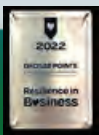


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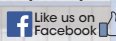

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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 83, NO.49, 30 PAGES
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DECEMBER 8, 2022
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

GP North clinic price tag increases

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A health clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School that administrators originally said would cost \$700,000 is now up to more than \$915,700.

Documents from the Grosse Pointe Public School System's Facilities Committee meeting Monday, Dec. 5, show the new cost will be \$663,418 for construction and \$252,343 for management and contingencies.

Discussion at the regular board meetings in November focused on the cost of \$700,000. That figure also is used in two places on an FAQ about the project the district

See CLINIC, page 10A

Taxpayers on hook for GPPSS recount

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Wayne County Board of Canvassers Tuesday morning unanimously approved a petition by Tim Klepp to conduct a recount for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education race.

Under state law, GPPSS, and ultimately the taxpayers, will pay for the recount.

"If a County Board of Canvassers recounts the votes cast on a city, township, village or school office or question, the expense of the recount is billed back to the local unit. The local unit is then responsible for reimbursing the

county treasurer for the expenses involved." (MCL 168.869.)

The Grosse Pointe News has verified this with the Wayne County Clerk's Office.

"In this case, the local unit would be the school district," Lisa Williams, spokesperson for the office, said in an email. Klepp, who filed a petition

requesting the recount Monday, Nov. 28, paid a \$1,150 deposit to initiate the process. If successful, that money would be refunded to him.

Klepp told the GP News on Friday, Dec. 2, he wasn't aware when he requested the recount that the district would have to

See RECOUNT, page 10A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Light game on Pointe

This week, the Grosse Pointe News captured this beautiful holiday-inspired glow-up on Berkshire in Grosse Pointe Park, where lights, reindeer and trees created a picture-perfect illuminated scene. Head to pages 2-3B to see more of the best light displays in town, a sure way to get you into the spirit of the season.

Another, but not the last, DPW building delay

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The new public works headquarters being built on lower Mack is expected to have a useful life of 50 years — once it opens.

Starting six months ago, Park officials began issuing nearly monthly predictions of the building's impending completion.

"The DPW project on Mack is going up fast," City Manager Nick Sizeland said last May. He anticipated completion in one month.

Instead, there ensued a series of delays, proving no matter how important local authorities regard the \$4 million project, which is funded by bonds issued through the Tax

Increment Finance Authority, it is as susceptible as anything to supply chain slowdowns and labor shortages caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

First, it was a shortage of steel. Then came delays hooking the building to the power grid. An unexpected need to plumb an upgraded link to a fresh water main added time.

The pouring of concrete is the latest in a nagging list of examples.

Although most of the concrete used for the building — nearly one block long and consisting of offices, repair shops, a garage and storage areas — was poured last spring, more needs to be done.

"There's been a major supply shortage, as state

road projects have held up priority for concrete," Sizeland said this month.

"We're guaranteed three loads per week right now," said Tom Jenny, DPW supervisor.

"These situations are related to a very tight domestic cement market that has resulted in cement supply disruptions, not only in Michigan, but around the country," according to an Oct. 19 bulletin by the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, a trade group having more than 500 members. "The Michigan Concrete Association did inform (us) that more, if not all Redi-Mix concrete suppliers in Michigan are on allocation status with their cement suppliers,

meaning they don't know what cement supply they will receive day-to-day or week-to-week. Members who produce their own concrete are on the same allocation status."

Meanwhile at the Park construction site, some areas of the building are being outfitted with equipment and material.

"The offices are 95 percent done," Jenny said. "The building itself is about 90 percent done. They're working on the back wall and yard area."

"We anticipate more pouring of (concrete for) the approaches so we can get more equipment and vehicles into the building," Sizeland said.

"Within two weeks we can start moving things

See DELAY, page 3A

Cost recovery contracted

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Law-abiding Park residents are exempt from the public safety department's new cost recovery policy, which this year was codified by ordinance and is being implemented with help from a private company with which city officials contracted this month.

"The intent of the ordinance is to recover costs from people who are negligent (and) rely on resources that we would normally provide (our residents) by patrolling the streets, responding to calls for service like a robbery or something," said Bryan Jarrell, Park public safety director.

He cited as an example the costs resulting from one of 83 traffic wrecks so far this year. The case involved a drunken motorist from Detroit in August leaving the roadway at the Kercheval-Wayburn roundabout and destroying a public art statue within.

"There's a lot of costs associated with that which should not be borne by our taxpayers," Jarrell said.

Park residents are exempt unless they break the law.

"Emergency response events that occur within the city limit ... performed for a property owner or taxpayer of the city ... are exempt from cost recovery charges under this ordinance," according to the ordinance.

The residential exemption is void if an emer-

See COST, page 2A

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Kirsten Hibbs

Home: City of Grosse Pointe
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successful small business

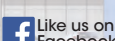
See story, page 4A



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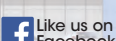
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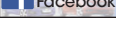
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Accident claims life of Park woman

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The death last week of a woman hit by a recycling truck isn’t common, but not unheard of.

She stepped close across the front of the vehicle while its driver stopped to make a pickup.

The accident happened late Friday morning, Dec. 2, in the 1300 block of Somerset, less than one block north of Defer Elementary School.

She was hit when the driver resumed his rounds, unable to see her in his forward blind spot just below the windshield, according to a police investigation aided by data downloaded from the truck’s video system.

“This was really tragic,” said principal investiga-

tor Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman of the Park public safety department.

The forward blind spot is among danger areas surrounding large commercial vehicles known by industry insiders as no-zones.

“It’s an unfortunate accident,” Detective Ryan Willmer said. “The lady appeared to run out because the garbage truck passed her house.”

“She had a bag she wanted to get rid of, like, ‘Oh, shoot, there’s the garbage truck,’” Pittman said.

“He was stopped and she ran in front of it in his blind spot,” Willmer said.

“This truck has a video camera on it,” Pittman said. “You can see her walk from the front area of her residence to the truck. When she crosses

the bow of the truck, from the driver side to the passenger side, she gets very close to it, only a couple inches from the front bumper.”

The driver was operating the vehicle from dual controls in the right side, or curb side, of the cab.

“So, imagine,” Pittman said. “She walks by and looks, probably, up toward the (lefthand) driver’s seat and doesn’t see the driver in the truck. As he pulled away, she was just approaching the front of the truck.”

The accident involved a truck operated by Green For Life, the city’s recycling contractor, and a 68-year-old Park resident.

She was an attorney and described herself on LinkedIn as studying at the University of Detroit

Mercy School of Law, “while working full time and parenting a teenager!”

Officers gave her CPR. “She was absent vitals and unresponsive,” Pittman said.

“She was pronounced dead at the hospital very shortly after,” Willmer said.

“She’s been a resident of the Park for about one week,” Pittman said. “She had just moved in from Harper Woods. She had a daughter living locally, her next of kin who was notified.”

The driver is a 55-year-old man from Harrison Township.

“He was devastated, very upset,” Pittman said. “He has no criminal history as far as we found.”

The investigation technically remains open.

“There’s no reason to suspect drugs or alcohol were a factor, but to be thorough, we took blood from the driver,” Pittman said.

“Waste truck drivers can struggle to see immediately in front of the truck because they sit in elevated cabs,” according to “A better way for waste management trucks to reduce blind spots,” posted June 1, 2017, on the website, wasteadvantagemag.com, a trade publication.

“While in many ways a higher seat creates visibility, it also creates a blind spot immediately in front of conventional cabs, sometimes reaching 20 feet. Cars merging within that blind spot may be blocked entirely by the hood of the truck and at risk for collision.

Cyclists and pedestrians crossing in front of large trucks are even less visible to drivers in raised seats.”

“Nearly 840,000 blind spot accidents occur each year in the United States resulting in 300 deaths,” according to “Blind spot accident statistics,” a posting at spivalaw.com, the website of the Spiva Law Group in Atlanta, using an often-cited statistic from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Decades ago, when Sears operated a store at Mack and Moross in the Farms, a pedestrian died crossing within the forward blind spot of a semi-truck being driven out of a docking bay.

“You’ve got to give commercial vehicles with tall frontends a wide berth when crossing in front,” Pittman said. “Give it room so the driver can see you.”

Woods receives financial reporting awards

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — There are winning streaks and then there are winning streaks.

The Woods recently received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

For the 49th consecutive year.

According to the GFOA, winning the certificate means the city meets the highest standards of the program and demonstrates a “constructive spirit of full disclosure.”

“Once a municipality achieves that recognition, they typically continue to get it unless they don’t apply,” Treasurer/Comptroller Shawn Murphy said. “It’s not an easy task, and we get a lot of help from our auditors who double-check everything, but once you understand what is involved, you can make

sure to have everything in order.”

Murphy said the GFOA also sends along comments regarding areas that can be improved.

The recognition is for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021.

“Shawn has done a wonderful job in all this work,” Mayor Arthur Bryant said in making the announcement at the city council meeting Monday, Nov. 21. “She’s found some errors here and there and picked up on things that we’ve been able to correct and better manage our money.”

The city for the ninth consecutive year also received an award for outstanding achievement for its Popular Annual Financial Reporting.

“The PAFR pulls basic information from our overall accounting and is geared to be easier to understand for all residents,” Murphy explained. “It highlights certain items with charts and graphs.”

The city began apply-



COURTESY PHOTO

Woods Treasurer/Comptroller Shawn Murphy with Mayor Art Bryant and city council holding the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This marks the 49th consecutive year the city has been so recognized.

ing for that award when Murphy came on board in 2012.

As Grosse Pointe Shores Mayor Ted Kedzierski, himself a CPA, recently commented about his city’s search for a new finance director, “There’s accounting and then there’s government accounting and there’s a

big difference between the two.”

Murphy agreed.

“With government accounting, you have fund accounts for each different purpose, in addition to the general fund, and the money has to stay separate,” she said. “It’s a bit more specific compared to private accounting.”

Alley resurfacing on hold in Park

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Alley resurfacing that was supposed to take place late this autumn is canceled until next year.

“Alley work was put on hold,” said Tom Jenny, Department of Public Works supervisor.

Material shortages played a part, but it was more a case of the contractor falling through, according to Jenny.

“What happened was, basically, the salesmen oversold their company,” Jenny said. “They didn’t have time to do it.”

The understanding-misunderstanding was verbal.

“We had no contract with them,” Jenny said. “It was all a quote. No money was exchanged.”

Three blocks of alleys in the Cabbage Patch were supposed to be resurfaced by winter:

- ◆ Wayburn and

- Maryland between Hampton and St. Paul,
- ◆ Wayburn and Maryland between Vernor and Charlevoix and
- ◆ Maryland and Lakepointe between Hampton and city hall.

There’s always next year.

“We’re going to put it back up for bid in spring,” Jenny said.

That’s not as hopeful as it may seem.

“When we went out to bid before, we didn’t get anyone,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “So, we went back to previous (contractors) and pleaded to give us a quote.”

To sweeten the deal, Park officials plan to fold alley resurfacing into a larger municipal road and parking lot resurfacing contract involving the city hall lot and portions of Kercheval.

See ALLEYS, page 3A

COST:

Continued from page 1A

agency response is due to an act that violates a

municipal ordinance; local, state or federal law. People subject to enforcement, meaning non-residents and residents who broke the law,

may appeal.

A two-stage appeal process begins with the complainant seeking relief within 30 days from the city manager. If unsatisfied, the ordinance provides another 30-day window for an appeal to go to the Park public safety committee.

“We’re not going to go after personal or individual liability billing if it’s a resident,” Jarrell said.

“We’ll just accept whatever the insurance company pays.”

All the other Grosse Pointes have some form of a cost recovery ordinance.

“We’re the last to jump in,” Park Councilman Max Wiener said.

“We’re going to be recovering our costs,” Jarrell said.

“Again, another budget-relieving strategy,” Mayor

Michele Hodges said.

“It’s not a cash cow,” said Regina Moore, CEO of R. Moore Solutions, headquartered in Ohio, chosen by the city council Nov. 28, to administer the program.

Her comments came last April when Jarrell proposed the council institute cost recovery.

“It just alleviates some of the tax burden from taxpayers,” Moore said at the time. “All of that money would be put back in the public safety budget.”

“RMS will handle all aspects of cost recovery, alleviating a (Park) staff person from this task,” Jarrell said this month.

Council members agreed with Jarrell to retain RMS because its collection fee is less than at least one competitor.

“I looked into two companies that deal in cost recovery,” Jarrell said. “RMS’s fee is 20 percent of the fund recovered.”

The other company retains 25 percent.

“In addition, RMS is recommended by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police,” Jarrell said.

RMS isn’t paid unless its services are used.

“There is no cost to the city for these services,” Jarrell said. “The 20 percent charge by RMS will be built into the fee schedule to be developed by the public safety department. This will ensure the city receives 100 percent of our true costs and RMS is compensated for its services.”

The Park already has a cost recovery policy for ambulance runs.

“Those fees were adjusted recently,” Jarrell said.

He increased the fee, which he said was at the low end of a range at which insurance companies normally settle.

“Once I found that out, we adjusted our fees to the middle of that range,” Jarrell said. “So, we should be getting more cost recovery. Those fees are built in. We get about \$75,000 per year in ambulance billing.”

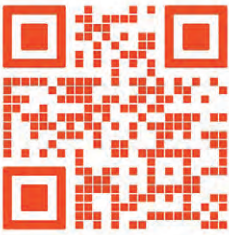


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Retirement tales

As much as retired Farms K-9 Duke enjoys a good nap on the couch, he's been keeping busy in retirement and continuing to have adventures with his lifelong pal, Sgt. Tim Harris.

Harris, who himself enjoys bow and rifle hunting, said it not only took just 30 minutes to train Duke to track deer, but that the German shepherd also recently put his skills to work recovering a lost arrow for one of his friends.

"I figure he's retired, but he still loves to work, so basically it's like taking him for a walk in the woods," Harris said.

Although not every day, Duke often continues to join Harris at work as well, hanging around the supervisor's office.

"Every time I leave the house, he still goes to the door like he wants to go to work, but when he realizes that he's not going, he just goes and lays on the couch and goes to sleep," Harris said. "He's fine with not going to work, but he still gets up and wonders if he's coming too."

COURTESY PHOTO



Felon leads officers on search through Allard Rd. backyards

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Residents of Allard Road and nearby streets in the Farms experienced quite the exciting weekend when some awoke in the dead of night Saturday to Pointe officers scouring their backyards with flashlights.

"I woke up around three to see eight police cars on my street," an Allard resident posted on Facebook, "and an abandoned car on my neighbor's lawn."

Another commenter noted her fright when she saw police running

through her yard.

The incident began around 3 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, when Grosse Pointe Woods officers attempted to pull over a vehicle because it had no working tail lights. Woods officers terminated the pursuit after four blocks, but the vehicle then was spotted turning from Mack onto Allard in the Farms, where it ran out of gas, lost power steering and crashed into a tree.

Officers arrived to find an airsoft magazine and shotgun shell within the vehicle — found to be stolen out of Shelby Township — but no suspect, which set off a yard-

by-yard search including officers from the Woods, Farms and Park.

While the 38-year-old Detroit man ultimately was spotted and apprehended by a Grosse Pointe Park officer in the 400 block of Bournemouth, the Farms' new K-9 officer, Rocco, also was on the scene and attempted to track the man from an Allard backyard.

"That was his first day on the road and he did a good job," Farms Detective Derek Lazarski said.

The man is charged with second-degree fleeing and eluding; a second

offense of receiving and concealing a stolen motor vehicle; possession of ammunition by a felon; and assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer.

"He is a habitual felony offender," Lazarski reported. "He has three prior felony convictions, so this is his fourth offense."

Longtime counsel honored

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city's former longtime law firm received a mayoral resolution for a lifetime of services rendered.

"We filed the papers that incorporated the city," said Jake Howlett, a Park resident and the latest attorney at the Bodman law firm to act

as Park counsel.

"It was an opportunity to serve my community, not just my law firm," Howlett said. "It means a lot to see the city do well."

Mayor Michele Hodges presented Howlett a resolution honoring Bodman during the Nov. 28 city council meeting.

"Bodman has assisted the city council, commissions, Downtown Development Authority

and Tax Increment Finance Authority in conducting their meetings in an orderly fashion, serving as the parliamentarian, crafter of motions and advisor on the Open Public Meetings Act and other applicable laws," according to the resolution.

"To help an outstanding team is an honor,"

See HONOR, page 9A

ALLEYS:

Continued from page 2A

"Maybe we can lump it all together and a company will come in," Jenny said. "We're work-

ing with (our consulting engineers) to get that together."

Funding isn't an issue. "We have about \$400,000 we got from a federal grant for in front of Pierce and Defer; new

crosswalks and side-walks at the crossing and things like that," Sizeland said. "The city hall parking lot and lumping those alleys will be more favorable to contractors."

DELAY:

Continued from page 1A

in," Jenny said.

Even then, construction will linger.

"We had a portion of our yard that was going to be asphalt, but asphalt plants are closed now," Sizeland said. "So, we're going to have to use temporary stone material until spring of next year."

Tax revenue raised in the TIFA district is funding the public works proj-

ect. Once TIFA retires the bond debt, full ownership of the DPW facility transfers to the city.

The authority, established in 2020, encompasses businesses and approximately 2,650 residents of a district bordered by Mack Avenue, the western city limits, the northern boundary of the Jefferson Downtown Development Authority and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham. Roads in the area are Wayburn,

Maryland, Lakepointe, Beaconsfield, Vernor, St. Paul, Mack Avenue, Charlevoix and Kercheval.

TIFAs are considered a mechanism to counter various causes of declining property values, raise values and promote economic growth, according to the resolution. TIFA districts are designed to fund themselves. Tax receipts beyond a district's baseline value are retained and reinvested in the district.

PS: 'Lock your doors'

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Here's an idea: Lock your doors.

Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell is appealing to residents and motorists to lock their doors, meaning both domiciles and cars.

Doing so goes a long way toward thwarting break-ins and thefts.

Car thieves are making clear the consequences of not doing so.

"We recently had a rash of stolen cars," Jarrell told the city council Nov. 28. "Through the great work of my detectives, they were able to determine a person responsible for four of them. All four were vehicles that had been left unlocked and the keys in them."

"We probably could cut auto thefts by 75 percent if keys weren't in cars," said Detective Sgt. Jeremy

Pittman at the time of the Nov. 1 arrest of the suspect, an 18-year-old Detroit man.

Again, Jarrell said, "Please lock your car doors. Don't leave valuables out for everyone to see."

Doing so may contribute to the type of theft that occurred Nov. 14, in which a criminal broke into a locked vehicle parked overnight in the 1400 block of Wayburn and got away with two handguns.

"Do not leave your keys in your car," Jarrell repeated. "Please lock everything up, including your garage and house."

At the direction of Mayor Michele Hodges, council acted akin to a Greek chorus and chanted in unison to the community, "Lock your doors."

— Brad Lindberg

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, DEC. 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 10 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Volunteer Reception, 1 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens' Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park DDA informational meeting, 7 p.m.



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Scientist, educator says yes she can to creating successful pickling business

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

It's not often you hear of a scientist-turned-educator trading in her glass beaker for a glass Mason jar, but sometimes two passions can collide to create unique results, which in the case of Kirsten Hibbs, could only be described as uncanny. Hibbs, a support specialist and dean of ninth grade life at University Liggett School, managed to take her love of science, education and cooking to create Dillicious Canned Goods, a small-batch pickling business that prides itself on homemade family recipes passed down through generations.

"It all comes back to my mom, Tricia Kulek," Hibbs said. "My mom's love language was in her

food and her cooking. "I grew up learning to cook from her and she taught me all of her recipes." But how Dillicious came to fruition took a few twists and turns before it became a local taste sensation. Armed with her love of cooking after her 2000 graduation from Grosse Pointe North High School, Hibbs headed to Michigan State University to pursue a degree in microbiology and molecular genetics. While she always intended to become a scientist and researcher, it was a fellow Spartan who first mentioned Hibbs' acumen for teaching. She recalled a time when she was helping explain the complexities of pressurized systems to fellow classmates when a friend complimented her ability to break down the concept into digestible components.

"At MSU, I was just a high-flier, especially with science," she said. "I am able to take complicated principles and bring it down to a baseline (for others) and take it



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kirsten Hibbs, support specialist and dean of ninth grade life at University Liggett School, and her son, Hudson, take time out from the family pickling business to visit Cranbrook last summer.

from there." But after finishing her undergraduate degree, Hibbs stuck to her career path in science and worked as an AIDS and HIV researcher, beginning at Emory University in Atlanta, then at Loyola University in Chicago. While at Loyola, she volunteered to take part in a program where high school students shadowed researchers to learn more about the field. "I got put in charge of it because of my outgoing personality," she said. "Students were like, 'This is amazing. I have learned so much here.'" Inspired by the idea of teaching science, Hibbs then decided to take part in Northwestern University's Golden Apple Alternative Certification Program in tandem with Chicago Teaching Fellows in summer 2011. Through the programs, she worked in Chicago Public Schools student teaching and earned a teaching certificate. From there, she traded in her lab coat for the classroom and earned a master's degree in educational leadership at Central Michigan University in May 2017. "I wanted to be a teacher because I wanted to get kids excited about science," she said. "In college, you are around kids who know they like science and already know they want to pursue it." Hibbs herself was inspired by one of her own teachers, crediting her former North biological sciences teacher, Randi Zwada, for inspiring and pushing female students like herself to pursue science careers, a once traditionally male-dominated field. Hibbs also said she is living proof that people can pair passions together, such as science and teaching, and have them lead to something special. "And then there were

pickles," Hibbs joked about her third career passion. No stranger to the kitchen, Hibbs kept up her childhood love for cooking and baking as a young adult, often cooking for friends in college and hosting holidays when she lived in Atlanta and Chicago. She also kept up the family tradition of pickling, often gifting friends jars of "dilly beans" and pickles. Her personal life began to heat up, too, when her high school friend, Paul Hibbs, whom she met as a fellow freshman at North in 1996, slowly became her boyfriend. She decided to move back to Michigan to be with him in summer 2015, and the couple got married in 2016. Aware of her predisposition for pickling, Paul Hibbs purchased his then-girlfriend a canning set. However, both were unaware how this gift would set the wheels in motion for the creation of Dillicious Canned Goods, a pun-inspired name that combines both a central pickling ingredient and the concept of "delicious" products.

"(Friends of friends) would approach me and say, 'You're the pickle lady! They are amazing! Where can I buy them?'" Hibbs said of her budding canning career. One of her friends, Jason Peltier, who was lucky enough to have tasted Hibbs' canned creations, also happened to be the general manager of Clubhouse BFD, a beer garden and sports bar in Rochester Hills. He suggested Hibbs provide her products for a tasting he was hosting for beer brewers from throughout Michigan, including Bell's Brewery out of Kalamazoo and Birmingham's Griffin Claw Brewing Co. The reviews were unanimously glowing. "One of the brewery (higher ups) said they were the most delicious pickles he has ever had," she said. Today, Peltier is the general manager at Oat Soda in Lake Orion, which both carries and serves Dillicious products. "(Jason) believes in and

Finding Dillicious food

Now that the word is out about Dillicious Canned Goods, the next step is to figure out where to find them. Certain products for Dillicious Canned Goods are available at Village Wine Shop in Grosse Pointe Park, while Giuseppe's International Oils & Vinegars on Kercheval Place in The Village carries its full line of products. Several shelf-stable canned products are available year round, including pickle slices, pickle spears, pickled green beans, preservative-free Bloody Mary mix and Bloody Mary Hot Sauce. The company also has specialty products that rotate monthly, which require refrigeration including: dill pickle cheese spreads, assorted pickled products, Korean-style bulgogi marinade and restaurant-style salsa. Owner Kirsten Hibbs also added deviled eggs and 9-inch quiches for the holiday season. For more information or to order Dillicious products online, visit www.DilliciousDetroit.com, Facebook @DetroitPicklesRUS or Instagram @Dillicious_Detroit.

loves my product so much that they carry my shelf-stable quarts for wholesale ... and I provide large-batch pickles for them to utilize in the restaurant," Hibbs said. Buoyed by the positive feedback, while continuing to be inundated with requests to buy her products, Hibbs eventually gave in and created her own official business in 2015. "I have had people offer to fund it," she said, "but I wanted to keep this company ours." Though the concept and recipes were hers, Hibbs needed to get licensed and find a commercial kitchen to officially launch her company. She linked with Detroit Kitchen Connect, an arm of the Eastern Market Corp. program, which supports a diverse group of local entrepreneurs to help contribute to "Detroit's growing good food system," according to its website. "(Detroit Kitchen Connect) is always looking for good people. No one can afford a commercial kitchen," said Hibbs, adding that she grew up going to Eastern Market for years, making the partnership a full-circle moment. With commercial kitchen space secured, Hibbs received a license from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Her husband, who works in IT for the Grosse Pointe Public School System, designed the company's logo and label and developed its website. He also provides a second hand in the Dillicious kitchen. As the company continues to grow, opportunities for Hibbs to sell her company or to make it a high-volume business are knocking. But she is committed to keeping it small enough to maintain both its flavor and charm. "Westborn Market wanted my products in there, but there's no way I could," Hibbs said. "I always wanted it to be boutique and artisanal. It loses its flavor and qual-



Dillicious Canned Goods, including the Bloody Mary mix, pickles and dilly beans pictured above, are available at Village Wine Shop in Grosse Pointe Park. Giuseppe's International Oils & Vinegars in The Village carries the company's full line of products.



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2022

Grosse Pointe News

USPS 230-400

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Egged

A vehicle parked on Beverly was egged overnight into Monday, Nov. 28. The owner suspects the incident may have something to do with a physical confrontation her son recently got into.

Déjà vu

Following countless other trespassing reports in prior months, officers were called back to a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 7:15 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28, for a 46-year-old Detroit man asking customers for money and refusing to leave. The man became irate with officers, threatening to spit on them.

After being cited yet again for trespassing, he returned to the business the next evening and was issued another citation.

Smoke signal

Following a report of an illegal burn with heavy gray smoke emitting from a backyard in the 200 block of Ridgemont at 1:20 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, officers observed an illegal fire pit made from a metal ring on ground level with no charged hose or fire extinguisher in view.

As the fire was not in compliance with the city ordinance, the contractor was asked for his identification. The 49-year-old Curran man then was arrested for an outstanding felony warrant for child support neglect.

Armed drunk

After a 30-year-old Detroit man was pulled over for speeding 47 mph on Mack at 12:13 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, not only was he found to be intoxicated, but also was found with an unregistered handgun with one

round in the chamber on his side.

The gun was confiscated and the man was cited for speeding and the concealed carry violation with a blood alcohol content of 0.05 percent.

Backseat driver

While working as a chauffeur at 12:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, a 20-year-old St. Clair Shores woman reported her intoxicated client, a 42-year-old Farms man, was so agitated when she missed a turn at Lakeshore and Kerby that he put both hands around her neck and she had to fight to get him off.

The woman reported no injuries other than a broken artificial fingernail and would like to press charges for assault.

Text threats

After being recently terminated, a 55-year-old Warren man began sending unsolicited texts to his former manager, including a photo of her Farms residence.

Lock your doors

One car was stolen and four others rummaged through on Cloverly, Vendome and Touraine overnight into Monday, Dec. 5. While each was a different make and model, what they did have in common was that all were unlocked.

Nothing of significance was taken from within the cars, while the 2020 Jeep Wrangler that was stolen — the fob had been left inside — was found unoccupied a few blocks away at Touraine and Ridge.

Officers continue to plead with residents to simply lock their doors, as well as not leave anything of value in sight on the seats.

“These aren’t the crimes of the century,” Farms Sgt. Frank Zielinski said. “These are literally crimes of opportunity.”

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Best of both

When a woman presented a payroll check to be cashed by a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval at noon Friday, Nov. 25, she ultimately left with the \$1,158 in cash and the check.

The suspect is described as a 5-foot, 4-inch thin, black woman in her mid 20s and driving a white Chevy Trax.

Stolen check

An unknown person entered the office of a Fisher business and stole \$390 between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28.

Porch pirate

An Apple MacBook worth \$1,284 was stolen from within a package on the front porch of a home in the 800 block of Neff between noon and 5:45 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28.

Thief caught

Following a retail fraud incident in late October at a business in the 16000 block of Mack, a 43-year-

old Detroit woman was identified and arrested last week.

She confessed and was cited and released.

COVID concerns

Officers responded to a disturbance at a local hospital stemming from a patient refusing to wait in the waiting room due to COVID at 12:20 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. An argument ensued between the suspect, security and nurses, but was calmed when officers arrived.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Fightin’ words

A text message from Parcells Middle School Principal Ken Milch to school families sent around 11:20 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, said a student was reported for “threatening language” used at lunch the previous day.

Public safety officers were called and reported that their investigation turned up no weapons in the student’s house. The text noted the student has been removed from school as the district investigates per the Student Code of Conduct.

Chair-y picking

A resident in the 1300 block of Blairmoor reported a case of credit card fraud around noon Friday, Dec. 2, after taking delivery of a gaming massage chair he did not order.

The resident’s daugh-

ter called the name and phone number on the box and that person offered to pick it up. Shortly after, the resident was alerted by his bank that a charge of \$1,516.81 was made to his card for the chair and another \$1,000 charge for a florist.

The chair was returned and the account closed.

What license?

A 21-year-old Harper Woods resident was stopped around 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, for driving 54 mph in a 35 zone on Mack near Norwood. He informed officers he did not have a driver’s license because he never sought one.

The vehicle was released to a licensed driver and the man was ticketed for speeding and driving without a license.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Cat nap

A 22-year-old Romeo man was arrested for drunken driving around 4:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, after an officer clocked his vehicle at 60 mph on northbound Lakeshore at Clairwood.

After approaching the driver to obtain information and returning to his patrol car to do a LEIN

check, the officer went back to the vehicle to find the man slumped over the wheel asleep and the doors locked.

Officers had to break a window on the vehicle to get the man out. Although he passed two of three field sobriety tests, a preliminary breath test showed him to have a 0.145 percent blood alcohol level.

He also was ticketed for speeding, expired registration and no insurance.

— Ted O’Neil
Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Park

Fake deposit

A would-be resident of the 1000 block of Wayburn last week placed a \$150 deposit on what was advertised fraudulently on Facebook Marketplace as rental property.

ID theft

Someone last week stole a Park woman’s identification. She discovered multiple credit cards had been applied for in her name. The suspect is in Indiana.

— Brad Lindberg
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.

POINTER:

Continued from page 4A

ity (when produced in bulk).”

Hibbs also remains committed to keep her products not just high-quality, but also locally supplied.

The company uses Detroit’s LaGrosso Bros Produce as its distributor, pulling ingredients from

local, earth-friendly Michigan farmers. The company’s labels are made by Label Stop in Warren. It purchases its glass Mason jars from local Ace Hardware stores.

“Once you go bigger, you lose your ability to keep it local like we do,” Hibbs said.

With the company ever-growing, the Hibbs family has grown along with

it. Son Hudson was born four years ago and now attends preschool at Liggett. In the summer months, he is front and center at Mom and Dad’s pop-up shops in the family’s front yard in the City of Grosse Pointe and often accompanies them at farmers’ markets in Birmingham or Greenfield Village.

“The hardest part about growth (of the company)

is time,” Hibbs said. I love Liggett and I love what I do, and I’m also a mom.”

Ultimately, Hibbs said she envisions a storefront and delicatessen, but only when the timing is right. For now, things seem to have fallen perfectly into place for this pickle-loving Pointer.

“I am so incredibly glad I moved back here,” she said. “We have a phenomenal community.”



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- HENRIK IBSEN

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OUR VIEW

GP’s holiday sights & sounds will have you shouting ‘Bingo!’

It’s the most wonderful time of the year, at least from the perspective of bustle and bright sparkling lights. And from our bird’s eye view, there’s no better place to experience the sights and sounds of the holiday season than here in Grosse Pointe.

Several things have been catching our eyes as we hustle to cover the news and holiday happenings around town, so we thought we would take a minute to highlight our Pure Grosse Pointe Top 10 — Holiday Edition. Get out your bingo cards, check off these annual scenes in the Pointes and most importantly, let these put a smile on your face during this special season:

10.) It might be 20 degrees outside but you can still rely on someone sporting loafers with no socks while they do errands on The Hill or along Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods. We’re not saying we necessarily understand this local winter phenomenon; it’s just part of our Eastside charm.

9.) Mid-festivities, while attending your umteenth holiday open house, the hosts realize they are fresh out of chardonnay. They just dial up their favorite neighborhood wine shop, which delivers emergency provisions or more ice right to their side door. Crisis averted. Carry on with the Christmas carol karaoke.

8.) Once the holidays are over, curbsides start filling with Christmas trees that have seen their best days. All Pointers have to do is drag those conifers to the curb and poof! They magically get picked up. (On that note, be sure to be generous tippers with our public works employees. They are our real MVPs this time of year!)

7.) Our local boutiques keep track of who is buying what fancy outfit and give you a heads up if someone in town already bought the dress you are eyeing for the same event. You will be saved from black-tie twinning. (Beat that, internet!)

6.) Grosse Pointe has the strongest outdoor light display game anywhere. Even the Griswoldian displays with blow-up Santas and snow globes do not disappoint. Prove us wrong.

5.) We get constant reminders of Grosse Pointers’ kindness this time of year — neighbors who will return your escaped dog or who always have that teaspoon of vanilla extract you need. To top it off, they come over with a smile and likely a sweet treat (see: vanilla extract) to wish you a Merry Christmas.

4.) From the Park to the Shores, we have countless near-NHL caliber, backyard hockey rinks that will blow your mind. It’s an extra bonus to view a neighbor’s said rink from the comfort of your upstairs window. “Glad I don’t have to maintain that thing,” you whisper to yourself as you sip your morning coffee in appreciation of your neighbor’s valiant efforts.

3.) Our beautifully-lit shopping districts along Kercheval and Mack are worthy of a special detour when you are out and about, especially when a light snow is falling after sunset. Be sure to stop into a store and support our local businesses instead of all Amazon.

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
December 8-14						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
48° 32°	44° 31°	41° 33°	43° 30°	39° 26°	40° 28°	39° 30°
Mostly Cloudy	Rain/ Snow	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Cloudy	Snow Showers	Sct'd Snow Showers
0%	60%	0%	0%	30%	50%	40%
SUNRISE 7:48 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:49 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:50 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:51 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:53 am SUNSET 5:00 pm

Weather data courtesy of Channel 4, WDIV Detroit • ClickOnDetroit.com

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PHOTO BY MARY LUTFY

Christmas controversy?

As the winds of December have kicked up, moving in seasonal cold fronts, it appears even Santa is not immune from nature’s fury — or is there more to this story? Last Friday morning during a pre-sunrise walk, Mary Lutfy of Grosse Pointe Park captured this unfortunate image of Santa and his elfin sidekick facedown on Kercheval in The Village. The Grosse Pointe News is loath to stir up any Christmas controversy, but Santa had no comment. Thus, we were unable to confirm if the wind knocked over Santa, or if he got Blitzed over too much Bailey’s and hot cocoa while patronizing a local watering hole earlier that evening. But in the spirit of the season, we decided to let this one blow over and Santa will stay on the Nice List.

2.) We have the world-class, oh-so-elegant Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, which is completely decked out for the holidays. We can dazzle our out-of-town relatives by strolling the grounds and enjoying a fabulous meal surrounded by twinkling lights as we overlook our beloved Lake St. Clair.

1.) What would the holidays be like in this town without indulging in a slow, just-because spin down Lakeshore Drive to admire the festive lights and decor on one side, and the beautiful, icy blue lake on the other? Don’t sleep on this delight. In fact, we recommend a daily dose of this special brand of “vitamin GP.”

While so much about this list is about what we have here in GP, we can’t let this moment pass without asking all of us to consider what we can give to people (and animals) in need this time of year. We encourage all of us to drop a few dollars into a red kettle, help fill a sleigh with a wrapped children’s toy or drop off a bag of dog or cat food to an animal shelter (check out the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society and Detroit Animal Welfare Group). There’s no better time than now to forgive a family member or friend. Offer an act of kindness where it’s needed, to whomever needs it. Let’s help make the holidays a true season of joy for one and all.

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.

Charters offer public education options

To the Editor:

In a letter to the editor last week, a reader who attended The Hill Pointe charter school presentation made claims that cannot be left unanswered. Why do people continue to take a position that there is only ONE public school option that should be available to tax paying families? Why do we recognize the desire for options in retail, grocery, cable/cell service providers, etc., but vehemently decry public school education options as “damaging” to our education system?

Our board supports our public schools. Our charter school is a fully public school that offers a unique classical education and curriculum model that is different from any GPPSS, private, parochial or charter school in our area. Over 150 children have already initiated interest in enrollment, which only reinforces the value of this model to some families.

National statistics show that roughly 30 percent of charter students come from the public district in which the school resides. That would mean we would draw 121 students (less than 2 percent) of a district of over 6,600 students. That’s \$1.1 million (not \$3 million as stated) in state revenue, while leaving all per-student local tax dollars in place.

The statement that “private schools don’t take state funds” is incorrect. If a Grosse Pointe student leaves the GPPSS for private, parochial or home school, they have the same financial impact on GPPSS as our charter would. Do you vilify the parents of Grosse Pointe private or parochial students for “weakening our education system”?

Finally, if our GPPSS is truly “best in country,” why are you concerned about a 400-student charter’s impact?

“Thou doth protest too much.” — Queen Gertrude, “Hamlet”

MURRAY W. SALES
Grosse Pointe

Grateful

To the Editor:

Sending thanks and praise for the beautiful article on Mr. Beaver’s environmental art in this week’s (Dec. 1) paper. It moved me to tears. To find beauty and new life in relics left behind, to turn found objects into history lessons, to teach by example the powers of nature, art and time, and to inspire passersby to herald the good work all the way to the Features pages of the local paper — these are acts that create an unending flow of cheer and make me feel extra grateful to be spending my first holiday season in Grosse Pointe.

Thanks again.

MOLLY MCGRANE-CLEARY
Grosse Pointe Farms

Clinic review

To the Editor:

We appreciate the interest we received from the community about the health clinic to be established inside Grosse Pointe North High School and operated by Oakwood Health care, Inc. (Beaumont). The Board of Education voted 5-2 in favor of the interagency agreement at our Nov. 28 meeting.

This clinic is made possible by a grant submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services by the Grosse Pointe Public School System in collaboration with Beaumont. MDHHS currently funds more than 200 clinics located inside schools and Beaumont has been operating school-based clinics for 34 years.

While we shared news of the grant with the GPPSS community last May and Beaumont issued a press release, we appreciate that it came to light more recently for many community members. As often happens, the news then spread quickly, but not always accompanied with complete facts.

As a review, here are some important details:

◆ The clinic will only serve young people ages 5 to 21 who reside in Grosse Pointe or Harper Woods.

◆ We expect, based on use of existing sites, the majority of use from young people outside North will be during the one evening a week the clinic is required by the grant to be open.

◆ While insurance will be billed for those who have it, there is no cost to the individual or school district for services rendered.

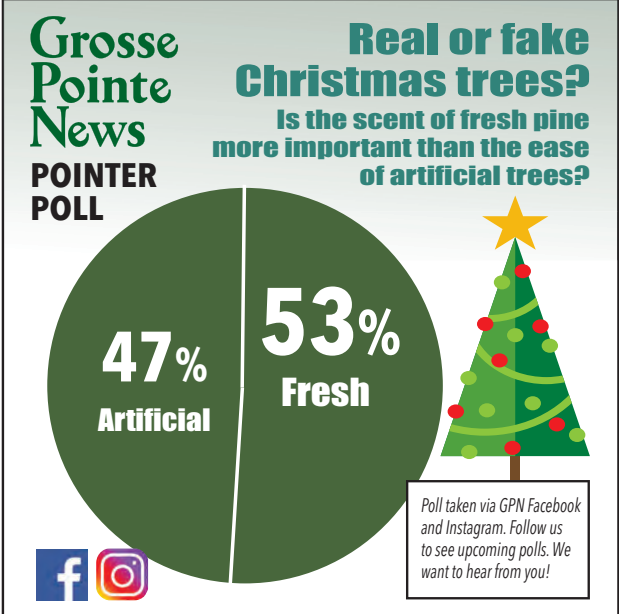
◆ Minor medical issues can be quickly treated, allowing our students to return to class promptly. Parents will be given the option of not picking their child up from school to take them to a medical facility.

◆ While there already are many walk-in and urgent care clinics available in our community, these clinics typically do not manage chronic conditions or offer well visits or on-site mental health services. Regarding the latter, we hear from our school counselors that consultations are weeks if not months out and many providers are no longer accepting new patients.

The purpose of this clinic is clear: to improve health outcomes and enhance overall academic performance.

JOSEPH B. HERD
President, GPPSS Board of Education

See LETTERS, page 7A



I SAY By Brad Lindberg

Favorites are hard to come by



It's a question I'm asked sometimes and rarely think about, but when I do, I'm stumped: What's your favorite story you've written for the Grosse Pointe News?

Favorite has many flavors and interpretations. Gathering breaking news, usually a public safety emergency of some kind, requires of a reporter high energy and aggressiveness to be everywhere at once while successfully getting into everyone's business at a time they're busy doing something else. Continuing coverage of a developing matter requires doggedness and the ability to provide continuous, updated fresh perspective. News sense is essential for enterprise report-

ing, recognizing that something which seems to be nothing is anything but. Political reporting requires savvy and the self-assurance to ask questions beyond the surface and often not accept the answers. Writing art criticism calls for brains, not just to understand the topic, but also to package it in the proper context. Column writing requires being assigned to the task rather than doing something more enjoyable. Sports coverage calls for sparkly writing. A sense of immediacy is needed. Sports writers, after all, are generally called sports writers, not sports reporters. My motorsports and sailboat racing stories are easier to write than expected because I insert throughout the coverage a series of developing ledes verbatim from my notes as the races progress. By the time someone crosses the finish line, the story is practically complete. A story's impact can make it a favorite. I wrote a preview years

ago about a World War II Liberty ship being outfitted in a Toledo drydock prior to visiting Windsor, Ontario, for public tours. Standing beside the vessel in Windsor as tourists lined up at the foot of the gangplank, I overheard a man of Second World War vintage say to a companion, "If I hadn't read about this ship in the Grosse Pointe News, I wouldn't have known about it." That story is thereby among my favorites. The more effort needed to overcome obstacles to get a story, the more of a favorite it becomes. A story I wrote the day after 9/11 contained a quote and named source of an F-16 fighter pilot based at Selfridge field describing how he was guarding airspace between Detroit and Cleveland with orders to shoot down anything, including an airliner, posing a threat. No newspaper I searched on the internet had such information, just unanswered questions and innuendo. I had the real stuff, prompted by hearing the fighter plane

patrolling at night. Sounds weird, but I can discern the engine sound of various military aircraft. The passage was cut from my account. Don't want to scare the public, you know; we're just a weekly, not a real news outlet. Doubt me? I still have the original draft I submitted for editing. A contender for favorite story. Interviewing noted people for a story doesn't make it a favorite, although it is a valuable learning experience to interview public figures, especially those who deal with the press ad infinitum. Robert Kennedy Jr. taught me an interview tactic that I've used ever since and which I won't reveal. Saves me all kinds of time. But I keep thinking back to an event I wasn't keen to cover, a holiday story I anticipated would be time consuming to chronicle with little pay-off, humdrum and cliched on its face. The reward, and the reason for the story possibly being my favorite, is

because of how wrong I was. "The spirit of giving" appeared in the Dec. 19, 2013, Grosse Pointe News. It was about a Shop With a Cop event for special needs children at the Target store at the now-razed Eastland shopping mall in Harper Woods. Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Officer Veronica Cashion coordinated the event. Each child received a free \$100 gift card funded by Target's Heroes and Helpers campaign. A uniformed officer accompanied each boy and girl. Because 50 children — more than twice as expected — signed up for the spree, City of Grosse Pointe Officer Joe Adams, president of sponsoring Fraternal Order of Police Grosse Pointe Lodge 102, recruited extra officers from agencies beyond the Pointes and Harper Woods. The thing that made the day memorable to me was the children's generosity. Sure, they were excited to use their gift cards to buy toys for

themselves, but I remember clearly and distinctly the overwhelming majority of the kids being as thrilled as all get-out to buy Christmas gifts for their brother and sister, mom and dad. The children's selflessness is something I've never forgotten. They were in a toy department with \$100 worth of anything they desired at their whim, yet mainly wanted to give. "Dirty Harry couldn't have made their day better," I reported. "Fifty law enforcement officers wearing red and white Santa hats served as personal shoppers for an equal number of special needs children during Shop With a Cop, Friday, Dec. 13, a lucky day for the Christmas spirit of giving." Now - Lt. Brian Conigliaro of the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department was a patrolman at the time he volunteered to accompany a youngster on the spree. "With the kids, why would you not come?" I reported Conigliaro saying.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

No need

To the Editor:
Where do I start? For years I have read articles and listened to neighbors about the lack of accountability from the school administrators and school board shown toward the taxpayers. The done deal with Corewell Health to build a health clinic inside of North High School is a prime example why I do not vote for mileage increases. In 2019, Grosse Pointe taxpayers approved an increase in the sinking fund millage with the understanding the money will be utilized for improvements on the school campuses. Now the administration and school board members (with the exception of Papas and Ismail) approved \$700,000 drawn from this account to pay for a health clinic that will be open to everyone, not just students. My understanding is that this is only the beginning of redirecting funds from the school funding. I say it is time to terminate the administration and hire professionals whose objective is to place the students' educational requirements and safety first. On Mack Avenue between Vernier and East Warren there are three urgent care facilities — not mentioning Ascension St. John Hospital, Cottage emergency and Beaumont Hospital — within Grosse Pointe. I do not see that a health clinic should be built within any GP schools.

MARGARET POTTER
Grosse Pointe Woods

Many thanks

To the Editor:
The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods is incredibly grateful for the generosity of our 22nd

annual Hollyfest sponsors, donors and attendees. Very special thanks to our Hollyfest honorees, John and Terry Minnis, for their dedication to The Family Center and their outstanding service to our community. We were impressed by the beautiful new Alger Center at The War Memorial and thank their team for their warm hospitality. Many thanks to Hollyfest Chair Christine Alcantara, our auctioneer Jerry Antonelli and The Grunyons for their festive performance. Thank you to all of our sponsors and auction donors for their tremendous support (see a complete list of sponsors online at grossepointe.news.com). We are excited to put the funds raised back into the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communities by providing resources and education that empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges

and by offering programs on a wide range of topics aimed at building strong families and helping parents raise children who will become competent, caring and responsible community members.
Jennifer Bingaman, executive director
MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration
The Family Center

Missed opportunity

To the Editor:
Wasn't that a lovely scene of the sunrise over Lake St. Clair on Thanksgiving morning? Too bad that the people walking the dog couldn't put their cell phones away for long enough to actually experience it.
DENNIS COTTER
Grosse Pointe Park

Increasing awareness

To the Editor:
I want to thank you for publishing the article

about my desire to increase pancreatic cancer awareness in the Nov. 24 issue of the Grosse Pointe News. Ted O'Neil did an outstanding job explaining the hidden signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer.

With November being National Pancreatic cancer awareness month, I felt it was important to make people aware of this cancer, since it is not talked about or screened for, like so many other

cancers. I again want to emphasize — listen to your body. Go to your doctor if you're not feeling right. Get a second or third opinion until you are satisfied.
AARON BINDER
City of Grosse Pointe

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SCAN TO LEARN MORE:





Indian Village home and garden tour arrives just in time for the holidays

By Michael Hartt
Schools Reporter

Sunday, Dec. 11, the Indian Village Holiday Home Tour will commence for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event features tours of five homes within the Historic Indian Village neighborhood on Detroit's east side.

The neighborhood, which was unofficially formed in 1894 with the construction of its first house and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, comprises more than 300 historic homes featuring



almost 30 architectural styles. Many members of Grosse Pointe's well-known families of the early 20th century — with names such as Ford, Dodge and Stroh — built homes in the neighborhood before later moving to Grosse Pointe.

Renata Miller, president of the Indian Village Women's Garden Club and chairwoman of the Holiday Home Tour, said the tour this year features some of Indian Village's finest homes, including many that have not been opened to the

public since she moved to the neighborhood 14 years ago.

"This year, the tour is starting at Frederick Stearns Home. (It) just underwent extensive renovations and it is beautifully decorated for the holidays," Miller said. "Later, we will visit the main home on the Austin Elbert Morey property and will have an opportunity to walk through (its) over 7,000 square feet (of floor space)."

The Morey home, which Miller said is dubbed "the castle" by some in the neighborhood, was designed in the Romanesque Revival

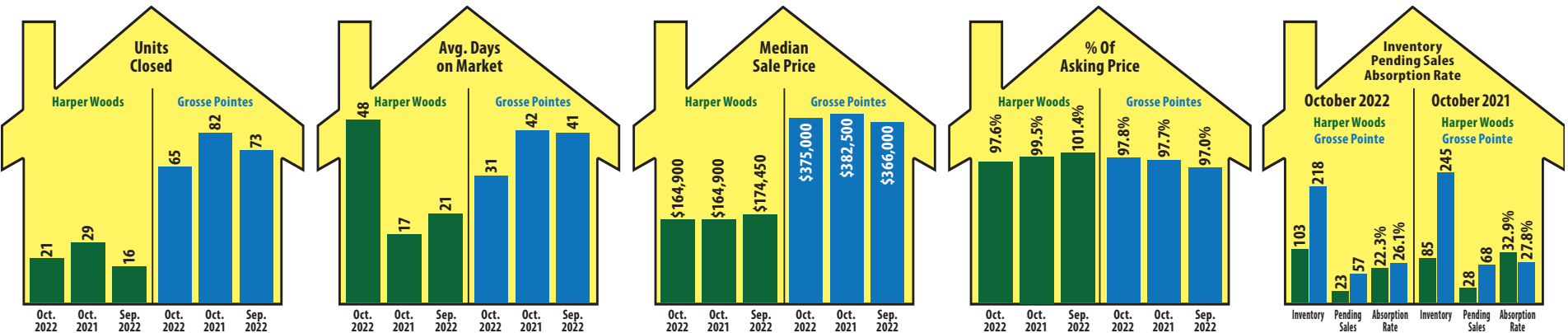
style by Louis Kamper, an esteemed Detroit-based architect who also designed the Book-Cadillac Hotel and Book Building in downtown Detroit.

Miller said while she often recommends attending the tour to see beautiful historic homes and learn more about Detroit's history, another significant aspect of the tour is the scholarship fund it endows.

Proceeds of the tour fund the Artelia Brown Court Scholarship, which was established in 1983, by the Indian Village Women's Garden Club, to assist undergraduate stu-

dents residing in Detroit and surrounding communities in honor of their late member, Artelia Brown Court.

Tickets for the tour are \$50, are sold for 10 tour start times between noon and 4:30 p.m. and may be purchased at eventbrite.com.



Market not demonstrating anticipated stress from higher interest rates

October housing data for 2022 has been released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. The first observation is that the market is not demonstrating the stress anticipated by the higher interest rates buyers currently are finding. Days on market is lower than expected in the Grosse Pointes, higher than expected in Harper Woods. Unit sales for both markets are down both year over year and month over month, but seasonality trends may be playing a larger role

than thought. Percent of asking price is still at what are considered traditional levels in a normal market, which is anything but what we have seen the last almost four years. The one metric that continues to demonstrate resilience is the absorption rate, which remains nicely above 18.3 percent, which is the beginning of a balanced market. This continues to support the idea that while buying today may be uncomfortable, it will be downright painful next year.

While we know this may be far too much information for some, it only signals the importance of working with a real estate professional. Consequently, whether buying your first home, selling a home or both, you need someone who knows these market trends. Consult with a member of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. Information courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

Notes:

- ◆ Inventory: The number of homes for sale at the beginning of each month, plus the number of homes listed during the month.
- ◆ Pending sales: The number of accepted offers reported for the month.
- ◆ Absorption Rate: The division of the number of pending sales in a month by inventory. An absorption rate higher than 18.3 percent is considered a seller's market. An absorption rate less than 15.3 percent is considered a buyer's market.

Woods dives into master plan

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Council took the first step toward revising the city's master plan at its meeting Monday, Nov. 21, awarding a contract to Giffels Webster for \$15,500 to begin the process. Giffels Webster is a Detroit-based civil engineering firm that

revamped the city's zoning ordinances earlier this year to make them searchable online. According to the American Planning Association, a master plan is a "policy guide that helps communities create a vision of what they want to look like in the future." As a policy guide, a master plan does not carry the weight of law on its own, but rather

is used to shape the ordinances that do. State law requires municipalities to revisit their master plan every five years, according to City Administrator Frank Schulte. "It's a chance to look at the various zoning issues that might come up and see where we can create opportunities in the future," he added. The first step is for the

city to issue what is known as a "notice of intent to plan," including a brief overview of the city and its history. That overview will include existing conditions such as population, number of houses and businesses, a local economic overview and existing land uses. The contract with Giffels Webster says once that is complete, the planning commission

and city council will hold a joint meeting to "assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" in the master plan, followed by an open house to get public feedback. The master plan also makes reference to various single-issue studies the city has done in previous years, such as neighborhood vitality, blight prevention and a master tree plan. The first phase is expected to start this month and wrap up in

August. "Once we go through all those steps, we'll know which way to go," Schulte said. "The planning commission will make a recommendation to council on any changes." Schulte doesn't anticipate much in the way of change. "We're pretty built out as it is, so there's really not a lot of potential for new development," he said. "This just helps us be ready for what may come down the road."



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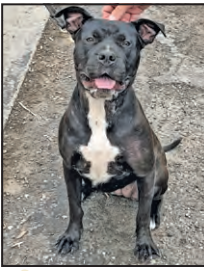
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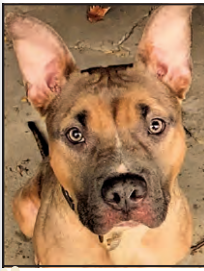
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Posterity Gallery changes hands

Gallery will focus more on exhibiting artists' work

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — In 2020, artist Michelle Boggess-Nunley set up shop in the window of Posterity Gallery, offering a clear view as she created what eventually would become a Guinness World Record holder for the world's largest hand-drawn maze.

She spent weeks at the shop, sharing stories and laughs with store owner, Sherry McInerney, as well as shoppers, artists and curious passersby.

"I fell in love with this place," she said of Posterity. "I fell in love with everybody — the artists, the owner. Sherry and I would joke about if she was ever going to retire. And then she finally decided to spend more time with her grandbabies."

When McInerney made the decision to retire, she reached out to Boggess-Nunley. From that point on, their casual joking about the business changing hands turned serious.

Four weeks ago — after two months of learning the ins and outs of the framing business — Boggess-Nunley officially became the new owner of Posterity Gallery.

Though McInerney has been "my moral support," Boggess-Nunley said, and regularly stops by the shop to be of assistance, there's been more to the transition than a change in leadership. Regular customers of Posterity have noticed a change in scenery, too.

"I took down a wall,



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Michelle Boggess-Nunley recently became the new owner of Posterity Gallery, following the retirement of Sherry McInerney. She will focus on hosting art exhibitions in the newly remodeled space.

updated the electrical and lighting," the new owner said. "I've done lots of cleaning in renovating the space."

Boggess-Nunley built a new wall near the front of the shop and added dark gray carpet to the gallery walls — a big change from its former "comfy and cozy up-north cottage feel," she said.

Most customers, she added, frequented the store specifically for framing services, rather than the art Boggess-Nunley hopes will become the star attraction. Her remodeling efforts provide more space to exhibit art work.

"I brought in a lot more artists," she said, "more crafters and original-made art. I'm adding more art and making it more of a gallery,

which makes a big difference. And it's all Michigan artists."

Posterity will see a complete gallery changeover once a month and artists will be able to come in and change out their work during that timeframe. Solo and group shows are being planned.

"It's all curated work," she said, adding she plans to exhibit work from emerging artists a couple times a year, as well as themed exhibits.

Other plans in the works include hosting cocktail parties, artist talks and after-hours summer art classes on the back patio.

"I would love to do artist openings like bigger galleries do," she said. "We'll have artist talks, where artists talk about their work, and closing receptions —

more like a real gallery. I don't think there's anything like this in the area. I would like the art to go to other businesses in the area, too, where they can adopt a painting and hang it on the wall and it would be for sale."

Despite a focus on exhibitions, Posterity still will offer framing options, though Boggess-Nunley has changes in store for that as well.

"I want to completely go digital with the framing part," she said. "I want to modernize the whole framing experi-

ence, make it more affordable, do it all online. Framing is going away. People aren't buying at frame shops anymore. My goal is to show people a need for custom framing. It brings photographs to life. Without a professional touch, you don't get that quality look. So bringing in modernized frames will help. On the website, you'll be able to upload a photo or a painting photo and pick frames on the site. That will make it easier and more affordable."

Though she toyed with the idea of renam-

Giving tree

Posterity Gallery and Boggess Art are partnering with Spaulding for Children this holiday season to make sure every child gets a Christmas. Everyone who donates an item will be entered to win a \$100 gift card to use on anything in the gallery.

To participate, stop by Posterity Gallery, 17005 Kercheval in The Village, and choose an ornament from the tree; each ornament includes a child's name and gift wish. Leave your name and contact information to enter the drawing and be sure to drop off any donated items before Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Spaulding for Children's mission is to assure all children grow up in safe, permanent families and have the help they need to be successful in life.

For more information, call (313) 884-8105.

ing the gallery to reflect her ownership, she opted against it.

"I was going to change it," she said, "but I feel like because Posterity Gallery has been here over 30 years, that's a long time, so I thought keeping it was important."

"... This is not my space; it's not my gallery — it's for anybody," she added. "Art is for everybody — adults, kids and seniors, art enthusiasts and people who don't know anything about art. Everybody is welcome to come and see all the talent we have in our local community."

Posterity Galley is located at 17005 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. For more information, visit posterityartgallery.com or call (313) 884-8105.

HONOR:

Continued from page 3A

Howlett said. "This has been an important client of our firm. Many of our partners live in Grosse Pointe Park."

Howlett's predecessors at Park city hall, Bodman attorneys Herold "Mac" Deason and Dennis Lavasseur, also live in the Park.

"(They) provided fair, accurate and unbiased legal advice to the community," reads the resolution.

"It's been an honor and a privilege," Howlett said.

Park council members

cited cost savings in September when switching legal counsel to The Kelly Firm.

"This decision has nothing to do with the quality of your work," Hodges told Howlett at the time. "Rather, we have an opportunity to

save taxpayers some dollars."

Another law firm, McGraw Morris, was chosen in October to handle legal services for the Tax Increment Finance Authority and Downtown Development Authority.



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RECOUNT:

Continued from page 1A

pay for it.

“That wasn’t apparent to me at the time, but I have come to understand that,” he said. “I am definitely still going to proceed though.”

Klepp finished fourth among 10 candidates who were vying for three open seats on the board in the Nov. 8 general election. His 9,874 votes left him 14 shy of Ginny Jeup’s third-place finish with 9,888. Sean Cotton and Valarie St. John took the top two spots with 12,494 and 10,712 votes, respectively.

At this point, the county does not have an estimate how much the recount will

cost. There were more than 31,000 ballots cast with each voter choosing up to three candidates. The process will be costly and time consuming as recounts are performed by hand and all ballots will be examined, including votes for all 10 candidates rather than just votes for Klepp and Jeup.

“American elections set a standard for accuracy and fairness for the world to follow, so in making this petition, I realize that the likelihood of a change in the result is low,” Klepp said in announcing his intent on his campaign Facebook page. “The most likely outcome is confirmation that I lost to Ms. Jeup by 14 votes. However, with a margin this thin, I feel compelled to ensure that

every vote is counted as it was intended.”

State law says a candidate asking for a recount can do so if they think the outcome is “incorrect because of fraud or error,” and they must file a notarized statement saying they “have a good-faith belief that they would have had a reasonable chance of winning the election” if not for error.

Cotton and Jeup, through their attorneys, filed an objection to Klepp’s petition, stating it does not list any specific instances of fraud or mistakes.

“Instead, the petition points only to the fact that he lost by a small margin,” the objection reads. “But the allegations do not provide any

indication that this margin or loss was due to fraud or error, as Michigan Election Law requires.”

The Board of Canvassers also voted 4-0 to reject Cotton and Jeup’s objection, as well as one filed by Terry Collins, who finished sixth in the race.

In announcing his pursuit of the recount, Klepp asked supporters for further campaign donations to cover costs, writing, “Legal, county and other costs for the recount are estimated at \$8,000 - \$10,000,” and said six days later he was about \$1,500 short of that goal.

Klepp told the GP News he used a portion of that money to pay for the deposit and that a bulk of it will pay for

an attorney he has retained to advise him. He noted the attorney will be on-site during the recount to “handle any issues that come up.”

Klepp added that he would be open to looking at ways to reimburse the district for at least part of the recount cost, but had not thought about how that might work this early in the process.

Superintendent Jon Dean said the district has no control over the decision and that “Per state law, a recount is a matter between a candidate and elected officials.”

Board President Joe Herd, who lost his bid for re-election last month, said he was not concerned about the cost because “that is part of the process.”

CLINIC:

Continued from page 1A

posted on its website.

“I was stunned to hear the cost is already \$215,000 higher,” said Trustee Lisa Papas, who also serves on the Facilities Committee. “One of the biggest problems since this whole thing started is that we did not use our standard practices and procedures that we’ve used on other projects.”

Papas and Trustee Ahmed Ismail were the only board members to vote against the clinic at the meeting Nov. 28. Members Joe Herd, Colleen Worden, Chris Lee, Margaret Weertz and David Brumbaugh voted in favor.

“I think that should invalidate the vote,” Papas said of the new cost details.

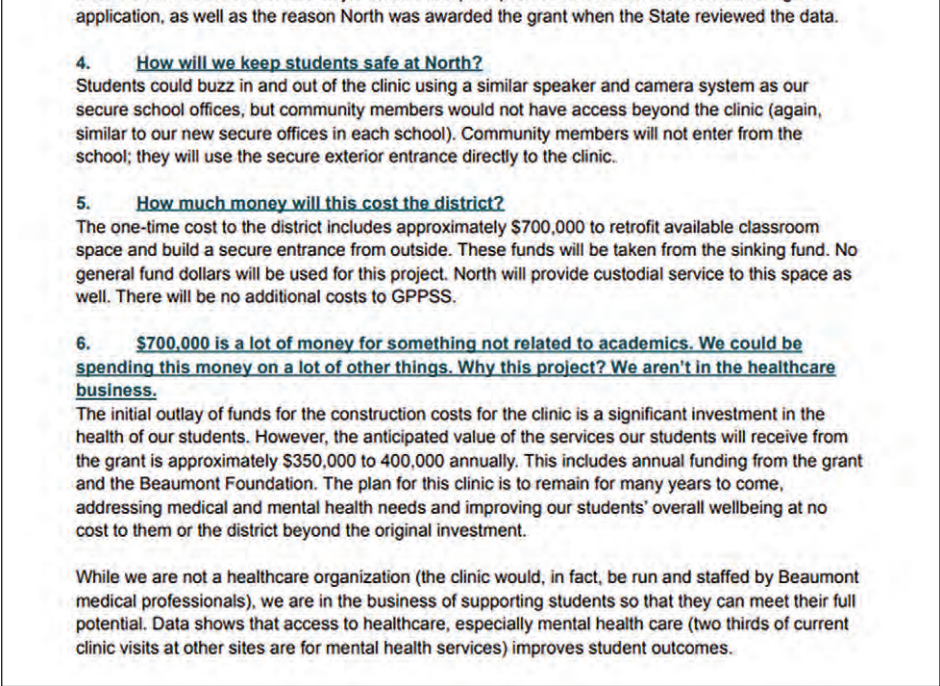
Superintendent Jon Dean said the difference between the costs is the

difference between an estimate and hard bids.

“Turner Construction gave us what’s called a design and development estimate in August and said it would cost around \$700,000,” he said. “When they took a look at all of the hard costs and received their bids (from subcontractors), it came in more than the estimate.”

Dean said bids were sought by the district starting Nov. 1, which was before the project was approved, and Turner received its bids Nov. 11 from subcontractors. The district received Turner’s information Dec. 5.

The board voted to approve an interagency agreement Nov. 28 with Corewell Health, formerly Beaumont Health, to build the clinic using sinking fund money. Plans call for it to be located in an unused science lab. The money will be spent on sanitary sewer upgrades,



A screenshot of the district’s FAQ page on its website.

five new sinks, two new bathrooms and a self-contained HVAC system, all of which are required by state law for a clinic to be located in a school building.

Corewell Health will operate the clinic through

a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. It currently operates 16 similar clinics in other districts.

The clinic, which is open to not just students but adults as well, from

the Pointes and Harper Woods, will include a security system that requires people to be buzzed in from outside the building, and a vestibule that requires North students to be buzzed into the clinic from the

school and back into the school.

“We’ve been told we have \$8 million in parking lot repairs that need to be done and North is the worst,” Papas added. “And the roof leaks at North. I guess if that leads to mold, students can always go down to the clinic and get an asthma inhaler.”

Several concerns were raised at the last board meeting, with members of the public urging the board to examine the issue more closely, noting the Nov. 14 board meeting was the first full presentation of the idea.

Will Broman, who ran for school board last month, in an open letter to the district noted several inconsistencies in Corewell’s application to the state, including enrollment numbers that don’t match district numbers and that the application did not cite all of the other clinic and doctor availability to the Pointes.



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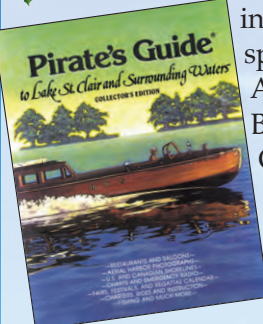
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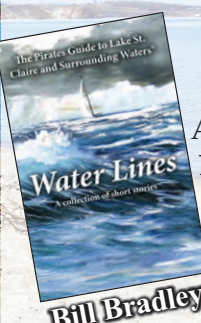


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2-3B DECK THE HALLS | 4B OBITUARIES | 4B AREA ACTIVITIES | 5B CHURCHES

Salon owner says so long after 60 years Edward Nepi Salon closing doors Dec. 31

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It was a bittersweet decision when Tess Nepi made the decision to retire.

As she approaches 60 years of serving the Grosse Pointe community — many of those years with her husband by her side — the soon-to-be 90-year-old decided it was time to call it a career.

Edward Nepi Salon will close its doors for the last time Saturday, Dec. 31.

“I’m doing this with mixed emotions,” Nepi said. “It’s hard.

“People were begging me not to close, but it’s time,” she added. “I just loved it. I still do. I could continue another five or six years, but my 62-year-old daughter just retired and she needed somebody to travel with and do things with.”

Edward Nepi was a well-known, well-respected and in-demand hairdresser even before the Nepis opened their own salon. He first



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Tess Nepi will close the doors of Edward Nepi Salon after 60 years of serving the community.

worked at Jacobson’s before joining the team at Leon’s Salon.

“Leon came and stole him from Jacobson’s,” Nepi said. “Leon told me, ‘Tess, I need your help at a new salon on Washington and Mack.’ We worked our buns off. I worked at Wayne State then, so I told him I couldn’t help him during

the day, but after 4:30 in the afternoon, I could help. I was a bookkeeper.”

However, when her husband’s schedule became too taxing — he was being booked for appointments every 15 minutes — Nepi stepped in.

“I told Leon, ‘You’re booking Edward where

he cannot do the work he does in 15 minutes,’” she said. “I said, ‘I’m giving you a month’s notice; we’re going to leave. We gave seven good years; you will not wear my husband down to the point where he’s exhausted. I won’t let that happen.’”

The couple knew of a place in Grosse Pointe that rented space to hair-

dressers.

“It was the only place in the state that was renting space at that time,” Nepi said.

It was 1963 and Nepi had just given birth to their third child, a son. She was on her way to the salon — walking from Kensington and Warren with her three-month-old — when she happened upon the owner of a building for sale. A quick thinker and savvy businesswoman, Nepi fished in her pocket, handed the woman \$20 and asked her to take down the for-sale sign.

“I told her I would send her whatever else she needed when she was ready,” she recalled.

The simple transaction led to the start of Edward Nepi Salon, which became their place of business and home away from home for decades.

“Since I was 30 years old, I’ve been here,” Nepi said. “It’ll be 60 years next year that I’ll be here. We opened the first or second of January; I bought the store in 1963.”

At the time, it was decked out in crystals and chandeliers, Nepi said. She redecorated

four times over the years, modernizing and refreshing the interior with the changing times. The salon served a variety of clientele, including the rich and famous variety.

“My husband was a fabulous hairdresser,” Nepi said. “He did a lot of celebrity clients like Olivia de Havilland, Lainie Kazan, Maria Callas, Henry Ford’s wife, Cristina. He had a nice clientele and they loved him.

“... I was a makeup artist and bookkeeper,” she continued. “In 1964, I got my license to be a hairdresser, but I hated doing hair. But back then you couldn’t touch someone’s face without being licensed, so I had to go to school and learn all that stuff in order to do makeup.”

And a lot of makeup she did.

“There were so many people in here you couldn’t walk through the store,” she recalled. “It’s almost dead now, even during the holidays. At the time, there were all these big parties. We’d stay open until 10 o’clock and take care of all the updos. You don’t see that anymore.”

Though times have

See SALON, page 6B

Longtime GP Community Chorus director steps down

Farewell concert is Dec. 11, at St. Clare of Montefalco

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

After 13 years at the helm of the Grosse Pointe Community Chorus, Joseph Palazzolo will direct his final concert before stepping down to focus on other pursuits.

“Holiday Memories” takes place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

The program features a selection of Palazzolo’s favorite chorus numbers dating back to 2009, as well as music “appropriate for a holiday concert,” he said. “I’ll chat a bit between numbers, giving you a window into the pieces and what they mean to me.”

When choosing the program, he continued, his focus was on the war in Ukraine.

“I wanted to speak to freedom and liberty and peace,” he said. “Most of the numbers are reflecting that.”

Palazzolo was the accompanist for the GP Community Chorus for two years before then-director Anna Speck leaned over to him dur-

ing a rehearsal and whispered, “Want a job?”

As he recalled, “In September of 2009, I find myself standing in front of a 70-voice chorus with master accompanist Ron Pietrantoni at the piano and the rest is history.”

From the start he received a warm welcome, as well as the collective chorus’s willingness to work hard to achieve great results. During the last 13 years, those results have yielded myriad fond memories and unforgettable partnerships, including with the Our Lady Star of the Sea choir, Grosse Pointe Symphony, singers from Grosse Pointe North High School and the handbell choir at First English Lutheran Church.

“One of the most thrilling events for me was directing the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic Orchestra performing a Mozart Mass with us,” he said.

Three movements from that Mass will be performed at his farewell concert.

Though stepping down as music director of the chorus, Palazzolo will retain his role as music director at Grosse Pointe



Though stepping down as director of the Grosse Pointe Community Chorus, Joseph Palazzolo will continue giving piano lessons. Here, he instructs Chloe Loucks at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Unitarian Church, a post he’s held since 2002. He’ll also continue giving piano lessons there three days a week; he currently has 12 students.

“I still love teaching,” he said. “I get a kick out of these little kids coming in and 12 years later at their senior recital they’re performing Chopin or Beethoven.”

In addition, he recently became the music director at Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Farmington Hills.

“And I perform myself,” he added. “I have a busier concert schedule now ... so I want to concentrate

more on performing. (Stepping down from GPCC) will give me more time to practice.”

In addition to the chorus, “Holiday Memories” features world-class violinist Sonia Lee, as well as an organ solo by David Troiano, the former music director at St. Clare of Montefalco.

As Palazzolo prepares to direct his final chorus concert, he praised the wonderful support he’s received throughout the years, from the board of directors and others.

“Thanks so much to Diane Andriotakis and the chorus’ current president, Sandra Mengel, for

keeping us organized and paving the way with all the behind-the-scenes work that hardly anybody sees but without which the chorus, as well as myself, the director, would truly have suffered,” he said. “Thanks go most of all to our brilliant accompanist, Ron Pietrantoni. His professionalism and expertise have made rehearsals a real joy for me. ... I bid a fond farewell to all chorus members past and present as I turn to the next chapter in my life.”

Tenor section leader Ken Hermonat will serve as interim director moving forward.

“Good luck and best wishes to my longtime friend, Ken Hermonat, as he mounts the podium to continue the wonderful work that our founders, Malcolm and Marian Johns, began in 1953.”

Tickets for “Holiday Memories” are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$5 for ages 12 and younger.

Tickets are available at Moehring Woods Florist, 20923 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods; and Posterity Gallery, 17005 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

For more information, visit grossepointecommunitychorus.org.

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DECK THE HALLS

Grosse Pointe aglow

Holiday spirit shines throughout neighborhoods

A beloved Christmas tradition is driving through the streets of the Pointes to ooh and ahh at the beautiful displays created by neighbors and the community. We've captured some of these breathtaking efforts, which you just might want to bundle up and see in person, they're so spectacular! Like the elegant lighting masterpiece above, on Lothrop in Grosse Pointe Farms, a lot of time, care and creativity goes into these luminous labors of love.



MAKING THE SEASON BRIGHT

This stunning home on Lothrop in Grosse Pointe Farms is bedecked with elegant white lights and a king-size lighted wreath as a centerpiece.

PHOTOS BY
RENEE LANDUYT
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Grosse Pointe News
BEST of the BEST
2022



HOLIDAY BEST

A gorgeous garden of lights blankets the shrubbery and shines all over the house and trees at a home on Lake Shore in Grosse Pointe Shores, above – giving off a beautiful glow for all to enjoy.

Right: Here comes Santa Claus! There’s something wonderful happening ‘up on the rooftop’ of a stunning home on Washington in the City of Grosse Pointe. White lights, green shrubs and red bows set off the great architecture and produce a lovely holiday vignette.

Below top, a joyful star-studded display graces a fine house on Whittier in Grosse Pointe Park. Below middle, circular wreath-like lights in the lower windows accent the beauty of this stately home on Ridge Rd. in Grosse Pointe Farms.



OH, WHAT A LIGHT!

If you live in the Grosse Pointe area, you probably recognize this glorious fully-lit tree on Lake Shore in Grosse Pointe Farms. We can’t imagine the number of lights it takes to intricately show off every branch and detail, but it is truly magnificent and a part of the holiday joy for the whole community each year. Bravo and Merry Christmas!

On the corner of Grosse Pointe Blvd. and Moross sits the prettiest bell display, left. The garland greenery and white lights with red bow accents create a traditional scene of holiday cheer for passersby.

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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.

Myrna Moxley Smith

Myrna Moxley Smith, 83, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Myrna was born Oct. 17, 1939, in Ypsilanti, to Ralph W. Moxley and Berniece Throne Moxley, both now deceased. She graduated from Birmingham Seaholm High School and the University of Michigan, where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi. U of M was a lifelong passion and Myrna was a devoted Wolverines fan. She will be remembered for her strength, passion and determined attitude.

Myrna loved to entertain and meet people; she was outspoken and fierce, but also loved to take people under her wing and help them. She was a longtime resident of the City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms.

Myrna was a teacher until her children were born, then became active in the Junior League of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, FLEC and many other activities. When her children were older, Myrna was a Realtor in Grosse Pointe and active in the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors and the Women's Board of Realtors. She also became involved in Daughters of the American Revolution and the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

Myrna was a City of Grosse Pointe City Council member in the 1980s and '90s and ran for mayor in 1993. She moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2012, and became active in the Junior League of Cincinnati and Knox Presbyterian Church.

Myrna is survived by her daughters, Laurie Kelley (Jeff) of Grand Haven and Mary Anne Newman (Doug) of Mariemont, Ohio; her beloved grandchildren, Kate, Lainey and Ella Newman, and Jonathan and Matthew Kelley; brothers, Richard Moxley (the late Judith) and Ralph Moxley (Kathi); and many cousins and extended family members.

A memorial service for Myrna will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. There will be a private inurnment in the columbarium inside Barbour Chapel at the church.

In lieu of flowers, Myrna requested dona-

tions to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, or the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

John C. Louisell

John C. Louisell, 75, died Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022, at his home in Grosse Pointe Woods. He was born Sept. 9, 1947, in Detroit, to Joseph and Olive Louisell (nee Cross), both now deceased.

John, more affectionately known as Jack, grew up in Grosse Pointe Park. He was one of 10 children. Jack graduated from Grosse Pointe High School, then went to Wayne State University for his undergraduate studies before receiving his Juris Doctorate from Detroit College of Law.

In his early years, Jack played keyboard for his local touring band, The Underdogs. His claim to fame was being the first rock group to sign with Motown Records. The band had periodic performances alongside Bob Seger in the mid-1960s.

For more than 47 years, Jack practiced commercial litigation, automotive and industrial, international, business and corporate law across state and federal courts until his retirement in 2016. In the early years of his career, he spent time in Washington, D.C., working for the Reagan Administration. Jack was a more than 20-year member of Bayview Yacht Club. During that time, he was an active boater and chaired the trap shooting committee. He also loved skiing with family and friends at Otsego Ski Club.

Jack truly enjoyed watching his daughter, Page, play travel soccer, swimming and lacrosse. He also loved to watch his son, Matthew, play travel hockey and junior golf. He always was there to cheer them both on. Jack also enjoyed golfing and was in a few leagues in his later years.

Jack was very supportive of his kids' development, but also held his father and famous Detroit attorney, Joseph Louisell, in high regard as a mentor throughout his professional life. He always was a proud Louisell family member and enjoyed sharing stories of his life growing up in Detroit in the 1960s while elaborating on his father's notable law

career.

Throughout his adult life, Jack was an active member in various organizations, including the Detroit Athletic Club, Bayview Yacht Club, Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and Andiamo Charity Golf.

Jack was the loving father of Matthew Louisell and Page Woodward (Chas); and dear brother of Constance "Midgie" Fannon, Mary Jo Youngblood (John), Paul Louisell (Kathryn "Kit"), Marcia McFawn (Joe), Olivene "Livvie" Lutfy (James), the late Julie Bourke (the late Jeremiah), the late James Louisell, the late Joseph Louisell and the late Gregory Louisell. He is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

A gathering took place Nov. 23, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church.

Cremation arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc., Grosse Pointe Park.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Marguerite Katherine Kaiser

Marguerite Katherine Kaiser, 101, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

Marguerite was born Oct. 12, 1921, in Detroit, to Arthur and Miriam Fell. She married the love of her life, Joseph Kaiser III, in 1943. They enjoyed 75 beautiful years of marriage until he passed in 2018.

Joe and Marguerite raised their three children in Grosse Pointe, where they spent the majority of their lives before moving to Naples, Fla. Together, the couple enjoyed traveling the world, boating on Lake St. Clair from the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club to the Old Club on Harsens Island, and golfing at the Country Club of Detroit, Royal Poinciana and Pelican Bay Golf Club. They also led an active social life through bowling leagues, bridge games and frequent visits with family.

At age 100, Marguerite authored a book on her life, "Be Happy and Make Others Happy — 100 Questions with a Centenarian," to share the same valuable lessons with the world that she taught her family.

As the matriarch, her every word and action inspired her family to love unconditionally just



Myrna Moxley Smith



Anne M. Scapini

as she did. Above all, Marguerite radiated joy. Her happiness was contagious and inspired all who knew her to approach their own lives with the same enthusiasm. While she will be missed, her loved ones find comfort in knowing she is now reunited with her Joe in heaven.

Marguerite is survived by her children, Jacqueline (John), Joseph IV (Maureen) and Robert; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Anne M. Scapini

Anne M. Scapini (nee Ottolini), 88, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Friday, Dec. 2, 2022.

Anne was born July 24, 1934, to John and Maria Ottolini.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Vincent, to whom she was happily married for 52 years.

Anne is survived by her loving children, Dr. Mark Scapini (Susan), Michael Scapini (Maureen), Janet Peters (Anthony Jr.) and Paul Scapini (Christine); loving grandchildren, Matthew Scapini, Katherine Macha (Josh), Mary Keener (Christopher), Melissa Scapini, Michele Hoenicke (Brandon), Madeleine Pizzimenti (Joseph), Amanda Butler (Eric), Anthony Peters III, Carolyn Peters, John Peters, Dr. Nicholas Scapini, Angela Scapini and Andrea Scapini; and loving great-grandchildren, Leighton, Brooks, Luke, Gianna, Sophia and Gabriella.

Visitation for Anne takes place from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, with a Rosary service at 7 p.m., at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705



John C. Louisell



Eleanor Janutol

Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. She will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. until the funeral Mass at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Eleanor Janutol

Eleanor Janutol, 96, passed away early morning Monday, Nov. 28, 2022. She spent her final hours surrounded by her children and family members, who said their farewells and prayers.

Eleanor was a woman of great faith and truly lived out the commandment to love one another. She served as a Henry Ford Cottage Hospital hospice volunteer for more than 40 years due to her belief that cancer patients should not die alone and family members need respite and care. Eleanor also served as a member of the Altar Guild at St. Juliana Church in Detroit, as well as a Eucharistic minister for St. Lucy Church, with decades of service to St. Mary's Nursing Home, both in St. Clair Shores.

When she wasn't caring for her children or others through volunteer work, Eleanor enjoyed gardening, worldwide travel with the Nomads Travel Club, dancing with her husband David, and cooking and sharing family food traditions. She organized many family celebrations and gatherings throughout the decades.

Eleanor was blessed with 53 years of marriage to the late David Janutol. She is survived by her children, Peter (Barb), Louise Eisenbrey (Brad), Linda Bartos (Greg), Chip (Sue), Angela Aufdemberge (John) and Lisa Frasier (Tim); 16 grandchildren, Chris Janutol, Liz Hubbell, Lauren Smith,



Marguerite K. Kaiser



Mary Ann Schwantiz-Olson

Nick Janutol, David Eisenbrey, Ned Eisenbrey, Emily Rennpage, Tom Budday, Adam Budday, Austin Janutol, Shelby Kelsh, Ian Aufdemberge, Phil Aufdemberge, Will Aufdemberge, Jack Frasier and Anthony Frasier; and 22 great-grandchildren. Eleanor's sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Tony Grego, as well as their five children and families, were a large part of regular family celebrations. Eleanor's late brother, Louis Carabelli, and his late spouse, Shirley, were early travel partners for Eleanor and David.

Services already have been held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Vista Maria, vistamaria.com.

Mary Ann Schwantiz-Olson

Mary Ann Schwantiz-Olson, 66, passed away Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022, in Grosse Pointe Woods after a long-fought battle with cancer.

Mary Ann was born April 16, 1956, in Detroit, to George and Dolores Schwantiz, both now deceased. She graduated from Denby High School in 1974.

Mary Ann worked at various custom framing shops and also at Foot Solutions in St. Clair Shores. She also rescued cats.

She leaves behind many friends and her partner of more than nine years, Keith Madeleine.

Mary Ann was predeceased by her brother, Greg. She is survived by her sisters, Lynda and Jennifer, and her nephew, Ian.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org/donate.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Ford House

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

◆ Talk: Detroit's Design DNA: The DIA's 1949 For Modern Living Exhibition, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8.

◆ Cookies with Santa, 2 to 7 p.m. Dec. 10, 13, 14 and 17. Cost is \$20 for

members, \$30 for nonmembers.

◆ Breakfast with Santa, various times Sundays, Dec. 11 and 18. Cost is \$50 for members, \$65 for nonmembers, \$25 for children members, \$35 for children nonmembers.

◆ Mistletoe Mingle, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 and 29. Includes drinks, light refreshments and a

tour of the estate. Cost is \$45 for members, \$65 for nonmembers.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical Breakfast meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at Grosse Pointe Memorial

Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Jeff Lincicome, pastor and head of staff at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, speaks. Cost for breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

Food drive

A food drive organized by a men's Bible study group at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 10, at Fresh Farms Market, 355 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe. Food

donations will be distributed to local food banks.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of programs. To register or purchase tickets for the following, visit warmemorial.org:

◆ Youth Etiquette & Holiday Manners, for ages 8 to 12, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10. Cost is \$90.

◆ Magical Holidays with Gordon the Magician, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

11. General admission is \$18 per person.

◆ The Wine Counselor: Super Sparklers, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Cost is \$65.

◆ Bedtime Stories with Santa, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, and Sunday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$15 for children; adults are admitted free.

Historical Society

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, is hosting a holi-

See EVENTS, page 5B

Donations being collected for rescue group

The 2008 St. Clair Shores Saints hockey team, many of whom reside in the Grosse Pointes, is supporting the Detroit Animal Welfare Group this holiday season. Team members are collecting a variety of items for the organization and also plan to spend a day volunteering for the Romeo-based nonprofit, which helps neglected, sick and homeless animals throughout different communities.

DAWG is a 25-acre farm that includes a dog kennel, heated barn for farm animals and several enclosures for wildlife rehabilitation. Learn more about the organization at dawghous.com.

The deadline for donations is Saturday, Dec. 17. Donations may either be dropped off at the Grosse Pointe News office, 16980 Kercheval Place, City of Grosse Pointe, or may be sent to or dropped off at DAWG, 78440 McKay, Bruce Township.

The following items are sought:

- Purina Pro Plan chicken and rice canned food
- Purina Pro Plan chicken and rice shredded dry food

- Pupperonis, Beggin strips, Nyla bones
- Bully sticks
- Medium and large collars
- Paper towel
- Bleach
- Friskies shredded canned cat food
- Cat litter
- Dry cat food
- Esbilac dry puppy powder
- Apples, grapes, avocado, carrots, bananas, cheese cubes, yogurt cups, animal crackers
- Hay
- Straw
- Dumors Equistages horse food
- Mazuri Mini Pig Active Adult food
- Manna Pro Calf Manna
- Producers Pride Sheep & Goat Medicated
- Producers Pride Cracked Corn
- Happy Hens Mealworms
- Dumor Poultry Grower/Finisher 15 percent
- Dumor Scratch Grains
- KMR

Every year we save the lives of over 500 pets. Without fostering, there can be no rescue. You can help animals that we would otherwise not be able to facilitate. Every little bit counts. Your generous donation helps animals most in need.

www.dawghous.com

THANK YOU!







COURTESY PHOTO

Holiday pop-up features pops of color

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Though Cecelia Covington has always had a passion for colors and patterns, her talent as an artist and designer began to take shape when she was a student. “I am a very proud graduate of Cass Tech High School,” she said, adding that she studied fashion and costume design. “A lot of my talent is innate, but a lot of my training came from Cass Tech.” Her accomplishments there earned the Lafayette Park resident a scholarship to Parsons School of Design in New York, where she studied fashion and illustration.

“Cass Tech was my foundation; Parsons was the icing on the cake,” she added. Covington’s design skills were put to use in agencies from the Midwest to the East Coast, before she eventually made her way



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Artist Cecelia Covington is selling her work during the holidays at a pop-up at Notre Dame Pharmacy.

back to Detroit. “My love of color, paper and prints attracted me to a career as designer and art director in an industry designing decorative paper products for the home,” her LinkedIn page reads. “I’m fortunate to have developed and led some of the foremost designers and artists in the industry. Every one of my positions has enhanced my understanding of my craft and inspired me to a deeper concept of combining business with art.”

Since 2006, Covington has made a name for herself through her own business, Cecelia Covington Design. Her artwork features bursts of colors and patterns that can be found on

See ART, page 6B

Performance planned

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, will host its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn at noon Thursday, Dec. 15. The popular program will feature holiday favorites performed by the Judelairens, followed by a luncheon at 1 p.m. All are welcome. To reserve a seat, call (313) 884-4820.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 4B

day card-make-and-take event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. In celebration of Letter Writing Day, Dec. 7, and Christmas Card Day, Dec. 9, guests are invited to make a card to mail to a friend or family member. The event includes hot chocolate and treats.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register online at redcrossblood.org.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs.

To register for the following,

visit grossepointelibrary.org.

◆ Girls Reading Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Drop-in Holiday Craft, all day Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 1,000 Hours Finale

Celebration and Lantern Walk, 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 5th & 6th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

◆ Holiday Party, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Cost is \$20 for members, \$24 for nonmembers.

◆ The movie “The Man Who Invented Christmas” is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

Mini Picassos

Mini Picassos, 21520 Harper, St. Clair Shores, offers Mistletoe Foot Print Day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Cost is \$30 per canvas; each canvas can fit up to three feet. To register, visit minipicassosstudio.com or call (313) 283-6710.

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

New plaque

Before COVID entered the picture, the Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe agreed at a meeting to put a bike station in Grosse Pointe Park near Windmill Pointe Park. They worked with Chad Craig, director of Grosse Pointe Park Parks and Recreation Department, and Tom Jennings, head of the Park Department of Public Works, to set up the station. Once a location was selected, Park DPW poured the concrete and installed the station. A bronze donation plaque recently was added to the site. Pictured are, from left, David Fries, Optimist president; Deborah Renshaw, past president; David Hohlfeldt; Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges; and Jerry Vanslembrouck.

ART:

Continued from page 5B

items from silk scarves to pillows to phone cases.

A portion of her work currently is available for purchase at Notre Dame Pharmacy in The Village, where Covington works as a clerk. A pop-up shop featuring trinket trays, mugs and hand-painted note cards, will be hosted at the store until Jan. 1. Price points range from \$20 to \$100.

“All of my work is rooted in color,” she said, noting the bright, whimsical, retro style of her work. “I really like this format. It lets me do a lot of what I’ve been trained to do. I have a penchant for pattern and color.”

Covington, who recently participated in the juried MacKenzie-Childs Artisan Craft Festival in Central New York, has gotten positive feedback about the pop-up. It’s a compliment she accepts from her adopted hometown.

“I consider myself an honorary Grosse Pointer,” she said. “I used to do windows for Jacobson’s. I’ve had several jobs in Grosse Pointe.”

Of Notre Dame Pharmacy she said, “I love it here; it suits my lifestyle right now. It’s a very team-oriented boutique pharmacy.”

Notre Dame Pharmacy is located at 16926 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. For more information, call (313) 885-2154.

SALON:

Continued from page 1B

changed, Nepi has enjoyed lasting friendships with longtime clients and employees — the latter of whom she calls her “kids.”

“Most of my kids have been here 20, 25, 35 and 50 years,” she said. “It’s like a family here. We have so much fun. The girls are wonderful. ... It’s a sad thing (to retire) when you’ve been with people that long.”

While a lot of her staff already have started working elsewhere, one full-time and one part-time hairdresser, as well as a pedicurist, “won’t leave until I do,” Nepi said. “I do know that everyone has a job now. I was sick when I didn’t know if they’d have a place to be.”

Several of them are now working at Salon Besa in Grosse Pointe Woods, where Nepi plans to spend some of her retirement time.

“I will be going to the salon that took all of my people,” she said. “I will be three days at Salon Besa helping. I don’t do

anymore makeup, but I will greet people and get them coffee, like I do here.”

Nepi sold the building that housed her business since 1963. The building’s new owner is toying with the idea of opening a salon; he asked Nepi permission to keep the same name.

“So it might be a beauty salon again, but we don’t know,” she said.

“I’m going to miss the fact that every person became very attached to me and I was very friendly with everyone,”

she added. “I want to thank everybody that came here and was so true to us. They all have been so good to me. I feel sad that I’m closing.”

However, Nepi is looking forward to traveling with her daughter, among other things.

“I’m going to think about starting a new life,” she said. “That’s hard to do. I’ve done this 60 years and I worked at Wayne State. Things are going to be different. I have three grandkids so ... I’m waiting for weddings and babies.”



The salon has served clients, including some celebrities, since 1963.



Woods lights it up for the holidays

Grosse Pointe Woods hosted its annual tree-lighting ceremony, Woods Aglow, Tuesday, Nov. 22. The event was topped off with a visit from Santa Claus in the Cook Schoolhouse. Families lined up outside for children to get a chance to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. Caden Wettstein, above, was thrilled to have some time with Jolly Ol’ St. Nick.



Above, Riley Little, Armon Foster and Ashton Foster took turns telling Santa what they would like to see under the tree. Left, Camdyn Odren doesn’t really get the idea of Santa yet, but was chill enough to hang out with him for a minute.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Amoritas Vineyards celebrates fifth anniversary

Amoritas Vineyards opened its tasting room doors Dec. 6, 2017, and the owners are excited to celebrate the vineyard’s five-year anniversary.

“What an amazing adventure,” said Michael Goodell, formerly of Grosse Pointe, who owns and operates the business with his children, Emily and Matthew. “From planting our first vines just

in time for one of the coldest winters in Leelanau County history, to confronting the unique challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, we have never wavered in our commitment to producing wines true to the region’s climate and terroir, to providing the best customer experience in the industry.”

Amoritas will celebrate its five-year milestone Saturday, Dec. 10, offering \$5 glasses and \$5 off flights. Additionally, the vineyard will host a wine-pairing dinner with Little Traverse Inn at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Call (231) 228-2560 for reservations.

For more information, call Goodell at (313) 920-3752.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

The Grunyons, left, and Noteworthy will once again team up for their Christmas on Lakeshore concert Dec. 12.

Christmas on Lakeshore a cappella concert planned Dec. 12

The area’s top a cappella groups, The Grunyons and Noteworthy, are making a post-COVID comeback this holiday season. The ensembles are teaming up for the eighth time to present “Christmas on Lakeshore: An evening

of a cappella,” at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms. “We are very excited to be back live after a two-year hiatus due to COVID,” Grunyons member Bob

Montgomery wrote in an email. “This is a great opportunity for our community to enjoy performances by these two longstanding a cappella groups.” The Grunyons, an all-male vocal ensemble

active in supporting and performing “vocal jazz,” was formed in 1949. The all-female Noteworthy, offering “no fella a cappella,” came about in 1978. “Christmas on Lakeshore” will include holiday and non-holiday

selections. Tickets are \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at christmasonlakeshore.com or by scanning the QR code, right. Learn more about Noteworthy by visiting

noteworthyings.com. Learn more about The Grunyons at thegrunyons.com.

— Jody McVeigh



Promising Artists hoping to spread holiday cheer

The Promising Artists Council of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association is helping businesses share the spirit of the holiday season by offering to paint good wishes on windows for the holidays. Orders are required by Friday, Dec. 9, and a design

meeting will take place Saturday, Dec. 10. Promising Artists mem-



bers will share their design ideas with the client before coming to paint the business Saturday, Dec. 17. Cost is \$150 per window and includes the design, materials, labor and removal after the holidays. Not only does the project

help promote holiday spirit among customers and neighbors, but proceeds benefit the GPAA’s free arts programming for seniors and veterans. For more information or to place an order, email gpaas@grossepointeartcenter.org or call (313) 881-3454.



@Your Library

By John Ruedger
Guest Writer

Remember your first library card? Holding your parent’s hand as you opened that magic portal to new worlds and amazing adventure. That little cardboard card, probably the first I.D. The first true passport for travel on the time machine. Recently our local libraries have experienced a few challenges: COVID-19 and renovations, closing for long stretches, but still meeting the needs of our community. Job well done! I had the good fortune to speak with Pat McClary from the Woods branch about how she managed these events and here are her thoughts.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pat McClary recently retired from the Grosse Pointe Public Library after 17 years.

Q: Pat, what do you feel is the best improvement for you? For the patrons?
A: The Woods branch renovations have made our space more open and usable. The staff likes to be in the middle of everyone. It is easier for patrons to know where to go to ask questions. We don’t have to wait for a patron to come to us. We are right there.
Q: Since the great technological revolution began, how has the library adapted to these changes? I recently saw a small cartoon about a young child looking at a hardcover book and ask-

ing, “Where do you put the batteries?”
A: Technology makes everything more accessible to everyone. The library now has more than 40 different online databases our patrons can use from home, from their tablet or laptop and from inside the library. One of the best parts of the library is we can help you access all of this information — whether it is books, movies, music and many other e-learning applications. Just the other day I helped a woman use our Libby database for the first time from her phone. We can help open up an entire new world to our patrons. We are here to show how easy all the technology is used.
Q: Art Linkletter had a humorous television show and book, “Kids Say the Darndest Things.” Have you experienced one of these sayings?
A: A little boy who visited our library’s aquar-

ium spent time talking to his Mom about how the fish couldn’t get out of the tank, then turned to me and asked, “How will you get close enough to read them a story at bed time?”
Q: Do you have a particular book in mind that had an unexpected impact on you?
A: “The Hundred Dresses” by Eleanor Estes. It reminded me of how hurtful words can be against others and the greater flaw of being a bystander and not doing anything about it.
Q: What does the future hold for your retirement and what plans do you have to enjoy this auspicious occasion?
A: I have loved working at the Grosse Pointe library. We are so lucky to have such a supportive community that cares and supports the library. After 17 years of service effective Nov. 7, I’m looking forward to spending more time with my daughter, traveling, relaxing, taking walks with my companion Rizzo and reading a good book. Thanks so much, Pat McClary, for your insight. Enjoy retirement, you will be missed. Share the wonders the library has to offer with your family. Come in and meet the helpful, intelligent and friendly tour guides to this field of dreams. Readers are leaders.
John Ruedger is a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, avid reader and supporter of the GPPL.

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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Christmas decorating blues

Dear Gabby: Every year I put up the Christmas tree, and it's sacred to me. I have over 5,000 ornaments with several different themes. Recently, my wife has been offering "advice" on where the garland goes, her thoughts on ornaments, etc.

I am reacting extremely negatively to this, and it's taking every fiber in my being to not blow up in anger.

What can I do? Do I "own" the Christmas tree since I've done it all for so long? What is the right thing to do?

— **Sincerely, Scrooge in the Village**

Dear Scrooge,

It sounds like you have a bit of a control issue about this tree. However, if it means this much to you, perhaps an honest sit down over a mug of hot

cocoa might set things straight. If you are not comfortable with this idea, how about a compromise? What if you remained the king of the tree this year, but relinquished control next year and so on?

Or how about you look for a post-season sale on Christmas trees and have two to decorate in subsequent years?

Life's too short to be a

Scrooge about something that should bring a lot of joy to everyone, so my advice is to bring on the holiday cheer as much as possible!

— **Gabby**

We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to advice@grossepointenews.com.



College anxiety is common for students

Dear Ann Landers: Our daughter, who is away at college, is suffering from depression. She is on medication and seeing a therapist at school.

"Maya's" first semester was a nightmare, partly because her father refused to let her come home to visit, even though the college is only three hours away. I finally overruled

him and insisted she drive home for the weekend. I could see how debilitating the depression was.

If Maya cannot survive another semester and wants to come home, I don't know what my husband will do. We have been married for 20 years, and he is getting harder and harder to deal with. I'm tired of arguing with him,

but I have to stand up for my daughter.

Not every child can be sent away from home at age 18 and cope. If anything should happen to her, I would never forgive myself.

Should I bring Maya home and tell her to go to school in town, or do you think my husband is right in saying she should tough it out? — **Virginia Beach Mom.**

Dear Virginia Beach: If your daughter is on medication, she must have a doctor who prescribed it. Consult with him about whether Maya should tough it out. She sounds emotionally fragile, and this could push her over the edge.

Dear Ann Landers: You

recently printed a letter from a bride who resented the fact that several uninvited people showed up at her wedding.

According to our priest, a wedding in a church is a religious event. The church is a public building, and anyone can attend a religious service there.

If the wedding were in a home or private hall, it would be different. Most people do not know that church weddings are open to the public. Only the reception is private and requires an invitation.

Please tell your readers about this. — **Mrs. B. in Dallas**

Dear Mrs. B.: My pastor friends agree with you. People who have good manners, however, do not show up at a wedding with-



Classic Ann Landers

out an invitation, no matter where it is.

Dear Ann Landers: Here's another story about stupid criminals. This happened to my husband, "Jim," a truck driver.

Jim was on the road one day when two police cars pulled him over. The car right behind him also pulled over. The officers said that the car behind him had called in a report that Jim was weaving all over the road. They gave him a breathalyzer test and found he was perfectly sober.

Jim suggested they give the driver behind him the same test. They did and discovered he was intoxicated — twice the legal limit. In fact, he was so drunk, he didn't realize it was *he* who was weaving all over the road. He actually reported himself! Wouldn't it be nice if more drunk drivers reported themselves? — **His Wife.**

Dear Wife: It would indeed, but don't hold your breath waiting. I've never heard of this before and don't expect to hear of it again.

ANN LANDERS
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Woman's temper torpedoes rocky three-year romance

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 59-year-old single man who was dating a 42-year-old woman for the past three years. The whole time we dated she was going through a divorce. I supported her and helped her through it.

The papers were signed four months ago. Her relationship with her ex started when she was 16 and lasted 26 years. They have a 14-year-old daughter together. Their relationship was emotionally abusive.

We had a lot in common and loved doing things together, but our relationship was rocky.

During the time we were together, we split up three times because

she would get upset with me over simple things but would never have a conversation to try and work it out. She has a short fuse and her temper goes from zero to 60 in a heartbeat. Our fourth argument was our last. She told me to take my things and get out.

I love her, and when I told her so many times, she would respond the same. I love her more than I can explain in words. I'm not her ex. I'm nothing like him. I've done things for her that any woman would melt over.

She told me on my way out the door that she doesn't want a relationship and never did. She wants to be left alone.



After all the time I invested in us, I was crushed. We are still friends on Facebook. If I text her, she will read it but won't respond.

Should I give up and move on, or let her figure her life out and hope she realizes we had something special? — **PUSHED ASIDE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR PUSHED ASIDE: When a woman with a fuse that goes from zero to 60 in a heartbeat tells you she

doesn't want a relationship with you and never did, it's safe to conclude that for the past three years you have been used.

Has it occurred to you that the verbal abuser in her past relationship may have been her? PLEASE, for your own sake, take the hint. Look for someone who will appreciate and return the love and kindness you offer. Although you may not think so now, you have just dodged a bullet.



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: My little sister and I got along great as kids. We played together a lot, and even when we made new friends and grew different interests, we promised to always have each other's backs.

In high school, I befriended and eventually started dating a girl my family adored, my sister included.

After nine years, we have finally become engaged, but now my sister has grown hostile toward us. She never hinted that she disliked my fiancée before, and nobody in our family can get a reason from her.

My mother wants her to be part of our wedding, but with this change in her behavior, I'm not comfortable with the idea.

Did I do something wrong? Should I question her to get to the bottom of this? — **BAFFLED BROTHER**

DEAR ABBY: I was recently diagnosed with pre-diabetes. I have been very good at adopting a no-sugar and low-carb diet. The problem occurs when I eat outside my home. At birthday parties, I am filled with anxiety around eating.

If I say no to the sugary desserts, one of three things is guaranteed to happen: I'm accused of trying to be skinny, told the food is wasted because I don't eat it, or I feel guilty because I acquiesced. I find myself refusing offers to eat out because I dread the inevitable.

What can I say to people so that they will respect my food restrictions? — **FOOD ANXIETY-RIDDEN IN NEW YORK**

DEAR F.A.R.: All you have to say is, "My doctor recently diagnosed me with pre-diabetes and I don't want it to progress any further. So, no thank you!"

DEAR BAFFLED: Definitely do that. If you approach it privately, your sister may be more comfortable answering you honestly. It may be she's afraid of losing the close relationship she has enjoyed with you all these years. If that's the case, you may be able to reassure her.

If it's something else she might be reluctant to discuss in the presence of other relatives, talking

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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Holiday party hors d'oeuvres

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

One of my favorite birthday parties was spent cooking at The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts.

There were four couples and each was in charge of a dish. We cooked, drank wine and ultimately enjoyed the amazing meal we had made after all our hard work.

The dish I bring you today is absolutely fabulous. It's an amazing bite of food for any holiday gathering. I have fond memories of laughing and stirring and just genuinely being around people I love.

This is the perfect family make-together dish. Sit around the kitchen, give jobs to people and talk about great memo-

ries that you all have together.

The onions do take a bit of time, so someone has to stir. But the end result is fantastic and once again, the house smells amazing.

The original recipe calls for dried figs. But living in Michigan, I chose to use dried cherries. They plump up in the wine and vinegar and become soft and delicately sweet. The combination is incredible with goat cheese.

I've said it many times but food memories and smells are all the things for me this year. I'll be bringing you appetizer ideas all month.

Cheers, Mombeau

- Goat Cheese Bruschetta with Sweet Onions and Cherries**
- 5 tbsp olive oil
 - 1 large Vidalia onion, sliced
 - 8 oz dried cherries
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - ½ cup red wine
 - 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
 - 1 tsp sugar
 - 4 tbsp rosemary, finely chopped
 - 1 baguette, sliced in 1/3 inch slices
 - 6 oz goat cheese

Heat two tablespoons of olive oil in a large pan. Add onion and season with a pinch of salt and pepper.

Cook over medium to low heat until they are very soft and golden, It could take 15-20 minutes. Stir in the cherries and garlic.

Next add the wine, vinegar and rosemary. Simmer, uncovered, or until most of the liquid has evaporated. Add in the sugar and stir to combine. Cool and set aside.

In a 375 degree preheated oven, place the baguette slices in a single layer on a sheet pan and drizzle them with the remaining oil.

Cook for six minutes until the bread is



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

golden and crisp. To assemble, spread the bread slices with cherry and onion mixture. Garnish with extra rosemary, if you so choose.



Value wines

Americans who consume domestic wines on a regular basis are always looking for decent values, if not bargains, and what they choose depends on how they consume wine.

Those who are satisfied with any generic white wine, or even a generic red (such as burgundy with a lower-case b) probably will be satisfied with any of the boxed wines we see in supermarkets.

But once you begin to look at varietal wines, most people seek something slightly more distinctive.

If it really doesn't make a difference whether you're interested in a chardonnay, a zinfandel or something else, there are usually plenty of choices in the \$7 to \$10 price category, which is where decent wines begin to show up. Yes, it's possible to pay less than \$7, but chances are the choices won't be particularly appealing to anyone seeking varietal correctness.

Since chardonnay is the most popular white wine in the country, most people will assume that at virtually any price point it will be easy to find something with the name chardonnay on it that's inexpensive and fairly tasty.

If only it were that simple! Chardonnay is an interesting grape variety because it's essentially a blank slate. It's a grape that doesn't have much individualism. It is vaguely fruity, but usually depends on what the winemaker chooses to do with it to make it fascinating.

The best of them are from grapes grown in cooler climates and usually in vineyards that produce scant amounts of fruit. Harvesting lots of fruit per acre is almost a guarantee of mediocre quality or worse.

The result is that grapes grown in warmer regions and in larger amounts almost always make cheaper wines. This includes chardonnay.



Sauvignon blanc is one of the most affordable wines on the market, making it a great choice for budget-minded wine lovers.

Once you get to know what quality chardonnay is all about, you'll realize that the more you pay, the more interesting the wine becomes.

So, what is the best white wine value today?

Truly excellent chardonnays begin at approximately \$20 per bottle, depending on

many factors. For the very best value in white wine today, I always recommend sauvignon blanc.

Not only is it produced in many different regions throughout California, but it is relatively early harvested, which makes it unlikely to be affected by the horrible smoke taint that affected later-picked grapes during the years of fires in California.

Several California wineries make excel-

lent sauvignon blancs at reasonable prices.

One reason for suggesting them is that sauvignon blanc is a relatively assertive grape that often delivers more fruit and personality than most similarly priced chardonnays, and usually they contain not only good acidity but a slight amount of sugar

to offset any tartness.

Unfortunately, there are very few red wine counterparts that I can easily recommend, partly because alcohol levels seem to be creeping up with some red wine grapes. And I do not prefer higher alcohol wines with my dinner.

To remedy that, I suggest Chilean merlot as an excellent inexpensive red wine, especially those whose alcohol levels (on labels) show 13.5 percent, or even lower.

Those who seek wines that are drier and offer more distinctive personalities seek out red wines from France, Spain or Italy, notably red wines that will be good food companions and will probably not break the budget.

Many wines in the \$7 to \$10 price bracket can be found in either supermarkets or fine wine shops. These wines are usually found by more adventurous buyers who are willing to try something they never heard of before.

Wine of the Week: 2021 Dark Horse Sauvignon Blanc, California (\$9) — This well-made line of wines includes several good values, but this one is clearly the best because of its unique varietal aromas and tastes, and the wine remains inter-

esting even after being opened for a couple of days.

To find out more about

Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.
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December 21 and December 24



JEFF PONDERS
JAZZ SAXOPHONIST

December 28 through December 31



DAVE MCMURRAY
JAZZ SAXOPHONIST

-TUESDAYS-

1 SEATING: 6:00PM-8:00PM (Ron English plays from 6:30PM-8:00PM)

-WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY-

1 SEATING: 6:00PM-8:30PM (Performer plays from 7:00PM-8:30PM)

-FRIDAY & SATURDAY- 2 Seatings each night

1st SEATING: 6:00PM-8:00PM (Performer plays from 6:30PM-7:30PM)

2nd SEATING: 8:30PM-10:30PM (Performer plays from 9:00PM-10:00PM)

— WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1 THROUGH JANUARY 7 —

Happy Hour Tuesday through Friday 3PM - 5PM
LUNCH Tuesday - Friday 11:30AM - 3:00PM

CALL FOR SHOW TIMES AND RESERVATIONS
(313) 882-5299

97 KERCHEVAL, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MI 48236
DIRTYDOGJAZZ.COM

Open for Lunch Tue. - Fri. 11:30 - 3PM

West Park Winter Social

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

The West Park Winter Social took place Saturday, Nov. 26, in Grosse Pointe Park, and included live music, food trucks, a holiday market, kids’ tent and more.



Kids dance along with a video on the side of the Gaming Lab truck.

POST offered a truck showing off its handcrafted holiday fun and gifts.



Matt Savage and Jennifer Ahee of Savage Stained Glass in Grosse Pointe Park hosted a booth selling their stained-glass creations.



The Insiders, a Tom Petty tribute band, wowed the crowd with music and lights.

A stylized orange icon of a house with a sun above it.

EVEN TS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

THURSDAY, DEC. 8

- » **Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith**
Fox Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
2211 Woodward Ave.
- » **Bijan Taghavi Piano Trio**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **The OperaSOUL Experience**
The Carr Center, 7:30-9 p.m.
311 E Grand River Ave.
- » **MiCIA Holiday Gala**
MGM Grand Detroit, 6-11 p.m.
1777 3rd Avenue.
- » **RJ Spangler & Planet D Nonet**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.
- » **Senior Hustle For Health Dance Class**
Ewald Branch, 1-2 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

- » **Celtic Woman A Christmas Symphony**
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
350 Madison St.

- » **Gift Bag Decorating**
Ewald Branch, 2-3 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson
- » **Holiday Concert: This Starry Night**
Jefferson Ave Presbyterian Church, 7:30-9 p.m.
8625 East Jefferson Ave..
- » **Celtic Woman**
Music Hall Center, 8 p.m.
350 Madison.
- » **Louis C.K.**
Fox Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
2211 Woodward Ave.
- » **Michael J. Reed & Friends**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **RJ Spangler & Planet D Nonet**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.
- » **TINA - The Tina Turner Musical**
Detroit Opera House, 8 p.m.
1526 Broadway St.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

- » **The 5th Annual Toys For Tots Bar Crawl**
Brass Rail Pizza Bar, 4-11:59 p.m.
18 West Adams Avenue.
- » **Christmas Cookie Mart**
Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
211 Moross Road.
- » **Detroit - City of Churches Movie Premiere**
The Fillmore Detroit, 6-9 p.m.
2115 Woodward Ave.
- » **Holiday Concert: This Starry Night**
Jefferson Ave Presbyterian Church, 4-5:30 p.m.
8625 East Jefferson Ave..
- » **Hour of Code: Flappy Bird**
Ewald Branch, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson
- » **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas**
Fox Theatre, 8 p.m.
2211 Woodward Ave.

- » **Michael J. Reed & Friends**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **The R&B Explosion**
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
350 Madison St.
- » **RJ Spangler & Planet D Nonet**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

- » **A Day To Remember - Reassembled**
The Fillmore Detroit, 7 p.m.
2115 Woodward Ave.
- » **Down In The Valley**
MGM Grand Detroit, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.
1777 3rd Avenue.
- » **Holiday Markets 2022**
Eastern Market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
2934 Russell St.
- » **Michael J. Reed & Friends**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.

- » **Nutcracker! Magic of Christmas Ballet**
Fox Theatre, 8 p.m.
2211 Woodward Ave.
- » **The Spirit of Christmas with the Detroit Concert Choir**
Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 3 p.m.
16 Lakeshore Drive.
- » **TINA - The Tina Turner Musical**
Detroit Opera House, 7:30 p.m.
1526 Broadway St.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

- » **Christmas on Lakeshore 2022: An Evening of A Cappella**
Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m.
211 Moross Road.
- » **Girls Reading**
Ewald Branch, 7-8 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

- » **7th & 8th Grade Book Group**
Ewald Branch, 7-8:30 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson

- » **Middle School Book Group - 7th/8th**
Ewald Branch, 7-8 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson
- » **Read, Rhyme & Play**
Ewald Branch, 10:30-11 a.m.
15175 E Jefferson
- » **Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom**
Offsite, 10:30-11 a.m.
grossepointelibrary.org
- » **Youth Hour of Code**
Woods Branch, 4:15-5:15 p.m.
20680 Mack Ave

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

- » **Aguanko**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval.
- » **Drop-in Holiday Craft**
Woods Branch, All day
20680 Mack Ave
- » **Music Jam**
Cabbage Patch Saloon, 9:30-11 p.m.
15130 Mack Ave.
- » **Science Fiction Book Club**
Woods Branch, 7-8 p.m.
20680 Mack Ave

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I don't know about you, but when the weather gets colder and days get shorter (and darker), fresh baked goods can really hit the spot and spark a smile. Between homework, school, sports and everything else — I don't always (ever) have time to whip up a from-scratch recipe. So when I had placed my usual bulk order of Jessica's Natural Foods granola, I chose chocolate chip cookie mix as my two bonus items (IYKYK). It took awhile for

me to get to making them, but oh my goodness. Literally — it's "oh my" goodness. The cookies take about two minutes to mix up (just add an egg, stick of butter and some vanilla). Drop them on a cookie sheet and bake for 13-15 minutes. My kids were hoarding the cookies like it was the Hunger Games. I had to try them, of course, and what I think I liked the most was the really subtle oats that are included. Also, they are

the perfect combo of chewy and crispy. My family is not gluten-free, but all of Jessica's products are and instead of rice flour and starches they choose the ancient grain teff, healthy oat and omega-rich flax. It's



an added bonus if you ask me. Over here we are giving it a 5 out of 5 alligators. There's nothing cozier than a warm, fresh-baked cookie. And there's nothing easier than Jessica's chocolate chip cookie mix

unless you are going full drop-cookie mode (which is fine once in a while but full of ingredients I'm not a huge fan of). I told Jessica of Jessica's Natural Foods that we tried it and loved it, and she was so excited she agreed to offer our readers a 20 percent discount on all orders with code: WETRIEDIT. Head to www.jessicasnaturalfoods.com to check out their offerings. We love that she is a local, female-owned small

business. If you try it and agree, let us know at media@grossepointenews.com. We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com. **5 Out Of 5**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AZ CELTIC FILMS AND WORKING TITLE FILMS
Nathalie Issa as Yusra Mardini in the 2022 film "The Swimmers," based on the true story of Syrian sisters Yusra and Sara Mardini, who swam for three hours in the Aegean Sea to reach safe shores in Greece.

MOVIE REVIEW
"The Swimmers"
2022 - PG-13
2 hr 14min

Thanksgiving is a time of reflection, when we look back on the year and consider all the things we have to be thankful for. So it was timely that I happened to watch the fine film "The Swimmers" over the break. It's the true story about two Syrian girls who flee their war-torn country to start a new life in Germany. It's an inspiring story of courage, conviction, and the strength of family — a perfect movie for the holiday season. Sisters Yusra and Sara Mardini (played by actual sisters Nathalie and Manal Issa) are working towards competing in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. They're talented swimmers and are coached by their loving and devoted father. When Damascus becomes a war zone, they decide the smart thing to do is head for Berlin, with the hopes that their family would eventually join them there. This arduous and dangerous trek is the main focus of the film. It's a nail-biting experience you feel totally immersed in.

The sisters are accompanied by their cousin Nizar (Ahmed Malek), who's tasked with keeping them safe. He's an aspiring DJ and dreams of owning his own dance club someday.



The trio first travel to Turkey, where they hook up with a smuggler. They, along with a large group of refugees agree to pay him \$2,000 each to be taken to the island of Lesbos, Greece, their first stop in Europe. They're directed into a thick woods, which leads down to the shore of the Aegean Sea, and are told a boat would meet them there. During their prolonged wait, I was sure that they'd been swindled. A ratty looking dinghy is eventually delivered. This is where the action

gets pretty intense. The large group is on their own on their voyage across the sea. Then, not only does the motor die, but their inflatable craft begins to leak air. To ensure they'll stay afloat,

the two sisters and a couple other passengers are forced to swim alongside the boat. It's this heroic effort, that allows them to eventually reach the safety of the island. There are two powerful scenes that really caught me off guard. The first is when they finally hit land. The entire group is both emotionally and physically drained, yet relieved they've made it. As they slowly make their way from the shore inland, they shed their safety vests. The camera pulls back to reveal a veritable sea of vests. Literally hun-



dreds of thousands of them. So it's not surprising when you learn that over 6 million refugees have fled Syria since 2011. The second scene that made an impact on me was when the sisters and their cousin are finally in Germany. They're being housed in an airplane hangar. Late one night, the trio sneaks into an empty hangar and indulge themselves by having a techno dance party. It's just the three of them, playing music, and dancing with reckless abandon.

who did an excellent job telling the story. Perhaps the only negative comment I would make is the actual swimming sequences. I've seen a lot of sports movies, and the best of them feature remarkable shots of the athletic performances. I know this isn't strictly a sports movie, but I felt the swimming scenes were a bit pedestrian. Overall however, the film is totally captivating and of course, it does have a happy ending. "The Swimmers" is such an uplifting story, you can't help but be amazed at how the Mardini sisters remained so upbeat in spite of all the problems they encountered. Yusra in particular just exuded positive energy. What a terrific film! 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, Hoopla, and Kanopy. I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well. For movie trailers, visit youtube.com. If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com. Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Left, Nathalie Issa as Yusra Mardini and Manal Issa as Sara Mardini.



6C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

Royal Stars
Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions after 10 p.m. PST today. The Moon is in Gemini.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022: You are warm, friendly and optimistic. People enjoy your company because you are cheerful. You are also caring and generous. This is a winning year for you, which is why many of you will get promoted or receive awards or kudos for your talents and efforts. Bravo!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Lighten up today, because it's all too easy to get pushy in debates about politics, religion or racial issues. You're ready to argue! (Let's face it, sometimes you like to argue.) Instead, use this energy to make travel plans or explore your world by learning something new. Tonight: Stay realistic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Fiery debates about shared property, shared responsibilities, debt, insurance or inheritances might be sparked today. Generally, these important issues are not settled wisely through anger. Wait until you are in a calmer frame of mind to deal with your wealth. Tonight: Conserve money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a classic day for arguments with spouses, partners and close friends, because fiery Mars is in your sign opposing the Sun, which is opposite your sign. Oops! Bad Day at Black Rock! Use your common sense. Do you want to be miserable today? No, you don't. Make that your objective. Tonight: Be sensible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It might be challenging dealing with co-workers today or people related to your health or your pet, because something going on in your unconscious mind makes you trigger-happy and grumpy. Note: A happy mind rarely gets angry. An unhappy mind often does. Take it easy. Tonight: Solitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Most Leos are not strict parents. They're friendly. Keep this in mind, because today you might be at odds with your kids. You also might be at odds with a romantic partner. Ditto for sports colleagues. Hey, anger will only make you miserable along with everyone else. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Because of some kind of confusion, you might have difficulty dealing with parents, older family members or authority figures today. The bottom line is you have to ask yourself what kind of day you want. Do you want to be angry? No, of course not. Life is short — you want to be happy! Tonight: Don't promise too much.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Resist the urge to argue with daily contacts, siblings, relatives or neighbors today, because you might feel you have to confront someone. Examine what's at stake. If you are hostile, others will mirror this same aggression back to you. Tonight: Don't go overboard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Money squabbles are likely today. They could be about who picks up the tab for something, earnings or how to share expenses. Perhaps this discussion about finances

is a smoke screen for a power struggle. (You rarely lose power struggles.) Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Do not blindly assert yourself today when dealing with partners or teammates, because you will be tempted to do so. In part, this is because you are identifying with your ego today. Me, me, me. (As we all do.) Instead, think about your objective and the results you want. Tonight: Stay friendly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are chatty now that Mercury is in your sign. You have something to say, and you want to enlighten others. However, this is a day when people are aggressive with each other, even subconsciously. You might feel defensive. Take a step back and watch what's going on around you. Tonight: Be helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Friendships are important to you. Therefore, today, when you might feel aggression with friends or groups, take a moment and ask yourself what you are doing. Don't take the bait. Don't get suckered into an argument. Take the high road. Tonight: Party!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is the classic day when you might find yourself at odds with authority figures -- bosses, parents, teachers and the police. Family squabbles are also likely. But this doesn't have to happen if you choose to stay calm and not get involved. Tonight: Cocoon.

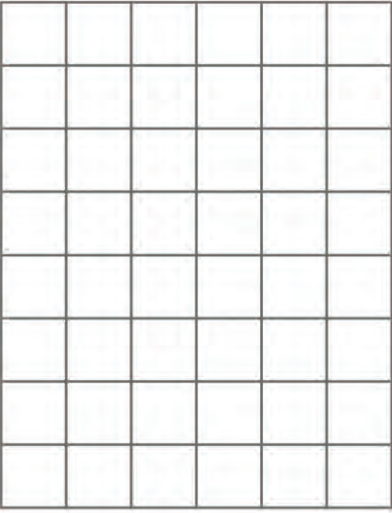
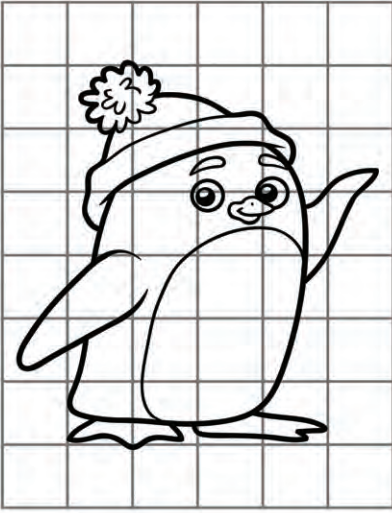
BORN TODAY Rap artist Nicki Minaj (1982), actress AnnaSophia Robb (1993), actor Wendell Pierce (1963).

Pure Grosse Pointe Holiday BINGO				
Loafers /no socks	Wine shop delivery	Curbside tree pickup	Cool lawn display	Nice neighbors
Ford House	Village Christmas tree	Backyard hockey rink	Shopping locally	Generous giving
Boutique helps avoid black-tie twinning	Painted store windows	FREE	Giving delivery driver a snack	Dog in holiday wear
Shopping bags	Hot cocoa or coffee drinks	Bundled up baby	Excited kids	Amazing lights display
Donating to good cause	Tree on top of car	Lights on Lake Shore	Santa hat on anyone	Wreath on door

Only in Grosse Pointe

There's no place like Grosse Pointe for the holidays! It's a beautiful community with amazing sights, sounds and pleasures of the season that are pure Grosse Pointe. Enjoy it all by marking this bingo card to tally up all that you see at this most wonderful time of the year in our hometown. First person in your family or group of friends to complete a full bingo line gets to treat themselves to their secret Christmas wish. Wishing you and yours a magical Grosse Pointe Christmas season.

Copy the picture





Find The 10 Differences



Contract Bridge

FIRST THINGS FIRST

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 NT		

Opening lead — eight of spades.

The defenders usually have more to think about than the declarer, mainly because they can't see each other's hands. Conversely, declarer, with dummy's cards and his own in plain view, is in an ideal position to assess his strong and weak points and then try to take advantage of the knowledge he has and the opponents do not. East had a problem of sorts when he won the opening spade lead with the

king after declarer played low from dummy. But he correctly decided that there was no future in a spade continuation, so he shifted to a low club, which sounded the death knell for the contract. Declarer played low, West winning with the eight and returning a low club to East's king. There was no recovery for South, whatever he did, and he eventually lost a spade, three clubs and a diamond to go down one. East unquestionably earned his success by abandoning spades and shifting to a club at trick two, but he should never have had the opportunity to beat the contract. South erred grievously when he played low from dummy on the opening spade lead. He was asking for trouble, and he got it. Both the bidding and the opening lead clearly marked East with the king of spades, so it was unnecessary to try to protect the queen by playing low from dummy. There was more pressing business at hand. Dummy's diamonds needed to be attended to before declarer's weak spot in clubs could be exploited. South should therefore have gone up with the ace of spades at trick one and attacked diamonds at trick two. Had he done so, South would have had no trouble scoring nine tricks.

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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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

"We hafta unstrangle the Christmas lights."

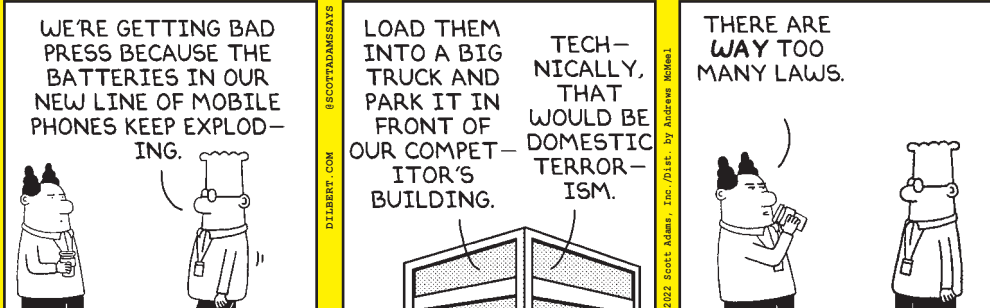
Garfield

Jim Davis



Dilbert

Scott Adams



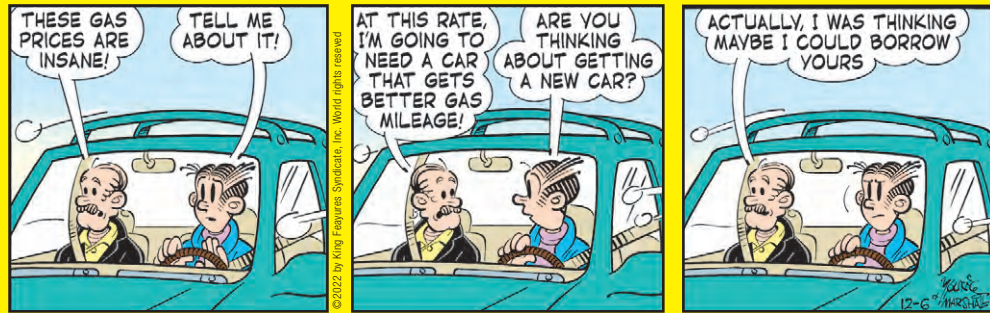
Beetle Bailey

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

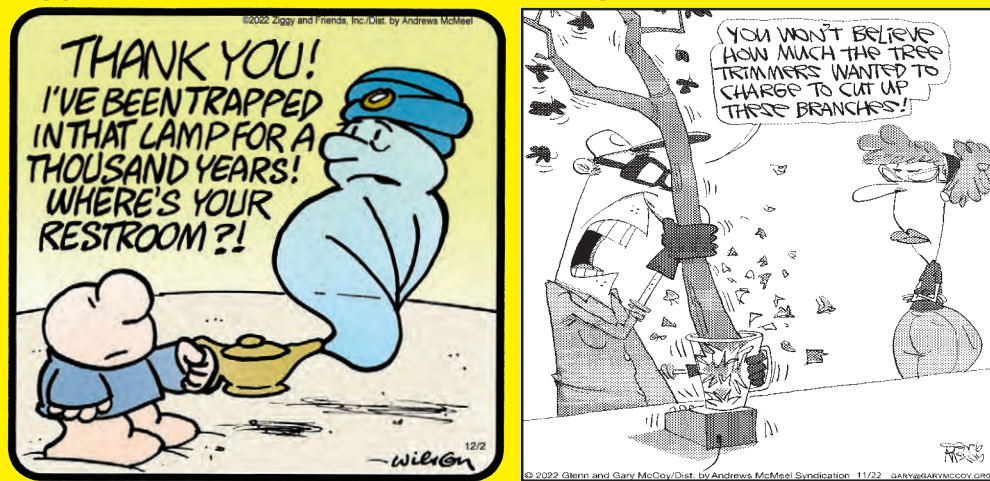


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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12/1 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 8, 2022

ACROSS

- Seeing stars
- Nativity figure
- Text that might get "ur welcome" in response
- Old enough
- Valley called "the Garden of France"
- "... is me!"
- JD
- Charged particle
- "... ish"
- Previous partners
- He knows when you've been bad or good
- Saigon locale, briefly
- Taste, e.g.
- "Notorious" Supreme Court inits., once
- WE
- Gambling opponent that's tough to beat
- Greek fertility god
- Aspiring atty.'s exam
- Enthusiastic about
- Natural hairdos
- Europe's highest active volcano
- Western mil. alliance
- Golf bag items
- "... you the lucky one!"
- ON

- Old-fashioned liquor
- Spend time in front of the mirror
- Venomous viper
- Striped savannah animal
- Spot for some needlework?
- Sludge
- Incoming flight stat
- Showing partiality ... or a hint to how the clues for 17-, 30- and 45-Across were constructed
- "Shop you drop"
- Epic featuring the fall of Troy
- Finish off
- Falcons, on a scoreboard
- Lightly hammered?
- Like a stereotypical teen's room

- The ___ of two evils
- Princess Leia, to Luke Skywalker
- Informal party with folk music
- TV's warrior princess
- Singer Lovato
- Someone opening a can of worms?
- Wonderment
- Give lip to
- Creature that may have given rise to the unicorn myth
- "Enjoy the meal!"
- Bowling alley blunder
- Postpone
- Slipped up
- Largest deer species
- Alaska or Hawaii

- Oklahoma athlete
- Heaps and heaps
- Beast of burden
- "Scram!"
- Gave a buzz
- Coolness under pressure
- Greek Z
- Cut, as class
- Some South Korean cars
- 500
- Poems of praise
- God often depicted throwing lightning bolts
- Best Female Athlete, e.g.
- "Allah is the Greatest. I'm just the greatest boxer" speaker
- Total

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

12/1 Solution

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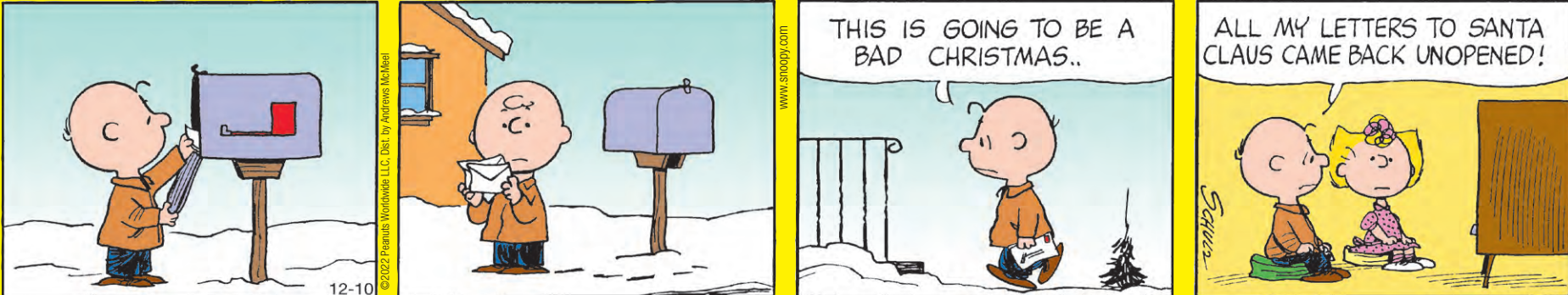
12/8

Term Limits by John Ewbank

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				

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

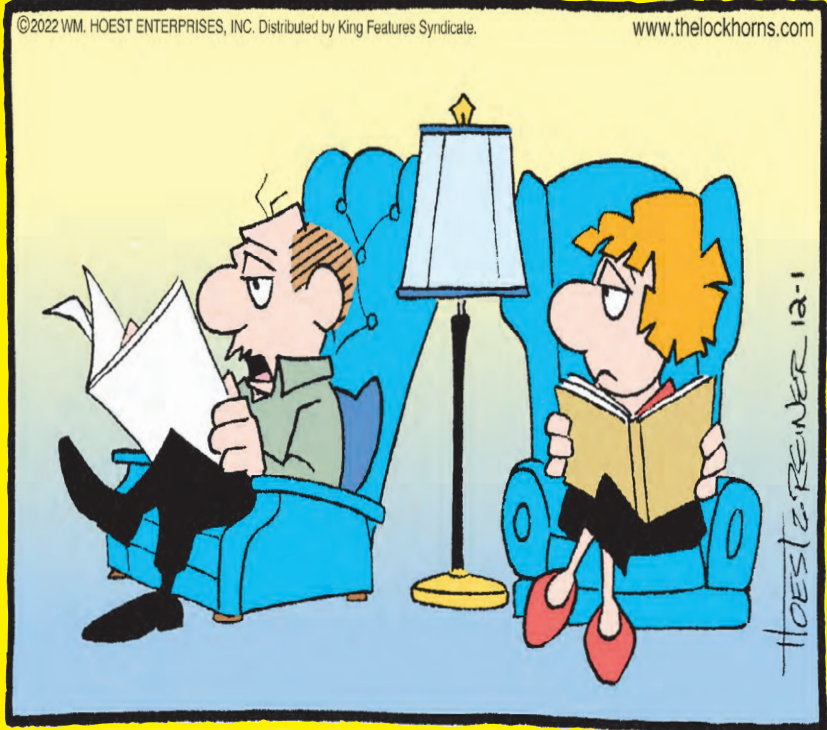
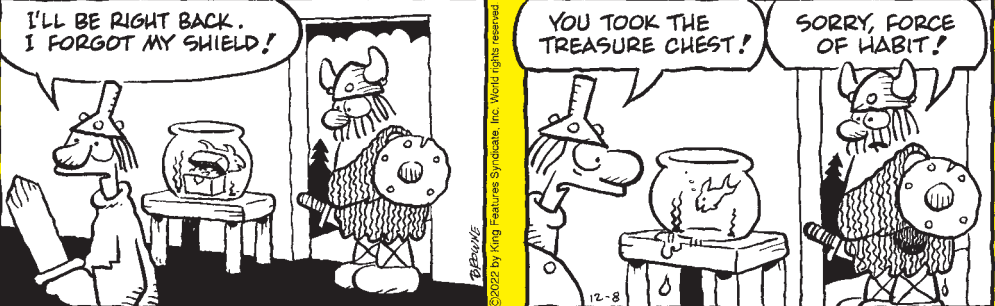


Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

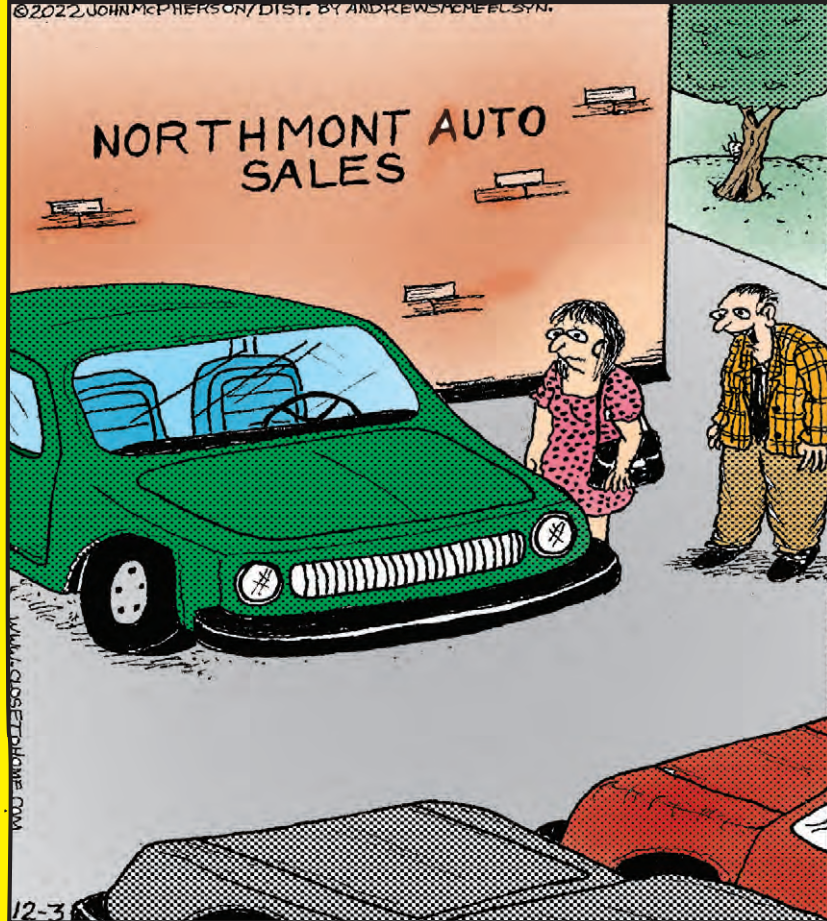
Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



“ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, I GET MY NEWS FROM THE INTERNET.”

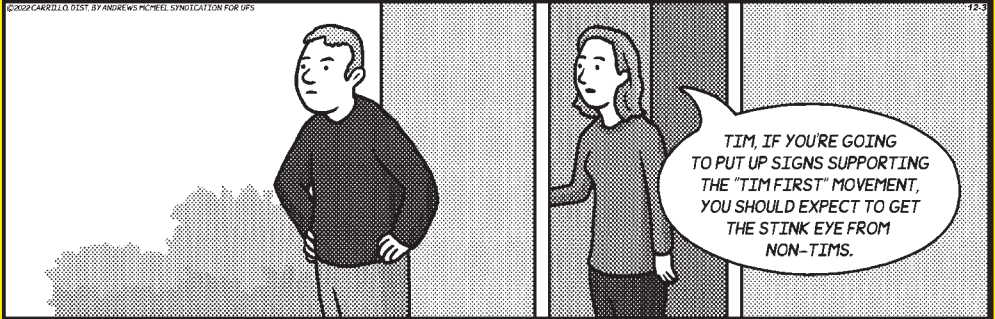
Close To Home

John McPherson



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



“As well as driving itself, this model comes with mundane chitchat from nonexistent passengers to break up the boredom.”

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



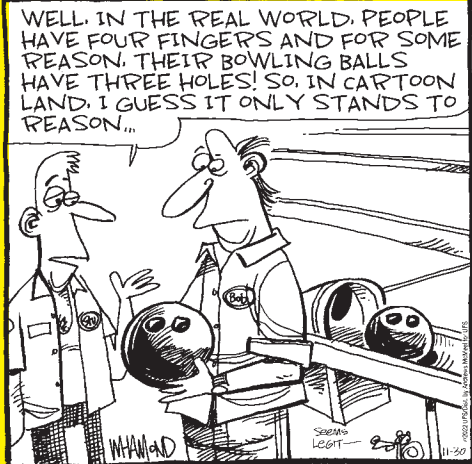
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



“Do you even know why you are barking?”

SPORTS



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WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Elite bar set for South boys swim and dive entering new season

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

With 2021-22 accolades including a dual meet national championship, four All-American swimmers, one All-American diver and a third-place finish at the Division 2 state finals, Grosse Pointe South’s boys varsity swim and dive team is hoping to remain an elite program, but the loss of some of last season’s key seniors gives them an additional hurdle to overcome in their quest for championships.

“We are realistically aiming to be a top five team,” said Blue Devils head coach John Fodell. “We hope to win the MAC Red again and give it a good run at states.”

A MAC Red championship would mark the 25th consecutive league championship for the program, a rarified record no other program in the Pointes approaches. The program also boasts Division 2’s reigning state diving champion Logan Hepner and

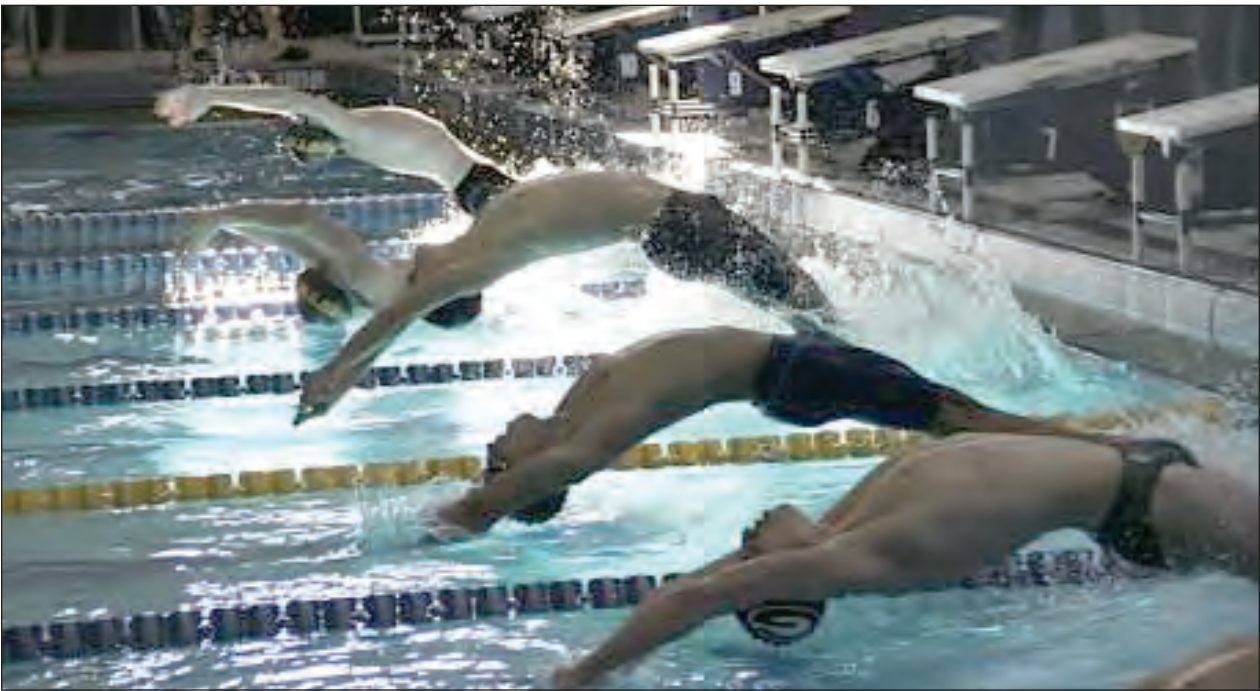


PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH BOYS SWIM AND DIVE

South’s varsity swim team practices backstroke starts off the wall while training last season, where they finished third overall in Division 2.

returns top swimmers Keiran Rahmaan, Chandler Bower, Drew Rulison, Jake Chungg and Ben Bryan, among others.

Rahmaan is a member of the 2022 state champion 200 medley relay, which cruised its way to a school and Division 2 record-breaking time of 1:31:85. No team in any

division in Michigan swam faster in the 2021-22 season than that relay of Rahmaan and graduated teammates Tucker Briggs, Jake Vallan and Drew Vandeputte. The 200 medley relay team earned All-American status in that race, as well as in the 200 free relay. Hepner earned

All-American honors in diving.

But last year’s third-place finish was outpaced by another accomplishment — being named the 2021-22 Class 2, Dual Meet National Champions from the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association. The Blue Devils also

placed 25th overall out of six different classes nationally.

Finishing as the country’s best in last year’s rankings was a first for South’s program and sets the bar high for this year’s squad. Fodell said he is only looking forward and has established three main goals for his team.

The first priority is getting in shape in the pool and in the weight room.

“We have already started lifting and had a big group show up the first day,” Fodell said.

The second is earning as many state relay cuts as possible.

“The more swimmers we can bring to states, the better,” Fodell said. “And then we need everyone to earn points at the state meet.”

Finally, the team is aiming to win the MAC Red. With 24 consecutive league championships, it may seem like the team is on autopilot, but Fodell takes nothing for granted.

“It’s always one of our goals (to win the MAC Red) and this season is no different,” he said.

South’s biggest competition for a state title comes from University of Detroit-Jesuit, which finished second last year to state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer, and Birmingham Groves, which finished behind the Blue Devils in fourth.

See SOUTH, page 3D

Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

University Liggett’s boys varsity hockey team has started its young season on a roll. Winning five of its first six games, senior forward Stephen Wheatley has played a major role in the team’s hot start.

Wheatley is in just his second season playing high school hockey at Liggett, joining the team after years of playing AAA junior hockey. Becoming a Knight is a decision that Wheatley surely does not regret, and Liggett’s strong start to the season is a testament to the chemistry he has built with his teammates in that time.

“We’re rolling right now and it’s been fun,” Wheatley said. “We’re all best friends so it’s easy because it’s the closest team I’ve ever been on. It translates onto the ice and we have a lot of fun

ing the team in points and scoring eight goals along with nine assists in Liggett’s first five games.

He scored five of those eight goals in an 8-1 win over L’Anse Creuse United Nov. 28. Wheatley finished the game with five goals, adding an assist to the box score as well. After a slow start in the season’s first couple of games, at least by Wheatley’s standards, that Monday evening game was a showcase of how talented and dangerous he can be on the ice at any time.

“I’d say I’m a skilled playmaker who is offensive and feel like I’m always a threat to score,” Wheatley said. “...The first couple games of the season I

didn’t play the way I really wanted to so having a night like that was definitely big.”

What helped draw Wheatley to playing for Liggett was the hiring of head coach Colin Smith before the beginning of last season. Smith had been Wheatley’s trainer in the past and the two already had strong mentor-player chemistry. When Smith took over behind the bench for the Knights, Smith got Wheatley to join the roster, and they hit the ground running.

“When I was younger I grew up training with him but he was never my coach,” Wheatley said. “Joining Liggett, it was easy because I knew what he was like and how he would coach us. It was a really easy transition.”

Wheatley’s transition to his new team last year was seamless, and he has become a key piece on the top forward lines for the Knights already.

See ATHLETE, page 2D



COURTESY PHOTO

Liggett senior Stephen Wheatley has been a prolific goal scorer for the Knights so far this season.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Stephen Wheatley

School: University Liggett

Sport: Hockey

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doing it.”

With the Knights notching plenty of wins to begin the season, Wheatley’s contributions have included lead-



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South tips off season with win



South sophomore Madison Benard, pictured in a game last season against Marian, had 22 points last Friday night in the Blue Devils’ season-opening win over Romeo 48-32.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Jarren Purify, right, is one of three seniors on Liggett’s boys basketball team this year.

Knights look for consistency on the court

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

A new season brings a mix of old and new for the 2022-23 University Liggett boys varsity basketball team. That can be said for the lineup and for how the team is expected to play throughout the year.

This year’s Liggett team may not have the same volume of veteran leadership as the Knights have had in recent years, but that does not mean they are in short supply of it. Liggett has a few key veterans with experience ready to take the younger side of the lineup under their wings.

“We graduated eleven players in the last two years so we only have three seniors this year that we’ll rely heavily on,” said Head Coach Solomon Spann. “We’re not as deep as we’ve been in the past, which means we have to rely on some new faces to keep the energy going. There’s excitement in the gym and we’re excited to get started with great atmosphere in practice over the last week or so.”

There may not be many seniors on this year’s roster for the Knights, but each one of them will play an important role.

The main pair of seniors that Liggett will look to be leaders on and off the court are Josh Pierce and Jarren Purify. With multiple years of varsity experience under their belts, Spann has high expectations for the duo of Pierce and Purify going into this winter.

“They’ve both been in the program for three years now so they know the culture and what we expect,” he said. “They’ve done a great job of encouraging our younger players to get up to speed on the level of play and pace of the game that’s changed from middle school to high school or JV to varsity.”

While the veterans help bring the younger players up to speed, Spann is seeing the potential excitement that a fresh lineup can bring. Different athletes with different skill sets allow for plenty of experimentation on both sides of the ball.

New looks on offense and defense could be coming when the Knights take the court this season. It is all about taking advantage of the right opportunities and always keeping opponents guessing.

“We’ll probably do things a bit differently

than in the past,” Spann said. “This year, we’ll probably play more zone and look to execute in the half court and pick our spots as we look to run and have fast break opportunities.”

The offense might be fast, but it is defense that the Knights seem to be mainly focusing on heading into this season. After all, it is tough defense and communication that is going to be the key to be creating those fast opportunities on offense.

The team’s main goal for the season is simply to improve throughout the winter so that in the end, the Knights can put in their best effort in the biggest games.

“It’s going to be about defense and rebounding,” Spann said. “Our motto right now is to get better every day. Come, bring your best effort, be your best self and take it up a notch each and every day...Talking on defense is a big thing and not being afraid to have that voice be heard.”

Liggett began its season on Tuesday, Dec. 6 after press time with an away game at Southfield Christian. The Knights return to the court at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15 with another road contest at Parkway Christian.



COURTESY PHOTO

Wheatley scored 50 points for Liggett as a junior in the 2021-22 season and earned All-Catholic team honors.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

Last season, he was second on the team with 50 points and earned All-Catholic honors.

Leadership on and off the ice combined with his natural talent does make it seem as though Wheatley, in the eyes of his coach and longtime trainer, could really suc-

ceed in just about any situation.

“Stevie has a rare skill set on the ice of a high hockey IQ, great vision, deceptive moves and very smooth skating which makes him a nightmare for teams defensively when he’s on the ice,” Smith said. “He also always seems to be in the right place at the right time which goes back to his high hockey

IQ...I can’t say enough good things about Stevie on and off the ice. He is a joy to be around and he has an infectious smile, he’s always keeping the mood light and joking around but then knows how to turn it on when the puck drops.”

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

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

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grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News



Head coach Solomon Spann, center, is ready to begin his fifth season at the helm of Liggett’s boys varsity basketball team, pictured here in a practice last season.

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Small but solid, North boys varsity swim team takes personalized approach in the pool

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

The 2022-23 Grosse Pointe North's boys varsity swim team is facing a numbers game, though not just on the scoreboard. Equipped with just 11 swimmers and no divers as the new season approaches, the small-but-determined team faces filling some big holes after losing two all-state swimmers in Gianni Carlino and Ian Donhue,

both of whom now swim at the collegiate level. "We are encouraged that we fielded a team, we are coming into a great natatorium and have a great space to train (at North)," Norsemen head coach Kyle Kinyon said. Kinyon, who is in his second year as North's head coach, said the team has four returning swimmers and no seniors. However, he said he sees this as a potential asset to develop a strong,

personalized team culture. "With a larger team, sometimes you can't take advantage of getting to know each swimmer really well," he said. "With a smaller team, you can get to know their likes and different personalities." Kinyon will implement that personal approach by learning each swimmer's season goals, whether it's earning personal best times, a county time cut, a league cut or

state qualifying time. He also plans on continuing a tradition of starting each practice with a brain game he displays on the scoreboard. This year's team has requested playing last year's big craze of Wordle again before their daily dive into the water for a few hours of training. "I have a background as an educator and the boys love the competition, so it's a win," he said about starting North's practices with a

game. Kinyon also will focus on ways to take away the monotony that can set in on swim teams, with long practices and logging seemingly endless laps, by infusing fun and other team-building activities throughout the season. "We have to get in shape, but it's important to set the right mindset," he said. Part of establishing a winning mindset this season will come by building on important benchmarks set from last year's team, such as its Top 20 finish at the Division 2 2022 state meet and earning a school record in the 400 free relay (3:16.64) at finals.

North pulled off its noteworthy Top 20 finish, despite not being ranked heading into the competition. Kinyon pointed to some key swimmers North will rely on to capitalize on last year's upward trajectory. North's big weapon will be team co-captain and junior Tommy Moreland, a member of last year's record-breaking 400 free relay team. "Tommy has a lot of talent. ... He's the top dog now. His buddies graduated and there's a lot of pressure there," Kinyon said. "He has the talent, but now has to ask



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KYLE KINYON

North boys varsity swimmers take a break between sets to get feedback from head coach Kyle Kinyon, right, last season. Kinyon is in his second year leading the Norsemen.

himself, 'How do I handle it?'" Kinyon said he envisions a great year for Moreland. "He's not cocky. He is putting in the work and wants to swim and score points." Another swimmer to watch is junior co-captain Keegan Wettstein, who was a relay alternate at last year's state meet. "Keegan" is on the rise," Kinyon said. The head coach pointed out a third swimmer to look for this season: Jaden Laster. "He is another one of our swimmers who is plugged in and has personal goals he wants to achieve." Kinyon said while the season is young, he is eager to get started. "Our team continues to mold and bond all together," he said. "There's a family aspect to it all that we want to cultivate. "(Grosse Pointe) is a great, supportive community for swimming," he added. "That's a message we want to build on, too." North will use the month of December as a "pre-season" of sorts and has only one meet before January kicks things into high gear. The Norsemen will host a tri-meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13.

SOUTH:

Continued from page 1D

"We just have to take (the season) little by little, one step at a time," Fodell said. "We don't have the depth we had last year, so this will be all about earning points every chance we get. "We need to turn our weaknesses into assets." One of the assets

already in place, according to Fodell, is with this senior leadership. This year's co-captains are Rahmaan, Hepner, Bower, Rulison and Adam Johnson. He said he also hopes the team's culture is one that outworks the competition. "When you put the work in, you just might find a diamond in the rough," he said. "You

have to outwork people or you won't get past them. You have to aim to beat the people ahead of you when you dive into that pool." South immediately gets to work when it faces a huge test at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, against UDJ at home. They host their second meet of the season at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, against St. Clair.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH BOYS SWIM AND DIVE

Blue Devil senior Logan Hepner, the reigning Division 2 state diving champion, is working to defend his crown this season.



North boys varsity swimmers keep it loose on the pool deck during a practice last season.



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PHOTO BY BRYAN FULLER/ANN ARBOR OBSERVER

Former Blue Devil and Michigan Wolverine freshman cornerback Will Johnson makes his second interception of the night against Purdue wide receiver Charlie Jones last Saturday in the Big Ten Championship in Indianapolis. The interception helped set up a touchdown and two-point conversion that put U-M up by three scores late in the fourth quarter.

Former Blue Devils are Big Ten champs

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

The University of Michigan Wolverines won their second consecutive Big Ten championship by beating the Purdue Boilermakers 43-22 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Saturday, Dec. 3, with two Grosse Pointe South alums earning championship rings as freshmen for the Maize and Blue.

U-M cornerback and former Blue Devil Will Johnson, who was named a 2021-22 Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Year, and defensive tackle Joey Klunder, a South class

of 2022 graduate, are part of the 13-0, No. 2-ranked Michigan team in just their first year with the program.

Johnson, who wears No. 2, had an outstanding performance in last Saturday's contest, recording two solo tackles, two tackles for a loss and two interceptions. His first interception of the night came at 9:29 of the third quarter, when Johnson picked off Purdue's Aidan O'Connell in the end zone, killing a Boilermaker's drive.

He got his second pick deep in Purdue territory with 9:57 left in the fourth quarter, as Johnson anticipated a throw to Purdue wide

receiver Charlie Jones, cutting to the inside and giving Michigan the ball in the red zone. Just 51 seconds later, U-M quarterback J.J. McCarthy hit Ronnie Bell in the back of the end zone for the touchdown. U-M scored on the two-point conversion to make it a three-score game, 36-19, after Johnson's second pick of the day.

The Wolverines now head to the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix, Ariz., in a College Football Playoff Semifinal game against No. 3 Texas Christian University at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31. The winner earns a spot in the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship game Monday, Jan. 9, at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif.

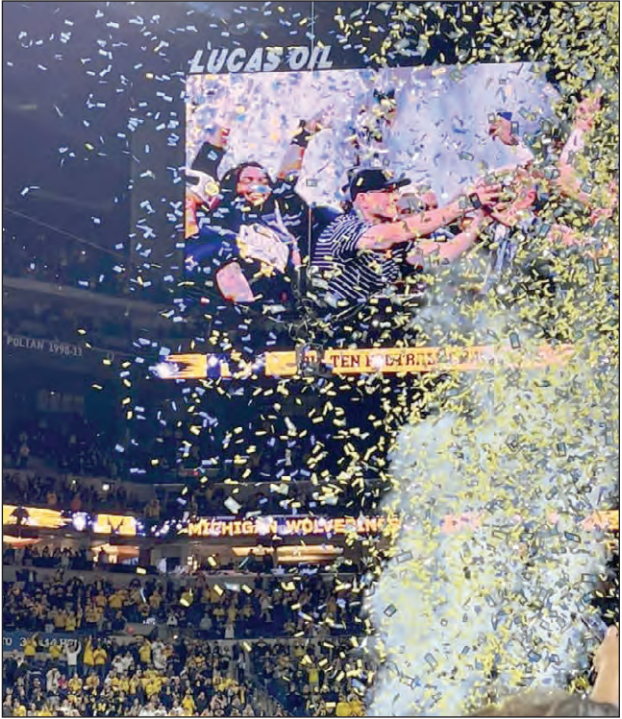


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISHA KLUNDER

Amidst the post-game fanfare and confetti, University of Michigan Head Coach Jim Harbaugh, center, grabs hold of the Big Ten Championship trophy.



Joey Klunder, right center, celebrates with his mom, Alisha, after the University of Michigan's Big Ten Championship victory last Saturday in Indianapolis. Klunder, defensive tackle at UM and a former Grosse Pointe South football standout, earned a championship ring as just a freshman.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALISHA KLUNDER

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
POLICE DEPARTMENT
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE
AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED
VEHICLES

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on **DECEMBER 14, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2011 CHRYSLER 300	2C3CA6CT1BH564553
2008 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU03Z68KE75398
2008 CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WB58N381282158
2019 FORD FIESTA	3FADP4EJ8KM133827
2013 HONDA FIT	JHMGE8G55DC029125
2013 BUICK VERANO	1G4PR55K7D424777
2007 MITSUBISHI GALANT	4A3AB36F37E079041
2009 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU03769KD14985
2008 CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WU583681233447
2010 CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WB5EKXA1143032
2005 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU04105KA83981
2009 FORD EDGE	2FMDK38C29BA41202

The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Sgt. Thomas Teatsorth
Traffic Safety Section

POSTED: Nov. 30, 2022
PUBLISHED: Dec. 8, 2022

A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

The City Council of the City of Harper Woods hereby gives notice that a vacancy has occurred effective November 21, 2022. The City Council is seeking interested and qualified persons for appointment to the position of Harper Woods City Council for the current term of office through November 13, 2023. Application is due by 4:00 p.m. on December 28, 2022 to be considered for the position, the applicant must:

- Be a qualified elector under State Law;
- Have primary residence within the City;
- Have resided in the City for at least two (2) years prior to December 28, 2022;
- Possess the qualifications for such office;
- Not be in default to the City of Harper Woods.

Please submit a letter of interest to Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk of the City of Harper Woods, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225. Letters must include applicant's name, address, telephone number and a brief explanation of why you wish to be considered. All applicants must attend the January 9, 2023 Special City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. where five minutes will be given to introduce themselves to City Council and the community.

Posted: December 1, 2022
Published: GPN, December 8, 2022

SPORTS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2022



- GPS Girls Hockey @ Regina- 5pm
- GPS Boys Swim & Dive vs. U of D Jesuit- 6pm
- GPS Girls Basketball vs. Anchor Bay- 7pm
- GPS Boys Hockey @ De La Salle- 7:45pm
- GPN Boys Hockey @ Marysville- 6pm
- GPN Girls Basketball @ Cousino- 7pm

8

- GPN Boys Basketball vs. Crosswell- Lexington- 7pm
- GPN Girls Hockey vs. Sacred Heart- 7:30pm
- ULS Girls Hockey vs. Downriver United- 5pm
- ULS Girls Basketball vs. Sacred Heart- 5:30pm
- ULS Boys Hockey vs. Gibraltar Carlson- 7:30pm

9

- GPS Wrestling @ Cousino Invitational- TBD
- GPS Boys Hockey @ Livonia Churchill- 1pm
- GPS Girls Basketball @ Best of Michigan Tournament- TBD
- GPS Boys Basketball @ Ferndale- 5pm
- GPN Wrestling @ Frankenmuth- 9am
- GPN Boys Hockey @ Livonia Franklin- 9am
- GPN Girls Hockey vs. Downriver United- 6pm
- ULS Girls Hockey vs. Livonia United- 2:15pm

10



11

NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

- GPN Boys Hockey @ Port Huron- 8pm

12



- GPS Boys Swim & Dive vs. St. Clair- 6pm
- GPN Boys Swim & Dive Tri-Meet (@ GPN)- 6pm
- ULS Girls Basketball vs. Our Lady of the Lakes- 5:30pm

13

- GPS vs. GPN Wrestling "Battle of the Pointes" (@GPS) 5:30pm
- GPN Girls Basketball @ Lake Fenton- 7pm
- GPN Girls Hockey vs. Troy- 7:30pm

14

- GPS vs. GPN Boys Basketball (@ GPS)- 7pm
- ULS Boys Basketball @ Parkway Christian- 7pm
- ULS Girls Hockey vs. Regina- 7:15pm
- Unified Gymnastics vs. Farmington- 6:30pm
- GPS vs. GPN Girls Hockey (@ McCann Arena)- 5:15pm

15

- GPS vs. GPN Boys Hockey (@ McCann Arena)- 5:30pm
- GPN Girls Basketball @ Dakota- 7pm
- GPS Girls Basketball @ L'Anse Creuse North- 7pm
- ULS Boys Hockey vs. TBD- 7:30pm

16

- GPN Wrestling @ Lakeview- 9am
- GPS, GPN, ULS Girls Hockey in ULS Tournament (@ McCann Arena)
- GPS, GPN, ULS Boys Hockey in ULS Tournament (@ McCann Arena)

17



18

NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

- Unified Gymnastics vs. Bloomfield Hills- 6:30pm

19



- GPS & GPN Wrestling Macomb County Meet- 2pm
- GPS Girls Basketball @ Port Huron- 7pm
- GPN Girls Basketball @ Eisenhower- 4:30pm
- GPN Boys Basketball @ Monroe- 7pm

20

- GPS & GPN Wrestling Macomb County Meet- 9am
- GPS Girls Hockey vs. Metro Jets- 7:30pm

21



- GPS Boys Basketball vs. Groves- 7pm
- GPS Boys Hockey @ TC Bay Reps- 7pm
- GPN Girls Basketball vs. Monroe- 6pm

22

- GPS Boys Hockey @ Big Rapids- 6pm

23



CHRISTMAS EVE

24



CHRISTMAS DAY

25



NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

26

- GPN Boys Basketball @ Anchor Bay- TBD
- GPS Girls Basketball vs. TBD (@ Ann Arbor Pioneer)- 9am
- GPS Boys Basketball vs. West Bloomfield (@ Ferndale)- 4:30pm

27

- GPN Boys Basketball vs. TBD (@ Anchor Bay)- TBD

28



- GPS Boys Basketball vs. Saline (@ North Farmington)- 3:30pm
- GPS Boys Swim & Dive SHACK Invite (@ Cranbrook)- TBD

29



NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

30



NEW YEAR'S EVE

31



We Tried It — Hula hoop hell

By Anna Lizer

For some reason I have been very lazy lately. I decided this needs to stop. What better way to get active than a hula hoop that kept popping up in my Facebook feed? I mean, I used to love to hula hoop. This way I can just hula hoop myself to a better body, all while having fun. What could possibly not be great about this? I'm sure if you have read this column, you know I have made some truly stupid purchases. This is definitely one of those occasions. If I

could rewind and un-buy this, I 100 percent would. What was I thinking? If nothing else, it might serve as a good white elephant gift this year — if I'm willing to even admit I purchased it in the first place. I wish you could actually see how ridiculous this contraption is in person. First off, it's pink and it is like a big plastic belt. Instead of an actual big hula hoop, it's like a weighted ball on a track that spins around (sort of) mimicking an actual hula hoop. First things first, it is so loud I couldn't even

hear my children making fun of me. Maybe that's not a bad thing. Anyway, the second thing is that it's just not like hula hooping. I feel like a better idea would be to tie a sandbag around your waist and just start gyrating. Same insanely embarrassing optics, but probably way less money. I hope I have saved my fellow readers some money and given you a laugh. Do NOT buy the weight-loss hula! The only thing you will lose is your dignity. I give it zero out of five alligators.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2022

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present except Councilperson Regina Williams

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To excuse Councilmember Williams from tonight's meeting because of a prior commitment.
- 2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held November 7, 2022.
- 3) To direct the City Clerk to place a public notice in the newspaper soliciting interested and qualified citizens to fill the vacant City Council seat, with said notice to include a filing date of December 30, 2022 and to schedule a Special City Council meeting for January 9, 2023 at which time all interested candidates must appear before City Council to give a presentation, followed by the City Council selecting a candidate to fill the vacancy.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

RESOLUTION PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 125890 through 125996 in the amount of \$367,425.45 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2). approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$25,119.46 for professional services during the month of October 2022 for the following projects: Beaconsfield Resurfacing, Concrete Pavement Repair, Sanitary Sewer FCIPP, Sanitary Sewer Clean & TV, Storm Sewer Repair, Joint/Crack Sealing, Danbury Lane, Johnston Park Basketball Court, Eastland Center, Temporary Water Operator, Lochmoor/Verizon, Miss Digs, DWRF Loan Project, DPW Interviews and Water Service Investigation. (3) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$5,790.66 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of December 2022. (4) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$183,099.38 for August 2022 and \$111,136.90 for September 2022 for the contractual building department services. (5) approve payment to Uni-Dig, Inc. in the amount of \$10,080.00 for leaf disposal in conjunction with the curbside leaf pickup program. (6) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$9,000.00 for the removal of downed trees/limbs. (7) approve payment in the amount of \$31,600.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with the replacement of several lead service lines. (8)approve payment to BMS Cat / Jarvis Property Restoration in the amount of \$8,553.82. for the storage units needed for the library's lower level materials following the flood event.(9) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$13,319.02 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of November 2022 and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of a database software program, televisions for police/court and the necessary peripherals for installation.
- 2) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC, in the amount of \$23,105.37 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2022 Storm Sewer Open Cut Repair Project, #180-282.
- 3) to approve payment to L. Anthony Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$145,387.96 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the Danbury Lane Improvements, #180-281D.
- 4) to accept, with regret, the letter from Veronica Paiz resigning her position with City Council.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Published: GPN, December 8, 2022

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING



PHONE: 313-882-6900 EXT. 1

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DEADLINES Please call for holiday deadline dates and times, subject to change. CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS: TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M. CLASSIFIED WORD ADS: TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M.	PRICING Prepayment is required. We accept credit cards, cash and check.	FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS Given for multi-week scheduled advertising, with prepayment or credit approval. Call for rates or for more information. Phone lines can be busy on Monday and Tuesday. Please call early.	WORD ADS: 12 - 25 words for \$25.35; additional words are 30¢ each. Abbreviations are not accepted. BORDER ADS STARTING AT: \$26.00 per column inch	CLASSIFYING AND CENSORSHIP We reserve the right to classify each ad under its appropriate heading. The publisher reserves the right to edit or reject ad copy submitted for publication.	CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS Responsibility for classified advertising errors is limited to either a cancellation of the charge or a re-run of the portion of the error. Notification must be given in time for the correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility for the same after the first insertion.
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Announcements

111 GP MISCELLANY
3 VIZEO
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www.marciawilkestatesales.com
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Street Numbers honored at 8:30 a.m. Friday Check out marciawilkestatesales.com to see featured items. We accept cash, checks, VISA, MasterCard, Discover and AMEX

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