

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 12/28
Since tracking began in March 2020

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	5,737 (+401)	82 (+10)
Harper Woods	2,264 (+202)	58 (+4)

(Increase 12/21-12/28)

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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 52, 24 PAGES

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Best wishes for you in 2022!

As we bid farewell to 2021 and all of its topsy-turvy ups and downs, we at the Grosse Pointe News wish everyone a 2022 full of peace and prosperity, which we sense in George Henry Hall’s classic “The Snow Flurry.”

COURTESY PHOTO



Park drowns in contention

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Park endured a contentious council throughout the year, ending with one of the most divisive elections in recent history. Outcries for justice and equality in the community ran high. New Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell brought with him community outreach programs, and flooding caused by intense rainstorms in June had the public demanding answers to infrastructure issues. This is the year in review.

January

◆ Despite the pandemic interrupting restaurant business, Alma Kitchen celebrates a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its location on Mack Avenue. The restaurant features food from all over the world, which owner Gary Mui dubbed, “borderless cooking.”
◆ Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni leaves the Park for a city manager position in Grosse Pointe Shores.

February

◆ Home invasions in the Park and Shores are connected to a South

See PARK, page 5A

2021 IN REVIEW

Farms has a year of changing posts

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — As the Farms pursued grants to address flooding mitigation, seawall deterioration and roadwork throughout the year, it also saw the retirement of several longtime community leaders. This is the year in review.

January

◆ City administration continues pushing for removal of a portion of the 180 signs added to Lakeshore Road from

Warner to just past Moross. Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Transportation point toward each other for the responsibility of addressing the situation.
◆ City council begins considering sewer separation of the systems north of Moross — a new storm sewer would be constructed along the road with the old sewer converted into the sanitary system — as well as those on Mount Vernon, McMillan and McKinley;

See FARMS, page 3A

Fishery habitat considered for seawall

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND SHORES — As one of several potential opportunities with federal infrastructure dollars becoming available, the Farms, Shores and Wayne County intend to apply for a grant to consider a soft shore fishery habitat as a fix to the chronic deterioration of the three-mile stretch of Lakeshore seawall in the two Pointes.
The grant, available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, is intended to create a better ecological environment for a fishery, but also could pro-

vide the long-term solution to ongoing seawall concerns the cities have been seeking.
The main idea of the project, Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said, is “softening the shoreline, so it’s not just all concrete and steel. It’s using boulders and more natural features to help mitigate wave action and just be more environmentally friendly.”
The natural habitat would include layers of walls, just off the shoreline and of different shapes and depths, to slow down wave action, as well as pools dug deep in certain areas with sunken trees and wooden structures to create fish

See FISHERY, page 2A



The fix for the Lakeshore seawall’s chronic deterioration could come with the added bonus of creating a better ecological environment for fishery.

FILE PHOTO

Flood suits in hands of judge

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Great Lakes Water Authority has seen the light.
The authority, targeted by lawsuits alleging it mismanaged rain and sewer water that backed up from faulty pumping

stations into thousands of basements during big storms last summer, claims immunity due to being victimized from above.
“They’re arguing it’s an act of God,” said Steve Liddle, an attorney representing about 6,000 households flooded during a storm beginning the

evening of June 25. “Under Michigan case law, ‘act of God’ means a weather event so massive it could not be anticipated.”
To qualify for immunity, the authority also must prove the storm was the sole cause of sewer backups and flooding. As lawyers term it,

there was “an absence of human agency,” or, simply, people had nothing to do with it.
“Yet admissions by the authority that pumps weren’t working and pumping capacity was down defeats their argument,” Liddle said. “But, that has to be determined by the court.”
Hundreds of Grosse Pointe residents had yet to fully drain their base-

ments of sewer water, disinfect soiled floors, walls and basement stairs, and discard ruined furniture, electronics and keepsakes when representatives of the authority began citing the storm as a rare, 1,000-year event — a downpour unfathomable to occur more than once a millennium and which no sewer

See FLOOD, page 3A

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COURTESY PHOTO

Sworn in

Charles “Chip” Berschback was sworn in as the Farms/Shores municipal judge by City of Grosse Pointe Judge Russell Ethridge at noon Monday, Dec. 27.

Force of hand

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — At a council meeting Monday, Dec. 20, Grosse Pointe Woods Councilman Todd McConnaghy made a motion to effectively force the city clerk’s resignation, or else give the city power to terminate her job.

“On behalf of the compensation and evaluation committee,” McConnaghy said at the meeting, “I would seek direction from the city council, specifically I’d request a motion to authorize compensation and evaluation to meet with the city clerk and request her resignation. If the city clerk refuses to resign, I would request the compensation and evaluation have authority to terminate the city clerk’s employment.”

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Vicki Granger, followed with no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The city clerk, Lisa Hathaway, was not present at the meeting; instead, Deputy City Clerk Paul

Antolin conducted her usual duties.

The vote comes after an amendment to the charter passed in the November election, allowing the municipality to transfer authority of the clerk from city council to city administration with the enactment of an ordinance.

“It will smooth things out so that everybody in the city hall is reporting to one person who is on site every work day, and not to the city council who isn’t really there on a daily basis,” Mayor Arthur Bryant said back then.

Such an ordinance has not yet been created.

Hathaway served as Woods city clerk 28 years. In July 2020, the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks announced Hathaway’s designation as a Michigan professional municipal clerk, earning her a level three designation — the highest statewide.

Along with recently retired City Administrator Bruce Smith, McConnaghy and Hathaway were unable to be reached for comment by press time.

Better lake than basements

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A return to the days of diverting unmanageable volumes of combined storm and sewer water from backing into basements doesn’t mean a return to dumping sewage into Fox Creek just inside the Detroit border.

Instead, Grosse Pointe Park representatives want the option to divert overwhelming storm surges directly into Lake St. Clair where they will dissipate among nearly 1.4 million gallons of water flowing each second down the Detroit River.

“Reconnecting to Fox Creek is dead on arrival,” said Nick Sizeland, Park city manager. “We’re not going to do that again.”

The lake option is anticipated to promise the relatively quick dissolution of a combined sewage discharge to the benefit of residents threatened by water backing into basements through floor drain open-

ings.

“Nobody wants to dump raw sewage into our Great Lakes, but we have to stop putting this in people’s basements,” Sizeland said.

He is among Park officials seeking state approval to outfit the municipal sewer network with an emergency release valve. The valve allows combined storm and sewer water to be diverted straight into the lake rather than flow as currently designed to pumping stations on Detroit’s east side.

“We keep updating (state environmental officials) on tasks we are doing, such as installing flow meters to help determine what would activate an emergency relief valve,” Sizeland said.

“The biggest fundamental issue facing the city is we have a sanitary barrel running through the city over which we have no control,” Park Councilman Max Wiener said. “Unfortunately, our partner in Detroit, the Great Lakes Water

Authority, is hugely unreliable on major flooding. If their system goes down, we have no capacity to do anything. That is not something residents can abide by.”

“This isn’t something Grosse Pointe Park is going to back down on,” Sizeland said.

The proposed emergency valve would divert flow from an underground holding facility in Patterson Park at the foot of Three Mile Drive. The outfall is at the breakwall, not from a pipe that would have to be constructed with an opening beyond shoreline currents.

“The intention of this (EERV) is we never have to use it,” Wiener said. “We’re also looking at our storm water system to see what we can do to scale up capacity to take the stress off of it overall.”

Water Authority representatives reported at least two of their network’s eastside Detroit pumping stations — Connors Creek and Freud — had some degree of

failure during storms last summer from which thousands of residents reported basement flooding.

Paul Doherty, a Park resident and attorney for hundreds of flood victims, cites those admissions in what may become a class action suit in Wayne County Circuit Court against the Great Lakes Water Authority, Detroit water department, Park and City of Grosse Pointe.

“We used to be able to divert into Fox Creek, but litigation in the 1990s ended that,” Doherty said. “So, we have a captive system that all flows into Connors Creek and Freud. When that system starts backing up, we don’t have floodgates, so to speak. But, in extreme circumstances, we have to have the ability to do that. The lakes and rivers have multiple billions of gallons of water in them. One storm is not going to ruin anyone’s world. The lake is going to eat that up. In no time it will be like it never happened.”

DDA Chair Hessburg retires

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — After chairing the Downtown Development Authority since its inception in 1986, Dr. Philip Hessburg has decided to step down and let the new generation take the reins.

In Hessburg’s time, he recalled the DDA accomplishing many tasks, like implementing the medians along Jefferson between Somerset and Alter, ridding the north side of Jefferson of “defunct enterprises,” adding “beautiful condominiums” and starting, “through the generosity of (the Schaaps and the Manoogians),” a state-of-the-art performing arts center, “which is going to



Dr. Philip Hessburg

add a tremendous facility to not only the Grosse Pointes, but to Detroit as well.”

Hessburg said, “The city was in terrible shape in the early 1980s (before the DDA), and to look at

it now and to see how desirable housing is throughout the entire city, not just the well-to-do areas of the city, but the entire city ... much of that is related to the fact that Mayors Patterson and Heenan and Denner turned the city around. We’ve been blessed here.”

He added while much has improved in the DDA district during his tenure, he doesn’t believe he can take credit for it.

“The DDA has been a success primarily because we’ve had really good mayors and really good (city managers),” he said. “And it has been a wonderful experience. The opportunity for a city like Grosse Pointe Park to accomplish what it did would not have been possible without the DDA.”

Hessburg said as he

hands the authority off to a younger generation, he’s looking forward to seeing how else they find ways to improve the city.

“I think it’s a time to rethink where this end of the Park is going,” he said. “I think that we’ve done a big city plan and we’ve done a big parking study and most is already accomplished with the DDA, but I don’t think that a couple of young leaders (City Manager Nick Sizeland and Mayor Michele Hodges) will fail to find ways that we can improve things even further.”

“It’ll be exciting for me to watch Mr. Sizeland and Mayor Hodges as they contribute to our city.”

Hessburg’s final meeting as chairman of the DDA was Wednesday, Dec. 8.

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FISHERY:

Continued from page 1A

habitats.

“Most recently, (NOAA) did a comprehensive survey of the fish population in 2018, and it’s a really declining population and particularly on the west side of Lake St. Clair,” Reeside said. “(On) the east side, the Canadian side, the fish population is doing much better.”

Along with the habitat work, the grant would provide funding to fix the deteriorated sections of the current seawall.

“They’ll all but pretty much guarantee that it’ll work,” Shores Public Works Director Mike Way said. “It’s all just about approval and funding and the correct amount of funding to do it.”

The next possible step forward with this approach would be a feasibility study conducted by NOAA. Two small test sites would be created, one in the Farms and one in the Shores, to see if the intended effects would be successful.

“If it doesn’t work in those areas, then they

scrap the idea,” Shores City Manager Stephen Poloni explained. “If it works in those areas — we see the wave action being delayed (and) fishery increasing — then their goal is to do the entire stretch.”

The deadline to apply for the grant through NOAA is early January. While the project is estimated at \$18 million to \$20 million, according to Poloni, this is one of the few grants where each step of the process would be covered completely.

“This is just one of several approaches that are being made,” Reeside emphasized. “Wayne County is still actively pursuing, to my understanding, federal appropriations for seawall replacement ... where you’re actually putting sheeting in front of the existing seawall and tying it back and fortifying what’s there.”

In the interim, he added, the cities continue to put pressure on the county to address heavily deteriorated areas of the seawall and conduct intermediate restoration to fill the voids as work continues toward long-term solutions.

FARMS:

Continued from page 1A

a storm interceptor down Chalfonte; and a pumping station at the corner of Moross and Chalfonte.

February

◆ Restaurants and bars are allowed to reopen with restrictions.

◆ The Farms, Shores and Wayne County consider an intergovernmental agreement that would fund the development of a basis of design report for an engineering recommendation to drive metal sheet piling in front of the current existing Lakeshore seawall and tie it back, as a \$25 million fix to the chronic deterioration.

◆ In its first update since 2013, the redesigned city website goes live.

◆ Preliminary site work begins on major campus improvements at The War Memorial, including a new 25,000-square-foot addition and ballroom terrace.

March

◆ The Bronze Door announces its return to 123 Kercheval on The Hill, in a nod to a popular restaurant of the same name and in the same location from the 1960s to early '80s.

◆ City council votes to build a new \$242,312 gazebo at Pier Park, with \$100,000 donated from the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation.

◆ Joseph McMahon is arrested for allegedly committing larcenies from at least 13 vehicles and one vehicle theft in the last month in the City, Farms and Park. The 56-year-old Detroit man served time in the past for breaking and entering into the Farms public safety building in 2011.

◆ Concessionaire Dick Graves retires after four decades at Pier Park.



FILE PHOTOS

Representatives from the Grosse Pointe Public School System, Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors and Grosse Pointe News worked together to create and install a historical marker commemorating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's 1968 visit to Grosse Pointe South High School.

April

◆ Cameras in city hall and the public safety department are upgraded from analog to digital.

◆ City council approves on-street dining in The Hill district.

◆ Councilman James Farquhar announces he will not run for re-election for the first time in two decades, come November.

◆ Yet another vehicle crashes through the Pier Park iron gates. The 26-year-old Detroit man behind the wheel is found to be intoxicated.

◆ A total of 116 teachers districtwide in the Grosse Pointe Public School System call in sick following a Board of Education meeting, during which a resolution passed 6-1 to continue full face-to-face learning and alter quarantine and distancing guidelines.

May

◆ For the third year in a row, the City and Farms apply for a joint grant through MDOT that would fund 40 percent of resurfacing work on Fisher Road between Mack and Kercheval.

June

◆ A body is discovered floating in Lake St. Clair near Fisher and recovered by the U.S. Coast

Guard.

◆ Fishfly Café opens as the new Pier Park concession stand.

◆ Officers rescue six ducklings after they fall through a Lakeshore sewer grate.

◆ Flooding and sewage backup occurs in the Grosse Pointes overnight June 25, as 7 inches of rain hit the cities in three hours. The War Memorial experiences a loss estimated to be in the millions, including a total loss of the Patriot Theater.

◆ City council unanimously approves a 7,500-square-foot, two-story addition to the south portion of the Grosse Pointe Public Library's Central branch building.

July

◆ President Joe Biden approves a Michigan disaster declaration for Wayne and Washtenaw counties, opening federal funds for home and business owners affected by the June 25-26 rain event.

August

◆ The first Pointe's Art Festival features 35 local artists and a lineup of musicians.

◆ Charles Berschback and Kevin Smith pass the primary race and will move on to the November

election as candidates for the Farms/Shores municipal judge.

◆ Two-thirds of the signs placed on Lakeshore last October are deemed either unnecessary or optional, according to a road safety audit by a consultant engineering company hired by MDOT.

◆ Following the annexation of seven Provencal homes from the Woods to the Farms in October 2019, the two Pointes reach an indebtedness and liabilities settlement agreement for tax revenue from the parcels the Woods was relying on. Beginning the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Farms will pay \$40,000 annually for four years to the Woods, for a total amount of \$160,000.

◆ Officers hook a hose line up to a hydrant to provide fast water to a resident's approximately 10,000-gallon koi pond that had nearly drained, threatening the lives of dozens of koi.

◆ A fire breaks out on the third-floor decks at the Henry Ford Medical Center-Pierson Clinic and is put out before entering the interior of the building, resulting in no injuries.

◆ A storm knocks out power to more than 1,000 homes in the Farms,

many of which remain out for days.

◆ A historical marker commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech "The Other America" in the gymnasium of what was then Grosse Pointe High School on March 14, 1968, is dedicated at South.

September

◆ The War Memorial holds a service for the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

◆ Construction of the Pier Park gazebo is completed.

October

◆ The Farms and City are denied an MDOT grant to resurface Fisher Road between Mack and Kercheval for the third year in a row.

◆ FEMA denies public assistance to Wayne County for the June 25-26 rain event. The state announces intent to appeal.

◆ \$750,000 is earmarked for the Lakeshore seawall project as a line item in the state's fiscal year 2022 budget assigned by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

◆ \$200,000 in state funding is earmarked for phase one implementation of the Mack Avenue Streetscape Plan for Detroit, the City, Farms and Park.

November

◆ Charles Berschback is elected the next Farms/Shores municipal judge.

◆ After serving as an appointed council member July 2018 to November 2019, Sierra

Donaven is elected to city council in an uncontested election. Incumbent Mayor Louis Theros and council members John Gillooly and Beth Konrad-Wilberding also retain their seats.

◆ The custom-built \$627,000 Fire Engine 3 arrives at the Farms station. The truck is dedicated to Public Safety Director Dan Jensen, who has announced plans to retire at the end of the year.

◆ FEMA approves public assistance to Wayne and Ionia counties for the June 26 rain event.

December

◆ A Brownell Middle School student is charged for alleged conduct on Dec. 2: Intentional threat to commit an act of violence against a school, school employees or students and malicious use of a telecommunications device.

◆ Matthew Rumora retires as municipal judge after 33 years.

◆ Dan Jensen retires after 15 years as the director of public safety.

◆ 15-year Farms Deputy Director John Hutchins is appointed the next director of public safety.



Officer Mike Ryan was among several Farms officers who rescued six ducklings from a drain on Lakeshore in June.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 6

◆ Main Street Grosse Pointe board meeting, 5:30 p.m. at The Collaborative, 17000 Kercheval, second floor.

FLOOD:

Continued from page 1A

system designed for the region's normal range of weather conditions could have handled.

"If no sewer system could have handled it, why then did only (the authority's) defective sewer system cause massive sewer backups?" said Paul Doherty, a Grosse Pointe Park resident and attorney representing an estimated 600 fellow flood victims. "We didn't have the same problem in Troy, Birmingham, Sterling Heights, Novi, Plymouth, Royal Oak (or) Ferndale. It was only unique to communities that the Connor Creek and Freud (pumping stations on the eastside of Detroit) handled."

"Could there have been 100 percent prevention of the flooding we saw? I don't think in my wildest dreams," said Sue McCormick at the time.

McCormick soon thereafter resigned as CEO of the Great Lakes Water Authority, provider of drinking and wastewater services to 125 communities in southeast Michigan, including the Grosse Pointes. "These combined sewer systems were so overwhelmed that 100 percent prevention I don't believe was possible," she said.

Yet, during the same discussion, authority officials volunteered numerous electrical and equipment failures reduced water handling capacity at the Connors Creek pump station on East Jefferson across from the Chrysler factory and at the Freud station, less than a half mile away at the corner of Freud and Clairpointe.

"There were all these public pronouncements that they had a real problem, pump failures all over the place," Liddle said. "It's consistent with what we already know."

Doherty also disputes how the authority seeks to claim transcendent victimhood while admitting operating deficiencies at its pumping stations.

"When you have 16 storm pumps and only seven, or maybe eight, come online sometime after 2 a.m., what's been going on from 8 or 9 p.m.?" he said. "Had these things kicked on as needed, you'd say we had a pumping system that worked at 100 percent capacity. That might have some ring of truth to it, but when you have at best 50 percent of your pumps working, you don't give the area a fighting chance."

Both suits are in the hands of Wayne County Circuit Judge Annette J. Berry and name the

Great Lakes Water Authority, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, City of Detroit, City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Park.

Park officials might find themselves on both sides of the matter.

"We've heard about the 'act of God' thing, so we're in kind of a holding pattern right now," said Nick Sizeland, Park city manager. "People are suing us. I'm sure we'll wind up suing the Great Lakes Water Authority in a joint effort with other communities. We have the right to fight back as well."

"The next step is the parties are going to brief the defendant's motion to dismiss the case," Liddle said. "Our responses are due in January. There will be an argument on that issue some time in February. Then there will be a decision."

"Both the Great Lakes Water Authority and the Detroit Water Department have filed motions to have some of the cases dismissed," Doherty said.

He thinks those issues may not be heard until March or April.

"There's been no decision whether this is in class action or a bunch of individual lawsuits as a mass tort," Doherty said. "A mass tort is basically a way of describing a claim

that has multiple, multiple victims. A class action has numerous elements, one of which is numerosity — a lot of people — and we certainly have that."

Class actions also feature common injury or damage.

"We may or may not have that," Doherty said. "Everybody has property damage, but it could differ from person to person in differing values. It's too early to say which is the best way to see this case work through the system."

If the cases are combined into a single class action, Doherty, Liddle and a handful of other attorneys filing comparable suits will continue representing the interests of their clients.

"Hypothetically," Doherty said, "if it's a class action settlement with X dollars to be divided amongst all those people, each lawyer will have their group of people decide their damages and, in a perfect world, everybody gets 100 cents on the dollar. In all candor, that's probably not going to happen. But your claim will be valued based on damage to your property versus someone else. If your entire basement was wiped out versus someone who lost a couch, compensation is going to be much greater for you."

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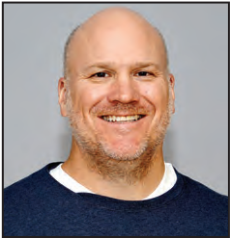
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Frank Sorise
February 11



Lanna Young
February 18



Tripp Tracy
February 25



Charles "Chip" Berschback
March 4



John Hunter
March 11



Lisa Thams
March 18



Michael & Blagica
Bottigliero
March 25



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April 1



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April 8



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April 15



Erin Martin
April 22



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April 29



Meaghan Brewster
May 6



Aimée Davis
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Jeanene Adams
May 20



Dr. Louis D. Saravolatz
May 27



Brandon Justice
June 3



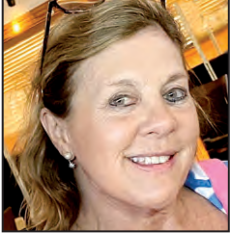
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June 10



Sheila Taylor
June 17



Glenn Schleicher
June 24



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July 1



Brandon Wheeler
July 8



Jane Schmidt
July 15



Madison Ginnebaugh
July 22



Dr. Leslie Wagner
July 29



Chin Rivard
August 5



Peter Maxwell
August 12



Jodie Rappe, M.D.
August 19



Samantha Buchanan
August 26



Richard Schroeder
September 2



Nolan Allaer
September 9



Mary Beth "MB" Mannino
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Brooke Damon
September 23



Holly Rutherford
September 30



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October 14



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Darrell Finken
November 4



Katie Morgan
November 11



Nathan Martin
November 18



Mary Matuja
November 25



Ryan Ermanni
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Mia Mattaliano
December 9



Will Thompson
December 16



James Bellanca Jr.
December 23

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Grosse Pointe Farms

No vaping zone

A student at an area high school was issued a citation for having a vaping device on school property at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20.

False alarm

When officers were dispatched to a Kerby Road residence for a report of fire and smoke at 1:20 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, they found a 25-year-old Farms man burning leaves in an open pit in the backyard. Officers put out the flames with a water can and advised the resident of the city ordinance

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Kicking and spitting

A 21-year-old Detroit woman attempted to report her own vehicle stolen in a one-car accident at Mack and Harvard

at 10:10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18. When officers arrived, they found the woman likely intoxicated. As they placed her under arrest, she spit at them and tried to kick them. No injuries were reported.

Drinking and driving

A 34-year-old Roseville woman was stopped at Jefferson and Lakeland for speeding at 12:25 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 22. She was found to be intoxicated and was arrested. — Kate Vanderstelt Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.

City of Grosse Pointe

No crimes to report per dispatch. — Laurel Kraus Report information about crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public

Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Shores

No crimes to report per dispatch. — Laurel Kraus Report information about crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Fraud alert

A resident in the 1600

block of Allard stated she last used her debit card out of state Sunday, Dec. 19, and she may have dropped her card in the gas station parking lot where it was used. She was alerted her card was used at two different stores, with transaction costs of \$216.98. She is making a fraud claim with her bank. — Kate Vanderstelt Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

PARK:

Continued from page 1A

American Theft Group, composed of Chilean citizens who have overstayed their 90-day visa. The thefts also are connected to a case just outside of Cleveland. ♦ A virtual visioning session is held via Zoom to gain engagement in the city’s master plan update process.

♦ The Park’s Urban Forester Brian Colter receives the 2020 Honors Award from the Michigan chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. ♦ Park Interim Public Safety Director Lt. James Bostock receives a phone call from a reporter asking about a Ku Klux Klan flag hung in a Park resident’s window. The flag faces the homeowner’s black neighbor, JeDonna Dinges, and creates an outcry for justice and equality in the community. Neighbors later gather to rally in support of the Dinges family.

March

♦ The Park’s annual public safety report is presented, showing a 32 percent decrease in crime from 2019. ♦ City employees attend a training entitled “Understanding the Effects of Implicit Bias on Law Enforcement.” ♦ At its first annual event, the Grosse Pointe News, Grosse Pointe Park Tax Increment Finance Authority and Grosse Pointe Magazine partner to present Paddy’s in the Park, a street party on Kercheval Avenue celebrating St. Patrick’s Day.

April

♦ A traffic stop attempt leads to the death of a 22-year-old man when he drives through a red light and crashes a stolen blue

Dodge Charger into a semi-truck at East Jefferson and Conner in Detroit.

♦ The TIFA approves a parking study to be conducted in the business district. ♦ The long-awaited Patterson Park dog park breaks ground.

May

♦ City council discusses implementing an ethnic intimidation ordinance in response to a Ku Klux Klan flag being hung in a resident’s window. ♦ Director of Public Safety Bryan Jarrell is hired to replace Poloni in his move to city manager in the Shores. ♦ The planning commission holds an open house at the Tompkins Center for residents to give input on the city’s master plan update.

June

♦ Jarrell begins his community outreach efforts with “Coffee with a Cop,” an event where residents may visit with and get to know their public safety officers. ♦ Flooding sweeps the Pointes as 7 inches of rain falls over three hours. The Park is hit the hardest, with more than half of homes suffering from sewage-filled basements.

July

♦ A virtual town hall is held to give residents answers to their flood-related questions. Around 400 residents log onto Zoom and Facebook. City Manager Nick Sizeland seems to be leaning toward the pursuit of an extreme emergency relief valve, or EERV. ♦ The Pointes are again hit with heavy rain



FILE PHOTOS

A community effort helped bring the K-Line Trolley back into service in August.

and sewage backups filling residents’ basements.

August

♦ Cornwall Bakery closes its doors after serving the community baked goods since September 2014. ♦ Max Wiener tops incumbent Darci McConnell in a primary election for city council.

Brian Brenner is eliminated from consideration, with Christine Gallagher, Tom Caulfield, Jeff Greer and Tim Kolar rounding out the finalists moving forward. ♦ Longtime Detective Sgt. Mike Narduzzi retires from the Park for a position with the City of Grosse Pointe.

♦ An ordinance enforce-



FEMA, U.S. Small Business Administration and Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division representatives speak with a homeowner in the 1000 block of Nottingham following the June flooding.

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ing the disconnection of downspouts is updated as the city faces the aftermath of the June storm.

♦ After a two-year hiatus and uncertainty it would ever charm the streets again, the K-Line Trolley returns to Kercheval.

September

♦ Owner and operator of Beacon Pointe Pharmacy Hasna Bashir Iwas is indicted for unlawful distribution of prescription drug controlled substances, conspiracy and unlawfully maintaining drug-involved premises. ♦ Cooped-up pups roam free at the long-awaited Patterson Park dog park opening.

October

♦ Absentee ballots are replaced after an initial round of ballots fail to identify Judge Carl Jarboe as an incumbent candidate. ♦ A draft of the city’s master plan, in process since 2019, is presented at a planning commission meeting. ♦ Contractors break ground at the site of the long-awaited department of public works building. The new building will appear between Maryland and Wayburn on Mack Avenue, and will be the first space specifically built for use by DPW.

November

♦ An employee assistance program is enacted, allowing all city employees confidential counseling sessions. ♦ In a contentious election, Michele Hodges is elected the Park’s first female mayor and Tom Caulfield, Max Wiener and Christine Gallagher are elected to council. Incumbent Carl Jarboe keeps his title of municipal judge.

♦ Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt announces she will vacate her seat. ♦ A ribbon-cutting ceremony, featuring yellow police tape, is held for the new public safety department gym, funded by the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation.

December

♦ Martin McMillan is appointed to city council to fill the 2-year partial term left by Michele Hodges. ♦ Brian Brenner is appointed to city council after Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt’s resignation is finalized. Brenner will fill a 2-year partial term. ♦ The Park makes big moves toward increasing parking opportunities as the TIFA approves tearing down a house at 1166 Maryland and the Downtown Development Authority signs a memorandum of understanding to develop a parking lot in current greenspace in front of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald branch.

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OUR VIEW

2021 wasn’t so bad — until now

2021 started out on an optimistic note. Vaccines had become readily available for emergency responders and those 65 and older. By year’s end, vaccines were available for everyone 5 and older.

As of Tuesday, 57.3 percent of state residents 5 and over were completely vaccinated — two shots of Pfizer and Moderna or one shot of J&J. Meanwhile, Wayne County has a 64.0 percent completion rate. We suspect the Grosse Pointes’ vaccination rates are higher, but those numbers are not available at the city level.

The Pointes saw 3,859 new COVID-19 cases in 2021, up from 1,878 in 2020 and up 401 cases from last week. The death rate — or the reduction thereof — due to COVID-19 was good news in 2021 — until this week. The Pointes experienced 45 deaths due to the virus in 2020. After weeks of reporting no new deaths, the Pointes experienced 10 just this past week, bringing COVID deaths in 2021 to 37 for a pandemic total of 82.

The vaccines allowed businesses, schools and municipalities get a little bit more back to normal. Restaurants in particular were able to open up to mostly full capacity. We are forever aware of the hardships our restaurants and small businesses went through just to reopen.

Democracy goes on, even in a pandemic. That was evident this year particularly in Grosse Pointe Park, which saw a changing of the guard with a new mayor and majority on the city council. Mayor Michele Hodges is confident to have the backing of her new city council and we expect serious work to get done in 2022.

2021 also saw a new municipal judge elected in Grosse Pointe Farms/Shores. Due to long-time Judge Matthew Rumora’s forced retirement at age 70, a rare opening occurred. Charles “Chip” Berschback weathered both the primary and general election to easily win the Farms/Shores bench.

Grosse Pointe Woods lost two revered leaders in 2021, namely, long-time Mayor Robert Novitke and former Councilman George McMullen. They will be — and are — missed.

On June 25, a 10,000-year deluge flooded all the Pointes. The Park, City and Farms were particularly hard hit. Power failure at the Connors Creek Pump Station is the main culprit, but flooding after a lesser storm shortly afterward proved there is more to this than power outages. All the Pointes vowed to get to the bottom of it. Meanwhile, a multitude of lawsuits have been filed against the Great Lakes Water Authority and municipalities.

Speaking of infrastructure, Grosse Pointe Shores elected officials voted to issue \$16.3 million in bonds to fund four major projects: reconstruction of the Cook Road Pumping Station, Lakeshore and Oxford water main replacements and general street reconstruction.

Leadership changes in public safety affected four of the five Pointes. When Stephen Poloni left to take the city manager position in the Shores, John Alcorn was sworn in as public safety director in the City and Bryan Jarrell was hired as director in the Park; in the Farms, Deputy Director John Hutchens was promoted to director following the retirement of Dan Jensen after 15 years in the top position and decades on the force; and in the Shores, Kenneth Werenski, a 34-year veteran, was named public safety director and City

See 2021 IN REVIEW, page 7A

Wayne County vaccinations*		
As of 12/28	Initiation**	Completions***
Vaccinations	714,329	647,073
% of residents 5+	70.7	64.0
% 5-11 years old	21.0	13.2
% 12-15 years old	52.6	47.9
% 16-64	73.3	66.6
% 65+	91.8	85.1
*Excluding Detroit **1 of 2 doses *** 2 doses or J&J		

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ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Tower alumni mourn loss of mentor

It was with sadness we learned of the passing over the weekend of Bob Button, the legendary faculty adviser to the weekly Grosse Pointe South High School Tower newspaper.

Robert “Bob” Lockwood Button died Dec. 23 of pneumonia in Charlottesville, Va., where he retired following his 32-year tenure as a teacher at first “The High” and later Grosse Pointe South.

Much of Mr. Button’s legacy we learned this week from Tower alumna Phoebe Wall Howard, an automotive reporter at the Detroit Free Press who wrote a detailed memorial story about her mentor for Monday’s edition.

According to Ms. Wall Howard, Mr. Button taught at South from 1966 to 1994. As advisor to The Tower, he mentored a professional newsroom that put out the award-winning newspaper every week. He invented the coveted “oil can” given to students who helped make the newsroom run more smoothly.

Some of the student journalists who went on to become media professionals include Dan Shine, senior editor at the Automotive News; Kim Severson, who won a Pulitzer at the New York Times; Scott Bowles, who went on to work at The Detroit News, Washington Post and USA Today; Sam Fuqua, former station manager at KGNU in Denver; Tom Shine, longtime reporter and editor at the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle and now news director at KMWU, the NPR affiliate in Wichita; and, of course, Ms. Wall Howard at the Detroit Free Press.

Mr. Button came to Grosse Pointe from the University of Northern Iowa, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English. He would go on to earn a master’s degree in journalism. He worked a short while as a reporter and copy editor at the Detroit Free Press.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughter, Kristin, and her husband, Frank Wright; son, Geoff, and his wife, Kari Sorenson, and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Jan. 2 in Charlottesville. The family hopes to arrange a memorial service in the spring at Grosse Pointe South, where a portion of Mr. Button’s ashes will be scattered.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that gifts be made to the Robert Button Scholarships for Excellence in Journalism at Grosse Pointe South High School. Checks should be made out to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education with “The Tower Fund” on the memo line and sent to Tower Scholarship, GPSHS, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

As Ms. Sorenson tweeted to her 104,000 followers on Christmas Eve, “RIP Mr. Button.”

Thank you, Ms. Wall Howard for sharing your and fellow Tower veterans’ memories of a great mentor and teacher.

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.

Step up to end violence

To the Editor:
When is the killing of our young children and our community members of Detroit going to stop?

I was born and raised in Detroit, went to school in Detroit and I am still employed in Detroit; I’m truly a “Detroit Boy.”

I am 80 years old and I am fearful of the violence that our great city and our communities are enduring. We must find a way to stop this senseless killing and violence of each other.

It wasn’t too long ago that an organization was started, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, that was shown an outstanding success rate. Maybe it is time to start another positive organization — mothers, fathers and families to stop the killing, the violence and the shooting in the great city of Detroit and all of our communities.

ROBERT SHAMMAS
Grosse Pointe Woods

Oxford strong!

To the Editor:

As a Michigander and educator, I am appalled with the tragedy at Oxford High School, Nov. 30; the death of students, injury of students and a teacher and the lifelong traumatization all survivors, families and community will feel is beyond heartbreaking.

While there is nothing any of us can do that will wipe away the tears and fears, there is something we can do during the long winter months that may cast some brightness to all who need it: keep your holiday lights up through the end of February.

Why, you ask? Because these are the dark days of winter and the lights provide a sign of things to come.

Throughout all of history the source of light is often sought after. Be it through watching the sunrise, attending vigils and rituals that include the use of candlelight or welcoming the winter

solstice, which marks the shortest day of the year: We crave and need light.

Christians decorate with lights at Christmastime because “Christ is the light.” The Jewish festival of Hanukkah is celebrated with the lighting of candles in the menorah; similarly, each night during Kwanzaa a candle in the Kinara is lit. In South Asia, Diwali celebrates its “The Festival of Light” — a tradition for about 2,500 years. Islam acknowledges that when someone has a light, it is like that person has a guidance; this divine light exists in the hearts of people.

Let us all show the Oxford community we are with them by lighting the darkest days of the year with lights outside our homes.

As Michiganders, we are all Oxford strong!
LISA BARTNIK
Grosse Pointe Woods

Strategic plan mea culpa

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the Letters to the Editor published in your Dec. 23 issue which were submitted by Mr. Collins and Ms. Kaczanowski regarding our school system’s recently completed strategic planning process and my voting against implementing the plan as presented by our school administration.

Let me preface my

comments by stating that the opinions expressed in this letter are mine individually. As evidenced by the 5-1 vote on adopting the Strategic Plan as presented at our Dec. 20 board meeting, they are not shared by the other members of the board present at the Dec. 20 meeting.

As Ms. Kaczanowski referenced in her letter, at the Dec. 13 board meeting, I was asked to submit my questions on the proposed strategic plan in writing rather than discuss them at the board meeting. I agreed to this process. I submitted my questions to Superintendent Dean the weekend prior to the Dec. 20 meeting. He provided answers to the questions to all of the board members late in the afternoon on the 20th, a few hours prior to our meeting.

Since I do not live on my school board email address, I didn’t know that the response was sent. The first time I had a chance to take a quick look at the responses was at the beginning of the Dec. 20 meeting, as a hard copy of the answers was at my seat at the board table.

When we reached the agenda item calling us to vote on the strategic plan, I acknowledged that Dr. Dean had responded to my questions. Since it was very clear from the comments

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Renee Landuyt

December: more than holidays



December: It's the first month of winter and the last month of the year. December has some interesting days such as Brownie Day, Write a Letter Day, National Chocolate Covered Anything Day, Put on Your Own Shoes Day (I celebrate that one every day) and Bathtub

Party Day (you can't make this stuff up.) And, of course, there are the holidays. The use of Christmas trees started in Germany in the 16th century; they were used by ancient Egyptians and Romans. The term "Xmas" goes back to the 16th century. The 'X' in the word "Xmas" comes from the ancient Greek language where "Christ" begins with the letter X. So, Xmas simply means Christmas. How did the legend of Santa Claus come to be? The character is based on St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop who provided for the poor and needy. He also loved

secretly giving gifts to children. St. Nicholas was called Sinterklass in Dutch and as his story spread, he became Santa Claus. Santa Claus did not originally wear red. He wore green or blue or purple clothes. Coca Cola decided to dress him up in red to match their brand and it stuck. Alabama was the first U.S. state to recognize Christmas as a holiday in 1836. Oklahoma was the last U.S. state to recognize it in 1907. Christmas is the name of a town northwest of Munising, Mich., and is home to a 35-foot Santa. Eight other states in the U.S. have towns named

Christmas. The largest Christmas gift ever given was the Statue of Liberty. She was gifted to the U.S. by France as a Christmas gift in 1886. December is more than just the holidays. Walt Disney was born Dec. 5. Dec. 15 is Bill of Rights Day. Dec. 21 is Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. Composed in 1857, "Jingle Bells" was originally meant to be a Thanksgiving song. "Silent Night" was written in 1818 and originally composed for the guitar. One of the most popular Christmas toys of 1965 was the game, Operation. There is an ancient leg-

end that says forest animals can speak in the human language on Christmas Eve. I would love to see (and hear) that. Imagine the conversations you could have. New Year's Eve traditionally brings people out to ring in a new year. Resolutions are made, some are kept, a lot are not. Some resolutions made are to quit smoking, lose weight, save more and spend less, and get organized. Years ago, I made the only resolution I have ever kept. My resolution was to never make another resolution again. I can start fresh or begin a new project or whatever else any day of the

year. December starts on the same day of the week as September starts every year, and ends on the same day of the week as April ends every year. An almanac prediction states that if snow falls on Christmas Day, Easter will be warm, green and sunny — which would be great because often it is windy, wet and muddy for those looking for Easter eggs outside. Be sure to eat lots of greens on New Year's Eve, because tradition says the more leafy greens you eat, the more prosperity you will experience. Here's to a prosperous 2022, brought to you by the salad.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1946

75 years ago this week

ANTI-TOWNSHIP FEELING GROWS: The proposal to change the structure of municipal government in the four villages of the Pointe has within recent weeks been coming in for very serious consideration. This movement seems to stem from varying causes. It was largely spark plugged by

the report of the Michigan Municipal League which, at the request of the Grosse Pointe Shores Council, made a study of the advantages the village might gain by changing to city status. **CITY, PARK STREETS SCENE OF ACCIDENTS:** The first substantial snowfall of the year also brought with it the usual number of accidents in the City and Park. The police say drivers have not learned to get the feel of the car or to adjust their driving to the

dangerous road conditions, and slides, slithers and bumps are the expected results. Fortunately, there was but little personal injury, but the bumping shops and general repairmen harvested a good crop of extra work. *Obituaries: John Keir*

1971

50 years ago this week

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

made by other board members that the plan as written had their support, I did not insist that each of my questions be read aloud along with the administration's answers. Clearly, I dropped the ball. This was an error on my part for which I apologize to the community. Those in the audience and those viewing the meeting online deserved to hear the questions and answers. I know now that I dropped the ball in my responsibility as an elected official in not insisting that the questions and answers be put on the record. If anyone reading this letter would like a copy of my questions and answers, please email me at ismaila@gpschools.org and I will forward a PDF of the document. My concerns on the plan were that I did not (and still don't) believe that the plan accurately reflects what our community as a whole wants to see as the direction of our school system. As Mr. Collins stated in his letter, over 50 percent of the members of the strategic planning committee were what I would call "administration affiliated" members (school board members, staff members and/or school administrators). In contrast, even though over 80 percent of our taxpayers do not have children in our schools, less than 10 percent of the strategic planning committee were from this silent and (up until now) very school-supportive majority of our community. How can anyone expect a plan that represents our community's vision for our schools without having adequate representa-

tion of 80 percent of our community on the committee? As the dozens of community members who have emailed and called me over the past week have stressed, the plan as written mentions nothing about raising our state or national rankings to where they were in the past. It sets no benchmarks for gains in student achievement, or any mention of returning us to being the premier school system in the state of Michigan. It mentions nothing about building scholarship opportunities through community partnerships for our graduates. It mentions nothing about setting goals to make sure that any family relocating to the Detroit area sees Grosse Pointe as the clear winner for their family's new home. Instead, the newly created "Race, Equity and Inclusion Council" was given incredible control per the strategic plan over the direction of curriculum in our schools by it being made an advisory board in the implementation of major aspects of the plan, including changing our curriculum and the process by which it is

adopted. As a non-racial minority in the community, I found the use of the word "race" instead of "diversity" in the name of this council a huge disappointment. While the present council is made up of very fine school system administrators, it is not diverse. With a strategic plan so focused on equity and inclusion, giving this newly formed (2020) superintendent-selected council such tremendous control over the future of our schools is a mistake in my mind. I hope I am proven wrong in this regard. I encourage the community to take 10 minutes to read over the plan. It can be found at gpschools.org/Page/17366. If you have trouble finding it, just email me at ismaila@gpschools.org and I'll email you a PDF of the plan. Remember, it is supposed to be YOUR vision of the mission and future direction of our school system. Please let me know your thoughts. If you'd like to share them with the entire board, just email schoolboard@gpschools.org. *AHMED ISMAIL Grosse Pointe Woods*

2500 HOMES HIT WITH POWER FAILURE: A power failure at 6:08 a.m. Dec. 28 blanketed some 2500 homes in the Farms and City in darkness. Fortunately because of the earliness of the hour, most residents were unaware of the failure until they awakened and looked at their electric clocks or attempted to operate their electric garage doors. **SHORES RECEIVES REQUEST TO BUILD PADDLE TENNIS COURTS:** The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores is considering, just barely, the installation of paddle tennis courts in the Shores' George Osius Park, located across the street from the village offices in Lakeshore Road. The possibility has been discussed at the last two regular meetings of the Shores trustees, with residents saying they would be in favor of paddle tennis courts. *Obituaries: Mary Quinn, Frank L. Williams, Pauline Louise Hills, Dr. William J. Giovan*

1996

25 years ago this week

DEFER PRINCIPAL LEAVING AFTER 21 YEARS: Defer principal Sheila Turney is leaving her post in early January to take a job with a statewide group operating charter schools. But the 21-year veteran of the Grosse Pointe Public School System said she's not leaving the Pointes and intends to remain visible in the community.

G.P. THEATRE'S NEWEST PRODUCTION IS A COOKBOOK: Need recipes during this holiday party season that make enough for a large group of people? Check out a section titled "Cast Party Cooking" in the new cookbook by Grosse Pointe Theatre. Even if you don't plan to venture into the kitchen for a while, the new cookbook, "As You Like It," just plain makes for fun reading. *Obituaries: Edward Walter Fencyk Sr., Allan K. Strunk, Lee J. Grylls, Annie Margaret Hess, Val H. Wolfslayer, George Donald Gray*

2011

10 years ago this week

MINISTER BOWS OUT: All Jerry Elsholz wanted was to serve God and be with people. Elsholz, who is retiring after 37 years ministering to congregations in Michigan, Montana and Ohio, is retiring from First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Woods after serving as its associate pastor for six years. *Obituaries: Donald William Hines, John Douglas McGrath, Elita "Lee" Sullivan, Vito Martino, Leonard J. Winzer, Nancy Ann Schubeck*

2021 IN REVIEW:

Continued from page 6A

Manager Poloni added public safety commissioner to his many titles. Santa was good to the Farms and Woods public safety departments this year. Both got shiny new fire trucks. These are but a few of our 2021 highlights. Be sure to read Laurel Kraus' and Kate Vanderstelt's Year in Review stories for more complete coverage. And don't forget to read Mike Adzima's 2021 sports Year in Review. Despite pandemic-plagued playing seasons, Grosse Pointe North and South and University Liggett School girls and boys all brought home championship trophies to line their hallways. Here's to moving onward and upward in 2022!

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Family Owned for Over 50 Years

Former pharmacy transformed into restaurant, market

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

DETROIT — Brought to life by Detroit Rising Development’s Jonathan Hartzell and Rick Stanza, a Grosse Pointe Park resident, a variety store and restaurant in West Village is bringing talent together to transform an old pharmacy into a community hotspot.

The business partners go way back — Hartzell used to babysit Ashley Price, the reason for the project, as a kid. Price, working with Holiday Market in Royal Oak at the time about 14 years, said if Hartzell was ever considering opening a market, he’d run it for him.

“And that’s when (Hartzell) was like, ‘Actually we’ll build it and we’ll be your partner in it, because we want to support you. We want you to own it,’” Stanza said of the company’s origins.

Hartzell and Stanza kept their eyes out for a space to house Price’s

market endeavor and after almost landing on a location in Midtown, which fell through, they found the building formerly known as Craft Works. A space the group said they’ve always loved, it was perfect to combine Price’s market with a restaurant and bar space, where Price’s business partner, Executive Chef Brendon Edwards, came into the picture.

“We’ve always loved this space,” Edwards said. “It’s a former pharmacy ... which is the birthplace of American restaurants, which is really cool. Before restaurants were around, most places had a pharmacy, but they didn’t have restaurants. So the only place that you knew you could go into town and grab a bite to eat was a pharmacy and they’d have egg salad sandwiches and things like that. ...

“It’s cool to kind of continue part of that history,” Edwards said of turning the original pharmacy into the restaurant



Left, Executive Chef Brendon Edwards, one of the business partners, helped create the restaurant space while maintaining much of the charm of what used to be a pharmacy. Below, partner Ashley Price runs the market side of the business.

PHOTOS BY
RENEE LANDUYT

side of the business.

The name — Metropolitan Variety Store + Bar & Kitchen — was inspired by the building in Midtown which almost hosted the store. On the outside of the Midtown building, an old party store, faded away was the image of a ghost and the words “Metropolitan Variety Store.”

“(Hartzell) was like, ‘We should name Ashley’s place Metropolitan Variety Store,’” Stanza said, “because it’s not going to make sense what it is because it’s two different concepts and we’re going to have a variety of things.”

They used Metropolitan Variety Store as a placeholder and then it stuck.



Grosse Pointe Park resident Rick Stanza, one of the business partners, sits at one of two bar areas within the restaurant.

“It’s a name that we felt had sort of a quality tone to it but also (was) approachable,” Stanza said. “... Thinking that this is like a metropolitan area, we want people to come here from the suburbs and experience Detroit and really sort of like promote businesses within Detroit in the suburbs.”

With a soft opening Nov. 11, Metropolitan Variety Store + Bar & Kitchen features a store, manned by Price, on one side of the building, and a bar and kitchen, manned by Edwards, on the other side. In the variety store, Price brought his knowledge of curation to get the community what they

want, all the time.

“We are curating the selection based on demand,” Price said. “I began with sort of a shallow pool and I’ve filled it based on what people are coming in from the neighborhood and saying they need.”

Price started with the intent to stock mostly beer and alcohol, but the demands from the community have led him to bring in lots of snacks, like popcorn, chips and ice cream. Even toilet paper can be found at his store.

“Things I wasn’t envisioning having to do business with,” Price said, “they’re kind of becoming part of it. And that’s fine. I’m very able to be flexible and want to be for the customers.”

Technically a separate business, the store side of Metropolitan is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

On the bar and kitchen side, diners meet Edwards, who has experience working in the food industry in Japan, Mexico, Los Angeles, Chicago and Detroit.

The restaurant is dubbed a Cal-Mex style, with a heavily influenced Latin American vegetable-centric menu.

“I think the community has really enjoyed having heavy vegetable options,” Edwards said. “We still have seafood and meat ... on our menu, as well as specials all the time. We focus on vegetables — our prices stay fairly low considering that — and we still have a burger on the menu, because people love burgers, obviously; it’s America.”

Metropolitan Bar & Kitchen can seat 34 guests in its dining room and 12 at each bar, with one bar in the main dining room and one secluded in between the store and the kitchen.

The “variety room,” where the secluded bar is located, Stanza said likely will become a private event or dining space over time. They want to experiment with an initial concept of the Metropolitan, which was to allow guests to experience drinks and how to make them, then walk next door to Price’s store and buy all the ingredients. Right now, the space is being used primarily as overflow.

While reservations for the restaurant are not required, they are welcomed and can be made at metropolitanvariety.com/reservations. A \$10 deposit is due at time of booking.

Metropolitan Variety Store + Bar & Kitchen is located at 8047 Agnes St. To learn more about the business, visit metropolitanvariety.com.

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Program coordinator Allison Baker, left, and MCMM co-founder and Executive Director Gail Marlow hold up some of the many presents that were donated for the Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays program.

On a mission

Motor City Mitten Mission ‘adopts’ families for holidays

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The call for help went out a little late this year — Dec. 1 — but that didn’t slow the generosity of Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities.

Motor City Mitten Mission’s second annual Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays program saw enough donations come in to give 24 families a Christmas this year.

“We’ve been collecting toys for homeless families who are served through Motor City Mitten Mission,” said Allison Baker, a MCMM volunteer who organized

this year’s event. “Most of the families were adopted by individual families around here and some (were adopted) by offices.”

Between the direct adoptions, fulfillment of MCMM’s Amazon Wish List and “a multitude of others who sent items,” Baker said, the organization spent last week delivering gifts for 92 children.

“Every child will get a coat, a hat, gloves, a scarf,” said Baker, whose Grosse Pointe Park house has served as a MCMM warehouse for donations this month. “Each child will also get a stocking full of necessities, like

soap, a toothbrush, socks. Each child will get four or five toys.

“... And one generous donor provided \$100 gift cards for every family, so every family will be able to have Christmas dinner,” she added.

Though Baker has volunteered with MCMM for a few years, this is her first time taking on such a large-scale project, which she did with MCMM co-founder and Executive Director Gail Marlow’s blessing.

“I normally spend half the year down south, so I told Gail I want to help while I’m here,” Baker said. “She said, ‘I have a project for you.’”



Each child received a personalized — and stuffed — stocking.

Baker didn’t have to go it alone. She received help from her son, Alex, and daughter, Kelsey. Her husband, Todd, even donned the red and white suit to become Santa during a majority of the deliveries.

“I love Christmas; it’s my favorite holiday,” Baker said. “I’m just so

happy to be involved. It’s such a blessing for these families and for these children. And it’s fun for our family to get involved and participate. We realize how blessed we are.”

Baker said she and Marlow are grateful for the generosity of the community and, though it’s a hectic undertaking,

she’s glad to be a part of it.

“Next year we’ll be sending out the call a little earlier,” she said.

Those interested in participating next year may email motorcitymittenmission@gmail.com to get on a list. For more information, visit motorcitymittenmission.org/.



This year’s event organizer, Allison Baker, wraps presents for the families at her dining room table.



Ryan Marlow and Cody Hannah help load the MCMM van to distribute the presents to the families.

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2B | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

The Helm to show MLK documentary

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, the public is invited to The Helm to view a documentary honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The documentary, "King: Man of Peace in a Time of War," includes exclusive interviews with the Rev. Jesse Jackson and former Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well as rarely seen footage of an interview with King speaking about civil rights and the Vietnam War.

"In prior years, The Helm has been closed when the Grosse Pointe Public School System has, which included MLK Jr. Day, as well as Presidents' Day," said Peggy Hayes, The Helm executive director. "With virtual learning, we decided we could create our own schedule, enabling us to maintain a more regular schedule for our members. However, we wanted to recognize the significance of this particular national holiday."

Anyone is welcome to attend the viewing, though space is limited and registration is required. There is no charge.

Members and regular guests of The Helm are asked to register online at helmlife.org. Others may call (313) 882-9600 to register.

Zoo rescues sandhill crane with broken beak

As part of the Detroit Zoological Society's commitment to wildlife conservation and animal welfare, a sandhill crane has found sanctuary at the Detroit Zoo after being rescued and rehabilitated.

A crane, suffering from an injury, was recently found in Commerce Township. DZS staff rescued the bird and made an unfortunate discovery. A piece of rubber band was wrapped tightly around his lower beak, which had constricted and cut off blood supply to the area and caused the beak to crack and break off. This is one of the harmful effects of human-created pollution in these birds' natural habitat.

Unable to eat on his own, it was determined the sandhill crane would die if returned to the wild. Dedicated DZS staff plan to develop a prosthetic beak for the bird. In the meantime, he has learned a new way to eat his special diet, something he



DZS staff rescued this crane and rehabilitated it after discovering it had a severe injury to its beak.

hunting season of cranes in Michigan because it could jeopardize the continued recovery of these birds, which are part of the natural ecosystem and popular with bird-watchers.

"From his rescue in September, he has made such a transformation," said DZS Associate Curator of Birds Bonnie Van Dam. "He represents an iconic, native Michigan species and we can't wait to see him join the two other sandhill cranes here at the zoo."

One of the previously rescued cranes was found as a chick in 2002, with a wing problem. Rescuers determined he would not survive in the wild. The second crane was rescued in 2015, with a badly injured wing. His injuries required amputation of the wing tip, leaving him unable to fly.

The three cranes will be visible in the American Grasslands habitat near Buddy's Pizza, when weather permits.

AREA ACTIVITIES

War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America," the traveling version of a major exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The exhibition is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4:30

BIRTH



Albert Frederick Eckert

Albert Frederick Eckert

Robert and Raleigh Eckert of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the birth of their son, Albert Frederick Eckert, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021.

Maternal grandparents are Pete and Peggy Dettlinger of the City of Grosse Pointe. Paternal grandparents are Richard and Nancy K. Eckert of Grosse Pointe Park.

Great-grandparents are Carol and Marvin Pozdol of Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Dorothy Dettlinger (the late Fred) of Harrison Township and formerly of the City.

p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, until Jan. 8. The exhibit is free, but patrons must register for specific times to visit. Masks are required in the carriage house.

Ford House

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:

- ◆ Starry Lights, Thursdays through Sundays, through Jan. 9.
- ◆ Holiday House Tours and Grounds Pass, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, until Jan. 9.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register online at redcrossblood.org.

Mini Picassos

Mini Picassos, 20802 Lennon, Harper Woods, offers the following winter classes and workshops:

- ◆ Toddler Art Mornings, 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 3 to 31. Cost is \$100.
- ◆ Art Club, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 6 to Feb. 3. Cost is \$115.
- ◆ Mini Picassos Saturday Art Club, 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 5. Cost is \$145.

- ◆ Slime Workshop: The Basics, noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8. Cost is \$30.

To register, visit minipicassosstudio.com or call (313) 283-6710.

The Helm

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

- ◆ Mah Jongg lessons, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 10, 17 and 24. Cost is \$5 for nonmembers, free for members.
- ◆ Happy Hour, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12. Cost is \$18 for members, \$22 for nonmembers. The event includes light hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Beaumont

Beaumont Center for Mindfulness presents Living With Ease:

Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 16 to March 13. Orientation takes place 9 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 9. Cost is \$350; scholarships are available. Registration is required by Friday, Jan. 7, at surveymonkey.com/r/Mindful2022. Email centerformindfulness@beaumont.org.

Healthy GP

Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods meets via Zoom at 8:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Its mission is to reduce substance abuse among youth and across the community, as well as promote optimal mental health through action, education and collaboration. Those interested in attending meetings should email Sasha at smurphy@careofsem.com.

ENGAGEMENTS



Jonathan Krease and Kelly Greve



Abigail Casterline and Matthew Fate



Robert Squiers and Samantha Capizzo

Krease—Greve

Kevin and Marion Krease of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the engagement of their son, Jonathan P. Krease, to Kelly E. Greve, the daughter of Mike and Kay Greve of Macomb Township.

Miss Greve earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Grand Valley State University and a master's degree in elementary education from Grand Canyon University. She is a third-grade teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School.

Mr. Krease earned a bachelor's degree in public affairs from Wayne State University and is a team leader in human resources at Rock Central.

A February 2022 wedding is planned.

Casterline—Fate

John and Cindy Casterline of Grosse Pointe Woods announce the engagement of their daughter, Abigail Casterline, to Matthew Fate, the son of Steven Fate and Ketti Pryor of New Albany, Ohio, and Lisa Wu-Fate of New Albany, Ohio.

Miss Casterline graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Michigan. She is an emergency nurse at Michigan Medicine.

Mr. Fate currently is working toward earning a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry at the University of Michigan. He plans to graduate this spring and then pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry.

An August 2022 wedding is planned.

Capizzo—Squiers

Anthony and Susan Capizzo of Grosse Pointe Shores announce the engagement of their daughter, Samantha Lauren Capizzo, to Robert Eber Karl Squiers, the son of Robert and Cindy Squiers of Grosse Pointe Shores.

Miss Capizzo earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Wayne State University. She currently attend Tufts Dental School in Boston, from which she will graduate in May 2022.

Mr. Squiers earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and is an officer in the U.S. Navy. He completed his service this past summer and currently is working on an MBA.

A May 2023 wedding in Traverse City is planned.

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OBITUARIES

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

Maralyn Adele Domzalski

Maralyn Domzalski passed away peacefully Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021, in Dearborn.

Maralyn was born June 4, 1926, in Springfield, Ohio, to Bruce and Lila Moulton. She graduated from St. Joseph Mercy Nursing school in Ann Arbor. While in Ann Arbor, Maralyn met Henry Domzalski (now deceased) who was in medical school at the University of Michigan. They married in 1946, and were together until Henry's passing in 2016.

A longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms, Maralyn was involved in many activities. She was a dedicated supporter of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and a proud booster of the city of Detroit. She donated her time and talent to any cause to better the city. In recognition of her volunteer efforts, Maralyn was awarded the "Heart of Gold" by the United Way for Southeastern Michigan in the late 1970s.

Maralyn had an entrepreneurial spirit and was the founder of Elan Candies by Maralyn, which is now run by her daughter-in-law, Valerie Domzalski.

Maralyn had several other interests, including gardening, tennis, bridge and spending time with family and friends at the family cottage at Sand Point.

Maralyn is survived by her children, Henry, Deborah Clark (Ron), Judy Olson (Lance) and Alan (Val); seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Patricia; son, Timothy; sisters, Beverly Smith and



Maralyn A. Domzalski

Janet Dewitt; and twin brother, George Moulton.

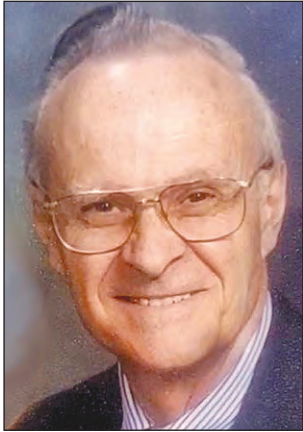
No services are planned. Instead the family will hold a small celebration at a later date.

Thomas M. Reid

Grosse Pointe resident Thomas Michael Reid, 85, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021. Tom was dedicated to his family, the Carmelite Order and the greater community in many ways and will be greatly missed.

Thomas was born Oct. 10, 1936, to Andrew and Irene (née Williams) Reid. He was an athlete to his core, passionate with baseball and horseback riding. Love of the equine won out. Tom owned several horses and was often seen in the ring, riding and show jumping.

Tom graduated from law school and practiced corporate law. After becoming a father of six beautiful children, the horses were traded in for the building of a new home on Brewer Road in Leonard, where they lived from 1973 until 1996. Later in life, he felt called to a religious lay order and a deepening of his spiritual faith, which he found through the Discalced Carmelite Lay Order and its com-



Thomas M. Reid

munity. For 30 years he studied the great doctors of the church, including St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and St. Therese of Lisieux, along with Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Tom was extremely dedicated to his family and took great enjoyment through singing beside his wife, Gwen, in the Rochester Catholic Chorale, the Jackson Chorale and Assumption Grotto in Detroit. His children and beloved wife, Gwendolyn, will always remember many Christmas Eves where it was the beautiful Irish tenor voice of their beloved Tom singing "Oh Holy Night."

Once Tom and Gwen downsized and moved to Rochester Hills, Tom thoroughly embraced entertaining all 12 of his grandchildren and their parents, while handling arbitration and estate planning, many of which were pro bono. Tom also loved golfing with Gwen and traveling throughout Michigan.

After retiring from law, Tom continued his spiritual journey, which brought him to the publication of five books ranging from "The Beatitudes" to "The Dark Night of St. Teresa of Calcutta." His study guides of St. John of the Cross were published in

several languages and distributed throughout the world.

The last chapter of Tom's life was spent in St. Clair Shores, living closer to several of his children and their families. Family was at the core of Tom's being.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Gwendolyn Rosemary (née Herald), whom he married in 1972 on St. Patrick's Day. He also is survived by four daughters, Colleen Marie Affeldt of Dallas, Erin Maureen Bliss (Brandon) of Dallas, Sandra Hollerbach Reid of Grosse Pointe Woods and Suzanne Hollerbach Nelson (Dr. Eric) of Pewaukee, Wisc.; two sons, Patrick Hollerbach Reid of Harrison Township and Lawrence Hollerbach Reid (Lori) of Grosse Pointe Farms; 12 grandchildren, Emily, Sarah, Isaiah, Benjamin, Abigail, Sam, Jacob, Simon, Annie, Haranath, Margaret Mary and Joseph; one great-granddaughter, Azalea Elizabeth; siblings, Patrick, Carol Kerr and Jack Reid (Lisa); and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Irene Reid, and brothers, Robert and Donald Reid.

Services were entrusted to Assumption Grotto Catholic Church and A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Mass intentions or memorial donations in his name may be directed to Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207, or solanuscenter.org/ways-to-help/donations; or Carmelite Order, 35750 Moravian Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035.

Holiday deadlines

Due to the holidays, the deadline to submit an obituary for the Jan. 6 edition is noon Friday, Dec. 31.

Email obituaries to editor@grossepointe-news.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

The drawbridge, built in 1959 to connect the east wall docks to the rest of the harbor, was torn down in anticipation of a new swing bridge.

Yacht club bids goodbye to drawbridge with rich history

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

As efforts for a major harbor renovation at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club are underway, the nearly 80-year-old drawbridge linking the east wall docks with the rest of the harbor recently was torn down in anticipation of the installation of a new swing bridge.

"The drawbridge naturally has those two arms and those arms don't go up to a full vertical," General Manager Aaron Wagner explained. "They overhang the opening, so a lot of the bigger boats couldn't get through the drawbridge or, if they did, it was by the skin of their teeth, because it was pretty tight up at the top."

This practical aspect of creating better and safer access for boaters, along with the forethought of handling the transition before its age reached the point of becoming a safety concern, made the upgrade an obvious choice, he added.

Similar to a swing bridge constructed on the southside of the harbor a few years back, the new bridge will have a

single arm and be able to pivot fully open. Its installation is anticipated for late January.

"It's beautiful," Wagner said. "It's state-of-the-art."

Before the drawbridge was built in 1959, under Commodore Robert Weber, the only way for yacht club members to reach the east end of the harbor was through Grosse Pointe Shores Osius Park by a small swing bridge that connected the two properties. Its construction was one of the first nods toward a coming harbor expansion in the early 1960s that would nearly double the size of the yacht club's harbor.

"The bridge was almost 80 years old and it was definitely a fun icon," Wagner said. "The kids love it all the way through the elder members, but it reached its useful life."

Along with the upgraded bridge, the harbor renovation project will increase the yacht club's slip count by three, resulting in 246 slips available in the harbor.

"This is the biggest renovation to our harbor since the creation of the harbor," Wagner said.

Snowmen selected

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of its 2021 Snowman Contest, so if you're out on the town, be sure to stop by these retailers to check out the funniest, most traditional and most creative entries among this year's contenders:

Funniest

First place: Aretree Day Spa, 20091 Mack

Second place: Belding Cleaners, 15139 Kercheval

Third place: Wayne County Community College, 19305 Vernier

Most Traditional

First place: The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association, 32 Lakeshore

Second place: Higbie Maxon Agney, 83 Kercheval

Third place: Pointe Capital Management, 102 Kercheval

Most Creative

First place: Village Nutrition, 16837 Kercheval

Second place: Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier

Third place: Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore

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LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

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COURTESY PHOTOS

This caterpillar close-up is displayed in front of the Belle Isle Conservatory.

Macro photography exhibit inspects insects

While many insects and other invertebrates at the Belle Isle Nature Center are hunkered down for winter, their stunning portraits will be exhibited outdoors on the property for all visitors to behold. The Detroit Zoological Society has installed a macro photography

life proportions. Macro photography is an art form characterized by extreme close-up images of tiny living creatures and objects that reveal brilliant details and actions otherwise imperceptible to human eyes. “Overlooked” specifically focuses on

Detroit’s historic Belle Isle. The goal of the Belle Isle Nature Center is to help people and urban wildlife thrive together in the spaces we share. Fittingly, “Overlooked” tells the story of insects and other invertebrates that humans may walk past every day without noticing. Ferraro’s photographs demonstrate the importance of these creatures and encourage audiences to grow as stewards of urban wildlife and nature.

“Through photographing insects,” Ferraro said, “I have fallen in love with a world I never knew existed, inspiring me to continually look more closely at this overlooked world around us. Where I once planted gardens for myself, I now cultivate spaces and grow plants for the benefit of the insects.”

Belle Isle Nature Center Director Amy Greene said the exhibit will take on a different meaning with each passing season. “It will be exciting to explore these spaces and view these fascinating photos outdoors throughout the seasons, observing the changes in the nearby plants and flowers while the photos remain in place,” Greene said.

The Belle Isle Nature Center provides free-of-charge experiences and programming that connect humans and urban wildlife in the spaces they share. The nature center currently is open for outdoor programming only.



A spider gets its close-up in this photo, displayed at the Belle Isle Nature Center.

exhibit around the exterior of the Belle Isle Nature Center. Titled “Overlooked,” the exhibit by photographer Joseph Ferraro is comprised of portraits that magnify the fascinating and hidden lives of insects to larger-than-

the insects that live in the pollinator garden at the Belle Isle Nature Center. Numerous portraits, as large as 4 by 5 feet, will be exhibited at the nature center and near the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, a neighboring facility on



This moth caterpillar is among the photos on display.



This bee is among the bugs examined through photography.

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Content boosters, unite!

Calling all Grosse Pointe aspiring writers, artists, advice givers and avid readers! The Grosse Pointe News is looking to beef up its Life & Entertainment section with more local content — and that means more local writers. We’d like you to help fill pages with your book or restaurant reviews, personal poems or short stories, artwork or photographs, professional advice or whatever other insights you’d like to share. Content is subject to be lightly edited for style and length and, as we’re all in this together, we’d like to keep things upbeat and positive.

Along with local reviews and submissions, we’ll continue to feature syndicated columns such as Dear Abby, Ann Landers and Amy Alcon. Readers also will continue to find horoscopes, sudoku and crossword puzzles, recipes from Mombeau’s Table, a local events listing and beloved comics in this section. And let’s not forget our regular Ask the Experts columns provided by The Family Center; Ask Jeff and Debra from addiction and intervention specialists Jeff and Debra Jay; The Kid List by our own Nora Nanny; and We Tried It by Anna Lizer. Any questions? Email us for answers at media@grossepointenews.com.



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The Science Advice Goddess

by Amy Alkon

Rust issues

My husband and I are in our 50s, married 25 years. I married for life, but I didn't expect our initially happy marriage to turn into a dull housemates situation. With our children away at college, there's no distraction from my husband's lack of interest in having a fun, interesting life or even trying to be interesting to me.

Most disturbingly, he isn't interested in sex -- at least with me -- though I'm fit and still get called "beautiful." I'm despondent at the prospect of spending the last decades of my life no longer being desired or even seen as a sexual person. I'm envious of my 50-something friend, now shackled up with her new partner. They are so effusively fulfilled together -- domestically and sexually, I'm told. Do you think I should follow their lead?

— Sex-Starved Bored Wife

There's "Marriage, The Fantasy" -- the gauzy glori-ousness you see in wedding dress commercials -- and then there's "Marriage, The Unadvertised Reality": Eventually, your spouse could die at the breakfast table, and you might not notice till dinner.



Couples whose spousal-ship erodes to this point tend to feel guilty (yet mystified at where they went wrong). They're unaware they've been set up to fail thanks to impossible-to-meet modern expectations for marriage. "For thousands of years the

theme song for most wed-dings could have been "What's Love Got to Do with It?" observes historian Stephanie Coontz.

Until about 200 years ago, marriage was a vital system for powerful moneybags families to forge political alliances, merge fortunes, and even make peace treaties (lest Europe play host to the, um, Hapsburgs and the McCoys).

We of the stinking masses did this on a smaller scale, like by marrying off our daughter to the son of the farmer with the enviable potato fields butting up to ours.

In other words, the com-mon modern expectation that a spouse be one's lifetime

romantic and sexual excite-ment provider gives marriage a job it was never set up to do -- and really can't do.

Marriage modern-style has its pluses: among them, an on-site best friend, a stable environment for raising kids, two-fer tax benefits, and higher living standards. And let's be frank: It's ideal to live with someone who'll do more than lick his paw while you thrash around on the living room floor from a seizure.

Unfortunately, there's no stopping the "hedonic adap-tation," the inevitable dulling of marital excitement. "Hedonic," from the ancient Greek word for pleasure, with "adaptation" describes how we quickly habituate to changes in our lives, positive or negative. That boob job or the bumper diagnosis stops giving us the lift or gut punch it first did, and we swing back to our baseline level of happi-ness or gloom.

In a marriage, assuming things don't go ugly, the early lusty romance gives way to "companionate love," the comfy dog-chewed old slippers of

long-term partnership.

There is a defibrillator of sorts for flatlining marital excitement: an ongoing vari-ety of surprising experiences -- big and small, daily and weekly. Neuroscientist Wolfram Schultz finds that "unpredictable rewards" -- aka surprises -- can be three or four times as exciting to us as those we're used to.

To take advantage of this, spouses might alternate weeks bringing each other on a mystery date -- taking into account personal prefer-ences and medical issues, lest the surprise take a surprise turn: "Betcha didn't guess we'd be drinking Benadryl nightcaps in the ER!"

Admittedly, this is rather weak tea to throw at the problem disturbing you most: being sexually aban-doned by your husband. It's probably impossible to solve and likely would be even if he wanted to want you again. We're sexually excited by the new and out of reach, and you can't become a sexy stranger for him to pursue -- or even fake it plausibly.

You went into marriage with the best of intentions -- marry-ing "for life" -- but you're now left with two options: 1. Part company with having any sort of sensual relationship that doesn't require vow breakage. 2. Part company with your husband. If you're inclined toward the latter, some inner voice might rise up to scold you. "Whatever happened to 'Till death do us part'?" Sure, that's the deal you signed up for, but consider whether you think living the next 30 years like you're sexually embalmed should count.

Personally, as a never-mar-ried, seize-the-day type, I'm planning to be the hussy of the senior care facility -- the sub-ject of endless gossip by resentful elderly busybodies.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAmy@aol.com. @amyalkon on Twitter. Weekly podcast: blog-talkradio.com/amyalkon. (c)2021, Amy Alkon, all rights reserved.

What it takes to break out of the 9-to-5 Rut

Q: I grew up knowing I would have to work to support myself. I have no problems with that. I have a college degree, and I interview well and get the jobs I want. What haunts me is the feeling I should find what motivates me; I don't know that I have a passion for anything regarding work. I have done well in my different jobs, and I know I have a strong work ethic. I am not motivated by money, but I want to make enough money to live on; I'd rather not get trapped in a materialistic lifestyle. I have had hobbies such as painting, jewelry design and sewing, but I don't know if I can turn any of

those interests into a busi-ness. Where do I begin?

A: No one can force a passion into a business. Some people just know immediately what inspires them. For example, some people may work in regular jobs where they feel accepted but not driven to achieve extraordi-nary goals. In their spare time, though, they may be passionate about saving animals, which might motivate them to volunteer with an animal rescue organiza-tion.

Volunteering is a great way to see how an agency is managed, to watch the

procedures and see what works or doesn't work, to meet the people in the lead roles and paid positions, and to take note of the organization's politics. As



you get to know the agency and its operations, it becomes easier to see if it would be a good fit to switch into when a paid position opens.

You could turn each of

your hobbies into a busi-ness if your products are appealing and sell through word of mouth. Whether you knit baby-buggy blan-kets or design leather bikini belts featuring natural semiprecious stones to cover the belly button, the target audience for your prod-ucts will ultimately determine your suc-cess. Once the product becomes popular, you can sell it online or through a merchan-diser. Sara Blakely created the Spanx shapewear brand and found a com-pany to manufacture it, but she handled her own sales to stores in the beginning. There is no right way or

At Work

by Lindsey Novak



wrong way to create and market a product.

Entrepreneurs have fol-lowed many different roads to success. Since you are not driven by money, focus on your hobbies and have a wait-and-see atti-tude about what develop-s. If one activity doesn't excite you, drop it and begin another one. By keeping your plans secret, no one will be able to encourage or discourage you, and your choices will be your creations alone.

When and if a product becomes outrageously popular, you can happily leave your regular job for your passion, and the suc-cess will be all yours.

Email career and life coach: Lindsey@LindseyNovak.com with your workplace problems and issues. Ms. Novak responds to all emails. For more information, visit www.lindseynovak.com.

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Dinner-and-drinks invite makes teetotaler uneasy

DEAR ABBY: My hus-band, "Dan," and I do not consume alcohol, mostly because of our family history.

Several years ago while Dan was at a work event, a consul-tant, "Ken," took him and some co-workers out for dinner. Ken ordered a bottle of wine for the table. Not wanting to cause a scene, my husband drank the glass poured for him.

Now Ken has invited Dan and me to join him and his wife for an evening out, and he wants to "meet early for drinks."

Dan is sure Ken will buy another bottle to share. I think Dan should give Ken a heads-up beforehand. Dan thinks it would be rude to refuse a drink and doesn't want to have to go into an explanation as to why we don't.

We don't care if the people we are with drink alcohol. Is there a polite way to decline without offend-ing? Should it be ahead of time or at the restau-rant?--RESPECTFULLY DECLINE

DEAR RESPECTFULLY: It is perfectly acceptable

to refuse alcohol. For various reasons, many people forgo "the grape" (and the harder stuff) these days.

If a server asks your husband what beverage he would like, your hus-band should state his preference -- be it spar-klng water, a soft drink, a juice drink, etc. There is no shame in it, and it isn't rude.

That the host is pro-viding alcohol is not a mandate to indulge, par-ticularly if the guest has a problem with it. If Ken pushes, Dan should sim-ply tell him the two of you generally prefer not to drink alcohol.

DEAR ABBY: I am 30 weeks pregnant with my second child. I have always been slender, so like many expecting women, I am somewhat self-conscious of my changing (and ever-growing) figure.

I was at the park today with my 2-year-old son when an older woman smiled and asked me when I was due.

When I told her, she replied, "Oh, my God. Are you sure there aren't twins in there?" I thought her comment was appalling. Since when is it OK to com-ment on someone else's body?



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

I was left feeling embarrassed, angry, and on top of that, enormous!

I know I shouldn't care what other people say or think, but preg-nancy is also a hor-monal time, and I can't seem to get past her nasty comment. What ever happened to "If you don't have some-thing nice to say, don't say anything at all"? A simple "Congratulations," or "How exciting!" would have been a far more appropriate and well-received response.

I'm sending this in the hope that ignorant people who say things like this will read it and realize how hurt-ful their comments can be to expectant mothers. Also, how should I respond if someone else makes a similar comment? --TEN MORE WEEKS TO GO

DEAR NO REGRETS: Two responses come immediately to mind.

The first would be to tell the person who made the thoughtless comment, "Wow, that was tactless!" Or say, "Nope. It's just one healthy baby in there." Of course, a third option is to say noth-ing and walk away.

DEAR READERS: I'm wishing you a happy, healthy 2022. Whew, folks! I can't believe we made it so quickly through 2021! I will join you tonight toasting a new year that will be a less stressful year for all of us. If you are cele-brating this evening, please take measures to protect not only your own health but also the safety of others. LOVE, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



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Wine tips for 2022

I'm not very good at making New Year's resolutions.

Correction: I'm very good at making New Year's resolutions, but not very good at keeping them.

But as I got to thinking about what our lives would be like in regard to our wine choices in 2022, I realized that there are a few tips that may be helpful not only because of good taste but also when it comes to health.

What follows are several ideas that came to me on a rainy afternoon when I realized we were within a few days of celebrating a new year. They're suggestions that may never have occurred to most wine buyers, but that I consider to be perfectly valid.

ADD A DASH OF SHERRY TO SOUPS

Most people don't realize how amazing most soups become when a tablespoon of sherry is added to the pot.

I usually use sherry from Spain, the most authentic version, and it doesn't really make much difference if it's dry or sweet since very little of the sweet kind will impact the soup when only a small amount is used in the pot.

You can also add more to your cup.



Too much sherry, of course, could make the soup a completely different thing, but adding complexity to soup is, in my book, a good thing.

BUY WINES WITH

SANE ALCOHOL LEVELS

Resolve to stick to wines with moderate alcohol levels, although it is becoming more difficult to find such things. When the alcohol rises to about 15%, I always figure the wine will be too much, too hot, or simply clumsy.

The best wines are bal-

anced, and 13.5% is usually plenty.

ADD A LITTLE WATER TO HIGHER-ALCOHOL WINES

When you can't avoid a



15% alcohol wine because you really want to try it, do so unadulterated. If the flavors become too intense, simply add a dollop of water and see if that doesn't cure its ills.

CHANGE YOUR DAILY STRATEGY OF WINE CONSUMPTION

Over the last few decades, several doctors have told me that any health benefits of regular wine consumption occur when we consume smaller amounts on a daily basis.

Taking a break from wine for a few days and then bingeing on a weekend is one of the worst ways to consume if you want to reap wine's health benefits.

DRINK MORE DRY RIESLING

This is a shameless promotion for a grape variety that rarely gets enough support from other wine columnists. Many people seem fixated by chardonnay and I have no problem with that.

If you like it, drink it. But in general, riesling is a far superior grape variety, and it never ceases to amaze me how people seem to ignore it.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON LOVERS SHOULD TRY CABERNET FRANC

Many cabernets are fairly tannic and amorphous. Cabernet franc is usually more interesting, though slightly harder to find.

SEARCH FOR LOWER-ALCOHOL PINOT NOIRS

Many pinots in the last

few years have topped 14.5% on the alcohol scale without much justification in terms of aromatics or flavor. But many domestic producers have realized the great benefits of pinot at lower alcohols. Many are tasty and affordable.

Wine of the Week: 2020 Decoy Chardonnay, California (\$20) -- This second label of Duckhorn is a fine example of how to take good quality chardonnay fruit, process it so there is a level of oak influence, and still have a nice balance. Good flavors, food compatibility, and add a fair price.

To find out more about Dan Berger and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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Festive New Year's Eve appetizer Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

My favorite thing to drink on New Year's Eve is a great Champagne with pomegranate seeds. To even everything out, this starter is a welcomed gift to my stomach.

Carbs are always essential on New Year's Eve! Flaky puff pastry encapsulates gooey Brie cheese. I made a tart cranberry compote to offset the richness.

What's the difference between cranberry sauce and a compote? I honestly have no idea. But this is thicker than cranberry sauce. Plus, I added herbs. It's flavored with lots of orange and rosemary.

It's a great recipe to

put out when your guests arrive. It's wonderful when it's hot and gooey but also great at room temperature.

The picture is absolutely representative of the final product, perfect imperfection.

I served this on the Bernardaud square plate from Atelier in the Village (ateliergp.com) and it fit perfectly with crackers. Happy New Year!

Baked Brie with Cranberry Compote

- 1 cup fresh cranberries
- 1 orange, zested and juiced
- ¼ cup water

- 3 tbsl sugar
- 1 tbsp chopped rosemary
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1 wheel of brie
- 2 sheets of thawed puff pastry
- 1 egg

Begin by making the compote. In a small saucepan, add the cranberries, orange juice, zest and pinch of salt. Cook, covered, until the berries have popped. Stir about every 5 minutes so you don't wreck your pot. It needs to be

reduced and come together for about 25 minutes.

Once finished, let it cool so it can thicken a bit. Next, roll out one of the pastry sheets on a floured surface. Place the wheel of brie in the center. Scoop the compote over the brie.

Roll the second sheet out and place over top. Trim the edges to make a nice circular package. Use any leftover dough to create decorative leaves on the top. In a small bowl, whisk the egg with 1 tbsp of water and brush over the top. Bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes. Serve with crackers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

Classic Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: Twenty years ago, when I was in my early 20s, you printed a column about marijuana. You expressed concern that marijuana may have "taken a generation of doers and turned them into a generation of dreamers." That single sentence was my wake-up call.

I used to smoke pot daily. I somehow managed to get through college (barely) and hold down a job, but I didn't feel connected to anything, and I wasn't getting anywhere. Every night, I would get high and write down in a journal all the things I planned to do. After reading your column, I realized I had been doing the same thing year after year, getting nowhere. I decided I had to quit smoking pot.

I can't begin to tell you how my life changed. I became bored with my party animal boyfriend and later married a wonderful man I wouldn't have looked at twice while I was hanging out with my prior crowd. I went back to school, earned

a master's degree and got an excellent position with a Fortune 500 company. I also developed some badly needed self-esteem. It was your column on marijuana that helped me turn my life around, and I want to write a belated thank-you. -- Margie in Tennessee

Dear Tennessee: I very much appreciate your generous letter. Please keep reading for one that should be of special interest to you:

Dear Ann Landers: Last fall, my teenage son began smoking marijuana and was soon totally out of control. I sent him away to a special program for a short period of time. He is much better now, but I was heart-sick at the time and could not understand how my son got into so much trouble.

Two weeks ago, the truth came out, and I am furious. Last summer, I sent my two teenagers to visit their uncle and aunt across the country. I decided it would be a

good way for my brother and his wife to get to know their niece and nephew.

I also believed that my brother would be a good role model. I was mistaken. He and his wife smoked pot in front of my kids, offered it to them and made them promise not to tell me.

My brother believes marijuana is not harmful, even though their oldest daughter has been in trouble with the law because of cocaine. I remember reading in your column that most cocaine addicts start with pot. My brother and his wife insist there is no connection between their casual use of pot and their child's current problems.

I am so angry about this that I am considering a break with the entire family. -- A Canadian Mom.

Dear Mom: A pox on your brother and his wife for introducing your son to marijuana. Be thankful the "special program" was a success and forget about becoming estranged from the entire family.

Next summer, see that your son has a local job and keep your eye on

the companions he hangs out with.

This is the best insurance that he will not go down that disastrous road again. Good luck.

ANN LANDERS
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Grosse Pointe News

2021 HOLIDAY PET PARADE

Thank you readers, for sending in your adorable holiday pet photos!
So kind of you to share your furry family members with our GPN community.

It was nearly impossible to choose a favorite pic, because every photo was so cute. Just look at all those sweet faces! Congratulations, everyone.

The top dog, as selected by GPN staff, is...

WINNER: CHARLIE JUNGA

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Way to go, Charlie! Enjoy your prize: A \$50 gift certificate from Lou's Pet Shop.



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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Everybody wants white teeth, but traditional whitening treatments can be harsh on your mouth. After wearing any brand of whitening strips, my teeth and gums are extremely sensitive. I can't drink anything that's too cold or too hot, and my family

has to listen to me complain about it for at least four days. Usually, I barely see a difference after I use them, too, which makes the side effects all the more awful. So during one of my daily Instagram scrolls, I saw a few influencers promoting Lumineux

Oral Essentials Whitening Strips. At first, I was completely uninterested due to my tattered past with whitening treatments, but after hearing a bit more about this product, I had to try it. These strips are non-toxic, enamel-safe and claim to whiten without any sensitivity. They are super easy to use — just apply one strip to your top and bottom teeth, leave them on for 30 minutes and then rinse with water or brush your teeth to remove any remaining residue.

When they came in the mail, I used the first strips right away. I would recommend using these right before bed when you aren't moving around a lot. The strips had the tendency to slip off of my teeth if I tried to use them while talking or doing normal daily activities. To my surprise, my

teeth were not sensitive at all after the treatment. It could have just been in my head, but I swear my teeth were whiter after one use. I had a trip with friends coming up, so I decided to use the whitening strips every day for a week to see if I noticed any difference. After using the strips for seven days, I received so many comments from friends about how much whiter my teeth were and I was super impressed with the results. If you have a special event coming up, I would highly recommend using these strips as a way to whiten teeth with no sensitivity. They have become a staple in



my weekly routine! We are giving this product four out of five alligators because they work really well, but the fit could be better. You can find them at local drugstores or online from Amazon. Visit [oralessentials.com](https://www.oralessentials.com) for more information.





EVEN TS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

THURSDAY DECEMBER 30

- » **Charles Turner & Uptown Swing**
7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.
- » **Clutch**
7 p.m. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave, Detroit.
- » **Dave McMurray at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
6-8 p.m. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.
- » **Kwanzaa with The Wright!**
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E Warren Ave, Detroit.
- » **Monroe Street Drive-In Powered by Emagine**
7-10 p.m. Monroe Street Drive-In, 32 Monroe St., Detroit.
- » **Starry Lights**
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 31

- » **Detroit New Year's Eve Party - Gatsby's House**
9 p.m. Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, 400 Renaissance Dr W, Detroit.

- » **Cliff Bell's New Year's Eve Party 2022**
8 p.m.-1 a.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.
- » **COLORS Worldwide Presents: R&B ONLY LIVE on NYE**
8:45 p.m. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E Congress St, Detroit.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. Washington Capitals**
7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Hershey Felder as "George Gershwin Alone" -- A Recording of the Livestreamed Musical Event from Florence BLEU**
1540 Woodward Ave, Detroit.
- » **The Ford House Tour**
12-4 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.
- » **Live Blues at Beale Street Smokehouse & BBQ**
7 p.m. Beale Street Smokehouse & BBQ, Detroit.

- » **MAGIC NYE - 2022**
9 p.m. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit.
- » **New Years Eve with Dave McMurray at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.
- » **Old School Hip Hop New Year's Eve**
9 p.m. Music Hall Center, 350 Madison, Detroit.
- » **Old School New Years Eve starring Big Daddy Kane**
9 p.m. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St, Detroit.
- » **Tin Roof New Year's Eve Bash**
7 p.m. Tin Roof, 47 E Adams Ave, Detroit.
- » **WE ARE THE UNION 'Tries to Throw a New Year's Party'**
8 p.m. The Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St, Hamtramck.
- » **"XIVaentine", A Virtual Variety Show**
BLEU, 1540 Woodward Ave, Detroit.

SATURDAY JANUARY 1

- » **Detroit Pistons vs. San Antonio Spurs**
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.

SUNDAY JANUARY 2

- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. Boston Bruins**
1 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Sky Covington at Woodbridge Pub**
7:30-11 p.m. 5169 Trumbull, 1970 Yemans, Detroit.
- » **VIP Petcare at Pet Supplies Plus**
10-11:30 a.m. Pet Supplies Plus, 23700 Greater Mack Ave, Saint Clair Shores.
- » **Starry Lights**
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.

MONDAY JANUARY 3

- » **Mother Daughter Book Club**
7-8 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. grossepointelibrary.org

TUESDAY JANUARY 4

- » **1st Tuesday Book Group**
2-3 p.m. Central Library, 10 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. San Jose Sharks**
7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.
- » **Grosse Pointe Badminton Association**
6:30-8 p.m. 20600 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5

- » **Gwensday**
6 p.m. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St, Detroit.

Check out the online calendar on our website for more details & registration links



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

MOVIE REVIEW
“The Unforgivable”
2021 - 1hr 52min

It’s refreshing to see studios like Netflix give Hollywood a run for its money. Especially when it comes to producing Oscar-worthy films. “The Unforgivable” is an excellent example. It stars Sandra Bullock in one of her finest performances to date. I feel there are a mere handful of actors who could play the lead role as well as she could. Her acting, to use an old cliché, is nothing short of riveting.



Ruth Slater (Bullock) has just been released from prison. She’s served 20 years after being convicted of killing a police officer. As you’d expect, prison life has hardened her and she’s built a tough façade to steel herself from what she’s expecting life to dish out to her. She’s supposed to get a job using her carpentry skills, but when management finds out she’s a cop killer, the position mysteriously disappears. Her parole officer then arranges for her to get a menial job in a fishery. In a series of flashbacks, we see her protecting her much younger sister Kathleen (Aisling Franciosi) during a police raid on their deceased parents’ home. She’s been raising her, and after the shooting, her sister is taken from her right before she’s sentenced to prison. A couple (Richard Thomas and Linda Emond) has adopted

Kathleen and Ruth is determined to try to reconnect with her. Kathleen’s parents agree to meet with Ruth; however, they’re convinced nothing good will come out of a reunion of the two siblings. As if this tension isn’t enough, the story is further complicated when the sons of the murdered police officer discover Ruth is out of prison. The two brothers are just slightly unhinged, and they not only track her down and stalk her, they’re out for revenge. This is where things



kick into high gear and it makes for some nail-biting action. There are a couple of plot twists that make this a bit more than your predictable Hollywood fare. Some of the reviews I’ve read have criticized Bullock for her lack of emotion and blank expressions. I have to disagree with this assessment—I think that’s what makes her performance so convincing. She’s hardened by her years in prison



and uses her apathy to protect herself. A lesser talent would be



inclined to overact. One of my only beefs with the movie is this: Kathleen was taken from her when she was around five-years old. That would make her in her mid-twenties when the story takes place. However, she’s high school age in the film. And, if she were over 18 years old, the two of them would be allowed to meet. That said, if you’re looking for a film featuring solid acting, fine writing, and a good story, check out “The Unforgivable”. Currently streaming on Netflix.

★★★★☆
My rating system:
★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you’re embarrassed to admit you’ve seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.
★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.
★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren’t any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.
★★★★★ So good you’d actually go out and buy it!

About this column:
My main focus is on films that I feel have gone under the radar and deserve more recognition. They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix and Kanopy, as well as theatrical releases. For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: domin-mark@yahoo.com. Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](https://www.moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).



Left, Emma Nelson as Katie Slater and Sandra Bullock as Ruth Slater in the 2021 Netflix movie “The Unforgivable.”

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from noon until 6:30 p.m. EST today (9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Scorpio into Sagittarius. Happy Birthday for Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021: You are enthusiastic and passionate about whatever you do. You believe in clearly defined goals and then working hard to attain them. This has been a quieter year with a focus on relationships. Next year, in 2022, you will socialize much more and have a strong zest for life! You also might find yourself in the public eye.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)
Tread carefully! Discussions with bosses, parents and the police will be intense today. You might come on too strong; they might come on too strong. It could go either way. Remember Voltaire: “Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd.” Tonight: Explore!

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)
This is a great day for studying, because your mind wants to get to the bottom of something. In other words, your approach to study anything will not be superficial. You won’t skim things lightly. Au contraire! You will dig deep! Tonight: Check your assets.

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)
Today you will get to the bottom of something related to shared property, taxes, debt, insurance issues or the wealth of your partner or someone else. You will be relentless until you find what you’re looking for. In fact, you might do a mind meld with someone today. Tonight: Be reasonable.

Contract Bridge

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K J 9 8 6 3 2
♥ K
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A 6

WEST
♠ A
♥ 9 8 4
♦ A J 2
♣ J 10 9 7 5 3
SOUTH
♠ Q 7
♥ A Q 6 3
♦ K 6 5
♣ K Q 8 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 ♠

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

This remarkable deal cropped up during the final of the Senior Swiss Teams at the 2012 Summer North American Bridge Championships. At the first table, North used a Texas Transfer to make his partner declarer at four spades. After West led a club and dummy was tabled, East was surprised that North had not at least explored the possibility of a slam and felt a big swing might be in the offing. South no doubt thought he was in for an easy time of it, expecting to

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)
You might encounter someone today who is so intense they’re almost threatening. (Yikes!) This person might be close to you, perhaps a partner or close friend. Be careful not to excite them or make them upset, because it won’t be a pretty picture. Tonight: Work.

♌ LEO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
At work today, you might see better ways of doing something, which is why you might suggest improvements or reforms. If so, you could encounter resistance or objections to your ideas. It was ever thus. Good ideas are often met with scorn. Tonight: Play!

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today you might be intense about teaching a child something. Be careful, because it’s easy for you to become obsessed. Learning is more than just accumulating facts. It’s training the mind to think. Likewise, romantic partners might be obsessed with each other or about an idea. They also might be jealous. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Family discussions might be challenging today because everyone is convinced they’re right. On the upside, people will be prepared to dig deep to solve problems and get to the bottom of something that needs repairing. On the downside, will they listen to each other? Tonight: Be sociable.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Family discussions might be challenging today because everyone is convinced they’re right. On the upside, people will be prepared to dig deep to solve problems and get to the bot-

tom of something that needs repairing. On the downside, will they listen to each other? Tonight: Be sociable.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You might be obsessed about something related to money, earnings or your possessions today. For example, if shopping, you will think you have to have something. Please be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert. Take it easy today. Tonight: You win!

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today Mercury is in your sign lined up with Pluto, which indicates intense mental activity on your part! You will have a focused, penetrating mind that wants to get to the bottom of everything. You also will be persuasive when talking to others. Tonight: Solitude.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Your ability to do research is phenomenal today! You will not stop until you find what you’re looking for. In fact, you will instinctively see the subtext of everything, and you will know if someone is not telling you the truth. Tonight: Be friendly.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)
Discussions with others will be intense today. If you’re involved in a group, you might try to convince them to agree with your point of view, or vice versa, someone might want to convince you. That’s because today it’s easy to be pre-occupied with an idea or a particular slant on something. Tonight: You are noticed.

BORN TODAY
NBA player LeBron James (1984), actress Lucy Punch (1977), professional golfer Tiger Woods (1975).

by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

Bill and
JEFF
KEANE

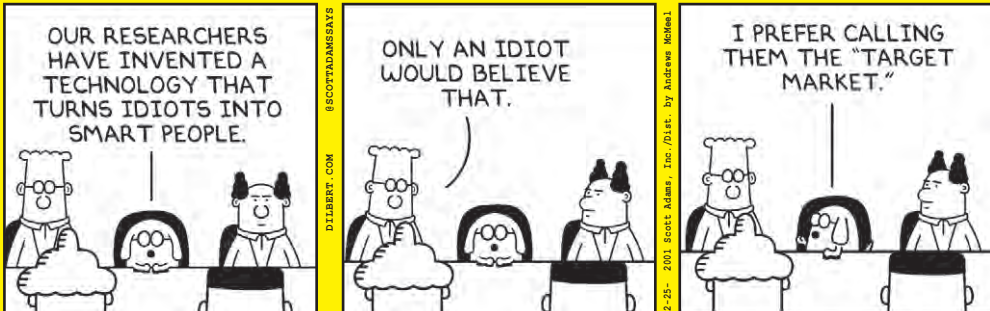
Garfield

Jim Davis



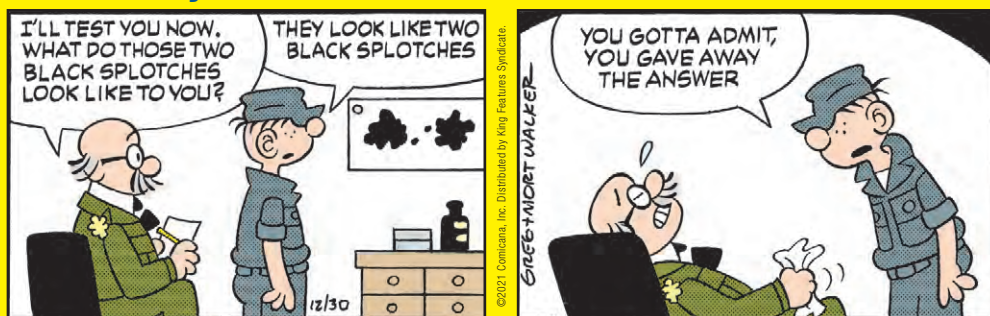
Dilbert

Scott Adams



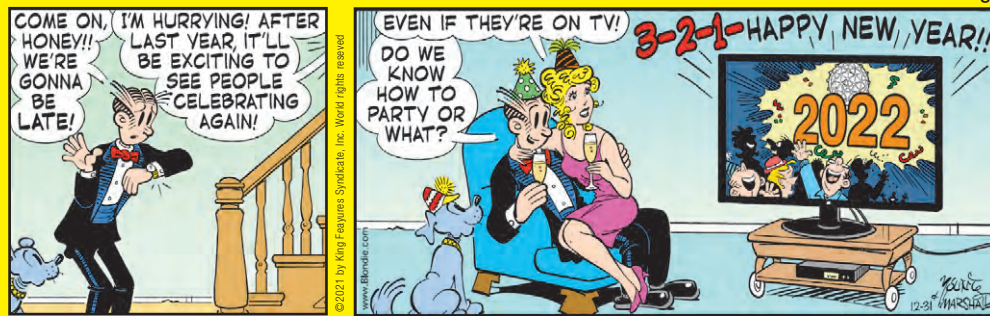
Beetle Bailey

Greg and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



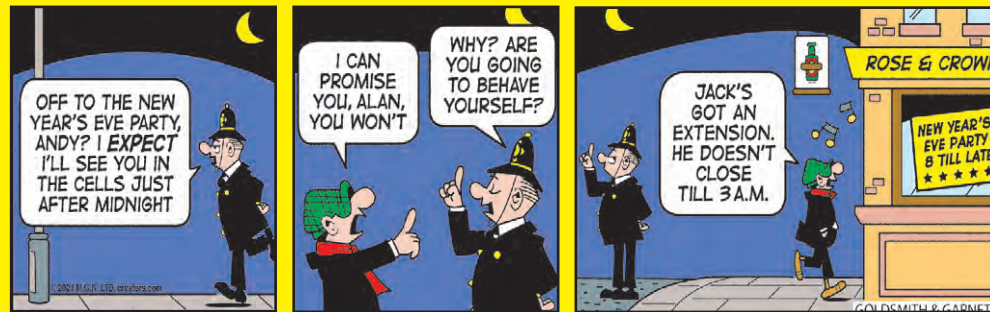
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

12/30

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/23 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 23, 2021

ACROSS

- Magnum (great work)
- He's a deer
- Future D.A.'s exam
- "Be quiet!"
- Gullible
- Wonky
- "That explains it"
- Championship game
- Shirts often cropped at
- Pride
- "Is that so?!"
- Olay competitor
- "You Send Me" singer
- Cooke
- Member of a Great Basin tribe
- Shade at the beach?
- "That's fair"
- "Hulk" director Lee
- Park walkway
- Pride group
- La Scala's locale
- Rock's Speedwagon
- Urban front staircase
- Panache
- Sag, as a flower
- Org. at JFK
- Afternoon fare in Britain
- Digital camera
- Prom wear for a certain lesbian, briefly
- Important time span

DOWN

- The Buckeye State
- Encouragement during labor
- Internet explorer?
- "The things I put up with!"
- Travel by boat
- Wee
- "When They See Us" director
- DuVernay
- Frozen treat in Rome
- Like 10 p.m., for many kids ... and their parents

10

- Chocoholic's Achilles' heel
- Colosseum, e.g.
- Cicely of "Roots"
- 2018 award for Patrick Mahomes
- Small battery
- Bridal coverings
- Stand behind
- Celebrated crops in "Things Fall Apart"
- "I'll get this done"
- Unpleasant realities
- Anatomical canal blocker
- Dined at home
- Trivial criticism
- A proboscis monkey's is long
- Facial joints?

38

- Brewery quaff
- "How cool!"
- Contents of some social media threads
- Naturally bright?
- Not just online, briefly
- Historic Muslim leader
- "Get lost!"
- Like saggy pants
- Orders at bakeries and pizzerias
- Polluted air
- ATM codes
- Norway's capital
- Second word of many fairy tales
- A+, e.g., at a blood bank
- Radio's Glass

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

12/23 Solution

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12/30

Letter by Letter by Adrian Johnson

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19					20				21	22			
			23					24				25	
26	27	28					29	30			31		
32					33					34		35	36
37			38	39		40				41			
42						43			44			45	
		46			47					48	49		
50	51				52					53			
54				55				56	57		58	59	60
61					62	63				64			
65					66					67			
68					69					70			

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

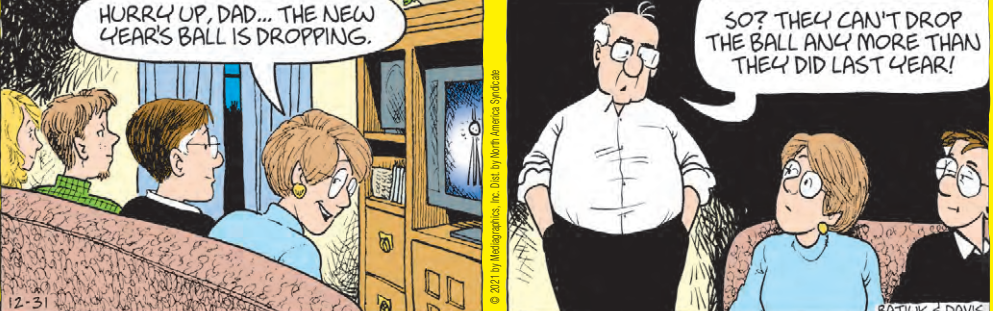
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



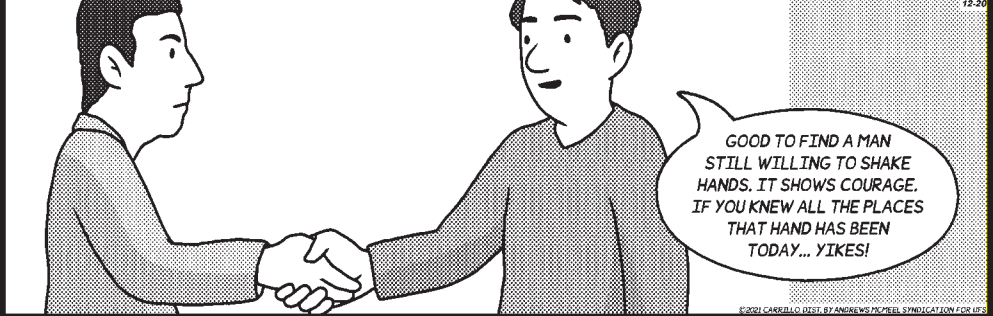
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



F Minus

Tony Carriolo



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Reality Check

Dave Whamond

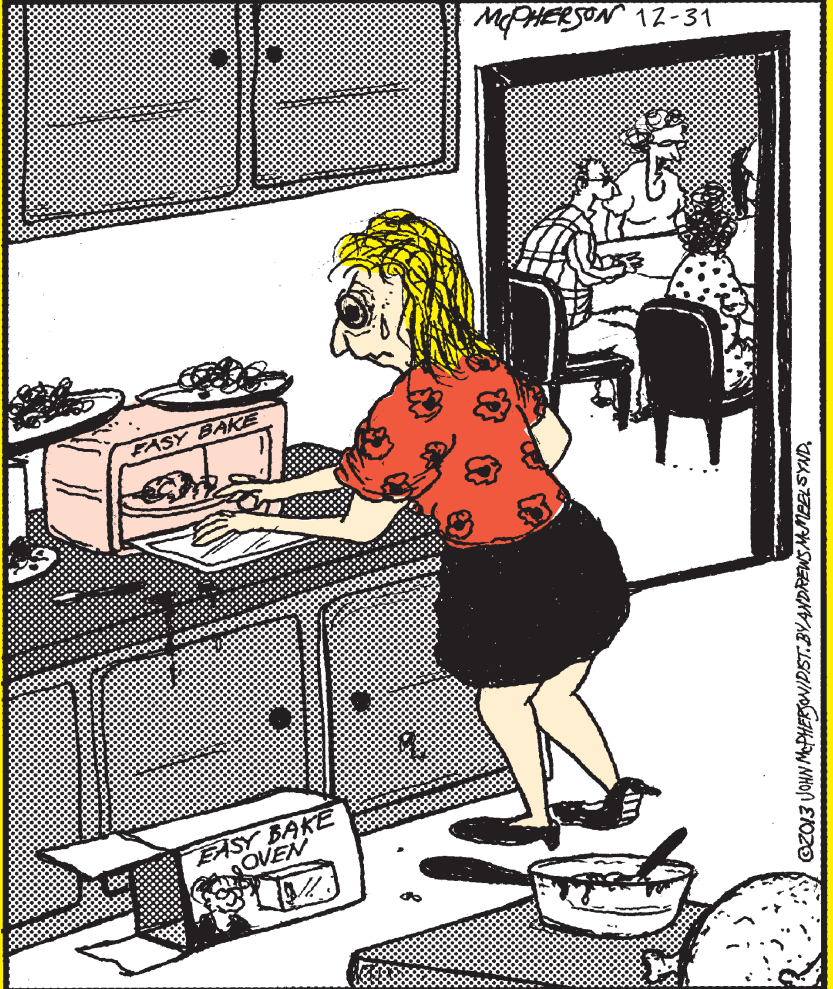
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Close To Home

John McPherson



With her stove out of propane, Eve was forced to use the kids' Easy Bake Oven to prepare dinner for her 12 guests.

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"It's the same thing every New Year's Day."

SPORTS

SPORTS

New facility

Eastside FC, Eastside Tennis open new indoor practice area **PAGE 3D**

2D SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW | 4D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Brandon reflects on coaching career

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

At the conclusion of this year’s high school football season, Grosse Pointe South varsity football coach Tim Brandon announced his retirement from coaching the Blue Devils. South’s program reached new heights during Brandon’s 15-year tenure and has a foundation to continue building upon in the future.

Although Brandon loved coaching the Blue Devils, he knew it was time for a change — both for himself and the program.

“Fifteen years is a long time being a head football coach and even in high school it’s demanding mentally and physically,” Brandon said. “It was just time, for a lot of different reasons. Part of it was being drained, to be honest. Part of it was No. 11 (his son, Charlie Brandon) being a senior and he’s leaning towards continuing playing, so I want to be available for that. It’s time for someone new.”

When he became the head coach at South a decade and a half ago, Brandon had one thing in mind. He wanted to bring the Blue Devils

back to being a top-tier program in the MAC conference and in the state.

Brandon was able to do that by establishing and maintaining a consistent culture of success at South. His teams set records, won playoff games and took the Blue Devils further than they had ever gone before.

“I knew the history of Grosse Pointe South,” he said. “My goal was to build South back up to the respected program that it was. I feel like we did that and got it to where it’s not only a successful football program, but one of those football programs that is respected in the Detroit metro area and around the state.”

In his 15 years coaching, Brandon’s teams at South won eight MAC division championships. The Blue Devils reached the playoffs 12 times and won district championships twice.

The success South had in the MAC and in state playoffs under Brandon helped breathe new life into the Blue Devils’ football program. What the former coach wants now is to see that winning tradition continue to grow.

“In my years we went from being also-rans in

the Blue Division to competing in the Blue Division, then to dominating the White Division and even competing in the Red,” Brandon said. “I’m really proud of the trajectory we are on and where we went and that’s what I want for the future. Keep the tradition and keep up what we’ve been doing and take it even further.”

One of the greatest achievements the Blue Devils reached under Brandon was winning a regional championship and making it to the state final four in 2010. The regional championship game has become known as the infamous “fog bowl.” Pulling out a dramatic win in the playoffs in rough conditions is a memory Brandon will never forget.

“It would have to be the ‘fog bowl’ back in 2010, which was the regional championship,” he said. “It’s the furthest any South team has ever gone. It was dense fog. You couldn’t see across the field. We went down in that game three different times and came back. It took a 70-yard drive for a field goal to win the game in the end. We drove the field on a two-minute drill and John Parker drained a field

goal with no time left on the clock. ... The game, the atmosphere and how it ended — it’s a tremendous memory.”

The real heart of Brandon’s tenure at South goes far beyond just success on the field. His years of coaching with the Blue Devils brought the coach closer with the community and the players he was help-

ing to coach and mentor. Winning under the Friday night lights is great, but wins on the field are not what Brandon is really going to miss. Getting to know his players and helping them learn and grow each day is what is really going to stick with him.

“Grosse Pointe is an outstanding community and because of that,

these are outstanding kids,” Brandon said. “It’s a joy to come to work every day, whether it’s in the season going to practice or in the offseason going to the weight room ... spending time talking to the kids and building relationships. Those are the things I’m going to miss. The day-to-day

See BRANDON, page 3D



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Retired South football coach Tim Brandon spent 15 years at the helm of the Blue Devils.

Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Every hockey team needs that one skater who can seemingly do it all. For the Grosse Pointe South Blue Devils, that player is captain and defenseman Jake Spitz.

The South senior has the game of hockey in his blood and has been playing about as long as he can remember. From his youth hockey days to now being captain of the Blue Devils, Spitz’s hockey roots run deep in the Pointes.

“I started playing hockey when I was about 4 years old and played all throughout Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores,” Spitz said. “I played for the Bulldogs for a lot of years and then St. Clair Shores Saints for a few. I ended up making the team at South as a freshman. ... My dad also

grew up playing hockey for North, so he really got us into the game.”

His dad may have been a Norsemen, but now the name Spitz has become synonymous with hockey at South thanks to Jake and his older brother, Keegan. Keegan graduated and is no longer on the team, but the two brothers did get to spend some time together on the ice as Blue Devils. Jake Spitz now carries on the tradition with a special role.

This is Spitz’s second year as captain of South’s hockey team. As a senior this year, the

role has even more significance for the defenseman because of what he learned from the teammates who were leaders before him.

“It’s a huge honor to be captain, especially this year with a younger team,” Spitz said. “It’s a really important job, getting them acclimated to high school hockey and what it’s like being part of a varsity team. Last year I had a teammate named Dean Therriault and he really helped shape me into a captain.”

Spitz typically is at home on the blue line as a defenseman. However, this season has seen the senior becoming more involved in the offense for the Blue Devils.

Getting their defensive captain to be part of the effort on offense has paid off so far this year for South. Spitz scored a game-winning goal in overtime to beat U of D Jesuit and had two goals in a close loss against

Salem.

“This is the first year I’ve really started playing some forward because my new coach saw some offensive ability in me,” Spitz said. “I’ve been playing long enough that I feel like I can play both forward and defense without it being that big of a change.”

Spitz attributes his new style of play to the teachings of his new head coach. Brandon Contratto took over the helm of South’s varsity boys hockey team this season and having a younger presence behind the bench has given Spitz and his teammates a new perspective on how the game is played.

“Having a younger coach and being a recent player helps us understand how the game is changing,” Spitz said. “There’s really no positions on the ice. Anyone can play defense or forward. It’s really interchangeable now.”

With a new head coach and Spitz leading on the ice as captain, the Blue Devils are off to an impressive start through



PHOTO BY BRIAN MCKENNA

Jake Spitz

the first month or so of the high school hockey season. South has won seven of its first 10 games and has looked impressive against some tough opponents.

The Blue Devils cracked the top 10 in the first State Champs Network high school hockey rankings for Michigan just a few weeks ago. Such a good start goes beyond the expectations Spitz and his teammates had, but as a leader for South, he has his teammates focused on keeping the

momentum going and building for the future.

“We had a really hard schedule, but we got more wins than we expected, I think,” he said. “I really want to help develop the younger players and get them ready for their years as players at South and in the end be at USA Hockey Arena competing for a state championship.”

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Jake Spitz

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Hockey

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2021 IN REVIEW

Grosse Pointe North

Baseball, soccer highlight strong year for Norsemen

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The beginning of this year’s high school sports calendar was a bit hectic. Winter sports did not begin until February due to delays related to the pandemic and some athletes were unsure if they would even get to play their seasons at all. Sports finally got underway for the year and the Norsemen had a few strong highlights right out of the gate in the winter.

One of the biggest performances of the winter season by a North athlete came in the swimming pool. Gianni Carlino captured the state championship in the 500-yard freestyle.

He also earned All-State and All-American honors for his performance.

Another highlight of the winter season for the Norsemen was the girls basketball team claiming the MAC Red division title. North had a 9-1 conference record and 13-4 record overall for the season, but was eliminated from the playoffs in the district championship round.

When the calendar turned to spring, North excelled on the diamond in both baseball and softball. The Norsemen softball team added a MAC White division title in 2021 to its list of accomplishments.

North’s baseball squad did not capture a division championship,

but made plenty of noise late in the spring when it mattered the most. Tremendous pitching performances by Nic Good and Brennan Hill in the district championship tournament helped the Norsemen take home their first of two postseason trophies.

The team kept rolling into the regional championship round, where more strong pitching and some clutch hits at the plate earned North a regional title. The Norsemen’s postseason run ended in the next round with a loss to eventual Division 1 state champions Grand Blanc in the state quarterfinals.

After the summer

break, sports returned for the fall season. Athletes enjoyed a bit of a return to normalcy as schedules returned mostly to what they used to be before the pandemic. And in the fall, it was likely the boys soccer team at North that enjoyed the most success.

The Norsemen fell just short of winning a MAC White division title at the end of the regular season, but did not let that stop them from finding success in the playoffs. North took home a district championship trophy and nearly earned a regional title as well in what was one of the school’s best soccer seasons in recent memory.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAYE DAHER

The boys’ soccer team at North celebrated a district championship in 2021.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Brennan Hill helped the Norsemen baseball team win a district and regional championship in the spring.

Grosse Pointe South

South finds consistent success in 2021

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

If there is one word that could describe all of 2021 in athletics for South, that word might be “consistency.” The Blue Devils largely saw improvement and success in almost every sport throughout the year and were able to add some hardware to the school’s trophy case along the way.

The best way to look at the year for South

could be to start in the fall season and work backward. South’s football team qualified for the playoffs with a 6-5 record, including a dominant win over rival Grosse Pointe North to end the regular season. The Blue Devils defeated Lakeview in the opening round of the playoffs before losing to De La Salle in the district championship.

On the courts, the Blue Devils’ boys tennis team had plenty of suc-

cess in the fall. South once again captured a MAC Red division title and saw the doubles pair of Blake Discher and Alex Prather win a doubles state championship.

Doubles tennis was not the only state title the Blue Devils added in the fall. In October, South’s field hockey team defeated Cranbrook 3-0 to win the MHSFHL Division 2 state championship.

South’s boys soccer

team had a successful fall as well. The Blue Devils continued their run of district championships and captured a regional title as well. South kept marching in the postseason all the way to the Division 2 final four and came up just one game short of playing for a state championship.

During the spring, the boys lacrosse team for the Blue Devils marched to an impressive 13-2 record and a MAC Red

division title. The boys golf team for South finished second in the MAC Red, but earned a qualifying spot in the state championship as a team, where it went on to finish 14th.

The Blue Devils baseball team finished with a 20-13 record and just one game out of a MAC Red title. The team’s postseason hopes were cut short with an extra-innings loss in the early round of the district playoff tournament.

Back in the winter, the boys swim team made a splash for South. The Blue Devils continued their incredible streak of MAC Red division championships in the pool and swam their way to second place at the Division 2 state finals.

South’s girls basketball team earned a postseason trophy with a rivalry win. The Blue Devils took home a district championship with a close, dramatic win over North.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM GEBECK

South’s field hockey team captured the Division 2 MHSFHL state championship in 2021.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAKE J. DISCHER

Blake Discher, left, and Alex Prather of the South boys’ tennis team took home a state title in doubles tennis during the fall season.

University Liggett School

Baseball, girls’ hockey win state titles

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

2021 saw the Knights at University Liggett School bring home plenty of trophies to line the

hallways. From the ice to the baseball diamond to the swimming pool, the Knights had success throughout the year.

The winter season for Liggett was highlighted

by a state championship in girls hockey. The Knights completed an incredible season with a Division 1 state championship, following up their 2018 Division 2 title.

The boys basketball team for the Knights reached heights it had not seen in decades during the winter. Liggett won a district championship and made one of the deepest playoff runs in the school’s basketball history in 2021.

Springtime saw plenty of success on the diamond for the Knights. Liggett’s softball team captured its first Catholic League championship and had an impressive state playoff run that included a district cham-

pionship win.

The Knights baseball team rolled through the spring of 2021 with one of the most dominant and successful baseball seasons in history. Liggett had a winning streak during the season that lasted more than 20 games.

Oliver Service’s walk-off hit won a Catholic League championship for the Knights. Liggett marched through the playoffs with district and regional titles on the way to its sixth baseball state championship in school history.

Come fall, the Knights continued their run of state championships throughout the year with success in swimming.

Liggett senior Ginger McMahon won a state title in the 100-yard breaststroke, her third state championship in that event.

Soccer season in the

fall saw a strong year for the boys team at Liggett. The Knights won a district title and made a run in the postseason all the way to the regional championship game.

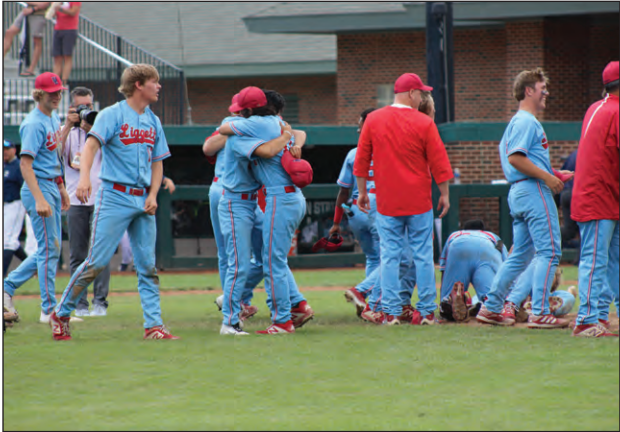


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

The Knights’ baseball team celebrating their Division 3 state championship in June.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Liggett’s girls’ hockey team defeated Livonia Unified to capture its second state title in four years.

Eastside FC opens new indoor facility

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Eastside FC has been a staple of youth soccer in the Pointes and surrounding communities for decades. However, the program and its players recently found themselves without a nearby facility to practice indoor soccer during the winter.

The club was using the indoor facilities at the sports dome on Mack Avenue to practice soccer, but had to adjust when they found out last spring they would no longer be able to use it. The new situation left Eastside FC in a bit of a rough spot.

“Unexpectedly we were told that the facility would be sold and we have to find a new indoor soccer place for our kids,” said Florian Bukovec, director of fields for Eastside FC. “We were debating the options we had. In the past, we used to play north around 23 Mile and it was a hike for parents and kids to go for indoor practice. So we had been looking for a facility more in the area so it could be more convenient.”

Thankfully, a new partnership with another sports staple has helped bring Eastside FC’s indoor facilities back to the east side. The soccer club has teamed up with Eastside Tennis and converted part of the tennis facility into a new indoor soccer practice area.

The process of reaching an agreement and successfully converting



COURTESY PHOTO

Eastside FC partnered with Eastside Tennis to open a new indoor soccer practice area.

the facility took months, but the new indoor soccer area is finally up and running just in time for winter practices.

“We started talking to Eastside Tennis around May and discussed different financing options and logistics,” Bukovec said. “We found an agreement about a month and a half ago in November. Since then we put in our order for turf and had it installed. Nets were installed to protect the walls. ... It took about four to five weeks to get everything going and we had our first practice session there last Monday.”

Being closer to home

with the new facilities at Eastside Tennis is a major plus for Eastside FC. There are some drawbacks to the new arrangement, but according to Bukovec those are only helping to fuel ideas for the future.

“The downside overall is that we have a smaller facility, because the dome was bigger in size,” he said. “But we’re keeping it local and could rearrange our practice schedule so each team can have a different time. In the dome, we would have three teams practicing at the same time, but now it’s one or two teams. Our hope down the road is to

even expand the facility and turn it into a bigger sports complex.”

Eastside FC has brought indoor soccer back closer to home for many of its players and families. The club has deep roots in the Pointes and all of the eastside communities, and having

a place to practice indoors closely once again can help keep those local ties strong for Eastside FC.

“I have three sons and they all play for Eastside and we’re already so busy driving them around for sports and things,” Bukovec said. “If we had

to drive them up to 23 Mile during rush hour, that’s a lot of time in the car. ... We want to keep it local and hopefully make it even bigger so the experience for the kids is even better. Keeping it local and having the kids stay engaged is the biggest thing.”



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2021 South football senior class, the final senior class of coach Brandon's career with the Blue Devils.

BRANDON:

Continued from page 1D

things.”

This year was not only special for being Brandon’s last season coaching at South. He got to share that final season with his son, Charlie Brandon.

Coaching his son throughout his senior year and being with several players he got to watch grow up as friends and teammates made Brandon’s last year with the Blue Devils the best way to end his career.

“This was a very special class to me not only because it was my last class, but because of No. 11,” he said. “I’ve known all these kids since they were maybe 5 years old. Starting in Little League and the Red Barons, then starting in high school. A lot of these guys played with Charlie and I’ve watched them grow up.

Watching them like I’ve watched so many senior classes and groups of kids mature and grow, seeing them do it makes this class so much more special.”

The Blue Devils now search for a new coach to continue the tradition Brandon established. After 15 years and countless memories, Brandon has nothing but love for the program he led and the community in which he coached.

“Being the head football coach at Grosse Pointe South has been one of, if not the greatest, honor of my life,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed every minute of it and what I would say, like we always say to the outgoing seniors, is to keep up that tradition. Keep working hard and dedicating yourself to whatever you do and no matter what you decide to do, you’re going to be successful.”

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan INVITATION TO BID

Notice is given that the **City of Grosse Pointe Park** will receive sealed bids for the HVAC system replacement at the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Complex until **2:00 PM** local time on **Thursday, January 27th, 2022**. The work also consists of alternates for ceiling and lighting replacement. A pre-bid conference will be held on **Thursday, January 6th, 2022, at 2:00** local time, located at the City of Grosse Pointe Park, 15115 E. Jefferson Ave, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230. The bidding documents will be released Thursday, December 30th, 2021, on the Bidding section of the Spicer Group website at www.spicergroup.com.

Jane M. Blahut,
City Clerk

GPN: 12-30-21



Coach Tim Brandon and Charlie Brandon celebrating after South's win over North this season.

COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe News

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