

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 8/25

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	619 (+20)	35 (+0)
Harper Woods	321 (+4)	35 (+0)

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Retirees, council unable to find resolution

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — The debate over the ethicality of retiree healthcare changes made in May continued at the Aug. 18 council meeting, a few days after the retirees passed out pamphlets to each home in the city, explaining the situa-

tion and asking for the residents' support.

The changes include a 20 percent premium cost share and, according to council, were implemented to help offset the city's underfunding for healthcare legacy liabilities under Public Act 202.

While the meeting produced no new motions or changes, an appearance

by former councilman Bruce Bisballe, who was chairman of the finance committee and resigned from council in November citing a lack of leadership in the city and concern over council failing to address retiree healthcare costs, added to the ongoing conversation.

"I would like to go back and remind everyone that

eight years ago a blue ribbon panel was formed in the village for the first time ever to look at retiree healthcare costs specifically," he said. "A series of recommendations were made, which were later implemented. The last paragraph of that report states that changing current retiree healthcare benefits would

be imprudent, politically unfavorable and demonstrate a lack of good faith on the part of the village."

Prior to his resignation, in April 2019 Bisballe proposed a .5 mill tax increase earmarked for retiree healthcare coverage, but it was turned down by council in a 4-3 vote.

"The city is in compli-

ance with Act 202," he added, citing the mortality table that is specified by Act 202. "The law requires that if you are less than 40 percent funded, your annual required contribution cannot exceed 12 percent of your local government revenues. Our number's

See RETIREES, page 3A

Main Street board appointed

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Eight members for the Main Street Grosse Pointe board were approved by city council during the virtual meeting Monday, Aug. 17: property owners Mark Thomas and Anne Lyke; retailers Kasey Mally, Lanna Young and Anne Murphy; Hans Brieden and Alexis Deluca, who have offices in The Village; and resident Chris Moyer.

"I think that you've got a nice, well-rounded group of people here," Councilman Don Parthum said. "I think they're all going to be positive additions to this group."

The requirements to make up the board are seven members who have a business or property in the district, one resident, the mayor, a Wayne County representative and a city council member.

See BOARD, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The new City of Grosse Pointe public safety building will be dedicated at noon this Saturday.

Public safety building to be dedicated Aug. 29

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A little more than a year since the City broke ground on its new Mack Avenue public safety building, a dedication of the building will be held at noon Saturday, Aug. 29, with special guest Cmdr. Eric Ewing, 5th Precinct, Detroit, followed by tours of the space until 3 p.m., refreshments and activities for children.

Tour groups led by officers will be made up of no more than 10 individuals at a time and all attendees will be asked to wear masks if within 6 feet of each other. Masks will be available on site.

"I'm sure a lot of our residents are going to want to take a look at what new facilities they paid for, so we're super excited about showing it off," Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni said. "It's a beautiful building (and) state of the art."

A memorial for fallen officers and firefighters, which incorporates the "6 o'clock bell" that had been posted atop the Maumee Road building since it was built in 1928, has been constructed in front of the new building. If the plaques honoring Richard Tucker, who died in the line of duty in 1978, and Charles VanCollie, who died in the line of duty in the 1950s, arrive in time,

the two will be honored as part of the dedication ceremony. If not, a separate event likely will take place at a later date.

While one of the largest offerings of the new building is a bay the City's recently purchased fire truck will fit into — the Maumee Road building could not be altered to fit a current model fire truck — it also boasts a decontamination room for cleaning after fires, a fire training tower and a property room that has enough space to properly store and process evidence, which will help in court cases in securing a chain of custody.

"It's double in size from what we had, so obviously it gives us

amenities that we did not have before and enhances the ability of our officers to perform the job (and) to train, so it's exciting to have it," Poloni said.

With most of the transition to the new building taking place this week, Poloni is hopeful the department will be fully operational out of the Mack space the Monday following the dedication.

"We have an alternate plan," he added. "If we can't be in the building and they're starting to demolish our current building to move forward with that, we'll be in enough that if we need to do some things, we'll be able to go to Grosse Pointe Park."

Council seeks more engagement with center developer

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In an effort to engage the developer of a proposed cultural venue that has drawn a mixture of public concern and enthusiasm, city council unanimously voted Monday, Aug. 24, to request additional input from the developer.

The Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation was named to lead construction and opening of the \$25 million A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery. The planning commission approved a site proposal, green-lighting the development Wednesday, Aug. 12, but some council members insisted further discussion is needed.

Mayor Robert Denner apologized for confusion about the process through which many expected council to issue a final vote, but City Attorney Jake Howlett said there was nothing in the terms for approving the center requiring "that it comes back to council for review or vote." While members have authority to challenge the process, he said, an enforceable agreement with URIF, including a land purchase, limits council's power to reverse actions.

See DEVELOP, page 4A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



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Whistle Stop celebrates the big 5-0

Celebratory events set throughout September

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It's only natural that a place like Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy — where customers are treated like family — would invite the community to its month-long birthday party.

In celebration of 50 years of business, the family-owned and operated store not only is rebranding its look — including introducing a new logo — but also has a lot planned for its patrons during September, including raffles, giveaways, discounts and special events.

It's a way for Whistle Stop to thank customers for their generations of support.

In the beginning

Whistle Stop was the dream of Richard Claggett, a designer at General Motors, and his wife, Carol.

"He was into train collecting," said Julie Everitt, the couple's youngest daughter who co-owns

the store with her siblings, Rick Claggett Jr. and Wendy Bacon. "It started in a garage on Jefferson. He realized the need for it, how popular of a hobby it was."

Soon Whistle Stop moved into its first storefront on Harper, where Sahara Restaurant currently stands. Back then, the shop was exclusive to hobbies — trains, model kits and paint, Everitt said — but it took a lot of work to make their dream business a success.

"My mom ran the store," she said. "She made the magic happen. Then Dad would get off work and relieve Mom; she'd go to Grandma's and pick us up and feed us dinner."

Whistle Stop relocated to its current building in the 1980s, though it was much smaller then. Dollhouses and "dabbles of girlier things" were added to the mix as well.

"My brother and sister started being more involved in the store, so we became more involved in the toy industry,"



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, siblings and store owners Wendy Bacon, Rick Claggett Jr. and Julie Everitt.

Everitt said. "My sister had young kids at home, so she knew what the needs were. ... My brother has worked here since he was 15. He's always been here."

During the 1990s, the building underwent two expansions to become the store it is today, offering thousands of toys, games, crafts and hobbies.

"Our mom retired to babysit Wendy's kids in the '90s," Everitt said. "The three of us have been owners ever since. Our parents retired and we took over, but even still now my dad comes in every day."

Something for all

Everitt said she enjoys watching generations of families come in to shop.

"My brother orders the hobby items and my sister orders the toys," she said. "I'm in charge of being out

there with customers. That's my favorite part, helping people buy toys. People will say, 'I used to come here with my dad; now I bring my kids here.' I just love to see that. Or people will bring their grandpa. I might see four generations in here. That brings us the most joy."

No matter the age, there are offerings for everyone, from model trains to baby dolls and everything in between.

"We still carry old-school toys like Slinky and yo-yo," Everitt said. "A lot of people still come in for that. They love the classic toys they had as a kid. We bring in trendy things people want, too, but we also keep it classic. That keeps us different from the big guys. It's something we stand behind; we're a community store. When people walk in, we greet them; we get to know their faces and names. We're one-on-one helping them. You don't get that with the big stores."

Whistle Stop also offers free gift wrapping.

Looking ahead to the school year, Everitt said Whistle Stop is a great place for parents to find educational materials.

"Grosse Pointe is starting with virtual school," she said. "We want (parents) to know we have a lot of tools that are needed, especially elementary-age educational materials. I promise them we can make it fun. We have games and tools to teach kids without them even knowing they're learn-

ing."

Plus, Whistle Stop has expanded its children's book area.

"You just can't get the same experience anywhere else," Everitt said. "We just love knowing that we can help make a child happy. One of the best things I have heard from a customer is that Whistle Stop is their child's favorite place to visit."

Still chugging at 50

On its way to celebrating 50 years, Whistle Stop faced the same challenge of many businesses when COVID-19 hit in March. The store temporarily closed this spring for two weeks, but continued to fill online orders, then added the option of curbside pickup at no charge.

"Only our family was here," Everitt said. "My dad, my brother and sister and myself, we divided and conquered. People would email, looking for activities to keep their kids inside or educational things to help with school instruction."

Now that the store has reopened to guests, face masks are recommended, the store is disinfected "constantly," hand sanitizer is readily available and, because the store is so big, social distancing hasn't been an issue.

Additionally, its new free curbside pickup option has become a permanent perk at the store.

But in planning its 50th anniversary celebration, the Claggett family con-



sidered that some loyal customers may not feel comfortable visiting.

"It's great if you can come and enjoy it, but if you're not comfortable, we're making it where everyone can enjoy it," Everitt said.

Whistle Stop is offering several special events throughout the month, which will be highlighted on its website and social media pages, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

In-store events are planned each Saturday, including a local author visiting to discuss his book and an afternoon of demonstrations highlighting various games.

Additionally, "We'll raffle baskets from the companies we deal with," Everitt said. "The raffle will be online; that way, people won't have to be in the store. We'll have raffles all the way up to our big sale."

An anniversary sale is planned Sept. 24 to 26, featuring 20 percent off all regularly priced items.

Saturday, Sept. 26, is the big sale, Everitt said, when the first 100 customers will receive goodie bags.

"The day of the big sale, we'll have all kinds of hands-on things to do, demonstrations," she added. "We want to say thank-you to our customers who've supported us all these years. They're our main focus. Without them, we would not be here."

"I want to thank our customers from the bottom of my heart for supporting us and keeping us as their No. 1 place to go for toys and hobbies," she continued. "There are so many regulars that come in. They always support us and stand behind us when the going gets tough. ... They do it to keep us going. I'm so grateful for all the communities around us that've supported us."

Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy is located at 21714 Harper, St. Clair Shores. For information, call (586) 771-6770, email info@whistle-stop.com or visit whistle-stop.com

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Farms plans water main, street construction

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — While the Central branch of Grosse Pointe Public Library continues to undergo construction on its new outdoor community plaza, plans have been put in place to concurrently install a new 8- to 12-inch-diameter water main from Fisher Road to McMillan.

The new main will be moved from the west side of the street to the east, which will make it easier to maintain since it will no longer be under pavers and also will align with the existing main north of McMillan.

“One of the thoughts we had is (to) take advantage of the library not functioning to capacity right now and try to get a main in while that work is being done at that loca-

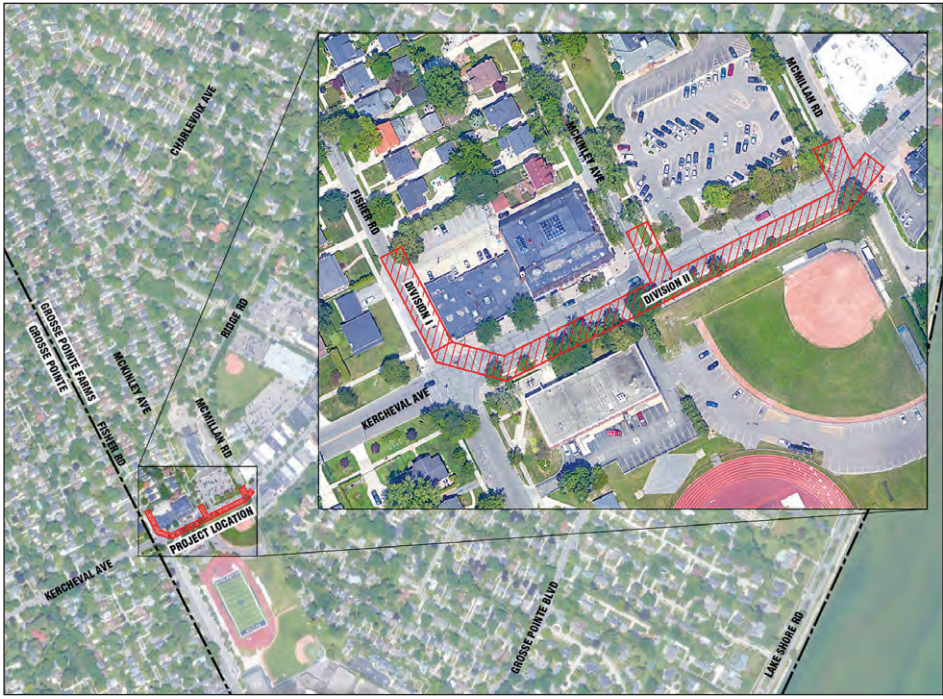
tion independently,” City Manager Shane Reeside said.

The project, not to exceed \$441,426.30 and paid for from the water and sewer fund, is anticipated to begin around Labor Day and should take about one month.

Within the last 15 years, Reeside said, there have been about 16 breaks just in that one section.

“It’s problematic because of the number of breaks, but also because of the proximity to the business buildings adjacent to that main, which is on the west side of Kercheval,” he explained. “... When we have a main break, it involves removing pavers, making repairs and it’s very disruptive.”

Council also unanimously voted during the virtual meeting Monday, Aug. 10, to approve funds



DESIGN COURTESY OF HRC

The area set to be impacted by the water main replacement.

for the 2020 road improvement program, which will focus on Merriweather from Williams to Beaupre;

Webster from Kerby to Belanger; and Cloverly from Mack to Webster. Additionally, various other roads throughout

the city will receive over-band crack filling work.

“It’s a somewhat smaller program than normal,” Reeside said.

This is because the city expects to contribute approximately \$100,000 to the Lakeshore Road construction project being handled by Wayne County.

“We do anticipate, although Lakeshore Road is a county project and using federal aid, there will be some dollars obligation from the city at the completion,” he said.

While the total estimated cost for the 2020 road improvement program is \$319,673, council voted not to exceed \$381,640.30 to allow for a 10 percent contingency and the construction engineering budget.

The project was awarded to the lowest bidder, Nagle Paving Co., which has worked on the city’s annual road improvement programs since 2013.

BOARD:

Continued from page 1A

June Lee will remain the county representative, while Councilman Terence Thomas will replace Councilman Chris Walsh as the city council member on the board.

“(He’s) been on the DDA since it started in 2008,” Mayor Sheila

Tomkowiak said. “He has served three full terms and has done a great job of supporting development in The Village.”

What caused a significant amount of turnover from the DDA board, Walsh explained, is the increased commitment that will be required of members on the new board.

“This is a working

board, so these folks are going to have to make a large commitment of time and a number of meetings and many hours per week and so far we believe that everybody is willing to make that commitment,” Tomkowiak said. “... We were very pleased with the quality of the people who stepped up.”

Upcoming projects and goals led by Main Street

Grosse Pointe will require a significant number of volunteers for committees and similar efforts, as well.

“During the Main Street process, there were a number of people who expressed interest in being involved and we will be contacting all of those folks to get them on committees and working,” Tomkowiak said.

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Downtown Development Authority meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m. at the Tompkins Community Center.

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

RETIREES:

Continued from page 1A

10.6 percent. We’re in compliance with the law. There’s no waiver. There’s no corrective action report. There’s no further action necessary.”

Bisballe also addressed continued council remarks regarding the already present likelihood of needing to raise taxes to cover an upcoming large-scale infrastructure project.

“The other comment was that there are future borrowing needs for the infrastructure improvements in the sewer system and having this large actuarial liability may create some burden on that,” Bisballe said. “The two matters are separate and distinct. Borrowing for the sewers will be a voter-driven millage. It cannot be bonded by council. It’s too large an expenditure, so it will be a separate voter-approved or rejected millage on your tax bill.”

Following his speech, and highly debated throughout the meeting, was the scope and language of a health savings account that was added to the retiree healthcare plan along with the changes.

According to Mark Manquen, a partner with Manquen Vance, the city’s health insurance provider, under the new plan, retirees below the age of 65 and therefore not on Medicare receive an annual \$2,000 single/\$4,000 family contribution by the city into an HSA. This covers their deductibles and cannot go toward the premium; however, if they were to roll the city’s contribution over until they reached Medicare age, it could then go toward the premium.

The retirees can contribute tax deferred money into the account,

as well.

Of the 35 retirees, 16 are on Medicare and do not qualify for an HSA. As of January 2021, their annual deductible will be \$400.

The city does not cover this deductible, Manquen reported.

The retirees, however, have said that neither the HSA nor the coverage — council has reported the new plan has better coverages — has ever been their concern. Instead, it is the 20 percent premium cost share they feel is too large a burden, especially given that public safety officers in particular turned down pay raises in exchange for the promise of retiree healthcare.

The collective bargaining agreement, which is similar for public safety and DPW workers, reads, “In the event that current employees may be required to share in the premium cost of hospitalization insurance, retirees or widows would not be required to participate in any of the premium cost sharing.”

“That is the contract,” said Deanne Younk, wife of retired Lt. David Younk. “All we’re asking is that you honor the contract. We didn’t pick this fight. You guys picked this fight. We wouldn’t be here today. And all you want to do is brush us off. Some of you are on your phones, not paying attention. This is important to us. If you prepaid for a product, wouldn’t you expect that whatever business that you purchased it from would follow through and deliver that product to you?”

A hardship exemption built into the plan allows any retiree who receives an annual pension of less than \$31,225 based on the 2020 federal poverty level to be exempt from the 20 percent cost sharing. Nine of the retirees are eligible.

“All the way around, this is a fair replacement for what they had,” Councilman Matt Seely said. “We’re asking them to do exactly what we ask our active employees to do and that’s to shoulder 20 percent of the cost of their healthcare.”

“We’re doing the best we can,” he added. “I don’t think it was handled right. I think you should have had way more notice and I think talking should have been done long before the vote, but again, we are where we’re at in this thing.”

Just a day before his

last with the city, 33-year Public Works Director Brett Smith also took the podium to comment on the contention surrounding the city, calling the recent work environment “extremely toxic.”

“Council has been very kind in public with their words; however, the actions they take and the decisions that they’ve been making are quite the opposite,” he said. “I could not imagine my wife, my children, my grandchildren or friends for that matter being able to see me say one thing and then turn and do another. What would they

think of me? At that point I would have lost all respect and integrity and will forever be questionable. That is a direction that I refuse to go. It is for this reason that I say it’s time for Brett Smith to retire.”

While an additional 17 active and two deferred employees will eventually be eligible for this plan, anyone hired by the city since July 1, 2012, has been placed on a defined contribution plan, leaving some to argue the city’s legacy costs are only going to attrition and should simply be honored until then.

“I think true leaders and the true definition of leadership is when people can make a decision for what they believe to be the right reason, but will also have the humility and the willingness to look back upon those decisions when necessary and to think that maybe we would have done this better, maybe we could have done it differently, maybe we could have found common ground,” resident Raymond Rahi said, “and yes, let’s take a step back and let’s review everything and let’s see if we can do better.”

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Head rescue swimmer integral in search and rescue efforts

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Of the 40,000 active duty members in the U.S. Coast Guard, Chief Petty Officer Brian Kirkendall is one of only 370 Aviation Survival Technicians.

With an attrition rate of approximately 85 percent, AST is considered the Coast Guard's toughest enlisted rating or job, with responsibilities that include being the rescue swimmers aboard Coast Guard helicopters and trained as EMTs, administering aircrew water survival training and the maintenance of aviation survival equipment.

"For me that was one of the hardest parts of going through AST school was learning how to sew," Kirkendall said.

Born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, Kirkendall has been a

member of the Coast Guard 19 years and became an AST in 2005.

"I wanted to serve my country, serve my community and at the time there were no major conflicts or anything, but with the Coast Guard, they were always responding to things," he explained. "People were always in trouble and for search and rescue there's no politics. You're just out there in case someone gets hurt due to their own negligence or just bad luck and I like that idea of serving humanity more or less."

Since mid-2017, the Farms resident has served as the head rescue swimmer at Air Station Detroit, which covers Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake St. Clair and the southern half of Lake Michigan.

"No matter what is



Brian Kirkendall enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard when he was 20 years old.

going on in the world, no matter what my men have going on at home, somebody's always on watch, somebody's always on duty and somebody's always willing to fly into the worst weather (or) worst-case scenario

to bring somebody home," he said, "and to say I'm chief and I have stewardship of these men is pretty amazing."

In two instances since gaining the position and being stationed in the area, he has been launched to rescue Canadian citizens who ran into problems while ice fishing on Lake St. Clair.

In the first, a thick fog had moved in and a man became disoriented and lost on the ice. The Coast Guard team was launched to his approximate position, but really didn't know where he was because of the fog.

"Our first attempt in, we make an approach, we think we're in a good spot ... and I'm sitting in the door ready to be hoisted down and the next thing I know, we're just falling sideways," Kirkendall said.

The pilots were able to regain control of the heli-

copter, but due to weather conditions, the second attempt remained unsuccessful. During the third try, the team was able to find a hole in the fog and Kirkendall was lowered down.

"I'm looking up at the flight mechanic and he's pointing in a direction, but the fog is super thick," he said. "I can't see anything. And then out of nowhere this guy that

we've been looking for, of course he's dressed in black, he's in a down coat soaking wet (and) he comes out of nowhere."

The man was hoisted into the helicopter and successfully rescued, as was a Canadian man this past winter who fell into the ice.

The chief petty officer attributes his ability to continue to serve to both his fellow service members and his wife, Nicole, who grew up in the Farmington area.

"The sacrifices that our wives and kids make is truly phenomenal and I couldn't love my wife enough," he said.

After testing to advance to the rank of senior chief in November, Kirkendall is set to rotate to a new station next summer.

He also will be eligible to retire next year after 20 years in the service, but for now is keeping his options open.

"I know for sure that I want my kids to grow up in Michigan," he said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN KIRKENDALL

Every fall, rescue swimmers undergo training evaluations during which they do free falls 1.5 to 2 miles off shore and swim in.



Pictured are the helicopter rescue swimmers of Air Station Detroit. Kirkendall is on the far right.

DEVELOP:

Continued from page 1A

"I think personally, legally, you don't have that ability" without risking litigation, Howlett said.

An earlier public comment segment resembled other discussions in which vocal participants criticized plans for the Schaap Center they said could adversely affect them as residents and

taxpayers.

"Whether that's technically legal, I don't know, but this whole thing stinks without a vote," Martin Steiger said.

Diana Kohler said the center could have "unified and excited the community," but instead will stand as a "monument to the contempt" of local government toward citizen input.

David Roberts differed, telling the council that opening the center would

actually engage residents both in the Park and neighboring cities.

"To me, personally, this is an opportunity to build that community involvement," Roberts added.

Council members Vikas Relan and Lauri Read made unanimously supported motions requesting that URIF provide more information about topics ranging from the center's anticipated impact on vehicle

traffic to resident input about programming.

Following the council meeting, URIF spokeswoman Jaime Rae Turnbull said a public engagement forum already had been scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, when residents will be specifically invited to offer their ideas.

"This isn't an opportunity for the community to decide what's going to be built or how it's going to

operate," Turnbull said. "What we're hoping to do with the community is discuss how it will be used as exhibit space and function space, and how local artists might be showcased."

URIF is "very much open" to ensuring Grosse Pointe area residents are pleased with what the center will offer, Turnbull said. She invited everyone who wants to give input to visit the Grosse

Pointe Park city website for information about the Aug. 31 forum.

Councilman Dan Grano's motion that the Park avoid committing city funds to the Schaap Center, which is being privately funded, passed 6-1 with Jim Robson dissenting. The vote addressed a concern by many residents that future operating expenses could become a taxpayer burden.

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Domestic violence

When a 52-year-old Southfield woman failed to get a product her fiancé asked her to at a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue at 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, the 55-year-old Southfield man smashed her head into the floor of

PUBLIC SAFETY

Destruction of property

Between 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, and 7 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21, an unknown person removed the valve stems from a Bobcat parked at

See REPORTS, page 5A

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REPORTS:

Continued from page 4A

a construction site at 10 Kercheval Avenue.

Good Samaritan

After watching a vehicle drive slowly through a red light at Moross Road and Chalfonte Avenue, a Grosse Pointe man noticed the man inside the vehicle was unconscious with his arm hanging out the window at 10:20 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21.

As the vehicle crossed the center line into oncoming traffic, the resident exited his vehicle and ran after the driver, grabbing his arm to wake him and turning the steering wheel back into the right lane.

The driver woke and was able to stop the car; medics found he had suffered a post-surgical reaction following a procedure earlier that morning.

The resident will receive an award from public safety at the annual ceremony next year.

Interrupted getaway

Two men and a woman who stole six bottles of alcohol from a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, were found nearly immediately afterward in the Mack alley near Lincoln Road by a Grosse Pointe public safety sergeant.

The three were arrested for retail fraud and possession of narcotics paraphernalia when they were patted

down.

Trail of breadcrumbs

After being pulled over on westbound Mack Avenue because front-end damage on his vehicle was leaving a field of debris behind it at 12:50 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 23, a 21-year-old Woods man was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content was .23 percent.

Found golf clubs

A bag of golf clubs with covers from the Dearborn Country Club were found in the driveway of the Department of Public Works building off Chalfonte Avenue at 5:45 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Stolen signs

The street signs at the intersection of Ballantyne and Fairford roads were discovered to be stolen at 10:18 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17.

Joy ride

After traveling 51 mph on Lakeshore Road and performing two wheelies on his motorcycle at 10:47 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, a 20-year-old Shelby Township man was pulled over and arrested for an improper plate.

Operating while intoxicated

A 30-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over at Lakeshore Road and Carmel Lane at 2:35 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21, after speeding, making several lane changes for no apparent reason and coming dangerously close to striking construction barrels on more than one occasion.

After her preliminary breath test results showed .15 blood alcohol content, she was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Slipping past the guard

Officers were called when a 31-year-old California man made entry into Osius Park without stopping and being identified by the park ranger at 12:03 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21.

The man said he had no idea he had to show a pass, but was arrested when he was found to have no insurance and a suspended license.

No insurance

A 49-year-old New Haven woman was arrested at Lakeshore and Provencal roads at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, for speeding 47 mph and not having insurance.

Speeding

After being pulled over for speeding at Jefferson and Marter roads at 10:46 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, a 73-year-old Detroit man was arrested for operating while intoxicated. A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol

level at .17 percent.
— Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Park

Fleeing driver thinks twice

A 26-year-old Detroit woman was arrested at Mack and Beaconsfield around 12:20 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, after briefly leading public safety on a chase.

An officer observed the driver speeding and when he attempted to detain her, she accelerated the vehicle. She eventually stopped and was charged with fleeing and eluding.

The suspect also had outstanding warrants from other jurisdictions.

Package poachers picked up

Two juveniles were arrested after taking a package from a porch in the 1300 block of Maryland around 1:45 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19. A witness reported the theft and the suspects were arrested about two blocks away. The stolen property was recovered.

Stolen vehicle recovered

A 2018 GMC Yukon was stolen from the 800 block of Three Mile Drive between 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, and 12:20 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, after the key fob was left in the vehicle. The vehicle was later located and recovered.

Auto thief arrested

A 25-year-old Grosse Pointe Park resident was arrested after stealing a pickup truck in the 1000 block of Wayburn around 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20. The vehicle was recovered.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen vehicle

A black 2002 Jeep with an Old English-style letter “D” in the rear window was stolen from the 19200 block of Mack between 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, and 7:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21.

The victim, who had entered the site for a work shift the previous evening, reported returning to the location where she parked the vehicle to find it missing.

Sign stolen

A “Trump 2020” sign was removed from the front lawn of a home in the 1800 block of Hampton between Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22. No

suspect was identified.

Suspended speeder cited

A driver was ticketed at Vernier and Sunningdale Park Saturday, Aug. 22, for driving with a suspended license and speeding.

The 29-year-old Detroit resident’s vehicle was stopped after the suspect was reportedly spotted driving 12 miles faster than the speed limit. The vehicle was then driven by a licensed passenger.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Missing in action

After hiring a 29-year-old Warren contractor July 6, to repair and replace two defective electronic panels on his University Place residence, a 49-year-old Grosse Pointe man has yet to receive the products and been unable to connect with the contractor.

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



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Furloughs, special needs

As the countdown continues toward the Sept. 8 start of school — by two different paths of remote learning — parents appear restless with the uncertainty over instruction schedules and other details. Parents of special needs students have growing concerns about how their children will get services.

The issues coming home to roost for the Grosse Pointe Public School System are undoubtedly difficult and time-consuming to resolve properly in the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Special education students, in particular, require and deserve case-by-case review to get their programs back on track.

But the district administration sometimes seems so consumed with step-by-step planning that longer term consequences escape them. Such is the case with the 50-plus furloughs brought to the Board of Education for approval Monday night.

The furloughs include 17 paraprofessionals, out of more than 100, who do close physical work with special needs students and will be called back as students return to school buildings. The others include office staff, computer lab and media center personnel and hall monitors. They, too, will return as students do.

It is probably possible to go through such a list person-by-person and make a case for many of them, as several residents did for high school choir accompanists during the board meeting. But the point is not the intricacies of each job as much as it is the lack of warning from the administration that the furloughs were possible. Even the board appeared to have had insufficient notice.

While furloughed, employees can keep district health insurance and postpone paying their share until they return to work. Many should be able to file for unemployment insurance back to June 15, adding the summer break to the jobless period that officially starts at the end of this month.

That may soften the blow for most, but the administration could have noted several meetings back that a remote learning plan might involve in-school layoffs. Certainly hall monitors, unless diverted to other tasks, have no job with no students in the building.

But the furlough resolution came with no such early warning. Board Secretary Christopher Profeta regretted that there was no chance to discuss this with the community. Trustee Cindy Pangborn said she was saddened and embarrassed and called the whole process “poorly thought out and poorly presented.”

The votes related to the furloughs also fractured the board. A motion to amend the furlough resolution, to remove the choir accompanists, failed with only three “yes” votes out of the seven board members. Four board members then voted “yes” on the furlough resolution itself.

The split spanned votes such as Treasurer Judy Gafa’s “no,” as she cited her angst about the situation, and a “yes” from Vice President Kathleen Abke, who called the decision agonizing.

The fact that the administration put the board in this situation — without the ability to discuss the furlough proposal, get community responses and perhaps mull alternatives — is unfortunate. Board members don’t always need to agree, but a 4-3 split can suggest problems.

The administration has certainly had its hands full meeting requirements, mostly from the state, including the order to plan in-school, remote and hybrid teaching models. The possibility of in-school classes seemed like a good possibility until COVID-19 cases took off in the Pointes in July.

Now the fully remote start to school will be accompanied, hopefully, by gradually reintroducing students who want in-person instruction. (A second “district” with remote learning guaranteed for the next year is available and has more than 1,000 enrollees.)

Special ed students need to come first, as their planning progresses, and it appears the district has kindergartners next in line.

But none of this is particularly transparent, at least in terms of the kinds of details parents need. And they can be forgiven for worrying whether more surprises await.



PHOTO BY FRAN BACHMANN

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Harry Kurtz presented Brett Smith, left, with a proclamation, from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and State Reps. Kevin Hertel and Tenisha Yancey, at his retirement send-off.

OUR VIEW

Veterans retiring in Shores

With the announced departure of Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts, Grosse Pointe Shores is losing yet another veteran, dedicated employee.

“This year we’ve been very short staffed and I’ve been tired of just working, working, working,” Ms. Ricketts said, noting that changes to retiree health care were the final straw for her.

Her 33 years of experience will be much missed. “She’s been the rock for this place,” said interim city manager Tom Krolczyk. During her tenure, she was instrumental in helping the city achieve its AAA bond rating in 2015, worked to make city finances as transparent as possible, helped save millions of dollars and even ran community projects such as the annual classic car show.

Ms. Ricketts’ resignation comes on the heels of another long-term employee’s departure. Director of Public Works Brett Smith announced his resignation less than two months earlier and left this month. He also had served 30-plus years and was known

for his skills and deep knowledge on subjects ranging from roads to garbage. As a local representative to the county on federal transportation spending, he coordinated numerous street improvement projects throughout the Pointes.

Last fall, the Shores lost its city manager, Mark Wollenweber, a highly experienced manager who had served administratively in several other cities before his tenure in the Shores, and longtime employee and executive assistant Laurie Duncan.

The dedication of public servants, as illustrated by these four, does not always get the respect it deserves. Another change in the Shores — the abrupt decision to start charging retirees for a portion of their health care — may fall into this category as well.

It’s especially important to celebrate the role that local employees play, contributing over many years to the betterment of their communities and building their institutional knowledge to the benefit of all. Certainly in the case of the Shores, the careers spent there, now at their end, merit celebration.

OUR VIEW

War Memorial site plan a go

It’s good to see the final agreement on plans for expansion and improvements at The War Memorial. With approval Aug. 10 by the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council, the visible work can begin on a project that appears to have many community benefits.

Perhaps the most discussed issue has been the use of glass in the project and the potential threat it poses to birds. That has led to use of a specialty glass with a protective coating on all four sides of the addition. The addition also was lowered slightly in height to match another building and gets some cover from trees and other nearby structures that should help deter bird strikes.

The new addition will hold an art gallery, community room and reflection room, among other features. It will stand in front of the ballroom on the Lakeshore Road side of the complex.

But some of the exterior features appear just as exciting: a new terrace, gardens revived to their early design by Ellen Biddle Shipman and new walkways to improve access throughout the grounds, for example.

Construction is expected to begin this fall and last 12 to 14 months, according to Charles Burke, president and CEO. It will be exciting to watch such big plans take shape at one of the premier assets in the Grosse Pointes.

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.

Schaap Center a win, win, win

To the Editor:
When I lived in the 1970s in Grosse Pointe Park near Jefferson and the city limits I never regarded the area as a cultural campus; there was no public library then and no beautifully designed dining facility, The Ark, to compliment majestic St. Ambrose Church.

I remember an area in decline; city hall was high architecture, yes, but tired, and the race was on to tear down the Esquire before it became an adult theater.

I recently attended a presentation on the Schaap Center plan and I came away favorably impressed.

With all the wonderful community happenings today, such as The War Memorial expansion/ren-

ovation final plan approval, the magnificent construction now taking place at the Ford House and now this — a plan to make the grounds near city government a special place to go to appreciate a permanent art collection or enjoy a symphony or take in a play?

I believe the Schaap Center should be supported, along with all the other positive changes taking place today in the Grosse Pointe community. I see it as a win, win and win situation.
RICHARD ALLISON
Grosse Pointe Woods

Concerned parent

To the Editor:
I am writing to implore you to open up our Grosse Pointe Public School System on Sept. 8. We currently have two

children attending Grosse Pointe South. There is no scientific basis for our children not to return.

My husband is a surgeon and I am retired registered nurse, so we have a depth of medical knowledge and understanding of what has transpired over the past several months.

The American Academy of Pediatrics also stresses the importance of opening our schools now. The private schools are going back face to face. So are Detroit Public Schools, as well as many others.

In Michigan, currently our positivity rate is 2.5 percent. We have long ago flattened the curve. So clearly this is no longer about the numbers.

Our children need and deserve to go back to all

See LETTERS, page 7A

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I SAY By Mary Anne Brush

Dog days of summer during a pandemic



My dog is living his best life. I'm sure Ronnie is not alone among pandemic pets enjoying an overabundance of family time this summer. Furry friends across the globe have become part of the fabric of work-at-home life, from cat naps on laptop keyboards to unmuted dogs barking or Zoom bombing during important meetings. Ronnie has adapted

well to the new routine. The only stress in his day appears to be figuring out how to position himself equidistant from all family members at all times. It was months of quality home time before my husband and I figured out this was what he was doing. When we're together drinking our morning coffee, for example, he's there with us, curled in a pool of sunlight or stretched out in his favorite spot beneath the window. But if one of us is in the bedroom and the other across the hall working or watching TV, he will snooze in the hallway directly between us.

If one of us is downstairs and the other upstairs, he hangs out on the landing at the top of the stairs. Another favorite spot — in particular when my husband is cooking dinner — is in the downstairs foyer, where he can enjoy the aromas from the kitchen while remaining alert to movement in the living room or upstairs. How to maintain optimum closeness at all times has been exacerbated this month while all three kids are home, spreading out to different bedrooms and workstations throughout the house. Why, oh why, he must wonder, can't we all just stay in one place?

We worry this constant need to be near us, disrupting his former routine of dozing undisturbed for hours while we were away at work, is causing him anxiety. A mellow fellow by nature, little seems to bother him. Even the nightly explosions of fireworks in June and early July elicited little more than the quirk of a shaggy eyebrow. Yet no matter how deeply asleep he may appear, he remains attuned to our every movement and will rouse his old bones to follow us up and down the stairs faithfully. At 13, this is no small feat. If Ronnie could voice his opinion, I suspect he

would say the sacrifice of uninterrupted sleep is a small price to pay for our daily companionship. What pleases him less is social distancing during walks. When he glimpses a dog headed our way, he wags his tail, likely anticipating a quick sniff and greet. Yet inevitably one dog-walking party or the other crosses the street and the opportunity passes. Recently, our neighbors passed our house while we were setting off on a walk and Ronnie had a brief encounter with his favorite girlfriend, Sadie. Our neighbors told us Sadie has little interest in socializing with other dogs, yet

she tolerates Ronnie's attention. He, on the other hand, makes a bit of a fool of himself over her. It was a refreshing change of pace to allow a visit between the two while we humans shared a few pleasantries at an appropriate distance. I wonder what passed between Ronnie and Sadie. Did they commiserate over the lack of alone time? Celebrate the increased number of walks? Wonder what was up in the world and when things would go back to normal? Or, more likely, they enjoyed that moment of togetherness until it passed and we all walked our separate ways.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1945

75 years ago this week

WILSON AT TOKYO MEET: Grosse Pointe's Lt. Ralph C. Wilson Jr. USNR, commands the U.S. minelayer, The Picket, in Admiral Halsey's great Third Fleet, which will operate in the occupation of Japan's home islands, his family learned today. The 26-year-old Pointer, who enlisted in the Navy before Pearl Harbor, thus brings to a climax a brilliant and long war career. Lt. Wilson's ship will lead the minesweepers which take part in the landing.

1970

50 years ago this week

SPECIAL UNIT ADDED: St. John Hospital, a 350-bed comprehensive, community health care center serving the east side of Detroit and surrounding suburbs, is now engaged in a long-range development and expansion program designed to provide a full range of health care services to the community. Recent examples of this development are the additions of the

intensive and coronary care units, together with expansion of the emergency and ambulatory services facility. The newest highly specialized service now being held at St. John Hospital is a "Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit." **FOURTH, SEVENTH GRADERS DO WELL:** Grosse Pointe public school youngsters in grades 4 and 7 have achieved an outstanding record in the Michigan Assessment Program, the state's first attempt to find out how well students do in basic skills. Although the tests were administered in January, it was not until August that the local schools received the results. On average, Grosse Pointe students scored above the 95th percentile in all areas of the tests and up to the 98th percentile in several others in comparison with the state, region and similar communities. *Obituaries: Ford Ballantyne, Eva McKinley West, Elizabeth M. Langworthy, Marsha Lois Johns, Fred A. Krutz, Jack E. Crysler, Elizabeth Van Dael, Walter J. Fetter*

1995

25 years ago this week

PACK OF DOGS STRIKES AGAIN: The Grosse Pointe Farms police went on a hunt last week after two incidents involving a pack of wild dogs attacking and killing residents' cats were reported. The first attack took place near McKinley and Chalfonte, where four dogs mangled Beth Wronski's cat. The next morning, a pack of dogs matching the same description attacked and killed a cat on Mapleton. **2 PLANS FOR MARGE'S:** In an attempt to allow Marge's Bar to provide outdoor service without imposing on the surrounding residential neighborhood, Grosse Pointe Park officials have drawn up a couple of plans meant to relieve everyone's concerns. *Obituaries: Robert D. Bradley, Richard K. Degener, Warren Earl Long, Carmen A. Schultz, Samuel M. D'Angelo, Sheila M. a c L e a n Schollenberger, James Vincent McShane, Milton A. Manley Jr., Ward P. Beard*

2010

10 years ago this week

CCD BUILDINGS DESTROYED: The battle to save a pair of burning storage buildings at the Country Club of Detroit was lost before it began. "There's nothing I could do if I had 100 guys down here," said incident commander Lt. Jack Patterson of the Farms public safety department. Fire doubles in size every 18 seconds, he said. **RESIDENTS FIGHT ZONING CHANGE:** More than 100 people attended a public hearing in Grosse Pointe Woods for a proposed amendment to the city's zoning regulations that would allow a continuing care retirement community to be built within a designated Community Facilities District. The proposed change in zoning regulations has prompted developer interest in the 14-acre parcel of land at 900 Cook Road, the former Children's Home of Detroit. *Obituaries: Assad Amine, Daniel H. Basinski, Roger Alan Fries, Nancy Pierson Gard, William Anthony Muer II, Benedict P. Rybicki, Joanne "Josie" Dirkes, Eleanor Frances Hammer*



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

In a little sidewalk garden in front of a house in the 700 block of Pemberton, a Grosse Pointe Park resident reminds us to put down our phones and chat with our neighbors — of course, while maintaining social distance.



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LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

sports and face-to-face learning Sept. 8. There is inherent risk in everything we do on a daily basis. I think most people understand that. It is time we get back to participating in all sports and in-school learning. We all now know how to do this safely. Even Kroger tells us how to wash our hands. And doctors know how to treat and manage COVID-19. The ramifications to our children are great. The benefits of returning to all sports and face-to-face learning far exceed the risks. Some experts estimate our children are six months behind since we shut our schools back in March. Do what you were hired to do; advocate for the children of the GPPSS and stop this downward spiral. Failure to do this on your part is in my

opinion, dangerous for our children and quite frankly, seems criminal. The governor specifically left it up to each district to decide. Eighty-five percent of parents/children want face to face now. If 15 percent want to stay at home, that's their choice. And as a bonus the ... people that are about to get laid off can keep their jobs. Teaching our children is an essential job. Everyone else is figuring out a way to make it work. I believe GPPSS can too. Do what is in the best interests of the children of GPPSS and open up. It is time to welcome them back in school on Sept. 8. *SUSAN GAVAGAN Grosse Pointe Farms*

Correction: Last week's letter, "It's Not Just About the Arts," should have been signed: Aimee Rogers Fluitt City Council member Grosse Pointe Park



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By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Lewis warned teachers, “when you go back to your classrooms — whether to in-person or remote learning — you’re going to go back to students with a heightened sense of social justice because they have heard



Creating clear definitions is critical to the process, he added. For

“Just by diversifying a workforce in itself will not lead to inclusive outcomes,” Hernando said. “In fact, it leads to more

“Prejudice is a preconceived judgment or opinion, usually based on

The biggest takeaway from the session for Erika Fell, an English teacher at Parcels Middle School, was “trying to make this accessible to my students and bring some of the same lessons that were

"As a middle-aged white man, it's important for me to acknowledge my privileges and use my position to fight systemic racism," he said, adding the training would be helpful for

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

"We have work that, because we are starting in a virtual work, does not need to be completed," Dean said at Monday night's board meeting,

The decision did not impact the ability to bring students with special needs back into the buildings for in-person support in a tiered approach, Hayes noted. Moreover, as many paraprofessionals as possible were maintained to assist with

An earlier motion by Herd to remove the high school choir accompanists from the list of employees recommended for furlough failed 3-4. Herd, Gafa and Pangborn supported the motion and Abke, Lee, Profeta and Weertz opposed it.

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ERs see sharp decline in patients

By Lauren Kavan
and more

OUTPATIENT — Emergency room visits across the metro area have declined sharply since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Dr. Robert Hahn.

2A | NEWS

The effects of COVID-19 on local real estate

By the Grosse Pointe News Staff

Real estate has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The housing market has slowed down, and many homes are sitting on the market for a long time. This is due to the fact that many people are not willing to move during the pandemic, and many are not able to afford a home.

Month	Homes Sold
March	12
April	8
May	10
June	11

NEWS | 3A

Boat Club efforts support restaurants, frontline workers

By Lauren Kavan

CLUB — The Grosse Pointe Boat Club is supporting local restaurants and frontline workers by providing them with food and supplies.

Boat Club members from the Grosse Pointe Boat Club are shown here. The club is supporting local restaurants and frontline workers by providing them with food and supplies.

Manufacturer adds hand sanitizer to catalog

By Lauren Kavan

MANUFACTURER — A local manufacturer has added hand sanitizer to its catalog of products.

Offering guidance

By Lauren Kavan

GUIDANCE — A local organization is offering guidance to businesses and individuals on how to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization is offering guidance on topics such as social distancing, wearing masks, and avoiding large gatherings.

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Parents seek in-person special ed services

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Many parents of students with special needs are running out of patience with the Grosse Pointe Public School System administration. Noting regression among their children since the loss of in-person services last March, they are awaiting concrete plans from the school district on when face-to-face instruction will resume in the school buildings.

For Julie Moe, Susan Sutorka and Jill Wurm, virtual services do not work for their elementary-age children. Moe's son has Down syndrome and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and Sutorka's and Wurm's children each received a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, combined with ADHD in Wurm's case.

Sutorka said she understands the district is working on a tiered approach (see sidebar), with students in categorical autism spectrum disorder and cognitive impairment programs brought in first to receive one-on-one and small group direct services one time a week for speech language pathology, occupational and physical therapies at all elementary schools.

She also understands there are concerns with coordinating services with Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies and providing transportation. Moreover, a multitude of safety issues must be addressed before in-person instruction can resume.

She is simply looking for set dates, metrics and a firm plan.

"I need to get to the root of what the problem is," she said. "Why can't (we) start (in-person learning) when school starts?"

All three agree virtual instruction is failing their children.

Moe, who said she emailed Superintendent Gary Niehaus "multiple times, even requesting a meeting," has received no response.

"To me, that's a huge failure by the administration that they're not even engaging with the parents who are specifically requesting meetings with them. No follow-up, no meetings, just silence."

The virtual options offered assume "the child can sit in front of a computer to accept the virtual education," Wurm said, "which is I think the root of what the big problem is here. I don't have a problem with virtual education



COURTESY PHOTO

Julie and Max Moe

in general, but if you don't have a child who can sit longer than 20 minutes, (it doesn't work). My kid has ADHD in an ASD combination, which makes virtual the worst combination for him.

"He's a smart kid," she added. "He learns well, but he needs somebody to (provide) that structure for him. And I understand we can't go face to face all the way right away. That's not even a problem. But there's got to be some other things in place to help fill in some of those gaps."

First and foremost, Wurm is looking for occupational therapy, because her son struggles with writing. Virtual therapy is no help, she said.

Moe, who has hired an advocate at a cost of \$600 to help guide her through the process and filed a civil rights complaint against the school district, noted the district gets money from the state for special needs.

"The special ed law says that if the school can't or won't provide the services, they're supposed to directly reimburse the parents," she said. "So if the school doesn't have the capabilities to do that, they should just funnel that money to us. And right now the schools are essentially holding our money hostage. My son has not had one therapy session since March, but the district has been provided the money for his therapy."

She added she has specifically requested reimbursement so she can arrange private therapy, but hasn't received a reply.

"Another point I would bring up is for me, it's not just the therapy," Moe said. "The only time my child has a chance to see other kids his own age is during the school day. ...

He physically doesn't have the ability to go to somebody's house. He'll destroy it. ... So he doesn't have play dates or any type of social interaction. ... We actually can't really bring him out in public very often at all. So that's really important for him as well. And the district is also required to provide extended school year services. I was so disappointed to find out that they ran a for-profit summer camp — at \$1,000 a month — that they chose to open in person, but they didn't do an in-person extended school year. "To me, that shows where their priorities are really off," she continued. "Same with the beginning of the school year. My son desperately needs to see people. It's not just OT and PT and speech for him. He has huge behavioral issues and he needs to learn how to follow those expectations and get some guidance from adults and other kids as well to emulate them."

Sutorka noted, "There are also a lot of parents who are having to go outside of the school system and pay out-of-pocket for therapies, but that's not accessible to people who don't have the funds."

She tried virtual therapies for her son last spring, but within 30 seconds of any virtual call, he would "start slamming himself into furniture," she said. "He gets so dysregulated. He can't handle the disconnect between seeing and hearing people and their bodies not being there."

Wurm said she has noticed her son has regressed socially as well as academically and misses the interaction with his occupational therapist at his elementary school.

"He probably hasn't

picked up a pencil in two or three months," she said. "I've got to pick my battles. If I'm going to sit down and read with him and I'm going to sit down and do math with him, I can't fight the writing too. Because a lot of this is stressful. It's stressful for him."

During online instruction, for example, she noticed he was holding the edge of the desk.

"And that's not a reaction we get from him in person. He's pretty good with adults."

Sutorka said she and her husband have been isolated due to COVID-19, as both are at high risk of complications if they contract COVID-19. This isolation has had a detrimental effect on her child.

"Last night he was just in a state that we couldn't reach him," she said. "He was gone. And that hasn't happened in years. He needs to be around people who understand this and know how to work with it. The education piece is obviously important ... (but) he can't learn without someone sitting right next to him."

For Moe, regression goes beyond Max slipping in his reading or math skills, which is what concerns parents of neurotypical children. Regression means her son hitting himself and hitting her.

"He gets so frustrated because it gets down to speech," she said. "... It's really hard because he can't tell us what he wants. ... So he hits himself out of frustration."

She worries the longer

Special education letter

It is a priority for the Grosse Pointe Public School System to support the most vulnerable learners. We do believe that the spring was a reactive situation caused by the pandemic. GPPSS is prepared with personal protective equipment, cleaning protocols and social distancing.

What we are not able to secure is a safe environment for staff and students to return full-time in face-to-face instruction ... yet. We have been working with the special education team on establishing different scenarios that could come up, and what level of response we will have, in addition to following the governor's plan. When the safety situation dictates that we are set to return to any face-to-face instruction, direct therapies will begin in a tiered manner. We have already indicated in every town hall, meeting and FAQ that our students with disabilities will be monitored post-Sept. 8, for progress and also for the opportunity to return for possible one-on-one therapies.

The following are examples of how this could roll out. Of course, these are subject to revision depending on the safety situation related to COVID-19.

Tier 1 — Students in categorical autism spectrum disorder and cognitive impairment programs start one-on-one in small-group direct services one time a week for speech-language pathology, occupational therapy and physical therapy at all elementary schools. Students in Early On and Early Childhood Special Education programs start in-home for EO and face-to-face for ECSE instruction, half days, Monday through Thursday.

Tier 2 — Students receiving resource programs start small group sign-up/drop-in resource program direct services one time a week at each elementary school. Students in categorical ASD and CI programs start one-on-one and small-group direct services for speech-language pathology, OT and PT at secondary schools (grades 5-12).

Tier 3 — Students receiving resource programs start small-group sign-up/drop-in resource program direct services one time a week at the secondary level. Students attending post-secondary programs at Community Campus can attend half-time, moderate cognitive ability Monday and Tuesday and ASD Thursday and Friday.

No one wants our students to regress, fail or to be discriminated against. In reality, all kids have been impacted by the global pandemic since March. I am sorry you are very frustrated and these times are so difficult. If I could change them, I would. Our teams and special education administration are available to work with you, virtually, starting Sept. 8. I am confident in the work we can accomplish together.

— Stefanie Hayes, director of student services

he is kept at home away from the therapies he needs and the interaction he craves, the less likely she will be able to bring him out into public again.

"He is struggling with this so much," she said. "So for us, it's not about

my kid's math. He can't count to 20 anyway. It's not about reading. He doesn't know his letters. It's just about getting him to be able to say a sentence and communicate and live in the world and be happy."

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BIAS:

Continued from page 8A

all staff at South, the majority of whom are white.

Glasser said he gained an understanding of different perspectives during the session and experienced a few "aha" moments.

He hopes to bring what he learned back to Grosse Pointe South in his role as counselor.

"I'm hopeful that our Black students and parents see me as a person they can come to with confidence with concerns or ideas to make Grosse Pointe South better," he said.



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Men of the Big Mac

Park sculptor honors ironworkers
on bridge’s 50th birthday PAGE 1B

RELAY FOR LIFE

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Week ahead

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THURSDAY, MAY 17

♦ Grosse Pointe Business and Professional Association hosts the Spring Sidewalk Sales on Mack in Grosse Pointe Park, the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Woods during regular business hours.
♦ St. Clair Shores Lakeside Palette Club meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena, 20000 Stephens.
♦ An American Red Cross Blood drive will be held from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack at Torrey. For an appointment, call (313) 884-5542.
♦ The Pointe Players of Grosse Pointe South High School present four “One-Act Plays” at 7:30 p.m. May 17 and Friday, May 18. Performances are at the South auditorium, 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets range from \$6 to \$8 and are available at the door.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

♦ Grosse Pointe Park residents at 1 p.m. in Windmill Pointe Park can observe the 100th anniversary of the city. Refreshments will be served.
♦ Join the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life of Grosse Pointe in Pier Park from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, May 20. Walk the track, play games, enjoy entertainment and raise money to fight cancer.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

♦ The Right Note Studio performs at 1:30 p.m., at First English Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods. The program includes works by French and Spanish composers, jazz, and music from the Pirates of the Caribbean. For more information call (586) 777-9910.

MONDAY, MAY 21

♦ The Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m. at the Woods branch, 20680 Mack. There will be no meeting Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day.
♦ The City of Grosse Pointe council meets at 7 p.m. in

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I SAY By John Minnis

Publisher at -30-



With the death of Grosse Pointe News Publisher Robert G. “Butch” Edgar last Friday, May

‘Butch’ was a mentor, boss and friend

11, the loss is being felt by the many employees at the newspaper, including me, who respected and enjoyed working with him.

I will never forget the day in September 1988 when I drove to the Grosse Pointe News offices on “The Hill” to interview for a reporter’s position. I had just returned from a two-year stint in Atlanta working on

newspapers there. We had gone to Atlanta because of a lucrative per diem position my wife had secured with General Motors. Mr. Edgar’s first question was, “If your wife gets sent somewhere else, will you be going too?” I assured him that would not be the case.

In fact, when Terry was sent to do the Saturn start-up in

Tennessee, I remained at the Grosse Pointe News, and we took turns flying back and forth on weekends.

I have experienced many ups and downs throughout the nearly 20 years since I first started at the Grosse Pointe News, but one constant had always been Mr. Edgar, who preferred



Robert G. “Butch” Edgar, 75, died Friday, May 11, after battling a lung disease.

See BUTCH, page 11A



PHOTO BY JOHN MINNIS

After three decades of existence, the parking deck in the Village was demolished in a couple of days last week.

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

New deck receives low interest rate

Now you see it; now you don’t.

That is the impression that many visitors to the Village shopping district may have felt,

as it took only days to level the old Jacobson’s parking garage behind Kercheval Place.

The mass of rubble will be removed soon and construction

of a new garage to accommodate shoppers at Trader Joe’s will begin. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

To that end, City Manager Peter Dame unveiled six bids on May 14 for the \$3.6 million

See DECK, page 11A

Not just drop in bucket

Woods, Shores, Park eye alternative sources of water

By John Lundberg
Staff Writer

A water rate increase has three area communities “dead serious” about severing their ties with Detroit’s water system.

A new model contract presented to communities served by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has Grosse Pointe Shores and Woods officials investigating tying into Grosse Pointe Farms Water Plant, said Mike Kenyon, Shores village manager.

He added that Grosse Pointe Park City Manager Dale Krajniak is investigating the feasibility of the Park constructing its own water system. Krajniak could not be reached by press time.

The Park cannot tie into the Farms because of the distance between the two communities, Kenyon said.

See WATER, page 11A

Mrs. Wile E. Coyote caught

The wife of Wile E. Coyote and the couples six pups were found Friday, May 11, under a deck at a home near the Country Club of Detroit. They were captured and given safe haven in western Michigan. Meanwhile, Mr. Coyote is wanted for back child support. See story and photos, page 3A.



PHOTO BY P.J. VLAHANTONES

POINTER OF INTEREST

‘When I write about my experience and pain, I make it universal.’

Elizabeth Carpenter

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms

Family: Sister, Margaret; sister-in-law, Lynn; niece and nephew, Carrie and Steve

Claim to fame: Accomplished photographer, writer and artist
See story on page 6A



Check back here on September 24 for a Frontpage Memory of the 2010’s

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Above, Cole Vanderdonck celebrates the last day of camp in a parade. Right, McKayla Hasting of Grosse Pointe Farms cares for the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Garden.

Coronavirus no match for Kids on the Go camp

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

For more than 20 years, Kids on the Go has provided children with special needs the physical, occupational, speech and recreation therapies they need through its free summer camp. This summer, its mission didn't change, but the way those therapies were delivered certainly did. "As a result of closures due to COVID-19, many of the children we serve lost the resources and safety they found through programs in their schools," said Kristy Schena, Kids on the Go founder and executive director. "Since the spring, they have lacked the structured social activity and routines they depend on to move forward and reach their educational goals. We were very happy this summer that we were able to safely offer our programs either virtually or in person." Kids on the Go recently wrapped up its summer camp, which saw 51



classes offered to students in virtual and face-to-face formats. Of those classes, nine took place in person, among them Summer Fitness, Friendship Cheer, Music Therapy and Teens to Work, as well as basketball and football conditioning camps.

Screening, social distancing and other safety measures were in place for all campers and staff, Schena said. Participants who attended in-person activities adjusted well to wearing masks — and shields when needed. "They took mask breaks when necessary,"



Above, camper Brody Hinson poses with All-Star Football Camp coach Taiwan Jones and his assistant, Donovan Clark, both of whom are Michigan State University Rose Bowl champions and former NFL players. Left, Grace Trocino participated in Friendship Cheer, in the parking lot at Assumption Cultural Center. Parking space markings were used to ensure social distancing.

she added. "Most of the teens were already used to wearing masks, because their parents had helped them get used to it. We didn't have any issues. "The kids had a wonderful time with structured activity outside and seeing other kids gave a sense of normalcy to this challenging time," she added, noting the programs were sponsored by a grant through the

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund. "Our Music Therapy program met in our new Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Peace Garden at the Nonprofit Center at Pare, which was a beautiful setting for the kids to experience the joys that music can bring," she said. "Our Teens to Work program also met onsite and utilized the new space in the Life Lessons Lab. This group

in particular enjoyed the chance to socialize and gain the skills and experience necessary to enter the work force." Teens to Work met twice a week, one day for workshoping — wood carving, paint pouring, metal stamping, jewelry making, etc. — and the other to learn about retail and sales. The last day of the program, they put their handmade wares on display and opened the Kids on the Go Retail Shop. "Everything they made for six weeks was in the store and open to the public," Schena said, noting students also planted and harvested a garden with volunteer Patty Allemon, so there also were peppers, radishes and herbs for sale. "Over 100 people, with masks, visited our store. We nearly sold out."

The teens also offered a weekly Coffee Cart Drive-Thru with coffee and muffins. Eventually, Schena said, there will be a Kids on the Go café where people can come in, sit down and drink coffee. Camp closed Aug. 13 with a drive-up goodbye for children who attended the virtual program. Schena said she was pleased with the success of Kids on the Go's first online summer camp. "The programs the children participated in this summer were a much-needed outlet for both therapy services and to establish a routine for socialization and fun," she said. "Many of the programs that took place through Zoom calls were still filmed in the classrooms at the Nonprofit Center at Pare and that provided the children with a sense of familiarity and comfort



Left, music class was taught by Emily Schienke on Tuesdays in the backyard at Pare according to social distancing guidelines. Right, students participate in Summer Fitness in the backyard at Pare.

See CAMP, page 2B

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2B | FEATURES

Race car star visits campers

Kids on the Go summer campers were in for a treat during their last week of camp. Grosse Pointe native Armani Williams, the first openly autistic NASCAR driver, spoke with participants in its All-Star Hoops Camp. Williams has been driving since he was 8 years old, starting with go-carts, and got his NASCAR driver’s license at 16 years old. He raced in Canada until he turned 18, then began racing in the U.S. Williams has raced in more than 30 NASCAR races and finished in the top 10 several times.



Above, from left, coaches Dan Siciliano and Anthony Ianni, guest speaker Armani Williams and volunteer Kennedy Carrier. Right, Williams poses with camper Aidan Lalonde, who got an autographed Hero Card featuring Williams’ photo, race history, sponsors and stats. Each camper received a card and a Hot Wheels car. Left, Ianni, a former Michigan State University basketball player and coach for Kids on the Go, poses with Williams, a NASCAR driver and Grosse Pointe native.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RENEE LANDUYT



The majority of this summer’s camp took place virtually, with instructors working at Pare.

CAMP:

Continued from page 1B

so they could truly benefit from each session. At Kids on the Go, we are very grateful for the opportunity to make the most of our programs over the summer. We also have to thank the parents and guardians of our campers for their participation in our programs, which helped to ensure a safe and positive experience for our summer campers. “One local dad whose son goes to Monteith told us how well his son adjusted to the virtual program,” she added, “and how much our

therapy team could provide guidance to him and his son.” Parents were encouraged to email staff if they noticed their child struggling, so extra help was available even remotely. “Kids on the Go usually provides respite; this year parents became their child’s therapy aid,” Schena added. “They learned with their child and they saw what the therapists do on our side. This will enhance their therapy. “Everyone stepped up to the plate and was thinking outside the box. ... I think this sent a powerful message of how we’re all adapting.” Schena, who was on hand at Pare the duration of the camp, said she was especially happy to give participants a chance to be kids again this summer. “We’re blessed to be

Many thanks

“In our fifth summer with Kids on the Go, we are more grateful and impressed than ever with the summer of therapy each of you has given to Tommy, Benjamin and our entire family. As 2020 rapidly changed, we were uncertain what any day might look like, let alone our Kids on the Go summer tradition. As the season began to unfold, we couldn’t believe how 21 years of on-site therapy was brilliantly transformed into a virtual format ... and the highlight of our summer. “... The Kids on the Go team has done an amazing job adapting to the challenges of 2020. We have truly enjoyed engaging in each program with our boys and watching the incredible work of such talented therapists. We are always sad to see Kids on the Go come to a close at the summer’s end, but this summer will be especially hard. We will miss our little ones asking to see their therapists on the TV, we will miss watching all three of them giggle as they recall songs and games from our virtual sessions and we will miss being a part of it all as a family. “Thank you for sharing your time and talents with Kids on the Go and for allowing our family to share in such a wonderful experience during such an unsettling time. When the world came to a screeching halt, so did many therapy services for our children. Families like ours look to Kids on the Go to help bridge the gap between school years. This year you packed six months of missed therapy into six weeks and have done an outstanding job of doing so. Thank you for helping fill our boys’ developmental needs and for giving our family lasting memories of learning and growing together.” — Portions of a letter from the Skowronski family

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able to provide as much as we did for summer 2020,” she said. “The feedback from parents, they’re so appreciative. We’re grateful to provide support for families who greatly need our services during these times.” Up next for Kids on the Go is its fall programming, made possible with a grant from the Children’s Foundation. Among offerings are a new fitness program and Toddlers at the Table, with dieti-

cian Bethany Mathus, a speech pathologist who works with parents and children who are picky eaters. Kids on the Go also is preparing for its gala, which takes place Nov. 7. “Bandstand Battle” will feature six bands performing virtually during the week leading up to the live event. The three bands with the most votes will give livestreamed performances during the gala, which also includes silent and live auctions. WDIV-TV Channel 4 meteorologist Brandon Roux will emcee. To become a gala sponsor, visit kidsonthego.com or call (313) 332-1026.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTY SCHENA

Volunteer Patty Allemon teaches Teens to Work participant Michael Banaszewski of Grosse Pointe Woods about planting vegetables and herbs.

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Quarantine becomes backyard adventure

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It started simply: Buy a new tent to replace the older model they'd outgrown.

The Loucks family of Grosse Pointe Park has long enjoyed camping, so the new purchase seemed like a reasonable idea — until COVID-19 put a damper on any camping plans they may have had.

"Everybody's plans got messed up this summer," patriarch Barry Loucks said. "We decided to buy a new tent, but we held off because of COVID. Then my wife and I were talking and said, 'Why not get a right-sized tent and camp in the backyard?'"

The new tent arrived July 3, and was promptly assembled and stuffed with the appropriate cots, air mattresses and sleeping bags for Loucks, his wife, Patrice Arend, and their children, 10-year-old Keenan and 7-year-



Barry Loucks poses with his children, Chloe and Keenan, in front of their new tent, which has accommodated them for more than 50 nights this summer.

old Chloe.

"We slept in the tent that night," Loucks said. "The kids loved it. It was beautiful weather, so we said, 'Why not stay another night?'"

A couple of nights turned into a couple of weeks and didn't stop there.

"My son likes 'Survivor,' so we did 39 nights," Loucks said. "Tonight (Aug. 20) will be night 49. My wife just slept in it one night, but I've been in it every night (with the kids). We've had rain, we've had thunderstorms. We've been out there every night."

In addition to their sleeping accommodations, Loucks added a fire pit to the backyard

where the family has enjoyed roasting marshmallows and making S'mores. They also added entertainment to their outdoor adventure by occasionally catching fireflies together.

"It's been fun," he said. "We transformed our backyard into a camping site."

The new tent has three rooms and screen-covered windows to allow for circulation. With the tent shaded by afternoon, even occasional sweltering temperatures haven't been an issue for the family.

"Everybody's been sleeping really well this summer, even through those roasting hot nights," Loucks said. "People might think it's too hot to sleep outside, but it's not. We have the windows open so there's fresh air. We've had no bad nights."

For Loucks, it can't get too cold out either.

"I told my son we'll stay out there until there's snow on the ground," he said. "If you have a good sleeping bag, you can sleep when it's well below freezing and be comfortable."

However, with his children starting remote learning soon and with his and his wife's work schedules to consider, Loucks said he'll likely tear down the tent come Labor Day weekend.

"I would do this again in a second next summer," Loucks said. "Assuming we'll be back to a normal routine next summer, there's no reason we wouldn't do it again."

"It was a way of making a summer that was going to be less than fun into something that was kind of special," he added. "I think we succeeded. It wasn't planned; it just sort of happened."

"I'm glad we did it. It made sense because of the situation we're in. I think when the kids look back on this summer, they'll say it was one of the better ones they've had."

End of Summer Sale debuts in The Village

Shoppers will find once-a-year deals when The Village debuts its first End of Summer Sale on Friday, Aug. 28, and Saturday, Aug. 29, in the City of Grosse Pointe.

The sale takes place indoors and outdoors with merchandise in stores, on sidewalks and in front of stores in parking spaces throughout three blocks of Kercheval, between Neff and Cadieux.

Kercheval will be open to traffic during sale hours.

Due to COVID-19, merchants in The Village were closed many weeks and now have merchandise to clear out. The End of Summer Sale offers special sales pricing, unique offers and giveaways from Village merchants and businesses. Participating retailers will offer significant discounts off regular prices on end-of-season merchandise, as well as items for special purchase exclusively during the two-day sale.

"Please, come support The Village, Main Street Grosse Pointe and our local retailers during the End of Summer Sale," City Manager Pete Dame said. "Purchasing items at the sale and stopping at one of our local restaurants will help our Village businesses come back from being closed due to the pandemic."

The City is making parking available at no charge in its surface public parking lots and parking structure during the sale.

Shoppers outside are encouraged to wear masks and observe social distancing whenever possible.

Masks continue to be required inside as mandated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The summer Bop n Shop programming concludes Saturday, Aug. 29, with members of Marge's Bar Band providing music from noon to 2 p.m. Village restaurants are open for dining in, outside dining and carryout.

In June, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation designated The Village part of the Michigan Main Street program. For a listing of Village businesses and to learn more, visit the villagegrossepointe.org.

Annual Garden Party on Belle Isle goes digital

Funds will support conservatory improvements

The 14th annual Garden Party on Belle Isle will not occur as the usual evening soiree at the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and Gardens this year due to the impacts of COVID-19. Belle Isle Conservancy and the party's planning committee, composed of representatives of the Grosse Pointe garden club community and longtime conservatory volunteers, will present the Garden Party on Belle Isle Virtual Tour with head horticulturist Jeremy Kemp at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Belle Isle Conservancy will seek donations to support the Scripps Conservatory's plant fund and other necessary enhancements to the interior and outdoor grounds.

"The pandemic has changed our approach to party planning from onsite to online," said Robin Heller, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident and event co-chairwoman. "While we can't be together, this gives us a chance to highlight the impact made by donations to date and the needs that still exist. We hope everyone will enjoy our virtual tour of the conservatory and grounds and learn something new."

Since 2006, the event has attracted 600 patrons each year and has raised funds in recent years for the winterization of the lily pond, repairs to the garden stairways and paths, and plant identification signage. While this year's format is vastly different from strolling the gardens, patrons will have the opportunity to gain an intimate familiarity with the space, even from the distance of home. Viewers also will see firsthand the impact community support has made, as well as the potential impact that could be made by continued donations to the nearly 116-year-old botanical wonderland.

"While we are disappointed to miss an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful-looking conservatory and gardens along with socializing with our fellow ASWC lovers, we are grateful for the opportunity to share this virtual event together," said Belle Isle Conservancy President and CEO Michele Hodges, a resident of Grosse Pointe Park. "By supporting this iconic Detroit institution, we hope history will show standing tall for Belle Isle happens no matter what the challenges."

The impacts of COVID-19 on the event industry have affected the facility beyond the cancellation of the Garden Party. The ASWC is a popular venue for weddings, which provide a prime source of revenue to maintain the aging Albert Khan-designed structure. Additionally, with the facility being closed to the public, the donation box does not receive contributions from weekend visitors.

"While I am thankful to be able to practice my social distancing in such a wonderfully peaceful paradise, I sure do miss the constant hum of visitors from all over the city, state and globe, 'oooh-ing' and 'aaah-ing' at the magnificent wonders of nature. It is truly the universal language," Kemp said.

Previous Garden Party patrons can expect to receive an invitation to the virtual tour in the mail. Online donations are accepted at belleisleconservancy.org/gardenparty.

Lotus, Koi and Water Lily level donations made by Sept. 10 will be recognized during the virtual program.

Underwriting opportunities are available. Contact Eric Lofquist, Belle Isle Conservancy Development Associate, at lofquiste@belleisleconservancy.org.

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GREAT DEALS INSIDE & OUT

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.

Joseph John Vaughn

Longtime Grosse Pointe resident Joseph John Vaughn, 99, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, at Cranberry Park Assisted Living in St. Clair Shores.

Joe grew up in Detroit and attended St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School for grade school and high school. He graduated from the University of Detroit as an electrical engineer.

Joe met the love of his life, Frances Edna Baker, in eighth grade at St. Charles. He and Frances were married in 1944, after receiving a blessing from Blessed Solanus Casey. The couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in 2014. Joe and Frances together raised six children, all of whom attended Catholic grade schools, high schools and colleges.

Joe proudly served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Trained in the latest radar technology at Bowdoin College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he used this training to perform countermeasures on enemy radar.

An entrepreneur and innovator throughout his career, Joe developed the radio-controlled garage door opener for Federal Industries Inc. He was president of Vemco Products Inc., which he co-founded with Charles Engelhardt and Harold Miller, and sold garage door and gate operators across North America. Joe and his Vemco co-founders developed and patented the first automated parking lot, including ticket-spitter technology coupled with an automatic gate operator. Joe later formed Operator Specialty Co., in Casnovia, Mich., which served residential and commercial gate operator markets. Instrumental in developing numerous safety features for door and gate operators, Joe received the 1995 Door Operator & Remote Control Manufacturers Distinguished Service Award; he was described as the man who had the vision to adapt the technology that created the industry.

Joe was a resident of the Grosse Pointes from 1957 to 2016. A devout Catholic, he was an early parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and later St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. An avid golfer and lifetime member of Lochmoor Club, Joe also was a proud member of Lost Lake Woods Club, Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club and the Cardinal Club.

Joe was predeceased by his wife, Frances; parents, Joseph and Dorothy Vigliotti; and sister, Jeanette Vettraino. He is survived by his brother, Richard Vigliotti; and children, Kathleen Hickel (Gerard) and Jacqueline O'Boyle (Paul) of Pittsburgh; Marybeth Grosfield (Richard) of Harrison Township; Jeffery Vaughn (Patty Quayle Vaughn) and Thomas S. Vaughn (Patti Krausmann-Vaughn) of

Grosse Pointe Woods; and James Vaughn (Ellen Mayer Vaughn) of Oakwood, Ohio. He was beloved "Pampa" to 22 grandchildren, Robert Aumer (Meredith), Meridith Markovitz (Eric), Kathryn Bachey (Jeffrey), Gerard Hickel (Maureen), Lauren Ferguson (James), Jacqueline Mueller (Luke), Ashley Lee (Matthew), Deirdra Wisniewski (John), Logan Franko (Brad), Richard Grosfield (Mary Ann), Gregory Grosfield (Jaclyn), Merrill Grosfield, Joseph Vaughn II (Lauren), Anne Marie Miller (Christopher), Julia Evans (Trefor), Catherine Gillman (Eric), Cecelia Forinash (Brian) and Patrick, Audrey, Mary Kate, Bridget and Elizabeth Vaughn; and 41 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores. The Mass will be livestreamed at the church's website, sjascs.org, and link, livestream.stjoan.church.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake Dr., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080; or the Capuchin Mission Center, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207.

Online condolences may be shared at ahpeters.com.

John Francis Blondin

Grosse Pointe resident John Francis Blondin, 83, passed away Monday, Aug. 17, 2020. A man of deep faith, John began each morning in prayer and assuredly prayed each day for people he knew who faced a struggle.

The firstborn child of Nita (nee Shaffer) and Francis "Frank" Blondin, he was born Aug. 24, 1936, in Saginaw. He was eldest brother to Delbert, James, Pamela and Kathleen. His baby sister, Nita Katherine, affectionately called Tootsie, passed away in infancy.

John grew up in Saginaw and graduated from St. Mary's Cathedral High School. He attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids where he earned a history degree, played basketball and met the love of his life, Mary Ellen Sloan. John nearly thwarted his first date with Mary Ellen when he sent his buddy to pick her up because John wanted to arrive earlier to watch the junior varsity basketball game. Thanks to John scoring a game-high 22 points later that night, Mary Ellen forgave him. Thus, their love story began.

John and Mary Ellen were married Aug. 16, 1958. Their daughter, Maureen, arrived the following year as John earned a master's degree in education from Michigan State University. After the birth of the couple's second daughter, Michele, the family moved to Detroit where John taught at Austin Catholic

Preparatory High School.

John was given the opportunity to teach U.S. history and coach basketball by his mentor and friend, Chuck Hollosy, the athletic director at Grosse Pointe South High School, in 1963. John established a remarkable career at South, from which he retired in 1994. In his first decade at South, John's daughters, Brigid, Katy and Meg, arrived. The original "girl dad," John balanced his five daughters' countless dance recitals, school plays and sporting events with the demands of his teaching and coaching positions.

By John's estimate, he taught more than 5,000 students over the course of his career. He loved teaching and developed an army of students who loved him in return. He formed an unbreakable bond with his fellow teachers and coaches, many of whom became lifelong friends. He shared his love of history with his students, tossed tape balls at those caught napping, played video highlights of the NHL's best fights after tests and created a rock 'n' roll hall of fame wall on which students hung posters of their favorite bands. Never shy to engage in a debate, John had a keen eye for overlooked students and a low tolerance for "sandbags," "toads" or "fades," his monikers for students who skipped class or showed little effort.

John and Mary Ellen gathered regularly with their beloved "potluck" friends to celebrate life's moments. John also volunteered as a church usher, was a gifted story and joke teller and could lighten any heart irrespective of the occasion.

John's largest source of consistent heartbreak was the Detroit Lions; his loyalty knew no limits despite his angry mid-game phone calls to family and friends. He enjoyed John Wayne and war movies, the History Channel, boxing matches and "Hockey Night in Canada." He remained a devoted fan of Detroit and University of Michigan sports.

John's happy place was the family cottage in St. Ignace. Always on the porch after 4 p.m. Mass, he overlooked the Straits of Mackinac, likely sipped a single malt in the late afternoon sun and listened to The Platters or Elvis Presley. He rhetorically noted his bliss when he said, "I wonder what the poor people are doing today?" Though he joked that his teaching career made him a "thousand-aire," he knew his true wealth came from his strong faith and the blessings of family and friends.

John will be dearly missed by many, especially by his wife of 62 years, Mary Ellen; daughters, Michele Blondin (Ali), Brigid Gentile (Tim), Katy Walsh (Chris) and Meg Leonard (Billy); sisters, Pamela Blondin (Dr. Harry Lenhart) and Kathleen Blondin-Stone (Bill); and brothers-in-



Joseph John Vaughn



John Francis Blondin



Bruce Maters

law, Dan Sloan (Lana) and Leo Romo. He also is survived by his pride and joy, his grandchildren, Tory, Chasen (Katherine) and Teyvn Gentile (Megan), Jesse (Lindsay), Abbey, Benjamin, Matthew and Emilie Haji-Sheikh, Molly and Annie Walsh, Kathryn, William, Elisabeth and namesake, John (Jack) Leonard; many nieces and nephews; and dear friends from near and far, especially his St. Ignace "family." John was predeceased by his parents, Francis and Nita Blondin; brothers, Delbert (Bette) and James Blondin (Sue); sister, Nita Katherine; daughter, Maureen Brady (Kevin); and cherished granddaughter, Clare Walsh.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 22, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 4390 Conner, Detroit, MI 48215; or cskdetroit.org.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Bruce Maters

Grosse Pointe resident Bruce Maters, 68, passed away suddenly Friday, Aug. 21, 2020, due to heart complications.

Bruce was born Jan. 29, 1952, in Kalamazoo, to Richard and Ann Maters. A devoted son, he remained in Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University, where he also fell in love with his wife of 45 years, Anne Maters (nee Henry).

Bruce earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1977. He spent the majority of his career at DTE Energy as assistant general counsel. A proud attorney member of the State Bar of Michigan and Detroit Bar Association, Bruce also was a registered Michigan lobbyist; he appeared in both state and federal courts. Recognized and respected among industry peers for his work, Bruce earned the Alex Dow Award and three Sarah Sheridan Awards for innovative regulatory strategies and customer satisfaction.

Outside the courtroom, Bruce was an inspirational and loving father to his two children, Sara and Ben. Bruce faithfully served on the Board of Session at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, sang with the Madrigal Chorale of Southfield and traveled the world with his wife, Anne, and friends. He also produced, directed and acted on stage with the Fine Arts Society of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Theatre. Bruce was especially passionate about mission work and food security in

underserved populations after he retired from DTE in 2016.

A leader and friend to many, Bruce's absence will be deeply mourned in the metropolitan Detroit community.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Anne; children, Sara and Ben; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Linda and Ivan Fiscus of Grosse Pointe Woods, and their daughters, Caitlin and Meghan.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a private funeral service will be held Saturday, Aug. 29. A livestream link will be available at ahpeters.com.

Edwin C. Hall

Longtime City of Grosse Pointe resident and medievalist Edwin Hall, 92, died peacefully Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe, after a long and courageous battle with bone marrow disease.

The son of Sidney and Mildred Hall, Ed was born Aug. 2, 1928, in the Milwaukee suburb of Wauwatosa. He was a descendent of a hardy stock of Norwegian, German and British immigrants who first settled the Boston Bay Colony and what later became Boston.

Ed initially planned to follow the family tradition of a career in medicine. His grandfather studied anatomy with Oliver Wendell Holmes and his great-grandfather studied medicine at Yale. Thus, Ed entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison as a pre-med student. After junior year, however, Ed went to Europe for two months, which was an experience that profoundly changed his life. He entered medical school in the fall, but withdrew after two days to study medieval history instead.

Ed studied under eminent canon and Roman law scholar Gaines Post. He subsequently studied in the Vatican library and archives as a Fulbright Scholar and completed his dissertation on ancient procedure for arbitration in Roman law in the 12th and 13th centuries. In 1955, after two years in Rome, Ed earned a Ph.D. and joined the history faculty at Wayne State University. Beloved by many students, Ed retired as professor emeritus of medieval history at WSU in 1998.

Ed's many publications included the re-evaluation of Jan van Eyck's "Saint Jerome in His Study," a major painting at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Applying his historical training to the more conventional tradition of art history, he exposed the limitations of traditional and scientific connoisseurship in a historical vacuum and rebuilt the historical context of the painting; in the process, he added immea-



Edwin C. Hall

surably to a greater understanding of the work and its complicated authorship. Later, Ed's book on the famous "Arnolfini Double Portrait," also by van Eyck and currently in London, swept away much of the mystification with which other scholars surrounded it. A powerful example of how historical investigation can illuminate even the most familiar work of art, the book is required reading for every advanced student in art history.

An avid collector of early printed books and manuscripts, Ed's book on early printing in Italy made a crucial contribution to re-evaluation of early printing in Rome. Noting Ed's achievement, Paul Needham, a world authority on the early history of printed books, declared that Ed's work embodied the very foundation stone of all scholarship — thinking.

Ed loved the Grosse Pointe community, especially Neff Park. When Ed was in better health, he was seen walking through the park and marina, virtually daily and in all seasons, always accompanied by his longtime companion, Horst Uhr. Ed and Horst often were referred to as "the walkers" by park visitors. Ed also loved international travel; in his earlier years, he ventured to the Holy Land, the larger Middle East, Constantinople and North Africa. He later restricted himself to Europe where he crisscrossed the continent almost annually and often returned to Rome, a city that remained his intellectual and spiritual home.

Ed enjoyed gardening and chamber music. He especially enjoyed the late Beethoven quartets and solo cello suites of Bach, which he considered among the highest achievements of the human mind.

Ed is survived by his partner of 45 years, Horst Uhr; sister, Helen Albert (John); a niece and two nephews; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

Burial will take place at the Hall family plot at Wauwatosa Cemetery in Wisconsin.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc., Grosse Pointe Park.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Patricia Yott Gagnier

Former Grosse Pointe resident Patricia Yott Gagnier, of West Bloomfield, passed away peacefully Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, in her sleep. Born June 1, 1933, in Flint, to Joseph and Eva Yott, she was 87.

Pat was the beloved wife of the late Pierre Gagnier for 61 years; loving mother of Pierre H. Gagnier (Nancy) of Maplewood, N.J., Suzanne H. Bertrand of Milford, Joseph M. Gagnier (JoAnn) of Fenton, Joanie M. Gagnier-Dallape (Scott Cantrell) of Hartland, William A. Gagnier (Diane) of Bloomfield Hills, Gabrielle Gagnier (Haidar Belushi) of Ann Arbor, John F. Gagnier (Nadia) of New York City and James M. Gagnier (Torrey) of Grosse Pointe Farms; and cherished grandmother of 20 grandchildren. Pat also is survived by her younger sister, Theresa “Terri” Callahan of Sterling Heights. She was predeceased by her older siblings, Joseph Yott and Joan Weideman; younger sister, Linda Visintainer; and grandchildren, Michael Bertrand and Andrew Gagnier.

A graduate of Mercy College Nursing School,



Patricia Yott Gagnier

Pat worked at various hospitals. She also was a member of the St. Clare de Montefalco Archcon and a nurse volunteer in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Pat’s children noted they will miss their mother’s contagious smile and sense of humor, openness to try new things, artistic endeavors, strong independence and especially her ability to make each of them feel special.

Visitation takes place from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. Face masks are required and rotational viewing for 10 people at a time will be observed. Due to COVID-19, a public Mass will not be celebrated.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Pat’s memory may be made to an Alzheimer’s research organization of the donor’s choice.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Amy Hartmann and Nancy Nihem

Documents give legal rights to parents of adult children

Q: What legal rights do I have as a parent when my child turns 18?

A: Eighteen is a milestone birthday to celebrate, when your child officially enters adulthood. As a parent, you may not realize you no longer have certain inherent rights related to medical, financial and educational information about your adult child. There are four legal documents that will ensure you are not locked out of decision-making for your adult son or daughter in a healthcare or financial emergency.

1. HIPAA Authorization Form (for authority to speak with healthcare providers)

HIPAA, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1966, is a federal law that safeguards who can access an adult’s sensitive patient health information. If you call or visit the hospital to inquire about your adult child, healthcare providers are prohibited by law from revealing health information to you — or any-

body else — about your child. A HIPAA authorization signed by your child gives you the ability to ask for and receive information from healthcare providers about your child’s health status, progress and treatment. If your child is unconscious, without a HIPAA authorization in place, the only other way to obtain information regarding your child’s health would be to go to court.

2. Healthcare Power of Attorney (for medical decisions)

A signed Healthcare Power of Attorney naming you his/her “patient advocate” allows you to view your child’s medical records and make informed medical decisions on your child’s behalf. Without this document, a court-appointed guardianship would be necessary to make decisions regarding your child’s medical care.

3. General Durable Power of Attorney (for financial decisions)

If your adult child becomes incapacitated and is unable to make

decisions on their own, a General Durable Power of Attorney where you are named as the “agent” authorized to make financial decisions on your child’s behalf allows you to manage bank accounts, pay bills, apply for government benefits, break a lease and make other decisions regarding your child’s financial and legal affairs. Without a General Durable Power of Attorney, you will need to petition the court to become your child’s court-appointed conservator.

4. FERPA Authorization (for student educational information)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records and other personally identifiable information. Once your child turns 18, you no longer have access to your child’s educational records because that protection is transferred to the student. Your adult child can sign a release at their school to allow you to

gain access to their records.

By executing these four documents ahead of time, should a crisis occur, you will not need to go to court to obtain legal authority to make time-sensitive medical or financial decisions on behalf of your child.

Amy Hartmann and Nancy Nihem of Hartmann & Nihem, PLLC are lifelong Grosse Pointers whose office is on The Hill above Jump’s restaurant. Their husbands both run businesses in Grosse Pointe, where they’ve also raised their children.

The Family Center is a nonprofit organization that provides resources and preventive education to empower families to successfully navigate life’s social, emotional and physical challenges. The Family Center is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit familycenterweb.org, call (313) 447-1374 or email info@familycenterweb.org.

Circle of Love: Giving back in meaningful ways

By Theodore G. Coutilish
Guest Writer

Their day jobs are very different.

Chuck Gabel is a managing partner with MainStreet Financial Services in Grosse Pointe Woods, which offers professional financial services to individuals and businesses to help meet their risk management and investment strategy needs.

Lisa Gabel volunteers at Avenue Boutique, also in Grosse Pointe Woods, which offers trendy designer consigned pieces from more than 100 different fashion brands, including St. John Knit, Valentino, Escada, Trina Turk and



COURTESY PHOTO

Lisa and Chuck Gabel

Kate Spade.

One thing this Grosse Pointe power couple has in common is their generous support of the Full Circle Foundation.

“It’s gratifying to see

the kids grow, build self-esteem, come out of their shells and blossom,” said Chuck Gabel, who also supports the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club, St. John Guild and Ruby

McCoy Foundation. “Giving to Full Circle helps them become less dependent and productive members of our community.”

Lisa Gabel said she feels it’s gratifying to see their support invested well and turned into something bigger.

“We want to help empower the kids to maximize their full potential,” she said. “Giving to Full Circle allows them to mature and be more independent. It’s very rewarding and comforting to give back in meaningful ways and receive the love we give.”

Inspired by the Full Circle Foundation, “Circle of Love” is dedi-

cated to people with special needs living in the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communi-

ties and those who love and support them. For more information, visit fullcirclefdn.org.

Events at First English

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, welcomes students, parents, teachers and administrators to its Back to School Blessing at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, during drive-in worship. Students of all ages also are invited to meet on the lawn to create an item to adorn their at-home learning spaces. Participants are asked to bring a mask.

The church also is hosting a mum sale to help fund the youth ministry’s mission to Puerto Rico, which has been postponed until 2021. Mums will be available to order through Thursday, Sept. 3. Suggested donations of \$10 may be made in cash or checks, payable to “FEELC Youth,” and may be left at the church. Donations also may be made online at feelc.org.

Grosse Pointe UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
An Official Welcoming Congregation

Join us online for Sunday morning worship
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Learn more about us by visiting our Facebook page:
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Rev. Dr. Ray McGee
www.gpumc.org
313-886-2363

Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230-1302

Masses
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m.
Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

(313) 822-2814 • stambrose@comcast.net
• stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish

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Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY
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

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study

Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 Vernier Road (Corner of Wedgewood)
(313) 884-5040

9:30 am - Drive-In service on Sunday
11:00 am - Inside service on Sunday
Service on youtube at FEELC-GPW and on our facebook page First English Lutheran Church.

Rev. Sean Motley, Senior Pastor
~ "Go Make Disciples" ~
www.feelc.org

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
www.gpccong.org

Sunday 10AM services are on Zoom Meeting online and phone
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4105997963>
415-762-9988, then enter 4105997963
AND with a Drive-in service in the parking lot

6B | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

WEDDING

DiMino-Brownell ies. The mother of the bride wore a blush sequined-lace gown designed by Naeem Khan. The mother of the groom wore a champagne metallic-voile capelet gown designed by Talbot Runhof. Due to the pandemic, the intimate marriage ceremony included immediate family and the bridal party. Gloria and Chris plan to renew their vows with family and friends next June, when everyone can celebrate together safely. The couple honeymooned on Nantucket and currently resides in Manhattan, with plans to move to Michigan this year. Gloria is a consultant with IQVIA Consulting Group, where she develops strategies for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, specializing in oncology and rare diseases. She graduated from Garden City High School in 2011, and Columbia University in 2015, as a science research fellow with a Bachelor of Arts degree in neuroscience and a concentration in business. Christopher is the vice president of sales and marketing with The Kirlin Company, a manufacturer of commercial and medical lighting fixtures which has been owned and operated by his family for five generations. He graduated from University Liggett School in 2009; Princeton University in 2013, with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree in operations research and financial engineering; and Cornell Tech in 2019, with a Master of Business Administration degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert DiMino of Garden City, N.Y., announce the marriage of their daughter, Gloria Despina, to Christopher Kirlin Brownell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Brownell of Grosse Pointe Farms, on Saturday, June 27, 2020. The Rev. Msgr. James P. Swiader performed the sacrament of marriage at the Church of St. Joseph in Garden City, N.Y., which was followed by a dinner at The Carltun in East Meadow, N.Y. The bride wore a wedding gown designed by Pnina Tornai with floral embroidered lace and crystal appliques and carried a bouquet of white calla lilies. The bride was attended by her sister, Dessie DiMino, maid of honor, and her sister-in-law, Lindsay Brownell. The bridesmaids wore mint green dresses designed by The Dessy Group and carried bouquets of magenta calla lilies.



Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Brownell

The Helm starts September programming

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of programs for older residents of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods. For information about the following activities, call (313) 882-9600 or visit helm.life.org.

◆ **A Matter of Balance** — 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 1 to 24. Rose Hunter facilitates. Registration is required for this program, which is free to members and nonmembers and limited to 10 participants. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program emphasizing practical strategies to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels. Participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable, set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors and exercise to increase strength and balance.

◆ **PATH**, or Personal Action Toward Health — 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9 to Oct. 14. Margaret Cooper instructs. Registration is required for this program, which is free to members and nonmembers. The PATH workshop is for adults age 60 and older who have one or more long-term or chronic health conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, emphysema, asthma, bronchitis, diabetes or depression. Participants receive a resource book and relaxation CD. This class will be conducted via Zoom.

Need help? Interested participants who need help connecting to virtual classes may ask The Helm for help. Zoom classes are accessible through email or an app on a personal device. The Helm staff has created step-by-step instructions to guide participants who would like to attempt it themselves, or The Helm technology volunteers are willing to meet one-on-one to provide help at The Helm or over the phone. Appointments are necessary. Call (313) 882-9600 for assistance.

ENGAGEMENT

Channell-Woo

Dr. Mariann Metes Channell of St. Clair Shores and Benson K. Woo of Bloomfield Hills are engaged to be married. A Grosse Pointe Woods native and former longtime Grosse Pointe Shores resident, Dr. Channell earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and Doctor of Medicine degree from Wayne State Medical School. She is an ophthalmologist in private practice in St. Clair Shores and a member of the Grosse



Mr. Benson K. Woo and Dr. Mariann Channell

Pointe Yacht Club and Bayview Yacht Club. Dr.

Channell is a widow with two sons. Mr. Woo earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School. He is newly retired from a career as a corporate chief financial officer and treasurer for various private equity and publicly traded companies. Mr. Woo is a board member of the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival and the Detroit Concert Choir. He is a widower with two sons and a daughter. A December 2020 wedding is planned.

Fencers earn spots on All-American Team

Grosse Pointe South High School's Miranda Freedman and Samuel Freedman earned spots on the USA Fencing High School All-American Team for the 2019-20 season. Miranda Freedman made the first team, while Samuel Freedman made the second team. According to the USA Fencing website, athletes were selected to the team based upon classification earned or renewed during the 2019-20 season. First-team honors were awarded to those with an A or B, with second-team honors going to fencers who earned or renewed a C or D rating. Honorable mention team members include those with an E rating. Chatham High School in Chatham Township, N.J., led the rankings with 10 All-Americans, including three first team, three second team and four honorable mention team members. One hundred and ninety-eight clubs boasted fencers who qualified for the All-American Team. In all, seven USA Fencing Clubs produced 10 or more All-American Team members.

Knights win 8 flights in season opener

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School boys tennis team traveled to Portland for its season-opening matches last week. Led by a trio of seniors, the Knights won all eight flights to clinch the invitational with 24 points. "It was nice to get out and play some opponents," head coach Mark Sobieralski said. "The new rules take a little bit to get used to. Things went smooth." At No. 1 singles, senior William Cooksey was the champ, and freshman Sebastien Courtright won his three matches at No. 2 singles. Sophomore George Anusbigan was the champ at No. 3 singles, while sophomore Gerry Sherer was the winner at No. 4 singles. At No. 1 doubles, senior Vince Maribao and junior Jacob Tomlinson won all three matches, as did the No. 2 doubles squad of senior Tarun Jarial and freshman Tommy Ugval. The duo of junior Bennett French and sophomore Campbell Marchal took care of business at No. 3 doubles, and finishing off the sweep was the No. 4 doubles team of juniors Rocco Scarfone and Brendan Connors. Senior Alec Leonard also played a match at No. 4 doubles. The Knights did not drop a set in any of the 24 matches. Coming up for ULS is its Catholic League Central Division opener Thursday, Aug. 27, at Cranbrook-Kingswood and a home quad Saturday, Aug. 29, against Novi, Rochester Hills, Stoney Creek and Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

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City of **Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council, meeting as Zoning Board of Appeals under the provisions of Michigan Zoning Enabling Act PA 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 et seq, will meet remotely by Zoom on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 7:05 p.m. to hear the appeal of Alyssa and Timothy Madison, 898 S. Brys, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, who are appealing the denial of the Building Official to issue a building permit due to noncompliance with Chapter 50 – Zoning, Division 2. R-1C One Family Residential District. Section 50-209(f) Lot and Building Regulations of the 2017 City Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods. The maximum percentage of lot coverage permissible in all residential districts shall be 35 percent, 39.8 percent is requested.

The public hearing materials are available for public inspection at www.gpwmi.us. 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.

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 8/27/2020

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 50-32, will hold a remote (Zoom) Public Hearing on September 14, 2020, at 7:05 p.m. concerning a Special Land Use request to activate an SDM license from Detroit Restaurant Solutions Corp d/b/a Garrido's Bistro at 19605 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI. The application requires special land use approval pursuant to Secs. 50-32 and 50-371(5) of the Grosse Pointe Woods Code.

Agenda documents are available for inspection on the City's website at www.gpwmi.us. 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 by the City Clerk, 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.

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 8/27/2020

Liggett welcomes new football coach

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Tarif Kumasi is taking over the University Liggett School football team. Former head coach Dan Cimini resigned after accepting a job in the school's admissions office. He will still coach the baseball team in the spring. "I've always been fond of the school and its prestige," said Kumasi, a 44-year-old Grosse Pointe Park resident. "My younger boys will hopefully attend high school and play for me." Kumasi has been coaching high school football 20 years, including a long run as head coach at Detroit Cesar



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARIF KUMASI

Tarif Kumasi takes over for Dan Cimini as head coach of the University Liggett School football team.

Chavez Academy. "After a thorough decision process, we are excited that Tarif will be joining our coaching staff," ULS Athletic

Director Alan Parish said. "Tarif is an exciting, dynamic and offensively creative coach." Football is in Kumasi's DNA. He played in high school at Detroit Cass Tech in the early 1990s, then played at Eastern Michigan University from 1994-97. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in health and physical education. Over his career, Kumasi has had coaching positions at Southfield, Northern, Kettering, Southeastern and Cesar Chavez, spending time as offensive coordinator at the first four schools, then head coach at Chavez. "We are going to have a ton of fun playing and break every passing

record in the state and nationally," Kumasi said. He was confident this year's team could make the state playoffs due to its potentially explosive offense. "We are small in numbers but wildly talented, especially on offense," he said. One thing to watch is the Knights' out-of-the-box offensive philosophy, which was what Cimini did with his offensive units. With the MHSAA pulling the plug on fall football, Kumasi will have to wait until spring to lead the team on the gridiron. He is the CEO, principal and athletic director of a new high school in Detroit called Skills and Trade Preparatory.



Kevin Nugent is back coaching at Grosse Pointe South, leading the girls golf team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN NUGENT

Nugent to coach South girls golf

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South girls golf team is under the direction of a new head coach this fall. He is a familiar face throughout the Pointes: Grosse Pointe Farms resident Kevin Nugent. "I was looking for opportunities to coach in the fall again, but was looking for a new challenge," Nugent said. Nugent coached volleyball at South for a number of years. He also has coached baseball and softball, so this head coaching gig with the golf program isn't a new situation for him. He coached the South volleyball team to a Class A state quarterfinal in 2014. "Goals every year are to win our division, qualify for states and earn Team Academic All-State honors," Nugent said. Nugent grew up in the Pointes, graduating from Grosse Pointe South in 1990. He started his college career at Michigan

State University, but finished his undergraduate work at Wayne State University. He earned a master's degree in teaching from Marygrove College. As a child, Nugent played everything. He was always competing, whether it was on the golf course, in a hockey rink or on a baseball diamond, the latter of which was his favorite. Sports are in his genetic makeup and now he gets a chance to coach a consistent winner. The Blue Devils finished second to Northville in the Division 1 state finals tournament last year. They were eighth in 2018. They still reside in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division with Macomb Dakota, Utica Eisenhower, Port Huron Northern and rival Grosse Pointe North. Nugent has been married 22 years and has three children, PK, 18; Daniel, 15; and Victoria, 14.



Big Ten pride

University Liggett School sophomore Jack Jones recently was offered an athletic scholarship at Michigan State University by men's baseball head coach Jake Boss, and he committed. Jones is the first 2023 player to get an offer by MSU. Other schools on his recruiting list were Xavier, Michigan, Duke and Cincinnati. He missed his freshman year of high school baseball after the MHSAA canceled the season due to COVID-19. Recently Jones was evaluated by a Toronto Blue Jays professional scout. The report indicated if he continues on his development path, he has a good chance to be drafted out of high school into Major League Baseball. His twin brother, Ryan, also is receiving a lot of Division I activity. The brothers play for the Little Caesars baseball organization.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD JONES

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GROSSE POINTE NEWS OFFICE IS CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.

For the September 10 newspaper, deadline for retail and classified display ads is **Friday, September 4 at 3p.m.**

Deadline for classified word ads is **Tuesday, September 8 at 12:30p.m.**

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MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE Thursday, August 27 Friday, August 28 9am to 2pm 160 Country Club Drive Grosse Pointe Woods Furniture, housewares, women's and men's clothing and designer shoes. children's clothing sizes boys 4T to 6, girls size 6 and tween sizes 12 to 16. Games, toys and athletic equipment.

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