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# Grosse Pointe News

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## Return-to-work protocol offered

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — As the state gears up to begin reopening, Beaumont Urgent Care is offering a new program through 16 of its clinics in southeast Michigan, including the Grosse Pointe Farms location, which aims to help businesses through the process from a health and safety perspective.

“We know with Michigan, it’s a little bit more delayed than other states, but I know people are so eager and it’s in phases, so we can help those that are starting next week and then develop even more strategies as more companies decide to open up,” said Bernice Sessa, regional medical director for Beaumont Urgent Care.

The program is available for any size or type of business and is individualized to the specific business.

“We want to see what they’re looking for,” Sessa said. “What would be the best way to determine what’s best for them? We can access that depending on what they do (as a profession).”

The most important aspect of the program is protection, she said.

“The anxiety can start, whether it be for the employer, the employee or even the customers if it’s a situation where customers do walk in, so you

See **PROTOCOL**, page 4A



DRONE PHOTO BY JACK RYAN/SKYVIEW AERIAL PRODUCTIONS

Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage anticipates resuming elective surgeries Monday, May 18.

## Cottage to ramp up services

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Although much of the focus throughout the COVID-19 outbreak has been on major area hospitals, Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage certainly was not exempt from rapidly adapting patient care procedures, with a tent constructed outside the building to test patients and the waiting room converted into a negative pressure triage evaluation

room.

Between Monday, March 16, and Monday, May 11, Cottage tested 204 patients for COVID-19 with 112 returning positive, according to Richard Zarbo, M.D., system chairman in pathology and laboratory medicine for Henry Ford Health System.

“I strongly believe the numbers are much, much higher than is reported because of the rate-limiting process of the reagent,” said Gust Bills,

D.O., director of the emergency department at Cottage. “(In the beginning) there wasn’t enough reagent to go around to test everybody, so we were only testing those patients that were admitting to the hospital because we have to know if they’re positive or negative.”

While the volume of patients has been down more than 80 percent throughout the outbreak, according to Douglas Ditri, vice president and chief operating officer for

ambulatory operations with Henry Ford Health System, both Cottage and Pierson have remained open.

“We have not closed,” said Marianne Langlois, administrator for Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage. “We have been here. Our services have been here. We’ve just changed the way we see patients, the way we care for them. The doctors are seeing how well virtual

See **COTTAGE**, page 4A

## Council debates budget amid health crisis

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — City council approved its municipal budget at the Monday, May 11, virtual meeting, but provisions for the Northwest Tax Increment Finance Authority and Downtown Development Authority didn’t meet the full council’s standard for approval.

A 4-3 vote that followed a motion by Councilwoman Aimeé Rogers Fluit to exclude TIFA and DDA line items forced the members to revisit the development agency allocations at a later time.

TIFA-related topics, including an amended plan vote that was tabled until June’s meeting, dominated much of the

See **BUDGET**, page 3A

## 2020 graduation plans take shape

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — It’s not the pomp and circumstance of a traditional commencement ceremony or what Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high school seniors and their families may have envisioned, but the Grosse Pointe Public School System is creating a series of events to celebrate the Class of 2020.

According to a May 11 email from GPPSS Superintendent Gary Niehaus, “While COVID is changing how we do this, we still wish to do what we can to create

meaningful, lasting, positive memories. We love our students and wish we could give them the traditional send-off they deserve. But within current guidelines, parents, students and staff have helped develop some creative solutions.”

GPPSS Senior Celebration Week begins Monday, June 1, with a memory box exchange. Seniors will be given a designated time to return to their high school for the first time since buildings closed March 16, as part of the governor’s stay-at-home order.

See **PLANS**, page 8A

## 50,000 masks allocated throughout G.P.

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Despite the shipment being delayed in customs for about a month, the Park public safety department was able to receive an order of 50,000 KN95 masks last week, donated by a resident of the Grosse Pointes who wishes to remain anonymous.

“We just want the donor to know how much we truly appreciate what they gave us and how it’s going to affect the lives of the people in Grosse Pointe,” said Stephen Poloni, director of public safety for the City and Park.

The donor has worked with the public safety department on efforts in



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Public Safety Director Stephen Poloni holds a KN95 mask in front his patrol car, where 20 boxes of 500 masks each are loaded.**

the past, Poloni explained, and reached out to the department to serve as the conduit through which he could get the personal protective equipment distributed.

“He’s been involved in helping the Grosse Pointes in the past in other endeavors and just felt led to do this for the community, just for the

See **MASKS**, page 2A

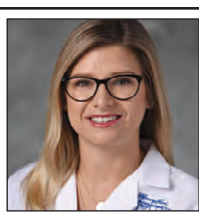
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## Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



**Nicole Brouyette**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Park  
Doctor collecting PPE donations to aid colleagues



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# Loraine sewer in need of repair

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The City is looking at taking on a significant sewer and street repair project along Loraine beginning in the spring and summer of 2021 and spanning two fiscal years, following an investigation of the sewer line from Waterloo to Mack.

“A couple years ago, the DPW started to experience or identify some settlement in the centerline of the road on Loraine

between Waterloo and Mack and also on several spots along the curbline,” City Engineer Stephen Pangori said. “Earlier this year, we had the sewer main and as many of the sewer leads investigated as we could with closed caption television.”

The investigation found multiple fractures, an offset joint and two holes in the sewer main between Mack and Charlevoix; multiple fractures at five locations and an offset joint on the sewer main between Charlevoix and Waterloo; and 19 service

leads with separated joints, offset joints and visible soil.

“The majority of these defects that we found lined up with the sinkholes that had developed in the street, so one plus one equaled two and we became pretty confident that the settlement that the DPW was finding in the street was directly resulting from the deficiencies in the sewer main or the sewer leads that were beneath the road,” Pangori explained.

As a result of the investigation, it was recom-

mended to council during the virtual meeting Monday, May 11, that the City excavate and replace 19 service leads from the main to the property line and install clean-outs; excavate and replace the sewer main at three locations due to offset joints and extensive cracking; install 560 feet of full-length cured-in-place pipe in the main between Mack and Charlevoix; and install five sectional cured-in-place pipes in the sewer main between Charlevoix and Waterloo.

“Then unfortunately,

because of all of the excavation repairs that we need to make within the footprint of the street, we’re going to end up ultimately having to reconstruct Loraine from Waterloo to Mack,” Pangori said.

Current price estimation for this project is \$554,000 for Mack to Charlevoix and \$726,000 for Charlevoix to Waterloo.

Approximately 20 percent of the cost is related to the sewer repairs, while the rest is contributed to the reconstruction of Loraine, Pangori esti-

mated.

Approximately half of the Loraine project funds will come from the 2020-21 fiscal budget, with the rest from the following fiscal year, City Manager Pete Dame said.

The section of sewer under Loraine is nearly 100 years old, according to Pangori.

“Most likely the cause is from improper installation and settlement that occurred in the trench over time that caused the joints to separate and offset from the main,” he said. “... That causes infiltration of the soil into the sewer and then over time, it ends up creating and forming a sinkhole on the surface of the street.”

# Signs of gratitude during Teacher Appreciation Week

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

Teacher Appreciation Week generally abounds with lunches hosted by parent volunteers, bagels and coffee in faculty lounges, keepsake gifts and other gestures of gratitude.

“Social distancing has made that a bit more complicated,” Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Gary Niehaus pointed out in an email to district staff May 7.



COURTESY PHOTO

**ULS senior Jimmy Fitzgerald of Grosse Pointe Woods helped out with delivery, personally dropping off signs to teachers he had since he was 3. He is pictured with prekindergarten teacher Julie Demchak.**

School, a team of approximately 10 parents, students and staff members drove around metro Detroit Thursday, May 7, to distribute “We Love Our Teachers” signs to faculty members’ homes, some making deliveries as far as Ann Arbor, Rochester Hills, Livonia and Riverview.

Mary Wysocki, parent to a ULS fifth and seventh grader, came up with the idea as a way to recognize teachers for creating, implementing and maintaining an online learning program during

the pandemic — including giving up a two-week spring break at the end of March to prepare.

During a meeting, Wysocki saw the results of a survey sent to parents, students and teachers and realized the teachers were struggling with the abrupt end to the traditional school day and transition to online learning as much as students and parents.

“For me, you get so focused on how the pandemic is affecting our family and the children and it kind of stopped me dead in my tracks that the teachers were struggling as well,” Wysocki said.

# Dulac wins state DAR award

Grosse Pointe South High School senior Dominic Dulac was awarded a State of Michigan Good Citizens Award by the Daughters of the American Revolution on March 31.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, founded more than 125 years ago, is an organization with a deeply rich history. DAR members are descendants of those who fought in the American Revolution.



Dominic Dulac

The State of Michigan Good Citizens Award is

awarded annually to one male and one female student. Nominees are submitted from each of the 52 statewide DAR chapters. Applicants for the award must demonstrate in an outstanding way the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

In addition to statewide recognition, Dulac received a \$1,250 scholarship, as well as a DAR cord and pin to wear at graduation.



PHOTO BY JACK RYAN

# Carryouts only

**Park Grill Mediterranean, 15102 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, reopened for carryout orders only Thursday, May 7. Hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (313) 264-1997.**

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# MASKS:

Continued from page 1A

betterment of the community and to help,” Poloni said, “to make

sure that first responders and hospital workers and all those people working in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods had the available PPE equipment to fight the coronavirus outbreak.”

The masks are being distributed to all the public safety departments in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods, Ascension St. John Hospital, Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage and Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe.

“Those are the main areas where they went, but they are going to be



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Poloni hands boxes of KN95 masks to City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Officer Andrew Prueter.**

used in some businesses and some other places

throughout the Grosse Pointes,” Poloni said, reporting each place will receive an allotment based upon need.

It is not at all uncommon to see such generosity from Grosse Pointe residents, he added.

“There is a group of residents in Grosse Pointe Park and the Grosse Pointes that are continually donating and asking what they can do for the betterment of the community and that’s not common in every city to have those kinds of residents that come up with large amounts of donations to help in whatever area they can,” he said.

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# Realtors return to neighborhoods after state limits

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Beline Obeid was upbeat on a cool spring day that found her dressed more like a nurse than a longtime Realtor. Like other residential sales agents throughout Michigan, she ventured out to give her first tour of a home in almost two months since a state shutdown of non-essential businesses limited operations.

“As a matter of fact, I was out today with mask and with gloves and with booties,” said Obeid, owner of Beline Obeid Realty.

The Woods-based agent has served the

Pointes for 32 years, so she’s rolling with the punches after an ongoing public health emergency mandated personal protective equipment be worn during showings as of Thursday, May 7. Additional state requirements include a four-person limit during each tour and that homeowners disinfect the premises before and after visits from potential buyers.

Obeid and other local real estate professionals are optimistic that new requirements designed to prevent the spread of infections will do little to hinder a strong resurgence of Michigan’s real estate market. In fact,

most say they suffered no major setbacks from the unexpected halt to standard procedure.

“My sense is, based on the market data, that yes, we’ve seen new listings coming on the market,” said Bob Taylor, head of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors.

Judging by what Taylor has heard from mortgage lenders, brokers and agents, “frankly, they’ve been very busy,” he said.

Combined with good, old-fashioned communication, technology, like online property listings, helped Obeid and Realtor Kay Agney continue serving clients.

“We’re certainly back in business, but our com-

pany motto has always been ‘matching people and houses with imagination,’” said Agney, owner of Higbie Maxon Agney Realtors. “Our tagline now is ‘matching people and houses — safely — with imagination.’”

Adjustments to state restrictions included asking buyers and sellers to wait in their vehicles and enter closing transaction appointments separately, adding physical distance, Agney said.

“Plus if anybody wanted to buy a house, it was always subject to their being able to physically see it,” she said.

But flexibility and commitment helped Agney, who sells throughout the Pointes, Detroit and St.

Clair Shores, position herself for what she predicts will be a strong recovery.

“I think we’re actually going to have a pent-up demand of people that want to buy houses because the interest rates are so low,” Agney said.

“It won’t happen overnight,” she added, “but I think we’ll be back to the market that we had, hopefully sooner than later.”

Obeid closed seven transactions in April after the March executive order, comparable to her number of home closings in April 2019, she said.

“We have been working night and day at my company to solve the challenge of today’s envi-

ronment and we have solutions to help people get their homes sold,” Obeid said.

Taylor agreed with Agney’s forecast of even better days to come in the local market.

“Real estate transactions are not what I call, ‘want-based,’” he said. “In other words, ‘I want to buy a new dress,’ ‘I want to buy a new car.’ Typically, people need to buy a new house because of a birth, a death, the kids are going away to college, they’re coming back from college.”

Changing times don’t change a Realtor’s role, he added: “Really, we don’t just sell real estate. We help people change their lives.”

# Tedesco prepares to play college baseball

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North senior Joey Tedesco is ready for his next challenge, playing college baseball.

The standout 17-year-old from Grosse Pointe Woods has been playing soccer and baseball since he was running around the schools he attended as a child, Assumption and Monteith, before embarking to Brownell Middle School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMBRE TEDESCO

**Senior Joey Tedesco poses in his Grosse Pointe North varsity baseball uniform.**

Tedesco said. “I was impressed by the campus tour, overnight visit and the baseball program. In addition, the coaching and training staff set Hillsdale apart from the rest.”

Theisen’s other coaches are Gordie Theisen,

recruiting coordinator and pitching coach, and Evan Berliner, director of player development and operations.

Tedesco plans to major in accounting, economics and finance. On the playing field, he will be a pitcher, a left-hander, and play in the field.

Even though sports are at a standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tedesco is working out and staying in playing shape. His senior year of baseball at North was wiped out, canceled by the MHSAA.

“Missing my senior year of baseball is devastating,” Tedesco said. “That includes not playing with my younger brother, Jake. I play the season in my mind — it’s agonizing. As a captain, I have to lead by action and example — keeping positive thoughts, encouraging and uplifting my teammates by remind-

ing them to concentrate on workouts, summer ball and for the underclassmen, next year’s season as a Norseman. I will forever miss the season never played.”

He reports to Hillsdale College in early August.

“Watching Joey compete fostered our love for the game of baseball. We had the utmost confidence knowing his hard work and practice would be evident on the mound and on the field,” wrote his parents, Tambre and Joe Tedesco, in an email.

“As his parents and biggest fans, we are so proud of Joey for his commitment, discipline and tenacity as he continues to strive toward his goals. He is most earnest and deserving of the baseball scholarship he was awarded. Go Chargers.”

Tedesco turns 18 July 29, just before he leaves for college.

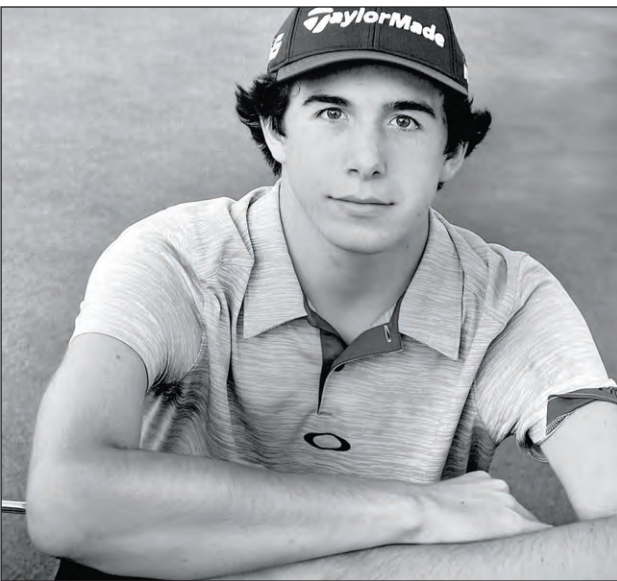


PHOTO COURTESY OF TERESA BENNETT

## College athlete

Grosse Pointe North senior Robby Wesley, above, signed a National Letter of Intent to play golf at Alma College for head coach Brandon Trefil. The 18-year-old Wesley, the son of Julie and Rob Wesley of Grosse Pointe Shores, will follow the pre-dentistry program. His college golf schedule begins with practice in August and the first event is scheduled Friday, Aug. 30, at the Lou Collins Invitational at Bedford Valley Golf Club in Battle Creek. Wesley and his teammates compete in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association with Hope, Calvin, Trine, Kalamazoo, Adrian, Albion and Olivet.

# BUDGET:

Continued from page 1A

four-hour long meeting and public hearing, drawing some criticism of TIFA board procedures. Fluitt, along with members Lauri Read, Vikas Relan and Michele Hodges, cited concerns that both TIFA and DDA comply with state Public Act 57 reporting requirements.

TIFA was designed to help revitalize the Park district bordered by Mack on the north, Jefferson on the south, the city limit on the west and the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham on the east. The organization has begun efforts to support relocating the Park’s Department of Public Works from Jefferson to Mack as part of a plan to stimulate new investment in the area.

Fluitt questioned whether TIFA is serving its stated objectives, saying the organization “is not helping small businesses in the district.”

She quoted a Park resident who recently praised the city for its

“walkable” neighborhood attractions while concerned that recent economic decline might leave nothing “to walk to.”

City Attorney Thomas “Jake” Howlett said there are limits to what TIFA can do to help keep shop and restaurant doors open, particularly where landlords are involved.

Read, meanwhile, questioned the wisdom of discussing allocations and the TIFA amendment while the uncertainty of a public health crisis continues impacting the economy.

“I’m very upset about this process and, really, the lack of understanding and forethought that we’re having in this pandemic,” Read told Mayor Bob Denner.

Park residents like Graig Donnelly and Mary Rouleau, who spoke during the virtual meeting, shared similar concerns about the timing of discussions that would impact the city’s future, amid health and financial challenges. Donnelly said general expenses related to the Park’s long-term economic recovery will eat

away at budget allocations approved “without first discussing these harsh realities.”

Rouleau, a candidate for an October TIFA board position, repeated some sentiments she’d written to each of the council members when she learned of the planned TIFA discussion in April.

“I think it is highly inappropriate to schedule a public hearing for May 11, given the current circumstances,” Rouleau wrote.

“Scheduling should be postponed until a time when it is safe for a public hearing of reasonable size.”

Rouleau planned to submit documentation of her concerns about the impact of proposed plans for the TIFA district, she told council members May 11.

Via email, she asked if landlord support might be offered to benefit renovation and repair of private residences, in accordance with statute, and whether the Park

will identify sources of aid to small businesses.

In a related TIFA development, Marcia L. Fairrow was approved to a two-year board

appointment in a unanimous vote. Denner said other strong candidates will be considered for terms of staggered lengths later this year.

## Correction

In the article, “Construction gets go-ahead,” printed in the May 7 Grosse Pointe News, the quote at the end of the story should have been attributed to Robert McCann. Additionally, bringing in Opportunity Labs is one option the governor’s office is considering, not a definite plan of action.



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# Doctor campaigns for PPE donations in spare time

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

When Nicole Brouyette isn't working as a foot and ankle surgeon for Henry Ford Hospital, she has put any free time for nearly two months toward collecting more than 4,000 pieces of personal protective equipment and getting them to the departments at Henry Ford, Ascension St. John Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe that need them the most.

"At Henry Ford, the people that I work with, I consider them family and you'll do anything for the people that take care of

you," Brouyette said, "and at that point I was like, 'What can I do to help?' because as a foot and ankle surgeon or a doctor, I'm not in there in the ICU and when I am not working, I feel like I still should be doing something for them."

The idea was born when neighbors who know she works at Henry Ford began giving her PPE and asking her to give it to people who need it.

"Honestly, I have never seen a community come together in such tough times where some people are really struggling financially with the economy the way it is and then everyone was still willing to give money," Brouyette said.

The Park resident began with social media posts and phone calls to various Grosse Pointe groups.

"That's kind of how it started," she said. "I put some phone calls out to different offices around town to say, 'Hey, I work at this hospital. We're in need of PPE. Do you

have anything you can spare?' And then everything started happening."

Donations began coming in from companies, including 2,000 masks from a local dentist's office followed by 100 more from another dentist in St. Clair Shores.

Major company Salesforce, through the lead of Park resident and employee Dave Bonkosky, held an event specifically to raise funds for Brouyette's efforts, ultimately donating \$4,000.

These funds purchased more than 1,500 face masks, which were split between the three hospitals, and were purchased from a local company after Brouyette negotiated for a significantly lower price.

"I said, 'Listen, all this money is not coming from me, it's from my community. We're trying to help the community. How can you basically help us?'" she said.

Every coworker she reached out to in the foot and ankle division of Henry Ford donated as well.

When she began these efforts around March 23, "the situation was definitely worse off," Brouyette said. "We didn't have anything and we also didn't know how hard COVID was going to



COURTESY PHOTOS

Nicole Brouyette, left, and Farms resident Olga Klahm transport 2,000 face masks donated by local dentist Dr. Faith Aboona.



Nicole Brouyette works as a foot and ankle surgeon at both Henry Ford's downtown campus and Henry Ford Pierson.

impact everybody and how much PPE we would actually need. You forget about some of these frontliners that aren't just doctors and nurses. There are so many other people that are involved in helping with patient care.

"I pretty much was going to be possibly deployed to go work in those environments," she continued, "because basically it was all hands on deck and so when a situation comes like that, I was like, I will do whatever it takes to get these people protected."

The PPE situation at Henry Ford currently is in a good place, she reported.

"Everyone was obviously a little bit nervous in the beginning because we didn't really know what to expect, but honestly as things have pretty much progressed, I've been trying to tell people it's OK," Brouyette said. "We're going to get through this. We have to basically be able to be adaptable and change with the times."

"Now, I would say there's no fear to go to work, because we do

know we all have proper PPE and our staff and our providers are protected from the virus and as long as we use safe precautions, we should be in good hands," she added.

While she is no longer actively seeking donations, anyone who has PPE and would like to see it get to the right place can reach out at nbrouyel@hfhs.org.

"It's a good feeling to know that we're at that point now in all of our health systems and everyone is good," Brouyette said.

## PROTOCOL:

Continued from page 1A

want to make sure that everyone is safe," Sessa said.

This is incorporated through COVID-19 exposure strategic planning, including the implementation and assessment of a screening process, training of employers and staff for the screening process and personal protective equipment recommendations, as

well as appropriate usage.

"We want to make sure the employers consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID and lower the impact in the workplace and so some of these activities can include monitoring and reducing transmission among the employees, mitigate disruption, minimize absenteeism and maintain a safe workplace," Sessa explained.

The program also includes both COVID-19

and antibody testing. Sessa reported they have a good supply of kits to cover the need.

"What I like to focus on also, so people understand, is that our tests are FDA authorized," she said. "There is no test that has been FDA approved yet, only because of the limit of time."

The test for the virus is a polymerase chain reaction oral or nasal swab, while the antibody test requires blood drawn

from the vein.

Both take an average of two to three days to get results.

"We can set it up where it can be an appointment and do mass testing before a clinic opens," Sessa said. "If there's a lot of people, we can come to their site as well."

In addition, the program offers care for sick employees through virtual visits, in-person visits and medical determinations for work status.

"It's more than just return to work," Sessa said. "It's return to work and stay safe. It's sustainability. So if a month from now after you've come to work, someone all of a sudden develops a fever, now everyone's been exposed and now what do you do and do you have to send everyone home?"

Any employer interested in implementing the program at their business may email shughes@wellstreet.com

or bseassa@wellstreet.com.

"We can present to them virtually over Skype what our presentation is," Sessa said. "We can send them information through email and give them a piecemeal of what we can do piece by piece (on) how the program is set up, starting from the beginning, prescreening all the employees prior to starting and what we do while they're at work, and then in the future down the line."

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2017 Section 50-339(2), will hold a remote Public Hearing on June 1, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. regarding an Application for Site Plan Review and Special Land Use from Cross Pointe Christian Church, 21336 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI. The application involves construction of an addition of approximately 1,900 sq. ft. for an elevator, elevator equipment room, and office. This proposal requires Special Land Use approval pursuant to Secs. 50-32 and Site Plan Review requirements in accordance with Sections 50-34 through 50-42 of the Grosse Pointe Woods Code. Agenda documents are available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 20025 Mack Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's office, up to the close of business preceding the hearing. A group spokesperson is encouraged on agenda items concerning organized groups. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at 313 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and remote meeting accessibility instructions will be available on the on-line calendar at [www.gpwmil.us](http://www.gpwmil.us).

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 5/14/2020

## COTTAGE:

Continued from page 1A

visits are working and for those patients who really need to be here one-on-one, we are here.

"First and foremost, safety is the priority, so we are doing this deliberately, smartly and in phases," she continued. "We look forward to seeing those patients whose needs could wait and who stayed safe at home."

The medical center is anticipating resuming elective surgeries Monday, May 18.

"We've always been



PHOTO BY JACK RYAN

Cottage is taking measures to protect patients and staff.

able to do procedures and surgeries," Ditri said. "There were certain restrictions, but it was up to the system to decide what was time-sensitive or what was urgent. We have been deploying all our resources to hospital care, so we simply could not manage both modalities at the same time. Now as our hospital census goes down ... we're trying to accommodate more because the backlog is enormous and there are a lot of people in need right now."

Extended hours may be implemented around June 1, which will enable the center to space out patients while practicing social distancing in the lobby.

"In addition, we're hoping to meet our patients more on their terms and when it works for them as well," Ditri said. "We think

a lot of folks won't be able or wanting to take time off to go to provider visits, so we need to be there when it works for them."

Additional measures, some of which already have been put in place, as the medical center prepares to ramp up include limiting the number of entrances and exits; a screening process for all staff, patients and visitors; temporary visitor restrictions; masks to be worn by all staff and visitors and provided if needed; social distancing through reconfigured furniture and signage on elevator spacing, floor spacing and other guidelines; and patients being taken to the exam room from the waiting room as quickly as possible.

"We've been working really hard at this for weeks and I would say

that when I start every meeting with my teams, I say to them our goal is to ensure that both patients and our employees are confident that they're entering a safe environment when they come into our facilities," Ditri said. "We have a safe environment and we've had a safe environment all through this entire crisis."

Virtual care options — virtual visits with a primary care physician, telephone consults, the MyCare nurse advice line, e-visits via emailing with a provider and virtual specialty visits — will remain in operation and the pharmacy inside Pierson is offering curbside pickup and mail service, as well as same-day deliveries for prescriptions sent before 3 p.m.

The medical center also is working on ways to address the expected increase in patients who've lost insurance coverage during the stay-at-home order.

"We are a mission-based organization and historically for 105 years, we have supported our community," Ditri said. "Almost immediately we pulled back on a number of our normal billing and collection-type activities in order to not make people feel pressured and to have them not afraid to come in to get care and get what they need."

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS**  
**WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**  
**SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 20, 2020**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kenneth A. Poynter at 1:00 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 April 6, 2020 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Board of Review meeting held April 6, 2020.  
2) to open the Public Hearing on the Continuation of a Special Assessment District.  
3) to close the Public Hearing on the Continuation of a Special Assessment District.  
4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 1:44 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 119113 through 119214 in the amount of \$365,976.29 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$6,159.54 for professional services during the month of March 2020 for the following projects: Stormwater Asset Management Plan, #180-202; 2020 Pavement Joint/Crack Sealing, #180-226; Emergency Sewer Repair, #180-215; Emergency Storm Sewer Repair, #180-229; DTE Sidewalk Inspection, #180-191; GLWA Corrosion Study, #180-232; Federal Call for Projects, #180-227 and the Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-231. (3) approve payment to SafeBuilt, Inc. in the amount of \$39,397.60 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of March 2020.  
2) to adopt the attached resolutions to continue a Special Assessment District in the City of Harper Woods.

**Kenneth A. Poynter**, Mayor  
Published: GPN, May 14, 2020

**Leslie M. Frank**, City Clerk



Crime falls by 100 incidents

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety has made around 100 fewer on-scene incident runs than its officers reported at this time in 2019, said department Director John Kosanke.

As reflected in many other Michigan municipalities, crime rates in the Woods have decreased during the weeks since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a stay-at-home order and closures to non-essential businesses, to slow the spread of infection.

“The criminals don’t want to catch COVID-19,” Kosanke said.

Early weeks of the state’s response to the public health emergency felt “like a holiday” for officers, Kosanke said.

While domestic disturbances increased, likely due to more hours spent at home by families and couples, overall incident runs decreased by as many as 10 per day.

The department began renovating its public lobby where citizens personally report incidents after the area was closed due to safety precautions, Kosanke said.

Adjustments in some aspects of public safety’s operation don’t reflect a lack of service to citizens in the largest of the Pointes, he added.

“We’re here and we’re working every day,” Kosanke said.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOL BRUMME

All-Pointes pursuit

Police caught up with the driver of a car they were chasing down Lakeshore/Jefferson on May 8. The chase began in Grosse Pointe Shores and the driver was caught near Three Mile Road on Jefferson in Grosse Pointe Park. All five Pointes pursued the vehicle, which was stopped through use of a stop stick. No one was injured. Police cars from all five Pointes joined in the chase.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Thirsty thief

A suspect is sought for retail fraud after allegedly stealing \$82 in Red Bull and Monster Energy drinks from a drugstore in the 20400 block of Mack around 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.

The man, described as white, 25 to 30 years old with a thin build and brown hair, drove an older model blue Ford Taurus.

Busted after break-in attempt

A 56-year-old Detroit man was arrested after removing the lock from a garage in the 1800 block of Newcastle Friday, May 1.

Home surveillance revealed the suspect driving away and he was arrested after his vehicle was located.

Nothing was reported missing from the garage.

Carted off

A suspect is sought for stealing approximately \$150 in liquor from a drugstore in the 20400 block of Mack around 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5.

Described as a white man is his 40s, approximately 6 feet tall and 150 pounds, driving a silver Cadillac Seville, the man pushed a cart through the store and left with the alcohol.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Bike bandit

A men’s Diamond bicycle was stolen from an unlocked garage in the 1000 block of Wayburn between midnight and 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 4.

The suspect is unknown.

Another garage invaded

A \$400 Ryobi tool set and a \$150 Bluetooth speaker were stolen from an unlocked garage in the 1100 block of Lakepointe between 3 p.m. Thursday, May 7, and 4 p.m. Friday, May 8.

The suspect is unknown.

Porch pirate

A 61-year-old Detroit man was arrested in the 1300 block of Wayburn around 2:30 a.m. Saturday, May 9, after opening packages he allegedly stole from a porch.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

Report information about these and other

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.

City of Grosse Pointe

Patient theft

A patient at an area hospital reported an unknown person took \$150 and her ID from her personal property while she was staying at the hospital between Saturday, April 18, and Friday, April 24.

Keyed car

The vehicle of a resident in the 700 block of Lincoln Road was keyed while it was parked in his driveway between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, May 7.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information about these and other crimes to the City of

Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Stood up by seller

A Farms woman in her mid-50s sent a wire transfer at the end of April through eBay for a motorcycle, but when she went to pick it up, the seller did not show.

Consistent counterfeiter

Thirteen counterfeit \$20 bills were discovered at a business in the 19000 block of Mack Avenue at 10:30 p.m. Friday, May 8. The suspect is believed to be a regular customer.

Stolen vehicle

A Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT8 was stolen from the

100 block of Cloverly Road between midnight and 11:15 a.m. Saturday, May 9. There were no signs of forced entry.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Stopped by sign

After taking a turn too wide, driving onto the curb and running over a stop sign at Stillmeadow Lane and Lakeshore Road, a 47-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 4:36 p.m. Wednesday, May 6.

A preliminary breath test showed her blood alcohol content was .27 percent.

Hi-lo fire

A hi-lo dropping off bricks on Oxford Road caught fire at 9:59 a.m. Friday, May 8. The fire was contained by Shores public safety and no further damage was done.

Car chase

After the Woods was dispatched for the report of a drunken driver on southbound Lakeshore Road at 2:58 p.m. Friday, May 8, and the vehicle fled, all five Pointes became involved.

Stop sticks were deployed in three locations before the 24-year-old Adrian man was arrested by Shores officers at Jefferson near Three Mile Road.

The man was arrested for fleeing and eluding, operating under the influence of drugs, driv-

ing while license suspended and improper registration, as well as cited for speeding and the seatbelt law.

Driving while intoxicated

When a vehicle was seen traveling 10 mph on Lakeshore Road with a flat tire at 11:26 p.m. Friday, May 8, officers initiated a traffic stop to do a welfare check and found the 34-year-old Eastpointe woman was intoxicated.

A preliminary breath test showed her blood alcohol content was .19 percent and she was arrested.

— Laurel Kraus

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



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Grosse Pointe News

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PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585  
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

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

OUR VIEW

Pointers: Come to your Census!

Come on, responsible Pointers! Surely you census laggards can take a minute now to show your respect for the Constitution and get your information to the right place, whether by phone, online or via the old-school method, the U.S. mail.

While there’s no reason for anyone to lollygag, the responses in the Pointes are actually doing fairly well compared to some of their seeming peer cities. Grosse Pointe Park, at 75.2 percent by the beginning of this week, has surpassed Birmingham, at 71.1 percent and Bloomfield Hills at 65.4 percent, according to the response rate map at 2020census.gov. The City of Detroit hasn’t hit the halfway mark yet.

Other current return rates around here include Grosse Pointe at 77.7 percent; Grosse Pointe Farms, 82.6 percent; Grosse Pointe Woods, 83 percent and Grosse Pointe Shores, 78.8 percent. Harper Woods is at 68.9 percent. All surpass the statewide rate of 65.3 percent.

As you may have already committed to memory, census numbers are used for multiple allocations of federal funds and, most directly, to determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and in state legislatures. To maintain Michigan’s clout in Congress, everyone in Michigan needs to get themselves counted — and even that may not be enough, given the fact that most U.S. population growth is taking place far outside the Midwest.

Within the state, for seat apportionment, the Pointes need to do their share to keep southeast Michigan well represented. And if the Pointes get fully counted, it can only increase the chance that they will get a state House district that contains all the Pointes and Harper Woods, not the split-in-two monstrosity in effect today.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the census, of course. Much of its original schedule is at least two months behind. For example, Area Census Offices were to begin field staffing in early March; but in fact just a few began operating last week and this week — and none of them are in Michigan.

Other schedule changes include three- to four-month delays in delivering the data needed to apportion congressional and legislative seats. The numbers for state legislatures, for example, are now due for delivery July 31, 2021, not April 1, 2021, as originally planned. That will make reapportionment even more of a rush in preparation for 2022 elections.

That’s another reason to get local returns as high as possible. The rock solid numbers behind full participation can only further backstop this community’s quest for better recognition, in Lansing in particular.

But during the pandemic, there’s a bigger issue — ensuring the safety of the field workers who will be out going door to door. There’s no reason to subject them to walking through neighborhoods, even if they take every precaution to distance themselves appropriately from potential contagious encounters. (For the same reason, you may not want a census field worker on your porch, either.)

Regan Stolarski, director of administration at the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, notes that everyone still has ample opportunity to respond, online or by phone. Plus, most households by now also have gotten a form that can be mailed back.

Ms. Stolarski notes that it’s helpful to encourage your neighbors, too. That can go a long way toward minimizing the risk to census workers, as well as getting the Pointes closer to full participation.

But by now you know all the reasons — and a big majority of you can pat yourselves on the back for having submitted your information already. If you’re among the laggards, now’s the time to dig out the multiple mailings you’ve gotten and submit your information. The pandemic may feel like forever, but there’s still no time like the present.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANA TAZZIA



PHOTO COURTESY OF GERARD MARTIN

Pure Grosse Pointe

Offering a sign of hope, Carlie Tazzia, above left, made the “Light at the End of the Tunnel” at his and wife Dana Tazzia’s home in Grosse Pointe Farms. Above right, the residents of 742 Berkshire have been posting a board with daily jokes for the past eight weeks. “In these tough times, we all can use a laugh and the joke board brings smiles to everyone that passes while walking, jogging or cycling,” wrote Gerard Martin in an email.

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.

Tennis, anyone?

To the Editor:

In these trying times the sentiment and content of this letter may seem like a nit to many; nonetheless, here it is.

Since golf and motored boating are now permitted, I contacted the City of Grosse Pointe Woods regarding the opening of the tennis courts at Lake Front Park. I was informed that because players come into contact with the tennis ball, tennis is considered a “contact sport” and the courts will remain closed at this time.

Since tennis by its very nature supports social distancing well in excess of six feet, I posed a query to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Their response to my stated position that tennis should be a permitted recreational activity under the governor’s order was this:

“Thank you for contacting MDHHS about coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In response to your question(s), please review the following information:

“I believe your conclusion is consistent with the guidelines provided in Executive Order 2020-59.

“Individuals may leave their home or place of residence, and travel as necessary:

“1. To engage in outdoor recreational activity, consistent with remaining at least six feet from people from outside the individual’s household. Outdoor recreational activity includes walking, hiking, running, cycling, boating, golfing or other similar activity, as well as any comparable activity for those with limited mobility.”

I forwarded this response to the City of GPW, but have received no response and the tennis courts remain closed.

There are hundreds of tennis players in the immediate community who would like to use tennis as a form of exercise, stress relief and as an escape from having to “stay at home.” Let’s open the tennis courts now that the good weather is here.

GARY HOSLET  
Grosse Pointe Woods

Ascension procession

To the Editor:

I would like to thank everyone that joined us on May 4 to honor our first responders/healthcare heroes during the procession on Moross in front of Ascension St. John Hospital Moross campus.

This event would not have been possible without the support of Louis Theros, mayor of Grosse Pointe Farms; Dan Jensen, director of public safety, Grosse Pointe Farms; John Kosanke, director of public safety, Grosse Pointe Woods; Commander Ewing, Commander Decker, Commander Szilagy and Corp. Donakowski, Detroit Police Department; Lt. Simms and Chief Jaafar, Wayne County Sheriff’s Department; Lt. Andy Rogers, Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety; Lt. David Gardzella, Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety; Matthew Stentz, HSI Detroit; Lt. Halsell and Chief Larkins, Detroit Fire Department; Harold Jones, St. John Security Police and many more.

Also, I would like to thank the Grosse Pointe News for covering this important event and their community support. I know I am missing a few additional departments. Below, you will find a list of first responders in the procession.

Wayne County Sheriff’s Department  
Wayne County Sheriff’s

Dept. Auxiliary Unit  
Detroit Fire Dept.  
Homeland Security  
U.S. Customs  
U.S. Border Patrol  
U.S. Marshals  
DPD 5 Precinct  
DPD 9 Precinct  
DPD Underwater Recovery Unit  
DPD TEU  
DPD Mounted Unit  
GPF Public Safety  
GPW Public Safety  
GPS Public Safety  
GPF K-9  
St. John Security Police  
K-9  
MedStar  
MedStar Aviation  
Thank you for everything! We had a first-class effort by first-class individuals and departments.  
SEAN J. LANE  
Grosse Pointe Farms

Nourishment through the arts

To the Editor:

I’m writing to express my support of the continuation of the proposed art center.

As a resident of the TIFA district, my life will be enriched by the addition of this cultural gem. As a member of the Grosse Pointe Theatre, I look forward to a permanent home for the group — a state-of-the-art theater to delight actor and audience alike.

The art center would support the TIFA goals better than anything else we could hope to build on precious underdeveloped land in the area with a public-private partnership made feasible through majority private funding. If the economic stimulus from patrons amounted to a modest \$0.5 million annually, a public investment of \$4 million to move our aging and ill-suited DPW represents a great payback to residents. And, that’s above and beyond the public benefit of a new DPW facility, itself partly funded from the sale of the former DPW land.

The art center will enrich cultural life in Grosse Pointe Park and surrounding communities while beautifying a section of town that has long been an eyesore.

I’ve enjoyed living here in the Park for the past 20 years and appreciate all that has been made possible through private donations and public tax dollars. I applaud the

Schaaps and Manoogians and so many others that have been successful in their careers and generous enough to give back to their community. I believe private donors should be lauded for funding projects that enhance civic life in Grosse Pointe Park.

Lately, I have witnessed an uprising from those that seek to stand in the way of the art center’s fruition. I recognize that there are those among us that seek to shelve this project — not because of any disdain for art or theater or beautification — but because of their attachment to core values of transparency and community engagement. I support the efforts of those that seek to bring transparency to our city government. And with them, I believe development projects benefit from the input of many voices.

I’m hopeful those in our community who prefer economic development projects to begin with civic engagement will create a new project of their own making to champion. The victory garden, while early in its inception, proves to be an encouraging example of grassroots organizing.

To those that would delay the project due to our present plight, I suggest that the social distancing may continue for another 18 to 24 months until we have a vaccine or a drug that mitigates risk of death by infection.

Once we reawaken from our social hibernation, we will long for opportunities to connect with others around the arts. And, local spending from patrons of the arts will become a welcome lift for our restaurants and bars to help them rebuild wealth.

To those in city government and those bringing this project to life, I note that it is never too late for transparency and inclusion.

Times are changing and, these days, community engagement is recognized as critical to a project’s success. Both seek the same goals — to build trust and enhance our community to the greatest extent possible. Let’s band together and start singing to the same tune.

TOM WOODMAN  
Grosse Pointe Park

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I SAY By Bob St. John

# Fans of pro, prep sports await go-ahead



As the world awaits the OK signal to resume life as we knew it, many of us anxiously wait for professional sports to either start back up or start the season. I have to bring a little

sports flavor back to this newspaper. What did we miss? Well, the Red Wings and Pistons were both put on hiatus with the final few weeks of the regular season left to play. The Red Wings clinched the worst record in the National Hockey League and will have the best chance to land the No. 1 pick in the upcoming draft. The Pistons also are going to miss the playoffs and have a good

chance to get one of the top three picks in their National Basketball Association draft. We still have no idea when their seasons will resume, but it is close. Will they go right into the playoffs? And when will each draft be? Nobody knows. Will fans be allowed in the arenas? I doubt it and maybe that is for the better. We missed opening day for the Detroit Tigers. Their season was scheduled to start

at the end of March and the home opener was supposed to be Monday, March 30. The Tigers will play some of their 2020 season, but nobody knows how many games they will play. I don't think we will get a chance to see them in person until the 2021 season. We have to social distance. It's important to stay safe. The MHSAA canceled the final weekend of the post-season tournaments for boys and girls

hockey, boys swimming and girls gymnastics. Boys basketball was heading into the district finals, while the girls were preparing for the regional finals before their seasons ended with no state champion. Spring sports also were canceled and now student-athletes, parents and administrators patiently wait for what is next for the fall sport seasons. Will they play? Good question with no answer. These decisions are in

the hands of scientists who try to get a vaccine to rid the country of COVID-19. We also wait for mass testing which will help bring student-athletes to the playing field. I still don't think we'll have a lot of fans at these games until the second semester. We need our leaders to guide us through these difficult decisions. Unfortunately, we see a lot of examples of how not to lead. We can hope.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

**1945**  
75 years ago this week

**NEWEST DRAFTEES TO GO:** A sharp local reminder that "V-E" Day didn't end the war comes in the departure of 13 young men from Grosse Pointe for war service. They will leave the Neighborhood Club with the usual heartfelt send-off. **SENIORS PEDDLE \$31,000 IN BONDS:** The Pointe High School seniors held their War Bond auction in the girls' gymnasium of the school last Thursday, with many students and very few adults in attendance. Despite the lack of support, the students received from the adults, the class raised \$31,075

by offering their services in return for the purchase of bonds of the Seventh War Loan campaign.

**1970**  
50 years ago this week

**FISHING BAN KEENLY FELT:** In an unprecedented move recently, Michigan Gov. William Milliken issued an edict banning all sport fishing in Lake St. Clair. The decision to shut off the popular pastime is being felt by Pointers now, but the summer will bring home the impact of the ban even more. The five lakefront parks serving residents of the community are annually the pleasure spots for thousands of Pointers, young and old alike, who drop

hook, line and sinker into the lake. Such will not be the case this summer. **POINTS JOIN TO CREATE YOUTH SERVICE DIVISION:** Cooperation and concern have resulted in the most extensive and concentrated joint effort ever attempted in the five Grosse Pointes — the creation of a Youth Service Division which will, through education, prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement, enable the communities to handle the many complex situations facing them in connection with youth, under one organized trained division. *Obituaries: James H. Waldie, Frank L. Noakes, Virginia Hoyt, Edith A. Hopton, Matthew R. Dowd, Edna Weed, Edyth McCampbell*

**1995**  
25 years ago this week

**FARMS MAYOR WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION:** Grosse Pointe Farms Mayor Gregg Berendt announced he will not seek re-election when his term expires in November. Berendt, 42, has served on the Farms city council since 1987. **CRANK CALL NO PERIL TO KERBY KIDS:** A group of Kerby school fifth-graders studying in France this month are not packing their bags and coming home early. Principal Nancy Salamas received a barrage of phone calls from parents and reporters inquiring about the safety of 34 students participating in the annual French Back-to-Back program. Reports said that a group of American students in

France was threatened by "commandos." As a result, students from Ann Arbor cut short their stay. *Obituaries: Edith Greer Plaggemeyer, Pierre Edouard Palmentier, Hildegarde Barbara Bessert, Lee R. Francis, Marjorie M. Brooks, Mary Walker, Louise Zigas, Diane C Kem, William R. Peters M.D., Joseph A. Valente, John Sidney Nash, Alicia Ferrell*

**2010**  
10 years ago this week

**CONTRACT SETTLED:** The Grosse Pointe Education Association membership voted 395-23 to approve a new contract that will take them through the 2012-13 school year. The Grosse Pointe board of education then approved the deal. The contract ends months

of uncertainty as the sides battled to ink a deal that addressed the concerns of teachers but also addressed declining enrollment and state funding. **POLONI TO STAY:** The prospect of Stephen Poloni's absence made the hearts of Grosse Pointe Shores residents grow fonder for him to stay as their chief of public safety. Poloni has canceled plans to leave the Shores and direct public safety in Ecorse. "I received dozens and dozens of calls from residents saying there would be a void if I left," said Poloni, chief since 2004 and a 23 ½-year veteran of the department. *Obituaries: Lucille Read Aitken, Randall August Fruehauf, Elizabeth Ann Murr, Frances "Elaine" Griffith, James. C. Schwartz Jr. M.D., Ray Laethem, Antoinette Manseau, Nazih Moussa Berri*



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8A | SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY JACK RYAN

Signs of appreciation dot the front of Pierce Middle School.

SIGNS:

Continued from page 2A

“They didn’t go into teaching to teach remotely. They get as much out of the face-to-face interaction with the children that the kids do. “I have been beyond impressed with how the school has adapted, the effort and frankly the care with the children that has been put into this,” she continued. “I saw all the first respond-

ers signs and figured we should do something that would show our teachers and everyone in our community that our teachers are loved and appreciated.” Wysocki pitched the idea to Head of School Bart Bronk and “he went for it. I was thrilled,” she said. Senior Jimmy Fitzgerald joined the team to deliver signs to all the teachers he had since he was 3, including his very first teacher, pre-

kindergarten teacher Julie Demchak — all while maintaining proper social distancing. By coordinating the deliveries all in one day, the team was able to maximize “the surprise factor,” Wysocki said. “We covered a lot of ground. All we had to do was ask once and so many parents stepped up. ... For me, (participating) was as gratifying as I’m sure it was for the teachers to see the sign on the lawn.”

PLANS:

Continued from page 1A

Using social distancing and a pre-arranged route, seniors may drive onto campus between set hours to pick up a memory box containing a cap and gown, graduation program, senior edition of the school newspaper, honor cords if appropriate and yearbook, if available. There’s a logistical purpose to the visit as well, according to the email. Seniors will have the opportunity to pick up the contents of their lockers — bagged and labeled by staff — and drop off their textbooks, also in labeled bags. Seniors are encouraged to wear masks and gloves and remain in their vehicles. On Tuesday, June 2, designated “Spirit Day,” students are encouraged to take a photo of themselves wearing a T-shirt indicating their next step and share it on social media using the hashtag #OneGP and @GPPSS and @GPSchools tags. “Whether that’s work, college or military, show us where you’re headed,” Niehaus wrote. The official graduation will be a virtual ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on the originally scheduled dates — Wednesday, June 3, for North and Thursday, June 4, for South.

A link to the virtual ceremonies will be distributed so “friends and families across the globe can watch” and will contain speeches by students and administrators. Each graduate’s name will be read as their senior photo is displayed. Also planned on graduation days is an honor drive limited to one car per graduate. Each senior will receive their diploma and be given the opportunity to select a location for a formal cap and gown portrait. Cars will exit along a suggested route, giving the community an opportunity to celebrate them, according to the email. “With the help of a lot of people, we’re looking at this as an opportunity for us to work together to have a ceremony that honors our seniors in a positive way and gives them the time to celebrate with their friends and family at home,” Niehaus said at the May 11 Board of Education meeting. “It also gives us an opportunity to present them with their diploma.” The honor drive also provides an occasion for teachers to line up and congratulate seniors as they pass by, he added. “It would give us an opportunity for kind of a final goodbye.”



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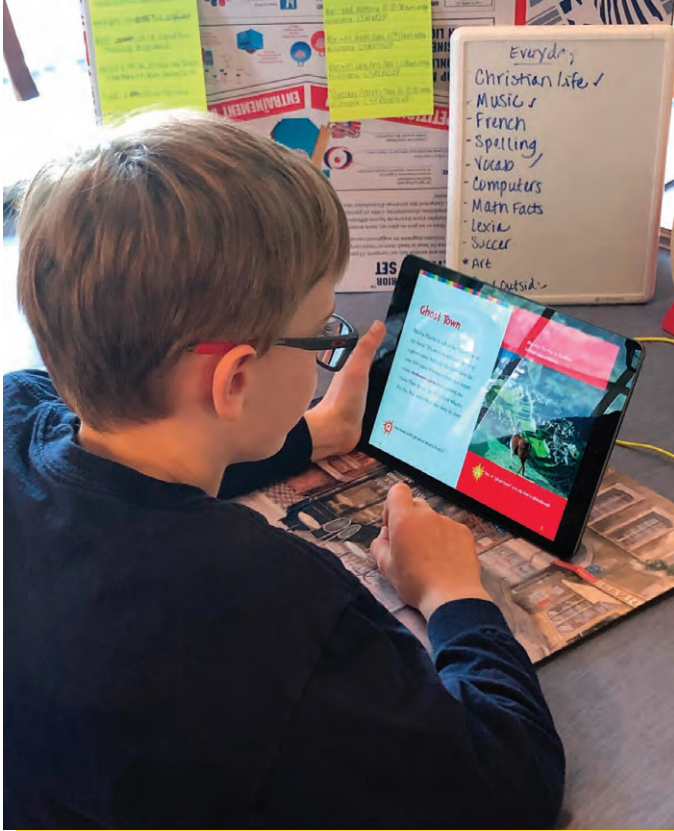
for their tireless dedication and commitment to nurturing, challenging and inspiring our students, no matter what the circumstance.

our PARENTS

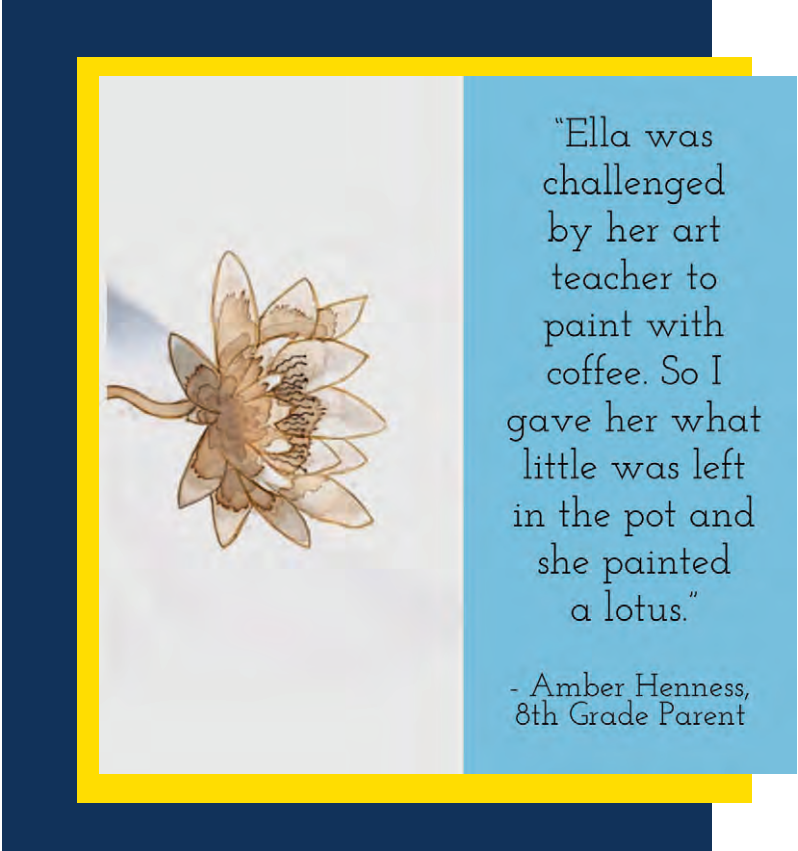
for their support and continued partnership throughout the year, especially during this unprecedented time.

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for their seamless transition to a new way of learning. Your ability to continue to enjoy, create, achieve and excel in the midst of a pandemic is an inspiration.



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# FEATURES

3B HARPER WOODS | 4B OBITUARIES | 5B CHURCHES | 6B CLASSIFIEDS

## Back to work

### Tot Lot construction resumes; volunteers still needed

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Members of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe breathed a collective sigh of relief when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lifted her construction ban, set in place amid concerns over COVID-19.

Now, plans for Rotary’s “re-imagined” Tot Lot — funded through \$250,000 in community donations — can move forward.

“The new plan is in place as we speak,” said Michael Carmody, chair-

man of the team of Rotarians working on the project. “They are preparing the surface of the Tot Lot for all of the equipment and construction.”

Excavation began Monday, May 11, in preparation of materials being moved to the site Tuesday, May 26. The equipment supplier, Sinclair Recreation, will provide construction and assembly services; however, volunteers are needed to relocate the materials from storage at Stroh River Place in Detroit to

the Tot Lot, at the corner of St. Clair and Waterloo in the City of Grosse Pointe.

“The volunteers we’re going to need May 26 are young, strong, capable people who can be at the warehouse at Stroh River Place and at the Tot Lot to load material, unload material and place it where the construction crew wants it to be placed,” Carmody said. “This will be a massive amount of materials being moved.”

Additional adult volun-



PHOTOS BY JACK RYAN

**The Rotary Tot Lot project has begun again after construction restrictions were lifted by the governor.**

unteers are needed May 26 through June 13, to provide on-site security. Four shifts are available each night — 5 to 9 p.m., 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., 1 to 5 a.m. and 5 to 9 a.m.

“That’s one person sitting in car or sitting on car or on a bench observing the Tot Lot and making certain nothing is being disturbed and no one is getting in there,” Carmody said, noting the security detail is twofold — to prevent injury as well as theft. “Each member of the security team will have their name posted with Chief (Stephen) Poloni. Officers will be notified when individuals will be there. If there’s a reason to talk to somebody who shouldn’t be there, volunteers will

verbally ask them to move on. If they don’t, the police will be called.”

The City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department has been given the names and shifts of everyone working on the site, so there is no dispute who’s allowed to be there, Carmody said. All volunteers must wear masks and maintain social distancing as well.

Carmody urged anyone who previously signed up to volunteer to revisit the website — [gptotlot.com](http://gptotlot.com) — to verify if they’re still able to help out. While many volunteer positions have been eliminated — including, hospitality, assembly and cleanup — other positions still are open.

“People can sign up for

more than one,” Carmody said. “Volunteers from before can switch spots. ... If you have previously signed up, recheck the site; many volunteer activities were eliminated. We need verification if you’re still on.”

Once the equipment is delivered to the Tot Lot, Carmody anticipates assembly and construction will be completed by May 29 or 30. The first week of June, crushed stone will be added to the excavated portion.

“They’re excavating seven inches so there’s a drainage field,” he explained. “Then they’re adding four inches of crushed stone, which will be compacted.”

See WORK, page 4B



Excavation currently is underway at the Rotary Tot Lot.

## Nonprofits navigate new online existence

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

*This is the first part of a two-part series.*

No doubt COVID-19 has brought plenty of change to the world. And with change often comes stress, which can easily manifest in one’s dreams.

With the state on lockdown, plenty of organizations are finding new ways to stay alive. While some are able to easily make a quick fix, for others it can be the stuff of nightmares.

“I had this crazy dream the night before we did our first online gallery talk and awards presentation for our exhibition ‘Sight and Sound,’” said Karen Pope, president of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association. “People were coming into The War Memorial and we were shaking hands and hugging. There was an incredible feeling of relief that the terror of the pandemic had passed and gratefulness to be back together. But as I began to get them settled in and ready to welcome the speaker, I realized that he would not be coming; he would be waiting for us online. I

panicked; what was I going to do with all of these people? I needed to get a computer screen so they could be part of the presentation.”

Pope felt relief upon waking and realized her nerves had gotten the best of her. And while transitioning to an online exhibition was complicated, Pope said, the challenge was worth the outcome.

“For the ‘Sight and Sound’ exhibition, artists were asked to enter their pieces inspired by music and name the music,” Pope said. “The juror for the exhibit would show the art and play the music that inspired it, then discuss parallels between the art and music. Matthew Way of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra did a great job.

“We also put the entire exhibition online and it is gratifying to see so many visitors,” she added.

The exhibit may be found at [bit.ly/3fcb8Wa](http://bit.ly/3fcb8Wa).

The fourth annual Promising Artists exhibition also is exhibited virtually at [bit.ly/3bnyUvn](http://bit.ly/3bnyUvn).

Additionally, GPAA offers its Artmaking for Veterans program online



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

**“Doctors’ Despair” by Vasu Tolin, a retired pediatric gastroenterologist.**

the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. It’s a hit, Pope said, as is “Art from the Heart: Frontyard Art Exhibition,” a weekly art contest GPAA is co-sponsoring with several community organizations. The work of winners and other outstanding artists is posted online each Sunday.

The GPAA newsletter also is a place for people to express themselves through art. A recent

theme was “Artists Define COVID,” in which “a doctor offers some very dramatic pieces and another artist finds a little humor in our life in isolation,” Pope said.

“We are working daily to stay in contact with the community,” she added. “We know art/creativity is a powerful way to work through these uncertain times. We will continue to do virtual meetings. We will listen to the community, but my guess is we can’t wait to see each other again.”

The same can be said of Kids on the Go participants, who have been meeting virtually for several weeks. The organization accepted the online challenge immediately, adapting its Teen Social program to a virtual format March 20. It also has offered daily classes for all ages the past several weeks.

Class size ranges from six to 14 participants, as well as two or three instructors/therapists per class, said Kristy Schena, Kids on the Go founder and executive director.

Using a business plan with Zoom, classes take place in the afternoon, Schena explained, to fit around current online school schedules. Currently available online are “Art Time with Mini Picassos,” “Storytelling with Miss Sara,” “Get Fit with Miss Kathy and Miss Cris,” “Teen Social,” “Siblings Workshops with Miss Molly and Miss Megan” and “Adaptive Dance with Miss Cori.”

Nearly 60 children, ages 3 to 17, are attending.

“The transition has been very smooth and the feedback has been wonderful,” Schena said. “These virtual classes were not in our budget for this year; however, we immediately recognized the lack of special education services that were being offered virtually and the need for these children to ‘connect’ face to face.”

While Kids on the Go offers year-round programming, summertime is its heaviest time of the year. As summer approaches, Schena and her team have created three plans, depending on what regulations still are in place when the time comes. Plan A involves business as usual, which Schena said is not likely. The Plan B model includes social distancing.

“Our challenges with this format will be, will our campers with sensory issues tolerate wearing a mask? Gloves?” she said. “Will they understand social distancing? Many of our campers require sensory feedback for calming. How can we do that when social distancing? How

See ONLINE, page 5B

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHACE WAKEFIELD

Irish Coffee owner Mike Kennedy said he was grateful to help.

# GPBR, Irish Coffee partner to feed hospital workers

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The Harper Woods/Grosse Pointe Chapter of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors recently rallied its membership to support front-line workers at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe.

Led by chapter President Chace Wakefield, the Harper Woods/Grosse Pointe Chapter raised enough money to provide 80 lunches, prepared by Irish Coffee Bar & Grill in Grosse Pointe Farms.

“We all know that when you are sick, the doctors, the nurses, the nurses’ aides can become your heroes, your hope,” Wakefield said. “You lean on them and sometimes heavily to get you back to health. With this pandemic, sick or not sick, I think people realized the staff working in hospitals, our local police officers, our favorite butchers at Village Market, the people stocking the shelves and even the cashiers became heroes, so to speak. Working on the frontlines is dangerous and they just keep doing it because they know how much they are needed — the definition of essential. Just saying ‘thank you’ did not feel like enough. These are our friends and neighbors working hard to keep us healthy and keeping essentials on the shelf.”

Wakefield said chapter members were quick to make donations when asked.

“Mind you, during the shutdown many of our members were either technically unemployed or under employed and still found it in their

hearts to contribute,” he said. “We just wanted to thank the people taking care of our community.”

In doing so, Wakefield called on the help of Michael Kennedy of Irish Coffee.

“Our first and most important thought was that it needed to be a local establishment that could use the business,” Wakefield said. “They do a fantastic job, so it was a no-brainer. In fact, when this whole idea surfaced, two or three of our members immediately said Irish Coffee. They are the definition of Grosse Pointe small business and they give back every chance they can.”

Kennedy said he was happy to be a part of the project.

“The Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors, Chace Wakefield and his family have been longtime customers, as well as friends of the Irish Coffee family and the community at large,” Kennedy said. “Chace does quite a bit to help our community and when he approached us with this idea, we were eager to get involved. The GPBR are made up of great people and they have always supported us over the years.”

The project was merely the most recent effort Irish Coffee has made to support the community.

“When this all began, I was approached by a group named ‘Caring for Those Who Care for Us,’” Kennedy said. “The group is composed of members of the community that created a Go Fund Me to help support local restaurants and healthcare workers. When I

learned what they are doing, we immediately jumped on board. So we then began remodeling our business from mostly dine-in and cocktails to become a carry-out-only business. Since then, we’ve had other local organizations such as Racing for Kids and even individual patrons that wanted to do good things for others in this difficult time.

“What a great community we live in,” he continued. “I am honored to be a part of such a special place. During these tough times, seeing everyone come together and support each other has been something to behold. We could not do it without these great people.”

Irish Coffee celebrates its 40th anniversary this month and while things look different than Kennedy anticipated, he said he’s humbled by the community’s generosity.

“Although we never thought we would be celebrating 40 years doing only carryout, I have to say the support and patronage we have received from the community has been humbling,” he said. “We would like to say thank you to everyone. My parents, John and Kathy Kennedy, have a vision to be family and community oriented and I am happy to carry that on. We look forward to continuing serving this community and to see everyone soon.”

As for the Harper Woods/Grosse Pointe Chapter of the GPBR, feeding Beaumont staff is hardly its first outreach effort. The chapter formed last year to rein-

See PARTNER, page 5B

# Fourth service dog sponsored by GPBR

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

It’s been a few years since the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors was introduced to Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, but their partnership continues to grow.

The GPBR recently began sponsoring its fourth service dog with the organization, which provides specially trained dogs to veterans and first responders who have post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, seizure disorders, glucose imbalance, mobility issues and more.

The local realtor board began its longterm commitment to Guardian Angels by first sponsoring GP, named for Grosse Pointe, along with The War Memorial and private community donors. Since then, the GPBR has sponsored Mack, named for Macomb County, and Sterling, named for Sterling Heights.

Sponsorship of its fourth dog, Harper, named for Harper Woods, began late 2019.

While admittedly the outbreak of COVID-19 has put a damper on



COURTESY PHOTO

Harper, as a puppy.

sponsorship efforts, GPBR members regularly provide funds for Guardian Angels, CEO Bob Taylor said.

“Additionally, one of our members held a Halloween party last year, which kicked off our fundraising for Harper,” he added. “The proceeds were \$10,000. This year, if willing, we will raise the balance to complete the funding for Harper.”

It takes approximately \$25,000 to train a dog qualified to be a Guardian Angels service dog. Expenses include 24/7 care, food, shelter, specialized training and the cost to bring the identified recipient to meet the dog and train, Taylor

said. “These dogs are provided at no cost to the recipient,” he added.

Harper still is in the training stages at Guardian Angels, based in Williston, Fla. As Taylor explained, “From birth until about 18 months, puppies go through general training. Over that time, trainers access the skills of the dog, allowing them to create a ‘best fit’ when it comes to placement. Harper’s training will only be complete after a recipient has been identified and they train together. On average, this whole process takes 24 months.”

“We would love to have Harper paired with a veteran or first responder from Harper Woods, but this cannot be promised,” said Mary Lamparter, Guardian Angels’ regional coordinator for Michigan. “However, if anyone knows of a veteran or first responder living in Harper Woods that would benefit from a service dog, please encourage them to contact Guardian Angels at [medicalservedogs.org](http://medicalservedogs.org).”

See DOG, page 5B

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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.

### Edda Rimanelli

Longtime Grosse Pointe Woods resident Edda Rimanelli (nee Pennesi), died Wednesday, May 6, 2020. She was 85.

Edda co-founded Rimanelli Custom Tailor & Fine Clothier in 1973. Established in Detroit, the business relocated to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1983.

A member of the Italian American Cultural Center, Edda loved singing in the Italian choir.

She was the beloved wife of the late Antonio; loving mother of Vincent (Jennifer), Eddie (Marie), Anthony (Gina) and Jon (Linzie) Rimanelli; proud grandmother of 10; and dear sister of Nino and Tonino and the late Igino, Valdo and Elvia.

Private entombment was held at Resurrection Cemetery. A memorial service to celebrate Edda’s life will take place at a later date. Share memories with her family in the online guest-book at wujekcalcaterra.com.

### Shelby J. Smith-Steves

Shelby J. Smith-Steves, 92, passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2020, in Romeo.

Born June 8, 1927, in Overton County, Tenn., she was the daughter of Shelby Harris and Laura (nee Franklin) Harris.

Shelby was baptized Methodist in Clarkrange, Tenn. She attended school in Tennessee until ninth grade, when her family moved to Florida. She moved to Georgia to complete her high school education at Mount Berry Academy; during this time, Shelby’s mother began work as a “Rosie the Riveter,” with Chrysler Corp., which brought Shelby to Michigan.

Shelby held various positions as a young woman, including at Michigan Bell and Beauty Counselors Cosmetics in Grosse Pointe Woods. She advanced to an executive position at Beauty Counselors Cosmetics and concluded her career in the field of interior design.

She was an active Sunday school teacher and choir singer at Christ Methodist Church, in Detroit, where her husband, Fred J. Smith, served as an usher.

Shelby was known best for her generosity to fam-

ily. She also was known for her detailed taste and style that corresponded with places she lived, as well as her travels around the world. Shelby acquired much knowledge and insight through travel, which she shared with her children and grandchildren. Regardless of how far her life’s journeys took her, she most cherished the love of her family. Her family recollects her incredibly special love for her children, Fred, Ron and Sherryll.

Shelby is survived by her sister, Gloria Smith, of Tennessee, and sons, Fred W. Smith Sr. and Ronald D. Smith, of Michigan. Shelby’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren include Fred Winton Smith Jr. (Kara) and their sons, Pierce and Dash, of Virginia; Collin Smith (Colleen), of South Dakota; David Smith (Carrie) and their son, Jordan, of Florida; Jessica (nee Smith) Benoit (Chad) and their children, Blake, Cody and Emma, of Michigan; and Melisa and Marisa, daughters of Ronald and Tran Smith, of Michigan.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc., Grosse Pointe Park. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

### Betty L. Durkin

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Betty Lois Durkin passed away Friday, May 8, 2020. She was 75. A daughter of Robert and Florence (nee Pedler) Durkin, Betty was born Sept. 22, 1945, in Muskegon.

Known as an amazing teacher, Betty was a tenured first grade teacher for many years at Poupard Elementary School in Harper Woods. When not in the classroom, she volunteered at numerous functions, festivals and sales at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. Her faith guided her love of nature and taking in quiet moments in New Port Richey, Fla.

Betty enjoyed reading novels and other books. She also enjoyed motorcycle trips with her husband, Michael, and boating with family on Lake St. Clair. In addition, Betty was a member of the Red Hat Society and enjoyed fellowship with like-minded friends.

Betty was the beloved wife of the late Michael Ross Durkin; loving

mother of Ross Dale II (Nicole) and Bryan (Christina); and cherished grandmother of Gavin, Ian, Kylie and Michael. She was the dear sister of John Hathoway (Paula), Terry Hathoway (Amy) and Mary Boda (Jim) and sister-in-law of Gwen Sittaro (Ernie).

A memorial service to celebrate Betty’s life and share love and support will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Betty’s family, or Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Please share a thought or memory with the family at ahpeters.com.

### John David Richardson

Grosse Pointe Farms resident John “Reed” David Richardson passed away suddenly Sunday, May 3, 2020, in Harrison, Mich. He was born Oct. 23, 1960, in Logan, W.V., to George and Maude Richardson.

John is survived by his loving wife and copilot of 33 years, Wendy; children, Jessica Bailiff (Robert), Reed, Joshua (Kristi Walker), Sarah (David Kracht) and Tristin Richardson; a soon-to-be grandchild; grand-pups, Marley, Sami, Hank and Ellie; and grand-cats, Marvin and Lil G. He also is survived by his sisters, Jean Hill (Gary), Kaye Barnes and Barbara Richardson; brother, Sherman Crum; father-in-law, Herman “Sonny” Gorenflo; brother-in-law and best friend, Gary Gorenflo (Lisa); and sister-in-law, Jill Bunting (Andy).

In addition, John is survived by his niece, Cindy Vandermeiden (Rick) and her son, Travis, with whom he had an especially close relationship, such that John considered them as daughter and grandson. He is also survived by many other beloved nieces and nephews, as well as countless friends and coworkers he considered family. He was predeceased by his dearly missed parents, George and Maude; brothers, George “Brickey” and Dennis Richardson; brother-in-law, Tony Barnes; mother-in-law, Donna Gorenflo; great-aunt, Suzi Hicks; and many aunts, uncles, cousins



Edda Rimanelli



John David Richardson

and other relatives.

John was hardworking and recently retired after 35 years from Superior and Patrico Transit Mix. His passion in life was going for rides with his wife, being a devoted father to his five children, making people laugh uncontrollably, mostly by saying inappropriate things, hunting and sitting at bonfires with his sons, brothers and nephews, and anything pertaining to sports.

One of John’s great joys was coaching Michigan Heat Baseball for several years because of his love of the game and the children, their families and those with whom he coached. He will be missed by many, but his jokes and the love that he gave everyone will carry on.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

### Dr. Melea M. Grobbel

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Melea Marie Grobbel, D.V.M., passed away Thursday, May 7, 2020, at Ascension St. John Hospital. She was 67. Born May 3, 1953, to Cyril A. Grobbel Jr. and Beverly Curran, in Detroit, Melea grew up in Grosse Pointe Park.

Melea completed grade school at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School and attended high school at Academy of the Sacred Heart. A graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, she earned a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree with honors from Michigan State University in 1977.

A veterinarian for 30 years, Melea developed a large following appreciative of her passion and expertise, especially as a diagnostician. Her love of animals was well known and evidenced by the



Shelby J. Smith-Steves



Dr. Melea M. Grobbel

many years she dedicated to caring for and training her dogs.

Melea also was a gifted artist. In retirement, she used that gift to create countless pieces of artwork for many friends and family members. A piece she created for the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce street art project graces the City of Grosse Pointe dog park.

Melea was predeceased by her parents and brother, Cyril A. Grobbel III. She is survived by her siblings, Marita Grobbel (Dennis Andrus), Christopher Grobbel (Karen), Regan Stolarski (Joseph), Jason Grobbel, Cassandra Budzik (Robert) and Anastasia Minor (Scott); 22 nieces and nephews; and two great-nieces. Melea will be dearly missed by her family.

In lieu of flowers, to honor Melea’s dedication to animals, donations may be made to Michigan Humane Society, 7887 Chrysler Dr., Detroit, MI 48211, michiganhumane.org/tributes; or Midwest Small Breed Rescue, P.O. Box 36035, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236.

### Kathleen DuRoss Ford

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Kathleen DuRoss Ford, 80, passed away Friday, May 8, 2020, in Pittsburgh. She was born Feb. 11, 1940, to Charles and Hazel (nee Irwin) King, in Belding, Mich. In early childhood, she lived in Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada.

Kathleen graduated from Cass Technical High School. She was a member of the cheerleading squad with her classmate and friend, actress and comedian Lily Tomlin. Kathleen had a career in modeling in the 1960s.

Kathleen was the beloved wife of the late



Betty L. Durkin



Kathleen DuRoss Ford

David DuRoss and the late Henry Ford II. She is survived by her loving daughters, Deborah DuRoss Guibord and Kimberly DuRoss (Jonathan); grandchildren, Chelsea Guibord Cox (Jesse), Tara DuRoss and David Guibord; great-granddaughter, Quinn DuRoss Cox; sister, Sharon Amluxen; niece, Mary Beth Googasian (Steve); nephews, Robert (Asunda) and Jim Amluxen; a great-niece and three grand-nephews.

Known by friends and family as “Kate,” she lived a life rich with travel, adventure and creativity. An accomplished photographer, she developed her own prints. She loved films and spirited backgammon games. Kate also was an accomplished violinist. Her violin lessons began in grade school and culminated with a private concert at which she performed with Detroit Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Gordon Staples. Kate loved music, dancing and entertaining. Her happiest moments were spent with her loving family and lifelong friends on holidays and vacations.

Kathleen’s family is grateful to friends and nurses who offered comfort and compassionate care during the later chapters of her life. Her family notes their time with her ended too quickly, yet they are comforted in knowing she is free from the pain of her later years.

The family is establishing the Kathleen DuRoss Ford Family Foundation, which will fund efforts against elder abuse, the arts and other causes she held dear. Donations may be sent to Merola & Freeman, PA 600 Sandtree Drive, #106, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33401.

## WORK:

Continued from page 1B

The week of June 8, a safety surface, referred to as poured-in-place, will be applied to the Tot Lot. The following week, Allemon’s Landscape Center will perform landscaping and beautification.

“We are currently planning on a grand opening on Sunday, June 21,” Carmody said. “We don’t know what the governor is planning to do right now. ... My hope is on June 21, that everything’s going to be lifted by then



PHOTO BY JACK RYAN

Once excavation is complete, new playground equipment will be moved to the site, assembled and installed.

and kids can go to the lot. If we’re still under executive order, the grand

opening will not take place; the Tot Lot will remain closed until we

are free and clear to use it.”

While this latest update to the Tot Lot has been a long time coming, it may not be the last enhancement the community sees in the near future. Serious consideration is being taken by the Rotary Club, City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Public School System to possibly add a small building to the Tot Lot to provide bathroom facilities and a party room with amenities, Carmody said.

But for now the focus is on this current re-imagining.

“We’ve had unbeliev-

able support from the community,” Carmody said, noting the donations of a flatbed truck from Pointe Alarm owner Jeff Judson, as well as box trucks donated by former mayor Chris Boettcher, Flame Heating & Cooling President Gary Marowske and GPPSS. Additionally, Tom Coughlin of Speedy Printing has donated promotional banners.

Expected to be completed this week is the Tot Lot arch, which Pointe Painting is repainting a bold yellow, Carmody said.

It’s one of several new

touches the Tot Lot will bare once work is complete. Also being added are a large gold Rotary wheel and welcome signs at each of three gates, all donated by Boettcher’s firm, Airtec Corp.

“This has been a marvelous community effort,” Carmody said. “I’m so pleased with Grosse Pointe — the people, the businesses and the City. (Director of Parks and Recreation) Chris Hardenbrook and (City Manager) Pete Dame have been behind us all the way. ... I’m so hoping this comes together the way we picture it.”



PASTOR’S CORNER By the Rev. Rich Bartoszek

Finding God amidst COVID-19

Since this whole thing began in January, it was something out there far away, in China, Italy, Spain and other places at a distance. But then in February it came closer in Washington State and we waited to hear where next. In late February and early March, it came to Michigan and soon it spread. I have to say I heard all kinds of theories, some philosophical and some theological. Some thought it a hoax and some still do. On the theological side, I heard God might be using this virus to clean up the world, to make people realize he is in charge. As for me, I never doubt that God is in charge.

For me, God is love and there is no room for hate in the “Love of God.” In my experience of almost 25 years as a hospital chaplain, I have never experienced the presence of God as strongly as I have since the first week of March. I have seen the “Love of God” every day since this pandemic hit us in our area. I have seen it in the dedication of the healthcare providers I work with at Beaumont Grosse Pointe. I watched the bedside care providers, doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, nurses’ aids, housekeepers, transporters, chaplains, physical therapists, pharmacists and food service workers putting their lives on the line every day. I saw the “Love of God” in their dedication and presence to the patients they were caring for.

I watched them gown up in different personal protective equipment for every patient, covering themselves from head to toe. It got to the point where sometimes we couldn’t even recognize one another. I saw the way they became family to the patients who could not have their own family present with them. I watched how security

and transporters handled the bodies with reverence. I watched how the “Love of God” poured out to our staff through the hundreds of meals that were sent to the staff over these weeks. I read the many cards and letters that came to the hospital calling our staff heroes. I read so many letters from our wonderful volunteers cheering us on as they missed being with us during these past seven weeks. I listened to the “Love of God” in the voices of the many phone calls made to parents, spouses, children, partners of the patients on ventilators as we called to keep them informed on a regular basis.

Oh, how remiss I would be not to mention the local neighbors who put out signs and came by several times in parade fashion tooting their horns in support of our staff. That was so nice! As I made rounds to our nurses, I listened to the sacrifices they were making, being afraid to go home to hug their kids, not being able to be with their grandchildren, being concerned about being near their own family members and then the many staff who got sick themselves.

In our training as healthcare professionals, in our orientation there isn’t and never was training for a pandemic. But we functioned as though we had done this before. We have great leadership at Beaumont Grosse Pointe and they walked us through difficult days and guided us through the unknown of what each day would bring. The “Love of God” is so present in this community through the people who come to us for treatment, the healthcare team who cares for them and the community who supports us.

*Bartoszek is the chaplain at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe.*

DOG:

Continued from page 3B

With three matches already made through GPBR efforts and another in the works, this is a commitment membership does not take lightly.

“Only after you start on this journey to support our veterans and first responders do you start to appreciate the unique sacrifice they make on behalf of the rest of us,” Taylor said. “Only after you hear the stories of how what they

do or have done has made living far more difficult than any of us can imagine. Death by suicide, divorce or homelessness are all common outcomes of those impacted by post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Additionally, in a time when so much of our charitable giving goes toward causes, a search for a cure, etc., all of which may get ‘fixed’ someday, the placement of the Guardian Angels Medical Service Dog with a recipient provides an almost instantaneous result,” he continued.

“We had one member so moved by the story told by a recipient’s wife, he wrote a check out for \$5,000 and he is usually most skeptical. When we — all of us — contribute to a pairing, we give a significant other back a loved one, a father or mother back to children, a son or daughter back to parents and a neighbor back to a community. There is little we can do anywhere that accomplishes this and for no more than a few dollars per person. We owe our way of life to these people.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHACE WAKEFIELD  
Chace Wakefield picks up a box of lunches from Irish Coffee.

PARTNERS:

Continued from page 3B

force the GPBR’s commitment to local engagement. Back in December, members raised around \$800 to support The Helm in its effort to provide assistance to those in need.

“It was our way of again giving back to the seniors in our community,” Wakefield said. “This money went to providing care packages with essentials for homebound seniors for the wintertime. As real estate agents and brokers in our area, I think the idea of giving back is natural to a degree. We ask our members to contribute to something locally and ... they don’t think twice; they just do it. We owe it to ourselves to take care of our community and even though it’s often quietly that we do it, we do take great pride in it.”

ONLINE:

Continued from page 1B

can we share sports equipment with our recreational therapy programs? Will our gym be opened that we lease from a school? Can we have parents/caregivers participate and assist with keeping the recommended guidelines?”

Plan C involves the continuation of virtual programming, she said.

While there is much yet to be figured out, Schena said she’s had positive feedback from parents whose children are attending virtual classes.

“We were so worried about Sarah not having enough social interaction during this time in quarantine,” wrote a member of the Pentecost family. “The great programs provided by Kids on the Go have allowed for her to

see her friends and to interact with others. The programs have given Sarah something to look forward to. She says that Teen Social and art classes are the highlight of her week. Thank you, Kids on the Go, for coming through for us once again.”

Added parent Jennifer G., “Our virtual experience with Kids on the Go over the past few weeks has been great. When our special needs kids are in school, they have a variety of adults who work hard to keep them actively engaged throughout the day. Our virtual Kids on the Go classes help provide our kiddos with some of those experiences which are extremely valuable for all areas of their development.”

Another nonprofit hearing positive feedback from its virtual offerings is the Edsel & Eleanor Ford

House. A selection of virtual workshops is available online; cost is \$10 for the public, \$5 for members.

“This is a great way for people to make social connections, learn something new and engage with us at Ford House during quarantine,” said Clare Pfeiffer, director of communications and engagement. “We hope people will be able to connect with our presenters and each other during the workshops. And it’s not a bad idea for a date night at home — log into the workshop, order some carryout, have a glass of wine and make a night of it.”

Pfeiffer said response to programming has been enthusiastic and Ford House hopes to add more options soon.

“Future topics will draw from stargazing, nature, gardening, archives, art

and history,” she said. “These are all themes you would expect from our usual Ford House programming, only delivered to you at home.”

As far as the historic Ford House reopening its gates, administrators are working on a plan for when that time comes.

“We know people are eager to return and we are eager to have people back at the estate,” Pfeiffer said. “We are working through plans and procedures to open the gates again and, when we do, we will open our grounds first. We are taking our time to make sure the process is as contact-free and safe as possible, for the safety of our staff and guests.”

For example, she said, staff is working on signage to guide visitors around the estate and web-based ticketing will allow guests to forgo in-

person registration. Increased cleaning and sanitizing protocols are planned and, “When we re-open, our staff and visitors will be expected to follow social distancing protocols and all recommendations from the state and local governments and the CDC,” Pfeiffer said.

Along with its temporary closure, Ford House temporarily stopped construction on its new visitor center and administration buildings; however, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer allowed construction projects to resume around the state May 7.

“We are so thrilled that construction can resume on our two new buildings,” Pfeiffer said. “Our building partner, Frank Rewold & Sons, is working diligently to bring back their staff and contractors safely into the work site, hopefully later

this week. This has been another unfortunate speedbump in this project and we are working with Rewold and our architecture firm, SmithGroup, to revisit our timeline. As you can imagine, there are a lot of subcontractors involved and their schedules have been turned upside down as well.

“We have so many logistics to sort out still, so we cannot offer a solid re-opening date at this time,” she added. “As they are working through the project plan, we will let everyone know the new opening date. We had hoped to be able to open the new visitor center this fall, but that date will most definitely be pushed back.”

*Check back next week for updates from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, The Family Center and Gilda’s Club’s Lake House.*

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8:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

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

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pray to you to use  
your great God  
given power to aid  
me in my urgent  
petition. In return, I  
promise to make  
your name known.  
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for your aid, St.  
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"Our Fathers", three  
"Hail Marys", and  
three "Glory Be's"  
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3	8		4				9
		4		7			3
	2		1		6		4
1				8		5	2
	6			3		4	
		7	2				1
8				6		2	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way  
that each row across, each column down and  
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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

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by law to be licensed.  
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Gutter cleaning/  
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## King Crossword

**Solution for  
last week's  
puzzle 5/7/20**

O	F	F	S		O	P	T		H	A	S	P
S	A	L	K		N	E	E		A	L	E	E
S	Q	U	I	N	T	E	D		R	O	L	L
O	S	E		I	O	N		C	L	E	F	T
		E	S	P			J	O	E			
I	R	A	Q	I		B	A	N	Q	U	E	T
T	U	T	U		F	U	R		U	L	N	A
S	T	A	I	N	E	D		M	I	T	E	R
		N	O	W		P	E	N				
M	O	T	O	R		F	I	N		A	S	H
A	P	E	X		L	A	Q	U	I	N	T	A
L	U	R	E		E	M	U		S	N	U	G
I	S	M	S		G	E	E		P	A	N	S

### ACROSS

- Work units
- Urban carrier
- Wanders
- Hoodlum
- Bobby of hockey
- Leave out
- Atmosphere
- With skill
- Godlike
- Indefinite interval
- To and —
- Regimen
- Sheepish comment
- Mess up
- Manicurist's concerns
- Mater preceder
- Insult (Sl.)
- Nike slogan, "Just —"
- Unpaid bills
- 1960s Pontiac
- Homer's neighbor
- Faraway fleet?

### 43 Actress

- Thurman
- Help
- Least adorned
- Physicist Niels
- Food of the gods
- Tourney situations
- Soda fountain treat
- Right on the map?
- Snoop
- Arctic diving birds

### DOWN

- "Zounds!"
- Jim of sports radio
- Asian desert
- Express disdain nasally
- Massachusetts city
- Joan of —
- The staff of life
- Proceed

### 9 Drive

- Pickling herb
- Eyelid woe
- Ireland
- Victory
- Evil
- Brewery product
- Surprise attacks
- Tractor-trailer
- Falsehood
- Norm: Abbr.
- Originally
- Unshaven, in a way
- "Mayday!"
- Mr. Sharif
- Postage buy
- Scent
- Singer Lane
- Protein-rich bean
- Birtheright bartender
- Symbol of smoothness
- Body pics
- Russian space station

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		