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VOL. 85, NO. 18, 34 PAGES
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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Urban Forestry Commission a third of the way to 150-tree goal

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The Urban Forestry Commission's annual \$12,000 budget last year was diverted to storm cleanup after the winds July 26, took out 32 city trees.

However, through fundraisers — including "Go Green x3," which brought in more than \$30,000 earmarked for tree planting — and small grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the commission planted 89 trees on city property in 2023, netting 57 trees due to those lost in the storm.

"Less than a week after the storm, in early August, as crews were picking up brush piles, they were making room for my tree guys to plant the replacement trees, as they were navigating through the debris still throughout the street," said Brian Colter, city forester for the City, Farms and Park.

Since determining there are at least 150 clear gaps in the City's urban forest, the commission set a goal last year of planting 150 trees throughout a three-year period.

"We still are in line to reach our goal," Colter clarified, even with those lost in the storm, "but I tell you, we wouldn't have been able to plant any of those trees if it wasn't for the generosity of people who privately donated to a couple charities that we created."

The average cost to pur-

See TREES, page 5A

Mapping road work

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A stretch of Charlevoix will be a smooth cruise upon completion of the upcoming road resurfacing program.

So will a block of lower Middlesex and two alleys in the northwest sector of town.

"We received six bids," said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

"The low bid was from Hutch Paving (of

Warren, in the amount of \$568,618," said Patrick Droze, project manager with OHM Advisors, the city's engineering consultant.

Work consists of:
◆ replacing the top layer of road surface on

Charlevoix from Cadieux to Whittier,

◆ doing the same on Middlesex between Windmill Pointe Drive and Korte,

◆ resurfacing the alley between the 1100 blocks of Beaconsfield and Nottingham, plus

◆ resurfacing the alley

See ROADS, page 5A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Storm's brewing

Storm team members from Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League's A division are pumped for the season to begin, cheering from the back of a truck during GPFCL's parade Saturday, April 27, with hopes the crowd joins in on their unbridled excitement. For more sights and sounds from opening day festivities for Little League baseball and softball programs throughout the Pointes, head to pages 4-5D.

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See our LIFE section

Busy weekend in the Shores

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Back-to-back events will keep Osius Park swarming with activity this weekend.

Shred day runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 4. Part of the Keep America Beautiful "Great American Cleanup Days," the event is open to all residents of the Pointes and Harper Woods.

Cost is \$5 for each banker-sized box or grocery bag full of documents to be shredded.

Paper documents are welcome, including mail, letters, canceled checks, bank statements and other confidential infor-

mation.

CDs, credit cards, floppy disks, cardboard, tissue paper and paper towels are not permitted.

National Honor Society students from Grosse Pointe North High School will retrieve boxes or bags from vehicles and take them to the shredder, which has a window where people can watch their documents being shredded.

The event typically draws about 100 participants and creates 4 tons of shredded material.

Sunday, May 5, sees the annual Arbor Day observance starting at 9 a.m. for city residents only. A fun run/walk to

See BUSY, page 3A

Surplus to include water rate increase

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Council members are eyeing a new budget featuring a surplus that doesn't depend on a one-time windfall, such as last year's sale of city-owned property in Detroit.

During a workshop this week for the fiscal year 2025 budget, beginning July 1, the council couldn't get enough of new Finance Director Ginger Moriarty talking about "an expected and proposed surplus of \$81,700" in the general fund.

"Do you want to repeat that, Ms. Moriarty?" Mayor Michele Hodges joked.

Money in the general fund is used for principal operating services.

The back-in-black projection is two years



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

During a budget workshop Monday, April 29, Grosse Pointe Park council members liked hearing Finance Director Ginger Moriarty talk about an \$81,700 surplus in the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget.

removed from a \$773,000 deficit. It also comes without budget-builders packing revenue streams with a promised \$1.6 million federal stormwater improvement grant and other probabilities the likes of which until recent

years were entered on the books before receipt.

Odds are that Moriarty could augment city revenue by selling tickets to her council briefings. City Manager Nick

See SURPLUS, page 3A

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Pointer of INTEREST



Sarah Lewicki
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Fashion expert and mom of two brings haute couture to Grosse Pointe.

See story, page 4A



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More in store at Pointe Hardware

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

GROSSE POINTE PARK — After less than a year as owner of Pointe Hardware & Lumber, Waref Hawasli has breathed new life into his little corner of Grosse Pointe Park.

Before his ownership hits the one-year mark, he'll further unveil new developments that take his strip of Kercheval to the next level.

What's been done

Hawasli acquired Pointe Hardware in July 2023.

"From that point on, my focus has been on how to really activate the corridor, not just with the acquisition of the business, but with the building, which is from Maryland to Wayburn," he said, adding that growth is part of his strategy to drive more awareness to the Park.

From the moment he took over, his first goal was to renovate. The interior underwent a massive overhaul to bring cohesive flow throughout the store.

"I didn't mess with the overall aesthetic and charm," he noted. "There was no way I was going to go in and disrupt anything. My focus was how can I create a new experience for my customers but not impact the existing charm. That was a daunting task, to create value and impact without disrupting things."

Once the inside was renovated, Hawasli set about refreshing the exterior facade, "to keep up with the growing of Grosse Pointe Park as a business district," he said. "The existing building was in need of some love, not that the previous owners didn't love it, but it was ready for a fresh take."

"I wanted to focus on creating curb appeal reminiscent of hardware stores of the past," he continued. "I wanted it to be charming, approachable, but up to today's standards. I had brick brought in, added new windows, a new awning, new signage — all intentional and thoughtful."

Hawasli worked with



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF POINTE HARDWARE GROUP & FIELD OF VIEW STUDIO

Marvin Design Gallery and Festool boutiques will join the Pointe Hardware & Lumber family this summer.

the Field of View design team on the project. His company, Hawasli Homes, spearheaded the execution.

"For me personally, it was a self-inflicted timeline," he said of the work, which is receiving rave reviews from staff and customers alike. "Everyone's happy, excited. There's a genuine, family-centric, community-focused reality around the business now."

"... People are starting to feel the effects, coming in and getting excited at what it looks like, at the energy in the building," he added.

A visit from previous owner Randy Cousineau validated the project.

"He texted me and said the vibe in the store

seems so happy," Hawasli said. "To have the previous owner come in and say that ... It's been an exciting journey so far."

It's about to get more exciting as more changes are in store.

What's to come

"For the next chapter," Hawasli said, "we will build around how to impact the community, be part of the community, be substance driven."

To do that, Hawasli is welcoming two new brands in their own boutique settings.

"Marvin Design Gallery will be adjacent to us," he said. "This brand, in my opinion as a builder, is one of the best brands you can buy."

"This is a partnership with Laurence Smith Window & Door, the largest window provider for Marvin," he added. "We will stock all lines of Marvin brands within a 1,000-square-foot footprint of boutique space — the first of its kind in Wayne County. It should be ready to open this summer."

"We're excited about

this opportunity to partner with Waref and Pointe Hardware," said Bill Ruff, CEO of Marvin Design Gallery. "Our company is built on the same principals as Pointe Hardware has been for many, many years: Good people working with good people."

The second addition, Festool, is an international company founded in Germany that features high-end tools.

"To me, whether you're a carpenter, dry wall hanger or craftsman, Festool is the highest-end tool product you can invest in," Hawasli said. "People who buy it are treating their craft as a career. ... It's priced with the intent to be a quality product with longevity and impact quality. When you buy it, you're going to be keeping it. It's an item you've saved up for and are excited to finally buy. There's an emotional investment in Festool."

"... Every other hardware store that carries this tool product has them in a 12-foot aisle in their store," he added. "My vision is that it should stand in its own boutique. This will be the first-ever authorized Festool boutique in the nation, in Grosse Pointe Park, part of Pointe Hardware & Lumber. It will also open in summer 2024."

"We are excited to partner with Pointe

Hardware & Lumber and fortunate to have our brand featured in such a unique concept," Festool Executive Vice President Michael Burch said in a written statement. "The passion and vision Waref has is energizing and, as a family-owned business that will be 100 years old in 2025, we love supporting family-owned businesses that understand the role they play in the communities they serve. We both understand that our mutual success will be determined by the success of our customers and that's what makes this partnership a natural fit."

The Marvin Design Gallery will occupy space previously occupied by an online eBay company. The front half will be dedicated to Marvin, while Pointe Hardware will expand into the back space with a specialty wood section, kitchenette for staff and satellite office for Hawasli Ventures.

On the other side of Pointe Hardware, Hot Yoga will relinquish 1,000 square feet of linear footage to house the Festool boutique, for which Hawasli is looking for an operations manager.

"My goal is to turn this into not just a community hardware and lumber provider, but this area becoming a destination," he noted. "It's an interesting paradigm

shift, what we can bring from a value perspective. This is going to bring value to the community, which really is my main objective."

Both spaces have been prepared for construction and inspected. The exteriors — featuring new windows, doors and brick — are finished. Dry wall will go up next.

"My intent is to take Pointe Hardware & Lumber further in order to take it down the path I want to go down," he added. "Some things needed to change, aesthetically, functionally, logistically, culturally. Things have been done, but I'm not done yet."

Further down the road

Hawasli said he has more exciting plans in store for Pointe Hardware customers.

"I'm fully invested and very connected to Grosse Pointe," he said. "I've always wanted to add value, create an impact, create a legacy in the community I live in."

"This is not just brick and mortar," he added, "but a digital expansion, too."

Hawasli plans to roll out a comprehensive website that rivals big box stores.

"This project is about community focus, but it's also realistic," he said. "You've got juggernauts like Amazon, Home Depot, Lowe's, ACE, Menard's with such big offerings. What can I bring to my community and create community loyalty, but also give customers more growth, new brands and create a destination? Online."

"... That will open up the door to literally everything that everyone else sells," he added, "with curbside pickup, 24-hour delivery, same-day delivery. It will still support the brand, the sense of local and community, but it's realistic. We've got to open a website companion."

He said he hopes phl1952.com will be live by the holidays, though he plans to soft launch "version one" this summer or fall. RockSolid MAX is working with him on its design.

"This is going to be part of our future," he said. "All that we carry, you'll see. If it's not in store, we can order it for you. We can have it shipped to the store or to your house."

"I'm excited about all the untapped opportunities we're going to be exploring and thoughtfully introducing into the market," he added. "... We've been working on this since the moment we took over. It hasn't even been a year yet, but there's already been so much growth and repositioning in the community."



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PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Kids get look-see at parents' workaday world

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Being sworn in as city employees for the day didn't measure up to the fun children had touring the public safety department during National Bring Your Kids to Work Day, Thursday, April 25.

"We saw fire trucks, police cars, jail cells — I hope they never see those again — and public safety dispatch," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "We also visited offices of the city clerk and finance director." Each child received a resolution in their honor.

In city council chambers at city hall, parents and children are, from left, Municipal Gardener Corin Vance with son and daughter, Dominic and McKinley Sevilla, 10 and 11, respectively; Parks and Recreation Director Chad Craig and son, KJ, 7; City Electrician Mike Krause and daughter, Abigale, 8; City Hall Administrator Kelly Poirier and daughter, Ireland, 4; City Manager Nick Sizeland and daughter, Kinsley, 2 1/2; and water department employee Brian Gipprich with his daughters, Madison, 12, and Hazel, 8.

"We're heading next to Windmill Pointe Park where they can help scan park passes for residents who come in," Sizeland said.

SURPLUS:

Continued from page 1A

Sizeland called an early episode "The Ginger Show."

Elected officials, career administrators and members of the public repeatedly praise the work she's done during her 14 months on the job.

She streamlined financial reports, presented accounting statements in easy-to-discern graphs and charts, and assigned revenues and expenses to the most relevant departments and operations.

"The skies are being cleared," Councilman Tim Kolar said.

"This is incredible, this budget," Councilman Brent Dreaver said. "How often I've heard people talk about not being able to see things at a granular level and you go right in here and see different events and things."

Moriarty also is having a dollar impact on municipal revenue by shifting banked money from basic bank accounts into those bearing interest.

"She's estimating over \$300,000 realized revenue from interest-bearing accounts," Hodges said.

"I went through the budget and projected every single line," Moriarty said during the workshop Monday, April 29. "The budget includes a fiscal year 2026 forecasted budget to help us determine our expectations and financial stability as we go into the following year. It allows us to determine funding for needs that may come up in operations or projects as we move forward."

"We want to make good, wise, sensible decisions here," Hodges said. "What we do today is going to matter one year from now, five years from now."

Another forecast shows pension costs increasing annually through 2030, when they'll total \$3,600,000, a \$1.2 million increase over today.

Some aspects of the fiscal year 2025 budget will be adjusted during the fortnight leading to passage during the May 13 council meeting.

A prime change is the amount of a water rate increase. Administrators proposed a 3.5 percent hike to keep the city's head slightly above a 3.25 percent increase to buy drinking water from the Great Lakes Water Authority. The authority also is raising sewage treatment rates by 3 percent.

"Nobody wants an increase, but we have a multitude of things that need to be done in water-sewer," said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

He proposed a greater but undramatic increase now rather than waiting until inflation and growing supply costs force a major jump.

"Incremental adjustments are better than getting to when things are a pressing issue," Wiener said.

Council members are expected to return May 13 with a suggested 4 percent to 4.5 percent water rate increase.

Also due for change is a 3 percent increase to rent boat wells at the Windmill Pointe Park municipal marina. Because this season's

rental contracts are already in place, rate changes wouldn't be effective until next year, according to Councilman Tom Caulfield, liaison to the recreation commission.

Highlights of the proposed budget are:

- ◆ Some 73 percent of fiscal year 2025's general fund revenues, totaling \$14,063,800, come from local property taxes.

- ◆ Although the city's taxable value increased 6.7 percent from last year, the most property taxes can increase is 5.1 percent, the rate of inflation, according to provisions of the Headlee tax limitation amendment which Michigan voters passed into law in 1978.

- ◆ The public safety department represents 58 percent, or \$8,077,200,

of total general fund expenses of \$13,982,100.

- ◆ After public safety, the parks and recreation department represents the second-biggest expenditure, \$2,238,900, or 16 percent of the total. Third is general government and public works at \$1,190,700, or 9 percent.

- ◆ All of the city's various funds combined represent expenditures of \$29,741,200. These include enterprise funds, which operate by user fees, not property tax receipts. Examples are the marina, water-sewer and water-sewer infrastructure funds.

Of that grand total, city operations represent \$16,919,700 (57 percent) while employee wages and fringe benefits account for the rest, \$12,821,500 (43 percent).

Pool blocks getting fixed

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Swimmers will have a safer time getting off their marks when wobbly starting blocks are fixed at the municipal pool.

Existing blocks, which provide a 30-inch elevated platform from which racers launch themselves, are irreparably loose from their pool-side foundations and need to be replaced.

"Starting blocks used for the Park swim team are unsafe to use at this time," Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation, wrote in a memo to the city council. "Cement has been breaking up

around the blocks and the anchors that hold the blocks in place are worn out."

A patch job failed. "Repairs were made last season, but didn't hold up," Craig said.

Estimated costs for full-out replacement of the city's seven blocks ranged close to \$40,000, according to estimates discussed in recent months by the recreation commission and city council.

On April 4, a united commission opted for a frugal, \$16,400 option and directed Craig to present it to the council for consideration. Only

See BLOCKS, page 4A

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, MAY 5

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores annual Arbor Day Observance and Fun Run, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 6

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council budget hearing, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Special Joint Finance and City Council meeting to discuss proposed 2024-25 budget, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission Flower preorder pickup, 3 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission Flower Sale begins, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission Flower Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ Cook Schoolhouse open, noon to 2 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Town Hall meeting, 10 a.m.

BUSY:

Continued from page 1A

the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$5 per person and includes a T-shirt. Strollers and rollerbladers are welcome.

Afterward, back at the park, there will be a kids' festival featuring games, prizes, treats, face painting and a petting zoo. This part of the day has been expanded from previous years because the Easter egg hunt activities were canceled in March due to inclement weather.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Haute couture hits Grosse Pointe

By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

Grosse Pointer Sarah Lewicki's luxury resale concept, ReloveLuxe, is the culmination of years of professional fashion experience. From buying to merchandising to retail, Lewicki has touched almost every aspect of the high-end fashion industry.

Fresh out of college with advertising and public relations degrees in hand — not to mention a lifelong passion for fashion — Lewicki realized the two could be paired perfectly and began a robust career at Saks Fifth Avenue, first in Michigan, later in New York City, then full circle back to Michigan.

Once back in her home state, Lewicki had the opportunity to experience the ultimate in luxury brands when she joined Chanel. There, she gained a whole new set of skills.

"I focused on product education/knowledge, incorporated a new luxe level of service and formed working client relationships that are still vital to this day," Lewicki said.

After years of forming relationships with customers and further work experience within a resale company, Lewicki realized an untapped market and a golden opportunity.

"I've always wanted to have my own business," she said.

But when it came to starting a luxury business that focused on resale versus retail, it wasn't until after working for a luxury resale company she noticed an opportunity to create a higher level of customer service that clients deserve when shopping, especially in the resale market. Her goal is to always provide "first-class customer service," no matter the price



COURTESY PHOTO

Sarah Lewicki is all smiles with her husband and two young sons.

point.

The business consists of a highly curated collection of clothing and accessories in the ReloveLuxe boutique located at 79 Kercheval. Customers can peruse the latest finds on social media, shop during retail hours, make an appointment to shop or provide a wish list of items for Lewicki to search and find specifically for them. In addition, those looking to consign their mint-condition luxury goods also are encouraged to reach out for an appointment.

In addition to service, Lewicki loves the sustainability of resale goods.

"Luxury designer items are sustainable and with proper care and condition, need to be cyclical," she said.

She also noted that because prices of designer goods have risen exponentially the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult for most people to afford them.

"The demand for vintage luxury goods is on the rise," she added.

Working with clients old and new is one of Lewicki's favorite parts of the job.

"My favorite is when my past Saks and Chanel clients come to me to sell the pieces I sold them when we first met so many years ago," Lewicki said. "We reminisce about what occasion or celebration they originally bought it for and how much they enjoyed carrying it since. Finding a new buyer for those items is the most fun, because they always come with the best stories."

After experiencing a high level of interest and success, Lewicki is excited for the future and an expansion, which is coming soon.

"I'll definitely have an event to celebrate this summer, so stay tuned," she said, crediting the Grosse Pointe community for its unwavering support. "The support I've received from the start of this business almost two years ago has been incredible. The community continues to impress me with how much support everyone gives to any and all local small businesses."

A Chanel handbag is just one sample of what's in store at ReloveLuxe.



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State winner!

Maire Elementary School kindergartner Madeline Martin won first place in a statewide contest, hosted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, with her poster, "Our Future is in Our Hands." Other finalists from Maire included fourth graders Josie Danley and Johanna Kim; third graders Brecklyn Daniels and Caitlyn Deldin; second graders Bo Derringer and Gabriel Olwicz-Boggs; first graders Mary Derringer and John Elsey; and kindergartner Seamus Mulroy. Posters were judged on students' creative use of native Michigan wildlife, plants, land, freshwater ecosystems or depiction of the importance of clean drinking water.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN MARIE SMIAL

BLOCKS:

Continued from page 3A

the council can approve expenditures greater than \$5,000, except in emergencies.

On Monday, April 29, council members sided with the commission and approved construction bids.

Work involves \$6,950 worth of concrete foundation replacement allotted to contractor McEvoy Concrete of Bloomfield Hills.

Another \$9,442 contract was awarded to Aquatic Source, of Brighton, to replace and secure the blocks' anchors.

"The concrete pad that runs along the section of starting blocks needs to be removed; new anchors and bonding need to be installed," Craig said.

Improvements are supposed to be finished by the start of the recreational swimming season

A day in the life

Sarah Lewicki shared what her typical day looks like at the helm of ReloveLuxe:

"I'll spend most time authenticating and taking photos of new items to get those up on my socials/website and listed as soon as possible.

"Follow-ups with any potential consignor inquiries and look for comps to price out their items.

"Sourcing items on clients' wish lists, following up with clients on new arrivals, social media creation, newsletter updates, networking with other resellers and local businesses to plan the next event or promotion

"The list goes on, keeps me busy but I love it!"

Lewicki resides in the Farms with her husband and two young sons. In her spare time, she likes to trade her Chanel handbag for a tennis racket and enjoys a good rally with her 6-year-old son. In addition, Lewicki sells real estate for Lambrecht Realty and is a member of Tau Beta Association, whose efforts benefit the Children's Center of Detroit.

To learn more about ReloveLuxe, visit her social media accounts on Instagram @reloveluxe or Facebook @ReloveLuxe or visit reloveluxe.co. The boutique is located at 79 Kercheval, Suite 101, on The Hill, and is open 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment.

Grosse Pointe News

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City of Grosse Pointe

Stroke of luck

A 21-year-old Detroit man became the suspect in a larceny by conversion investigation after he was hired in early April to work at a restaurant in The Village for \$15 an hour.

The payroll company inadvertently paid him \$1,500 an hour on his first check — amounting to \$16,000 deposited into his account — and when the owners of the restaurant called him to fix the mistake, he stopped returning calls and quit showing up for work.

Caught in the act

Officers responded to a larceny from auto in progress in the 17000 block of Mack at 5:12 p.m. Monday, April 22, and blocks away located a 27-year-old Detroit woman who fit the suspect's description and was in possession of the stolen items.

Facebook fraud

A 28-year-old Warren woman is suspected of defrauding a Grosse Pointer out of \$20 after arranging to sell a lamp via Facebook Marketplace Tuesday, April 23.

No ID

After being stopped at Mack and Washington for an expired license plate at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27, a 21-year-old Taylor man was cited for not having his driver's license on him.

Flag on the play

When a football inadvertently hit a car driving

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

in the 700 block of University at 2:40 p.m. Sunday, April 28, a passenger exited the car and exchanged angry words with the father and son, including a threat.

The passenger is described as a black male in his 20s and was inside a black Ford Fusion.

Suspended license

A 32-year-old Detroit woman was cited for a suspended license after being pulled over at Mack and Cadieux at 12:30 a.m. Monday, April 29, when a random license plate check revealed there was no insurance on the vehicle.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Asleep at the wheel

A 60-year-old Detroit man told officers he was on his way downtown to pick up death certificates for his job at a funeral home when he was found asleep behind the wheel of his car at the intersection of Lakeshore and Moross at 12:13 p.m. Monday, April 22.

A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol level to be 0.24 percent, for which he was arrested.

Fleeing police

A 25-year-old Armada man is suspected of hav-

ing taken his father's truck without permission and using it to flee police after an off-duty Farms officer reported him for erratic driving on Lakeshore at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, April 23.

Tinted windows

A 28-year-old St. Clair Shores man was arrested on a Woods warrant for driving while license suspended after he was pulled over on Moross for illegally tinted front windows at 10:43 a.m. Tuesday, April 23,

Speeding

A 45-year-old Sterling Heights man was cited for speeding and driving on a revoked license after he was pulled over for speeding 48 mph on Lakeshore at 3:03 p.m. Saturday, April 27.

Self-defense

When pulled over on Mack for an expired plate at 7:46 p.m. Saturday, April 27, a 29-year-old Detroit woman told officers, despite not having a concealed carry permit, she keeps a handgun in her purse for protection, because she is a DoorDash driver with her children in the car and refuses to become a victim.

The woman was cited for improper transport of a firearm and the weapon was seized.

Close call

A vehicle alarm alerted homeowners in the 400 block of Cloverly their

TREES:

Continued from page 1A

chase and plant a 2.5-inch-caliper tree, at 10 to 12 feet tall, is \$350.

Donations to the effort

are tax-deductible and can be made through the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation by noting in the memo section the funds are for "ReLeaf Grosse Pointe."

The 150-tree goal,

Colter noted, "is a conservative number. Most likely (the need is) much larger than that, especially if you consider the number of trees that are in poor condition and on their way out in decline."

ROADS:

Continued from page 1A

between the 1300 blocks of Wayburn and Maryland.

Hutch's winning offer undercut more than industry rivals.

"The low bid amount is approximately 6.7 percent below the engineer's opinion of probable cost," Droze said.

Nor does the bottom-rung price foreshadow cheap workmanship.

"OHM contacted several references for current and past projects and received similar favorable responses for asphalt programs in various communities," Droze said. "Hutch Paving was recommended as a timely contractor that coordinates construction scheduling well and completed work per the specifications of the city."

"The project has been incorporated into the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget," Tom Jenny, Park director of public works, wrote in a memo to the city council.

Members of the city council on Monday, April 29, reviewed the budget. A final say is expected during a follow-up meeting Monday, May 13.

Councilman Brent Dreaver asked whether leftover funds, if any, would be allocated for incidental alley and road repairs elsewhere in the city.

"They would not," Sizeland said. "We are going to discuss an allo-

cation in the (fiscal year 2025) budget for those types of touch-list items. Typically, we like to bundle those together for a contractor. In the upcoming budget for (fiscal year) 2025, there's \$50,000 for those types of repairs."



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SEE ALL THE PARK HAS TO EXPLORE...

2002 Chevrolet Tahoe was being tampered with at 4:09 a.m. Monday, April 29.

No suspects were located, but the driver's side door lock was damaged.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Almost

A resident in the 1900 block of Huntington reported someone tried to steal her 2016 Kia from her driveway between 9 p.m. Sunday, April 21, and 7 a.m. Monday, April 22.

The complainant said the vehicle's driver's side door was ajar, the front passenger window was smashed, the glove box was left open and the steering wheel cover was on the floor of the vehicle.

Porch pirate

A package worth \$200 was stolen from the porch of a house in the 19000 block of Linville

some time before 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25.

Security footage showed a black male grabbing the item and leaving in a Toyota Corolla.

Shady

Two black females in their 20s stole a pair of designer sunglasses worth \$405 from a store in the 19300 block of Mack around noon Friday, April 26. Employees said it was the fourth time the two had stolen glasses there.

Out with a bang

A 2018 Jeep was stolen from a driveway in the 19000 block of Linville sometime overnight Sunday, April 28.

The owner said a Dodge Durango was seen in the area prior and stopped in front of the house. A black male was spotted approaching the locked vehicle and a loud bang was heard before the owner watched his Jeep being driven away.

— Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Theft from car

The curse of the unlocked parked car befell a resident of the 1100 block of Lakepointe late last week.

Between noon Thursday, April 4, and 8 a.m. the next day, someone entered the resi-

dent's unlocked vehicle parked curbside and stole an \$800 HP Laptop, \$300 Nintendo Switch, Pixel earbuds valued at \$200 and a Nintendo game costing \$20.

Disorderly

Police cited a 57-year-old male resident at 4:23 p.m. Monday, April 22, for disorderly conduct in the area of Windmill Pointe Drive and Trombley.

A sergeant responded to the scene of the man reportedly threatening people while walking his dog.

Equipment stolen

Along with bicycle thefts, of which none were reported last week in the Park, an indicator of approaching spring weather is the theft of lawn equipment.

A thief or thieves targeting landscapers in the 1000 block of Berkshire during the hour following 4:12 p.m. Friday, April 26, got away with a Redmax edger, weed whip and three blowers.

All were taken from the crew's trailer while they worked.

— Brad Lindberg

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



Soirée at the Stone Manor

A fundraiser in support of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

Thursday, June 20, 2024

This contemporary castle features stone, slate, timber, custom metal work, vintage and re-purposed materials, tiles, and decorative finishes sourced from around the globe.

Enjoy a rare opportunity to tour and party at the estate, and support local history. A special Afterglow in support of Gianna House Pregnancy and Parenting Residence will feature the 1718 Marquis de la Riviere Stradivarius violin in demonstration and concert. Very limited seating.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

The committee conundrum

Detractors of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education — or at least the majority of the board — have spent the last 15 months decrying the use of committees across a wide variety of topics and issues.

We've heard claims this method leads to a lack of transparency and decisions are being made by unelected members. Both are false. The meetings are open to the public and final authority rests with the board.

This, however, begs the question: What do these same people think when they read or watch news stories about other levels of government?

Surely they're familiar with the "all powerful" Ways and Means Committee in Congress? Oddly, and sadly, no Washington, D.C., reporter seems capable of mentioning said committee without using that moniker.

Or that a certain piece of legislation was "voted out of committee along party lines"?

The committee structure is how government operates at the local, state and federal levels. Why should our school board operate in a vacuum?

Of course, we've all heard jokes about committees in the private sector. The best committee has three members and two are always absent, or a committee keeps minutes and loses hours.

But when used effectively and efficiently, committees can be a vital tool. They take time to focus on a narrow set of issues, using the expertise of members in order to make suggestions to the governing body.

Granted, at the state and federal levels, committee members also are elected officials who serve in the larger body, but their function is the same: talk to experts, mull over different options and come to a conclusion.

A more parallel example to the school board committees would be our local municipalities. City councils in each of the five Pointes have committees and commissions made up of appointed residents wishing to share their knowledge and get involved. These range from planning to parks and recreation to public works.

Each generally has at least one council member who acts as a liaison between the committee and the voting body. The work they do can be extensive. A city's planning commission, for example, can spend a multitude of hours over weeks and months reviewing ordinances, hearing variance requests and giving approval or disapproval to site plans.

As with the school board, recommendations by each city's committees and commissions can only be finalized by a vote of the governing body.

GPPSS currently has six standing committees, some of which meet more regularly than others. If all the work these committees do was only done at twice-monthly board meetings, we'd have a lot more nine-hour meetings similar to one last May, and that's not even counting public comment.

But perhaps the crux of the matter is that objections to the committees really means objections to the level of detail these committees pay.

The board in 2022 had two committees, policy and facilities, which seldom met. Because each only had three board members, no agendas are posted for those meetings on the board calendar for the meetings that did take place. It's safe to say had the current Finance and Facilities Committee been in place in 2022, the proposed clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School would not have gotten as far as it did. At a cost of \$1 million to taxpayers to build out, that boondoggle would have supplied a money train to a local hospital while continuing to cost taxpayers



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT By Dr. Andrea Tuttle

May is Educator Appreciation Month

May is Educator Appreciation Month and for Grosse Pointe, our educational team includes all the individuals who impact our students on a daily basis, including our custodians, paraprofessionals, administrators, teachers, support team members and more.

My heart is full of gratitude and admiration for the incredible individuals who shape our students' lives on a daily basis. Our educational team, with their unwavering dedication and passion, breathe life into the very essence of education — making it engaging, relevant, rigorous and filled with real-world applications. Their efforts ensure that the Grosse Pointe Public School System truly is a "District of Opportunities."

It is with great pride that I say our commitment to placing the best educational team before your children is absolute. Our schools are tirelessly innovating and providing more opportunities than any other educational entity in the area, all to ensure each child can reach their fullest potential, ready for college, a career and whatever life may hold.

Reflecting on the journey of education, from preschool through 12th grade, I'm reminded of a personal story about my own child. I once encouraged my high school-aged son to take a culinary arts class. Despite reluctance and a subsequent lack of enthusiasm for the subject, this experience underscored a vital lesson: the importance of exploring diverse experiences. Discovering what doesn't resonate with you is just as crucial as uncovering what does and sometimes, you may be surprised. This journey of exploration and self-discovery is essential, much like tasting different foods to find out your likes and dislikes. It's in these moments of trial and exploration we find our true passions. Sometimes we

learned at a later age we wished we would have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded to us during our "younger" years.

Grosse Pointe public schools are a treasure trove of opportunities, supported by an educational team that's nothing short of extraordinary. Our educators go beyond teaching; they build meaningful, caring relationships with students, embodying Theodore Roosevelt's wisdom: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Our team's devotion to building positive relationships, igniting the joy of learning and enabling every student to perform to the best of their ability is a testament to their passion for education and the future of our children.

What truly elevates our district, however, is the incredible community of students and families. The value our families and community place on education, the support that flows so abundantly within homes and the mutual encouragement among students are the foundation of our collective success. This commitment to education not only fuels academic excellence but also fosters a spirit of mutual achievement and growth.

As you explore this issue, take a moment to revel in the accomplishments of our students. Their successes are a beacon of what we can achieve together and a reminder of the boundless potential that lies within our collaborative efforts.

Thank you for your dedication to not just learning, but growing together. Let's continue to nurture this incredible community, for it is together that we will forge a future filled with endless possibilities.

With heartfelt appreciation and passion for the Grosse Pointe schools and community,

Dr. Andrea Tuttle

Dr. Andrea Tuttle is superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.



more money for required upkeep and maintenance.

An involved Finance Committee, by the same token, would not have allowed the district to lose \$10 million in fund equity in three years.

We applaud the current committees and the amount of work resident volunteers on them put in. Of note is the Community Engagement Committee, which helped formulate the community outreach survey.

Through it, the district hopes to gather feedback and the data to address its ongoing enrollment decline, including details from parents whose children once attended GPPSS but now are in a different school setting, or those with children too young for school and what their eventual plays might be.

The survey is open through May 7 at tinyurl.com/gppsssurvey or via a QR code available on the district website.

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

May 2 - 8



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
74°	78°	74°	74°	73°	75°	69°
56°	56°	55°	52°	59°	59°	50°
Mostly Cloudy	Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Chance Rain
10%	50%	30%	20%	0%	0%	30%
SUNRISE 6:25 am SUNSET 8:33 pm	SUNRISE 6:23 am SUNSET 8:34 pm	SUNRISE 6:22 am SUNSET 8:35 pm	SUNRISE 6:21 am SUNSET 8:36 pm	SUNRISE 6:20 am SUNSET 8:37 pm	SUNRISE 6:18 am SUNSET 8:38 pm	SUNRISE 6:17 am SUNSET 8:39 pm

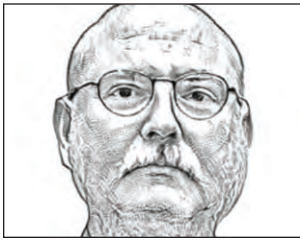
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LETTERS

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.

I SAY By Ted O'Neil

It's like he gets paid to be wrong



During last Thursday night's first round of the NFL Draft, ESPN "expert" Mel Kiper Jr. had six correct picks out of 32.

Quite the improvement over 2023, when he had a single correct pick in the first round. There's a reason my brother and I refer to mock drafts by Kiper and other pundits

as "mockery drafts."

Long-time baseball fans will remember the term "Mendoza Line." It's used regarding a position player failing to reach a .200 batting average for a season and is named for Mario Mendoza, a light-hitting shortstop who fell below that threshold five times in his nine-year career.

Kiper would be lucky to reach it just once.

Granted, there are any number of reasons a mockery draft can fall apart. It only takes one team trading up early in the first round or a team making a totally unexpected pick to set the rest of the dominoes tum-

bling. But accuracy isn't the goal when it comes to picking drafts, national title winners or even mid-week baseball games in August.

It's all about the hype. It's made ESPN and other sports networks virtually unwatchable. The yelling, the posturing, the hot takes. As The Beatles sang, "It's All Too Much."

SportsCenter used to be a joy to watch. Memorable hosts like Dan Patrick, Stuart Scott, Linda Cohn, Keith Olberman and John Buccigross would give scores and show highlights while mixing in deadpan humor, catchphrases and pop culture

references to make for an enjoyable hour. That and the in-house "This is SportsCenter" commercials featuring cameos by the athletes themselves were pure genius.

Today, everything has to be about point spreads, fantasy league statistics and who is dating whom.

Now that ESPN — and everyone else it seems, including professional sports leagues — are in bed with the bookies and the bettors, how many more grains of salt are needed when it comes to what they say? If a certain spread needs to tick slightly one way or the other to help the company's bottom line, will all

pertinent information be reported objectively? Or will an injury report or some other piece of pre-game information be "accidentally" overlooked?

At this point, aside from SportsCenter, there is very little non-game coverage on ESPN I can stomach. I enjoy the always magnificent series of 30-for-30 documentaries, of which there have been far too few lately, and the highly entertaining "Pardon the Interruption."

PTI hosts Tony Kornheiser and Michael Wilbon are funny, have a sense of history and always have great guests

(Hall of Fame quarterback Steve Young being the best of the best). They spend part of each show talking about the themes of the moment, never afraid to take a shot or two at the hype machines ESPN shows each morning, and take time to acknowledge date-relevant birthdays, milestones and significant achievements of athletes from days gone by.

Of course, it shouldn't be a surprise why PTI is so entertaining without being annoying. Wilbon and Kornheiser are longtime newspaper reporters and columnists, not just another couple talking heads.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1949

75 years ago this week

PLENTY OF ROOM IN PARK SCHOOLS: An interesting sidelight on the impending crowded conditions of Grosse Pointe schools, as so strenuously set forth by the proponents of the \$4,000,000 bond issue, is furnished by figures obtained April 26. The registration as of that date at the Trombly school was only 276. The capacity of this school is 600 pupils. At the same time the registration at the Defer school was 345. The capacity of the Defer school is 650 pupils.

MUSEUM PIECE

RESURRECTED: Necks stretched, eyes popped and traffic slowed to a snail's pace as curious motorists watched Ed Stair Jr., of Park Lane, jolt along Jefferson in a 1914 Scripps-Booth cycle car at 10 miles an hour last Monday afternoon. The bright yellow, red striped, chain-driven museum piece was found by W. J. Scripps Jr., near Coldwater, Michigan. The car was built by W. J. Scripps Sr.

1974

50 years ago this week

TWO NEW JUDGES

SIT IN GP MUNICIPAL COURTS:

Two of the three judges currently sitting in Grosse Pointe municipal courts were newly elected in the November 1973 balloting. They are Park Judge John Urso, Farms Judge Robert Pytell and Woods Judge J. Patrick Denis. The fourth judge, Douglas Paterson, is on leave and has asked Judge Denis to assume his City and Shores duties.

NEW HEALTH

CENTER TO AID

COMMUNITY: Cottage Hospital will share facilities with the Northeast Guidance Center with creation this month of a Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center, according to a joint announcement made by Dr. Eli Z. Rubin, direc-

tor of Northeast Guidance Center, and Ralph L. Wilgarde, Cottage administrator.

1999

25 years ago this week

PARK APPROVED ST.

AMBROSE PROJECT:

The Grosse Pointe Park City Council agreed to vacate Wayburn at Jefferson as part of an agreement that will allow the St. Ambrose parish to build a new parish gathering center. In February, the parish officially submitted plans for the gathering center, which would be underground. The plans called for a portion of Wayburn by Jefferson to be vacated to additional

parking for the parish could be provided and the center could be built.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

CONSIDERS

REOPENING BARNES:

Grosse Pointe public schools are planning on moving several early childhood special education programs into Barnes school for the 1999-2000 school year pending board approval. The plan, part of the district's facilities committee recommendations, involves consolidating the district's early intervention services, Autistic Impaired and Pre Primary Impaired and Play and Say programs, which are currently housed at Poupard Elementary School and the Kindertalk program currently housed at Richard Elementary School. The move also

may include the district's extended day kindergarten program.

2014

10 years ago this week

OUTLAW LEAVING

SOUTH:

Grosse Pointe South Principal Matt Outlaw has officially been named superintendent of the Brandon School District and will assume his new duties July 1. Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Thomas Harwood said South staff, parents and students will have an opportunity to complete a survey regarding the qualities they would like to see in the new South principal.



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J. McLaughlin in The Village turns 5

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE—J. McLaughlin opened its Village location five years ago this week, in response to Grosse Pointe regulars at its Somerset Collection location expressing an interest in having the retailer closer to home.

“We started as a pop-up because of that,” store manager Lynn Arrington said. “They brought us here and then they continued to support (us) and then we ended up staying.”

To celebrate its five-year anniversary at 17121 Kercheval, J. McLaughlin will host a Kentucky Derby-themed event from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 2, includ-

ing specialty cocktails, light bites and spring shopping.

“It’s basically our thank you to Grosse Pointe for supporting us for all these years,” Arrington said, adding attendees are invited to wear their Derby best. “... So many of (our customers) we know so well on a first-name basis. We know about their families, we know about their pets, because we see them all the time.”

“... It’s all about making a friend, not a customer.”

Patsy Gotfredson and Catherine McCuish — J. McLaughlin customers who work in connection with Tau Beta Association — will host the event, from which 15 percent of sales will be



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

J. McLaughlin will celebrate its five-year anniversary in The Village with a Kentucky Derby-themed event 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

donated to Tau Beta. The charitable organization partners with the Children’s Center of Detroit to benefit thousands of at-risk children and families.

J. McLaughlin has partnered with Tau Beta Association a number of times, Arrington said, “because of the wonderful work they do with children.”

The event is open to the public and expected to highlight the family-owned retailer’s connections with the Grosse Pointe community and beyond.

“I have a customer who lives in Jackson, Mich., and she’s going to drive down from Jackson because of our anniversary party,” Arrington said.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Licavoli’s Cucina opened at 16888 Kercheval Place in The Village last week and is accessible only from Kercheval Place, which runs parallel to Kercheval.

Licavoli’s Cucina now open in Village

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Community response has been “super positive,” according to Manager Dominic Dasaro, since Licavoli’s Cucina opened at 16888 Kercheval Place in The Village last Monday.

“It’s not a matter of, ‘Oh, you exist,’” he added. “It’s a matter of, ‘Oh, you’re finally open.’ That’s been the general consensus (with) everybody I’ve talked to.”

Hours at the location, which is accessible only from Kercheval Place, are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Compared to Licavoli’s Market & Pizzeria on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods, Licavoli’s Cucina — Italian for “kitchen” — is essentially a miniature version, aside from being able to offer the pizza, which wasn’t feasible in the space.

“We took the all-star team, per se, of subs and

salads over here,” Dasaro said. “So pretty much the eight most popular subs and the most popular salads. ... We have our same soups as (at) the market. We stay on the same schedule with that.”

“We also have grab-and-go entrees. Not the full array (as) at the market, but we keep a few stocked for people to just grab some and walk out.”

While a smattering of tables, meant for two, line the wall, the concept is largely focused on

takeaway.

Opening a Licavoli’s location in The Village, Dasaro said, aimed to deliver, “the experience of the market in The Village, enabling people that are in walking distance to The Village to get over here and not have to make the trip over to the market.”

“Obviously, we weren’t able to provide the pizza, but if we wanted to fit a pizza oven here, it probably would have to double as a table.”

Boyle departs The Furniture Bank, joins Community Housing Network

Furniture Bank initiates search for new executive director

The Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan last week announced Robert Boyle, executive director, has accepted a role as principal director of fund development at the Troy-based Community Housing Network, starting June 2024.

Tim Waldron has been promoted to associate director and will lead operations at the Furniture Bank as the board searches for a new executive director.

“We want to thank Rob for more than 15 years of dedicated service to the

Furniture Bank. Over this time, we’ve provided more than 26,000 vulnerable metro Detroit households with 200,000 items valued at \$12 million,” said Wanda Van Haitsma, Furniture Bank board president. “Rob’s enthusiasm and passion for helping metro Detroit’s families will be hard to replace.”

Those interested in applying for the role of executive director of the Furniture Bank may visit furniture-bank.org/job-opportunities/executive-director/ to complete an application.



Robert Boyle

“I would like to thank our board of directors for giving me this opportunity — which has been the most fulfilling of my professional career — and wish the Furniture Bank nothing but continued success doing work that is so desperately

needed in southeast Michigan,” said Boyle, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident. “I will miss working so closely with the friends, colleagues and supporters I’ve come to know as my Furniture Bank family. At the same time, I’ve worked with our close mission partners at Community Housing Network for more than a decade and I’m excited to be joining an organization that’s so passionate about combating housing instability in metro Detroit.”

The Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan provides furniture to families in need, creating a stable living environment and restoring dignity to those facing tough times. Community Housing Network has a variety of programs and developments that help metro Detroit families and individuals establish and maintain affordable housing.

The Furniture Bank will take items from the porch or garage at no charge. For a \$75 fee, trained movers will carefully remove mattresses, box springs, dressers, dining sets and basic living room furniture from the house. The Furniture Bank also will remove items such as china cabinets, desks and armoires for a modest charge.

Those interested in making a tax-deductible furniture donation to the Furniture Bank may call (248) 332-1300 or visit furniture-bank.org/donate/donate-furniture/ to coordinate free pickup.

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Defer Green Team students Levin Brass-Beers, Khaia Dupree, Kate Palmer, Maddie Byrn and Lewis Rorai watch as Lisa Kyle, chairwoman of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, fills the hole around the newly planted snowdrift crabapple tree with dirt. Holding the tree is Brian Colter, city forester for Grosse Pointe Park, Farms and City.

Arbor Day tree for Defer

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Added to the little growing things at Defer Elementary School is a white flowering crabapple.

Among campus familiars with which it shares common roots, the tree bursts with potential.

“The buds are red, but it’s going to flower white next week,” said Brian Colter, city forester.

Five members of the school’s student Green Team helped plant the 6-foot sapling last week on the front lawn near the greenhouse.

“I started being on the Green Team this year,” said Levin Brass-Beers, third grade. “It’s pretty fun because you can write environmental tips and they get put in the Defer newsletter.”

“Second graders are mentees to our (third-grade) mentors,” said

parent Lindsay Studders, leader of the school PTO’s beautification committee. “We just added them to our program so they can learn the ropes.”

As though on cue, second grader and first-year team member Lewis Rorai said, “I’m in year one, so I don’t know that much yet.”

Colter handed him a watering can from which Rorai gave the tree its first drink.

“It’s good practice to water newly planted trees,” Colter told the group. “It helps soil settle around the roots.”

Colter, a member of the city Beautification Commission, planted the tree Wednesday morning, April 24. The occasion coincided with the middle of Arbor Week, culminating on Arbor Day, always the last Friday of April.

“It’s a day we celebrate trees because we need trees to live,” Colter said

to the group. “They produce oxygen. The more trees the better.”

“It’s a great opportunity to partner with the community,” Principal Lisa Rheume said.

While they spoke, dozens of children inside the school waved from behind classroom windows.

Team members spend a great deal of their time promoting recycling.

“They call me the jack-of-all-trades because I do a lot,” said Khaia Dupree, third-grade member. “They put me in charge of two groups, mostly recycling every Wednesday and Friday. That’s pretty much it.”

“It helps the environment and it’s just really fun,” said Kate Palmer, third grade.

“We help the environment,” said Maddie Byrn, second-grade member. “We do things that are better for the environment.”



Defer Green Team students, Levin Brass-Beers, Khaia Dupree, Kate Palmer, Maddie Byrn watch as Lewis Rorai waters the newly planted snowdrift crabapple tree.

Taking root at Maire

In recognition of Arbor Day, Maire Elementary School Green Team students plant a Bur oak tree — which boasts the largest acorns of all oak trees and has a lifespan of between 200 and 400 years — near the school along Notre Dame Tuesday, April 23.

Because the City’s Urban Forestry Commission has no funding left in its budget for the year, City of Grosse Pointe Councilman Seth Krupp — also a member of the commission — purchased the tree at his own expense.



Alaina Bush, a commissioner on the Urban Forestry Commission and Advanced Master Gardner, Brandon Phifer, Pierce Insisiengmay, Adalyn Hernandez, Adele Celebi, Emil Landsberg, Lucy Wehrmann, Elle Shiftan, Rosie Battjes and Maire Principal Nicole Filiccia listen as Grosse Pointe Park and City of Grosse Pointe City Forester Brian Colter talks about how to properly plant a tree, the importance of Arbor Week and the importance of trees.



After each member is given a gallon jug of water, Green Team students water the newly planted Bur oak tree.



Rosie Battjes, Adalyn Hernandez, Maire Principal Nicole Filiccia, Lucy Wehrman, Elle Shiftan, Adele Celebi, forester Brian Colter, Braxton Phifer, Pierce Insisiengmay, Emil Landsberg and Urban Forestry Commissioner Alaina Bush stand around the Bur oak tree they planted.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

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"I love my teacher because he is always in a good mood and always thinking of us."

"What I love about my teacher is she is so inspiring and kind and makes learning fun. She is the best teacher ever and no one can be better."

"My favorite thing about my teacher is that she is the most funniest teacher in the world and she is the best teacher in the world."

"Teachers are really caring."

"I love how kind they are and I love how they smile. I love when they greet us when we come in to the classroom."

"Something I love about my teacher is how well they explain stuff and make our schedule."

"What I like about my teacher is they are funny and gives us second chances."

"One thing I love about my teacher is she always does her best to make things fun for us!"

"I love that my teacher is always kind to me and the class."

"Something I love about my teacher is they always make me laugh."

"Something I love about my teacher is that they always make me smile! If something is wrong, they will always make sure I am OK!"

"My favorite thing about my teacher is that she doesn't care about looks. It is the inside that she loves the most. She is the best teacher ever!"

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A selection of 2024 Show House rooms, from left, the Tuscan lounge and bath, designed by Tiffany Cobb of Tiffany Rene Interior Design; the primary bedroom, designed by Wanda Brown of Wanda Brown Interior Designs; and the retreat, designed by Alexandra Decker of A. Decker Design.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Junior League hosts final Designers' Show House May 4-19

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

A newly renovated historic home awaits visitors to the 25th and final Designers' Show House, hosted by the Junior League of Detroit.

A team of 19 designers has been hard at work the past several months putting their personal touches on various rooms and spaces throughout the house located at 315 Lakeland in the City of Grosse Pointe. The 8,500-square-foot Tudor was designed by renowned architect George D. Mason and built in 1929, for Dr. J. Milton Robb. Its historic features were among the reasons it was selected.

"We started over a year ago, looking at properties in Indian Village and on Boston Boulevard," said Ann Baxter, who is co-chairing the event with Julia Keim. "We were looking at houses of significance, to go out with one of the most beautiful properties and events we could."

A fickle housing market limited their search; the committee likes to feature homes "without a homeowner," that are on the market.

"Through luck and connections, we found a family who was actually willing to move out," Baxter added. "It's tougher — this is somebody's home and it's not for sale — but they're getting every single thing papered and painted and updated. That makes it easy to justify moving out for that five-month period."

Though it's not the biggest Show House, it definitely has history and charm. The co-chairs noted its "fascinating rooms" and "unique architecture." Most importantly, they determined the public would pay to see it fully redecorated.

"We were lucky, too, with easy parking,"

Baxter said. "There's parking across the street at Neff Park. The City has been great to work with."

With the house secured, the next task was inviting designers — some Show House veterans, others newbies who came highly recommended.

"The designers came, walked through the empty rooms and decided which room they would like to decorate," Keim said, noting each designer submitted their top three choices. "Among them this year are more designers who are designing the rooms for themselves. We told them to do what they've always wanted to do in their own space. That's one thing that makes this house unique to several of our last houses. It's unique on a design level."

The designers submitted mood boards, diagrams and other details to explain their visions for the rooms. Once assignments were made, the work began.

"When the designers

are chosen, they're mostly blind chosen based on what their proposal was and how well they could interpret the design," Baxter said. "We've got old designer friends, new designers who haven't done a show house before, young designers. The enthusiasm from young designers is marvelous. They walk in the door grinning."

Now, the newly redesigned house — and newly landscaped yards — are ready for the public. According to the co-chairs, these pros did not disappoint.

"There are two or three rooms I could just move into," Keim said. "... It's very different on the inside than how it looks on the outside. What you think you're going to see when you walk in is totally different, but fun."

Typical of a Designers' Show House, rooms not only showcase eye-catching designs, but also prompt visitors with fresh ideas to bring home.

"There are some

unusual ways to use some things," Baxter said, explaining a banquette and chairs in the living room could easily serve as a place to eat dinner. "Closets (were turned) into bars and library shelves. There are two rooms with wine coolers." In a time where HGTV boasts episode after episode of home-improvement shows, one may wonder if a Designers' Show House is effective.

"It goes back to the designers, having their own creativity," Keim said. "There's no open concept here, no shiplap, no tile except for the kitchen. You see things here you don't see on social media."

Added Baxter, "And you see them respecting the age of the house. When you see it in person, you think, 'I can do that in my house.'"

"You can't get this experience watching HGTV," she added. "You have to see it in person."

Baxter and Keim are no strangers to Designers'

Show Houses. The pair have chaired nearly every committee or house more than 20 times. They even paired up to chair a house on the same street in 1996. But times are not quite what they once were.

"Getting houses is not as easy as it used to be," Baxter said. "You're on this every single day. It's a lot of work. There are housing market changes. We've been doing this since 1976 — that's 50 years of Show Houses. We felt it was a good time to explore different means of fundraising going forward."

JLD President Mary Hollens confirmed despite its popularity, this will be the JLD's final Show House.

"We have so many members working throughout the day," she said. "A lot of women didn't have the time to dedicate to the Show House. It's a year of planning and another six to eight months for execution. Everything is done

by volunteers. We have great participation over the weekends, but through the week we weren't having the level of involvement needed.

"Show House is a great event, but Show House is not Junior League," she stressed. "We do feel the league has additional opportunities for fundraisers that are effective with our neighborhoods and communities."

New events to raise funds and support the community are being reviewed, though no decisions have been made. Hollens said ideally they'll host a major event, a large secondary event and an additional third event.

"Something that wouldn't take as long as Show House, but it will be complicated," she said. "It will generate quite a bit of revenue, but it will be a buildable event — something we can grow, something people will look forward to. And we'll have other events throughout the year that our members can support, events I think our members will enjoy representing the league and raising funds."

"All the money we make goes to the city of Detroit," Baxter noted. "We partner with community groups in the city. This is a means to support the good works Junior League does all over the city."

Since 1976, Designers' Show Houses have netted nearly \$5 million and funded a variety of projects, from forming the Belle Isle Sensory Trail in 1980, to creating the Pediatric Mobile Team with Children's Hospital of Michigan in the mid-'90s, to establishing programs that promote healthy eating for low-income families and serving the homeless population.

"Every couple of years we review the needs in the city and figure out



The conservatory, designed by Claudette Wellens of LaShee Floral & Events.

See HOUSE, page 7B

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'We've Got Your Back'

Lecture series, exhibition culminate with D-Day celebration at War Memorial

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Leading up to its lakefront celebration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day next month, The War Memorial will host an exhibition and a series of lectures following the theme, "We've Got Your Back" — the sentiment of many Detroiters assuring Allied Forces of their support during World War II.

See it

The exhibition, which opens 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, features items on loan from the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society in Eastpointe.

"It is a treasure trove of history," said Karen Pope, president of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, who organized the exhibition and lecture series. "Chris Causley, the president, combed through the collections, combining posters and artifacts for the exhibition. All industry in all of Michigan came to the forefront to supply the Allied Forces. Willow Run was turning out an airplane every 63 minutes."

It's not an exaggeration. In a letter to Pope, Causley writes, "In the air, aircraft, some with fuselages made by Ford, Briggs and Hudson, were propelled along by engines made by Ford, Buick, Packard and Studebaker, driving propellers made by Kelvinator in Lansing. They bristled with .50-caliber machine guns made by Delco Spark Plug in Flint, dropping bombs made by McNerney Spring and Wire Co., in Grand Rapids from release shackles made by Sparks and Withington in Jackson. Moreover, when the worst happened, the crews may have floated to safety under parachutes made by National Auto Fiber in Detroit."

He goes on to list ground support supplies, from helmets made by McCord in Detroit with liners made in Capac; .30-caliber Brownings and M1 Carbines made by Saginaw Steering Gear; tanks and tank destroyers built in Warren, Grand Blanc, Livonia and Detroit; jump jackets made by Manistee Garment Co., and so on. More efforts were con-



This "I Gave a Man" war bond poster was printed circa 1943.

tributed to troops at sea, from guns to vests to the Destroyer Escort USS Rich.

"These are just a few examples — to list all the Michigan-made items that supported the invasion and final victory would be impossible — but as you can see, the state provided more than the commonly known trucks, tanks and planes," Causley noted. "It is an important story in its own right, for without the contribution and ingenuity of our industry, the heroic tales of the frontline soldiers may have had a different outcome."

Among the nearly 40 artifacts to be displayed are an auxiliary fireman's helmet in the "Kelly" style, made of steel, painted red and marked in front with a Maltese red cross on a white triangle inside a blue circle; Blue Star and Gold Star banner documents; a "This is a V Home" civilian defense window card; a 1943 copy of "Cooking on a Ration or, Food Can Still Be Fun," by Marjorie Mills; a ration book wallet; a Detroit Air Raid Warden ID card; assorted posters, photographs and other items.

The exhibition will be displayed in The War Memorial's Patriot Gallery 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through Monday, June 10.

Hear it

Corresponding with the exhibition is a series of four lectures, kicking off at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, with an overview

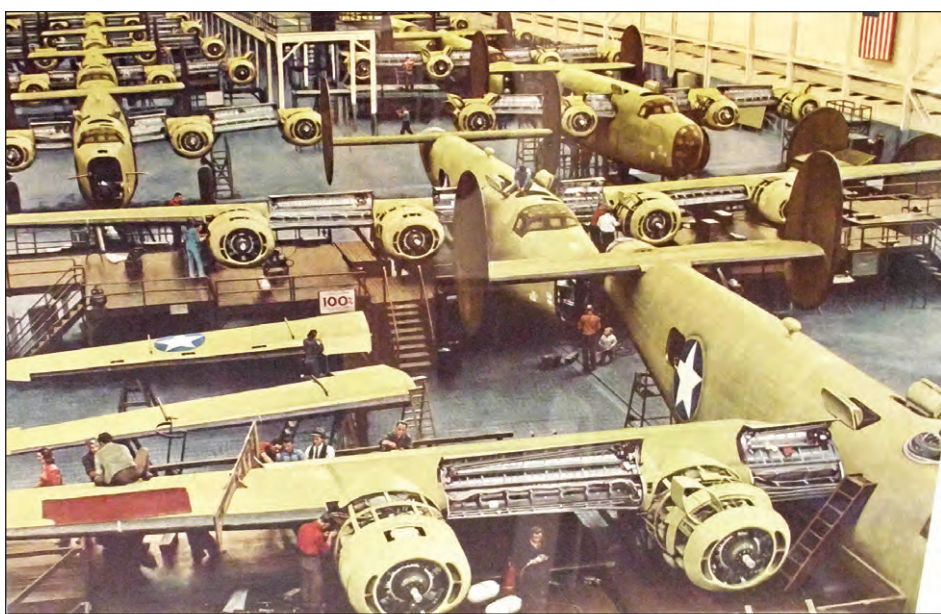
of Detroit manufacturing focused on the war effort.

June 6, 1944, was the day Allied Forces established a beachhead in Normandy, opening the way for more than 326,000 troops to arrive, along with 50,000 vehicles and 100,000 tons of equipment to use in their drive to clear northern France of German forces and liberate Paris. Detroit was one of the biggest contributors to the war effort and was part of "The Arsenal of Democracy," a term coined by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Ron Lamparter, founder of the Defense Corridor Center for Collaboration and Synergy, or DC3S, will present the lecture. He'll be introduced by Alan Wagner, a City of Grosse Pointe resident and CEO of Liteborne Motor Corp. The series continues 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, with a presentation by the Willow Run Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association, who will discuss the many ways women contributed during World War II.

"The ramp up in production needed workers, so a lot of people came from the South," Pope said, "but also, women came to work, which is where Rosie the Riveter came in."

The presentation highlights the breadth of war production everywhere, according to ARRA President Jeannette Gutierrez, who said lecture highlights include the many ways women



An overhead view of the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti.

stepped up, from war production and essential civilian jobs to the Armed Forces, volunteering and more.

"The presentation includes a colorful slideshow and I'll set up a World War II artifact table that sparks conversation," she wrote in a letter to Pope. "The Q&A session afterwards is always lively and I learn as much from the audience and their family stories as they learn from me."

"This is not just about women in factories," Pope said. "It's women in the Armed Forces and volunteers. The secretary of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was from Grosse Pointe: WAC Sgt. Margaret Ahlstrom. Women really took on a much stronger role."

For the 6:30 p.m. lecture Thursday, May 23, John Rusche provides an insider's look at the Jam Handy Organization, noted for its ability to create easy-to-understand tutorials.

"He made 7,000 training films," Pope noted. "The creativity of marketers for auto companies turned into advocacy for the troops. Jam Handy made films to teach mechanics about

cars and car repairs. For the war, he used the same skill to train the troops."

The final lecture focuses on the importance of victory gardens. Alaine Bush of the Grosse Pointe Garden Center leads the lecture, set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30.

"Victory gardens were really essential," Pope said. "You were supposed to eat as many fresh vegetables as you could, because canned goods were very hard to come by; they needed the metal."

"... The whole effort, it really was a full-court press to support everyone," she added. "Everything seemed to be totally focused on winning."

That's exactly the atmosphere Pope hopes people will feel through the exhibition and lectures, providing context of what was happening on the home front during the war. It was a team effort then, just as it was arranging this series.

"The Grosse Pointe Artists Association partners with The War Memorial, so we really got on board and helped with this," Pope said. "We just rallied the forces. So

many people were willing to help; it was an all-out effort by so many groups in the community. And everyone is excited to relive those days.

"It really is engaging," she added. "It really is about the home front and how much they participated in supporting the troops. We've been working with people who are really serious about remembering this period. They are well-founded with information. This is their exhibition and lecture series. I hope we can do it justice. They've devoted so much of their talents to saving the memories."

Grand finale

"We've Got Your Back" culminates with an 80th anniversary commemoration of D-Day beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 6, on the lakefront lawn of The War Memorial, home of "Les Braves II," a twin of the sculpture dedicated on Normandy Beach in honor of the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

"We'll have a short ceremony," War Memorial CEO Maria Miller said. "We're lining up our veteran speakers. We'll also have a flyover/airshow and a reverent musical performance that is succinct. The airshow will be pretty spectacular."

Following the ceremony, Rhythm Society Orchestra will perform a 1940s USO-style show of swing music. Food trucks and beverages for purchase also will be available.

"We'll also have a cool exhibit called CAF Rise Above," Miller added. "They'll be here June 5 through 8. It's a traveling exhibit that's a mobile movie theater. They'll show a couple short Rise Above films about the Tuskegee Airmen (and Women Airforce Service Pilots) and what they went through. It's very educational, but also for all ages. It's an immersive experience on the back property."

CAF Rise Above will be open noon to 7 p.m. during the D-Day celebration.

All are welcome to the free family-friendly celebration; however, registration is required.

"To be able to honor both the anniversary of D-Day and the statue of 'Les Braves' — the only sister monument in the world — feels right to us," Miller said. "We want to do it. It's part of our heritage, part of our legacy. It's our honor to do it."

For more information, visit the events page at warmemorial.org.

All photos are part of the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society collection and are courtesy of Chris Causley.

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Joe Louis was featured on this 1940's-era poster.



Dr. Pepper's "Onward Garden Soldiers" poster, printed circa 1942, had a "V for Victory" motif.

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56th Action Auction invites community to 'Dream Big'

Online component goes live May 6

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Academy's 56th Action Auction promises a night of fabulous food, spectacular auction items and support for the esteemed school, which nurtures, challenges and inspires children age 2½ through eighth grade.

"Dream Big: Live Your Story" takes place Saturday, May 11, at The Academy's Tracy Fieldhouse, which will be transformed into a beautiful event space for the evening.

Beginning at 5 p.m., guests will sip cocktails while browsing and bidding on hundreds of silent and super-silent auction items. A seated dinner by Two Unique Caterers and a live auction featuring 21 big-ticket items begin at 8 p.m. The event concludes with an afterparty featuring late-night snacks, cocktails, dancing and

live music by Your Generation in Concert.

The afterglow is sponsored by Detroit Wing Co., and features two dipping sauces created by Academy students, who competed for the honor during "The Amazing Shake" earlier this school year. Sixth-grader Isabelle Elley and eighth-grader Enzo Colombo created Chile y Limon and Angry Canadian sauces, respectively. The flavors were sold at the Detroit Wing Co.'s Mack location for a limited time, but were recreated for the Action Auction.

Event co-chairs are Erica and Peter Panagopoulos and Olivia and Dominic Paluzzi, who have been working more than a year on the details of the school's popular fundraiser.

"I'm excited for the event to finally get here," Erica Panagopoulos said. "It's a lot of planning. The event is going to be amaz-

ing. I can't wait to get to it."

"From donors to sponsors, the excitement to participate in this auction is overwhelming," added Olivia Paluzzi, noting auction items are still coming in, so a few surprises may be in store.

Mark Schroeder of Auction Brio in San Antonio returns as the event auctioneer. He'll tempt guests with an array of live auction items such as a diamond tennis necklace courtesy of Edmund t. AHEE Jewelers; a Tahitian pearl necklace courtesy of LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists; and the use of a Comerica Park suite for 20 people, with the bidder's choice of a Detroit Tigers game — including throwing out the first pitch — or a Green Day concert.

Those who want to sneak a peek at silent and super-silent auction items can check them out —



2024 Action Auction co-chairs, from left, Peter and Erica Panagopoulos and Olivia and Dominic Paluzzi.



Far left, a diamond tennis necklace donated by Edmund t. AHEE Jewelers. Left, a Tahitian pearl necklace donated by LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists. Below, live the "Suite Life" Your Way with a Comerica Park suite for 20, for either a Detroit Tigers game or Green Day concert.



COURTESY PHOTOS

and place their bids — as early as noon Monday, May 6, by visiting gpa.cbo.io

Potential bidders don't need to attend the event to place a bid. Free bidder numbers are offered to those interested.

Also up for grabs is the raffle prize, "A Season of Shoes and Handbags," donated by raffle sponsor Neiman Marcus.

Additionally, storybooks that were created by students will be available for purchase.

"For each class in the early school and each grade in the main school, they created a story," Paluzzi said. "Each child has created a page themselves."

Added Panagopoulos, "Each class decided what they wanted to write about, so they're all different."

Parents can purchase any number of storybooks; cost is \$56 each.

"You don't have to bid for it," Paluzzi noted. "If you want one, you get one."

While general auction proceeds translate into unrestricted funds for

The Academy, the paddle raise portion this year will benefit teachers at the school.

"We want to support our most valuable assets — our faculty and staff," said Emily Scupholm, Academy director of development. "And a portion will go to an endowed fund to support future initiatives."

The event further supports Academy teachers as this year's honorary chairs is the 2023-24 faculty.

"We chose them because of the theme, 'Dream Big,'" Paluzzi said. "We felt the faculty was the most appropriate as honorary chairs, to thank them for encouraging our children's big dreams."

"... We wanted a whimsical feel to the auction," she added. "As mothers of daughters, we always think of dreams. Dreams shouldn't be limited; dreams should be big. Focusing on the children is how we came up with the theme. It's a big part of the story of The Academy, from the early school to eighth grade.

We love this school; it's where you become part of a family, part of a community. These are stepping stones to our kids' futures and their dreams."

Organizers expect more than 400 guests, from past and present parents to alumni to prospective parents. Ages 21 and older are invited.

"All independent schools have to do fundraisers," Scupholm said. "Even though this is a beautiful lakefront campus and a beautiful community, there's no state funding. Tuition doesn't cover the cost of educating a child. This is not unique to us, though we are one of the longest-running ones. While it's a great, fun party, it's very important that funds are raised. The work that's done is much needed and critical to Grosse Pointe Academy. It's not just about a party."

"The ultimate goal," Paluzzi added, "it's for the kids. Everything we're doing, even supporting our teachers, is to support the students."

For details or tickets, visit gpa.cbo.io

Learn to make a butterfly garden at May 2 lecture

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center hosts the lecture, "How to Make a Butterfly Garden with John Blair," at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Blair, a retired automotive engineer, is no stranger to creating successful pollinator gardens. He created his first

at his home in Westland, which during seven summers grew to more than 5,000 square feet in size with 130 species of native plants and 38 different species of butterfly visitors.

In 2019, having filled all available gardening space, he and his wife moved to a new home in rural Brooklyn, Mich. On their approximately nine

acres, he is making even more butterfly and pollinator habitats through restoring large tracts of land to original prairie with native plants, creating a gigantic butterfly and pollinator habitat.

His work has appeared in Fine Gardening magazine, Michigan Gardener, the Detroit Free Press and the Garden Answer YouTube

channel. He also has written articles on butterfly gardening for Michigan Gardener magazine.

During the lecture, he will share the important design elements needed to create a successful

butterfly garden, including plant selection, use of native plants, preparation and selection of the site, as well as other important steps that will bring butterflies and other pollinators to the garden.

For more information about his May 2 talk, visit gpgardencenter.org/ or call (313) 889-1647.

To register for the talk, visit eventbrite.com/e/how-to-make-a-butterfly-garden-tickets-837785156957

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4B | SENIOR LIVING



Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Nobody (sob) wants my antiques

Every manufacturer of a product designed especially for senior citizens knows my address, email and telephone number. I get advertisements from funeral homes. I get a pitch for items “paid for by Medicare” nearly every week. A company that sells walk-in bathtubs knows my email address, as do several hearing aid manufacturers and pseudo-medical establishments touting cures for everything from back pain, arthritis, peripheral neuropathy, thinning hair, painful veins, bad hearts, failing eyesight, leaky bladders and worse. The Cremation Society apparently has me on speed dial. A few weeks ago I got a

note from the American Red Cross offering a workbook to help me “write my will and plan my future.” It’s free and the ARC says it’s waiting for me. Imagine! It’s waiting! I already have a will, albeit an old one. It probably needs updating, although I can’t for the life of me (play on words intended) think what I would change. I have an estate plan, an advance directive and a person appointed for the nasty task of saying, “Yes, pull the plug and let her go,” should I become brain dead or hopelessly ill with no chance of recovery. I have a list of who gets my valued possessions. My favorites, however, are

not especially in demand by younger family members. My children and grandchildren are not arm wrestling each other for ownership of my silver flatware. I have a five-piece place setting for two dozen people, plus specialty items like pickle forks, sugar spoons, butter knives and so on. It seems Gen-Xers and Gen-Yers aren’t fond of silver flatware or silver bowls or silver tea services or silver anything. Requires too much polishing, I guess. I sold my piano. Nobody wanted it because they already had one or they don’t know how to play it or don’t have the least desire to learn to play the piano. A grandson wants

my mattress because it’s a Tempur-Pedic — extremely bouncy and poofy and comfy. He likes to stretch out on it when he visits me. If I die in that bed, I hope it’s a clean death — no blood or spilled body fluids, etc. Ick. I have a marble-topped table on wooden legs that were crafted and carved by my great-grandfather, a cabinetmaker. One of my three daughters is mildly interested. I have an old treadle-powered Singer sewing machine that, according to family lore, was used to sew Civil War uniforms. Now there’s a bit of interesting family history. Nobody wants it.

I found the Singer serial number and looked it up online. My sewing machine was manufactured in 1900, some 35 years after the war ended. Family history be damned. That reminds me of one of my favorite plays, “Lettice and Lovage,” by Peter Shaffer. It’s about a docent who gives tours in a dreary old English manor called Fustian House. The few-and-far-between visitors are universally bored to tears by her rehearsed speech. Lettice Douffet, the docent, has a flair for the dramatic and decides to add a little juice to the facts. She conjures up dramatic scenes that supposedly took place on the stairway, for starters. Visitors perk up. More visitors come. She adds more — a tragic wedding and a murder that supposedly took place on the property. Then, a play-by-play account of Queen Elizabeth’s visit to Fustian House. More visitors. Of course, Lettice finally has to face the music when confronted by her employer.

The play was written specifically for Dame Maggie Smith (“Downton Abbey’s” witty matriarch, Lady Grantham). I saw it in New York City more than 25 years ago with Maggie Smith in the lead role and thoroughly enjoyed it. Smith won a Tony for Best Actress in a Play in 1990, for her performance as Lettice Douffet. But I digress. I don’t own a historic house, a historic sewing machine, a coveted pile of silver flatware or a historic or valuable anything. I don’t have a lot of stuff my daughters want. It’s just as well. I use the flatware several times a year. I use the marble-topped table every day. The sewing machine is doubling as a side table, for now. I hope my family has a long wait before my treasured possessions are listed on eBay or in the classified section of this newspaper. *BTW: Lovage is an herb that tastes like celery. It’s used to enhance the flavors of bland and boring dishes.*

Fore! Registration is open for Fore The Helm golf outing

It’s time to tee up for the sixth annual Fore The Helm Golf Outing, which takes place Monday, June 24, at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods. Participation is limited, so golfers are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. Event registration begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. for this four-person scramble-style event. All

golfers receive a boxed lunch, use of a cart for two, entry into contests, heavy hors d’oeuvres following the event and four drink tickets to use throughout the afternoon-long event. Prizes will be awarded for low score for men’s, women’s and mixed teams, as well as men’s and women’s closest to the pin. Cost per golfer is \$300 or \$1,200 per foursome. Sponsorships still are

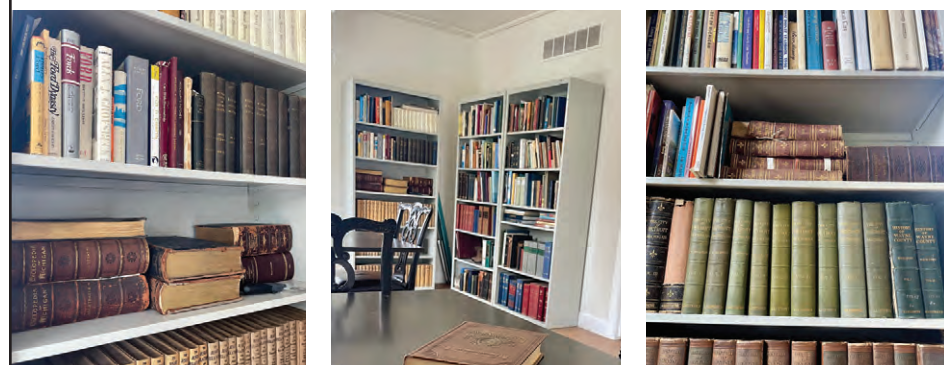
available. In addition to signage recognition, sponsorships include entry for a four-person team. Not a golfer? Purchase a \$50 ticket to the afterglow for hors d’oeuvres, cocktails and mingling. “This event is open to all ages — anyone who supports our mission is helping older adults receive essential services they may need,” The Helm Executive

Director Krista Siddall said. “As an extra perk, we’re offering a free one-year membership to The Helm for anyone who brings a parent or adult child to golf. Our goal is to expose more

seniors or their adult children to what The Helm has to offer. Someone who isn’t a member will be able to learn about the magnitude of resources we provide to help make the

Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods a great place to grow older.” Register or sponsor online at helmlife.org/fore-the-helm-2 or call The Helm at (313) 649-2104.

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Sunrise Grosse Pointe Woods resident Betty Voorhees turned 100 years old Monday, April 1, and celebrated the special day with a big party at Sunrise. Voorhees, who lived in Grosse Pointe Woods 20 years, is the only surviving member of her five siblings and the first of her family to turn 100.

Happy 100th!



From left, the birthday girl’s son, Steven Voorhees; the birthday girl; and her granddaughter, Karen.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Welcome to our house

Courtesy of The Helm

Nestled in Grosse Pointe Farms, The Helm is a hidden gem — a former nurses' residence turned vibrant hub of activities for older adults. This 15,000-square-foot building offers exercise classes, social gatherings, lifelong learning presentations and more, Monday through Friday.

As welcoming as the house is inside, it is equally inviting and beautiful outside. The side, front and back patios offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The greenery, flowers and fragrant herb garden provide several cozy spots to unwind and relax.

With the addition a few years ago of a bocce court, paver walkways and tables to the front exterior and four raised patio beds, as well as the removal of a couple of large trees after a major storm last summer, it seemed appropriate to revisit the landscaping. What could be done to make the grounds even more attractive, inviting and environmentally friendly?

While devastating to lose 100-year-old trees, the loss created new opportunities to enhance The Helm footprint.

"One goal this spring is the installation of a butter-

fly garden," said Krista Siddall, The Helm executive director. "We were fortunate to receive a major sculpture, a temporary donation from Moross Greenway, installed on the front lawn and we'll be adding a few smaller whimsical touches to our gardens. We're also reaching out for ideas and support to do something creative with the large stump near The Helm entrance."

Maintaining the grounds is a group effort. Volunteers from the Grosse Pointe Herb Society tend to the herb garden, members of the Deeplands Garden Club maintain the raised patio boxes donated by the Grosse Pointe Garden Center, while Master Gardeners and other volunteers give regular attention to cleaning, planting, trimming and weeding the gardens and remaining raised planter boxes that were donated in memory of a participant at The Helm.

Added Siddall, "The grounds of The Helm are here for all to enjoy. We encourage neighbors to rest, relax and unwind in the beautiful surroundings. We welcome anyone who enjoys gardening and volunteering to get involved in helping keep the gardens a destination for the community."

The Helm will host

Benefits of gardening for seniors

Gardening offers myriad benefits for seniors, enhancing physical health through gentle exercise, improving flexibility and promoting joint mobility. According to a study by the National Institute of Health, gardening provides older adults psychological, physical and social benefits. Exposure to nature is a natural stress reliever. It can help

- ◆ reduce anxiety,
- ◆ lower blood pressure and
- ◆ slow the heart rate.

Gardens require continuous care, which means regular physical activity for the gardener. Gardening can improve or restore dexterity, strength and flexibility. Experts caution to know your limits and not overdo it.

Belonging to a gardening group also

- ◆ cultivates a sense of community,
- ◆ fosters social connections and
- ◆ combats feelings of loneliness or isolation.

And, of course, being outdoors guarantees taking in that all-important vitamin D — even on overcast days.

speakers throughout the summer to share their gardening expertise and inspire others to embrace the benefits of gardening. More information will be available soon at helmlife.org.



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, artist Jim Wolnosky, The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall and Moross Greenway Project Art Committee Chairman Roger Garrett.

Front-lawn feature

The Helm at the Boll Life Center has become the temporary home of "Straighten Up and Fly Right," a sculpture by Jim Wolnosky that once was displayed on the Moross Greenway. It recently was moved to The Helm through a partnership with Moross Greenway, facilitated by Moross Greenway Project Art Committee Chairman Roger Garrett. Guests are invited to stop by and examine the piece up close and personal.

The Helm is located at 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms.



The sculpture, "Straighten Up and Fly Right," will sit on the lawn at The Helm for a few months.

Volunteers needed

The Helm needs more volunteers to accomplish the work that needs to be done. Those who love to garden and can offer their time or who are making changes to their own garden and have extra plants or other gardening items, should contact Heidi Uhlig-Johnstone, The Helm volunteer director and gardening committee chair, at (313) 649-2107. The Helm is a great place for Master Gardeners to complete their volunteer hours requirement.

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6B | OBITUARIES

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.

Benjamin D. Rhodes

Benjamin "Ben" Dagwell Rhodes, 87, a longtime resident of Whitewater, Wis., and Grosse Pointe, passed away Monday, April 22, 2024. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and brother.

Ben was born Nov. 7, 1936, in St. Louis. He spent most of his childhood there and his teen years in Denver. He was an avid and lifelong Cardinals fan, as well as an expert outdoorsman, skier and mountaineer.

He climbed all 58 peaks in Colorado above 14,000 feet of elevation, many of them multiple times. In addition, he climbed Mt. Rainier in Washington, Mt. Whitney in California and the Tetons in Wyoming. He also climbed internationally in Mexico, Peru, Malaysia and Tanzania, as well as the Canadian Rockies.

A distinguished scholar, writer and professor, Mr. Rhodes received his bachelor's and master's degrees, in addition to his Ph.D., at the University of Colorado Boulder. An author of several highly referenced history books, he was a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, having begun his college teaching career at Northern Michigan University in Marquette in the mid-1960s. He also was published widely in

journals such as "Diplomatic History," "The Journal of American History" and the "Wisconsin Magazine of History."

During his 37-year tenure at UW-W, Mr. Rhodes was the recipient of three Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Awards, to teach at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, Northeast Normal University in Changchun, China, and The National University of Malaysia. In recent years, he lectured on cruise ships that took him all over the world.

Classical music was an important part of Ben's life. An audiophile and an accomplished French horn player, he performed as a member of various Denver-based ensembles, including Central City Opera and the City Park Band. He loved attending concerts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic. He also loved opera and attended many performances at Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden and Seattle Opera. In particular, he was a fan of Wagner and attended multiple Ring Cycles at Seattle Opera, in Bayreuth, Germany, and Adelaide, Australia.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Florence (nee Arbuthnot) Rhodes of Grosse Pointe; sister,

Susan Brown of Williamstown, Mass.; sons, John Rhodes of Seattle and Philip Rhodes of Grosse Pointe; daughter, Elizabeth "Betsy" DeMaine (Robert) of Los Angeles; and his grandchildren, Paul and Annette "Annie" DeMaine, both of Los Angeles.

As Ben wished, there will be no memorial service at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Colorado Mountain Club, cmc.org/donate, or any of the arts organizations mentioned above.

Lynn G. Stedman III

Lynn G. Stedman III, 77, passed away Friday, April 5, 2024.

A 1964 graduate of Grosse Pointe High School, Lynn met his wife, Patty Cassidy, on a blind date fixed up by a mutual friend. That first date was on a sailboat. After they married in 1967, sailing was the activity that united the family. Even his father-in-law was welcomed into the Stedman family and taught to be a foredeck man.

After their marriage in 1967, Lynn and Patty moved to Petoskey and ultimately across Little Traverse Bay to Harbor Springs. While living there, Lynn established his law practice, Stedman,



Benjamin D. Rhodes



Lynn G. Stedman III



Karen Gale Leigh

Fershee & Fershee. After both Lynn and Patty retired, they followed their daughter, Meghan, and son, Tim, to Seattle.

Lynn was predeceased by his father, Lynn Stedman Jr.; and mother, Margaret Jane Manville Stedman. He leaves behind Patty; his daughter, Meghan (Brooke Shepard) of Seattle; and son, Tim Stedman (Karen) of Kent, Wash. Lynn also will be missed by his five grandchildren, Will, Cassie and Nell Shepard, and EJ and Mackey Stedman. He also is survived by his sisters, Kay Raulston and Judy Wilcox (Russ); and step-mother, Joyce Stedman. He will be remembered fondly by his nephews, Jamie Baubie (Christa), Britt Baubie (Tamara) and Scott Wilcox (Lucy); niece, Katie Collinson (Brad); and many beloved grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Lynn will be remembered as a loving father and grandfather, a great attorney and a skilled sailor. His descendants will tell stories of his mischievous charm and steadfast loyalty to friends.

A celebration of Lynn's life will be held at Bayview Yacht Club later this summer.

Karen Gale Leigh

Karen Gale (nee Mike) Leigh, 83, passed away peacefully Friday, April 5, 2024, eternally joining her beloved husband, Maynard A. Leigh, and loving daughter, Jami E. Leigh-Brown, in heaven.

She was born Oct. 15, 1940, in St. Paul, Minn., to Elizabeth (nee Cooper) and Peter Mike. The family then relocated to Ypsilanti. Karen met the love of her life, Maynard Leigh, in college. They married in October 1961, and moved to the east side of Detroit in the mid-1960s, later settling in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Karen was a wonderful and caring wife, mother and grandmother. Her happiest times were those spent with family. Her favorite place to share those moments was at their summer island cottage on Healey Lake in Canada. Karen had many hobbies; she enjoyed arts and crafts and her bridge groups, during which she shared time with friends. Karen loved travel and took joy in anything outdoors.

Karen enjoyed much of her career with Wayne State University in the School of Business as an accounting and business manager for the office of development. Karen was

active outside of work as well, volunteering her time to help the visually impaired with readings on WDET-FM radio and also through fundraising work with the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology. Shortly after her diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, she turned her efforts toward helping others with the disease, including organizing a support group through the Michigan Parkinson's Association. Karen also was very supportive and active with her church and its parishioners.

Karen is survived by her sons, Todd and Michael Leigh; son-in-law, Bill Brown Jr.; grandchildren, Cameron, Trey, Evan, Parker, Bradford, Morgan, Justin and Matthew; great-grandchildren, Eleanor and Vivian; and siblings, Robin Mike, Joyana Sills (Art) and Peter Mike (Carol).

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 13, at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms. Donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, give.michaeljfox.org/give/421686/#!/donation/checkout.

See OBITS, page 7B

Werner Uri Spitz

Werner Uri Spitz, 97, of Grosse Pointe Shores, passed away Sunday, April 14, 2024.

He was born in Stargard, Germany (now Poland) to Dr. Siegfried and Anna Spitz on August 22, 1926. As a Jewish family living in pre-World War II Germany, Werner's parents listened closely to the rising antisemitic rhetoric across the country and sent Werner to live with his Aunt Frieda in Paris at age 7. The following year, Siegfried and Anna arrived in Paris to pick up Werner and begin the 2,500+ mile journey across the Mediterranean to what would later become Israel. On the boat were more than 900 Jewish physicians and their families, making the trek to avoid the whispers of a Jewish genocide.

Upon arrival, Werner's mother went to the Arabic markets, where she listened to the local people converse and barter. Anna had a gift for learning languages and quickly picked up Arabic.

By the time Werner and his parents arrived, there was no work for another Jewish doctor, so Siegfried established a medical practice at their home working with Arabic patients. As patients arrived, they were greeted by Anna, who now spoke Arabic fluently from her weeks spent at the markets. Anna would listen to the person's illness or injury, then translate it from Arabic to German so that Siegfried could treat the patient. This is where Werner developed his deep-rooted passion for medicine.

Werner would go on to attend medical school at the Geneva University Medical School in Switzerland, finishing his training at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem, Israel. Through his travels, studies and mother Anna, Werner became fluent in five languages: German, French, Hebrew, Arabic and English. This would

prove useful as during a final oral examination in Geneva, Werner could not remember the French words he needed to answer the final professor's question... but he knew the answer in Hebrew. As he told the story:

"Professor, I know the answer to this question, but I only know it in Hebrew." The professor stood, "Does anyone in the back speak Hebrew?"

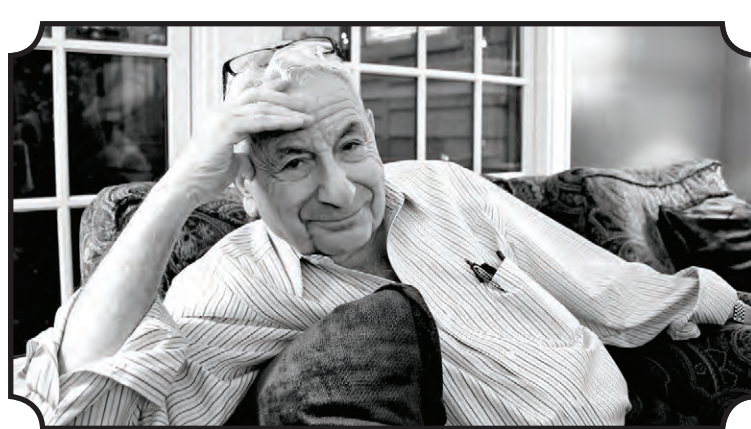
Then, a pause. "I do," responded a student towards the back of the class. The order of oral exams were chosen at random and the examinations were open forum, so students that had yet to be tested would stand in the back and listen. "OK" responded the professor, "say the answer in Hebrew, and you in the back translate it to French."

Another pause. Werner was ecstatic when the professor said, "You passed."

Werner later stated, "To this day I have no idea if I answered the question correctly, or if the student in the back of the classroom helped out his foreign counterpart."

After graduating medical school and completing his mandatory service requirement in the Israel Defense Forces, Werner relocated to the United States-- Baltimore, Maryland-- in 1959 to further his training in forensic science. One of his friends from Israel was also working in Baltimore and knew a young nurse named Anne Keates. Werner and Anne were set up for a blind date. As he told the story:

"She was so elegant and beautiful I proposed to her on our first date... she laughed



and we carried on." As the date continued it was time for dessert. "Anne politely declined, but I couldn't resist the strawberry shortcake."

Once dessert arrived, Anne reached her fork across the table to pick up a berry—it became her routine to not order dessert but take a bite or two from others that arrived at the table—after removing the strawberry from his plate it fell off her fork, into his wine glass, knocking the remaining wine on his shirt and necktie.

"I'm so sorry Uri, let me please take that and pay to have it dry cleaned," Anne proclaimed. "No, no, no... no problem at all," Werner confidently responded, "I have a whole closet of these at home." He was awake all night cleaning his only tie to wear to work the next morning.

Two years later, in 1961, Werner and Anne were married in Chipping Sodbury, England.

They moved to West Berlin, Germany, where they had their first child, a daughter, Rhona. Ten months after Rhona's birth, in November, 1963, the young family returned to Baltimore where Werner was named the Assistant Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Maryland. They had two more children, Jonathan (1966) and Daniel (1969). The family of five remained in Baltimore until 1972. This is when Werner was offered the Chief Medical Examiner position in Wayne County—an opportunity to

become identifying all 156 bodies on the Northwest Airlines Flight 255, and many others, Werner's greatest accomplishment was answering questions from countless grieving families during their most difficult times.

Anyone who knew Werner would know he never said no to dinner, regardless of whether it was out on the town (steak or sushi), a home-cooked meal from Anne or a late night boiled hotdog, he never passed up an opportunity to have one of his favorite meals. He loved drinking great red wine, Guinness from the can, rum and Coke and (of course) ice cold vodka. He loved action films, family vacations in Puerto Vallarta, hearing of his grandchildren's successes and so much more.

Of all the things Werner was known for, captaining a boat was absolutely not one of them. If you haven't heard the story of The Afternoon Delight, ask around.

Aside from his storied 65-year career and being the "founding father" of modern forensics, Werner will always be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Siegfried and Dr. Anna Spitz; and his sister, Dr. Karni Frank. He is survived by his wife, Anne; daughter, Rhona Dempsey (Douglas); sons, Dr. Jonathan Spitz (Jlynn) and Dr. Daniel Spitz (Jodi); and grandchildren, Maiya, Darian, Jared and Reis Dempsey, and Jaden, Julien, Jackson, Keegan, Jacob and Addison Spitz.

The family held a private funeral service. A celebration of life will be held in the summer.

Donations in his name may be made to the Wayne State University Werner U. Spitz M.D. Endowed Scholarship in Pathology, P.O. Box 441970, Detroit MI 48244; or The Tunnel to Towers Foundation, bit.ly/3WjIOJt.

PETS

Everybody getting along?

How to prevent new and existing pets from fighting like cats and dogs

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

When I decided to get a puppy, one of my main concerns (and motivations) was my cat. I had three cats at one time, who were relatively compatible and enjoyed each other's company. But, as life goes, eventually only my "baby" remained, a 14-year old domestic shorthair who was by far the most playful of the three. Throughout her life she tried mightily to engage the other two —who tolerated her for the most part — but were not as eager to roughhouse as she was. Her advances were often met with a swat from one cat and a bored stare from the other.

I felt bad for her. She wanted to play! I had planned to get a puppy down the road but decided to accelerate my plan to give her an active playmate now.

Then came my concerns.

Would she accept another species into her domain? Would their play styles mesh? Could they cause harm to one another? Yikes.

I weighed all the possibilities and opted to try to give their best life to both little furballs.

Introducing new animals to a household can be tricky business—but there are a few tools and tips that help the process go smoother.

Do a little homework

Read up on the various breeds and species of your animals to understand the expected reactions from each, so you can plan and prepare. Respect the inherent characteristics of each breed, species and individual animal — it's not fair or wise to assume they will change their stripes completely based on your expectations.

Plan a safe initial meeting

When thinking about welcoming a new pet into the home, bring your current pet along to see how they react to one another. See if you can get a disposition/temperament report from the breeder or rescue organization regarding whether the animal has a history of confrontation with other pets. Most rescues vet pets to let potential owners know if it is good with dogs, cats, other small animals and children.

Create safe spaces

Animals have different energy levels and needs for space and alone time. The Humane Society advises having separate rooms designated as a sanctuary space for each animal. These rooms should be secure, with a door and a ceiling for safety.

Sanctuary rooms allow you to control when and how pets interact. New pets should begin life in your home in

a safe room where they can comfortably get used to the smells and sounds of other pets and all of the people in the home.

Gradually place items that smell like the other pet in the new pet's area, along with some treats and new toys, so that the new animal comes to associate the aroma with good things, the American Kennel Club suggests.

Utilize a gate or screen

After a few days, let both pets safely see one another through a baby gate or screen door. Gauge their reactions and separate them again if there is angst on either side. When the pets are calm enough to meet without barriers, arrange the meeting in a neutral room, rather than in a sanctuary space. Pets may forever use their own sanctuary space for relaxing time alone.

Offer equal measures of affection

It's easy to get caught up in the novelty and cuteness of a new puppy or kitten, causing your existing pet to feel displaced. Offer adequate time and snuggles with each animal, including time where each one gets some exclusive time with you.

Animals can feel jealous of one another, which will ultimately affect the quality of their mutual relationship, so do what you can to exhibit impartial-

ity — for everyone's sake!

Accept reality — it may be a no-go

Not every pair of pets will get along. Just like people, they have their own personalities and preferences beyond breed dispositions.

An excitable puppy may not be truly welcome with an ultra laid-back cat until he matures a little. And a parakeet might never be relaxed (for good reason) around a cat with a high prey drive. As pet parents, it's our duty to monitor activities whether pets coexist gracefully or not and create the most peaceable life we can provide. A qualified trainer can help advise if you've tried everything to encourage friendship but it's just not working.

As for my two?

We are getting there.

It's not the delightful chase-fest I'd imagined or hoped for, but they seem happy to have a compatriot in their same size class. They enjoy stare-offs, snatch each other's food, and seem very aware of one another's boundaries and moves.

I think kitty has finally turned the corner on her wild, frenzied playful phase (being 76 in human years) but will still bat at the feather toy if she doesn't have to get up. When she tires of the frenetic energy of the puppy, she slinks off to her safe space for a nap.



PHOTO BY ADOBE

The puppy is fascinated by her. He is willing to take a swat or two for the honor of sniffing her, um...tail. And he defers to her as she sashays down the hall like the queen she is or demands to hold the toy he has his eye on.

My fantasy of them entwined in a glorious sleepy love embrace has not yet been realized. But yesterday I sneaked their beds right next to each other and they slept with nary a scratch or howl.

It's a start.

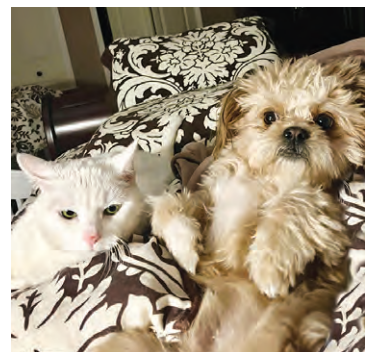




PHOTO BY DONNA ZETTERLUND

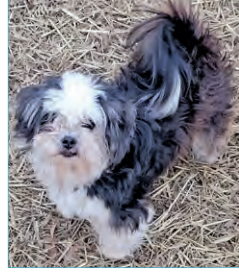
Will they or won't they? The jury's still out on whether these two recent housemates will end up as "bestest" buddies. Shilo, above left, and Romeo, above right, test the waters of their friendship as they learn to cohabitate.


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LIFE & LEISURE



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Young Life spring fundraiser is May 8

Funds support Grosse Pointe student-focused ministry

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The mission of Young Life, an international non-denominational youth ministry geared toward high school and middle school students, is to build personal relationships with students, provide them with fun and life-changing experiences and introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Mary Beth Davey knows well the impact the organization has on young lives.

"I have six kids," she said. "Four have graduated from South and two are at South. They found high school to be a vulnerable time for them. Young Life helped them get deeper into their faith and also into a community that wasn't involved in ... the pressures out there. It was safe, but also a community. Kids develop community with each other, which is awesome."

Her son, Noah, lives in the Young Life house on Fisher, across from Grosse Pointe South High School, with his wife, Louise Davey, the current Young Life area director.

To help further its mission, the couple is presenting Young Life's biggest fundraiser of the year.

The Young Life Grosse Pointe Spring Fundraiser takes place 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the Ford House Visitors Center, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. The evening includes dinner, cocktails and live and silent auctions.

"We're excited about Ford House," Louise Davey said. "We haven't been here before. It's beautiful and it's fun to be somewhere new. There's an exhibit on the first floor that our guests will be able to check out while they're down there (to register). Then we have the dining room — and the balcony, if the weather is nice."

"... It will have a rolling start so you can be with who you want to, talk with who you want to," she added. "We'll have a little social hour and open bar, so people can survey and peruse the items."

An array of silent auction items will be up for grabs, including a variety of gift baskets; sports items like a signed baseball bat, football helmet and lacrosse sticks; a necklace donated by edmund t. AHEE Jewelers; Zach Bryan concert tickets; and tickets to Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions games.

"The catalogue will be filled," she added. "We



COURTESY PHOTO

The Young Life Spring Fundraiser takes place May 8 at the Ford House Visitors Center.

have a lot of baskets with a lot of different items."

A full catalogue of items will be available online to browse in advance of the event; however, to place a bid, the bidder's presence is required.

"We want the focus to be on taking time to be together," Louise Davey said.

The live auction includes three big-ticket items: a cocktail cruise, a fishing charter trip and a gourmet dinner.

A handful of speakers will share about their experience with Young Life. A Young Life alum-

nus will share about the organization's longterm impact, while a current student will address the importance of Jesus in a ministry for teens and a volunteer will talk about the way he invests in Young Life.

"I came to my first Young Life event 17 years ago," said Mary Beth Davey, who is among event sponsors. "I was won over by what they were saying about Young Life. That's why my kids started coming. My favorite part is when kids get to share how it's impacted them."

Added Louise Davey,

"We've had great speakers in the past, but the students have the most impact."

Following the speakers will be a paddle raise, where bidders can elect to fund specific items, like a camp experience.

"We hope to keep it more interactive and fun, bouncing around this year," Louise Davey said. "Instead of just writing a check, you're giving toward a specific thing."

This year's fundraising goal is \$65,000, which goes a long way for the local chapter.

"We are 100 percent locally funded," Louise

Davey said, noting the spring fundraiser raises half of Young Life's operating budget for the year.

The Daveys extended the invitation to the entire community, especially those unfamiliar with Young Life.

"We love to have people who've never heard of the ministry," Louise Davey said. "And we celebrate the relationships we do have. ... Any kind of person is welcome. They will get out of it whatever they're looking for."

Tickets are capped at 130 and are available online at tinyurl.com/bdexws7

Sponsorships and donation links also may be found at the URL.

"We want to share our mission," Louise Davey said. "We care about the youth in Grosse Pointe so much. They have a lot of needs in the present day: friendship, mentorship, a relationship with Jesus in whatever capacity they want. We do that through our programs, but also through mentorship with adults. We really care. It offers them community as well."

She also thanked Young Life's supporters for their continual help.

"This community is wildly generous in their donations," she said. "Our team, the committee members and active parents are all making this possible."

ASK THE EXPERTS By Susie Rohde, LMSW

Coping with emotional triggers

Do you feel like you're going crazy? In our daily lives, we encounter countless triggers that prompt emotional reactions within us. These triggers can come from various sources — an "innocent" passing comment from a friend, a stressful situation at work, an interaction with our partner or family member — and these triggers have the power to stir up deep-seated emotions and patterns of behaviors from our past, often leading to reactions we may later regret.

Triggers are powerful indicators of unresolved emotional issues and unhealed wounds from our past. By learning how to navigate them with grace and self-awareness, we can find greater peace and freedom in our relationships and within ourselves. Learning to respond instead of react to our triggers empowers us to break free from these negative patterns.

These are 10 strategies to cope with emotional triggers:

- ◆ Name it — Verbalize, "I'm feeling triggered right now."
- ◆ Breathe — Take five, deep, slow breaths.
- ◆ Pay attention to physi-



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able to set healthy boundaries with others and can openly discuss and effectively communicate with partners and others.

Reacting with anger or defensiveness, or pushing others away can cause harm to ourselves and others. By taking ownership of our emotions and behaviors, we can resolve conflicts more peacefully and build deeper connections with others. We, thus, create a more fulfilling and harmonious life. We can feel crazy when triggered, but we can learn to manage our crazy. Let's do the work of healing and take care of our mental health in our daily lives.

Susie Rohde, LMSW, is a clinical therapist at Lifestance in St. Clair Shores, working with individuals, couples and families. Her work includes helping clients develop insights into their trauma patterns and emotional triggers, and exploring strategies to decrease their impact.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familyenterhelps.org.

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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Tips for coaching rookie baseball



Dear Gabby: I have somehow managed to be persuaded to coach rookie baseball and my first practice was a disaster.

I was trying to teach the kids how to make a double play and not one kid paid any attention. Some of them were

digging in the dirt and others were focused on their Big League Chew. I need to seek advice anonymously because

it's too embarrassing to ask the bros for help on this. HELP!

—Striking out in the Shores

Dear Striking Out,

This sounds like a perfect opportunity to use the KISS method. Keep It Simple Stupid (or if you want to be more PC, Keep It Simple Smarty). It's not as hard as it sounds.

Start off by pairing up the players (loosely, but balancing pairs with different abilities/skill levels is a good way to do this) and have them play

catch. Yes, that's it — catch.

Are some kids getting bored? Have them assist you by having them model some skills. Perhaps it's helping little Timmy figure out how to scoop a ground ball or showing the team the proper mechanics for throwing a ball. Kids love to help!

Gradually build on skills and rules of the game, and provide a little homework for the players by enlisting their parents' help.

Second, make sure you have plenty of helpers. You might need multiple assistant coaches or vol-

unteers for each practice to help wrangle the players. Engaging an older sibling who plays baseball or softball is always a good move.

Lastly, be sure to keep the practices fun by adding in games. You have no idea how valuable a few pieces of candy can be — or the prospect of an ice cream if the kids listen and do their best. Wishing you a season of dingers and double plays.

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

Loss, recovery and tough family choices

DEAR ANNIE: I am also a parent of a child who lost his battle with addiction in 2022. There are so many of us with difficult stories to share.

My son found alcohol and drugs at 15 and battled those demons until his death at the age of 30. I have come to know that there are some types of brains that truly do not know how to turn off that switch. We did all we could do as a family, and as a mother, I was taken into a series of events that I was neither prepared for nor able to combat effectively.

I have come to view those years with my son as a time where I examined the fragility of life and the undeniable love I had for another person. I miss my son every day, but I wouldn't take one bit of my time away from him, even though many of those times were bleak. I see the world much differently now and am a better person

for that.

I hope that those who have experienced this type of loss will come to a peaceful place with the grief that is often overwhelming and focus on helping others with the benefits of the knowledge that they have learned. Thank you for printing these letters. It reminds us all that we are not alone. — A MOM OF GRIEF

DEAR MOM OF GRIEF: I am so sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing your story and for your understanding that you are not alone.

DEAR ANNIE: Reading those letters from parents of alcoholics brought tears to my eyes. I am a recovering addict/alcoholic. It took three rehabs and two relapses in my recovery. I am grateful to God I'm still alive.

I wrote this letter to send hugs, love and

understanding to all those who are still suffering. AA and NA gave me a free, wonderful recovering life. Don't quit until the miracle happens. — MIRACLES HAPPEN

DEAR MIRACLE: Thank you for your letter. I hope it encourages others to carry on.

DEAR ANNIE: I always read your column and have forever, but today is the first time I've been inspired to write.

I read the letter from the woman who was saying her parents were celebrating their 50th but felt they should have ended the marriage years ago.

Let me add my blunt thoughts.

My parents were the same. Several times growing up, I asked my mum why we couldn't leave my dad and basically got, "You need to have a dad."

I'm 60 years old. What that "need" got me was years of therapy for the way I was treated, and I'll probably be in therapy for the rest of my life.

For any parents thinking they're doing the right thing, let me leave you with this closing thought. My mum passed away 32 years ago. I still miss her but have not and will not ever forgive her for sticking me in that mess because it was supposed to be better for me. Do you want your kids to have that thought about you long after you've passed on? — I'M STILL STANDING

DEAR STILL STANDING: Thank you for your letter. I am sorry about your childhood. That must have been very difficult on you. Had your parents separated, it still would have been difficult for you.

You can choose what thoughts to have about your mom now that she



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

has passed. Forgive her, knowing that she did the best she could. If she had known better, she would have done better.

DEAR ANNIE: You recently said you rarely get letters praising mothers-in-law. Well, here is one!

I grew up in an abusive family with a mother who has severe borderline personality disorder and refuses to get medication or therapy. When I met my mother-in-law, I was naturally very distrustful of her. Mothers were not safe to me, and mothers-in-law were supposed to be even worse!

I am happy to say that 15 years later, I love the woman dearly. She has helped me heal that little girl who needed a mom to love her uncondition-

ally. Sadly, I was not the best daughter-in-law when she first met me; I was stubborn, distrustful and divisive. Yet, through it all, she did not hold a grudge, and she continued to love me.

I would love to see the narrative on mothers-in-law change! — CHANGE THE NARRATIVE

DEAR CHANGE: I love your letter. Thank you for bringing up such a great point. Many mothers-in-law are wonderful and deserve to be praised. Without a mother-in-law, the son would not have been born.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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4C | LIFE & LEISURE



NETFLIX

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NETFLIX, OFF THE FENCE AND THE SEA CHANGE PROJECT

The octopus makes physical contact with Craig Foster in the 2020 documentary "My Octopus Teacher."

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



physical threat to her — chiefly the Pajama Shark. For the most part, she manages to avoid these vicious creatures. But eventually, her luck runs out. One of them pursues her relentlessly until it catches her and bites off one of her tentacles. It's a devastating blow not only to the octopus but to Foster as well.

As I mentioned earlier, the cinematography was some of the finest I've ever seen. It not only takes you on a gorgeous journey, it makes you want to spend time exploring areas like the one in the film. Adding the emotional impact of the movie was the sensational score by Kevin Smuts.

fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "My Octopus Teacher"
 2020 - Rated TV-G
 1 hr 25 min
 ★★★★★

hood spent with his family in a cottage right on the ocean. This turns out to be the ideal location for his healing.

he poses no threat to her and he earns her trust. And believe it or not, the two become friends.

I was absolutely bowled over by this documentary when it first came out. It not only changed the way I felt about these amazing creatures, I was left emotionally drained. It's that moving a tale. So I was not surprised when it garnered an Oscar that year.

Foster begins exploring the kelp forest in the freezing cold waters. He opts to forgo using a wet-suit and SCUBA diving gear. Instead he learns to deep dive while holding his breath for extended periods of time — a technique called "free-diving."

He relates that these remarkable creatures are roughly the intellectual equivalent of a cat or dog. As the film progresses we discover more about these amazing creatures. The way they can change shape and color almost instantaneously. They can even disguise themselves as rocks. At one point we see her build a veritable castle around herself with pieces of shells and small stones.

A recent reviewing of the film was equally impactful. I should warn you however before you see this beautiful film, I can almost guarantee you'll never eat calamari again.

Once he hits the water we're treated to some of the most stunning views I've ever seen. The sea life is spectacular, both in the variety and the rich rainbow of colors. It's marvelously captured by Foster and cinematographer Roger Horrocks. Then one day something happens that would change his life forever. He encounters a curious female octopus.

Foster spent almost every day over the course of a year in the company of this remarkable octopus. Over time, we get a sense of her personality and can understand how he could get so attached to her. We also see the creatures that pose a

Craig Foster, a nature documentarian from South Africa, created the film. He admits at the beginning that he was suffering from burnout, after filming in harsh conditions. He simply needed to get away from it all and recuperate.

Octopuses are solitary creatures so it's not surprising that she's quite shy at first. But ever so slowly, she learns that

His journey took him to False Bay, off the coast of his hometown of Cape Town. He reminisces about his happy child-

I thoroughly enjoyed this remarkable, emotional and thought-provoking documentary. It's such a powerful experience that after viewing it, you'll find yourself insisting all your friends see it as well.

I thoroughly enjoyed this remarkable, emotional and thought-provoking documentary. It's such a powerful experience that after viewing it, you'll find yourself insisting all your friends see it as well.

★★★★ 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](https://www.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.

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



The octopus in her beautiful environment.



A tender moment when Foster cuddles the octopus.



The amazing octopus.



One of the impressive methods of hiding.



Craig Foster narrates his film "My Octopus Teacher."



Foster and his faithful companion exploring.



Foster pursues the octopus.

The octopus resting.



Foster intructing



The star of the film.



Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 5 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. EDT today (2 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.). After that, the Moon moves from Aquarius into Pisces.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, May 2, 2024:

You are courteous, helpful, sensitive and caring. You are also an independent thinker who is fiercely honest. This year you will receive acknowledgement and appreciation for your past efforts. This is why you can expect kudos, awards, promotions -- whatever acknowledges your past efforts and talents. Bravo!

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

At this time, your chart has a strong emphasis on money, cash flow and financial dealings. Therefore, do be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert today. Nevertheless, this is a laid-back day that will promote socializing with others and having good times. Tonight: Romance!

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You're high-viz for several reasons right now in your chart. This means you should be aware that people notice you and are aware of what you're doing, especially people in authority, including the police. Avoid shopping and important decisions during the Moon Alert. Tonight: Good vibes.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

This is a poor day to ask for permission or approval from authority figures, teachers, parents or bosses, primarily because there is a Moon Alert for much of this day. Stay chill and keep things laid-back. Enjoy your privacy. Tonight: Interesting people.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Avoid important financial decisions, especially about shared property, taxes, debt and inheritances today because of the Moon Alert. Instead, enjoy the company of friends and groups, particularly younger people and creative, talented types. Tonight: Check your finances.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

This is a lazy day. Enjoy yourself. You might make a great impression on bosses and VIPs. Nevertheless, postpone important decisions until tomorrow. Travel plans might interest you because you have a strong desire for a change of scenery. Tonight: Flirtations.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You might feel restless today. You want a change of scenery. You have an urge to shake things up a little. It's a good day to relax and check out different possibilities. Why not explore your own neighborhood? We take so much for granted. Who knows what you will discover? Tonight: Helpful colleagues.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Be patient with partners and close friends right now. Mars is opposite your sign for the next month, so consider this an opportunity to develop patience, which is a virtue. Enjoy socializing with romantic partners, sports colleagues and children. Live it up! Tonight: Warm romance.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Take it easy today. You might want to reserve your energy for tomorrow, which is a productive day. Enjoy time at home or socialize with romantic partners, kids

and sports colleagues later in the day. Make an effort to participate in social outings. Tonight: Entertain.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Although your focus is on work and productivity right now, this is a good day to relax. Enjoy talking to neighbors, siblings and relatives. Later in the day, you'll be happy to cocoon and enjoy the privacy of your home. Family discussions might be significant. Tonight: Socialize!

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Give yourself permission to play hooky today. Take a long lunch. Take off of work if you can. Accept invitations to socialize with others. Enjoy sports events and fun activities with kids. The arts will also appeal to you. Someone might help you with home renovations or improvements where you live. Tonight: Generosity.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Home and family are your priority right now. In fact, many of you are involved in DIY projects and home repairs. You also might want to entertain at home. With Mars in your House of Communications, you are forthright, direct and convincing! Tonight: Entertain!

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a busy, fast-paced week. However, today is a good time to relax or to take things at a slower pace. Enjoy casual conversations. You might also enjoy writing or studying today. It's the classic day to take a moment to smell the roses. The act of appreciation is not only pleasant, it's life-enriching! Tonight: Secret love.

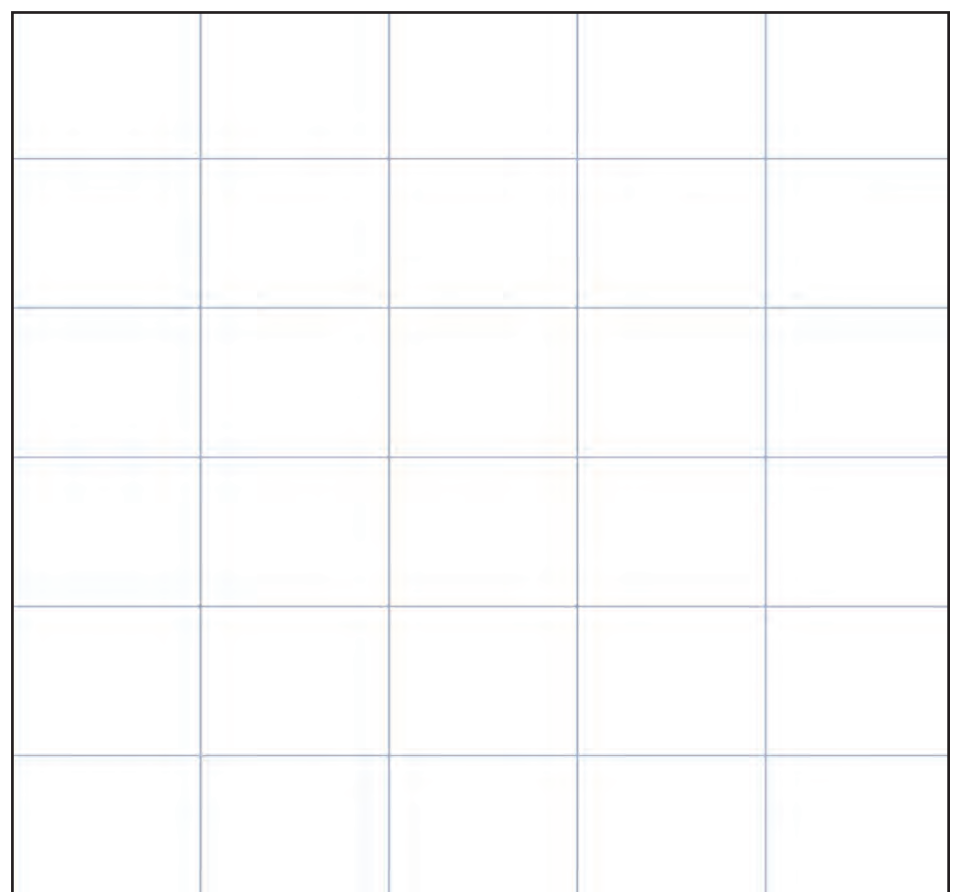
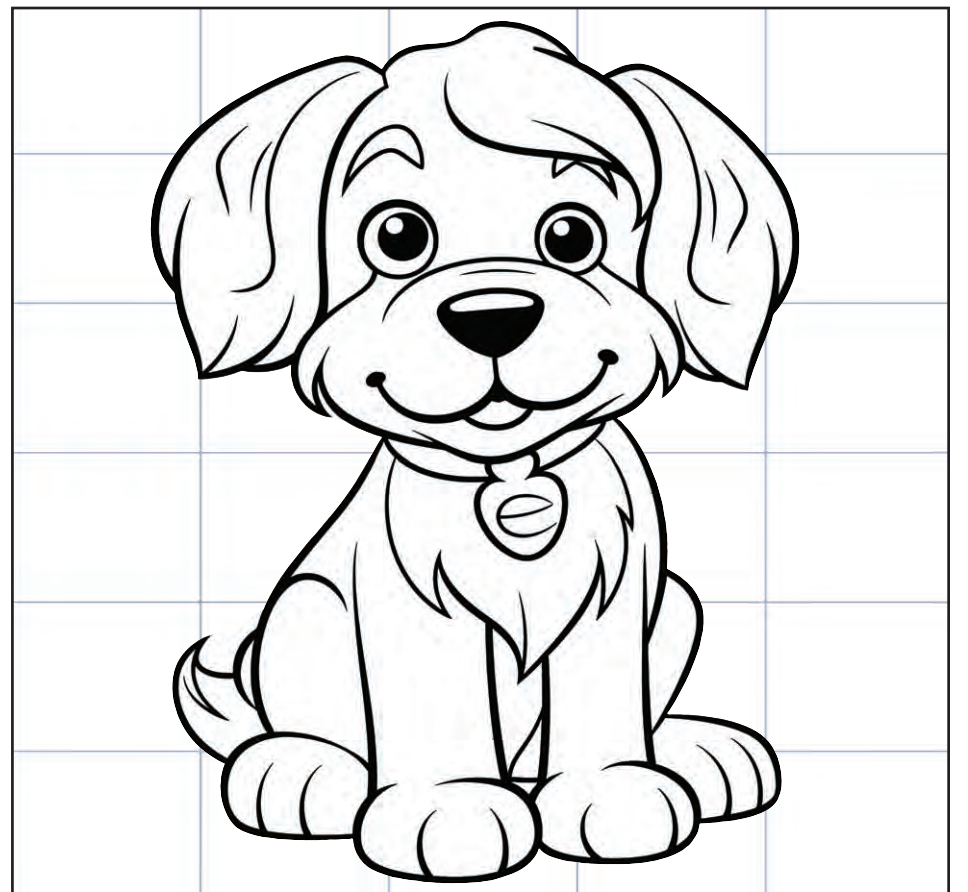
BORN TODAY

Actor Dwayne Johnson (1972), actress Christine Baranski (1952), footballer David Beckham (1975).

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Contract Bridge

THERE'S A GOOD REASON

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 9 3
♥ K J 10 6
♦ J 9 5 2
♣ A 4

WEST

♠ 7 4 2
♥ 8 2
♦ K 6 3
♣ K J 8 7 5

EAST

♠ J 8 6 5
♥ A 9 7 5 3
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q 10
♥ Q 4
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ 10 9 6 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	

Opening lead — seven of clubs.

Let's say you're in three notrump, and West leads a low club. How should you proceed?

Your first play from dummy is very important. Despite all you may have heard or learned that at notrump it is better to hold up an ace at least once when the enemy attacks your weakest

suit, you should play the ace.

There is a very good reason for taking the ace. Assuming that West has led his fourth-best club, East must have the king, queen or jack (because West would have led the king if he had four or five clubs headed by the K-Q-J). Winning the first trick is therefore sure to block the opposing clubs if West led from a five-card suit. If the clubs are divided 4-3, your first play makes no difference.

The play at trick two is also critical. Ordinarily, you would force out the ace of hearts rather than attempt a diamond finesse, but here you should reverse the usual procedure.

There is an excellent reason for tackling the diamonds first. If West has the ace of hearts and king of diamonds, the order of play is irrelevant because the contract is doomed. And if East has the king of diamonds, with or without the ace of hearts, the contract is in the bag whichever red suit is played first.

The only case that matters, therefore, is the one where West has the king of diamonds and East the ace of hearts. In that instance, playing diamonds first makes the contract, while playing hearts first loses the contract.

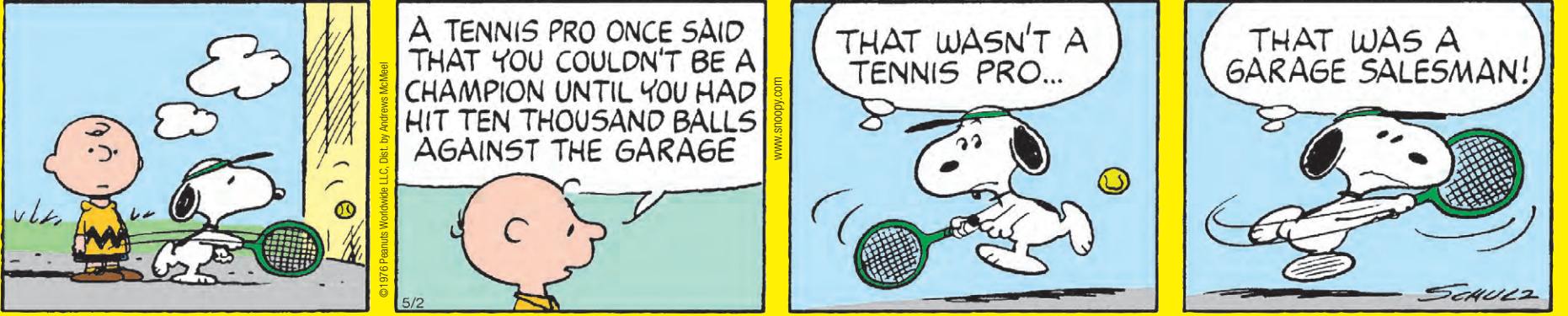
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by Steve Becker

Comics

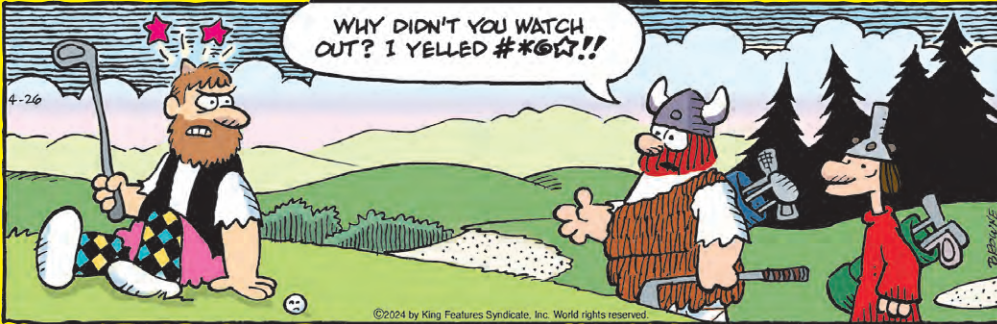
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



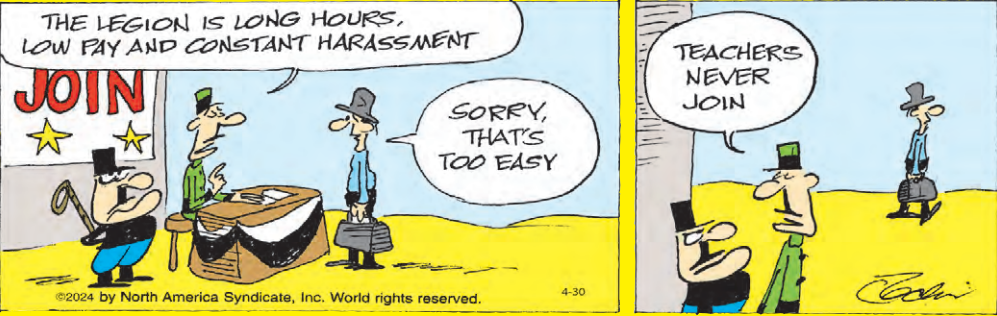
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



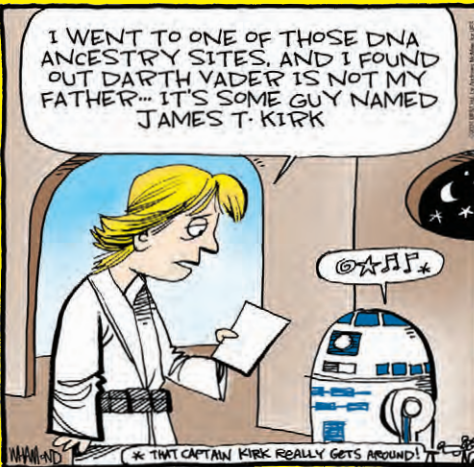
Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"I'M SORRY... I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOUR HUSBAND THAT I HAD CONSOLIDATED ALL YOUR DEBTS INTO ONE."

Close To Home

John McPherson



"So, I said, 'If you're so liberated, let's go Dutch.' And she took off to Holland with my best friend."

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"And the dog barked happily ever after."

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

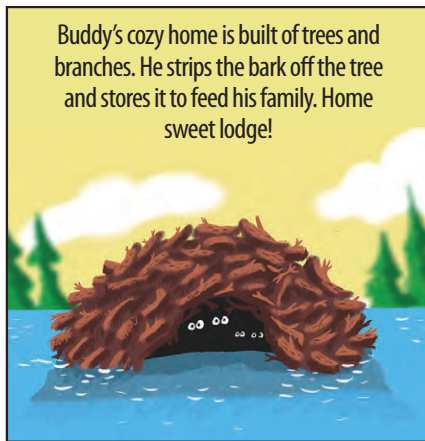
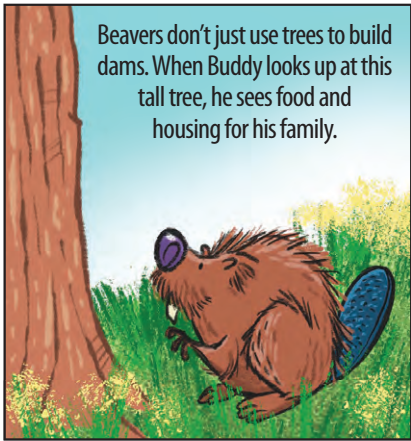
Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Kid Scoop

Buddy B. Beaver's Goals

Buddy shows us how to reach a big goal by breaking it down into smaller steps.



Be Like Buddy: How to Reach a Goal

Sometimes there are things you want in life that are not possible right now. For example, maybe you want to buy something that is expensive. If you are serious about that purchase, make buying it a **goal**.

In order to reach that goal, be like Buddy. Make a list of small steps or small goals that would help you reach your big goal.

EXAMPLE: Angie wants to buy a new coat. The coat costs \$50.

Angie decides that instead of trying to earn \$50 all at once, she will make ten goals that will help her reach her big goal. She makes a goal of earning \$5. If she earns \$5 ten times, she will reach her big goal of \$50!



Extra! Extra!

Busy Builders

Beavers are builders. Look through the newspaper for examples of things people build. What are the kinds of jobs people do to build things?

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

How can Angie earn \$5? Put a check in the box next to each of Angie's jobs. If you checked the right boxes, they add up to exactly \$5.

If Angie can earn \$5 per week and save the money, how long until she will have enough money to buy the coat?

ANGIE'S GOAL: Earn \$50 for a new coat!

Mowed the lawn: \$3.00

Made my bed: \$0
(Mom expects me to do this every morning!)

Walked the dog: \$2.00

Took out the trash: \$1.00

Did the dishes: \$2.00

MY GOAL: _____

JOBS I CAN DO TO EARN THE MONEY:	HOW MUCH I CAN EARN:
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

HOW LONG UNTIL I REACH MY GOAL? _____

Kid Scoop Together: Busy Beavers!

Busy beavers chewed some words from this list of fun beaver facts. Replace the words to find out some amazing things about beavers.



- Using their broad, scaly _____, beavers will forcefully slap the water as an _____ signal to other beavers in the area that a predator is approaching.
- Beavers are _____ on land but using their webbed feet, they are very good swimmers. A beaver can stay under water for up to 15 minutes.
- Beavers are **herbivores**. They like to eat the _____ and wood of _____. They also eat pondweed and water lilies.
- Adult beavers are around three feet long and have been known to _____ over 55 lb (25 kg). Females are as large or larger than males of the same _____.
- Beavers can live up to 24 _____ in the wild.
- The beaver is the national animal of Canada, and is on the Canadian five-cent _____.



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Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you put these mixed-up beaver facts in the correct order?

- are powerful swimmers that can swim
- the second largest in the world. Beavers
- shut to keep water out. Transparent inner eyelids
- underwater for up to 15 minutes.
- When a beaver swims underwater, its nose and ears
- built-in swimming goggles!
- Beavers are the largest rodent in North America and
- close over each eye to help the beaver see like

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

EXPENSIVE PURCHASE
EARNING EYELIDS
TOPPLES RODENT
BEAVER STREAM
LODGE WATER
BITES BARK
SWIM GOAL
TREE

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: SAVE

The verb **save** means to keep or store something for use in the future.

Jeremy plans to **save** his allowance for three weeks to buy a gift for his sister.

Try to use the word **save** in a sentence today when talking with friends and family members.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Build a Sentence

Select a headline from today's newspaper. Expand the headline into a longer, complete sentence by adding adjectives and other words. Diagram your sentence to show all of the parts of speech.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Do beavers ever get tired of chewing on trees?

ANSWER: GRAW!

Write On!

A penny saved is ...

Finish this story.

Your Neighborhood

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2D HITS & HIGHLIGHTS | 3D BASEBALL & SOFTBALL | 4-5D LITTLE LEAGUE | 6-7D CLASSIFIED



PHOTO BY BARB PEBERDY

Elizabeth Peberdy, left, and teammate Carly Brown sport their first-place medals after winning the Women's Youth 2 Grand Final at the Dogwood Sprints Regatta in Oak Ridge, Tenn., last weekend.

GP rowers finish 1st to lead women's crew

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

Several rowers from the Grosse Pointes, representing Detroit Boat Club Crew, made the trip down I-75 last weekend from the Mitten to the Volunteer State to race in the Dogwood Sprints Regatta hosted in Oak Ridge, Tenn. With several races throughout the weekend of Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28, the rowers represented the Pointes well with some strong performances including one first-place finish.

That first-place finish came in the Women's Youth 2 Grand Final race on Sunday when Grosse Pointe South's Carly Brown and Elizabeth Peberdy crossed the finish line a full 12 seconds ahead of second place. The dominant win came after Brown, who will row at Stanford next fall,

and Peberdy, who will row next season at University of Tennessee, posted the fastest times in the time trials and semifinals as well, capping off a commanding weekend for the pair.

The next best finish for any Pointes rowers was a third-place finish for the women's Youth 4+ boat. Brown and Peberdy were also a part of that boat, along with Caroline Ward and Cassie Summerfield

That's a winner!



PHOTO BY ALEXIS DELUCA

This shot taken by Alexis DeLuca of the City of Grosse Pointe is this week's Little League Photo of the Week contest winner, thanks to the moody skies and colorful rainbow she captured after the Tigers' team practice for Grosse Pointe Little League Softball. The Tigers are in the league's machine pitch division. Players pictured, from left, include Heidi DeLuca, Katerina Kotsis, June Temkin, Maria Tapazoglou, Sloane Gotfredson, Caroline Newbold, Blair Brady, Lucy Roeder and Melena Reynolds.

We asked Grosse Pointe News readers to submit photos of their favorite Little League softball and baseball player(s) for our Little League Photo of the Week contest and our readers delivered!

Grosse Pointe Little League Softball parent Alexis DeLuca is this week's winner. She will receive a \$25 gift card to Chocolate Bar Cafe. This week we are including all of your submissions to serve as

inspiration — it could be your Little Leaguer who wins next!

Head to page 8D to see this week's entries. Send entries for next week's issue to media@grossepointenews.com.

— Meg Leonard

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Bellish embodies heart and soul of South softball

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

In baseball and softball, the shortstop position is commonly referred to as the "captain of the infield." Grosse Pointe South senior Avery Bellish is the perfect example of just how true that statement can be.

Bellish has been with the Blue Devils' softball program all through her high school career. Last season, as a junior, she was named one of South's captains, and she once again received the honor this spring as a senior. Her first experi-

ence as a captain last year might have taken a

field.

"It was a big step up for me not just as a player but as a person in general," Bellish said about becoming a captain. "I felt like I had to really up my game to prove myself as the leader I can be. I was under more pressure last season than this year because I know

what to do already...I feel more relaxed and comfortable in my position as a captain this year."

Bellish has come a long way in her softball career from when she was in fourth grade and was enrolled in Little League Softball by her parents. At that point, she had no experience or familiarity with the sport

whatsoever. Now, less than a decade later, Bellish is one of the most all-around skilled players on the Blue Devils roster and is going to continue playing softball in college.

She often bats fourth in the heart of South's lineup, where she is hitting .372 with 14 RBI and one home run so far this spring. Along with playing shortstop, Bellish has experience playing nearly everywhere in both the infield and outfield. However, her spot in the middle of the infield is where she can be found most often these days during South games, and is where she feels like she thrives the most.

"I kind of like the fact that I can play really anywhere, but my most comfortable position is definitely in the middle infield at shortstop," Bellish said. "That's kind

of where I belong. I used to think it was outfield, but then I found out I have a natural ability for playing in the infield, and I just feel more comfortable and confident there."

While she is pretty much entrenched in her role at shortstop in most games, Bellish is the kind of player who would go anywhere on the field if needed. Her versatility is another thing that makes her such a great leader, and it is her attitude and commitment to being a strong teammate that has endeared her so much to her coaches

South's Avery Bellish shines at shortstop.



COURTESY PHOTO

over the years. "She's our emotional leader," South softball head coach Bill Fleming said. "She's always fired up and always playing 100 miles an hour. Sometimes, we have a tendency to be a little quiet, and she brings us

See *ATHLETE*, page 2D

Bellish at the Bat

- Batting .372 with 14 RBI, 3 doubles and 1 HR this season
- Co-captain of South varsity softball in 2023 and 2024
- Signed to play Division II softball at Pennsylvania Western University Clarion

Athlete Of The Week Proudly Sponsored By:



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2D | HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

The Grosse Pointe News sports staff has the week's biggest sports stories covered, along with bringing you additional hits and highlights from the exciting week that was, which stretched from GP all the way to downtown in the D. Here's a look:

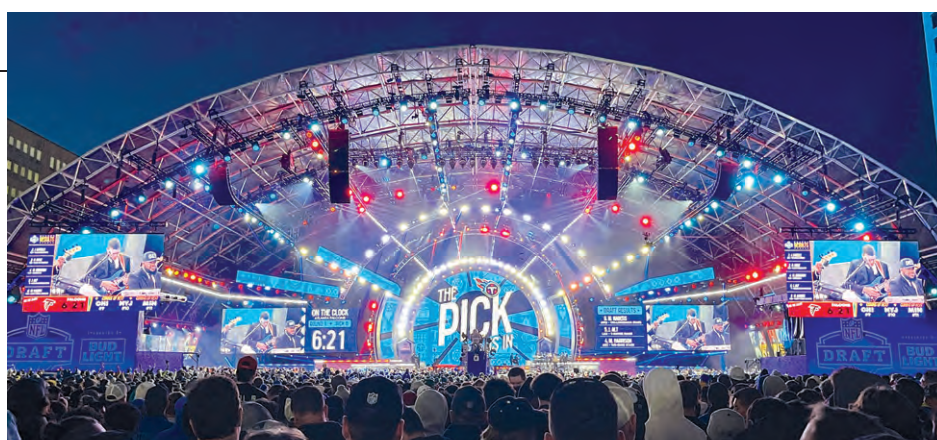


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

NFL DRAFT

The 2024 NFL Draft stage lights up the streets of Detroit last Thursday night, April 25. An estimated 775,000 fans made their way downtown over the course of the weekend from Thursday to Saturday, April 27, to experience the first NFL Draft hosted in the Motor City.

LIGGETT GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

University Liggett's girls varsity lacrosse team continued its hot start by remaining undefeated 7-0 as the first month of the season winds down. The winning week began Monday, April 22, when the Knights scored a 17-7 win on the road against North Farmington. Sophomore Olivia Marcero led all scorers with six goals and three assists. She achieved an important milestone with her second goal of the night, reaching 100 career goals. Junior Aliya Abraham added four goals in the win. Wednesday, April 24, Liggett beat Toledo Central Catholic 15-6. Goaltender Madeline Unkel stood tall in net with 17 saves. Senior

Chloe McFarlane led the Knights' defense, while senior Brynn Collins helped control play at midfield. Marcero added seven goals while Abraham added four goals. The team headed to Oxford High school Friday, April 26, bringing home a 10-8 win. Marcero scored five goals and added an assist, bringing her career goal total to 112 to date. Collins added two goals along with senior Hallie Marcero, Madeline Hexter and Allie Roth, who each scored one goal. Unkel had nine saves on the night. "I truly believe this is one of the strongest girls lacrosse teams that Liggett has had in years," said Liggett head coach Amanda Amine. "We have great senior leadership and strong team chemistry. The girls have been working very hard and have been improving as the season goes on."

NORTH VS. SOUTH GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

Grosse Pointe South visited Grosse Pointe North Friday, April 26, for a crosstown rivalry matchup. The Blue Devils ended up victorious 1-0 in the team's first win over the Norsemen in seven years. Senior Eleni Melhem scored the game's only goal for South in the second half with 25 minutes remaining in the game. The loss took North's record this spring to 2-5-1. For South, the win helped bump them up to 5-3 on the season. A narrow 1-0 win might not be seen as notable for the Blue Devils, but the team believes that it is most comfortable winning games by dominating the midfield and time of possession. "It's not very typical that we're going to score out a bunch of goals in a game, but we like to play the possession-based game and we've had young players like freshmen stepping up and filling in gaps for us," South girls soccer head coach Chris Bolio said. weekend's event possible, Morrow said.



South girls soccer players gather around teammate Eleni Melhem (center) after she scored the Blue Devils' first and only goal in a 1-0 win over North last Friday. PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

dominated, outscoring Chippewa Valley 32-0 in the meet's four distance races. Morgan Deenik, Chloe Caulfield, Sarah Koval, Rylee Piornack, Calisse Budek and Abby Macey provided the Blue Devils with distance depth. In field events, Catherine Pattie leaped to a season best 4 feet 8 inches, taking first in the high jump. Teammate Olivia Barba won both the shot put and discus. Evie Wodzisz added another first place finish by clearing 8 feet in the pole vault. In the hurdles, Adelina Parikh

was a double winner scoring first place finishes in both the 100 and 300 hurdles. South's victorious 400 meter sprint relay ran to a season best time of 54.9 seconds. "We continue to move forward in all 17 events. We continue to be the most supportive team possible. The home stretch of the season looks to be extremely exciting," Zaranek added. Saturday, April 28, the team placed third with 61 points at the 16-team Steve Johnson relays at



PHOTO BY LEILA OSKUI

South's victorious 400 sprint relay smiles post-race after a season best time of 54.9 seconds. From left, they include Molly Reynolds, Anne Wayman, Jaimison Diamond and Grace Campbell.

SOUTH GIRLS VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

The South girls track team enjoyed their finest meet of the season defeating previously unbeaten Chippewa Valley 98-39 in MAC red action. "We were on fire in all 17 events," said South head coach Steve Zaranek. "Contributions came from all areas of the team and the support for one another was at a season

high. This was our finest meet of the season and we just keep improving." South runners totaled 73 season best performances. Jaimison Diamond led the way with the sprinters scoring points in the 100 and 200 dashes, anchoring the 400 relay and winning the long jump. South 400 relay teammates Grace Campbell, Molly Reynolds and Anne Wayman raced to victory in a season best time of 54.9. South's distance runners

dominated, outscoring Chippewa Valley 32-0 in the meet's four distance races. Morgan Deenik, Chloe Caulfield, Sarah Koval, Rylee Piornack, Calisse Budek and Abby Macey provided the Blue Devils with distance depth. In field events, Catherine Pattie leaped to a season best 4 feet 8 inches, taking first in the high jump. Teammate Olivia Barba won both the shot put and discus. Evie Wodzisz added another first place finish by clearing 8 feet in the pole vault. In the hurdles, Adelina Parikh

SOUTH VARSITY SAILING

Grosse Pointe South varsity sailing finished fifth at the MISSA Mallory National Qualifier Saturday April 27, and Sunday, April 28, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The team raced among 20 teams who pre-qualified for the event that represented six states in Region 5, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. The weather proved challenging with storms and strong winds on both days, lending to constantly-changing conditions. The top four teams hailed from high schools from Chicago, and those finishes qualified them to sail in the upcoming Mallory National Championships at the College of Charleston. Detroit-area teams included Grosse Pointe South, University of Detroit-Jesuit, West Bloomfield, and Troy. The Blue Devils qualified to sail in the Phoebe King Regatta, June 5 and 6 in Annapolis, Md.



PHOTO BY JIM DORIAN

Grosse Pointe South varsity sailors battle for position among 20 competing teams from the Midwest last weekend on Lake St. Clair at the MISSA Mallory National Qualifier.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 7:00 PM.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm for the City Council to consider an application received by representatives of CT Thai, LLC for the transfer of an existing Class C License with Outdoor Service Area from T.N. Thai, Inc. (previous owner), and a new SDM License, including all-day Sunday Sale (AM and PM) Drink and Entertainment Permit, permitting the sale of liquor, beer, and/or wine for consumption on premises, at 17100 Kercheval Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI.

Said hearing will be held in person at the City Council chambers, 17145 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on May 20, 2024. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to city@grossepointecity.org. If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800.

Christopher Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

ATHLETE: Continued from page 1D

out of that...She's just always working hard and being enthusiastic and being positive and you need those types of players."

Bellish's skill on the field and her attitude both on and off the diamond have made enough of an impression to get noticed by the next level. After a long recruiting process, as Bellish described it, she made her decision to play Division II softball at Pennsylvania-Western University Clarion.

"I actually love the state of Pennsylvania," Bellish said about making her decision. "I first went there for a hockey tournament and just fell in love with the whole state. (Clarion) is located right by the mountains, which is another green flag because it's a beautiful view...The coaching staff was amazing. The softball team has its own personal trainer which I really love...All the girls are super nice and the campus in general. As I was walking on it I just felt the energy and felt like I could go there."

As an athlete moving on to play at the collegiate level, Bellish is

using the time she has left in high school to sharpen her game to get ready for the next steps on her journey. She is fully focused on helping the Blue Devils achieve their goals like winning MAC and district championships, but also wants to keep improving herself along with her team every day.

While her coaches praise her attitude and mental toughness, Bellish sees it as the one thing that can be improved the most before she gets to college. She knows that she can become physically stronger and more skilled every day no mat-

ter what, but finding consistency in her mental approach to the game could be the biggest key to preparing her for what lies ahead.

"My mental game is definitely the one thing I can improve on every day," Bellish said. "...The mechanics and everything physical obviously you're going to be working on all the time, but the main thing is how you're feeling and how you're thinking and I just feel like I need to stay focused and under control and have fun. Have a clear mind and I don't need to let anything get in my head."

CITY OF HARPER WOODS CITY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN 48225 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Harper Woods will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public input on the distribution of the special assessment levy.

Residents who are unable to attend this hearing may submit their written comments regarding this matter to the City Clerk's office prior to the hearing date.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS

LESLIE M. FRANK
City Clerk

Grosse Pointe News



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.

All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala - with top athletes winning scholarships!
Submit online at:

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

8D | LITTLE LEAGUE CONTEST

Bonus Ball

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

As featured on page 1D, the Grosse Pointe News has officially kicked off the Little League Photo of the Week contest. We received so many worthy nominations, we decided to share them all to celebrate the inaugural week of the season. Send entries to media@grossepointenews.com. Game on!



GP News reader Katherine Mannino submitted this nostalgic photos of former Little Leaguers from the 1960 Pittsburgh Pirates' (below) from what was then called Grosse Pointe Farms Little League. Three of those players recently got together, who are pictured in the photo at top, with their correlating photos as Pirates. From left to right, they include Ed Mannino, of Grosse Pointe Shores, and Gary Brooks (both Grosse Pointe South alum) and Doug Deck, who now resides in Scottsdale, Ariz. "These "old guys still talk about their Farms Little League days playing for the Pirates!!!" Katherine Mannino said. "Garry Brooks still has his jersey!"

PHOTOS AND PHOTO GRAPHIC COURTESY OF KATHERINE MANNINO



Right, Grosse Pointe Park City Manager Nick Sizeland celebrates opening day with his family at Defer Elementary School. Pictured from left are cousin Frankie Tannheimer, Sizeland, daughter Kinsley Sizeland and cousin Charlotte Tannheimer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARE VANDELINDER



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE CRANDALL

Parker Crandall with the Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League's Hooks sports his own crazy riff on eye black.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH PLUMRIDGE

Sisters Caitlyn Plumridge, 8, left, represents the Tar Heels, while Claire Plumridge, 11, dons her Vipers jersey for Grosse Pointe Little League Softball.



Cooper Getz suits up in his Chicago White Sox uniform for Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League last Saturday. Baseball is quite the family affair for the Getz clan, as multiple siblings, cousins and uncles have played Little League in Grosse Pointe for generations. Perhaps the most well-known family member might be Cooper's uncle, Chris Getz, a former baseball star at Grosse Pointe South and the University of Michigan, who is now the general manager of the White Sox in the MLB.

PHOTO COURTESY OF QUINN GETZ



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELISE HINDELANG

From left to right, brother Joey, 10, John, 12, and Michael Hindelang, 8, celebrate opening day for Grosse Pointe Park Little League.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ballplayers from GPPLL watch warm-ups last week.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH PLUMRIDGE

Above, Ethan Plumridge, 5, represents the Colorado Rockies for Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League.



Left, Blaise, Mackinac and Mae Knuth sing the national anthem at Grosse Pointe Park Little League's opening day ceremony Saturday, April 27.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUELINE KNUTH

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 15, 2024

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 Vivian Sawickit

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) to excuse Councilperson Vivian Sawicki from tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment.
- 2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held April 1, 2024 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Beautification Commission meeting held on March 20, 2024 and the Planning Commission meeting held on March 27, 2024.
- 3) to add to the agenda a payment to Oakland County - CLEMIS.
- 4) To schedule a public hearing on May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on the continuation of a Special Assessment District and further to schedule a second public hearing on May 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the effect of the Special Assessment on the tax roll, and further that the City Clerk publish a notice of these in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 6) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 129743 through 129822 in the amount of \$375,778.03 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 \$21,271.48 for professional services during the month of March 2024 for the following projects: Beaconsfield Resurfacing, Miscellaneous Concrete Repair, Eastland Center Redevelopment, Joint and Crack Sealing, HWHS Field house, City Hall Generator, Sanitary Sewer FCIPP Program, Storm Sewer Repair, Sanitary Sewer Cleaning, DWSD Sewage Discharge, Temporary Water Operator, EGLE Planning Grant, Pavement Striping, Miss Digs and Marijuana facilities. (3) approve payment in the amount of \$5,609.00 to Drive Creative Services, LLC for the production of the April/June Newsletter. (4) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$37,229.09 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of March 2024. (5) approve payment to Wolverine Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$14,811.25 for the removal of main break spoils, ground fill supplies and cold patch for filling potholes. (6) approve payment in the amount of \$5,875.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with a water main break and replacement of stop box. (7) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$7,100.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (8) approve payment to Oakland County in the amount of \$5,830.00 for fees relative to the CLEMIS computer system utilized by the Police Department. (9) appoint Mr. George Cotton III to the Recreation Advisory Board for an unexpired three year term ending January 2027.
- 2) to appoint the firm of Bendzinski and Company as the Registered Municipal Financial Advisor in conjunction with the 2024 Capital Improvement Bond in an amount not to exceed \$16,800.00 as outlined in their engagement letter dated April 5, 2024, and further authorize the acting City Manager to sign the letter on behalf of the City.
- 3) to accept the bid submitted by B&B Fence Inc. in the amount of \$23,200.00 for the fence replacement at Salter Park, and further that Wayne County Grant funds be utilized for this project.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk



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GROSSE POINTE &
SURROUNDING WATERFRONT
COMMUNITIES



SCAN ME

TO READ CLIENT REVIEWS