a brief religion-based radio show and was known for her devotion.

Carolyn's funeral Mass was celebrated at Assumption Grotto Catholic Church, Detroit, where she was a parishioner 26 years. She was interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

OBITUARIES:
Continued from page 4B

Robert W. Helms

Robert W. Helms, 73, died suddenly Friday, July 26, 2019.

Mr. Helms attended Albion College for two years and earned a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. He earned an MBA from the University of Detroit.

Mr. Helms joined the U.S. Army Reserve shortly after college. He worked at Michigan National Bank and Harper Grace Hospital as a programmer. In later years, he worked in various areas of interest.

He was a handball enthusiast and enjoyed tennis and golf.

Mr. Helms is survived by his children, Catherine Dietiker (Daniel) and Kevin (Sara); grandchildren, Sydney and Nicholas; brother, Richard Helms and dear friend, Martha Louisell.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Dennis Neil Maxey

Dennis "Denny" Neil Maxey, 85, passed away Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.

He was the devoted husband to his beloved late wife of 55 years, Jacqueline; dear father of Deborah Ternes (John) and Diana Marstiller (Dave); proud and loving grandfather of Brooke, Derek, Brian, Kyle and Kirsten and great grandfather of Miles, Gabe, Violet and Brie. He also is survived by his brother, Phil Maxey (Heidi).

Denny enjoyed a long career as an owner and president of Q & Q Printing Co. in Detroit. He valued the many life-long friends he made growing up on the east side of Detroit, attending Hillsdale College and being a longtime member at Detroit Golf Club and at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. He also enjoyed boating and was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Dennis' welcoming heart and witty sense of humor endeared him to those he met. He was always ready to brighten someone's day, whether they were an old pal or a new friend. His giving spirit enriched the lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

The family will hold a private celebration of his life.

Donations may be made to Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Thomas Dzon

Thomas Dzon, 79, passed away Friday, Aug. 9, 2019.

He was the beloved husband of Nancy (Easterle); father of Mary Dzon and the late Bradley Dzon; dear brother of Barbara Sharkey, Martin Dzon (Karen) and the late Stanley and Jerome Dzon; loving stepfather of Kim Easterle Mattes and Jennifer Easterle and proud step-grandfather of Jimmy, Lauren, Abbey and Brynn. He also was the special uncle to Nancy (Sharkey) Gonzalez and Jack Sharkey and is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Thomas was a proud alumnus of the University of Michigan.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 12 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, St. Clair Shores.

Donations may be made to the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, 4646 John R St., Detroit, MI 48201.

Share a memory with at wujekcalcaterra.com.

Victor F. Ptasznik

Victor F. Ptasznik passed away Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was 73.

Vic was born Sept. 7, 1945, in Detroit, to Agnes and Victor E. Ptasznik. He grew up on the east side of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Park where he attended St. Ambrose Grade School and graduated from Austin Catholic High School in 1963. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Michigan in 1967 and a law degree from U of M in 1970.

Vic was a partner with Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer and Weiss specializing in banking and commercial finance. He retired in 2005 and pursued an active retirement with family and friends at the family cottage, travel with Peggy, his wife of 49 years, golf and building beautiful furniture his family will treasure always. He put his journalism degree to good use publishing several articles in finance journals and "Fine Woodworking" magazine.

Vic is survived by his wife, Peggy; sons, David (Casey) and John (Julie) and grandsons, Liam, Brendan and Michael, to whom he was proud Papa.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park. Visitation begins at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Inurnment at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit will take place at a later date.

Donations may be made in Vic's name to Adult Day Service at Older Persons' Commission, 650 Letica Dr., Rochester, MI 48307, where he enjoyed many activities with caring people as he lived through Alzheimer's.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Karen Sue Tobias

Karen Sue Tobias, loving wife and mother of four, passed away Tuesday, July 23, 2019, from Alzheimer's disease at age 78.

Karen earned a degree in special education from Michigan State University. She taught special education classes in the Lake Shore Public Schools. She dedicated her life in Grosse Pointe and Seven Lakes West, N.C. to special needs kids, teaching and volunteering for Special Olympics and prancing horses.

A longtime resident of Grosse Pointe, Karen was active volunteering in the community. She had a passion for tennis and golf — and was the only one in the family who could putt.

Karen is survived by her husband, Jim; children, Keith, Brian, Kim and Jay; sisters, Linda and Julie and five grandchildren.

A memorial celebrating Karen's life will be held at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe Farms at a future date.

Share a memory at bolesfuneralhome.com.

Linda Kay Johnston

Linda Kay Johnston, 81, a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods and then Clinton Township, died peacefully Tuesday, July 30, 2019.

Linda's life began uniquely: She was found in a box on a doorstep March 26, 1938, in Moline, Ill., and taken to Moline Public Hospital where she was given the name "Baby Roe." After several months and adoption inquiries, a judge awarded "Baby Roe" to Lydia and Murhl Hensel in Detroit, and issued a birth certificate of March 4, 1938. Linda's adoptive mother, Lydia, worked for the Sam family helping care for their children while they owned and operated the Fair Star Inn restaurant on the corner of Mack and Chalmers. Linda and the Sam children, Joann, Terry and Donnie, spent their childhood days together and became sisters and brothers to each other.

Linda married her teenage sweetheart, Donald Rufus Johnston, July 13, 1957. They met at Christ Methodist Church in Detroit where they both attended and enjoyed 56 blissful years of marriage, until Don's death.

Linda's love of the water and boating were combined with love of family through her cottage on Harsens Island and later Thornapple Lake in Charlotte. She was happiest with a full cottage of family spending the days swimming, eating, roasting s'mores and enjoying many competitive games of Uno and Spoons in the evenings. The ritual pontoon boat ride around



Robert W. Helms



Dennis Neil Maxey



Thomas Dzon



Victor F. Ptasznik



Linda Kay Johnston



Rosemary Sullivan

Thornapple Lake was a must and provided by her "captain in life," Don. She reveled in the traditional family announcements of engagements and pregnancies around the bon fire in the evenings. It was cause to bring out the Scottish Lochan Ora liqueur for a family toast, another family tradition. She frequently entertained friends and extended family at both cottages, where reminiscing over meals and pontoon rides provided a lifetime of laughs and happiness.

Linda was a member and avid dancer in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. She attended workshops in Canada, practiced weekly with the group and frequently performed with the demo team at Scottish Highland events. She and Don fondly enjoyed the many afterglows with traditional Scottish dishes, tea and occasional Lochan Ora. RSCDS was another family to both Linda and Don.

Linda was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens. She was active in the knitting group and frequently helped with the Maurice salad lunches, making pasties and other church activities. Her faith was important to her. She had a few near-and-dear friends in her condo complex for whom she was grateful and appreciative of their loving friendship. Linda graduated from Southeastern High School, class of 1956, and stayed in touch with many classmates.

Linda is survived by her children, Deb Hamel (Ken), Jeff (Kathy), Greg (Andrea) and David (Amy); grandchildren, Michael, Brett, Griffin, Chelsea Uphaus (Tyler), Haley, Connor, Casey Frantz (Sarah), Kyle (Sara), Madison, Brandon, Alyssa and Jacob and great-grandchildren, Dilynn, Addie, Judith, Landon and Hunter. She also is survived by her brothers, Terry Sam (Carolyn) and Donnie Sam (Sue).

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her sister, Joanne Andreski (Leo).

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at the First United Methodist Church, 57 S. Gratiot Ave., Mount Clemens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Breast

Cancer Research Foundation at bcrf.org; United Methodist Committee on Relief at umcmission.org/umcor or to a charitable organization of choice in Linda's memory.

Rosemary Sullivan

Former Grosse Pointe Park resident Rosemary "Nancy" Sullivan, 97, passed away Monday, Aug. 5, 2019.

Born June 22, 1922, in Detroit to Henry and Diana Malone Powers, Nancy graduated from Annunciation High School in Detroit and attended Michigan State College. She worked at Jacobson's in The Village for many years in the 1970s and '80s.

Nancy never met a dance floor she didn't like. She and her husband, John, went dancin' regularly well into their late 80s. Nancy was an avid golfer, having taken it up later in life, and was a member of the St. Clair Golf Club. She volunteered at Beaumont Grosse Pointe's gift shop during the Bon Secours years and at ShorePointe Health and Rehab Center. She also was a Girl Scouts leader for girls in the St. Martin community on the eastside of Detroit and a Eucharistic minister for St. Lucy Catholic Church.

Nancy loved to entertain and had a raucous laugh. You knew she was in the room before you saw her. Many bridge and pinochle parties were held at their home on Chalmers and then Barrington. In later years, Friday night dinners with the gang were held at the Blue Pointe Restaurant.

Nancy is survived by her daughters, Susan Ellen Sullivan and Kathleen Ann Sullivan (Folkert Schmidt); son, John L. Sullivan (Aly Puig); grandchildren, Michael Sullivan, Maximilian Schmidt, Conor Schmidt and Benjamin Puig and sister, Maureen Powers Hoover. She was predeceased by her husband, John Raymond Sullivan and brothers, Gratton Powers, Emmett Powers and Kevin Powers.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 9 at St. Lucy Catholic Church, St. Clair Shores. Interment was at St. Paul Cemetery, Grosse Pointe Farms.



Mary Jane Drummy

Donations may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207 or at cskdetroit.org.

Mary Jane Drummy

Mary Jane Drummy, 93, passed away Tuesday, July 30, 2019, in Tucson, Ariz., where she wintered for many years. She was a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Mary Jane was predeceased by her husband of 20 years, John L. Drummy. She is survived by her children, Sharon Leonard (Barry) and Richard Forish (Charlotte); brothers, Gene and Michael; sister, Marlene; granddaughters, Erin Hauser (Thomas) and Kathryn Demchak (Michael) and great-grandchildren, Mary Jane and John Thomas.

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

Mary Jane included among her family John Drummy's children, the late Mary Ann Merikoski (Juha), the late John Jr., Thomas (Mary), the late Lawrence (Joan), Sarah Ann Verlinden (Michael), the late Mary Virginia Copley (Charles), Brian (Linda) and the late Gloria and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary Jane lived a full and active life. She participated in numerous activities, including skiing, tennis, badminton, golf, fishing, hiking, hunting, gardening, yoga and tai chi. Her greatest enjoyments were bridge and watercolor painting.

She was on the board of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and an active member of Alliance Française, and was fluent in French. Mary Jane was adventurous and brave in her life, appreciating the beauty of the world.

She loved and was loved.

Library, Rotary
collecting school supplies

The Grosse Pointe Public Library is partnering with the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club to collect school supplies for the upcoming school year.

Members of the community are asked to help by donating school supplies at any of the three Grosse Pointe library branches. All donations will be given to the Northeast Guidance Center for Detroit Public School children.

Donations will be accepted through Friday, Aug. 16.

A list of supplies is available at grossepointe.library.org, under the "Latest News" tab.

For more information, call (313) 343-2074.

Party in the garden

The Full Circle Foundation hosted its annual garden party July 17, at its Edible Garden in Detroit. A celebration of 10 years serving the community, the party included a live band, entertainment, a food truck and speakers.



Mary Jane Dawson checks out some of the produce ready to harvest from the Edible Garden.



Patty Divirgil is twirled by Ronald Alford during The Mayflies' performance.



The Mayflies performed during the Full Circle Foundation's annual garden party in July. Enjoying the show are Sara Savanov and Yarnell Waller.

Kevin Sperry enjoys a cool treat during the event.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FULL CIRCLE



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSAY HOLDER

Participants of a recent silent disco yoga event.

YOGA:

Continued from page 1B

Comfortable clothing is a must.

Beginners are encouraged and welcome, including children ages 10 and older with an adult chaperone.

"This is such a small community," Holder said. "That's what it's all about — getting people together and getting excited."

Since starting City Glow Yoga, Holder has seen increased interest in Living Waters Yoga Detroit and Grosse Pointe. Both studios are

expanding their programming next month to include chair yoga for older adults, special-needs yoga, Baby and Me yoga and kids yoga.

"Special-needs yoga is so needed," Holder said. "I don't think it's something anybody offers."

Can't make the Grosse Pointe session? City Glow Yoga is offered the third Monday of each month at Beacon Park in Detroit. Upcoming sessions include 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, and 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16. For more information or to register, visit cityglowdetroit.com.

GOLF:

Continued from page 3B

Jaskolski, Patty Marantette, Jackie

Moon, Mary Deborah Naz, Marilyn Schneider, Roberta Simone and Annie Stevens; and bridge committee members Adel Dissett,

Barbara Gehlert, Carol Gove, Rosemary Hastings, Nancy Hohlfeldt, Jean Hull, Jean Kennary, Arlene Lewis, Kathy Quilter,

Grace Rashid, Anne Roberts, Shelley Roberts, Christine Schafer, Sally Shelden, Claudia Snyder, Susan Starr and Lynn Wood.

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Football

Trio lead by determination

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Perkins anchors defense

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Many words describe Grosse Pointe North senior Jon Jon Welton Perkins — leader, role model, kind and humble. However, when you get the 17-year-old Norseman on the football field, opposing quarterbacks have to look out because Perkins turns into the Hulk. He is 6 feet, 2 inches, 215 pounds of strength which he unleashes on the opponent each and every week.

His football talents and tenacity on the gridiron have drawn the interest from a dozen colleges.

“I would love to play the game I love at the college level,” Perkins said. “I have worked hard, but now I have to work even harder to be a leader to my teammates as a senior and show the younger guys what it takes. I’m ready for that role.”

“He’s worked hard during the offseason to rebuild himself. He is lean muscle now and built more athletic. I joked with him about turning him into an offensive lineman at one point and he built himself into a linebacker/fullback body,” said Perkins’ high school football head coach at North, Joe Drouin. “He is very char-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TODD PERKINS
Grosse Pointe North senior Jon Jon Welton Perkins is ready for a stellar season on the gridiron.

ismatic and a natural leader. I’ve had him in class and other students gravitate towards him. He has that ‘it’ quality.

“He is going to be one of the few defensive returners. His leadership and attitude will help shape our defense. Dennis Pascoe reconfigured our defensive scheme over the offseason; Jon Jon played a major role in the planning. We looked at a

defense that would highlight his athletic ability and put him in places to make plays.

“Jon Jon is energy and charisma. If he has a good season we’ll have a good season.

We already have some DIII and small DII colleges expressing interest in him. He has a good pedigree, his father and uncle both played at high

See PERKINS, page 2C

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Shaheen ‘the’ field general

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Alex Shaheen patiently waited for this opportunity.

The 17-year-old senior is now the starting quarterback for the Grosse Pointe South varsity football team after backing up Ryan Downey a year ago.

“I have to win my teammates over,” Shaheen said. “I worked hard last year as the backup to Ryan, and now it’s up to me to be the leader and show everyone I was the right choice to be the starting quarterback.

“I put in a lot of time in the weight room and working out with a personal trainer (Barre’ Mackie) to be prepared for this opportunity. We have a great group, and I want to play the best I can.”

Shaheen is 5 foot, 10 inches, and 155 pounds. He has put on more muscle in the off-season. His arm strength is improved, as is his speed. He will be an offensive weapon for the Blue Devils under head coach Tim Brandon.

Shaheen ran the offense during the Blue Devils’ summer activities. He was effective, and the offense showed signs of explosiveness with big-play ability.

He is also a running



PHOTO COURTESY OF AL SHAHEEN

Alex Shaheen, right, will be counted on to lead quite an aerial attack.

quarterback, which gives the offense another look. He isn’t the big pocket-passer, but he has the quickness to break a long run.

“Alex is an outstanding play-maker who is able to see the entire field and take what the ‘D’ gives us,” Brandon said. “He is a talented player who can create on the fly and distribute the ball to all his weapons on the field. He truly is a point guard on the football field. With all the skilled players we will have on the field this year, Alex is the perfect QB to get them all touches and really spread the ball around.”

As Brandon said, Shaheen has play makers

to throw to. The Blue Devils’ wide-receiving corp is one of the best in the Macomb Area Conference. With the likes of Will Johnson, Owen Bollaert and A.J. Benson at receiver, Shaheen will get plenty of opportunities to hit his targets on a variety of plays.

His two biggest fans are his parents — father, Al, and mother, Patti. They don’t miss a game and support their son to the fullest.

Shaheen is also very tight with his teammates, most of whom he grew up with playing Red Barons football at the age

See SHAHEEN, page 2C

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Narva exudes confidence

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Ian Narva’s senior year is here, and he plans to make the most of it.

It kicks off with football. The 17-year-old is the starting quarterback for head coach Dan Cimini and the University Liggett School Knights.

It’s also his third year as the starter. His role is the leader. He embraces it. He thrives in it.

“I’m looking forward to this season,” Narva said. “We have some talented players, and my best friend (senior Drew Zelenak) and I can’t wait. We have guys who can make plays, and as the quarterback it helps me out a lot. I also get to run the ball in our offense, so what quarterback doesn’t want to run?”

Last season, Narva threw for 2,187 yards and 15 touchdowns, plus ran for 927 yards and

seven touchdowns. He racked up more than 3,000 yards from scrimmage and 22 touchdowns. On defense, he also had four interceptions.

“Ian has been an outstanding leader for our football team the past two seasons,” Cimini said. “He works extremely hard on and off the football field. I’m so excited to watch him run our offense this year. He is a special talent at QB.”

The Knights will use a spread formation on offense, utilizing the outstanding group of wide receivers Narva has to throw to.

Don’t be surprised to see this formation give Narva open lanes to run out of the pocket.

“Coach Cimini puts in some great plays on the offensive side of the ball,” Narva said. “He makes you work, but he puts you in position to succeed. I love playing for coach Cimini.”

Narva is 6 feet tall, and has bulked up to 185 pounds this offseason. He was 170 pounds a year ago.

“I put a lot of time in the weight room, and I



PHOTO BY PAUL KANIA

Senior Ian Narva, left, is set to start his third season as the starting quarterback for head coach Dan Cimini, right, and the University Liggett School Knights.

think the added muscle will help me this season,” he said.

He started at QB as a sophomore and strug-

gled early in the season. Cimini stuck with him and watched as Narva improved, as did the team.

The climb to the top continued last year, and Narva enters his senior season with several goals in mind, including making it to Ford Field.

“This might be my last year playing football, so I have to make the most of it,” he said. “I’m leaving it all on the field.”

Narva’s journey on the gridiron began at St. Joan of Arc playing in the fourth grade in the CYO.

He attended Hope College’s football camp this summer, and hopes he gets the opportunity to play at the next level.

“I would love to play college football,” Narva said. “I’m putting in a lot of time in the off-season to get bigger, faster and stronger, and improve my skills. I will see what happens, and I know I have the chance to make a lot happen on the field.”

He gets a ton of support from his parents, Tim and Donna. He also has a younger brother, Eddie, who is a middle school student at ULS. Narva’s support group extends to his coaches and friends.

They are all pulling for him to succeed.”

Practice began Monday, Aug. 12, and the Knights’ season opener is 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 30, at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes.

Narva is not playing a winter sport, giving his body time to rest for the baseball season in the spring.

The Knights made the Division 3 state championship game in June, but they lost to Homer.

“It was just Homer’s day,” Narva said. “We are going to have to good team in the spring, and we want to get back to the title game and finish it off. Enjoying success on the football and baseball field will be a great way to finish off my high school career.”

Narva gets the job done in the classroom, too. His other plans this fall are to take some college visits and see what happens when it comes to playing college football.

For now, he is working hard and preparing to face Waterford Lakes in the Knights’ season opener Aug. 30.

Cross country, track & field

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Lead the way

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

There are two sports programs that have been nurtured for years, and now are the fruit of all that is good at Grosse Pointe South — girls cross country and track and field.

These programs, under the tutelage of long-time head coach Steve Zaranek, have been one of the top performers in the Macomb Area Conference for decades.

The girls spend hours upon hours fine-tuning their skills with drills to help them achieve their goals. The number of competitors on Zaranek’s cross country and track and field teams usually runs past 100.

“I love these programs so much especially the way it has given an opportunity for so many girls to participate in a sport, on equal levels to all of their teammates, over so many years,” Zaranek said. “Those not able to make cuts on the



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ZARANEK

Head coach Steven Zaranek, far left, and his long-time assistant coaches are, second from left to right, Leo Lamberti, Mike Novak and Shawn McNamara.

other teams and so many just looking for a sport to be involved with have been able to thrive in this program. Combine that with my long-time coaches (always mixed with some young, up and coming coaches), we have a formula that just works.”

Zaranek has spent 40 years coaching at South.

He has an overall dual meet record of 412-41. The teams have won 110 invitationals, 28 league titles, 27 state regional crowns, 38 consecutive trips to the state finals, 16 top 10 finishes in the Division 1 finals, a 2011 Division 1 state champi-

onship in 2011, and he has coached 33 All-State runners.

On the track in the spring, his dual meet record is 281-33, with 50 invitational championships, 26 league titles, 21 state regional crowns and three Division 1 state championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013. His runners posted state-record times in the 800- and 1,600-meter runs, as well as the 3,200-meter relay, which is also a national high school record. During Zaranek’s tenure, 42 competitors have earned All-State.

Three of his long-time assistant coaches are

Leo Lamberti, 35 years; Shawn McNamara, 20 years; and Mike Novak, 25 years.

This group, with the help of several younger coaches through the years, has helped develop a team camaraderie that carries over into college and beyond. Dozens of his runners have gone on to compete at the collegiate level.

This year’s group of cross-country runners began practice Monday, Aug. 12, with the goal of competing for another league and regional title.

The Blue Devils’ season preview will be in the Aug. 29 edition.

PERKINS:

Continued from page 1C

levels.”

Perkins endured a tough 2018 football season due to illness and nagging injuries. He was never at 100 percent, but he rehabilitated in the offseason and is now healthy and itching to go on the field.

Official high school practice began Monday, Aug. 12.

This summer, Perkins has been in the North weight room lifting weights, sculpting his muscles and creating a little more speed and explosiveness he needs to play linebacker.

“I have one last ride in high school, and I plan to make the most of it,” Perkins said. “There is pressure on me, but I don’t feel it. We have to turn last year’s negativity into a positive culture, which we will.

“We have a full year under coach Drouin, and that makes a huge difference. We will be a better, more prepared football team this year.”

His father, Todd Perkins, tells his son three things, “With God all things are possible,

share love and respect with everyone and every living creature and never assume that loud is strong and quiet is weak.”

Todd is his biggest fan and supporter. They are a team. They have that tight father-son bond.

Some of the colleges interested in Perkins are Western Michigan, Albion, Siena Heights and Davenport. Perkins and his father will make several college visits early in the first half of the school year, and then he will make a decision with the help of his father and Drouin.

Perkins was on the varsity team as a freshman and started half-way through the season. He helped the Norsemen make the playoffs his freshman and sophomore seasons. The Norsemen took a step back last fall.

He is working hard in the classroom, getting his grades where they need to be entering the recruiting process.

Perkins is healthy and hungry, and his zest is at the pinnacle. That will help the Norsemen compete on the field each and every week, starting with a home tilt Thursday, Aug. 29, against Warren Michigan Collegiate.

SHAHEEN:

Continued from page 1C

of eight.

“I think Alex’s biggest asset is the work he is willing to put in outside of the team,” Patti said. “When he was with the Red Barons, he spent some time with Robbie Kish, who was South’s quarterback then, and the last couple of years, he has gone to QB camp with Bruce Morris.

“He does one-on-one strength training and conditioning a couple of times a week with Barre’ Mackie. He analyzes film of his games and who he is going to play against. He has played AAU basketball the last couple of years to work on his game during the off-season. As much as it feels like we are busy all the time, it is what he loves to do.”

“We are a tight-knit group,” Shaheen said. “We have been friends for a long time, so I think that is a big advantage for us on the field. I know I have to work through adversity. I have to stay calm at quarterback and lead us through whatever happens on the field, and I’m ready for that challenge.”

The biggest challenge for Shaheen is getting the Blue Devils not just into the state playoffs, but making a deep run to maybe a regional final or Final Four appearance.

“We have our yearly goals of beating (Grosse Pointe) North, winning a division title and making

the state playoffs. But we have to want more, and winning some playoff games I think is the ultimate goal.”

He needs to stay healthy since he follows the football season with basketball, his best sport. He is on the recruiting list of several colleges, including Kalamazoo and Hope.

South’s first-year head coach Stephen Benard watched Shaheen go through the rigors of the Blue Devils’ summer program. His court awareness is an asset and he will run the Blue Devils’ offense this winter.

“Alex had a great summer basketball season at South,” Benard said. “We played about 25 games in June and Alex was one of the top point guards out there. He has elevated his game by putting time in the gym working on his skill set. Alex also has the leadership qualities to lead the Blue Devils in the 2019-20 season.”

He will take his college visits in the fall. He will make a decision after the high school season is finished in March.

He has played AAU basketball for a few years, and has a chance to settle in as a starter on Benard’s team.

The high school basketball season begins Nov. 18, and the first game is around the week of Dec. 9.

“I think Alex is just focusing on doing his best this upcoming year in football and basketball and seeing what his options are after graduation,” Patti said. “Whether or not he plays sports at the next level or wants to focus strictly on academics, he will have great memories and will hopefully add some more this year.”

“I can’t believe I’m a senior in high school,” Shaheen said. “The time flies by. I’m looking forward to a great final year of high school in the classroom and in athletics.”

The Blue Devils’ football season begins Friday, Aug. 30, against Groves at Wayne State University.

Running

CONNECTICUT

DeVore runs past the competition

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 8, 2019

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kenneth A. Poynter at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present except Councilperson Vivian Sawicki.

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To excuse Councilperson Vivian Sawicki from tonight’s meeting because of a prior commitment.
- 2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held June 10, 2019, and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Library Board meeting held May 16, 2019, and the Planning Commission meetings held on February 27, 2019 and June 26, 2019.
- 3) To add to the agenda a draft resolution in opposition to the closing of Poupard school.
- 4) To submit the draft resolution in opposition of the closing of Poupard Elementary for revisions.
- 5) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

RESOLUTION PASSED

- 1) to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 116844 through 117032 in the amount of \$897,975.24 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to SafeBuilt, Inc. in the amount of \$32,988.00 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of May 2019. (3) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$19,605.45 for the HWPD LEIN Infrastructure update and first installment of the creation of our website. (4) approve payment to Honeywell International, Inc. in the amount of \$48,250.00 for the balance owed for energy upgrades and repairs to City facilities. (5) approve payment to Statewide Transport, Inc. in the amount of \$5,424.67 for prisoner lodging and maintenance for the month of May, 2019. (6) approve payment to Alter Collision in the amount of \$7,471.18 for the repair of one of our police interceptor vehicles. (7) approve payment to CTI LLC in the amount of \$12,000.00 for the renovations and repair work at 19668 Washtenaw as part of the CDBG rehab loan project. (8) approve payment to Oscar W. Larson Co. in the amount of \$11,100.00 for the urgent and necessary repairs to the underground fuel storage tank. (9) approve the quote prepared by Bell Equipment in the amount of \$6,086.78 for the necessary repairs to our street sweeper. (10) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$5,257.25 for the contractual assessing services performed during the month of July 2019. (11) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$25,865.06 for professional services during the month of May 2019 for the following projects: Stormwater Asset Management Plan, #180-202; 2018 Concrete Pavement Repair, #180-204; SRF Application, Sewer Rehab Project, #180-142; 2019 User Charge, #180-213 and the 2018 Gas Main Project, #180-198. (12) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$5,208.00 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks.
- 2) to approve the amended special land use application submitted by Anthony Barchanowicz, representing Taco Bell for the Drive-in Establishment at 20726 Harper Avenue, based on the criteria in zoning ordinance Sec. 10-770F and as recommended by the member of the Planning Commission.
- 3) approve payment to Doetsch Industrial Services, Inc. in the amount of \$68,086.80 for Progress Payment No. 3 on the 2018 SAW Grant - Storm Sewer CCTV Investigation Project, #180-202.
- 4) authorize those Councilmembers interested to attend the Michigan Municipal League’s Annual Convention September 25-27, 2019 with the City paying all necessary and related expenses.

Kenneth A. Poynter, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, August 15, 2019

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC LIBRARY
COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

NOTICE
Request for Proposals

Grosse Pointe Public Library will receive proposals from Design Professionals for architectural design and related services for the implementation of the capital improvement program.

The Request for Proposals and related documents can be found at www.grossepointelibrary.org Proposals are due September 6, 2019, at 2:00 PM.

Grosse Pointe Public Library reserves the right to reject any and / or all proposals, waive any informalities in the proposals received, and to accept any proposal which, in its opinion, may be for the best interest of Grosse Pointe Public Library.

GPN: 8/15/19

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406 ESTATE SALES

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Grosse Pointe News

406 ESTATE SALES

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This is a beautiful sale in the heart of the Farms! This 5,000 sq. ft. home features room after room of new furniture in perfect condition! We have a Chippendale style dining room set for 12 with inlaid china cabinet, pair matching Hickory Chair servers, beautiful inlaid bow front chest, Century round kitchen table with six chairs, four nice bar stools, pair matching Pottery Barn chairs and ottomans, Pottery Barn sectional, Sherrill sofas, multiple bedroom sets including king Restoration Hardware set, Ethan Allen sets, Mission style Restoration Hardware furniture, Sligh grandfather clock, Sohmer & Co. spinet piano, wool Pottery Barn carpets, Frederick Cooper lamps, large selection of Waterford, Minton "Marlborough" china, lots and lots of toys and games including Lego, Playmobil, Star Wars, Pokemon, Lionel, accordion, camping gear including North Face sleeping bags, Necky and Dagger two man kayaks, Trek bikes, one Schwinn bike, golf clubs, very large assortment of Baldwin brass hardware, Maytag refrigerator, Frontgate Christmas, lawnmower, Echo gas blower, outdoor furniture, lots and lots more!!
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4 family garage sale.
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