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Grosse Pointe News

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APRIL 2, 2020
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Brewery sanitizes sales to serve community

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Mark Rieth believes in using life’s lemons to make lemonade — at least, he supports the equivalent of recipes with an alcohol ingredient.

The Grosse Pointe Park resident and owner of Atwater Brewery in Detroit recently transformed the downtown-area bar and distillery into a hand sanitizer distribution hub. In light of the March statewide order closing dining rooms at restaurants, cafés and taverns, Rieth was preparing to cut staff and, like other business owners, brace himself for a loss of revenue. Instead, the development of Atwater Spirits Hand Sanitizer has led his company to both new business opportunities throughout the region and a valuable public ser-

vice in the local community.

“We’re a brewery, but we’re also a distillery, so we make spirits,” Rieth said.

Following a revision to FDA regulations on the manufacture of hand sanitizer, bars and alcohol producers throughout the country are permitted to distribute the product, which has largely disappeared from retail store shelves in recent weeks. Combining the same 80-percent ethyl alcohol used to make vodka with glycerol and hydrogen peroxide resulted in an initial 320 gallons, Rieth said.

“We started to dive into our supply,” he added.

With the announcement via social media of Atwater’s liquid, non-gel hand sanitizer came an immediate public response. Aside from

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ATWATER BREWERY

Atwater Brewery began making its own brand of hand sanitizer after the FDA relaxed requirements for distributing the product.

Public safety adapting to health threat

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — While most Pointe public safety departments are reporting no officers have tested positive for COVID-19, the Park currently has two officers in quarantine.

“One has been tested and has all the symptoms and is at home and the second officer was quarantined by the health department because he was in contact with someone that was positive in a training session and so he is at home currently,” said Stephen Poloni, director of public safety for the



Park and City.

Precautions and preparations for the outbreak have led to significant changes in the day-to-day lifestyle of Grosse Pointe public safety officers.

“It’s kind of shifting what our normal everyday problems (are), like parking and traffic and solicitors,” Woods Public Safety Director John

Kosanke said. “Now our priority has shifted to this invisible virus that we can’t even see.”

Situations that can be handled over the phone; Woods officers are directed to remain on residents’ porches unless it’s absolutely necessary to enter the home and when residents call for assistance, the dispatcher will ask

whether they have one of the three symptoms for COVID-19; and the Farms is cutting back on the amount of paperwork switching hands and personnel allowed into the dispatch area.

“Obviously, one of our main concerns is that we are able to maintain our staffing levels, which means that we are taking many precautions as to making sure our officers are not put in a position where they need to be quarantined or become ill,” Poloni explained. “We’ve changed our day-to-day operations on how we respond to runs

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North, South seniors reflect on uncertainties

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Charlie Ramsdell wishes he had known when he walked out of Grosse Pointe North High School at the end of the day Thursday, March 12, it might have been his last time as a student. Due to the statewide emergency closure prompted by the new coronavirus, schools across the district closed Friday, March 13, for staff to prepare for distance learning beginning Monday, March 16.

The senior, set to attend the University of Michigan in the fall, isn’t optimistic school will resume for the year. As of press time, the governor hadn’t formally announced a decision.

“I just read an article that (Gov.) Gretchen Whitmer said it’s very unlikely we’ll be going back to school,” Ramsdell said. “I don’t foresee us going back.”

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Grosse Pointe South High School senior Maura Shine said she, too, is “preparing for the worst.”

“Obviously I want to be back in school and I miss all my friends,” Shine said. “I miss my teachers because the last day I obviously didn’t expect that there’s a possibility we would never come back to school. I feel like everything’s so unfinished. I didn’t get to say goodbye to my teachers. ... I miss the people I would only see in school. ... I miss having a consistent routine every single day.”

While Whitmer has assured seniors they’ll receive credit for spring semester classes and be able to graduate, less certain is whether members of the Class of 2020 will have the opportunity to attend their senior prom or cross the stage to receive their high school diploma.

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Foundations keep eye toward 2020 plans

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS AND PARK — While government and businesses have dramatically slowed or temporarily discontinued operations, the local philanthropic community plans to maintain its pace.

Leaders of the Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Park foundations remain focused on target dates to complete 2020 initiatives, even with the uncertainty of limitations since the onset of a public health crisis.

One advantage to the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation is its most

significant current effort is strictly online, said Lisa Fuller, Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation president. The philanthropy’s first membership drive since forming 12 years ago invites supporters to boost the organization’s momentum without hav-

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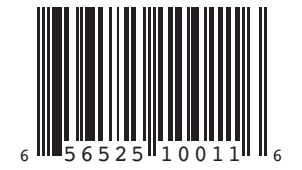
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GPBR analyzes trends in home sales

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

During comments at the close of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting March 9, Trustee Cindy Pangborn claimed the reconfiguration of the school system, in particular the closing of Trombly and Poupard elementary schools, was having a negative impact on home values in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods.

“Being ‘kind’ does not help the people at Trombly where their housing values have already dropped 12 percent and the Mason area has already dropped 9 (percent),” Pangborn said, responding to a comment from Trustee Joseph Herd urging adults to follow teachers’ example of teaching children to “be kind.”

When queried for a source for this informa-

| Closed Sales from 01-01 through 03-19 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | Woods/Park | | City / Shores / Farms | |
| | 97.0%-99.9% | 100% + | 97.0%-99.9% | 100% + |
| 2018 | 18.0% | 30.3% | 30.8% | 23.1% |
| 2019 | 29.3% | 30.5% | 27.5% | 17.6% |
| 2020 | 35.6% | 23.3% | 18.4% | 18.4% |

COURTESY OF GPBR

tion, Pangborn responded in a March 17 email that her comment was “based on previous documentation presented by a speaker at a board meeting several months ago. This information was never refuted in writing by any real estate agent nor the Grosse Pointe real estate board.”

She was unable to determine the date of the meeting or name of the speaker.

According to data compiled by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors, a trend in asking price

suggests the opposite of what Pangborn alleges, with homes in the Park and Woods selling closer to asking price than homes in the other Pointes.

Data from 2018, 2019 and 2020 for the same time periods indicates the number of homes selling for more than 97 percent of asking price in the Woods and Park was far lower in 2018 than in either 2019 or 2020, representing an increase of 21.9 percent from 2018 to 2020, GPBR CEO Bob Taylor wrote in an email.

In contrast, the number

of homes selling for more than 97 percent of asking price in the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores declined noticeably from 2018 to 2020, representing a decrease of 29.9 percent from 2018 to 2020.

“Because a sale price relative to an asking price is a function of agent/seller and buyer/seller negotiations, there are far too many variables involved to pin any change in market dynamics on a single issue,” Taylor noted.

“Additionally, to suggest

that something unique is occurring within one area would require one to look at a similar area to see if there is perhaps evidence that relative to the issue being evaluated there is a measurable difference. This is typically the best one can do in approximating the ‘scientific method’ which is the standard for evaluating data.”

Taylor added he would not derive from the data “that there is some unique factor in the Woods and the Park that is having a negative impact on what sellers are getting for their homes relative to what is taking place in 2018 vs. 2020, or that this area is being impacted by some issue that is absent in three other municipalities with almost identical social, economic or demographic characteristics.”

In contrast, Pangborn cited examples of one house in each city selling

under asking price to support her claim, “Houses are not selling at their asking price in Grosse Pointe Park or Grosse Pointe Woods like they used to.”

“In the last year, three houses have sold for less than the asking price because of what is going on with the schools,” she wrote. “A house on Lochmoor was listed at \$440,000 to \$450,000 with friends that I know and they sold for price reduction between \$35,000 to \$45,000!”

“The same is true of several houses in Grosse Pointe Park,” she continued. “For example, a home on Balfour listed at \$469,000 had an offer for \$450,000 and it fell through due to school closings. The home was assessed at \$460,000.”

Pangborn noted her email expressed “my research and opinions and (is) not representative of other board members.”

Deeplands project gets final plat approval

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — While the Shores became the last Pointe to close its city hall doors to the public Wednesday, March 18, it first held a 40-minute council meeting Tuesday, March 17, during which the 55 S. Deeplands development received its final plat ap-

proval.

“I felt pressure to cancel this meeting and it could have been done, but we had really two matters that needed to take place that had to be done in a council meeting and so I thank everyone for making it happen,” Mayor Ted Kedzierski said.

The development is set to hold 16 homes on eight acres and has been working toward final approval since 2018.

“From our perspective, all of the elements set forth in the city’s approval of the preliminary plat have been met and we’re ready to have the plat executed,” said

William Gilbride, attorney for Deepland Development Co., “and if the village agrees and it gets executed, the final steps will be to obtain the various other signatures of the various disciplines around the state and then have the plat recorded.”

Councilman Matthew

Seely made the motion to approve the final plat, which passed unanimously. Councilman Doug Kucyk was absent from the meeting.

“We’re long overdue,” said Richard Russell, DDC owner. “It’s been a long, tedious process and it was unnecessary, but it’s long overdue.”

The next steps are marketing, sales and construction, he added, and he hopes to begin construction as soon as possible.

Anyone interested in learning more about the development can visit deeplands.com.

— Laurel Kraus

SERVE:

Continued from page 1A

selling \$4 four-ounce bottles and \$25 gallon containers to the general public from 2 to 7 p.m., Rieth said the Detroit location has donated a “significant” amount of sanitizer to healthcare workers, including Beaumont Hospital in Grosse Pointe, and public

safety officers throughout the area.

“We had a stockpile, but we never thought we’d be in the predicament we’re in now,” said Sgt. Joseph Adams of the City of Grosse Pointe Department of Public Safety.

Some officers had begun devoting time to the hand sanitizer hunt while off-duty until Grosse Pointe Shores

Sgt. Tony Spina helped connect Adams with Rieth, Adams said. With a little coordination, Atwater soon supplied single bottles for public safety officers throughout the five Pointes.

“At no point did he ask for cash,” Adams said.

For officers called to residences and other locations in the community, Rieth’s gift was crucial, given the uncertainty of what safety crews might accidentally contact, he added.

“We’re going through this stuff like water because we don’t know what we’re touching,” Adams said. “You don’t know what the family touched. You don’t know who visited their home.”

Rieth said customers and companies that buy sanitizer, including some

large businesses with a local corporate presence, help offset Atwater’s donation expenses.

“All the people who are on the front lines and need it the most let us see there was an opportunity to help,” Rieth said.

Orders await fulfillment for months ahead and have been requested from as far away as Illinois. Atwater was more qualified for the shift from filling shot glasses to filling sanitizer bottles than many might imagine.

“Understand, because we’re a distillery, this is all microbiology,” Rieth said. “We’re not experts in making hand sanitizer, but it’s not a world that’s completely unfamiliar to us.”

Mike Walsh, Atwater’s general manager, was

preparing to be laid off from work when Rieth made the move to producing sanitizer. Now Walsh greets walk-in customers from behind the bar of Atwater’s tap room, serving them freshly branded plastic containers.

“Obviously our industry, every industry, is absolutely devastated right now,” Walsh said, “and for those of us who are able to continue working, whether it’s what we were doing before or something different, it’s a blessing.”

Walsh said he helps maintain social distancing guidelines as patrons enter and exit the building, but the process has been orderly.

Occasionally, he’s had to turn down offers from buyers who, like many

supermarket customers, are overly eager.

“People are hoard shopping and coming in: ‘I want 100,’” Walsh said. “We can’t sell you 100.”

But Atwater will continue selling hand sanitizer as a regular product after brewery and dine-in operations return to normal, Rieth said. Delivery and bulk orders can be requested by email at atwater@atwaterbeer.com. Atwater has Grosse Pointe Park and Grand Rapids locations, but only the Detroit brewery sells the new product.

The shift in Atwater’s primary product was unexpected, but gratifying, Rieth said.

“I don’t even know what to say. We’re a hand sanitizer company that serves beer,” he laughed.

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Marinas address lake level predictions

Closures a possibility

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Following last summer’s record-breaking Lake St. Clair water levels, the Pointes have been closely monitoring this season’s projections by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

When earlier projections this year saw the potential to surpass last season’s levels by so much as six to 12 inches, the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods sent letters to their marina regulars, citing a possibility of dock closures if levels were to meet the projections.

Current data is slightly more optimistic. July 2019 saw levels at more than 577.43 feet elevation, while projections by the Army Corps of Engineers as of Friday, March 13, showed July 2020 levels at just below the 577.43 feet elevation mark.

Find how each Pointe marina is preparing for potential lake levels this season below.

City

The City of Grosse Pointe recently notified its boaters of a Army Corps of Engineers briefing on lake levels set for Wednesday, March 18, so they could remain informed. As of press time, it was unclear if the meeting still would take place amid COVID-19 concerns.

“No one is closing in advance of knowing how high the water levels would be,” City Manager Pete Dame said via email. “It’s too early to know that, but we are closely monitoring it.”

Letters have been sent out to marina regulars informing them of the situation and the City is planning to begin sending weekly updates in April to the boaters.

“We would only close the marina if the water is approximately six inches higher than last year’s peak, where it would cover the electrical systems rendering it hazardous,” Dame said.

The City installed risers onto its docks in May and June 2019 for \$60,380.

“They were structurally built very sound to last us probably five-plus

years, if needed,” Director of Parks and Recreation Chris Hardenbrook said then. “Obviously the water is not going to go down within one year. ... We’ll probably need to use the risers for several years. So we did have the forethought of investing into structurally sound finger piers that will last us multiple years.”

Farms

An engineering study at the Grosse Pointe Farms marina through Hubble, Roth and Clark began approximately three weeks ago and the city is still waiting for the results.

“We are doing our due diligence to monitor the water,” Farms Parks and Recreation Director Chris Galatis said. “Obviously, at this point in time, we look at it on almost a weekly basis to see if it’s risen at all.”

It is unclear how high lake levels would have to rise for any of the Farms docks to close.

“Each dock kind of has its own height that it’s built at, so it would probably be premature to say a level or anything like that just because each dock we’re going to take at a case-by-case basis,” Galatis explained.

In May 2019, risers were built onto the docks for approximately \$38,000, which Galatis anticipates may happen again this season.

“Until we see where the water levels come at the beginning of the summer, it’s just so hard to say what we’re going to do,” Galatis said. “Our plan is to be open and our residents be able to access their boats and utilize them without any interruption, but if we have to make any closures or turn off any power or anything like that, it’ll be on a case-by-case, dock-by-dock basis based on where those water levels get to.”

To his knowledge, no docks in the Farms marina have closed in the past.

“Last year we didn’t have any of that closed or anything,” he said. “I don’t know previous years back when the water levels were at this point in ’86 when it was the same scenario, if there were any closures or not. But last year



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The City of Grosse Pointe Neff Park Marina is in the same boat as the other Pointe marinas, looking toward the possibility of rising lake levels for another season.

when we encountered it for the first time recently, we didn’t have any closures.”

Boat slips already have been rented out for the season.

“Our goal here in the Farms is to make sure that the residents can get full access to their boats,” Galatis said, “and we’re going to closely monitor it as the months get closer and monitor those water levels and do our best to prepare for a good boating season and we look forward to it, but at this point in time, we’re status quo and we’re looking at a good season coming up.”

Park

Similar to the City and Woods, Grosse Pointe Park sent out two letters to its marina regulars a few months back regarding the potential of higher water levels.

“They talked about what the predictions were and that if the water levels do in fact go up the 12 inches that they were predicting, that the marina would most likely not have power and there’s a chance that the risers would be underwater,” Marina Supervisor Chris Delmege explained. “In that case, if they absolutely needed power or absolutely needed water that now, obviously this was months ago, would be the time to try to find alternative storage or dockage.”

Predictions on lake levels have been more promising since then.

“As of right now, our marina is ‘business as usual,’” Delmege said via email. “We already put risers on last year in order to be better prepared for the higher water levels. However, we’re also looking into possibly raising them a little bit again just in case the water does go above last year. Late last year and earlier this year, predictions for water levels were much higher. However, we had a warmer winter and melt, which has helped water levels go down since those predictions. I don’t see the much higher water level predictions anymore as of right now.”

The marina might have to go to solar power for a couple weeks if water surpasses the electrical lines, according to Director of Recreation Chad Craig. If the water ends up higher than the risers, those docks could close temporarily, he added.

“If they were to go up more than last year a significant amount, then yes, what we most likely would have to do is close the pier and that would be on a pier-to-pier basis, because our piers are at different heights,” Delmege said. “We would have to be very careful for the customers and the people who own boats here to safely get

out to their boat because of the risers being under water.”

The marina also is considering sandbagging measures.

“We’ve already kind of looked into putting like berms up and such and we’re just kind of weed-ing out the details right now,” Delmege said. “We’ve been doing that for the last couple of months.”

To his knowledge, the docks have not had to close in the past.

“I know in ’86 when we had our record high before last year, I know that they built on risers just like we did last year as well and they sand-bagged the marina, but I believe the marina has never been closed or part of it’s been closed or anything like that as far as I know,” Delmege said.

Shores

Grosse Pointe Shores is in a unique position among the other Pointe marinas with floating docks that work on a pipe and sleeve system.

The floating docks were implemented in 2008 when the entire Shores marina was redone.

Because of this system, the city may fare better with rising lake levels.

“There’s always concern, because of utilities mainly,” Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk said, “electrical (and) plumbing issues that

might arise. As for the docks themselves, I think we’re OK.”

The only exceptions are the roughly 10 to 12 static docks found at the far east and far west ends of the marina.

“We had one of those that we had to close down last year because it was underwater, but other than that, everything else is still pretty high out of the water,” Krolczyk said.

Regarding the potential electrical issues, a review of the marina’s electrical system took place last week.

“We’re not overly concerned about it at this point, but we do have a company coming in to review our full electrical system to let us know where our danger level is in regards to the height of the water verses an electrical problem, because obviously we don’t want any of our residents and boaters being exposed to any kind of a danger,” Krolczyk said.

The Shores has rented out approximately 12 spots in its marina to other Grosse Pointe residents.

“There are a few more available spots left and obviously we would love to fill up our marina this summer,” Krolczyk said.

Woods

Grosse Pointe Woods

See MARINAS, page 4A

PLANS:

Continued from page 1A

ing to leave their homes.

“We’ve never done it,” Fuller said.

Following the completion of a miniature golf course at Lake Front Park last summer, the membership campaign was conceived to build resources for the foundation’s next initiatives. Still in its infancy, the drive presents a good opportunity for those who have the financial resources to help the organization plan events well beyond projected weeks of inactivity throughout the city and country, Fuller said.

“It’s part of our growth initiative to expand our ability and become more impactful,” she added.

By visiting gpwfoundation.org, potential supporters can join for an annually renewable membership of \$75 or gain additional membership benefits, such as free use of the mini golf course and other perks. Joining allows attendance of members-only events and participation in decisions about future foundation investments.

“It’s a means that we’re going to use to try and get more input from the community and those who have a vested interest,” Fuller said.

Other programs, including a formal dedication of the Kevin J. Zmyslowski III (Tripp) Memorial Course at Lake Front, scheduled for May, are tentative, Fuller said. Since the city owns the property where the golf course is located, it’s not known if the dedication

will be canceled, as other Woods-sponsored events through the remainder of 2020 have been, Fuller added. While the foundation collaborates with the city to benefit its residents, the organization operates as a separate nonprofit entity.

A June 26 fundraiser at a private Woods residence remains scheduled, Fuller said.

Similarly, two efforts to enhance the Tompkins Community Center at Windmill Pointe Park remain priorities of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation. A kitchen renovation and installment of a pergola to accent the center’s patio already were approved and will be discussed at the board’s May 4 meeting, board member Barb Detwiler said. Pending the availability of con-

tractors and agreement by her fellow members, Detwiler expects both initiatives to be unaffected by recent setbacks.

“That was all set to happen this summer,” Detwiler said.

“Fortunately, our foundation is very strong and very, very blessed with generous philanthropists and we will continue serving the Park and its residents,” she added.

Fuller said she hopes the Woods foundation’s online membership drive helps the Woods emerge with even greater resources than it might have generated before the community was impacted by recent events.

Added Fuller, “Our whole thing is that we do want to keep moving forward.”



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Paying forward the American Dream

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

James Anderson formed Urban Science in 1977, with \$1,000 and a whole lot of sweat equity. Today, the data analytics company brings in more than \$200 million a year, employs nearly 900 people and has 18 offices around the world, including six floors of the Renaissance Center.

The company was born while Anderson was working on the early-stage development of computer mapping as a Ph.D. student at Wayne State University. Another student went to work for a car company where she evaluated the location of dealerships to customers by placing dots on a map of the territory.

“She asked her boss, ‘Well, why aren’t you using a computer for this?’” Anderson explained. “And his response was, ‘We tried and we asked three different companies to look at that and they all said the same thing: It cannot be done.’ And so she said, ‘Well, I know someone who can.’”

“So at that point, my choice was either stay working in academia or move into the business world and the opportunity was too tempting to not take a chance,” he added. “I really didn’t have any money, but I



James Anderson spoke at the annual Detroit Homecoming conference.

knew how to do what needed to be done and so I figured I’d give it a try.”

While the company also measures the performance of networks of dealerships and explores ways to increase sales and profitability, it began with identifying geographic patterns of customer locations.

“We put a lot of dots on the map over the years and I can say, we have sold more dots than hamburger companies have sold hamburgers,” said Anderson, a resident of

Grosse Pointe Shores. “It took three weeks to make one of these maps by hand and we brought that time down to 16 hours the first time around. Today, with new technology and so on, it rapidly came down further to about three seconds. From three weeks to three seconds — that’s technology.”

Giving back to the community also is an important part of Anderson’s life. He and his wife, Patricia, recently gifted \$5 million to



COURTESY PHOTOS

Urban Science was the executive sponsor of Michigan State University’s 25th anniversary Design Day last spring, which shows off the senior projects from the engineering and computer science programs. The winning students from the computer science program are pictured with Anderson, right.

Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe for the creation of a hybrid surgical suite, as well as to maintain equipment and provide continuing medical education for employees.

“Being in the data analytics business, or the technology business, I’m always challenging organizations and individuals to do something innovative in technology and make the world a better place and while I’m not an inventor of surgical equipment, I appreciate very much having state-of-the-art solutions to health problems,” he said. “... This world, the technology world, both hardware and software is so rapidly changing. You

cannot afford to sit still and if you sit still, you will be obsolete in a short period of time and I don’t want to see that for this effort on healthcare. I want to see it state of the art and stay that way.”

Together with his wife, Anderson was integral in the creation and funding of an entrepreneurship program at the Wayne State University College of Engineering, where he received his degrees.

“I get up every morning thinking I’m one of the luckiest guys on earth and why? Well, because I was born in America,” Anderson explained. “Because only in America, in my experience, does anybody and

everybody get a shot at the gold ring and I got that shot because of my education and not because it was handed to me on a silver platter. I didn’t inherit anything and so I’m very passionate about identifying other potential entrepreneurs that are capable of working in this data analytics space, because it’s just exploding with all the technology that’s out there today.”

Anderson also has set up college funds for wounded soldiers and their families.

“If it wasn’t for America, I wouldn’t be here today talking, especially about this subject,” he said. “But if it wasn’t for the brave men and women of the U.S. military, we wouldn’t have America and so I see a direct connect between my ability to do what I’ve done in my life and the services performed by the brave men and women of the U.S. military. I don’t think we do enough to help the wounded. There’s so much more that could be done and I want to make sure I’m doing my part.”

Anderson has four children and 10 grandchildren and while he and Patricia are planning for retirement, it’s not going to happen just yet.

“I’m always looking for that next invention for the company,” he said.

MARINAS:

Continued from page 3A

commissioned an engineering survey on its Lake Front Park marina regarding the different water level elevations and how they may affect the marina, which was recently completed.

“If it goes six inches higher than it was last year, our docks will be underwater,” Director of Public Service Frank Schulte reported. “We’ll probably have to shut down the marina. We’ll have to barricade the boat ramp area and a portion of the seawall along the activities building to make sure that doesn’t get flooded.”

In 2018, the Woods

marina docks were raised because of elevated water levels and in 2019, risers were constructed which raised the docks an additional 11 inches.

“Our docks right now are raised to their maximum heights, so if the water comes up to this level, there’s really nothing we can do to keep the marina operating, but hopefully it won’t come to that,” Schulte said.

The letter to Woods boat owners was sent out Feb. 28, and detailed the Army Corps of Engineers predictions for Lake St. Clair, including that it will crest in June this year, which is a month earlier than in 2019.

“When I sent the letter out, the prediction was two to six inches higher

than last year’s record, so I know right now they lowered that prediction, but if we get a lot of rain, things can change very rapidly around here,” Schulte explained, “and not only that, if we get some east winds, that really elevates the water in our marina, too, so the wind will push all the lake water over up into the Milk River, which can raise the level of the water three to four inches.”

Sections of the Woods marina have closed in the past, including in 1973 and 2019.

For instance, there are two main elevations in the Woods marina, which grows deeper the closer it is to the lake, Schulte explained.

“In July (2019), the

water came over the seawall in that portion of the park, so we had to turn off the power to those particular boats,” he said. “That lasted for about four weeks approximately and once the water dropped, we could re-energize those power boxes, so everybody had power again.”

The power was shut off in July and turned back on in mid-August.

Originally, a discussion regarding possibilities for the Lake Front Park marina was set to take place at a committee of the whole meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23.

“It’s kind of like the coronavirus,” Schulte said of the marina situation. “We’re trying to do our best to anticipate the worst-case scenario and hopefully things won’t be as bad as everybody thinks.”

PEG agreement plans slowly moving forward

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Following the end of a 10-year PEG (public, education and government channels) agreement between The War Memorial and cable companies, a three-month extension was put in place Jan. 1, until March 1, to allow time for the Pointes to explore other entities that could restart the local programming.

“We’re working with the school district to see if an agreement can be reached for them to operate the shared government channel with community information on it and that’s just kind of pending, but The War

Memorial agreement has expired,” City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Pete Dame said, “but the Shores channel and the school channel, they were able to start transmitting directly from their facilities, so of the four channels that were going, there’s still two going and discussions about the shared government channel continue.”

The school district likely would combine the two remaining channels into one, he added.

Additionally, while all four channels were distributed through The War Memorial, the Shores has a separate agreement with the cable companies

See PEG, page 5A

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 2, 2020

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.

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held February 19, 2020.
- 2) To add to the agenda a resolution to reimburse Councilperson Kindle for travel expenses to attend the NLC Conference.
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:47 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 118789 through 118884 in the amount of \$1,102,514.09 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 Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$10,570.41 for professional services during the month of January 2020 for the following projects: Stormwater Asset Management Plan, #180-202; 2018 Concrete Pavement Repair, #180-204; 2020 Pavement Joint/Crack Sealing, #180-226; Housing Rehab Project, #180-178; and the Christian Financial Credit Union Parking Lot, #180-216. (3) approve payment to Badger Meter, Inc. in the amount of \$45,756.74 for the purchase of several new Orion automatic read water meters and tops. (4) approve payment in the amount of \$807,833.83 to Wayne County for the Milk River Drain principal and interest payments on the SRF Program. (5) to appoint Michael Cadotte as a full member to the Board of Review with a term ending January 2023 and Kevin Koresky as an alternate member with a term ending January 2023.2) to accept the lowest responsible bid submitted by Master Maintenance in the amount of \$23,064.00 for rehab work to be provided at 21101 Kenmore as part of the CDBG Rehabilitation Program.
- 2) accept the proposal dated February 18, 2020 submitted by Plante and Moran for auditing services in the amount of \$43,740 for the 2019 audit.
- 3) to reimburse Councilperson Kindle for her airfare to attend the NLC Conference.

Kenneth A. Poynter, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, April 2, 2020

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Shores to work on Channel 12 updates

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Since the Shores has maintained its Channel 12 since Grosse Pointe cable sold to Comcast 30 years ago, Councilwoman Danielle Gehlert is spearheading a communication effort to update the community news source.

The software, which was purchased from MYTV in Canada, offers slides formatted by Word or Publisher, but is capable of PowerPoint, as well.

“A lot of times some of the slides don’t fit completely,” Gehlert said. “It’s just rotating information and some of them are better than others, but there might be the last line or so that runs off the screen.”

She hopes to change the program itself, which would require city funds.

“I would love to do

that, but then we’d have to look into the cost for that,” she said.

Two years ago, the Shores had to switch to Windows 10, which is when it lost the ability to manage background music selection and Channel 12 transitioned to what Gehlert referred to as 1960s elevator music.

The music recently has been deleted and Gehlert, along with Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk, is working on a solution.

“The sound wasn’t very good and that has something to do with the software package that was updated that you either have their music or no music at all,” she explained. “Previously we could have played our own music, so let’s say we wanted to put some kind of Christmas carols, whether they were secular or religious, we could put that

in. We could put in something for the Fourth of July or Memorial Day. We can’t do that right now.”

Furthermore, Gehlert is looking to add information at least a month in advance and create less of a delay in changing slides.

“Especially today people lose their interest and go, ‘OK, what’s the next thing,’ or you’re waiting for that one slide you want five or six minutes down the road, so maybe more information, less of a delay,” she explained.

The councilwoman would like to see the changes completed by the end of summer.

“It would be nice to have that all for the end of summer, but again some things are a little bit (complicated) with COVID,” she said.

Additionally, Gehlert would like to have timely information communi-

cated through the community sign at the Osius Park entrance.

“For instance, the park is closing on the weekends ... so these kind of things,” she said. “Just to have these changes more frequently, but I don’t know if that particular format is large enough to handle multiple notifications and that was brand new, so I don’t think we’re going to invest in another one. But that would be nice, a communication for people just driving by.”

Gehlert is seeking help from community members on these efforts.

“What I’d like to do is I might be able to have a morning coffee — unfortunately it’d be on the days that I’m off — to get people to come up with some ideas,” she said.

She can be reached directly through her city email, which is found on the Grosse Pointe Shores government portal.

PEG:

Continued from page 4A

for its Channel 12.

“Prior to the end of (the agreement), the Shores and the school district were able to set up transmission capabilities directly from their facilities to the cable companies, so they didn’t need to go through The War Memorial,” Dame said, “so that was all done in preparation for the end of the agreement.”

With the PEG funds being collected from subscribers by the cable company under the franchise agreement, it has been up to each city to decide how to handle this interim period, Dame reported.

“In our case, we’ve told the cable companies to send the fees directly to the city instead of to The War Memorial as of the end of the agreement and we have to segregate them from all other funds, because those monies cannot be used for anything except for PEG,” he

said. “It’s not like windfall the cities can use for anything else, so we’re just reserving that in a separate account until if or when an agreement with the school district can be reached.”

The Park and Farms proceeded in the same manner, while the Woods told the cable companies not to collect the fee until if or when an agreement can be reached. With Channel 12 to consider, the Shores is unclear which direction it may go.

“What remains is the discussion among all the cities and the school district about who, if anyone, wants to participate in the shared channel and if an agreement can be reached with the schools on what the terms of that would be,” Dame explained, “so that’s all pending, but that was all pending before the flare up of the virus and so everyone’s got much more important things to do.”

There are no set dates for when discussions may continue.

SAFETY:

Continued from page 1A

(and) our general procedures even within our station as far as report writing and briefs, so it’s affected every part of our job.”

This includes decreased traffic stops and unnecessary arrests, which he said is consistent with all departments across the state.

“We wouldn’t make an arrest, for example, for a suspended driver’s license or for a traffic warrant out of Detroit,” Shores Public Safety Director John Schulte explained. “... We’re not making various arrests for very minor infractions. Now, we would still arrest for any felony or domestic violence where we truly have to make an arrest; we would affect those arrests. But once again,

we’re trying to limit contact with the public.”

Most of the departments have implemented screening procedures at the beginning and middle of each shift, which include taking the officers’ temperature with a temporal thermometer and going through a checklist of symptom questions.

Additionally, the Woods and Shores departments have closed to the public. A sign on the Woods department’s front door states the dispatch number to speak with an officer.

“That’s to cut down maybe somebody bringing the virus into the station and contaminating the station,” Kosanke said, “which, if they contaminated the station, it would have a devastating affect on my staff, because all the Grosse Pointes, we’re small departments, so if we

have the virus go through one of our departments, it wouldn’t go well.”

However, the departments are prepared for that worst-case scenario. A longstanding mutual-aid pact between the five Pointes and Harper Woods would allow the cities to call on each other for help filling out patrols or answering runs if many officers were to contract COVID-19.

“This is an evolving process that we check daily,” Farms Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen said. “... We are running right now on the current mutual-aid pact. It’s a great pact. This year we’ve used it several times for fires and a couple times for police and everything’s been great. Will we have to rely on it more? Probably. I’d like to say hopefully not, but probably. If this starts to decimate the

patrols of any of the mutual-aid cities, then obviously we’re going to step in and help.”

To varying degrees, all five departments have the necessary amounts of personal protection equipment such as N95 masks, gloves and disposable suits. Poloni noted a recent delivery from FEMA on masks, while Schulte mentioned equipment coming from Homeland Security.

“We’re OK for the moment, but we’re hoping the hospitals are soon provided with far better and far more equipment,” he said.

While the procedures and type of work has shifted for Pointe public safety, many departments actually have reported a decrease in workload. As of Thursday, March 26, the Woods was tracking approximately 150 calls less than it did the same

date last year.

“We’re not getting the traffic complaints,” Kosanke said. “We’re not getting the parking complaints. There’s still crime going on, but it’s at a very low occurrence.”

With no vehicles on the road, the night shift can feel like a ghost town, Poloni added.

The Shores and Park run their own medic services — the other three Pointes contract out to MedStar — and have noticed a decrease in ambulance runs, as well.

Schulte speculated this could be because of direction from healthcare workers to contact your doctor or a COVID-19 hotline if one suspects they’re symptomatic, rather than immediately calling emergency services or going to the hospital. It also could be attributed to a decrease

in accidents with far less vehicles on the road, he added.

Above all, the Pointe public safety directors are asking residents to comply with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s stay-at-home order, which healthcare workers say is the key to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

“Unfortunately, we can’t work remotely,” Jensen said. “Our citizens expect to see patrols. They’ve been very cooperative. In fact, my guys are reporting there’s a lot more people waving at us, smiling at us, thanking us as we’re stopped at traffic lights, etc., for our service, for being out there for them. We’ve got a great, educated community and it appears that the vast majority are following the governor’s request for staying at home.”

Grosse Pointe Park

Operating while intoxicated

A 63-year-old Grosse Pointe Park man was arrested after sideswiping a parked vehicle with his truck in the 1300 block of Berkshire and then jumping the curb around 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 24.

He was investigated and found to be intoxicated.

Easy getaway

A Ford Edge was driven away by an unknown suspect between 11 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, and 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 26.

The key fob to operate it was left inside the unlocked vehicle.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.

City of Grosse Pointe

Counterfeit cash

An unknown suspect in his mid-20s attempted to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill at a business on Mack Avenue at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, but took the bill back

PUBLIC SAFETY

when confronted and left before officers arrived.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

No new incident reports.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

No new incident reports.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information about crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Woods

No crimes to report.

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



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

OUR VIEW

Coronavirus hitting home

A perilous month lies ahead for everyone — here in the Pointes, across Michigan and throughout the nation. Wayne County has gone from zero pandemic problems in early March to being spotlighted on the national news, as Detroit in particular saw its case count and deaths soar. And the Pointes, nestled between Detroit and Lake St. Clair, surely are not immune even without seeing separate statistics for COVID-19 cases. As of this writing, that probably means at least four more weeks of suspended animation, based on a combination of state and national declarations.

- So what’s important during this sequester?
- ◆ Supporting each other: Students without classrooms, older residents who need help with groceries, everyone who’s going a little bonkers right now. Keep the lines of communication open. Commiserate. Brain storm.
 - ◆ Supporting local restaurant and store owners: Small businesses are hanging on by their fingernails with newly designed services such as curb-side delivery. Patronize them when you can; in some cases, you can also help them through by buying gift cards.
 - ◆ Supporting those in need: For Grosse Pointers with the means to give, many groups need extra help to get food to those who have been left flat by the abrupt end of their jobs. Having Detroit as a neighbor makes those needs particularly visible.
 - ◆ Supporting even the most severe efforts to curtail the spread of COVID-19: It’s crucial to keep the peak number of hospitalizations as low as possible here in Southeast Michigan; at this writing, hospitals are dangerously full. Don’t take chances on becoming the next link in the transmission chain.

The tiny bit of control each Grosse Pointer can exercise will make a difference, as it will throughout the region, the state and the nation. Take a deep breath when you need to, and stay the course.

OUR VIEW

Census calling

Have you responded to your census form? If you have, good work! If you haven’t, now’s the time. The formal census date was April 1, as in yesterday if you’re reading this on its publication date. You’ve officially lived long enough to count as an actual person in the United States for the next 10 years! First and foremost, that entitles you to representation in Congress — and if you don’t claim it, your share gets divvied up elsewhere. Measly as that share might seem, better to keep it here in southeast Michigan than letting it lapse, say to one of those thirsty states in the West. Get counted for the Great Lakes’ sake! Another reason to get counted: You’ll be saving some poor census field worker the trouble of tracking you down. If you don’t go online now or call the toll-free number on the mailing, you’ll eventually get a paper form in the mail. If you ignore that, a real live person will show up at your house. Do you want to play a role in having field workers for the census out and about in the time of contagion? In an ordinary census year, those workers face minimal — although never zero — risks; canvass-

See CENSUS, page 7A



Pure Grosse Pointe

I have always taught my kids that if you’re feeling down or overwhelmed doing something nice for others can help. Our current situation had me feeling down so I wanted to make others smile. My kids and I kept peeking out the window when I was done and noticed people taking pictures as they walked by or driving really slowly and smiling. It was such a great way to encourage others and give us something fun to do while also taking our minds off of our worries.

— DANIELLE EGLI
Grosse Pointe Woods

GUEST VIEW By Paul T. Giblin, Grosse Pointe

Promenade: A Modest Proposal for Our Times

On Sunday mornings, my wife and I walk from Cadieux Road along Jefferson Avenue and then Lakeshore Drive to Provencal Road returning by Kercheval Avenue part of the way and Grosse Pointe Boulevard the remaining distance.

Depending upon the weather, we greet along the way varying numbers of similarly inclined runners and walkers (some with dogs) and strollers and bikers. Last Sunday, owing to an unseasonable brief respite from winter and the need to get outside following a week of virus induced sheltering at home, we were joined on our weekly walk by a multitude of perambulators who were overflowing the sidewalks due to our numbers and the desire to maintain social distancing guidelines.

These numbers of walking fellow citizens combined with a dearth of cars on Lake Shore Drive and Grosse Pointe Boulevard caused us to spill out onto the streets creating a promenade that would rival the Avenue des Champs-Élysées on Easter morning; all our promenade lacked were parasols and perambulators.

The mood was cordial and affable. At a distance, greetings were shared and conversations were briefly overheard (mostly about the weather and the impending increased winds and dropping temperatures). It was really very pleasant.

And, I thought, how could this gathering be more the norm rather than the exception when Grosse Pointe goes back to the normalcy of not experiencing a pandemic?

There are a few downsides to walking along Lakeshore Drive. First, there is no pedestrian path on the lake side of Lakeshore and traversing across grass and slabs of tilting concrete is now exacerbated by yellow tape blocking access to our eroding shorelines. Second, following even moderate rain, Lakeshore’s sidewalks are blocked by broad and deep puddles necessitating walking across sodden grass or venturing out onto the street. Third, walkers are often confronted by those riding bikes

eschewing the road and its cars for the relative safety of the sidewalks.

I have a modest proposal to address these downsides and to promote our community’s social gathering now and in the future: reduce the number of lanes on Lakeshore from four to two from Fisher to the Milk River bridge from Saturday morning through Sunday evening. These lane closures could be accomplished by municipal workers dropping (and later retrieving) orange cones at the beginning and ends of this stretch of road and along the way as necessary for public safety.

The closed lanes would be available for both pedestrians and bikers perhaps with the bikers occupying the lane close to the water and the pedestrians the lane by the existing sidewalks or perhaps with both walkers and bikers sharing these lanes. This experiment could begin during our current shelter in place conditions to promote paradoxically both social distancing and community cohesion. It might continue when we return to normal social congress if its benefits outweigh its modest costs.

Perhaps, if this modest proposal is found to be successful, we may discover that the Grosse Pointes have less need for the four lane 35 mph roads that are Jefferson Avenue and Lakeshore Drive than we have for pedestrian walkways and biking paths separated from automobile traffic.

Beginning at Westchester and Jefferson and stretching to the Milk River bridge, could we consider Jefferson and Lakeshore becoming two-lane roads with a dedicated middle turn lane. Along Jefferson, in place of the unused portion of the current outside lanes (we would reduce the current four lanes to three lanes), a barrier would be constructed for bike paths on both sides of Jefferson Avenue; along Lakeshore Drive, where we already have a median constituting a third lane that could be nuanced to provide adequate holding space for cars turning inland, the two closed lanes adjacent to Lake St. Clair could become both biking lanes and pedestrian paths.

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.

Equal Pay Day

To the Editor:
Just in time for Equal Pay Day (March 31), the Women’s Institute for

Policy Research launched an Equal Pay Campaign to highlight the impact of wage inequality among working women, their fami-

lies and their communities.

The current coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the fragility of our healthcare system and the vulnerability of lower wage workers, many of whom are women.

“When there is disparity in the earnings and wages of women compared to men, women are more economically vulnerable and insecure in times such as these,” said C. Nicole Mason, PhD, president and CEO of IWPR. “It’s less money in their pockets to provide for their fam-

ilies, buy basic necessities, and get through an economic or financial emergency.”

Despite the increase of women in the work force, wage inequality still persists even in the areas that are dominated by women. There is disparity of wages across all professions and occupations.

Equal Pay Day indicates how long women have to work to in order to earn what a man, doing the same job, earned the previous year.

MARIE DELUCA
AAUW Grosse Pointe

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

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I SAY By Mary Anne Brush

Random reflections on a global pandemic



A decade from now, experts will look back at this time of the new coronavirus and trace societal, economic and political changes to the 2020 global pandemic.

When the crisis is over and we resume some semblance of our normal lives — whatever that looks like — we'll likely reflect on events in the context of pre-COVID-19 and post-COVID-19.

It's difficult at present, caught in the eye of the

storm, to predict what lies ahead. How will social mores change? Will we ever shake hands again?

What new innovations will result when a generation of students who survived this crisis — and were taught to be problem solvers — joins the workforce?

Will more or fewer people be drawn into the medical field, perceived now as higher risk after doctors and nurses put their lives on the line to fight against this invisible enemy?

For now, in only week two of the governor's "stay home, stay safe" order, I have little to add other than a few random musings, in no particular order.

People now know how

to spell "unprecedented" and will no longer confuse "uncharted waters" with "unchartered waters."

The word "zoom" has taken on a new meaning.

Our dog may shed a few pounds with more frequent and longer walks. As for the rest of us? That remains to be seen.

If this forced seclusion doesn't inspire me to clean out that closet beneath the stairs or reorganize the basement, nothing short of a court order will.

I miss seeing my friends, but group video chats — aka virtual cocktail hours — at least provide a reason for me to brush my hair and put on makeup.

This is a great time for

people who suffer from FOMO (fear of missing out).

With no sports on TV to watch, my son and his friends have created their own live entertainment with NBA 2K20 on Xbox. I only hear my son's side of the chatter as they remain connected for hours.

One time, drawn into the game as a spectator, I criticized one of his teammates for a bad pass. "We've got to step it up, boys," my son said through his remote headset. "My mom's chirping us over here."

Establishing some sense of routine is important, but it's also important to mix things up, otherwise one day blends into the next.

One morning I couldn't

remember if I had made my bed or my husband had. Upon closer inspection, I realized he had and I re-fluffed the pillows.

I'm grateful I don't have school-age children at home anymore whose education I'm suddenly responsible for managing.

I'm sad I don't have school-age children at home anymore whose education I'm suddenly responsible for managing. What a rare bonding opportunity that would have been.

Memories that pop up on Facebook — a family vacation, a graduation, a holiday celebration — take on new poignancy, reminding me of a more innocent time when the notion of a global pan-

demic was the stuff of sci-fi movies.

One thing I took for granted? Planning ahead for things I took for granted.

I have a new appreciation for my mother's stories about growing up during World War II, when food was rationed and everyone did their part for the war effort, from growing victory gardens to buying war bonds and working in the factories. She also talked about hot summers when she and her friends couldn't swim in the pool for fear of contracting polio.

Once upon a time, such things were beyond my comprehension. Suffice it to say, I now understand them only too well.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1945

75 years ago this week

MANY POINTERS RECLASSIFIED 1-A: More than one hundred young men between the ages of 26 and 30 in Grosse Pointe were transferred to 1-A classifications this week, according to Wilson M. Mills, chairman of Board 57. The reclassification is typical of what is now taking place throughout the entire nation. When the shift has been made, 85 percent of all men in the country in this age group will find themselves subject to immediate call into combat service.

MAD CITIZENS ATTEND OPEN MEETING: There was no question about what was uppermost in the minds of the 250 irate citizens who stormed the Village Council meeting Tuesday night. They were out, brush hook and snickersnee, to kill off the proposal to Charles W. Babcock to erect a group of duplex houses on a plot he has acquired at Moross and Mack. The

Farms owners were violently opposed to the idea and made it known in no uncertain way to the Board of Trustees.

Obituaries: Pfc. Ferris Hodges "Bud" Fitch

1970

50 years ago this week

BIG BALLOT FOR WOODS VOTERS: The city of Grosse Pointe Woods voters will have a large field of candidates from which to select on Monday, when they go to the polls to elect three councilmen, a judge and a mayor. Ten candidates are vying for the three council seats. Two persons are running for the judgeship and Kenneth L. McLeod, incumbent, is running unopposed for the mayor's spot.

GROSSE POINTE THEATRE IS 21: Larry Marco has finally put his feet on the ground, a substance they figuratively have not touched since his debut as director in the Grosse Pointe Theatre's recent hit performance of "The Man Who Came to Dinner," which received more

plaudits from the community in the form of letters, calls and attendance in overwhelming numbers. What makes Marco tick is the fine unit with which he works — all the members of the group, which now numbers close to 3,000 season subscribers and more than 250 actual performers and technical workers.

Obituaries: Margaret Fillman, Stella Cirinesi, Mary L. Imbo, Adolph Damman, Robert B. Rains, C. Favier Tolkemitt, Lewis Smith, Dr. Valentine Temrowski

1995

25 years ago this week

LIBRARY HOPES TO JOIN INFO SUPERHIGHWAY: If you live in Grosse Pointe, you still have to find your own on-ramp to the information superhighway. But soon, you may have access through the public library. While the library board and administration prepare its 1995-96 budget, discussions have touched upon technological improve-

ments for the library — including the possibility of signing on to the internet.

SOUTH SKATERS REWARDED FOR FINEST SEASON: There were several reasons why Grosse Pointe South had its best hockey season ever this year. Six of them are named John Graffius, Bill Starrs, Justin Braun, Josh Prues, Todd Dunlap and Terry Brennan. Graffius, Starrs and Braun were first team selections on the coaches' Class A All-State team, while Prues, Dunlap and Brennan received honorable mention.

Obituaries: Violenda E. Nelson, Catherine P. Grieg, Elynor K. Wickline, Cecile M. Forster, Grayce E. Poppen, Julie C. Shumaker, Walter

Batura, Loris Hadden, Aldred E. Hillenbrand, Blanche Christine Boldt, Kyrsten Hope Webb, W. Brace Krag, Helen E. Mehrer

2010

10 years ago this week

KROGER COMES DOWN: As a history buff, the demolition of two neighboring buildings comprising Kroger grocery store in The Village made Peter Dame nostalgic. During the early part of demolition, a portion of the façade was torn down to reveal the exterior of long-gone Cunningham's Drug Store and soda fountain at the corner of Kercheval and Notre Dame.

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES BIGGEST INITIATIVE: At its inaugural gala, the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education launched its biggest initiative: a community-wide fundraising campaign to support advanced instructional technology and associated teacher training for classrooms throughout the school district. More than \$40,000 was raised at the sold-out event.

Obituaries: David E. Appleton, George J. "Joe" Beyer, Vesna Dulbic, Arleen R. Giesecking, Eleanor H. Hogan, James Hosking, Irma R. Longley, Shirley J. McDonald, Harriet J. Krieger, Robert W. Olson, Nancy S. Tisdale, Nola "Curl" Tutag, Wilma Kimmel Zelenik

CENSUS:

Continued from page 6A

ing during a pandemic is whole new territory.

Field operations have already been postponed until at least April 15 — which means workers will have less time to complete the boots-on-the-ground part of the campaign, may be

in more of a rush and might take on additional risks.

If you want to wait for your paper form to come in the mail, so be it. But better to get counted now (reading this editorial hasn't killed you in the meantime, has it?) by going online or using the phone. The life you save may be a census taker's — and the voice you represent will be your very own.

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**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 16, 2020**

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.

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting and the Special City Council meeting held March 2, 2020 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Library Board meeting held January 16, 2020.
- 2) To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing a Collective Bargaining matter.
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:00 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 118885 through 119027 in the amount of \$586,696.29 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment in the amount of \$11,500.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several watermain and tap repairs at various residential locations. (3) approve payment in the amount of \$9,701.20 to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions for their assistance with temporary cement repair following a main break on Vernier. (4) approve payment to Midwest Carpet and Restoration in the amount of \$7,688.00 for the first installment of renovations and repair work at 21101 Kenmore as part of the CDBG rehab loan project. (5) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$5,257.25 for the contractual assessing services performed during the month of March 2020. (6) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$11,103.43 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of February, IT support services and the purchase of desktop computers and a laptop. (7) approve payment to SafeBuilt, Inc. in the amount of \$30,323.00 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of February 2020.
- 2) accept the low bid submitted by Michigan Joint Sealing Inc. of Farmington Hills, in the amount of \$46,676.00 for the 2020 Pavement Joint and Crack Sealing Program, #180-226.
- 3) to Place for Second Reading and Adoption an Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 11 of the Housing Code of the City of Harper Woods Code of Ordinances, Adding Article II entitled Dangerous Buildings," and further to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 4) to Place for Second Reading and Adoption an Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16, Article III, Grass, Noxious Weeds and Vegetation of the City of Harper Woods Code of Ordinances," and further to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 5) to Place for Second Reading and Adoption an Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 23, Article II, Sections 23 -; Streets and Sidewalks of the City of Harper Woods Code of Ordinances," and further to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 6) adopt the Resolution Establishing Uniform Transfer Provision for the Municipal Employee's Retirement System (MERS), and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the resolution on behalf of the City.
- 7) approve the purchase of fifteen (15) tasers from Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$28,875.00, with \$8,175.00 being due in the first year and \$5,175.00 for the subsequent 4 remaining years.

Kenneth A. Poynter, Mayor **Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk**

Published: GPN, April 2, 2020

8A | SCHOOLS

SENIORS:

Continued from page 1A

diplomas.

“I ordered a prom dress all the way back in January,” Shine said. “I have two hanging in my closet right now that I had ordered. At this point, I’ve stopped looking for dresses.

“My friends and I haven’t really been talking about anything like that in the future because we don’t want to get our hopes up,” she added. “We don’t really talk about it.”

College decisions

With the May 1 deadline looming, college decisions hang in the balance for many students who are unable to narrow their choices with on-campus visits.

“I haven’t officially committed,” Shine said. “My friend and I have been talking about this. Both of us are considering Michigan State or the University of Dayton. Both of us wanted to go back and tour Michigan State and Dayton again, but now that campuses are officially shut down, we can’t go back and get a better feel for the college.”

John McShane, a senior at South, is deciding between Michigan State and Purdue universities. He had hoped to visit Purdue for the first time during spring break. While disappointed he can’t make the trip because of the threat of COVID-19, he’s glad he didn’t book a spring break trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, like many of his friends.

Regardless of what happens in the coming weeks, McShane is optimistic South’s student council will come up with an alternative.

“I personally think we’re going to make a



Faced with the prospect of missing their final weeks of high school, seniors have a new appreciation for traditions they enjoyed earlier this year. Pictured clockwise from top left, Sofia Ketels at Grosse Pointe North’s homecoming parade in September 2019; pictured with the Big Boy on North’s toga day are, from left, seniors Charlie Ramsdell, Jonathan Smith, Will Weiss, Michael Burns and Will Aufdemberg; pictured at Senior Spirit Day at Grosse Pointe South are, from left, Maura Shine, Franni Fermani, Emma Naporano and Sydney Anderson; and John McShane, third from right, appears in the student section during South’s homecoming football game this fall.

push in these next few weeks,” he said. “I think prom will happen. I think graduation will hopefully happen. If it doesn’t, I’m sure our 2020 class is smart enough and they know that they want to at least get together one more time. I’m sure they’ll think of something to do to get the whole class together before we go off to college if prom or graduation doesn’t happen.”

Social distancing

Grosse Pointe North senior Sofia Ketels said while she’s operating under the assumption

schools will not reopen, she’s aware of the importance of abiding by Whitmer’s “stay at home” order.

“It’s really important that we do stay inside and not go out,” she said. “I think a lot of my friends are definitely taking that seriously. Some people aren’t as much, but for the most part, people are staying home and doing what they need to do.”

Accepted at Michigan State, Boston University, the University of Texas at Austin and U of M, Ketels chose the latter. However, orientation will be conducted online and oppor-



COURTESY PHOTOS

tunities to meet other incoming freshmen are available only virtually.

While she misses daily interaction with her friends, she said she still talks with them frequently.

“I think I’m definitely FaceTiming a lot more people,” Ketels said. “I think I’m texting more people that I wouldn’t normally talk to just because I’m used to seeing them and now I’m not.”

Shine, too, said she remains connected with friends through social media.

“In my daily life I don’t

usually FaceTime my friends, but I think this quarantine and having to be apart from them has made me feel closer to them because I feel like we appreciate the time we’ve had together more,” she said. “We think back to the good times we had together. We long for those times so in a way we feel more connected.”

Family togetherness

All four seniors noted an increase in family time.

Shine is home with two younger siblings, also engaged in online learning, while both her parents are working from home.

“Obviously everyone’s a lot closer together,” Shine said. “We’re in such close proximity at all times so we’re obviously interacting a lot more. We watch a lot of movies together as a family and a lot of shows. Since everything is so much of a slower pace, now we have more time to sit together and eat together since everyone isn’t going to different practices and different extracurriculars, so we’re all on the same schedule.”

McShane, the youngest of five, currently is home alone with his parents.

“They treat me well here,” he said.

Ramsdell said his family has been enjoying playing games and “quality eating” together.

“We had a bonfire together last night,” he noted.

Online learning

Adjusting to classes at home has been the easiest part of the transition, the seniors agree, with the third week of distance learning beginning Monday, March 30.

“It took a minute for my teachers and us to figure out what we’re doing because they’ve never taught fully online before,” Ketels said.

While reliance on Schoology, the school district’s learning management system, has increased while schools are closed, teachers were accustomed to posting

assignments online and students already communicated with classmates on discussion boards and submitted essays using Google Docs, Ketels noted.

“It’s nice to be able to go at your own pace for most of these classes,” Ramsdell said. “I’d say the workload is not that bad. I’d say it’s probably equal if not less than what you have to do in class. It’s been pretty simple and straightforward.”

“One of the most vital online classes for me would be precalculus right now,” McShane said. “Basically we just take our notes online and then we usually have a test by the end of each week on Friday of all the lessons we’ve learned that week. It’s really similar to what we normally do, but we only do a lesson about every other day rather than in school we do a lesson every day. It’s a little bit slowed down. The teachers are super helpful because they always make sure to answer all of our questions and make sure we’re alright. ... They hammered that home. They make sure we’re learning it. They don’t want to rush it. They take their time. That’s really helpful for the students.”

The seniors miss the face-to-face interaction, however, with teachers as well as friends.

“It’s been kind of a transition because it’s a lot different from being in class every day and having the teacher there to guide you to answer any questions you have in person,” Shine said. “Obviously you can video chat with them at home and they can answer questions, but it’s not the same as being in school and having them on hand to answer questions.”

“It is nice to have actual face-to-face instruction,” Ramsdell agreed.

He also misses “simple things,” like working at the school store and walking in between classes with his friends. He’s disappointed his last season of sailing is canceled.

“The boredom is definitely getting to me,” he said.

“Honestly, I won’t take school for granted again,” McShane said. “Not that online learning is bad, but I want to get back into class and see my teachers and friends again. I never thought I’d be saying it, but I never thought I’d want to be back in school again and not on a month-long break.”

Looking forward

Ramsdell said when the coronavirus crisis is over, he hopes to “live in the moment and (not) take anything for granted. Everything can change so fast.”

For Shine, the abrupt change in her daily routine has had an unexpected result — more time to contemplate her future.

“I obviously don’t want to be stuck at home,” she said. “I don’t want to end my year at home. But this time being confined at home and stuck with my own thoughts (has) made me think about what I want and to think about my future. It’s given me time. Usually, in my hectic schedule, I wouldn’t have that time. I’m grateful for that. I feel like I’m accomplishing something.”

Crash.

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FEATURES

2B DINING & ENTERTAINMENT | 3B SENIOR LIVING | 4B OBITUARIES | 5B CHURCHES

Community effort Hand-sewn masks readied for donation

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Valerie Moran is thrilled to put her skills as a home economics teacher to use after retirement. She and several friends from church have banded together, though sewing separately, to make masks for health care workers. “There’s a whole group of people keeping busy,” Moran said. “I started because I mentioned to my daughter, who’s in Atlanta, that I can make masks. I was a home ec teacher and I was a professional sewer when I was younger.” With encouragement from her daughter, Moran did some online research to find the most useful masks to make.

“The first ones I made were more curved over the face,” she said, noting after posting photos of her work online, her daughter’s doctor friends approved and asked for some. Acknowledging area hospitals are not officially accepting homemade masks, Moran has heard from people in the health care industry who do want them. To meet their needs, she and several of her friends from church — including Mary Garlough, Jean Rudolph, Dennie Rice, Sandra Mengel, Libby VandePutte and Sue Acton — are putting their sewing talents to use. “All of a sudden Mary Garlough was in contact with people saying, ‘We want these,’” Moran said. “An OB-GYN wanted some, so we made 60 for

her. And other people working in the hospital asked for some. ... They’re not all used around people with the virus, but in doctors’ offices, too.” The masks Moran is making are washable and include an inner pocket to hold a HEPA-quality filter. “So you can take the filter out and wash the masks,” she said. “The curved one fits right over N95 masks, too, so you can wash it and wear it again.” Moran said different patterns are used for the project and patterns are being tweaked daily. “We’ve only been doing it for a week so far,” she said. “It’s very fulfilling for us. Whoever thought being a home ec teacher would be the best thing I’d done in my whole



COURTESY PHOTOS

A local nurse shows a sample of the masks she’s received from Elise Brunner, who also included small bottles of bleach and acetaminophen with the masks.

life?” Moran has made nearly 40 masks herself, sending some to Atlanta, donating others to local doctors’ offices and friends with underlying medical conditions that make them high risk. Another 10 are finished and 11 are in the works at the moment. Moran said masks are easy to make, but even so, people who don’t know how to sew also are invited to participate. Volunteers can cut wire, ribbons or ties for the masks, or donate fabric or money for fabric.

“Everybody wants to help,” she said. Moran offered to share directions and tips on her Facebook page or via email at valeriemoran48236@gmail.com. “I was a middle school sewing teacher a long time,” she said. “If I was still in school, I would have my sixth graders making these. ... My goal when I was teaching was always for them to make a product they’re proud of. “And I’m not the only one doing this,” she added. “Lots of people are doing it and they’re

all doing it differently. ... We’re trying, just trying. We want to help people who need some help. If I can help one person stay away from this (virus), that’s great.” Another volunteer putting her sewing skills to use is seamstress Nadia Hamolli of Rome Tailoring, who has been doing alterations at Belding Cleaners in Grosse Pointe Park for 13 years. “I had her make 50 masks and I brought them to the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, where I serve on the Board of Directors,” said Belding owner Joe Hebeke. “Jenny (Boettcher), the executive director, will be distributing them to local individuals throughout the community that are essential, still working and are in need.” Hebeke said properly making 50 masks was no easy feat — “We had a hard time finding elastic, if you can believe that,” he said — but they’d like



Hazel Brunner, receiving online instruction from Elena Victoria, does her part in the mask-making project.



A sample of the masks made by Grosse Pointe Farms resident Valerie Moran.

See MASKS, page 2B

Coalition promotes social connection campaign

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

With social distancing the recommended norm for the community, state and country, administrators of the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods coalition are highlighting the importance of social connection. “After 6 in the Neighborhood” is a community initiative being promoted by the coalition’s Suzy Berschback. Residents and families are invited to come out of their homes around 6 p.m. each evening to wave to neighbors, check in with each other, chat across yards and provide comfort while safely interacting. “Being socially connected is good for your health, even in times of crisis,” Berschback said, “especially in times of crisis.” “We need to come together, but we also need some stress relief, too,” she added. Berschback said she



came across the idea for “After 6 in the Neighborhood” on social media and thought it would be a good idea for all communities. “I think as the weather gets warmer, if we are still safe at home, put some chairs or a bench on your front lawn and consider ‘After 6 in the Neighborhood’ on your block,” she said. “I live on Ridgemont in the Farms and we have a ‘Ridgemont and Kerby block party’ Facebook page. It is a closed group that neighbors can join or be invited to. This has been helpful in connect-

ing to our neighbors at this time, but you could also put a chalkboard sign up or a poster to catch people who are outside.” Berschback said residents need connection now more than ever. “According to Dean Ornish, M.D., clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco and founder of the Preventive Medicine Research Institute, ‘Spreading fear and loathing about the coronavirus may, ironically, increase the risk of getting sick,’” she said, not-

ing Ornish goes on to say, “Fear can be self-fulfilling to the extent that it does suppress immune function and makes someone more likely to get the very disease they’re most afraid of. Also, staying at home and social distancing help prevent transmission of the virus, but feeling lonely can be harmful to your health. Study after study has shown that people who are lonely and isolated are three to 10 times more likely to get sick and die prematurely of virtually all causes when compared to those who have

a strong sense of love and community. Fortunately, there are many things we can do to enhance our immune function to help protect us. While it’s important to stay at home, wash your hands, disinfect, etc., it’s also wise to spend more time socializing with family members who are living with you, as well as using video or just audio technologies like Zoom or the phone to virtually spend time with friends and family in other places.” Berschback had a few of her own recommendations for keeping socially connected during days upon days of social distancing. “I know this is a very serious and nervous time, but when doing our part means staying home for weeks on end, it is important to connect with our neighbors to lift our spirits,” she said. “I invite the community to get creative with this. Maybe we will see some great local talent that we

can learn about together. “I know on our block we have George Humphry, who plays in The Relics band, and Bob and Clay Rabaut, who play in The Jukes band. I would love to hear them play some tunes for the neighbors. Maybe we could turn up the music and have a dance party. Maybe we have someone who could lead us in some stretches, exercise or yoga. Or maybe a local talent show staring the children; a sidewalk chalk art or uplifting messages contest; or a dog tricks, hula hoop, jump rope or karaoke contest. Also, we could just garden our yard at the same time or grow a victory garden and share produce. And of course, there is the ever-popular happy hour.” Berschback said she’s looking for the silver lining in this situation and encourages others to do the same. “Maybe it is the real-

See CONNECT, page 3B

Author tackles depression, despair with humor

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Spring 2017 hit Brandon Helms more like a lion than a lamb.

Issues at work and home created a perfect storm and Helms was stuck beneath its black cloud.

“Some things happened that left me feeling depressed,” the City of Grosse Pointe resident said. “I’m usually upbeat; I’m a morning person. But I woke up anxious and went to bed stressed.”

Helms, who works for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, was experiencing stresses at work by being “stuck in a unit I didn’t want to be in and I wasn’t in court as often as I wanted to be,” he said. On top of that, his toddler son was not a good sleeper, which led to a lack of sleep for him and his wife, Jenny, causing relationship issues “we weren’t anticipating.

“It all put me in a funk I didn’t know how to deal



Brandon Helms

with,” he continued. “I’m usually upbeat; feeling depressed was not something I was familiar with.”

Helms searched for an outlet to deal with his feelings and rediscovered a love for creative writing. The results of his efforts are expressed in his debut novel, “Not Today, Fred.”

“I got to write about a guy who was dealing with depression, which is how I was feeling,” he said. “It morphed into a guy who gave his black cloud a name, Fred; he was able to compartmentalize what

he was dealing with.”

Following the advice to “write what you know,” Helms’ protagonist follows a similar trajectory to his own life.

“His background is similar to mine,” he said. “He’s from Pittsburgh and moved to Chicago. ... I also took ideas from other people I know who were dealing with depression.”

Helms created a character who has depression, then meets someone who pulls him from that despair, but, “there are problems along the way,” he said.

“‘Not Today, Fred’ lets readers learn about self-discovery through positive relationships,” Helms said. “We all need them and hopefully this book will inspire others or will help them get through the problems they encounter or endure.”

Helms said he had trouble getting published, especially considering his subject matter. One agent in particular told him a

book about depression and suicidal thoughts would not sell in today’s market.

“I thought writing it would be the hard part,” he said. “The hard part is getting anybody to care.”

Using tips from Donald Maass’ “Writing the Breakout Novel,” Helms re-pitched his idea, which led him to find literary agent Linda Roghaar at White River Press. Roghaar works with clients through hybrid publishing, helping them make their projects professional.

“She’s been a huge help along the way,” he said.

Helms said he hopes the book reaches people — those feeling depressed and those who can offer support — in a way that’s helpful.

“It’s important for people to realize there are more people than they know who are dealing with depression and mental illness,” he said. “You may spend days with someone and not realize that under the surface they’re struggling. It helps everyone to know depression is not uncommon. And we should be there

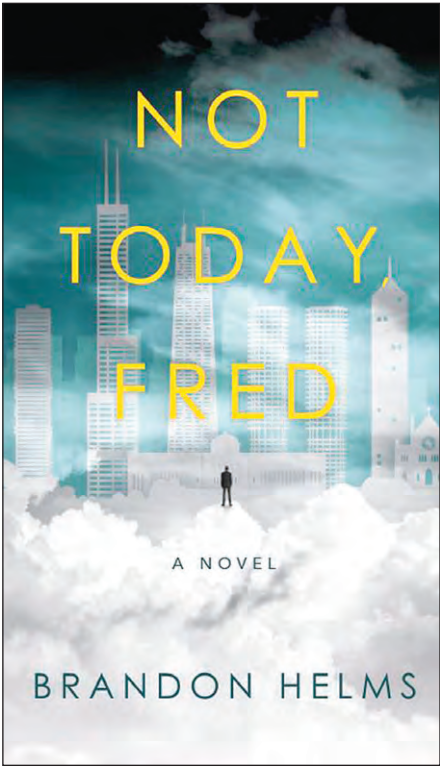
for the people dealing with it.”

Helms realizes as the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing are top of mind for most, now is the worst and most perfect time to release this book.

“A lot of people are ... only reading coronavirus updates,” he said. “They’re not going into bookstores or libraries. But I still hope to get this message across — that they read the book to deal with what they’re going through.

“It’s a time for people to realize we have to band together as a global community and a local community,” he added. “We need to be nice to each other; you don’t know what people are dealing with.”

Since completing the



romantic comedy, Helms has written a second novel — a contemporary fantasy with science fiction elements — and is working on a third, a contemporary fiction book.

Available for pre-order online at amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com, or through local bookstores, “Not Today, Fred” is set for publication April 8. It also is available on eBook.

Woman’s Club cancels last meeting

Due to the extension of the stay-at-home government mandate, now pushed to Thursday, April 30, the Grosse Pointe Woman’s Club has

canceled what would have been its final meeting. The club, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, officially has dissolved.

The group will, however, still award its final scholarships at a later date.

For questions, call Sue Plath at (313) 884-5081.

MASKS:

Continued from page 1B

to make more.

“I just believe as business owners we should use our resources to help the community that supports us,” he said. “Especially at a time like this, it shouldn’t even be a question. It’s our duty to give back.”

Grosse Pointe Park resident Elise Brunner was inspired to start making masks after a friend, Amanda Partridge Nordin of APNordin Fine Art in Detroit, started making masks at her downtown art studio. Nordin shared her pattern and gave Brunner a box of N95 masks with which to work.

“I started making the masks because at first I felt so powerless to help and I noticed the health care personnel were in need,” she said. “We are just sad and scared now about the lack of response and equipment. I understand that medical personnel are reusing their N95 masks, so the point of my mask is to cover the N95 mask, protecting it so that it can be reused since the hospitals don’t have enough.”

Supplies such as needles and elastic were donated, “in a time when we’re not able to go to the store,” and after asking neighbors for donations of fabric, “within two hours, I had bolts and bolts of fabric dropped off.

“There are many seamstresses working together in this time, freely giving their supplies so that no one has to go to a store,” she added. “Even though all the stores are sold out of elastic, I continue to receive a steady supply for free. Gina Buffalino of Sunningdale’s has been a



COURTESY PHOTO

Valerie Moran’s masks, like many being made, include an inner pocket for a HEPA-quality filter.

big donor of elastic and fabric. The support that I have received in terms of donated supplies is just amazing and I know that our community response is really special and unique to the Pointes. I am sewing every night, stitching prayers into each mask.”

Beacon Pointe Pharmacy has offered to donate paper masks, she added.

Brunner is carefully making each mask — around 35 so far — some of which she mailed to friends, others carefully packaged on her front porch for the taking. Her daughter, Hazel, also is taking part in the project, with help from seamstress Elena Victoria, who is offering online sewing courses for a fee. “(Elena) makes and donates the masks to her hospital, too,” Brunner said. “She made a pattern, donated supplies for mine and Hazel’s operation and she instructs us.

“I know that time really is of the essence,” she added. “It’s been really incredible (seeing) people coming together with their time, energy, resources and material.”

One person grateful for Brunner’s generosity is a nurse at a local hospital, who asked to remain

anonymous. She saw Brunner’s masks on Grosse Pointe Mom Swap and chimed in that she wouldn’t mind having a few.

“We’re not doing patient care, but we do have to go into the ER,” she said. “I use them to go over my N95, to keep it unsoiled.”

She said most of the 20 masks she’s gotten from Brunner so far have been used for the same purposes — for staff who have to go into the emergency room or those who want to keep their N95 masks clean. She said all of the masks are appreciated.

“They don’t replace N95 masks,” she said, “but they do help N95s stay unsoiled for a longer period of time. ... And even when we don’t need them anymore, people at nursing homes or even Kroger could use them. They’re nice to have.”

She said she’s grateful to Brunner for her donations.

“It’s pretty amazing she has such concern for people she doesn’t even know,” she said. “She’s being careful, proactive and teaching her daughter what it means to be a community participant. ... The kindness of strangers is amazing to me.”

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Surprise birthday parade



Diane Kashuba's 75th birthday was March 26, but she couldn't go out to celebrate due to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order. Much to her surprise, her friends and family organized a parade, lining up in decorated cars and driving down Stephens, her street in Grosse Pointe Farms, honking and waving. Kashuba said she was surprised and moved by the gesture. As she waved at carloads of friends and family, she said, "I feel like the queen."

Above, the surprise registers on Diane Kashuba's face when she realizes why cars are coming down her street. Right, Mary Cantwell wishes Diane Kashuba a happy birthday.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Helm continues caring for homebound

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The building at 158 Ridge in Grosse Pointe Farms may be closed to the public, but The Helm at the Boll Life Center hasn't stopped serving a portion of the senior population in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

With help from volunteer drivers, The Helm's Meals on Wheels program still is operational — just in a different way than usual.

"We've taken a number of extra precautions," Executive Director Peggy Hayes said. "Regularly, we deliver meals Monday through Friday to each of our clients. Starting Monday (March 30), we'll deliver once a week, five meals."

One week's worth of frozen meals, Hayes said, helps not only the senior getting the meals, but also the delivery people as it limits contact.

"Immediately when all this started, we put protocols in place," she said. "We added hand sanitizer to the delivery bags so the person delivering the meals can use it before they deliver the food and after they leave. We put the items in plastic grocery bags and hang them on the doorknobs, then ring the doorbell and step back so they're six feet or more away."

While social distancing is crucial at this time to stop the spread of COVID-19, social isolation is still a concern for The Helm, which deals with many older adults who have zero to limited interaction with others. Even a few moments of interaction with meal delivery volunteers is a help; The Helm also is working on other methods to combat social isolation while maintaining social distancing.

The Helm's Meals on Wheels program

serves 80 people daily, Hayes said.

"We're getting more calls from people needing or wanting to be added to the list," she added, noting The Helm relays potential clients' basic information to the Detroit Area Agency on Aging to be vetted. "If they're maxed out on their list, we pick up those people. ... Our organization takes on anyone on the waiting list who needs meals and can't be accommodated by Detroit triple-A."

The once-a-week delivery plan will be standard for the next three weeks, then the plan will be re-evaluated, Hayes said.

"We'll either continue to do it or do more," Hayes said. "These are folks who cannot get to the grocery store, who cannot cook. For many of them, this is their main meal of the day. We're doing the best we can to keep accommodating these folks."

The Helm also is continuing to offer transportation to seniors through its Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services, or PAATS. For a limited time, PAATS services are free; however, transportation is limited to essential trips to appointments such as dialysis or chemotherapy treatments.

"The number of requests has gone down," Hayes said. "They're following the stay-at-home rule. But if they need to, we have these rides offered at no cost."

With a temporary hold on all of its other face-to-face programming, The Helm is in need of support for the meal delivery and transportation services it still offers.

"We can use everyone's support — financial and otherwise," Hayes said. "We need to keep providing these services and anything else we can do to help."

Those able to provide support may visit The Helm's website — helmlife.org — to donate.

Historical society services on hold

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has joined other businesses and organizations in the community and the state in closing its doors amid concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

Due to the closure of its administrative office and the historic Provencal Weir House, the society is unable to respond to requests for historical research or

blueprints, "until normal operating activities can be restored," said Patricia O'Brien, historical society president.

The society also has put on hold a number of planned events.

"We have postponed our annual gala, which was scheduled for June 18," O'Brien said. "There is no alternate date identified at this time. We will let you know as

soon as this information is available. The homeowner is very gracious and has said she is willing to identify an alternate date as soon as it appears safe to do so."

The society's April Bicknell lecture has been rescheduled for September and its May activities, including its annual historic plaque presentation and May Bicknell lecture, will be

made available as soon as feasible, O'Brien said.

"We appreciate all the community interest and support the organization receives," she added.

— Jody McVeigh

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Continued from page 1B

ization of how important our relationships are to our health and happiness," she said. "I am hopeful we will shift our priorities to reflect this on the other side of this crisis, maybe even slow our pace at bit."

Looking for the silver linings

"We all tend to ruminate on things that have gone wrong in our lives — a mistake we made at work, an evening that didn't go as planned," Berschback said. "We might even think about them so often that our lives seem filled with these mishaps and disappointments. Focusing on them too much, however, can cast a pall over our lives and even be associated with depressive thinking."

"Looking on the bright side, even when things go wrong, is a key component of optimism, which research links to lower rates of depression, a better ability to cope with stress and more relationship satisfaction, among other benefits," she continued. "While finding the silver lining on a negative experience might understandably make you fear turning into a Pollyanna, many of us have a tendency to look on the bright side too rarely, not too often. This exer-

cise is designed to help you achieve a healthier balance."

Berschback suggested the following steps to find the silver lining:

1. List five things that make you feel like your life is enjoyable, enriching or worthwhile at this moment. These things can be as general as being in good health or as specific as drinking a cup of coffee this morning. The purpose of this first step is to help you shift into a positive state of mind about your life in general.

2. Think about the most recent time when something didn't go your way or when you felt frustrated, irritated or upset.

3. In a few sentences, briefly describe the situation in writing.

4. List three things that can help you see the bright side of this situation. For example, perhaps you missed your bus this morning. Three ways to look on the bright side of this situation might be:

- ◆ Even though you missed the bus, you got some good exercise when you were running to catch it.

- ◆ You're fortunate to live in a city where there was another bus just 10 minutes later, or where buses run reliably at all.

- ◆ Ten years from now, you likely won't remember what happened this morning.

"Looking on the bright

side of life in general, or of a bad situation in particular, can increase happiness by boosting your sense of self-worth, motivating you to go after your goals and enhancing your enjoyment of life," Berschback said. "Regularly completing the silver linings exercise can help you get in the habit of recognizing positive aspects of your life and seeing the upside to challenging situations rather than fixating on the downsides. With repeated practice, you may find that it comes more naturally to look on the bright side, even when faced with difficulties in your life."

For the family

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society offers a list of activities families can do together. The list is available at gphistorical.org/funstuff.html and includes downloadable PDF files for each activity, including a self-guided history tour/road rally, a scavenger hunt around the Provencal-Weir House, a driving tour of Grosse Pointe featuring notable buildings and streets along East Jefferson and Lakeshore, a field trip activity sheet and three plays by Jef Fisk.

Additionally, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society offers a resource for homeschooling at gphistorical.org/curriculum.html.

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Corinne Martin - Director

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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.

Gary LeRoy Brown

Longtime Grosse Pointe resident Gary LeRoy Brown died Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

Gary was born Nov. 27, 1942, in Detroit, to Teddy Brown and Delphine Bertels.

A graduate of Southeastern High School, Gary served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stationed in Germany. He received an honorable discharge as specialist fourth rank in 1967. Gary was a proud veteran who had a profound lifelong love for his country.

Gary began his career in sales in 1964. He founded LeMica Corp. with his business partner of 45 years, Richard Diethelmn, in 1975. Based in Detroit, the company manufactures doors for the cabinet-reface industry.

Gary deeply loved sailing; much of his early adulthood was spent sailing the Great Lakes. He participated in several Port Huron-to-Mackinac and Port Huron-to-Alpena races. Gary also enjoyed a lifelong hobby of shooting sporting clays and skeet with close friends.

Gary met the love of his life, his wife of 54 years, Kathleen Damman, in March 1965. Together they raised two children and later welcomed two beautiful grandchildren, who Gary opined were perfect in every way. Gary's passion was his family, which included many Labrador retrievers. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; children, Dawn (Stokes Baker) and Douglas (Jerrie Lovell); and grandchildren, Emily and Alexander. Gary also is survived by his brother-in-law, Richard Damman (the late Kathleen); sister-in-law, Margaret Damman

Napoletano (Michael); and five nephews.

Family and close friends will gather for a celebration of Gary's life this summer.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, woundedwarriorproject.org; or 3rd Coast Labrador Rescue, 3clr.org.

Celia Christiansen Roy

Former Grosse Pointe Shores resident Celia Christiansen Roy, 95, died Monday, March 16, 2020, in Madison, Maine. Celia was born March 2, 1925, in Detroit, to George W. and Treva E. Christiansen (nee Briggs).

A graduate of Liggett School for Girls, Celia also earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan. To aid the war effort during World War II, she worked at the Chrysler Jefferson plant building airplanes.

Celia loved tennis, art, travel and, most of all, her family. For many years, she was an active member of Country Club of Detroit, Chicago Club in Charlevoix and Saint Andrews Club in Gulfstream, Fla.

Celia is survived by her children, Christiansen von Wormer, Sigrid Christiansen, Rex Roy and Ross Roy Jr.; and grandchildren, Eben Levey, Tristan Levey, Emma Roy Garner, Kelsey von Wormer and Hadley Roy. She was predeceased by her husband, Ross Roy; stepchildren, Arlene Roy Hendrie, John Roy and Robert Roy; former husband, David Wormer; and daughter, Sally Wormer.

No funeral services are planned. Interment will take place beside her husband, Ross, at Grosse

Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Barbara V. Reid

Lifelong Grosse Pointe resident Barbara V. Reid died Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Barbara is survived by her children, Michael (Rina), Martin (Lorice), Kathleen Lubera (David) and Kevin; grandchildren, Andrew, Haley, Rebecca, Stephen and Arianna; and siblings, John Vismara (Joan) and Frances Solomon. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert; and sisters, Patricia Vismara and Mary Lou Kulakowski.

Barbara was a beloved teacher at St. Ambrose and St. Clare of Montefalco schools. Through the years, she was an active parishioner at St. Clare of Montefalco and St. Lucy Catholic Church. In addition, Barbara volunteered at Bon Secours Hospital more than 40 years. She devoted herself to her children and grandchildren and to helping others.

A funeral Mass and memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

In Barbara's honor, contributions may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207; or donate online at cskdetroit.org.

Jay Christopher Warden

Jay Christopher Warden, 52, peacefully passed away Sunday, March 1, 2020, due to complications from influenza and pneumonia. Jay was born May 21, 1967, in Chicago, to longtime Grosse Pointe residents Gail and Lois (nee Johnson) Warden.

Jay is survived by his wife, Kristie; children, Hannah, Sam and Molly; father, Gail; and sister, Jena (the late Raz Nielsen). He was predeceased by his mother, Lois; and sister, Janna (Wil Tarver).

Jay earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College and a dual master's degree in business administration and public health from the University of Michigan. A well-respected consultant on healthcare management strategies and population health, Jay was a sought-after and frequent speaker on the subjects.

As described by his colleagues and family, Jay forever will be a friend, colleague and advisor to countless people and a stranger to few. He will be remembered fondly for his passion, leadership, mentorship, robust sense of humor and love of sports, especially those played at the University of Michigan.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, a celebration of Jay's life will be scheduled at a later date so all who wish to gather may celebrate appropriately.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jay's memory may be made to the Warden Family Endowment Fellowship Fund No. 571788, University of Michigan School of Public Health,



Gary LeRoy Brown



Jay Christopher Warden

University of Michigan Development Office/Planned Giving, 3003 S. State Street, Suite 9000, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Edith Denise Wilson

Edith Denise "Dee Dee" Wilson passed away Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, at her home in New Jersey. She was 68.

Dee Dee was born Aug. 7, 1951, in Grosse Pointe, to Ralph C. Wilson Jr. and Janet McGregor Wilson. She was predeceased by her parents.

Dee Dee was an avid tennis player and bicyclist and she loved her dogs. She also enjoyed attending Buffalo Bills football games with her father, Ralph, former owner of the Buffalo Bills.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Family interment will take place at Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit.

Joseph A. Backer Sr.

Joseph A. Backer Sr., 81, passed away Tuesday, March 24, 2020, after a six-year battle with Parkinson's disease. He was born Nov. 5, 1938, in Detroit, to Joseph and Minnie (nee Ohrmann) Backer. Joe was raised with love by Joseph and Bertha (nee Allgaier) Backer.

Joe attended St. Jude grade school, Austin Catholic Preparatory High School and East Side Design and Engineering Institute. At General Motors Co., he was a talented body draftsman with Fisher Body Division and drafting room supervisor with Cadillac Motor Division. Joe retired from GM in 2001, after 42 years of loyal employment.

Joe was a former member of St. Jude Parish Council and Archdiocese of Detroit Vicariate. An avid hobbyist, he belonged to special interest clubs including Early Ford V8 Club and Men's and Women's Garden Club of Grosse Pointe.

Joe's family was his greatest source of joy. He is survived by his loving wife, Sharon (nee Cottrell); children, in whom he found great pride, Gretchen Backer, Joseph Jr., Kurt (Laura) and Karl (Leslie); cherished grandchildren, Benjamin (Krysten), Zachary, Rachael,



Celia Christiansen Roy



Edith Denise Wilson



James Edward Kelly

Andrew, Maxwell, Bridget, Eric, Nicholas, Paden McCown and Katherine Partridge (Alex); sister, Gertrude Stadwick (Ken); and nieces and nephews. Joe was predeceased by his siblings, Mary Herrando and William Neininger.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions in Joe's name may be made to Michigan Parkinson's Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Rd, Suite 150, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

James Edward Kelly

James Edward Kelly, 81, died Friday, March 20, 2020, in Sarasota, Fla., of heart failure. He passed away with his family by his side. Jim was born Dec. 12, 1938, in Detroit. He married his high school sweetheart, JoAnn, in 1960. The couple lived in Grosse Pointe 50 years.

Jim was a 1956 graduate of Cass Technical High School. He earned a mechanical engineering degree from Lawrence Technological University while also working as a pipefitter. Jim paused his studies in the early 1960s to serve in the U.S. Navy. As an airman and electronics technician aboard sub-chaser aircraft, he was stationed at naval bases that included Guantanamo Bay and Key West. After completing his degree, Jim was with Detroit Edison 31 years, primarily as a power plant manager.

Jim loved all things mechanical; he never lost his engineer's curiosity or desire to fix things. He especially enjoyed working on sailboats and home projects and tinkering with old cars. A passionate sailor, Jim spent many cherished hours sailing Lake St. Clair with family and friends. He also enjoyed cooking, travel and playing bridge, teaching many of his grandchildren the game and its strategies.



Barbara V. Reid



James Backer Sr.



Timothy Wynn Butler Jr.

Spending time with family was Jim's greatest joy. He is survived by his adored wife of nearly 60 years, JoAnn; children, Kristin Beardslee (Jim) and Kevin Kelly (Alexandrea); grandchildren, Kelly Beardslee, Will Beardslee, Kate Beardslee, Claire Beardslee, Sarah Kelly and Elyse Kelly; and siblings, Anne, Robert, Jerold (Joyce) and Jack (Anne).

A memorial service will be held at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, 150 Stimson, Detroit, MI, 48201; Lawrence Technological University, 21000 W. Ten Mile Road, Southfield, MI, 48075; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Timothy Wynn Butler Jr.

Former Grosse Pointe Woods resident Timothy Wynn Butler Jr., 31, passed away Thursday, March 26, 2020. Born March 18, 1989, in Incheon, South Korea, Wynn was the son of Timothy and Beverly Butler. He was predeceased by his sister, Rebecca Joy Butler.

Wynn served with the U.S. Army, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, on combat tour in Iraq. Wynn had a warm smile and a great sense of humor. He will be remembered as a loving son and brother who tried many ways and times to overcome addiction and mental health issues. His family shared their knowledge that Wynn's long battle is over and he is at peace with the Lord.

Donations in Wynn's memory may be made to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, volunteer.va.gov; or Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

See OBITS, page 5B



In Memory of Marie Antoinette VandenBoom



Grosse Pointe -- Marie Antoinette VandenBoom, passed away March 25, 2020 at her home surrounded by her 5 children. Beloved wife of 64 years to the late Cornelius "Dutch" VandenBoom. Born to Frances and Joseph DeFoe on May 5, 1930. Sister to Joanne Leonard and the late John, Marguerite DePuis and Joseph Jr. Loving mother of Daniel (Dorette) Michael (Paula) Sandra Vandenbergh (James) Timothy (Diane) and Patrick (Marlene). Dearest Grandmother of Jack, Jeff (Emily), Scott (Justine), Brian (Brit), Timothy II, Kayla, Sara (Chris), Jessica, Jacob and Kristie, Great Grandmother of Carter, Clara, Brooklyn, Henry, Evelyn, Tyler, Kathryn, James, and Kaitlynn.

Marie was dedicated to her community and her church, sharing her love of God, unselfishly dividing her time between the St. Paul on the Lake Prayer

Ministry, the Altar Society, the Capuchin Ministry, aiding the homeless, Cottage Hospital Auxiliary and always felt personal satisfaction during her time as a Eucharistic Minister bringing communion to the sick. We can't forget the countless hours spent supporting St. Vincent De Paul with her late husband Dutch. During a fulfilling professional career with J.C. Penney and the Grosse Pointe Public Library she met and socialized with many friends. It will be said that Marie touched many with her kindness and love. She will not be forgotten.

A funeral mass celebrating Marie's life will be held at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Society of St. Vincent De Paul - St. Paul on the Lake Conference, 157 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Robert W. Lenhard

Grosse Pointe Park resident Dr. Robert W. Lenhard peacefully passed away Thursday, March 19, 2020, with his family by his side, due to complications from dementia. He was 83.

Robert is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Terry; children, Craig (Sarah), Tim (Renee) and Kristen (Brent DeVooght); and grandchildren, Max, Sam, Charlie, Timo, Joe, Luke, Ben, Lily, Ruby, Allie, Gabby, Jacob, Ethan and Bella.

Robert was a U.S. Army veteran who served as a captain in Korea.

He was a respected dentist, skilled sailor, master woodworker and amazing storyteller. A graduate of University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, with an undergraduate degree from the College and School of Dentistry, Robert completed his graduate studies at the University of Michigan. He practiced dentistry 40 years in the Fisher Building.

Robert was a life member of Detroit Yacht Club, 25-year member of Mackinac Island Yacht



Robert W. Lenhard

Club and past commodore of Grosse Pointe Sail Club. He was a member of the Pankey Institute for advanced dental studies in Key Biscayne, Fla., and past president of the Francis Veddar Society of Crown and Bridge.

Robert spent summers on his farm in Harbor Springs. He and his wife, Terry, enjoyed many trips to Mackinac Island where they served on the race committee for the Port Huron-to-Mackinac race. He wintered in Florida and also served 25 years as patroller with Boyne Highlands Ski Patrol. His passion for life was contagious and he will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Robert's beloved alma mater, University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, 8400 Cambridge, Detroit, MI 48221.

‘Art from the Heart’

Artist group, War Memorial partner for project

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The War Memorial and the Grosse Pointe Artists Association have partnered to offer “Art from the Heart: Frontyard Art Exhibition,” now through Sunday, May 17.

While still under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order, the organizations are offering a way for residents to show their neighbors how much they care — through chalk art, tree lights, banners or other creative ways.

“We are faced with so many questions,” GPAA President Karen Pope said. “How long will we have to stay at home? Will we get the virus? What can we do to take care of our family and friends if they get it? The questions go on and on. Which statistic should we believe? Which spokesperson should we believe? The one thing that comes out loud and clear is that we care about each other and ‘Art from the Heart: Frontyard Art Exhibition’ allows us to express that.”

Participants are asked to email a photo of their work to gpaagrossepointeartcenter.org. The deadline is 6 p.m. Fridays each week. Winners are announced every Sunday.

Entries should include name, contact information, permission to use the location of the art and a written statement, 50 words or less, explaining the reason for the piece.

Prizes are awarded weekly. Entries are reviewed and winners selected by the Promising Artists Council of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association.

Best of Show winners receive movie tickets with luxury box seating at The War Memorial’s Patriot Theatre. Honorable Mention winners earn gift cards to Tropical Smoothie provided by Nursing Unlimited.

Pope said she hopes people find comfort in the project, “comfort for the people who create the art, that they are doing something to make life better for their neighbors, and comfort for the people who see the art, knowing that their neigh-

bors are thinking of them. We could even look at the future and hope this serves as a lesson: After life gets back to normal, we will remember how much we mean to each other.”

Added Brooks Hoste, vice president of community engagement and programming at The War Memorial, “One of our greatest joys is being a convener of people — joining together our partners and community members to create meaningful experiences. Now, as we all navigate the new world of ‘Stay Home, Stay Safe,’ it feels more important than ever to help facilitate this connectivity, even though we can’t enjoy each other’s company face-to-face. The Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s ‘Frontyard Art Exhibition’ is a terrific program that encourages a true sense of community and it felt natural for The War Memorial to join as a partner. Personally, I love the inclusivity of the project: Everyone of all ages and abilities can participate in the powerful and expressive force that is

visual art.”

In addition to the Grosse Pointe Artists Association and The War Memorial, other project partners include Nursing Unlimited, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, The Grosse Pointe Garden Center, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and St. Clare of Montefalco Church.

“I hope both participants and observers of this program will experience a sense of solidarity with their neighbors and the community-at-large — the feeling that we’re all in this together and the realization that people truly care for one another,” Hoste said. “I also hope that the ‘Frontyard Art Exhibition’ serves to demonstrate how accessible visual art is. Anyone can create and everyone’s artwork is valid, meaningful and important.”

For more information, email gpaagrossepointeartcenter.org or visit bit.ly/2WSn8pi.

Donations sought

The staff at Ascension St. John Hospital is caring for a multitude of critically ill patients, working double shifts and many times unable to even get to the store for their own needs. The support the staff has received from the community “has been spirit lifting.”

Some community members, organized by Debbie Bellovich, have come together to create 300 baskets that will cover 15 people each — one for each department and shift at St. John — to give to them Easter weekend. Bellovich is hoping neighbors, sports teams, book clubs, offices, school communities or classrooms will sign up to “adopt” a basket.

“Donations of all kinds are wonderful, but there are a few parameters, mostly due to infection control,” she wrote in an email. “We need large baskets, but do not fill the baskets.

“Most items should be new and individually packaged if possible,” she continued. “For example, hair ties are exempt. ... Hotel samples of personal products are great.”

Other products she suggested for donation are facial masks, lip balms, face wipes, indi-



COURTESY PHOTO

Neighbors in the 1300 block of Bedford collected items for donation.

vidually wrapped toothbrushes and travel-size toothpaste, power bars, candy, gum and mints. “If you create a group, please collect all items and private message me (on social media) for my address,” she wrote. “Most importantly, we are trying to limit delivery traffic. All donations will go to St. John by April 5, and staff will take the required precautions to fill the baskets and distribute to the staff.”

Bellovich thanked volunteers in advance for their efforts.

“Be gentle with each other and yourselves as you navigate each day.”

Junior League Designers’ Show House postponed

After careful consideration of the rapidly changing situation surrounding COVID-19 and in taking an abundance of precaution, the Junior League of Detroit has announced the dates of its 2020 Designers’ Show House have been moved to Sept. 19 through Oct. 4.

The JLD’s main concern is the health and well-being of the extended Show House family, which includes guests, designers, landscapers, trades, volunteers, vendors, members and the Detroit community who all take part in bringing the league’s largest fundraiser to life.

“In the 44 years that the Junior League of Detroit has been hosting a Designers’ Show House, we have never canceled the event and we are not about to start now,” said JLD President Aimee Argel. “Our ultimate

goal is to put on the best Designers’ Show House possible and we sincerely hope that the entire Detroit community will be standing by our side once the doors and grounds of the Bingley Fales House open this September.”

The Illume Preview Gala will take place Saturday, Sept. 19, and the house will then open to the public for 15 consecutive days, including the first Sunday and two full weekends. Daily hours are yet to be determined, but will include some evening hours. All private and special events are being rescheduled accordingly.

Those who have already purchased tickets will be contacted to discuss refund or rescheduling options.

Visit the Junior League of Detroit website at jldetroit.org for updates.

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

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

WEDNESDAY
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Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
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King Crossword

Solution for
last week's
puzzle 3/26/20

ACROSS

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Uncategorized (Abbr.) | 43 | sion | 11 | Loch — |
| 5 | Web address | 46 | Marketplaces of old | 16 | Speed along |
| 8 | Portent | 50 | Got up | 20 | Campus mil. org. |
| 12 | Maleficence | 51 | Story | 22 | Church section |
| 13 | Menagerie | 51 | Belgian surrealist Rene | 23 | Leavening agent |
| 14 | Scruff | 54 | Ear-related | 25 | Water barrier |
| 15 | Reading material | 55 | Individual | 26 | Jungfrau, for one |
| 17 | Matures | 56 | List-ending abbr. | 27 | Mississippi bloom |
| 18 | World-weariness | 57 | — moss | 29 | Munro pseudonym |
| 19 | Salty solutions | 58 | Workout venue | 31 | Historic period |
| 21 | Fix, in a way | 59 | Sources for sauces | 32 | Hideaway |
| 24 | Raw rock | | | 34 | Concept |
| 25 | Knighted woman | | | 38 | Episodic TV show |
| 28 | Nuisance | | | 40 | Put up |
| 30 | Kennedy or Koppel | | | 42 | Scratch |
| 33 | Carte lead-in | | | 43 | On |
| 34 | Newton or Stern | | | 44 | Fence opening |
| 35 | Anger | | | 45 | Urban pall |
| 36 | Gasoline stat | | | 47 | Maestro |
| 37 | Dilbert's workplace | | | 48 | Klemperer |
| 38 | Check bar codes | | | 49 | Go no farther |
| 39 | Born | | | 52 | Congers, e.g. |
| 41 | Fourth dimen- | | | 53 | Whatever number |

DOWN

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Viral Internet phenom | 11 | Loch — |
| 2 | Terrible guy? | 16 | Speed along |
| 3 | Autograph | 20 | Campus mil. org. |
| 4 | Contract section | 22 | Church section |
| 5 | Submachine gun | 23 | Leavening agent |
| 6 | Reagan or Howard | 25 | Water barrier |
| 7 | Leopold's co-defendant | 26 | Jungfrau, for one |
| 8 | Broadcasting | 27 | Mississippi bloom |
| 9 | Attractive | 29 | Munro pseudonym |
| 10 | Duel tool | 31 | Historic period |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc. Solution Time: 25 minutes

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Solution for
last weeks
puzzle 3/26/20

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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