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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 85, NO. 42, 52 PAGES  
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Officer Austin Giarmo, the 2023 City of Grosse Pointe officer of the year, passes out candy during last Halloween's Trick-or-Treat in The Village.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Motschall fills vacancy

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor



James Motschall

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — City council is back to full strength after making an appointment to fill a vacancy at its meeting Monday, Oct. 7.

Council voted 6-0 to appoint James Motschall to the seat previously held by Thomas Vaughn. The seat became vacant in May when Vaughn passed away after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Motschall will be sworn in at the meeting Monday, Oct. 21, and fill the unexpired term through November 2025. "I'm very excited," Motschall said. "I'm looking forward to sitting on the council with those fine people."

Motschall, a Farms native, has lived in the Woods since the mid-

1990s. He has been on the city's Historical Commission for 10 years and currently serves as treasurer.

He is past president of the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, now Grosse Pointe Equestrian, and past president of the Notre Dame Club of Detroit. He also serves as the liaison between the Bayview Yacht Club and the U.S. Coast Guard for the Port

See VACANCY, page 2A

## Costume contest to enhance Trick-or-Treat in The Village

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — This year for Halloween, Trick-or-Treat in The Village is bringing back its costume contest for kids.

From 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, Grosse Pointe's youngest residents are invited to trick-or-treat at downtown businesses along Kercheval between Cadieux and Neff.

The costume contest will start around 4 p.m., with City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak and Joe Binkowski from Ridge Crest Outfitters serving as judges. "It's mostly (for) bragging rights," said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe, which is organizing the festivities in partnership with the

City's parks and recreation department. "You get that recognition for your really cool costume. There's so many great costumes. I'm glad I'm not a judge."

Also part of the enhanced programming this year will be the Little Village, where from 2:30 to

See CONTEST, page 5A

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Section A2

## Gazebo stays

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The gazebo at Patterson Park is relieved from a death sentence never imposed. "None of us feel this thing should be torn down or replaced," said James Ceuninck, a member of the Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission. "I don't know why that was even brought up as an option."

Ceuninck heads the commission's Patterson Park subcommittee.

"Our subcommittee met at the gazebo," he said last week.

Minus aesthetic shortcomings due to slack maintenance, the gazebo will continue standing for lovers of lakeside serenity if it gets the TLC it warrants, commission members agreed during a meeting Oct. 10.

"We should understand what it's going to cost, but we need to look at all the things we

need to take care of in our parks," Ceuninck said.

"The gazebo has been declining in quality," said Jim Creighton, a resident and member of a garden club active at Patterson. "It has been that way for years."

Problems with the gazebo consist of chipped concrete steps, broken and missing Pewabic tiles and a Beatles-like mop of untended wisteria.

Creighton prescribed a solution to the structure's shortcomings in the tone of someone tired of dinking around: "Get quotes to fix it and then fix it. Simple."

Parks Director Chad Craig has contacted contractors.

"They said they're going to send one of their team members out to give us a referral on what that would cost," he said. "They're going to meet with me to look the structure over. Also, a couple construction

See GAZEBO, page 5A

Week Ahead . . . . . 3A  
Opinion . . . . . 6A  
Schools . . . . . 9A  
Features . . . . . 1B  
Obituaries . . . . . 4B  
Sports . . . . . 1D  
Classified ads . . . . . 4D

## Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

## Fresh Farms Market honored for donating 66,000 pounds of food

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Five and a half years ago when the Detroit chapter of Food Rescue US was founded to transfer fresh food surpluses from local businesses to social service agencies, Fresh Farms Market became one of its first food donors.

Last week, the local grocer was honored with a certificate of appreciation for donating 66,664 pounds of food.

"They were one of our very first," said Darraugh Collins, site director of Food Rescue Detroit. "They're just a mile away from my house, so when I got started I was of course thinking of the places around me to approach. ... I went in and chatted with (owner Larry Najjar) and he was absolutely on board and so they've been donating ever since then. They're a great partner."



COURTESY PHOTO

Owner Steve Najjar with the certificate celebrating 66,664 pounds of food fed to people, not landfills.

Fresh Farms Market donates every day of the week aside from Saturday, generally sending one to two carts of food.

"It could be anything from produce that's blemished to pastries and doughnuts and muffins that don't sell that day that we don't generally carry over or we have our fresh

Zingerman's bread and our fresh Crispelli's bread," Najjar said. "... Or whether it's a sandwich, a salad, pizza slices or we set up our hot bar full of hot prepared foods, on any given night, we might have \$100 to \$200 of food that's just left. So instead of throwing it

See HONORED, page 3A

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# Woods neighbors oppose land sale

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Several residents spoke at city council's meeting Monday, Oct. 7, against a plan that could potentially lead to three houses being built on Sunningdale Park between Sunningdale and Lochmoor.

Council last month approved spending \$15,600 to have the area and another city-owned piece of land on Bournemouthe near Raymond surveyed before deciding next steps.

According to a memo from City Administrator Frank Schulte to council, the space previously was a dirt road the city abandoned in 1975 due to maintenance issues and the unwillingness of sur-

rounding residents to pay a special assessment to pave it.

McKenna Associates, the city's planning consultants, proposed a plan to subdivide the area into three buildable lots. One parcel each would face Sunningdale and Lochmoor, respectively, with the middle lot facing Sunningdale Park. Eric Dunlap, the city's assessor, estimates each parcel could be worth up to \$250,000.

City Attorney Deb Walling suggested the parcels be sold via a bid process with the contingent each buyer must build a home on their respective lot within two years. Dunlap said based on the surrounding home values, houses built there would be in the price range of \$750,000 to \$1 million, with each net-

ting the city around \$10,000 in taxes.

In response to a question from Councilman Kenn Gafa, Walling last month said council could waive the construction requirement if an adjacent property owner wanted to buy a lot.

A half dozen homeowners living in the area all said they strongly oppose the idea, noting the spot has long been used by neighborhood children to play and as a place to hold neighborhood gatherings. A few said it was what prompted them to buy their home and at least one said he would move if houses were built there.

A few also said they believe the property's original owner willed it to the city with the stipulation it remain vacant for the enjoyment of the neighborhood. They collected around 60 signatures from residents in the area opposed to the

idea earlier this week and are shooting to collect 100.

Mayor Art Bryant said the city would work with the neighbors to try and locate the will, but noted the land currently is zoned R1, the main residential designation. City Manager Frank Schulte said the city also would conduct a title search.

Councilman Michael Koester last month asked Walling to think about potential arguments from nearby neighbors, citing legal issues that delayed construction on the Deeplands property in Grosse Pointe Shores.

"I'm not sure what standing they would have to stop the city from selling land properly zoned for single-family housing when they live in single-family housing in the same area," she said.

Walling added she would conduct a title search on the property after the survey is complete.

# Volunteers needed for Halloween in the Park

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Table sponsors and volunteer opportunities remain for Halloween in the Park, Saturday, Oct. 19.

Although decorating Windmill Pointe Park in time for the event is assured, there are openings to staff some of the 33 stations at which treats are given in lieu of tricks.

Halloween in the Park is for children ages 10 and younger.

To spread out the anticipated crowd of trick-or-treaters, Chad Craig, director of Parks and Recreation, organized Halloween in the Park into three time slots: 4, 4:30 and 5 p.m.

Tickets cost \$15 per child in advance or \$20 the day of the event.

Craig said there are two types of volunteer opportunities: station workers and business table sponsorships.

There are about 10 open spots for station volunteers.

"Station volunteers will be for families, individuals, organizations, council members (and) recreation commission members to help hand out candy," Craig said.

Business sponsorships cost \$75 each.

"We provide the candy," Craig said. "(Businesses) are allowed to hand out marketing or promotional items as long as they're approved by city administration, whether it's magnets, calendars, discounted services. That's a way to involve local businesses and entrepreneurs."

Register online at [recpro.grossepointepark.org/CourseActivities.aspx](http://recpro.grossepointepark.org/CourseActivities.aspx) or in person at the Lavins Activity Center, where tickets also are sold.

To sponsor a table or volunteer, contact Craig at [craigc@grossepointepark.org](mailto:craigc@grossepointepark.org).

Park Grill sponsors Halloween in the Park.

— Brad Lindberg

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## VACANCY:

Continued from page 1A

Huron to Mackinac race. Motschall said he plans

to run next November to retain the seat.

"I enjoy the people and I look forward to making the Woods stronger and better," he said.

The city received 25 applications for the position from qualified applicants. Eligibility requirements included:

- ◆ be at least 18 years of age;
- ◆ be a United States citizen;
- ◆ be a Woods resident at least two consecutive years prior to appointment;
- ◆ be a registered voter; and

◆ not be delinquent on city taxes or fines or be in default to any state agency.

"Thank you to everyone who submitted an application," Mayor Art Bryant said. "As a reminder, anyone who wants to run for city council, the election is in November of 2025."

There will be four seats open next year, including Motschall's, Bryant's and those held by Todd McConaghy and Vikki Granger.

The council started by going through all 25 names and those who got any support moved on to

the next round. Motschall, along with Dave Andrews and John Schulte, all had support from four council members. Three others had two votes.

Council then ranked the three, with Motschall being the first pick of Bryant, McConaghy, Granger and Kenn Gafa.

"I know any of them would serve the community well," Granger said. "They all have phenomenal resumes."

Vaughn was appointed to council in March 2021 to fill a vacancy and retained the seat in that fall's election. The deaths earlier in 2021 of Councilman George McMullen and Mayor Robert Novitke set off a chain reaction that actually required council to appoint two new members. Bryant, mayor pro tem at the time, assumed the mayor's seat, meaning his seat and that of McMullen needed to be filled.

There were 19 applicants for the two spots, including Motschall. The other appointment was Angela Coletti Brown. She retained the seat for a four-year term in November 2023.

Vaughn had served 20 years on the city's planning commission and Brown was a member of the parks and recreation commission before serving on council.

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## Share Your Thoughts About Your Child's School Experience?

Rt6, a strategic communications firm, will be conducting online interviews with a small group of parents to seek input on different school choice options within our community, their child's experiences, and improvement suggestions.

Interviews will be conducted by Zoom between Oct 18 and Oct 28. Participants will be paid \$25 (30 Min) or \$50 (45 Min) if they qualify and complete the interview.

Interested in participating? Use the QR code below to take short survey to see if you qualify. We are looking for a small number of parents of children with different school experiences, so not everyone will qualify for this phase of the study.

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### Grosse Pointe News

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# Farms presents case for road millage renewal

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — With election season in full swing, Grosse Pointe Farms city administration is hoping residents choose to continue its robust road improvement program by voting to renew the city's current five-year, 2-mill road improvement levy. It first passed the polls in November 2020.

"Starting back in 2021, our first large project was the Kerby Road project, which took a little longer than we hoped, but it did come out very well," said Eddie Zmich, a civil engineer with Hubbell, Roth and Clark. "We also did Harbor Court that year."

Residents' tax money also covered:

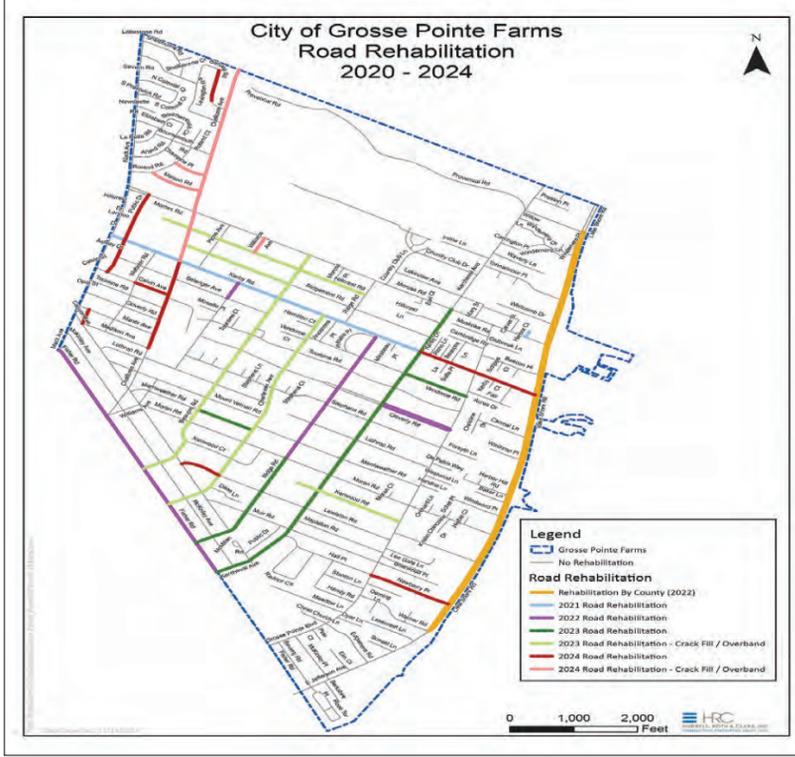
- ◆ in 2022 — a substantial portion of Ridge, a majority of Fisher, Cloverly and a small concrete section of Williams south of Kerby;

- ◆ in 2023 — the rest of the Ridge, Kercheval from Fisher to Moross, Vendome and a piece of Merriweather west of Chalfonte;

- ◆ and in 2024 — Chalfonte and Calvin, Mack alleyways and a section of Lewiston between Beaupre and Charlevoix.

"We're also planning on doing the remainder of Kerby Road," Zmich said of this year, "to pick up from where we left off a few years back from Kercheval down to Lakeshore."

The average PASER rating — rating the condition of the roads, with 10 being the best and one the worst — for all roads in the Farms currently is roughly 4.2, compared to a rating of 3.6 when the city implemented the



road millage four years ago. By the end of 2025, the rating is projected to reach 4.6.

"So by the end of five years, you're roughly at a rating of five," Zmich said. "You may be thinking, well, 4.2, that doesn't seem like much improvement from 3.6. We did more extensive work on some of the major roads, so it cost more money per foot, per mile. And we've done the majority of your major roads now. We do have a few that we want to still work on, but that's one reason."

If the renewal passes — and assuming an average home value of \$400,000 — it is expected to cost said homeowner \$400 the first year. Because it is a renewal, the Farms still would maintain the lowest tax rate of the Pointes, at 16.4655.

Another five years of the 2-mill tax would gar-

ner a projected \$10,985,664 for the city's roads.

City administration previously noted local, interior roads would be the focus of the next five years of the road improvement program.

"A few more of the major roads that could probably use some work soon in the next five years," Zmich added, are Grosse Pointe Boulevard, the last piece of Fisher between Lakeshore and Kercheval and the section of Lakeshore from Fisher to Warren.

The millage renewal language on the ballot is as follows:

"Shall the City of Grosse Pointe Farms be authorized to continue imposing a property tax levy in an amount not to exceed the annual rate of 2 mills (\$2.00 per each \$1,000 of assessed valuation), for a renewed

period of 5 years beginning with the December 2025 levy and extending through the December 2029 levy, for the purpose of reconstructing, resurfacing, repairing and otherwise improving major and local streets, as well as alleys, parking lots, non motorized pathways and related infrastructure within the City?"

"If approved, this millage will renew a previously authorized 5-year millage for the same purposes (which previously authorized millage will expire after the December 2024 levy), and will generate an estimated \$2,069,200 in the first year that the renewed millage is assessed based upon the December 2025 levy."

The full presentation of the city's road millage renewal request can be found on its website, [grossepointefarms.org](http://grossepointefarms.org).

## HONORED:

Continued from page 1A

away, we put it in aluminum pans and put a date and a label on it."

The main recipient of Fresh Farms Market's donations is Motor City Mitten Mission in St. Clair Shores. The seven-day-a-week street outreach nonprofit was one of Food Rescue Detroit's original receiving partners.

"MCMM is a regular recipient of food donations provided by Fresh Farms and coordinated by Food Rescue Detroit," reads a post by MCMM last week celebrating the milestone. "These donations are vital to our programs as they help us provide individual meals to families and individuals struggling with homelessness and housing and food insecurity. We distribute between 100 to 150 meals daily to those that are unsheltered or those that are housing and food insecure that are unable to access food. Many thanks for helping us help others in need!"

More than 66,000 pounds in food donations is significant, Collins said, especially considering the Grosse Pointe market is one of Food Rescue Detroit's smallest grocery store partners. It also works with chains including Target, Whole Foods

and Plum Market.

"It makes me really wonder about some of the bigger stores, if you think about on how many different levels food is wasted," Najjar said. "Even the commercial suppliers, what do they do when their boxes break open and spill on the floor? Do they just throw those tomatoes away?"

Though Fresh Farms Market was the first business in the Pointes to partner with Food Rescue Detroit, a number of others since have followed suit and were honored for their contributions last week as well.

These include the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, The War Memorial, Le Rouge Boulangerie, Better Health Market, Hillside Hearth, Crispelli's, Starbucks at Mack and Hollywood and Starbucks at Mack and Randor.

"We appreciate our food donors," Collins said. "We can't do this without them and we just appreciate them so much in supporting our mission of feeding our community and keeping food out of landfills. We're grateful and we just feel it's important to remind them of that, because sometimes people forget why we're doing this or why they're doing this and we want people to know it matters and it makes a huge impact."

## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, OCT. 21

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 22

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 26

- ◆ 2024 Electronic Waste Drop-Off Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Osius Park, 800 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Open to residents of the City, Farms, Park and Shores.

# Marina plans moving from soft to hard

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The next step in marina improvements is far from the first and not close to the last.

City officials dipped into the ditty bags of municipal boaters this week to commence an \$89,250 preliminary engineering forecast of costs to renovate the marina at Windmill Pointe Park.

Finger docks will be rebuilt and dockside utility service shored up. Everything is eyed toward no longer having to fiddle with the facility, such as adding and removing dock risers, to accommodate fluctuating levels of Lake St. Clair.

"I started on the recreation commission in 2015," Councilman Marty McMillan said. "People have been talking about the marina that long. It's time to do something."

He motioned during a council meeting Monday, Oct. 7, to contract Abonmarche Consultants, an A-to-Z design and engineering firm specializing in waterfront projects, to draft a preliminary engineering forecast.

"As part of this proposal, we would collect data needed to start the design of improvements long-term to the marina," said Mike Morphey, Abonmarche senior project manager and waterfront group director. "We

would get site evaluation with our structural engineers. Once we complete this process, the city makes decisions."

Decisions will be made within the realities of affordability.

The city's consulting engineers estimated two years ago that full-flung modernization, including installing floating docks that adjust automatically to changing water levels, would cost up to \$15 million. The idea was rejected as too costly.

City Manager Nick Sizeland said the marina fund has about \$700,000 in reserves that can be tapped for the project.

"We've been trying to build that up in anticipation of coming down the line for marina updates," Sizeland said.

During discussions over the last two years, construction estimates dwarfed the fund's reserves, leading to talk about issuing bonds to pay for the bulk of construction.

In any event, expenses for the marina proper are paid by boaters through well rental fees stored in the marina enterprise fund.

"(Marina enterprise fund) dollars are restricted to be used specifically for users (of the marina) rather than taxpayers," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

"The biggest step here is preliminary engineering," Morphey said. "That's where we're

going to take information from the concept plan that was previously developed. We're going to begin to push that design further down the

road to identify what the real costs are going to be to construct that plan. Then we talk about final

design further down the road to identify what the real costs are going to be to construct that plan. Then we talk about final

See MARINA, page 9A

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# Reviving a Belgian chocolate legacy in the heart of Michigan

By Anne Gryzenia  
Publisher

When David Ogloza crossed the ocean to settle in Michigan, he brought more than just a suitcase full of memories and family traditions. He carried with him the heart of a chocolate-making legacy with roots in Belgium — a tradition that has now been reborn in Detroit as Quix Chocolate.

Founded 75 years ago in Belgium by Ogloza's aunt and uncle on his mother's side, Quix began as a small storefront that operated out of their villa's basement. Chocolate-making was an artform, with cocoa beans sourced from Africa and Brazil, roasted and transformed into from-scratch delicate bonbons and candy bars. These were enjoyed for many years in some of Belgium's most iconic cities — Antwerp, Brussels and Bruges — especially during festive seasons like St. Nicholas Day and Easter.

But despite its success,



David Ogloza proudly displaying Quix chocolates in his Ferndale retail store.

the business closed its doors in the 1980s when no immediate heir was ready to carry on the tradition. Ogloza followed a very different path — embarking on a globe-trotting career in accounting that took him to Hong Kong and beyond — but always kept the love for chocolate alive.

Years later, after settling in Michigan with his husband, Tony Osentoski, the pandemic triggered a desire to bring that family legacy back to life.

“My family roots and passion finally caught back up with me and there was only one way forward: restarting Quix,” he said.

And so, Quix Chocolate was reborn, blending Belgian craftsmanship with American quality, creating luxurious confections that rival any European boutique.

“Chocolate is a way of celebrating major holidays and is part of daily life back home,” Ogloza explained, recounting memories of his school lunch sandwiches being layered with chocolate sprinkles. “Within my family, we always had a

passion for good food, cooking ... and chocolate of course.”

What sets Quix apart is its commitment to traditional methods.

“We still use chocolate made in Belgium and most of the recipes are original,” Ogloza said.

The company's chocolates, which come in more than 40 flavors, highlight the fine art of Belgian chocolate-making. Pistachio, raspberry and hazelnut creations have become fan favorites, while Ogloza's personal favorite, “The Quix,” showcases the best of Belgian flavors: creamy hazelnut, vanilla ganache and a crunchy layer of hazelnut.

Another delicious favorite is European hot chocolate, made with fresh whipped cream, which draws crowds during Michigan's chilly months and offers a little taste of Belgium to warm the soul.



David Ogloza and Tony Osentoski at the Quix Chocolate Ferndale store.

Quipped Ogloza, “Life is too short to eat whipped cream out of a spray can.”

Quix's roots run deep not only in chocolate but also in philanthropy. The company proudly supports local charities such as Affirmations, Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, keeping its connection to the community strong.

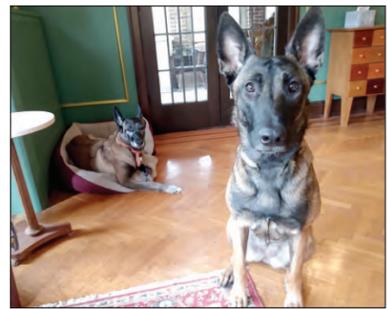
Part of the reason Ogloza and Osentoski chose to live in Grosse Pointe is its historic appeal and strong connection with Belgium.

“A lot of Belgians moved to the Pointes and St. Clair Shores in the 1900s,” Ogloza said. “Although we are a few generations further, there is still a strong bond of families with connections

to Belgium sharing last names quite common still to this day in Belgium.”

Ogloza and Osentoski live in Grosse Pointe Park with their two Belgian dogs, Stella and Margaux. Ogloza is an active member of the Belgian-American Club in St. Clair Shores.

Whether in Ferndale, at the Evans terminal at Detroit Metro Airport or through partnerships with local markets such as Holiday Market in Royal Oak and Western Market in Ferndale, Quix Chocolate's presence continues to grow. With plans to keep expanding, this Belgian-born, Michigan-made chocolate company is proving that even 75 years later, tradition is still something worth tasting.



Ogloza and Osentoski's Belgian Malinois dogs: Stella and Margaux. Born in Belgium, they each have “passports” to travel.

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## City of Grosse Pointe

## Lululemon

While on her phone, a woman walked out of Lululemon in The Village at 4:33 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, with \$1,700 worth of stolen clothes.

The suspect is described as a black woman in her 20s with red hair. She fled the scene in a black Honda Sonata.

— Laurel Kraus

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

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Home invasion

Following a report of a home alarm system going off at 8:13 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, officers discovered the rear glass French doors at a home in the 100 block of Lothrop had been kicked in and left wide open.

Several disheveled drawers with items thrown around the floor were found in the bedrooms, from which jewelry and purses were missing.

The residents were not home at the time of the incident.

## Impounded

After being pulled over for stopping at a green light and then abruptly turning onto the oncoming traffic lane on Moross at 5:04 p.m. Saturday,

Oct. 12, a 23-year-old Detroit man was cited for improper lane use, unregistered motor vehicle and not having insurance.

His vehicle was impounded.

## History repeats

A homeowner near Christ Church Grosse Pointe saw a man standing in her backyard at 8:38 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. When the man approached the house and jiggled the door handle as though he was attempting to enter, he was confronted by the woman's husband and said he was being chased by two black men who were shooting at him.

There were no reports of shots fired in the area and officers arrived to discover the 59-year-old Shelby Township man, who is well known to the department and has a lengthy history of breaking and entering.

In 2011, he entered the Farms public safety building through an open fire bay while the department was responding to a fire and stole from the basement two gun stocks, which are replicas used for the department's honor guard.

In 2014, he was arrested after being suspected of stealing items from 19 unlocked homes

in the Farms and Woods.

Most recently, in 2021, he was arrested in suspicion of larcenies from at least 13 vehicles and one vehicle theft from the City, Farms and Park, as well as for a home invasion into a carriage house garage on Lincoln. On Sunday, the man was arrested for prowling. He told officers he plans to return to the Pointes and slash the tires of every vehicle in the station's parking lot, as well as burglarize homes.

## Drunken driving

For driving the wrong way on Lakeshore at 10:39 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, a 37-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over and found to be operating while intoxicated, for which she was arrested.

A preliminary breath test found her blood alcohol content to be 0.16 percent.

— Laurel Kraus

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Disorderly

Police arrested a 33-year-old Detroit man shortly after 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, for dis-

rupting a restaurant in the 17000 block of Mack.

"(Officers) responded to the location on a report of two intoxicated subjects being disorderly inside," an investigator said. "One subject was treated by medics for extreme intoxication. The other was arrested for disorderly conduct."

## Crack

A 64-year-old Park man was arrested last week when police reportedly found him passed out in a vehicle containing crack cocaine.

Shortly after 6 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, officers responded to the area of Mack Avenue and Lakepointe on a report of a stationary vehicle with its engine running and the driver slumped over the steering wheel, according to police.

"(He had) his foot on the brake," police said.

## Car stolen

Two unknown perpetrators, their faces covered, appear on surveillance video at 10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, stealing a white 2023 Dodge Charger from a locked garage in the 1200 block of Whittier.

"(They) broke into the garage and stole the vehicle without keys," police said.

## Steals charcoal

At 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, a bespectacled man riding a bicycle stole a bag of charcoal stored outside a business in the 14100 block of Charlevoix, according to police citing video evidence.

## Fencing online

A couple of larceny victims think they've found their stolen property being offered for sale online.

A Green Razor scooter, stolen overnight Friday, Sept. 13, in the 1000 block of Maryland, is featured on Facebook Marketplace, according to the rightful owner.

A set of golf clubs, taken at roughly the same time out of a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Audubon, are for sale on eBay, it is reported.

Police are following up.

## Hit, run, caught

Two damaged cars wound up in the front yard of a house in the 800 block of Lakepointe early Sunday, Oct. 13, when a motorist hit an unoccupied parked vehicle and ran away.

Officers responded to the scene at 2:17 a.m.

"The driver of the occupied vehicle fled the

scene but was identified as the registered owner of the vehicle," police said.

An investigator identified the suspect as a 27-year-old woman from St. Clair Shores.

"(She was) cited for leaving the scene of an accident," police said.

— Brad Lindberg

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

## 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

## Stolen vehicle

A 2017 Chrysler 300 was stolen from the parking lot at Ascension St. John Hospital between 3 and 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10. The owner told officers the vehicle was locked and the alarm was activated.

— Ted O'Neil

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

## GAZEBO:

Continued from page 1A

services are going to give us repair proposals as well."

Creighton opposes transforming the gazebo into a stage for outdoor concerts. Ticket sales for concerts would add to the recreation department's revenue stream, as suggested in August by Craig.

"It's a passive park,"

said Creighton, reminding municipal representatives of Patterson's stated but ever-diminishing caste in the city's park system. "Anything down there has to be in line with passive. You want noisy stuff — Windmill Pointe (Park)."

Fellow resident Alan Bremmer isn't daunted by gazebo repairs.

"It doesn't look like a terribly expensive project," he said. "I would be

willing to make a meaningful contribution."

Craig also said he may tap a current city vendor to trim the wisteria.

"I'm looking forward to hearing at our next meeting what you have on quotes and a potential source of information on what to do next," Chairman Michael

## COSTUME:

Continued from page 1A

4:30 p.m., children can enjoy a quick and easy fall craft, Halloween-themed selfie station and June Detroit Music playing spooky tunes for passersby to enjoy.

"A lot of fun in a little, tiny, short period of time," Willcock said.

Nearly every business in The Village

is expected to pass out candy, an annual expenditure that comes out of their own pockets to give back to the community.

"Everybody says (to the businesses), get between 1,500 and 2,000 pieces of candy and give one piece," Willcock said. "You don't give handfuls, because you're going to run out. And then they run CVS and Kroger out of all their candy, because they're running trying to get more."

— Laurel Kraus

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# POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE WOODS / GROSSE POINTE SHORES / GROSSE POINTE PARK / GROSSE POINTE FARMS

## Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC  
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### OUR VIEW

## Sinking fund millage deserves support

Everyone has heard the saying that the only sure things in life are death and taxes. There also is another sure thing and that is the fact the state of Michigan does not provide money to public school districts to specifically pay for facilities, technology and security.

For that reason, we recommend a “yes” vote on the Grosse Pointe Public School System’s request for a sinking fund millage. The district is asking voters to approve a levy of 3 mills for 10 years. If approved, it would bring in approximately \$11 million a year.

The current sinking fund millage was approved at 1 mill for five years in 2019, and brings in around \$3.5 million annually. Unlike the district’s operating millage, which 72 percent of voters approved in August, this would be a tax increase of 2 mills.

A mill is \$1 in taxes on every \$1,000 on a property’s taxable value. In real-world numbers, the tax implication would work as such: A home with a market value of \$300,000 has a taxable value of \$150,000; that equates to \$150 in taxes per mill, or \$450 per year. At \$500,000 market value, taxes would be \$750 a year and at \$1 million, taxes amount to \$1,500 a year.

As we mentioned above, because the state does not provide funding for facilities, technology or security, districts without a sinking fund millage or improvement bond have to spend money from the general fund on such items. That means fewer dollars being directed to classrooms and students. It means less money to pay teachers, update curriculum and run extracurricular activities.

We are glad the board of education chose to ask voters for a sinking fund millage, rather than another improvement bond such as the one that was approved in 2018. Bonds end up costing taxpayers more in the long run because of interest rates, whereas every dollar from a sinking fund millage goes right to the district.

To further explain how sinking fund monies will be used, we’ll borrow an example Superintendent Andrea Tuttle has used numerous times. If you took the roof off a school building and turned it upside down, the district could not spend sinking fund money on anything that falls out. That would include people, students, desks, chairs, books, etc. Only per-pupil state aid and operating millage dollars can be used for such things. Sinking fund dollars can pay for what does not fall out — walls, windows, doors, lockers, etc.

Another reason the sinking fund millage is vital to the district is the fact its 13 buildings average 81 years in age. A study by consultants at Plante Moran two years ago determined the district had \$252 million in maintenance needs over the next decade, including \$150 million that deserved attention within three years.

In driving around the district this summer, you probably saw a number of projects that were paid for with sinking funds. Masonry work, parking lot upgrades and bringing playgrounds into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other recent work has included roofing, HVAC systems, security upgrades and locker replacement.

If the millage passes, the district plans to spend around \$36 million on technology and security upgrades. Other top priorities include \$12.8 million for roofing, \$12 million on entrances, doors and windows and \$8.2 million on masonry restoration. More information can be found at [gpschools.org/millage](http://gpschools.org/millage)

As was the case with the August operating millage vote, we believe the district has done a more than adequate job explaining why the sinking fund millage is important to its success.

For those reasons, we recommend a “yes” vote on the matter.

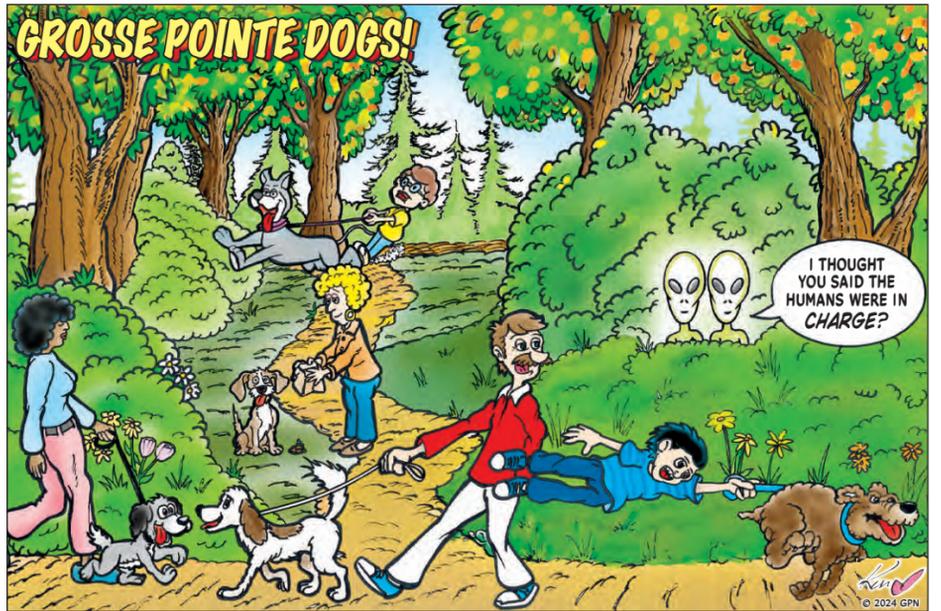


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

### OUR VIEW

## Our choices for GPPSS BoE

In what has become a recurring pattern, there is no shortage of candidates for open seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

There are nine candidates running for four open seats. While we originally published this information a month ago for the benefit of those wanting to take advantage of early voting, we are reprinting it now for those who prefer to visit the polls in person.

As noted above, there is no shortage of candidates. This follows the pattern of recent school board elections. For example, 10 people ran two years ago for three seats. In 2020, there were a whopping 15 candidates for four seats, plus three more running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term.

As is the case with our five municipalities, we are blessed to have people interested enough and dedicated enough to run for office. Elected officials put in long hours at little or no pay and have to make tough decisions that often lead to personal attacks and, on occasion, threats of violence. As any athletic referee or umpire will tell you, half of everyone is going to disagree on every call made. The same goes for elected officials.

Candidates this year, in alphabetical order, are: Terry Collins, Clint Derringer, Melissa Fradenburg, Diana Gellci, Kate Hopper, Laura Hull, Tim Klepp, Heath Roberts and Colleen Worden. The Grosse Pointe News editorial board interviewed each of them the last two weeks of August. Transcripts of those interviews can be found on page 17A.

After considering what each candidate can offer the district, our endorsements go to Mr. Collins, Ms. Fradenburg, Ms. Hopper and Mr. Roberts. The decision ultimately came down to the single biggest issue facing the district, that being finances.

All four have extensive, real-life experience in diverse areas of finance, marketing and financial management. Not only is their knowledge of the subject proficient, but they are fiscally responsible, an important attribute that cannot be understated when it comes to spending other people’s money.

Mr. Collins, in particular, has been an invaluable addition to the board. He spent countless hours in 2022 poring over the district’s books, warning at board meetings of the district’s downward trajectory. He was appointed to a vacancy on the board in October 2023 and has served as treasurer since January.

Despite assurances from the previous board and superintendent that the district’s finances were healthy, the numbers say otherwise. The district’s own budget book notes \$9 million in operating losses during 2021-22 and 2022-23 as seen here (page 3, parameter 10) [shorturl.at/aJKL3](http://shorturl.at/aJKL3).

We need to look no further as to why the cur-

rent board jumped into action than by looking at the district’s 2022-23 audit ([shorturl.at/krAI3](http://shorturl.at/krAI3)). In particular, look at page 12. The district’s fund balance in 2020 topped \$18 million. It now stands at about half that. How did it fall so far, so fast? By using federal COVID relief funds to make up for that \$9 million in overspending.

Think of it this way. You budget to spend \$100 a month eating at McDonald’s and eventually get a \$100 a month raise. What the previous board and administration did with COVID relief dollars would be akin to you continuing to spend \$100 a month eating at McDonald’s, but instead of saving the raise you also start spending \$100 a month eating at Burger King.

If the current board had not taken swift action in 2023, GPPSS could have gone down the same path as the Wayne-Westland and Ann Arbor districts, where huge budget deficits have led to layoffs, program cuts and other problems.

The first step in the right direction was in January 2023, when the newly seated board scuttled plans to spend \$1 million in sinking fund dollars to build out a clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School. The hospital that was to staff the clinic would have received grant money to run it, while taxpayers would have been on the hook paying for continued maintenance.

Mr. Collins, Ms. Fradenburg, Ms. Hopper and Mr. Roberts all said they would have opposed the clinic if they had been on the board at the time. In addition to fiscal responsibility, each of them has presented reasonable campaign messaging, including stressing the importance of continued and improved academic excellence, as well as true concern for our GPPSS students. Rather than pointing out problems — real or imagined — without offering solutions, they are focused on helping to continue righting the ship and moving GPPSS forward.

That, coupled with fiscal responsibility that will build the district’s fund equity while making any necessary cuts as far away from students as possible are among our reasons they get our support for the four open seats on the board of education.

## LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should be typed and signed with the writer’s full name and local address, as well as a daytime telephone number for verification or questions. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters may be submitted via email to [editor@grossepointenews.com](mailto:editor@grossepointenews.com) or by filling out the letters form on our website, [grossepointenews.com](http://grossepointenews.com).

### Secure a funding source

#### To the Editor:

As a member of the Grosse Pointe medical community and longtime resident, I am strongly in support of the senior services millage. It is our responsibility as a community to ensure all residents have the health and wellness support they need. For the last 46 years, The Helm has been able to do this for seniors through philanthropic donations.

See LETTERS, page 7A

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Mostly Clear	Clear	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Clear	Partly Cloudy	Clear
0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	25%
SUNRISE 7:48 am SUNSET 6:46 pm	SUNRISE 7:49 am SUNSET 6:45 pm	SUNRISE 7:50 am SUNSET 6:43 pm	SUNRISE 7:51 am SUNSET 6:41 pm	SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 6:40 pm	SUNRISE 7:54 am SUNSET 6:38 pm	SUNRISE 7:55 am SUNSET 6:37 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima



# Return of October baseball proves Detroit sports stock is on the rise

**W**e're going to be talking about the 2024 Detroit Tigers for a long time. The team that had a less than 1 percent chance of making the postseason in August ended up going to the American League Division Series and going down to the wire in five games. It was a sad ending last Saturday seeing them eliminated by the Cleveland Guardians, but

that is not what this team will be remembered for.

Fans like me are going to remember all the moments along the way that got the Tigers to where they were. All of the wins in September in regular season games that felt like they were do-or-die situations. Watching the standings in the final weeks of September and seeing the Tigers rising as other teams were falling.

The wins over the Astros in the Wild Card round to move on. Kerry Carpenter's late home

run in game two of the ALDS to secure a win. The incredible atmosphere at Comerica Park in games three and four showed just how much Detroit fans can get behind their teams when they truly have something to cheer for.

Nobody expected the Tigers to be there. Nobody knew how or when the run would end, but it did. What it taught us was after so many years of trying to convince ourselves the future was bright for Detroit sports, now it really is.

Who knows if the Tigers can replicate the magic of what they achieved the final two months of the season for an entire summer next year? There are certainly things this team needs to look to improve on in the offseason, mainly adding more reliable pieces on offense. The team and its fans now have a taste for winning. Making the postseason should be an expectation now, so the team's management and ownership need to step up to achieve that.

The sadness of the

Tigers' loss Saturday was healed slightly by a blow-out win by the Detroit Lions over the Dallas Cowboys Sunday. The Lions seem to be a legitimate contender for the Super Bowl again, despite losing Aidan Hutchinson to a devastating leg injury. The energy Detroit sports fans had for the Tigers is surely going to go toward the Lions now.

Hockey season also began last week for the Detroit Red Wings, who also have high expectations entering the season. It is safe to say that mak-

ing the playoffs is a goal they must achieve this season, but we still have a long way to go until then.

The main thing the Tigers showed us is that it's OK to have hope. They came out of nowhere and gave us fans some of the best Detroit sports moments of the year. This team proved they could compete with anybody and that is what we should continue to believe. Our teams can compete with anyone. We may not make it all the way, but it is OK to have the hope that we might.

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

But as our population continues to age, depending on the donor community to fund this important work just isn't feasible or sustainable. A reliable, stable source of funding is needed. Most Michigan communities have that funding source. Therefore, we as a community in Michigan are in the minority. It's time the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have that funding source as well.

I work with seniors and their families daily in my medical practice and see their wide range of needs; from seniors who are active and healthy to those who need help just to get to their doctor appointments. In addition, many need help shopping, eat-

ing a meal or with social interaction. In our hometown there is an increasing need to address those seniors and their families facing a range of memory-related medical concerns creating an even greater call to action. The Active Adult Commission, which will be set up to oversee the millage funds, will be in the position to ensure our Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods seniors are well taken care of.

It is our moral and ethical contract as a community to support this measure. Caring for all residents is what makes a community a great, desirable and welcoming place in which to live. I know that together we can all do our part to work as a team to and make this happen.

DR. DAVID BALLE  
Grosse Pointe

## Ageing with dignity, safety, independence

To the Editor:

Since 1980, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging has served seniors in Detroit and the eight surrounding communities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and the five Grosse Pointes.

Like others in the U.S., we have witnessed the demographic impact of Baby Boomers — some 76 million people born between 1946 and 1964. In five years, the oldest will reach 83, and the youngest will be eligible for Medicare and other aging programs and services.

Their challenges, realities, necessities and opportunities are already abundant in the five Grosse Pointes and

Harper Woods where slightly more than 20 percent of the citizens are 60 and older.

Federal funding from

the 1965 Older Americans Act supports numerous services, yet budgets have not increased in relation to population

growth, despite advocacy from Area Agencies on Aging, like ours in See LETTERS, page 8A

**Are you interested in a new Primary Care Physician that is in the heart of Grosse Pointe and who strives to provide you the highest level of comprehensive medical care that focuses on disease prevention?**

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Michael Gifford, MD is an Internal Medicine physician with Ascension Medical Group located in The Village of Grosse Pointe on Kercheval Avenue.

Dr. Parveen Siddiqui and Dr. Julia Tesch are honored to welcome Dr. Michael Gifford to join their well known practice in The Village.

- Dr. Gifford is board certified in Internal Medicine.
- Graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed his residency at Saint John Hospital, Detroit, MI.
- Provides Internal Medicine care to adults of all ages and focuses on preventative care and practicing individualized medicine with a personal approach.
- He believes that the path to great health starts with patient education and teamwork.
- Committed to help his patients gain access to the best medical resources and services available to ultimately improve their health and overall wellness.
- Outside of the office, Dr. Gifford enjoys hiking, disc golf, reading, baking, and spending time with family and friends.
- Accepting new patients. In person appointment, virtual appointment, online scheduling, and morning and evening hours are available.

Dr. Gifford's practice, Ascension St. John Hospital St. Clair Adult Medicine Specialists, PC is conveniently located at 17141 Kercheval Avenue, Grosse Pointe.

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## Trunk or Treat at Sunrise on Vernier

Get in the Halloween spirit by coming to our festively decorated community for a trunk or treat on **October 25 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** Bring the kids in their costumes so they can collect treats from residents and local businesses. Guests of all ages will enjoy meeting our residents and team members as they dine on seasonal refreshments such as cider and donuts.

Learn more and RSVP by calling **313-643-5845**.

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8A | NEWS

LETTERS:

Continued from page 7A

Detroit, and senior centers like The Helm in Grosse Pointe.

Together, we seek more public support to meet the growing needs of local older adults. With the right mix of home and community-based services, we can maintain the dignity and independence of our elders, enabling them to avoid Medicaid nursing home beds where annual costs outweigh those for in-home services and home-delivered meals.

On the November election ballot is a senior services millage to expand in-home and community services to older adults in the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. It will provide additional meal services, caregiver support, adult daycare and more. I am both a resident of Grosse Pointe Park and an advocate for

ensuring that seniors can age in place with dignity, safety and independence. I believe we all want and deserve a quality of life, and it can happen with a senior millage that underscores what it means to be a united community that cares.

RONALD TAYLOR  
President & CEO  
Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Many thanks

To the Editor:

This community continually amazes me. The generosity it shows seniors is unprecedented. Our annual Take The Helm gala exceeded all expectations and raised more money than it ever has. I cannot express my appreciation enough to our numerous benefactors and supporters.

To our committee co-chairs, Doug Blatt and Carol Klenow, thank you for your guidance and tremendous work

spreading the word and securing donations and auction items. To our gala committee who gathered fantastic items and experiences for auction. And to Mary Ann Bury, who with her gala décor committee, added special ambiance to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Our board of directors, led by Dr. Cheryl Wesen, is phenomenal. Their dedication to our cause is unsurpassed. They continually share our mission with more and more people who then understand and believe in us as well.

And, of course, to our staff who pitches in to get things done, even if it's not "their job."

I'd be remiss if I didn't single out current board member and former board president Doug Blatt. He has co-chaired the gala a few years, but more than that, he works so hard reaching out to his friends to explain what The Helm does and ask for their support. Doug singlehandedly has raised more money for this event than anyone else over the last several

years. Literally, the gala would not be as successful without him.

A special thank-you to the many area businesses and individuals who donated items for our auction — both the live and silent. We absolutely could not have done it without you. To view our many sponsors and donors, visit [helmlife.org/get-involved/annual-events/take-the-helm](http://helmlife.org/get-involved/annual-events/take-the-helm).

Every time we ask, you step up — for us, our mission, our community, but most of all, our seniors.

With heartfelt thanks,  
KRISTA SIDDALL  
Executive Director  
The Helm at the  
Boll Life Center  
Grosse Pointe Farms

A tale of trustees

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my deep disappointment in Judy Gafa, a former trustee of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education. She has publicly come out against the sinking fund that is on the ballot for Nov. 5. This extreme action by her shows that she is more

interested in politics than solving the financial issues that our district has experienced — financial issues that started when she was on the board. She also signed a letter with Margaret Weertz and Brian Summerfield (the people who closed Trombly Elementary School) giving full support to the candidates who are backed by the unions, i.e., Laura Hall, Clint Derringer, Tim Klepp and Colleen Worden. Judy Gafa, Margaret Weertz and Colleen Worden were the officers that passed the budgets from which there were historic operating losses. In my opinion, Judy Gafa is more interested in our schools failing because the people she doesn't like are fixing the issues that started under her watch.

ELISA WAGNER  
Grosse Pointe Woods

End the nonsense

To the Editor:

Full disclosure, I supported her election in 2021 to Grosse Pointe Park City Council. A huge mistake. It did not take her long to prove me wrong.

Ms. Christine Gallagher is a Park city council person and ran for mayor in 2023. The voters stopped that. The only thing larger than her inefficiency is her ego.

After her first committee meeting with the school district, the mayor removed her from that committee. It was clear district officials would not meet again with her — the beginning of a trend of talented, community-minded people not wanting to work with

Ms. Gallagher.

She has been removed from all committee responsibilities due to lack of results, attendance or even reply of acceptance to a meeting. If you ask people who attempted to work with her, you get responses like, "Didn't do anything," "Very ineffective."

Her style has repeatedly been to avoid meetings not on YouTube, then grandstand in front of the cameras with zero cooperative data in an attempt to discredit council and city management, only to embarrass herself. Her uninformed "gotcha" questions that take longer than reading "War and Peace" are often a waste of time.

She regularly boasts of her business acumen, vast experience in negotiation and problem solving. However, there is little or no evidence she has even had a job since 2014. Yet we must sit through the painful inquiries and speeches she makes about issues with half the facts and less motivation to solve anything.

Her first term includes a requested taxpayer pay-off for a citizen with a baseless property dispute and misuse of official travel expenses, with countless encounters of verbally abusing city staff.

Interested in solving problems, ask Ms. Gallagher to resign and allow members who put in time and get things done to move on with their work without the headache of managing nonsense. Don't believe me? Watch it on YouTube. It's embarrassing.

CHARLES CRANE  
Grosse Pointe Park

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# Gallagher told to get with it

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Toward the end of the Sept. 9 Park City Council meeting, Councilman Max Wiener called out Councilwoman Christine Gallagher for not preparing herself for meetings and trying to transform subsequent meetings into remedial catch-up sessions.

Mayor Michele Hodges called her out for commenting authoritatively yet unknowingly about what she thought happened during meetings she didn't attend.

"I'm disappointed that I have to say this, but it needs to be said," Wiener said. "The role of being on city council is not just one meeting a month. I try to be prepared. Attendance is not easy for all of us, but if you look at the track record, attendance is an issue with some council members more than others."

He referred indirectly to Gallagher not attending the Aug. 26 joint meeting of the council and planning commission, then trying to re-litigate the meeting during the council's regularly

scheduled Sept. 9 session.

"Honestly, be prepared and get correct answers and not just throw (accusations) out there," Wiener said.

Gallagher, in her first term on council and loser in the last mayoral election, often uses her open-ended time during the "council comment" portion of meetings to give prepared speeches tangential to agenda items. So, too, during the business portions of meetings, such as this month when she went into detail about setting aside brush for curbside pickup.

"I also hate to say this," Wiener said, "but as we have a time limit for residents' comments, we might want to do that for council comments. These council comments often degrade. They're not particularly efficient. I'm often embarrassed by how these work out."

Hodges said Gallagher embarrasses the council by criticizing things she assumed happened during meetings she didn't attend. Hodges cited as an example Gallagher not attending a meeting of the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Committee,

which had a bearing on a subsequent council meeting Aug. 12.

"It's related to our (Aug. 12 council) meeting at which time we had Public Safety Director (Jim) Bostock present his risk reduction plan in response to the fire on Lakepointe and associated losses (a garage and house)," Hodges said.

Gallagher criticized the risk reduction planning process, saying she didn't have a chance to study Bostock's work prior to his council presentation. Yet Bostock's council presentation was a repeat of one he gave to the public safety committee, on which Gallagher serves. She didn't attend the public safety meeting.

Gallagher also criticized the latest draft of a revised zoning ordinance, discussed during a joint meeting of the council and planning commission, which she didn't attend.

"This concerns me," Hodges said. "There were repeated attempts to reach out to all members of the public safety committee, much like occurred with the joint meeting of the planning commission and the city

council, to find a time that worked for everybody. After repeated attempts, I believe she (Gallagher) was completely unresponsive to that outreach. We, as council members, have a duty and obligation to be responsive. To suggest otherwise may compromise the whole board. It made us all look bad, to think we weren't appropriately governing."

Gallagher defended herself by announcing that fellow committee member Councilman Tim Kolar also didn't attend the public safety meeting.

"I had a lot of conferences," he said, explaining his absence.

"So, the meeting did

happen," Gallagher said. "But it didn't happen with the full council, I mean —"

"Correct," Hodges said. "You were invited to be part of that scheduling and you did not respond. That's why you weren't there. There was no response from you."

"I never received a response," said Councilman Marty McMillan, public safety committee chairman.

"I requested we have more meetings," Gallagher said.

"I want to defend Council member McMillan and his efforts to manage a well-run committee," Hodges said.

"When I call a meeting,

(if) nobody replies, I continue on," McMillan said. "That's the way it should be. I had the chief there. The city manager, myself and you guys never replied."

"The chief of police is the chief of police, but he's not chief of the committee," Gallagher said. "That's not really the point. To insinuate (that) because I'm not in a meeting I'm not doing what I'm supposed to be doing is not the correct thing to do. And when I do try to say what it is, I am constantly interrupted and you're trying, under the guise of you moving this meeting forward, every time you do that to me, which anybody in the audience can see it. You don't interrupt anybody else. You don't

See GET, page 10A

## MARINA:

Continued from page 3A

engineering."

Costs at this stage are conceptual.

"We want to be able to fine-tune the exact cost," Sizeland said. "At that point, we can talk about how much we're going to spend."

Short-term priorities consist of replacing:

- ◆ finger piers on Pier 1, the eastern breakwall,
- ◆ replacing neighboring Pier 2's superstructure and
- ◆ installing new water and electrical service to Piers 1 and 2.

Work won't stop there. "The city intends to

proceed with the replacement of (all five) piers over a single, multiple-construction phase if feasible," Morpheus wrote in a proposal to the city.

He said, "We've arrived at a concept layout that maintains the number of slips (270) that exist there now. We think we know the general range of the cost, but this preliminary engineering is needed to determine what the materials are going to be, what they're going to cost, and to get that number so the city can make decisions about moving forward."

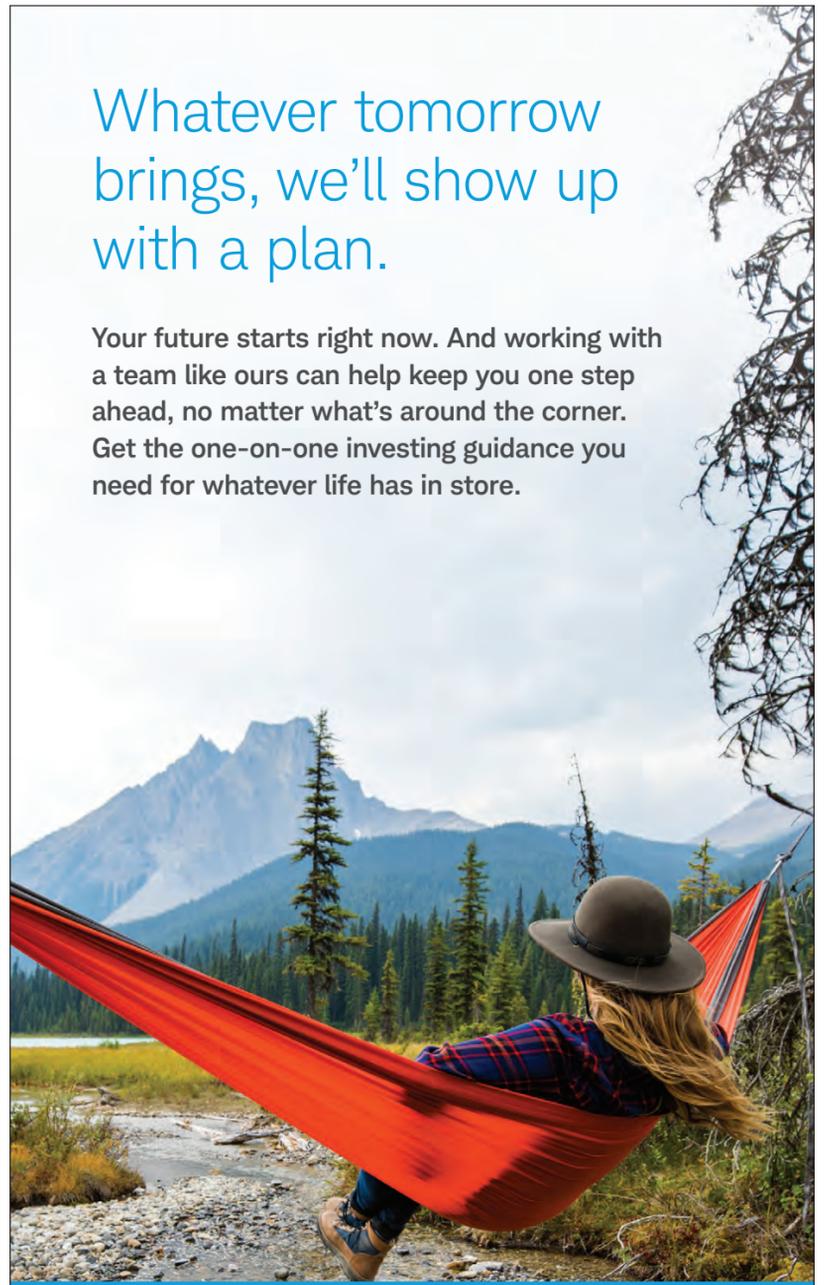
If the course of preliminary planning runs smoothly, Abonmarche will produce drawings by

the end of January 2025. City officials will evaluate funding options up to and during April's budget hearing. Detailed specifications on which contractors can bid will be ready by August. Construction starts about one year from now.

"Most likely, there's going to be a first (and) second phase, or maybe the whole thing gets built at once," Morpheus said. "Once we know that, we would modify our scope of work so it includes final design, which is the preparation of final connection drawings, bid drawings that we would advertise for contractors and manufacturers to build."

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# Pointer-produced movie opening nationally

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — A film produced by Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, opens on 800 screens across the country Friday, Oct. 18.

“Exhibiting Forgiveness” stars André Holland as Tarrell Rodin, an accomplished painter haunted by childhood trauma, whose life is upended by an unexpected reunion with his estranged father, a recovering addict seeking redemption.

Locally, the movie will be shown by AMC and Imagine theaters across southeast Michigan.

“It’s in every major mar-



ket from Los Angeles to New York,” Cotton said. “It got a standing ovation at the Sundance Film Festival and a great response from critics and might get some Oscar buzz.”

It has a 95 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

The movie is a semi-autobiographical look at the life of Titus Kaphar, a

renowned artist born in 1976 in Kalamazoo who wrote and directed. It also includes Kaphar’s artwork, which has been featured on the cover of TIME magazine and has appeared at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Readers may recognize Kaphar’s name from last

spring when one of his paintings — owned by Cotton — was showcased at Grosse Pointe North High School. It was removed after several complaints were lodged, but Kaphar came from his home in Connecticut to speak with students at North.

“Teachers told me it was one of the best presentations they’d ever heard,” Cotton said. “The students just kept asking him question after question.”

Cotton and Kaphar got to know each other after being introduced by a mutual friend. Cotton eventually visited the incu-

bator Kaphar runs, called NXTHVN, in New Haven, Conn.

“He brings in recent art school grads for a year and pays them while they work on their craft,” he said. “But he also teaches them the business side of art, which colleges don’t teach. How to deal with contracts and agents and such. I went out there to meet him and we became good friends.”

Cotton offered to produce the movie after Kaphar expressed frustration over the project in fall 2022.

“The problem, especially with first-time movie-makers, is that in order to get financing they want you to change the script or only cast certain actors,” he said. “We were able to push away all that pressure and completely preserve his vision.”

Filming was completed by July 2023 and it pre-

miered at Sundance in February of this year.

“I was impressed with how fast it went,” Cotton said.

“Exhibiting Forgiveness” also will be shown at the Detroit Institute of Arts in mid-December. Kaphar will be there and his artwork will be featured.

See exhibitingforgivenessfilm.com/home/ to watch the trailer, learn more about Kaphar and find showtimes.

## Fall leaf collection begins this week

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The perk of fall curbside leaf collection in the Farms kicked off Monday.

Throughout the season, leaf collection and yard waste will be collected the day following residents’ normal rubbish collection day.

“So if you have a Monday collection, that’s picked up Tuesday,” City Manager Shane Reeside said. “If your normal trash is picked up Friday, it will be picked up the following Monday.”

Residents are asked to keep leaves out of the streets as long as possible, waiting until the night before or the day of pickup. They also are welcome to leave piles at the curb, where public works crews can rake it into the street and have it collected.

“What we don’t want to see happen, obviously, is that we get heavy rains and those leaves obstruct our storm drains,” Reeside said. “But so far so good and we’re looking forward to this fall and quite a lot of leaves.”

— Laurel Kraus

## GET:

Continued from page 9A

interrupt anybody else when they’re speaking.”

Gallagher said Hodges removed her from chairmanship of the person-

nel committee due to nearly two years of non-performance, including failing to set the city manager’s annual objectives according to terms specified in his employment contract.

“Quite frankly, you’ve

taken me off all of my commissions except for the ordinance (commission), which we don’t meet anymore,” Gallagher told Hodges. “It doesn’t matter. I’m doing what I’m supposed to

do.”

“Council member Gallagher, you’ve been removed based on advice of legal counsel,” Hodges said.

McMillan said: “My final comment is that when I send a notice out

(about an upcoming meeting) people reply (about) whether they can make it or not make it. In my situation, I did that twice. I don’t get a reply, so I have to operate going forward. I’m not going to sit here and babysit.”



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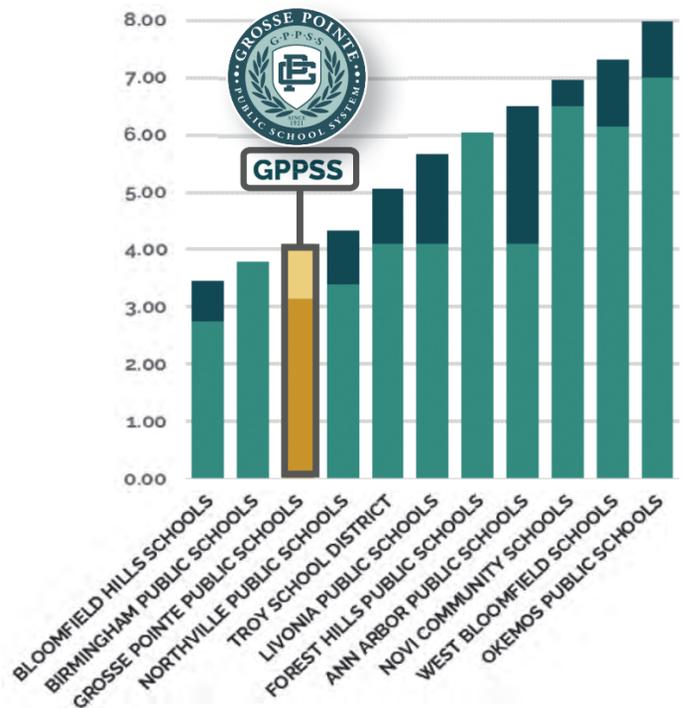


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Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Tuttle  
Superintendent

Mr. Sean Cotton  
School Board President

For more information visit [gpschools.org/millage](http://gpschools.org/millage)



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# Pointe Players to perform 'Our Town'

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Audience members are in for a double feature of sorts as the Grosse Pointe South High School Pointe Players present “Our Town.”

Show time is 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17 to 19, at South’s auditorium, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors and available by cash or check at the door.

“I think we’ll do a good job portraying how it’s meant to be,” said Director Dan DeMarco. “People will get lost in it.”

Often called a play within a play, “Our Town” was written by Thornton Wilder. It pres-

ents the everyday lives — and deaths — of the residents of fictional Grover’s Corners, in New Hampshire, between the years of 1901 and 1913. It enjoyed success on Broadway after opening in 1938 and won the Pulitzer that year for best drama.

Wilder uses what are called “metatheatrical devices,” setting the play in the actual theater where it is being performed. The main character is the stage manager of the theater who directly addresses the audience, brings in guest lecturers, fields questions from the audience and fills in playing some of the roles.

“We want people who show up to feel like they just so happen to be seeing a play,” DeMarco said. “Even the crew is setting things up while the actors are speaking.”

DeMarco said he chose the play because of the large cast.

“We lost some seniors, so this is a good starting point for younger actors,” he said. “They’re not playing some nameless, faceless character.”

Not only do characters

## Cast

- Stage Manager — Ellie Sahutskie
- Dr. Gibbs — Brady Barbour
- Joe Crowell — Ben Copus
- Howie Newsome — Madelyn Henke
- Mrs. Gibbs — Jolina Huchingson
- Mrs. Webb — Allie Thomas
- George Gibbs — Zach Neme
- Rebecca Gibbs — Delaney DeMarco
- Wally Webb — Jack Sample
- Emily Webb — Aliana Ritter
- Professor Willard — Izzy Stieber
- Mr. Webb — Leo Neds-Fox
- Woman in the Balcony — Shea Dolle
- Woman in the Auditorium — Megan Von Schwarz
- Lady in the Box — Violet King
- Simon Stimson — Alex Cline
- Mrs. Soames — Syri Ibekwe
- Si Crowell — Verity Suson
- Constable Warren — Jordan Rice
- Joe Stoddard — Megan Von Schwarz
- Sam Craig — Siobhan McGlone
- Baseball Players — Violet King, Ben Copus, Jordan Rice
- The Dead — Shea Dolle, Tori Porter, Violet King, Izzy Stieber, Verity Suson

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## Our Town

BY THORNTON WILDER

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engage the audience, some stroll among the audience and sit with them, asking questions of those on stage.

“You’ve got the milkman, the constable, the newspaper editor,” DeMarco said. “All things you’d see in a real town.”

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# North sees huge SAT, PSAT improvement

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The sign says it all. Students at Grosse Pointe North High School made big improvements on their SAT and PSAT scores between fall 2023 and spring 2024.

So much so the school created a banner and placed it in the island of the main parking lot entrance.

“It is such a huge accomplishment that we had the banner made so the students could see all their hard work paid off,” Principal Sara Delgado said. “They take the spring test and then go on summer break before getting their results, but they might not take the time to step back and reflect on what they’ve accomplished.”

Students in ninth, 10th and 11th grades saw an average increase in proficiency of 12 percent in math and 11 percent in English between fall 2023 and this past spring. North also outperformed the state of Michigan between 9 percent and 18 percent in those categories.

“When schools write up their annual improvement plan, they usually shoot for a 3 percent increase,” Delgado said.

Delgado said one reason for the increase in scores was due to a change the Michigan Department of Education made five years ago.

“Starting in eighth grade, students take the PSAT each fall and



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

This banner at Grosse Pointe North High School celebrates the increased performance of students on the SAT and PSAT.

spring until they take the SAT in the spring of their junior year,” she said. “They shifted away from the MEAP and M-STEP and that was a very smart change. They get to practice the format and get used to the questions several times.”

Delgado also credited

a new program Superintendent Andrea Tuttle introduced.

“Her former district used Khanmigo, which is an AI program from Kahn Academy,” she said. “It creates a workflow and recognizes gaps where students need the most help. We offer it as

a one-semester class where we have certified teachers in math and English who specialize in learning intervention.”

That information is one of several tools teachers use in their professional learning communities, which meet

when the high school has its late-start Mondays.

“They discuss ways to not only teach what’s on the test, but also how to teach content and strategy,” Delgado said. “The fall scores help them determine what gaps exist and how to focus their time.”

The fall PSAT was taken by freshmen, sophomores and juniors last week. It is the second time taking the test on Chromebooks, rather than using pencil and paper, per new state rules.

“The teachers said it was very seamless,” Delgado added. “And (Assistant Principal) Kevin Shubnell did a great job making sure all the Chromebooks were fully charged and the program was loaded and ready to go.”

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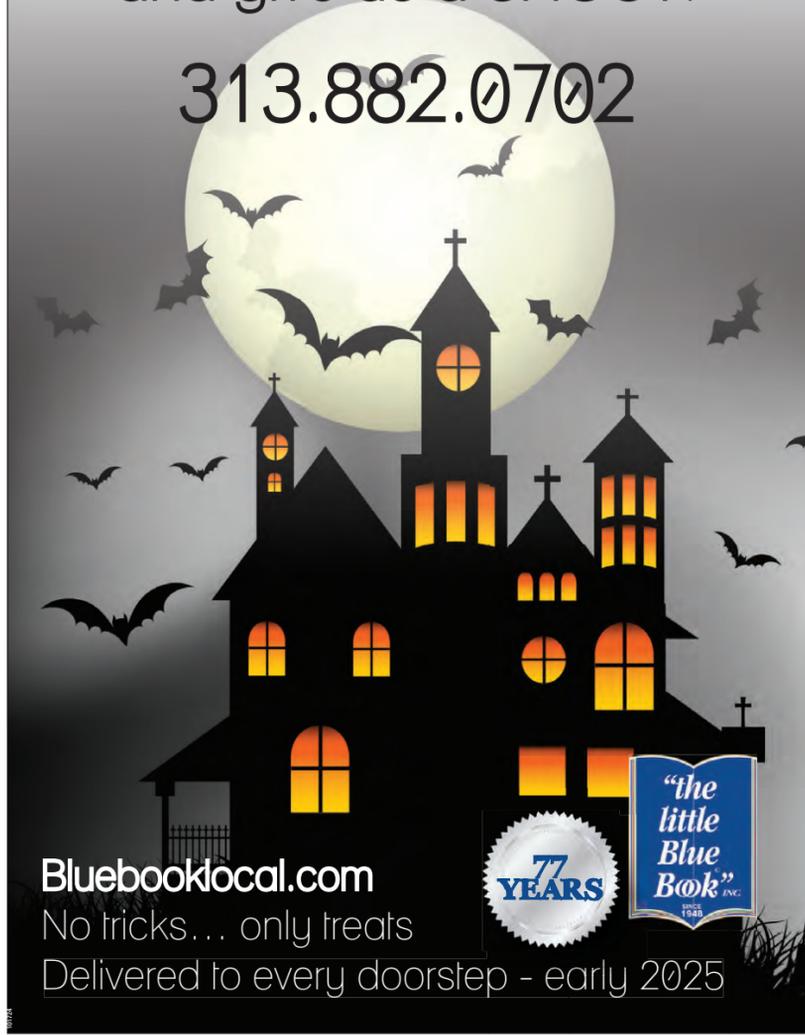
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# BoE member said she received harassing messages, death threats

By Ted O'Neil  
 Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — The Grosse Pointe News has obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request a police report Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Trustee Valarie St. John filed with the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department in August 2023.

The Grosse Pointe News was unaware of the report until St. John referenced it at the board meeting Tuesday, Oct. 8.

“My family’s physical safety is in jeopardy, simply because I dare question our dear leader,” she said, referring to board President Sean Cotton, who also owns the newspaper. “I should note that I filed police reports about these threats and the Grosse Pointe News didn’t feel that was newsworthy, but they did run a front-page story about other trustees feeling threatened by glitter.”

The March 21, 2024, edition of the paper contained a story that four members of the board received anonymous envelopes the previous week filled with an unknown substance that was tested by police. Trustees Ginny Jeup, Lisa Papas and Terry

Collins have all filed police reports. Cotton also received one.

The envelopes were postmarked March 9, and mailed from Grand Rapids. All had white, typed names and mailing addresses over black blocks with no return address.

“The seriousness of these attacks cannot be overstated,” Cotton said

*‘Free speech does not include threats of violence.’*

VALARIE ST. JOHN  
 Board of Education trustee

at the time. “It is unfortunate that we have people in our community stooping to such fear tactics,” he said. “The only thing I can think of when a letter is filled with some kind of substance is the letters sent after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, filled with anthrax. Those letters killed people and injured many. This is absolutely a criminal act whether the sender thought it was merely a prank or knew exactly how far they were going.”

St. John’s police report included two screenshots of comments posted on social media. One, posted to her Facebook page, accused

her of “pushing a Marxist agenda” and said it was not her job “to promote experimental treatment on children,” but the poster did not specify what they meant by that.

The other screenshot was from the Grosse Pointe Park community forum Facebook page. It called to “run her out of town” and said “GPPSS is not her playground to permanently damage kids or promote her minor attracted (sic) tendencies.”

“I hope I don’t need to explain to you why this type of hate speech is damaging to the LGBTQ community and threatening to the GPPSS district as a whole,” St. John said when contacted by email. “Free speech does not include threats of violence.”

St. John said she also gave officers screenshots of other posts threatening violence against her and exposing personal information. She declined to share them with the Grosse Pointe News.

Jim Bostock, director of the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, told the Grosse Pointe News that is untrue.

“After speaking with the detective in charge, that is all the information that was provided to us,” he said in an email.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Julie Temrowski with her brothers, Dan and Gary Grieshaber. The golf outing benefiting the Alzheimer's Association was in memory of their mother, Alice Grieshaber.

## Golf outing benefits Alzheimer's Association

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Seventy-two golfers raised more than \$10,000 for the Alzheimer's Association during Temrowski Eldercare's first golf outing fundraiser Monday, Sept. 30, at Lochmoor Club.

"We chose the Alzheimer's Association as my grandma (Alice Grieshaber) passed away from this disease," Matthew Temrowski said, "and just given our line of work with Temrowski Eldercare and taking care of the seniors in our community, a lot of them deal and struggle with the same disease, so it's something that hits close to home for us."

The outing featured 18 holes of golf, lunch and a steak dinner, sports memorabilia auction items and a raffle.

"It was really successful," Julie Temrowski said. "We're really happy with the outcome."

The team at Temrowski Eldercare intends to make the golf outing an annual event.

— Laurel Kraus

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Vote for Your Four Candidates

Terry Collins	<input type="radio"/>
Heath Marshall Roberts	<input type="radio"/>
Melissa Fradenburg	<input type="radio"/>
Kate Elizabeth Hopper	<input type="radio"/>

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# TERRY COLLINS

## FOR SCHOOL BOARD



*The Wonk. The Numbers Guy. Every great Board needs one—Grosse Pointe has Terry.*

Terry played a pivotal role in steering our District toward financial stability. In 2023, he officially became Trustee Collins and took on the critical role of Treasurer. His partnership with Board leadership and the Administration was essential in guiding the District to a balanced budget.

Without Terry's strong dose of financial reality, our District was on a path toward major cuts to both our dedicated staff and cherished student programs. We can thank Terry for avoiding that outcome.

In his day job, it's no surprise that Terry is a financial supervisor, overseeing teams that ensure every dollar is spent wisely. Accountability is his cornerstone, and he's committed to making sure our District's funds go where they matter most.

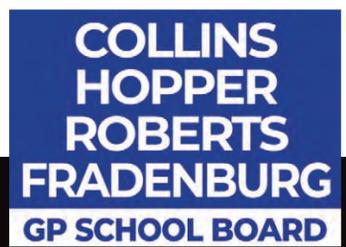
Terry isn't just about numbers. He's also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Two of his grandchildren are proud Ferry Falcons! To Terry, and his wife Jessie, kids always come first.

Terry has called Grosse Pointe home for 23 years, and his dedication to this community runs deep. Let's keep Terry Collins on the Board—his numbers don't lie!



## YOUR VOTE COUNTS NOVEMBER 5TH

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CLINT DERRINGER is a seasoned coach and project manager with experience in capital investment and procurement. COLLEEN WORDEN is an Assistant Prosecutor in the Special Victims Unit and has 16 years of municipal finance experience. Both are community leaders dedicated to collaboration, accountability, and ensuring transparency in governance.

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# ELECTION



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## Nine candidates vie for four open seats on Grosse Pointe Public School System BoE

The Grosse Pointe News editorial board interviewed all nine candidates running for four open seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education in late August.

Each candidate was asked the same 10 questions during their one-hour interviews. The interviews were recorded, then transcribed. The answers that appear below have been edited for syntax, grammar and clarity

for the benefit of readers, but were not edited in a way that would change any of the candidates' messaging.

This information was first disseminated in mid-September ahead of early voting. It is being reprinted for

the benefit of those who prefer to vote in person on Election Day.

Candidate interviews appear in alphabetical order.

See page 6A to read who the Grosse Pointe News endorses.



Terry Collins

### Terry Collins, incumbent

Age: 59

Residence: Grosse Pointe Park

Campaign website: [tcforgpschools.com](http://tcforgpschools.com)

Campaign social media accounts: [facebook.com/TCforGPSchools](https://www.facebook.com/TCforGPSchools)

Education highlights: 1983 Lake Shore High School, 1987 University of Detroit.

Years in Grosse Pointe: 24

Current occupation: General Motors supervisor/senior financial analyst

Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence

#### Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: Running this time is the same reason I ran the last time. I was concerned about the district's finances. I got involved in watching the board. As I think I said last time, prior to 2020 I was on autopilot. I thought the district was kind of on autopilot. I didn't have a concern when the reconfiguration happened. My daughter was going from elementary to Pierce, which wasn't going to be affected. So I really didn't have any skin in the game when there were discussions about that.

I got more interested in paying more attention to the financials of the district and really the leadership of the district at that time. And my thought is if you can't lead through crisis, you can't lead anytime and I don't think we led very well through crisis in 2020 and 2021. And as I started paying more attention to the financials of the district I just started not believing what they were presenting every week and I started trying to gather more information. So that was really my motivation then. I thought that we needed better control. You can't deliver anything to the students of your district, you can't talk about paying your teachers, you can't talk about any of that if your district is in a financial crisis and I believed we were in a financial crisis certainly in 2022.

I'm running now because I think that now that we've had a change in board leadership in 2023, that's really taken or started the right steps and processes to be in place to have control of our finances which again allows us to do all those other things.

#### Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I was on the strategic planning committee in the fall of 2021. And again I was kind of shocked. It was 55 people who were part of the strategic planning committee. I think that you know there's been mentions of others in the community that they're very handpicked. I felt that way. But I felt like I was on an island of misfit toys or something in terms of the other people in the room. The final report came out in December. I remember this because the report came out six days after the shooting in Oxford. And I was shocked by some of the things that we had in our strategic plan because if you looked at some of the things that were already in the

See COLLINS, page A19



Clint Derringer

### Clint Derringer

Age: 40

Residence: City of Grosse Pointe

Campaign website: [clintderringerforgpschools.com](http://clintderringerforgpschools.com)

Campaign social media accounts: Facebook (Clint Derringer for GP Schools) & Instagram (@cdforgpschools)

Education highlights: Master's Degree in program & project management (U-M Dearborn); BA in sport management & communications (U-M Ann Arbor)

Years in Grosse Pointe: 8

Current occupation: Not provided

Endorsements: Grosse Pointe Education Association, Alliance for Grosse Pointe Public Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, Advancing Detroit and Michigan PAC

#### Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: So the motivation to run comes from the long-term investment in the community and the public schools for my family. My oldest son is going into fifth grade at Pierce. My daughter is going into second grade at Maire and my second son is going into third grade at Maire. So we have a long road ahead of us in the Grosse Pointe schools and that's a big benefit to us. That's why we moved into Grosse Pointe eight years ago. So it's that long-term commitment to the public schools especially that I think it's important to have people that are really vested in the relationship between the public schools and the community that are leading it. And capable and willing to listen to a lot of different viewpoints and be up front and honest about how they lead.

#### Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: As an active parent, first and foremost, when we first moved in. Two years ago, my wife was hired as a teacher at Ferry. She's a categorical special education teacher. So we're obviously personally invested in the district there. In 2021, I also volunteered to be on the strategic planning committee, which was a series of five meetings that really got to learn who was responsible for a lot of the operations and different leadership positions in the district and met other current board members at the time. And that's when it really started to ramp up in terms of involvement from at the school level as an involved parent to kind of thinking as district and community involvement as a whole.

(Editor's note: In a separate question not asked of other candidates, Derringer said if elected he would abstain from voting on anything having to do with the teachers union contract.)

#### Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: So the most critical issue facing the district right now is the enrollment trend because that's directly tied to the budget. So fiscal responsibility and increasing revenue from the state is directly tied to how many kids are in class on count day in the fall and in the

See DERRINGER, page A20



Melissa Fradenburg

### Melissa Fradenburg

Age: 44

Residence: Grosse Pointe Farms

Campaign website: [melissaforgpschools.com](http://melissaforgpschools.com)

Campaign social media accounts: [facebook.com/melissaforgpschools](https://www.facebook.com/melissaforgpschools), [instagram.com/melissaforgpschools](https://www.instagram.com/melissaforgpschools)

Education highlights: B.A. in economics from Gettysburg College

Years in Grosse Pointe: 17

Current occupation: Financial planner at Antonelli Wealth Advisors

Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence

#### Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: We were in the Grosse Pointe schools and there were some problems. We weren't happy. Class size was a problem. Discipline was a problem. We ended up leaving to go to St. Paul.

The class sizes were smaller. I felt like they got a good education for elementary school, but there were problems in middle school. Being in such a small school was also an issue. And I sort of longed for them to have more like a larger class size and in a public school experience. I really wanted that for them. And I was tired of paying tuition.

So we returned to the public schools and I do want to clarify we left before COVID. I said I'm going to send them to our schools. We have good schools, but I'm also going to get more involved. I'm not going to just sit back and complain about it. I'm going to try and make a difference.

#### Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I was on the Policy and Contracts Committee and then when Terry Collins moved to fill the board position for David Brumbaugh, I moved to the Facilities and Finance Committee. So that was really eye-opening and that's what pushed me to absolutely run. I thought both were interesting. And I think both are important for someone that serves on the school board to have an understanding of how our policy is created.

#### Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: So again, finance being my background, what I would hope to address is the declining enrollment, which is a direct effect on our financial health. Because the school is funded by per-pupil funding, the biggest issue is how do we keep all the great amenities that we love here in Grosse Pointe, maintain all of our beautiful old buildings and not operate in deficit.

#### Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: So a lot of it has already started with the current board. I think they really have made some difficult decisions, but also in looking at the projections of things that we need to pay for, again, a lot of it being buildings.

#### Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: No. I mean, I have not been involved in it. I have not attended any

See FRADENBURG, page A19



Diana Gellci

### Diana Gellci

Age: 62

Residence: Grosse Pointe

Campaign website: [dianagellci.com](http://dianagellci.com)

Campaign social media accounts: Facebook account: Diana Gellci for GP School Board; LinkedIn: Diana Gellci, Ph.D.

Education highlights: Ph.D. in organizational and business anthropology with a concentration in education and technology from Wayne State University in 2014; graduate certificate in online teaching from Wayne State's College of Education; Master of Arts in cultural anthropology; Bachelor of Science in economics from the University of Tirana, Albania

Years in Grosse Pointe: 28 years

Current occupation: Discipline lead for the social sciences department and anthropology professor at Wayne County Community College District

Endorsements: Wayne County Community College American Federation of Teachers

#### Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: My husband, myself and our two kids came to Grosse Pointe 28 years ago. Didn't speak any English during that time. I was a very young mother. Kids were 6 years old and 7 months old. And I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know what was in here for us. But basically, we decided to be here because of public schools. We had nothing to give to our children. So that was our thing. We wanted to give them a good education. My children are both engineers. And I think this is the right time for us to give back to our community. The community that embraced us and made us who we are today.

#### Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I'm going to be honest with you. So I started, as I said, learning English and having a job, and then another job, and then another job. So my involvement during that time was just, let me go and find out how can I help my own kids? But because of my limitations, like linguistic barriers, it was a little bit embarrassing to sit down and not to understand everything that was going on. The first time when we came here, I mean the first Christmas, it was really something that we never celebrated before. And so a couple of days before that Christmas, two big cars stopped by. We used to live on Wayburn during that time. And those were Grosse Pointe South High School students. And they came with a lot of gifts, toys and clothes and even food, like salt and pepper. And the Christmas tree. And so for both kids, that was amazing. That was an amazing Christmas.

But recently, since I decided seriously to do this, I've been listening to the board meetings. And last night I was there attending in person. And I'll continue to do that regardless of the election results.

#### Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: Grosse Pointe is part of our economic, political, educational system. And so whatever we are facing as a

See GELLCI, page A21

## 18A | ELECTION



Kate Hopper

## Kate Hopper

**Age:** 52  
**Residence:** Grosse Pointe Farms  
**Campaign website:** hopper4schoolboard.org

**Campaign social media accounts:** @hopper4schoolboard on Facebook and Instagram

**Education highlights:** Maire Elementary School, Pierce Middle School, Grosse Pointe South High School, B.A. in English from Hillsdale College

**Years in Grosse Pointe:** 52  
**Current occupation:** Principal partner, Hopper Communications  
**Endorsements:** Pointers for Academic Excellence

**Q: What motivated you to run for school board?**

**A:** I was born and raised in Grosse Pointe and have a heart for this community. It's my deep connection to the community and commitment that makes me passionate about pursuing this role so that I can help GPPSS be what we need for our students, families, teachers and stakeholders.

**Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?**

**A:** I am a product of the school system. I went to Maire, then went to Pierce and then went to South and then married my husband, who went to Barnes and Parcels and North. So we've been both very, very involved our whole lives and we chose Grosse Pointe to raise our kids. They graduated from South.

I was on the Community Engagement Committee. I believe that committee has done some good work, but it's just really scratching the surface. There's so much that we can do to really get our community more engaged, more educated on the what and why of what we're providing in the public school system.

**Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?**

**A:** I think we have an issue with balancing our finances and getting our fund equity back to a solid grounding. I understand that there are many complexities in school budgeting and fund equity really is the gauge in the health of the finances. I know that in 2020 we were over 18 percent and as of 2023 we were at 8.8 percent and that is a big challenge. I think our current board has done very solid work in reversing that trajectory and I would like to see that continue to climb upwards.

Being fiscally conservative, I'd like to see 12 percent plus. I think that would be a challenge that we need to address right away. I also understand that enrollment plays a very significant part in our ability to have a healthy financial picture for our district. As a board member, I would do all that I can with my skill set to attract as many students to choose our Grosse Pointe Public School System as possible so that we have a thriving student community, thriving finances.

**Q: What specifically would you do to improve the finances?**

**A:** I would use my communications skills to strengthen not only our internal communications so families feel engaged, but also our external communications. That's a big part of attracting people to our community. Sharing our triumphs with them, sharing our stories of student success, really engaging with external relationships that I formed over the years to help tell our story about why Grosse Pointe public schools are an education destination.

**Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** No, I would not. I will do all I can to understand that school finances are complex, right? But working to the best of our ability with a board who is intent on keeping our schools within the Grosse Pointe Public School System, keeping them open to the best of our ability, keeping them maintained to the best of our ability, whether we have to look at particular uses for particular buildings and be creative with that. I would really be engaged in those con-

See HOPPER, page A22



Laura Hull

## Laura Hull

**Age:** 49  
**Residence:** City of Grosse Pointe  
**Campaign social media:** Laura Hull for GP School Board on Facebook  
**Campaign website:** laurahullforgp schools.com

**Education highlights:** B.S. in chemistry from Alma College and an M.A. in education with secondary certification from the University of Michigan

**Years in Grosse Pointe:** 20  
**Current occupation:** Math and chemistry teacher at Lakeview Public Schools

**Endorsements:** Grosse Pointe Education Association, Alliance for GP Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, Advancing Detroit and Michigan PAC

**Q: What motivated you to run for school board?**

**A:** I am a public school teacher. I've been a public school teacher since 2001. I'm the daughter of a public school teacher and my children obviously have attended public schools their entire lives. So as a teacher, I think it's very important that teachers have a voice at the table. I think where decisions are being made, whether it's in committees or whether it's on the board, I think it's important to include our educators and people who are experts in the field.

I have two young daughters in the district, so having their future in my mind, I think it's important to stand up and participate for them.

**Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?**

**A:** My husband and I have lived in the district since 2001. I was a Girl Scout leader, helped coach my daughters' soccer teams and things like that. I did volunteer in the classroom whenever I had a chance to. I was off for five years while my daughters were young, so that allowed me to be a stay-at-home mom and still participate in some of their things as they were younger. So that's been my involvement as a parent and then professionally I was a teacher for three years at North teaching math and chemistry.

**Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?**

**A:** I think we have to make sure that we retain and attract great talent. So keeping our teachers here, who I think that the world of. I know that budgetary issues are things that are facing districts all across the state, so we have to get creative with those and make sure that we can fund the programs that we have here and continue to offer the opportunities that we have for our students that are unique and wonderful.

**Q: What specifically would you do to address finances?**

**A:** I think collectively that is not just a one-person decision, but I think we have to get creative with those things. We have to prioritize the things that cost money that are directly involving our students and try to make cuts as far away from students as we can. I think we need to definitely prioritize our staff and make sure that they are well respected and that we continue to make sure we put them in the forefront as well.

**Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** I think we would have to see what the capabilities of that building are. I know it's an old building and have to make sure that it's feasible to do something with. I know as a district we need to make sure that we provide opportunities for early childhood education because there just is not enough of that. I don't know that Trombly is the place for that because it's a two-story building. So I think it's good real estate and I think that we have to make sure that we're providing opportunities for early childhood in any way that we can. I don't know as much about how feasible it is to reuse the building. I think it would be beyond just one person, but investigating and having somebody make sure that we know what we can do with the resources that we have. I

See HULL, page A21



Tim Klepp

## Tim Klepp

**Age:** 56  
**Residence:** Grosse Pointe Park  
**Campaign website:** kleppgp schools.com

**Campaign social media accounts:** facebook.com/TimKleppforGPSchools; Instagram @kleppgp schools

**Education highlights:** Michigan State University (BA); Indiana University (MBA)

**Years in Grosse Pointe:** 21  
**Current occupation:** Partner at IBM Consulting

**Endorsements:** Grosse Pointe Education Association, Alliance for GP Public Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, Advancing Detroit and Michigan PAC

**Q: What motivated you to run for school board?**

**A:** Similar motivations as last time. I think that public schools are one of the greatest goods that we have in this country. And I think it's important that we care for them and do our best to make sure that they continue to be a line of opportunity for people to improve their lives. For me personally, I look at myself as a level-headed, moderate person. I think people of that disposition in nature need to be willing to participate in the political process and be involved to provide an environment that's not so subject to extremes. It's as simple as that. I did not grow up in this community, but I think it's a really special place. And I want to try and make it better.

**Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?**

**A:** I haven't had any particular role. I volunteered for some of the committees that the new board established, but was not selected for that. Apart from that, it boils down to volunteer opportunities, largely with the kids' sports teams. And I guess running three kids through our school district.

**Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?**

**A:** I would point to three primary concerns for myself. First is we continue to not be fiscally stable, financially stable. We're going from a budget cycle, to an annual budget cycle every year. We're looking at another loss for the next cycle, a fund balance that continues to erode. So that becomes a real key priority to try and get us to a point where we are sound and stable financially, not just on a one-year basis, but we can look out to a three- and five-year plan and feel like we've got things stabilized and where we can deliver the way that we want them to deliver.

Tied to that obviously is our enrollment. We've seen our enrollment degrade year on year for the past several years. And most of that is demographics. It was supercharged with COVID. So we need to continue to work on our enrollment. And I think we'll be aided as we exit this COVID shadow and we have kids that are starting to return, optimistic that we'll see some better numbers this fall. I was talking to an individual from Harper Woods and they referenced that there are 40 kids in Harper Woods who are eligible for the Grosse Pointe schools, but choose to go to other public schools. We need to be a welcoming district as people are evaluating places to come so that they can see a place for their kid in the school district. So enrollment would be the second point. And the third point I'd say is the level of transparency that we have in terms of how meetings are conducted, the volume of meetings, how materials are made available, how public comments are encouraged and welcomed at meetings. I think that's a key for us to be a balanced district where all voices are heard and incorporated.

**Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?**

**A:** We have to look at both sides, both the revenue side and cost side. So I understand that other districts are more creative and more aggressive

See KLEPP, page A20



Heath Roberts

## Heath Roberts

**Age:** 43  
**Residence:** Grosse Pointe Park  
**Campaign website:** roberts4gpschools.com

**Campaign social media accounts:** facebook.com/people/Roberts-for-GP-Schools/61563779642225/, instagram.com/roberts\_gpschools/

**Education highlights:** Masters in Business Administration, Doniphan Leadership Institute Fellow

**Years in Grosse Pointe:** 5 years  
**Current occupation:** Henry Ford Health, chief administrative officer, population health services

**Endorsements:** Pointers for Academic Excellence

**Q: What motivated you to run for school board?**

**A:** What motivated me to run is I've always had a passion for kids' well-being. I have a long history of background in pediatric healthcare, so my career has been focused on the well-being of children and their families. To have an opportunity now in a community that we love to support one of our most valuable resources and assets and institutions, I think it's the right time for me to run and provide that historical expertise.

I have a strong business acumen, I have a strong community presence and with three kids in the district I feel like this is what is important for me to be giving back to.

**Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?**

**A:** Right now I have an 11th grader at Grosse Pointe South and I have an eighth grader and a fifth grader in middle school. My involvement in the district is being an active parent and I was appointed to the Finance and Facilities Committee of the board of education last year. I've been committed to bringing my background in business and finance and people onto that committee and giving back and contributing there.

**Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?**

**A:** I think the critical issues facing our district are a couple of different things. Student retention. We have to have strong numbers. Folks that live in our community and move to our community, we need to share how important it is that we have a strong public education system here. So to be able to retain the students that we have living in our community as public school students is important.

You do that through strong teachers. You do that through strong confidence in our public education infrastructure and leaders, both at the district office and at the local individual schools with the leadership there, the principals and then ultimately the staff that are spending time with our kids. I think another challenge is as we look at families that are making homes in southeast Michigan, we want them to choose Grosse Pointe. We want them to choose Harper Woods and so how do we get the message out of our school district in a way that continues to be a part of those choices? I think another challenge is just generally rising costs. Our bills are higher than they used to be. We have to put gas in our vehicles. We have to buy groceries. We pay our electricity bill. These things are higher than they used to be. So what that means is the cost to run a school district, to run a major institution in this community, is also higher. So we need to have strong financial acumen, not just at the board of education level, but also with our folks leading the district, with our folks leading the schools, our principals and directors within our school system have to have that acumen and knowledge as well because things are more expensive.

**Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?**

**A:** Well, first, we as a board of education have that responsibility or a piece of that responsibility. So we can't do anything by ourselves. We need unity. We need discussion. We won't always agree as a board of education, the seven people that are responsible for that. But

See ROBERTS, page A21



Colleen Worden

### Colleen Worden, incumbent

**Age:** 56

**Residence:** Grosse Pointe Woods

**Campaign website:** colleenwordengpschoolboard.com

**Campaign social media accounts:** facebook.com/colleenworden4gpschools/

Instagram colleenworden4gpschools

**Education highlights:** Law Degree, University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law, 1997. Bachelor of Arts, Miami University, 1990

**Years in Grosse Pointe:** 29

**Current occupation:** Deputy chief assistant prosecutor, special victims unit, Macomb County Prosecutor's Office

**Endorsements:** Grosse Pointe Education Association, Police Officers Association of Michigan, Alliance for GP Public Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, Advancing Detroit and Michigan PAC

**Q: What motivated you to run for school board?**

**A:** Public education is at the forefront of a great community. And I think that's one of the reasons why people come here is public education. We have top-notch schools here and I think that's what motivated me to run, to make sure that we stay a top-tier district, that we have rigorous academics and excellent curriculum.

**Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?**

**A:** Prior to being on the board, I was on the Monteith PTO, the executive committee. I was an officer for I think all five years I was there. And I was a room mom. I was a basketball coach. I mean, I think I volunteered for every single thing you could do. I organized all of the school dances, any of the fundraisers we did from Monteith. And then I stayed involved with Parcels' PTO.

I was on the board for part of that time, but I still did volunteer work for the bazaar and all of the different events they had. And as far as involvement with the community, I think just any school event I can go to. And my husband and I are both basketball coaches for the Neighborhood Club.

I joined the booster club at Grosse Pointe North. My daughter is going to play sports, so I've already volunteered to do two of the football games. I've been in contact with the booster people and they always need help with that. Sports are expensive and they need parent volunteers.

**Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?**

**A:** I think the finances are No 1. We've got to get back to a point where we have financial stability. We've got to get back to a point where our fund equity balance is about 10 percent. It'd be great if it was close to 15 percent. That's the foremost thing that we have to address. We have to get to a point where we are communicating with our families that we are a top-notch school.

We offer a robust curriculum. Our academics are at the forefront of this community. And we have to broadcast that out loud.

I still think that we have to come up with some creative ways that make our district attractive to other people. I know it's been tossed around, the early childhood education center, and I think that's something we need to consider.

I think one of the things that's really important is we have to get to a point where we're paying our teachers a competitive wage. We have to make them want to stay. I think our teachers are one of our greatest assets. We have great kids, we have great parents, but we want to make sure that our teachers are happy and we have to make sure that they're paid a competitive wage.

**Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?**

**A:** I think we have to get to a point where we're spending money in the right places. So prioritizing our financial stability means we have to make sure that we look at our finances with a fine-tooth comb. And I think that we have to be more careful with what we spend our money on. I think we should stop spending so much money on lawyers. I think that we have to get to a point where we look more carefully.

There's been some overages in the budget with the food service contracts. I don't think it was very prudent that we were paying three superintendents in one year. And the bottom line is the cuts have to be the furthest away from the classroom. The only way we're going to do that is we have to do a strategic review of what we're spending our money on.

**Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** No. Absolutely not. I would not support a charter school. I'm 100 percent against that. And the reason why is because our funding is based upon a per-pupil allocation from the state. Every time we lose a child to another school, whether it be a charter school or a private school, we lose that funding.

If we give that money to a charter school, they set up shop there, that's hundreds of students we're going to lose within our borders. And that's taking money away from our academics. It's taking money away from our robust and amazing curriculum. And it's taking money out of the classroom where our wonderful teachers teach. So no, I could not support that.

**Q: Would you support the clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School if that issue came up again?**

See WORDEN, page A20

## COLLINS:

Continued from page A17

news from the various lawsuits that were being proposed for Oxford, they talked about restorative practices. They talked about all of these things that were kind of front and center in the strategic plan that we just initiated. And so we've created a strategic plan without any measurable goals and I just thought it was kind of a pointless document. It didn't address the issues that were happening in the district in my opinion. I made the decision over the spring and summer of 2022 that I was going to run and people were encouraging me to run. I never ran for office before.

**Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?**

**A:** For me the financial issue is probably one of the most critical. It's the sustainability of really every school district in Michigan based on the dollars that come. I think the second thing that's most troubling right now is the national teacher shortage. It's not unique to Grosse Pointe or the state of Michigan. I think we need to move back toward a system that really is focused on meritocracy. It's more equality of opportunity not equity of outcome. We need to offer every kid that comes into our buildings an equal opportunity to succeed and that success may look different for each one of those kids and the amount of work or the amount of resources or the amount of help that we give each kid may differ as well, but the expectation is excellence for every kid that comes into our buildings.

**Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?**

**A:** I think a lot of that has happened this year already. It's understanding that we need to have a zero-based budget year over year. We made the decision this year to kind of dip into our fund equity a little bit because we knew that we had a contract year coming up with teachers and we knew that we didn't want to pull any of the resources out that allowed us to keep all of our academics and our extracurriculars. I hope that we could drive some fund equity increase to get somewhere around 10 or 12 percent over the next number of years.

I think that the approach that happened this year by (Superintendent) Dr. (Andrea) Tuttle was excellent. She went and talked to every building administrator and said this is what I think should happen in your building, but I'm open to suggestions, but we've got to arrive on this number and so how do you think we should do this?

**Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** No. I think charter schools do great things for the kids in the communities that charter schools are in. I've never said that I believe that Grosse Pointe needed a charter school. If they want to

have a charter school and it's anywhere in Grosse Pointe, it's going to draw kids away from Grosse Pointe schools because our parents are going to make the decision. Certainly those that are on that side of Jefferson are hurting. They were promised these things for Trombly with the bond and then the rug was pulled out for many when they decided to close Trombly.

I would love to see Trombly reopened as an elementary school to serve those students who are south of Jefferson. I will work however hard I need to work with the people of that side of Jefferson to find a way to make that happen.

**Q: Would you have supported the clinic at Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** No. If it comes up again, no. I'm shocked that other districts have done it. I understand the original reasoning behind it but there are so many clinics, so many opportunities like we're not hurting for clinics along Mack. There's probably four or five or six of them. I don't think that a school district should be in the healthcare business at all. We have other responsibilities as a school district and that's not one. The dollars associated with it is what really shocked me. At the beginning you're taking an area that's about 200-square-foot and you're going to remodel that area for what started at like \$600,000, then went to \$700,000. Then we ended up at \$1 million. We're a district that's going to fight to get a sinking fund approved this year at a higher millage rate and we were going to spend a million dollars on a room that's 20-by-10 that the majority of our school students aren't going to use?

**Q: Should candidates for non-partisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?**

**A:** I understand it's legal. I guess I don't think it's moral. I don't think it's ethical. But again it's the state and federal government that says that you can accept endorsements and campaign finance contributions. In the last election three of the candidates took dollars from either the MEA or the GPEA. Either way it came through, the GPEA bought them signs as an in-kind contribution, but you're accepting dollars from someone who potentially you could vote to approve their contract in the future. We've seen instances where we've had board members who've had conflicts of interest who said I'm not going to vote to approve or not approve that because there's a clear conflict there. I think they should recognize that and if they do take it, I think that they should at least indicate that anytime a contract comes up that's associated with the endorsement say I won't vote on that contract.

**Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** The quality of education year over year. I understand that the teachers are the people who come in contact with their kids

more than anybody. I get that, but I think that because of the commitment of the parents Grosse Pointe has been able to offer kids not only a quality education but a great educational experience. Whether you're an athlete or you're a musician or you're in the choir or you're an artist, every weekend there's something going on at our school system.

There are so many opportunities for our kids outside of the classroom that this community is able to generate because of the dollars that we commit to our school system, not only through our taxes but also in the hold harmless dollars that we've committed. We've got some great facilities and great historic buildings and great teachers and committed parents. One of the things that a lot of teachers talk about in our district is the fact that we have so much parent involvement. The foundations that we have that support our education are just incredible and the dollars that they committed to the district are great.

**Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** The divide in this community. The us and them. It's troubling. I think we all want our kids to be able to succeed. From a dollar standpoint I think in the past we've been burdened with not managing our budgets properly. I think that's improving and it's on the right track going forward so that'll help improve some of that, not having to worry about laying off teachers.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** First of all, I think that there are a lot of people who decided that their kids weren't going to come to Grosse Pointe in 2020 when the schools closed. A couple board members and a couple other people were sitting at dinner one night and we saw somebody who we knew who had kids who were school age, but they were either going to The (Grosse Pointe) Academy or (University) Liggett (School). We asked why and they said there's just things about our district that happened during COVID that I don't want my kids in the district. They said there are things they'd need to see changed before coming back.

Obviously getting our house in order in terms of budget and we've been able to prove to the community that we've got a handle on our finances.

I think one of the key ways in which we do it is in early childhood education because the south end of our city has no early childhood education. Maybe the first thing for Trombly is reopening it as an early childhood education center, allowing those parents to get their foot in the door. Once we get them at Young 5's or kindergarten we can keep them. We can demonstrate to those parents that this is the place they belong and why spend your hard-earned dollars on a private school when we can offer the same or better education as those schools?

## FRADENBURG:

Continued from page A17

meetings. One of the things that I would like to explore to sort of counteract that is to give people in the community more choice. One of the things that would have kept us in this district and I think other families that went through this similar situation would be more mobility between schools in our district.

**Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** No. The cost, just the structural cost of putting the health clinic there was really not a good use of school funds in my opinion. I do think mental health is an issue. So if we were going to spend that amount of money, I would rather see additional counselors, people, rather than a health clinic. I also believe that we have plenty of health clinic options, walkable even from North, all along Mack there.

**Q: Should candidates for non-partisan office accept endorse-**

**ments from partisan groups?**

**A:** That's interesting. I'm willing to accept donations from anybody that wants to help support my campaign. I really struggled with this. Probably the main reason I didn't run the last election cycle is because even though the school board is considered a non-partisan position, they really force you, I feel like oftentimes, to commit one way or the other. And I really like being politically neutral.

**Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** There's so much school pride and just pride in the fact that they went to school here. I'm excited for my kids to feel that way as well. There's healthy rivalry in sports, but seeing them kind of partake in some of the same traditions that have been around for years, even though we're not from Grosse Pointe originally. I love that for them. I want that for them.

**Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** Since I came back and checked back in, it seems like

there was a shift away from the focus of rigorous academics, AP courses, that those things aren't as important as I think they are. So that is why one of my pillars is academic excellence.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** So there's a small amount that I think we could get back that we lost during the pandemic. I think there is a group of people like myself who left, whether it was for large class sizes or pandemic closures. I think if we can die down some of the political rhetoric on the school board, that would help. There's a lot of negative talk for such fabulous schools. So getting the message out that we have the amenities and the teachers and just fabulous schools that we have, I think would help. There's been chatter in the community of specialized schools, maybe a STEM focus at a certain school that could attract and bring back not just people from private schools, but offer something in our district that may entice people to move here as well.

## 20A | ELECTION

### DERRINGER:

*Continued from page A17*

spring. So stemming the tide there in terms of enrollment is the most critical.

Kind of tangentially or on a secondary basis, I would say stability. I think it's a bad sign for a district when there's lots of huge changes that all come, especially as they start to come like in a series or a sequence of events. It unsettles parents, it unsettles the teachers that work here and it unsettles anybody that might be considering coming to the district as a new family or might be considered coming to the district as a teacher or administrator.

**Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?**

**A:** To improve the enrollment trends, I think it's going to start with pre-K with young families who are looking to move into a really beautiful neighborhood here in the Pointes, Harper Woods. There are so many other strengths that our communities offer. The public schools have always been one of the main reasons people move into town. I think that is a particular market of people or population of people that if we want to increase the numbers of kids in the schools, then we need to get those new families who are looking to relocate, we need to get them into our district. I also think there's an opportunity there as the state increases the level of financial support for universal pre-K programs and additional early education opportunities. I think we want to have that infrastructure in place to then leverage what we're already doing and then bring it up to scale with some of those state programs.

**Q: Do you now or have you**

**ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** I personally am a staunch supporter of traditional public schools, not charter schools. Now, I want to be careful. I don't want to vilify charter schools as a concept. There are charter schools that do fine work and are the best option for their communities. But I don't think adding one to our community would be beneficial. It certainly would hurt the traditional public schools. So I would not support bringing one into Trombly.

I think in general, school choice and any program that kind of uses that language of competitive markets and letting those choices kind of drive educational decisions, I think is a mistake. I think that kind of erodes the bonds between a community and the public schools in that community. I think geography matters. I think a neighborhood kind of builds around the public schools and when there are problems, don't run from them, but find ways to fix those problems together and invest together and solve those problems. So in general, I would say that I don't support charter schools, but specifically for our community at Trombly I think it would be a terrible idea.

**Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** I did support the clinic when it came up before. I thought that the grant program that the administration at North and the counselors and the community, the parents and the students were all advocating for was very strong. And I think it was a great opportunity to try to help provide a need that was clearly on the front of mind for those students, those parents, those families and the administra-

tion. So I did support the clinic in 2022.

Going forward, I think we've missed that opportunity. There's a new administrative team at North. I think the previous team's support for the clinic is part of the reason they were forced out and that's a problem. I don't expect to see the new administration follow the same footsteps that got the previous team removed. So I think we've missed the opportunity, at least in the short term. That doesn't mean that the need isn't there anymore. So if there's an opportunity there, I think we should look at it and certainly bring it back to the forefront and have those conversations.

**Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?**

**A:** I think how groups or partisan organizations make their decisions or show their support is really up to those organizations. I don't think that it's up to a candidate, somebody that's sitting in my seat, to refuse support from somebody, whether it's a person, a group of people or some organization. So that seems kind of backwards to me to say I refuse the support of X, Y or Z. So on its face, that's what I would say. But specifically to our race, it's certainly kind of unique, of course. I mean, there's a super PAC that is endorsing a slate of four candidates, and that super PAC is funded by the current board president. So that same person owns the newspaper that we're sitting here in the building. So when everything is so tied together like that, I don't know how you don't accept support from the organizations that support you. So I don't have a particular issue with organizations supporting who they support.

I certainly don't think it's on a candidate to pretend that they aren't going to accept support. But, you know, it's starting to spiral a little bit out of control, I would say, with a political action committee set up specifically to influence the board of education race. It's unique to our community, and it's not something that I would say is a positive trend.

**Q: What do you think makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** From a very high level, it's the number of opportunities, especially extracurricular opportunities that we offer in the district. At the lower level in elementary, there are any number of opportunities that you can get your kids involved in, whether it's sports or the arts or STEM or using the makerspaces and Lego clubs that turn into robotics teams. It's amazing the opportunities that you have when your kids are in our district. And it's every persuasion under the sun. And I think that that's really the strength of why kids should come to the district. On the micro level, I would say it's very, very strong building administrators, really, really good leaders at the head of each one of our schools and a world-class faculty, world-class educators, teachers, in the classroom that are second to none.

**Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** I think instability is right now what holds us back. I think when people look at our district from a multitude of lenses, multiple stakeholders, they see question marks that they don't really know how this is going to break one way or the other. And I think that instability and doubt would be the main thing that holds us back.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** I think starting with young families, increasing the enrollment right now. We have a pretty good number of young families in our different neighborhoods. And we don't have the opportunities within the district for those pre-K seats. Many of our parents that have pre-K kids are driving to private institutions in all directions, going up to St. Clair Shores, going downtown Detroit, in some of the neighboring churches and other organizations that run these pre-K schools. A majority of our families within the district's footprint are taking their pre-K kids somewhere else. If we were to capture a larger number of those families at a young age, then I think we keep them through kindergarten and elementary age and keep them in middle school.

You have to look at all of the transition grades when you're changing schools. Right now, elementary school ends at fourth grade and middle school starts at fifth grade, then we should be trying to attract fifth graders and their parents somehow. When eighth grade transitions to ninth grade and the school changes, those are the target audiences that we need to focus on, because those are the entry points to our district. I think there's too much focus right now by the current board and even previous boards on the people who have left. I think there is some value in understanding that, but that is not the core answer that will help us fix the problem. We need to build on the strengths that we have and market those strengths to those target audiences for the entry points to our district at those transition grades.

### KLEPP:

*Continued from page A18*

sive at looking at ways to fund things through grants or that can be one-time sources, but ways to improve the top line. And then certainly our core is enrollment. So making sure that we are doing everything we possibly can to make sure that we have high standards in the schools and our welcoming community that improves our top line. From a cost standpoint, I guess I have to take a zero-based budget approach where the technique is to really look at everything, strip everything out and only add back what you absolutely need to add back. That's a core business technique.

**Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** I don't, I don't. Michigan is not generous with how we in general fund public education. The thought of encouraging competition that would draw funds away from our core school district, I don't think is a wise idea. I under-

stand and can appreciate the business notion that competition is good and would potentially help the school district. But I think that in this type of example, it's quite glib to have that approach.

**Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** Healthcare is certainly a priority. And I think everyone in this community needs to understand that we are not a homogenous group of people. Everybody's family looks different and families can look very different from your own. So they may have different needs than you have. And so I say that just to say that healthcare is a priority and some of our kids are underserved in that regard. But in terms of supporting a clinic, it would really depend on what the exact proposal was. I think there were some legitimate concerns around the security of introducing people from outside the district into a school.

**Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?**

**A:** Well, an endorsement, I think the question should really be asked to the groups themselves. Should Dems endorse? Should Republicans endorse? As an individual candidate, I will talk to anyone, including yourselves, who have a serious concern about the issues. And that's for me the whole point of open dialogue. I made the same point to the Pointers for Academic Excellence group that is endorsing a slate of candidates. It's that dialogue is important. We've got to talk to each other. So I'll talk to anybody who's willing to endorse it.

**Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** We start with incredibly good raw material, I think, in terms of our parents and the importance that they pretty universally place on education and how they prepare their kids to walk into those classrooms. It's great raw material. And as I said, I'm not a native of Grosse Pointe, but I do think that this place is pretty special. And a lot of that comes from the walkability of our school district and

the close relationships that people develop with their schools, with their administrators at those schools, with the teachers in those schools.

**Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** I would point to two or three things. The relationship that we have between the board, the administration and our teaching community, to my eyes, seems quite fractured and not really productive in terms of people who see common goals working towards the same path. So that's one. I think that's an inhibitor that we need to have a better relationship amongst that entire group. Secondly, I don't think we necessarily portray ourselves particularly well to the outside world with lawsuits and investigations going on and social media I don't think it's particularly flattering for this community. So for that, in that respect, I would like to do what I do at work, which is bring a sense of teamwork to the board, bring a sense of common purpose and being able to work with each other and have

open dialogue.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** Well, at work we have a saying, which is delivery sells. So I have a responsibility for both delivering work and selling new work. And delivery sells means that if you do good work for your clients, that is worth a lot more than all the sales presentations in the world and all the sales people in the world. And I think that applies very much to this community and this school district. If you are a new parent, you certainly are looking at the district rank and what are the standardized test scores and all the rest of that. That's certainly a part of the math that you're doing. I don't want to over index on standardized test scores, but we do need to make sure that it is a priority because those are things that people consider. And then I would go back to how we present ourselves as a community, making sure that we are doing things programmatically that care for all students, all types of students.

### WORDEN:

*Continued from page A19*

**A:** I supported it the first time because the administration supported it. And because I thought that it would provide low-cost health care to students. I am in support of providing programs that provide mental health to students. But I know that that was a very expensive project. There was funding for it. We had grant money for it. I could support it if there was grant money to fund it. And there was support from the community to do that.

I know that I have reached out on multiple

occasions to try to find ways to find grant money for mental health funding. And I don't know that that's been addressed. Because I know that when there was a vote to close it, there were a lot of board members that promised to look into alternatives. But to my knowledge, there's been no alternatives. And that really bothers me because if you're not going to allow the clinic, then there should have been some sort of alternative funding option.

**Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?**

**A:** I think that it's very

important that we remain nonpartisan, but I also think it's important for each candidate to talk to anybody who wants to talk to them to seek their endorsement. Anybody that's asked me to talk to them, I would absolutely talk to them. I think if you're a part of the community and you want to talk to me, I'm happy to talk to you about my issues on any issue you ask me about.

**Q: What makes GPPSS such a great place to send kids?**

**A:** I think we're a top-tier district. Our academics are just top-notch. We have an excellent, rigorous and robust curriculum and that's what

makes our schools one of the reasons why we've come here. It's the academics, it's the amazing teachers and it's the parental involvement.

**Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** I think we've got to get our finances in order. We do not want to cut programs. We want to make sure our curriculum stays top notch, but all that takes money. We have to get back to a point where we have a fund equity balance that's above 10 percent, closer to 15 percent. That way we can pay our teachers. That way we can give them a competitive wage. We don't want to cut any

programs.

We want to make sure that we're still offering all of the same sports programs. I mean, our kids love our sports. The robotics program is so fantastic. Every time they come to the board meeting it gives you this great feeling that we just have so many programs that are available to so many different groups of people.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** When we get our finances back in order, I think that's when we can start that sort of go back to what we were doing to market the district. We went from a point where

we had three people, three very experienced people, doing marketing for the district. We should be shouting from the rooftop how awesome our amazing district is.

I also think that we have to start being a little bit more creative in doing what we can to keep the students we have. Like I said, the early childhood education center I think would be a really good thing to market people to come here. When people and families see that our teachers are happy, I think they're more likely to come to Grosse Pointe public schools. It gives you goosebumps sometimes just that these teachers are so dedicated.

## HULL:

Continued from page A18

would absolutely oppose a charter there.

**Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** I think that's something that's in the past, but at the time I was teaching at North. I think it would have been a fantastic resource for our community. I know as a teacher addressing the needs of our students in terms of their health and their well-being and their safety are utmost important before I can do anything about teaching them. And so I think that

that would have been a fabulous resource for all students within our district and our community as well, so I fully supported it.

**Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?**

**A:** Obviously I think that's OK. I'm a teacher and I'm part of the teachers union and I've been supported by the union. I think candidates are going to be supported by people who believe the same things that they believe. And so if what I say that I'm running on, which is putting kids first and supporting our teachers is the most important thing and

other groups believe that, then that is their decision to support us. I accepted those endorsements, so sure.

**Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** Well, I sent my kids here, so I fully believe that. We have very dedicated staff who are knowledgeable and have great education and provide opportunities for our kids to take many foreign languages and all of the things that we provide. I think it's a great place. But also uniquely, our community is situated where we live very close to all of the people that we interact with at school and in sports and so I

think that helps us to build a community where we're supported and we look out for each other and we are collectively part of a whole. I think that's a unique thing and I want to continue to foster that for all of our students.

**Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** I think there's some divide in terms of beliefs in which direction we should be going. I want to make sure we're putting our students first and we're putting our resources and our time and our energy into making sure that we do things that are best for our stu-

dents. I think some of those roadblocks might be when we don't address issues that need to be resolved within our community and making sure that we allocate resources equitably between all of our buildings and I think we have to come together and address some of the issues to make sure that we can all move forward together.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** I think that's something that's happening nationally, specifically in Michigan and of course in our community and I mentioned earlier having opportunities for early childhood, having oppor-

tunities for families to come here and have day care and nursery schools and preschools. Once you're in the district, I think you see the opportunities and the things that are available and people will stay. So providing that is going to be kind of a springboard into keeping families to stay within the district. We aren't a growing community in terms of real estate. We can't build many more houses and attract people that way. I think we just have to continue to do what we do well and earn respect and continue to bring people in as the community changes from old to young.

## GELLCI:

Continued from page A17

country, you can see it in Grosse Pointe. But there is something very special about Grosse Pointe schools, which really makes me proud. They say we strive for academic excellence and they do. My children are a good example. And I give full credit to our schools. However, last night when I attended the meeting, I realized a lot of tension between board members and people who are sitting in the audience. And I thought to myself, why? We are all here for the same reason. Why that kind of tension? So for me, that is an issue that we need to address. I am an anthropologist and the key word in my field is culture. So I believe we should start building a culture that shows inclusiveness and it promotes dialogue instead of polarization. We do not want that. Regardless of what you think in terms of politics or religion or sexuality, one thing is for all of us. We want very good schools because it is not just for the benefits of the current students, but it is for the benefits of our community.

I believe No. 1 leadership must have a vision, which I realize that they have a good strong vision, which I agree with. Second, transparency and accountability are really two strong points.

**Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?**

**A:** Based on what I realized yesterday, Grosse Pointe schools get a good budget. Now, the question is how do you administer that kind of budget? What are the priorities? And of course, priorities go to our own kids. But what does it mean? Well, No. 1,

teachers, salary and benefits. Not only teachers, but administration as well. Can we ask around to get more money? Yes, we can. But the only issue with that is that we should have strong rules and policies on how that money is going to be used. And what comes with that money? No strings that we cannot see because we want to support what we call public education. And I'm a strong believer in public education and public service.

**Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** I have a conflict of interest because I used to work for a charter school for 15 years. And I don't think there is anything right or wrong with this side or that side. I truly believe that we need to listen to our community, how they feel about it. And if I compare charter schools with public schools, then 100 percent I'm going to support public schools. But then again, it is about how our community feels.

**Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** Those are very sensitive issues. And any kind of decision that we make needs to be transparent. But at the very end, if you do not have the means to keep that open, are you going to get the money away from what? Like teacher salaries and benefits from technology and all that kind of stuff. So sometimes you have to make decisions that can hurt a little bit, but you just want to make sure that you are making the right decision. And so if you close down something, I don't think that it is necessarily forever. Tomorrow, we can go back and say, let me fix this. Why? Because how do we mea-

sure intelligence? We measure it based on the level of adaptation in regard to the changes.

**Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan political groups?**

**A:** That's a very good question and I'm glad that you are asking that. So this is not a political office running for a school board. I am a little bit surprised at the way that this election is going. Why? Because I see sides like, OK, four people running together and then four people. I guess I'm the only one running by myself. So I disagree with this. This is not against the law. I am aware of that. But I don't think it is ethical. And I read that some of those supporters say that we interviewed everybody and then we made the decision. No, they did not. I never got any word from some of those groups and some other groups that interviewed me. Honestly, they were interviewing me, but basically I was interviewing them as well. And I realized that they already made their own decisions before. So that interview was just, let's do it because we are going to say that we interviewed somebody and some people did not do their homework. If you make your decision before interviewing somebody, then you can justify the way you do. But if you are honest and transparent, then you can say we believe that we are endorsing the best candidates that are expressing our own ideas or values or all that kind of stuff.

**Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** We see results. I am a college professor. I used to teach for Wayne State University for almost 15 years. It was almost obvious when somebody came

from Grosse Pointe schools. They had very good academic skills. My kids went to school and they got hired right away. And again, I told you they were not the best students in their school, in their classes, but hard working. So for me, it shows that we have a good understanding as a community about the benefits of education. And it is not just education in terms of mathematics and technology and biology and become a doctor and become an engineer. We want good citizens. I want our kids to have a meaningful life. If you are happy, it doesn't matter if you are a college professor or if you make shoes. It's the same. You are happy. It is not necessarily, oh, my kids did very well. No, because you want your neighbor's kids to also do very well. And then the neighbors next door and then everybody else. Why? Because that is the only way that you can have a happy life in your own community.

**Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** I believe that we are facing what is going around the entire country. I wish I never saw that in regards to public education, because if you are running for a political office, then good luck. I mean, you are open. You are here for that. But we are talking about public education. It's a public domain. We pay for that. And we want to be the best. So I think if we start from ourselves, from people who want to be board members, and be straight and say, listen, this is what it is, let's be transparent. If you really want good schools, let's have a conversation. Let's have a dialogue. Because I believe that is the main issue of where we should start from. Not that there are no

other issues. I mean, budget and many other things. But issues are part of the process. We do not progress if there are no issues, because what are you going to solve? But we really, really need to get together and clear up our minds and do the best for our own children and for the sake of our own community.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** It is not very clear to me why we do not have as many kids as we used to. But there are a few things that can clarify that. It can be a trend, because Grosse Pointe is a city with a community that it's a very interesting community. And I love it in the sense that once people come here, they want to stay here. So when we moved here, we were a family of five. My husband, my kids, my father, we lived together. And now it's just Tom and myself. But you cannot make me leave the city because I don't have any kids. So I believe that there are trends. All cities can go through this.

Now it's a different story if we are saying that, oh, there are 10,000 school kids in Grosse Pointe, but 4,000 of them decided not to attend Grosse Pointe public schools. Then we need to get together and find out exactly why those kids are not attending. Why are those students no longer here? Is it because the price of our houses that families, like young families with young children, are not moving to Grosse Pointe anymore? Is it because we are getting old as a community? We need further evidence, probably some kind of detailed information. Because if a parent gets upset and says, OK, I'm going to take my child out, let's find out what's going on.

## ROBERTS:

Continued from page A18

at the end of the day decisions have to be made. And the more unity we can have in those decisions, the more the board is unified in those decisions, which means there's compromise. There's discussion and then there's decisions. And so as that happens, then our district leaders have confidence in our board, the public, and the folks of Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have confidence in our board. And that's how we begin to create a sustainable model. Now, what would I do? I bring a long background of financial management, managing large budgets with large numbers of staff. One of the reasons I was put on the Finance and Facilities Committee was for that background. So I would bring a level of expertise and a level of discipline to help us as a board guide the decisions we need to make when it comes to financial management.

**Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?**

**A:** I don't think charter schools are the right answer right now in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. But ultimately, I'm not a single decision maker in that factor. I think the board of education needs to look at all options that are best for our district, that are best for our students and that are best for our community and ultimately have discussions, have experts look at not only the strategic plans and the business plans associated with the decision like that, but also have guided feedback so a decision can be made. So asking me today, would I support that? The answer would be no, but do I think that if the community and the district has plans that are presented and a board looks at those plans and decisions, again, we do that, we make those decisions as a board.

**Q: Would you have supported the clinic at**

**Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** I don't even think I was living here at the time when some of these decisions were made. Here's what I can tell you. I think our public school system should be focused on educating our kids. Delivering healthcare is hard. Delivering mental healthcare is hard. That's my background. That's what I've spent my career doing. I think a lot of times it's better for institutions that are experts in these services with locations that are built for these types of services to deliver that. So the short answer is no, I would not have supported a clinic inside of our schools run by an outside institution.

**Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?**

**A:** I think all candidates should look at any endorsements that may be offered to them and make those decisions based on what their beliefs are and what they think is appropriate. What we know is the public school system

board of education is a nonpartisan election and a nonpartisan position. And I think that should be what's most important.

**Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** We have amazing teachers that educate our kids every day that help us in the journey of these kids growing up to be active and productive adults. These are amazing institutions that have been around this community educating children of this community for, you know, decades. And having that resource here, having that resource supported by our community, a lot of people are very passionate in this community about our public schools. And that's important. That shows people care. When others move into this district, similar to Lindsay and I, and we look at the public schools, the walkable communities, the support folks have, it makes us love that we call this place home.

But ultimately, you

know, this is a great resource. We have great educators. We have great community support. We have a strong tradition and legacy of providing education to our community. And that's what makes it great.

**Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** Every district has its challenges, but this district continues to make steps in challenging times to be the best. We know that finances play a key role in making sure we have a stable district. But, you know, we have to continue to make decisions, strategic decisions around the direction of our district to prepare us to continue to excel. I think, really, there's not a lot holding us back with strong leaders, strong educators, strong principals. Building teams that can educate our kids is what makes the difference. I'm excited that this district and our schools here have that commitment, have that commitment from Dr. Tuttle,

have that commitment from the staff and the leaders she's putting in place and I'm excited about the direction.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** We have to continue to make this a community that folks, when they move to southeast Michigan, choose this district because of our public school system. The ability to walk to school, the ability to have folks that are your friends walk to school with you. These are things that this community has offered for a century-plus to folks here.

We've got to retain students that live in our community that have maybe moved away from the public school system. And there's a variety of options that exist. It's not just private schools. And so I think understanding where those students are, where those families are and making sure they know what services our public school offers and what's available to them is going to be important.

# 22A | ELECTION

## HOPPER:

Continued from page A18

versations.

As for the charter school discussions, I feel during COVID there were many discussions around how to simply best keep our students in a continuous pattern of learning while limiting interruptions as best as parents could. In-person learning was important and parental support also played an integral role in student success. Charter schools were discussed as options by many during that time. I remain steadfast in my belief in and commitment to our Grosse Pointe Public School System and our ability through our local governance to set and attain outstanding academic excellence and provide the best in athletic and extracurricular opportunities to our public school students.

**Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?**

**A:** I believe our schools should remain the place where academics are the focus, along with athletics and extracurriculars. I believe we have a robust health system in this community. I don't think it's wise to mix them at this point.

I do believe in the value of our school's counseling departments. And I

look to really work with our in school counselors to provide the best support to our students.

**Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?**

**A:** As far as accepting endorsements, I don't know. I haven't accepted an endorsement from any party. Sometimes they will offer an endorsement. I could be endorsed by the Democratic Party or the Republican Party and that would be their endorsement to make. But I haven't accepted any officially.

**Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?**

**A:** Our community. We have such a wonderful, tight-knit community. We are working for the best of each of our kids. We all want the best for our children. I see generations of people who've worked together to do this.

The community is made up of parents, students, teachers, administrators, vested community members. It's all of us working together.

**Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?**

**A:** I go back to our fund equity. We just need to get that back to a healthy level. When we do that, we'll be able to really give our teachers exactly what they need to be the

best in the business. We are attracting amazing teachers right now and when we attract families, we'll attract teachers. When we attract teachers, we'll attract families. A rising tide lifts all boats.

**Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?**

**A:** I think among many ways we can work very hard on our overall messaging. There's so many nuances to a really strong communications plan and outreach plan, external communications. As a board member I will bring 30 years of high-level thought and planning into that, to really get our story widely known and understood and build enthusiasm for our schools.

I will be very eager to work as a productive contributor to a team effort, or in a team effort. I believe in setting standards, communicating goals and expectations and working for results. I'm not supportive of plans that don't clearly state achievable goals and lack substantial plans for action. I want to elevate our teachers so they can thrive and grow and so our students can thrive and grow alongside them. Careful budgetary planning will enable us to become a more competitive district in terms of teacher pay.

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**Local School District**

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**Grosse Pointe Public Schools**

**Vote for Your Four Candidates**

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- Heath Marshall Roberts
- Melissa Fradenburg
- Kate Elizabeth Hopper

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# MELISSA FRADENBURG

## FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Smart. Independent. Driven.

Melissa has been part of the fabric of Grosse Pointe for the past 17 years. She and her husband Jay are proud parents of two South students.

Melissa has devoted her career to financial management and in particular helping women after divorce. She also started a women's networking group to empower women who own their own businesses.

Melissa's diverse clientele has equipped her well for listening to and understanding different opinions and perspectives. She knows how to build bridges and reach consensus on tough issues.

Melissa already serves the Board as a productive member of two committees. This has given her invaluable insights into how our district's funding works and will allow her to hit the ground running as a trustee. Her financial acumen will be a great asset to the Board.

But for Melissa, it's not just about balancing a budget; it's about making sure our kids have every opportunity to succeed. She will work tirelessly to ensure we achieve that goal through mutual respect and collaboration.

Melissa's platform is clear and straightforward: Fiscal Responsibility, Academic Excellence, and Collaboration

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### COLLINS HOPPER ROBERTS FRADENBURG

**GP SCHOOL BOARD**



# HEATH ROBERTS FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Heath is a family man. He and his wife Lindsay, along with their three kids, have called Grosse Pointe Park home for the last five years. Like their Dad before them, the Roberts' kids go to public schools.

Heath and his family moved to Grosse Pointe for the great schools, the walkable neighborhoods, and the close-knit communities. Heath wants to preserve those great qualities, and he believes they are worth fighting for.

Heath's career is all about kids. He's helped run some of the top children's hospitals in the Midwest. Right now, he's leading as Chief Administrative Officer for Population Health Services at Henry Ford Health. With dual degrees in management and finance and an MBA on top of that, Heath will be an outstanding steward of our tax dollars. He also knows about selflessness, being a proud Army veteran, who served honorably in the 101st Airborne Division.

Heath is ready to bring his commitment and experience to the Grosse Pointe Public School System. His approach is straightforward:

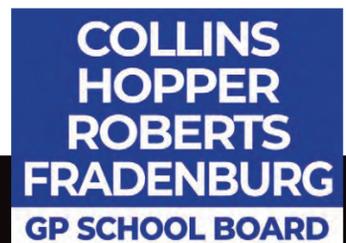
- 1) Academic excellence
- 2) Budget accountability
- 3) Clear policy guidance

Heath knows how to lead, how to balance large budgets, and how to effectively run large entities dedicated to children's wellbeing.



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# KATE HOPPER FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Kate is a pillar of Grosse Pointe. A lifelong resident, well known across the area, she is a proud South grad. Her husband Pat is a proud Norseman, and their two kids also graduated from our public schools.

Kate earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Hillsdale College. That was followed by a 25-year, award-winning career in communications-proof that she knows how to deliver results.

On top of a busy career and raising a family, Kate always finds time to give back. She's held prominent roles with multiple local charities, including the Sigma Gamma Association.

Always striving to make a positive impact, Kate already serves our schools as an active member of the Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee. Further proof she'll be ready to hit the ground running as a Board Trustee.

Kate is committed to:

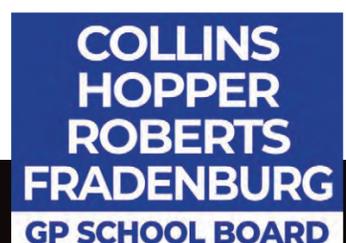
- 1) Academic Excellence
- 2) Fiscal responsibility
- 3) Community Engagement

She understands that in order to keep our community safe, strong and vibrant, our schools must thrive. Her dedication to Grosse Pointe is unwavering.



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HOPPER  
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Volunteer gardener Henry Carpenter hands off to “Farmer Don” a harvest of cherry tomatoes.

PHOTOS BY  
RENEE LANDUYT

## Kids’ crops faring well with help from ‘Farmer Don’

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The plan: Create a garden cared for and maintained by children.

The lesson: Boys and girls can plant the seeds, but it’s God who gives the increase.

The other lesson: There is joy that comes from spending time in God’s creation.

A third lesson: Food comes from the sweat of someone’s brow, not the supermarket.

And a fourth: Helping others by providing food for those in need is joyous work.

A children’s garden, established by the Sunday School program at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, first was planted on church

grounds in 2002. During more than 20 years, the plot has grown, as has its yield and its impact on those involved.

Though initially under the supervision of Jackie Rump, the garden has been overseen since 2009, by Donald “Farmer Don” Crawford of Grosse Pointe Park.

“I had a career as a city manager away from here,” he said. “I came back as the city emergency manager in Hamtramck. When Jackie took off, (Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission member) Pat Deck said, ‘Don, you’re a gardener. You have a garden at home. Why don’t you do it?’”

At that, his commitment took root.

Children tend the gar-

den Sundays throughout the season, though Crawford typically comes through the day before to prep for whatever task they’ll be working on.

“I’ve been doing it for a long time,” he said. “As a little kid, I had two neighbors, Mr. Vikary and Mr. Albert, who taught me how to garden. There were four houses on my block and all four had big gardens. I learned a lot doing it. It’s great for relaxation.”

A former Sunday School teacher and long-time member of GPUMC, Crawford started 20 tomato varieties at his home this year, before bringing them to the church for planting.

“I typically start growing tomato plants and pepper plants from seed around the first of April on my back porch,” he explained. “I set them out after the frost, usually about Memorial Day.”

Though the gardening season is coming to an end, nearly 30 pumpkins were picked during a recent harvest and more continue to grow. Gourds, squash, zuc-

chini, radishes, potatoes and even catnip still are going strong.

“The last to come out will be the turnips, which may grow all winter,” Crawford said. “But we’ll wrap up when the frost comes.”

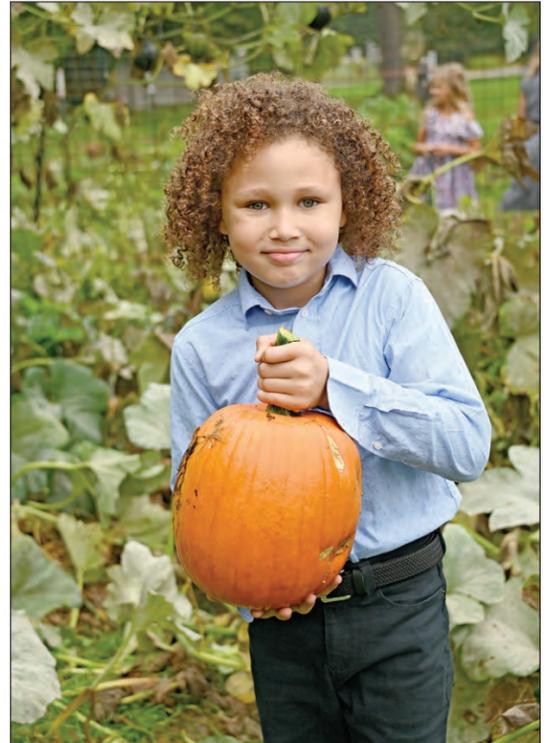
Other crops the garden has produced include cucumbers, cabbage and onions. In 2014, the garden produced a crop of celery, as well as purple potatoes from Michigan State University’s potato research program.

Around 20 enthusiastic youngsters — mostly girls, Crawford noted — tend the garden, which last year saw the installation of a six-foot fence “to keep the critters out,” he said.

Most participants are church members, though children from the neighborhood join in as well.

“They even get excited about checking the rain gauge, seeing how much rain we got and emptying it,” Crawford laughed.

Participants help themselves to the harvest, some of them sharing with other church members.



Henry Rembert holds a pumpkin he picked from the garden to add to the pumpkin pile.

“Especially the tomatoes,” Crawford said. “We get them by the bushel.”

“One of the grandmothers always says the cucumbers are so large

— we grow them up to 18 inches,” he added proudly. “I tell her that her granddaughter is the first one here and she wants the largest one.”

The garden is grown without the use of herbicides; vinegar is sprayed to prevent critters from snacking on the produce.

“This area was rubble from when we built the first end of the church in the 1920s,” Crawford said. “We put on here a whole truckload of mulch that came off Grosse Pointe streets. ... The garden has taken off tremendously since leaf mulch and compost from Grosse Pointe was put on them.”

Crawford said overseeing the children allows plenty of teaching moments, for him and his charges.

“I try to teach them and

See CROPS, page 7B



Left, Declan Blunden displays his strength by holding a medium-sized pumpkin from the garden. Right, Madison Fulcher picks peppers from the garden.



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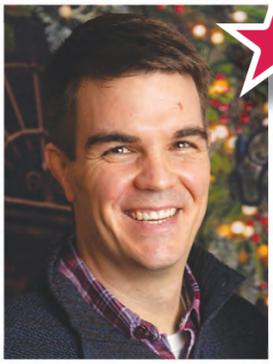
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## Clint Derringer

[ClintDerringerforGPSchools.com](http://ClintDerringerforGPSchools.com)

**Clint** began his career with Van Dyke Public Schools before moving to project management and procurement in the auto industry. He has a bachelor of arts from the University of Michigan and a Masters in Science from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Clint will use his experience to ensure that our district prioritizes students, teachers, fiscal responsibility and good governance.



## Laura Hull

[LauraHullforGPSchools.com](http://LauraHullforGPSchools.com)

**Laura** has been a teacher for more than two decades, including in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. She graduated from Alma College with a Bachelors in Science and a Master's of Arts in Education from the University of Michigan. As an experienced educator, Laura is committed to amplifying student voices, supporting teachers and unifying our community.



## Tim Klepp

[KleppGPSchools.com](http://KleppGPSchools.com)

**Tim** began his career at Deloitte, where he earned his CPA license and is currently a Partner with IBM Consulting. He has a bachelors in accounting from Michigan State University and a Master's in Business Administration from Indiana University. Tim will apply his decades of accounting and finance experience to safeguard our district's fiscal health and growth.



## Colleen Worden

[WordenforGPSchools.com](http://WordenforGPSchools.com)

**Colleen** currently serves on the Grosse Pointe School Board and works as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Special Victims' Unit of the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Miami University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law. Colleen is running for reelection because she cares about children, their welfare and their futures.

## Candidates Proudly Endorsed by Organizations You Trust:

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Members of the **Grosse Pointe Education Association of Office Personnel**

Members of the **Grosse Pointe Educational Paraprofessional Association**

Custodial staff of the **Grosse Pointe Education Association**

# Dueling pianists to perform Oct. 19

## Guest pianist new part of show

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Dueling Pianos VIII, featuring Anne Roberts and Joseph Palazzolo, takes place at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

The performance — “A Musical Potpourri” — marks Palazzolo’s last as part of the duo, which consistently has drawn standing-room crowds to its annual shows.

“This is Joseph’s last go-round,” said Roberts, who then reflected on their eight years of two-piano shows. “When I first approached Joseph, he was reticent. Afterward he said, ‘I never knew how much fun doing two-piano work could be.’ ... Joseph is a very, very fine musician. Music is his life.”

The statement is quite literal, as Palazzolo studied piano from first grade through college, winning competition awards and superior ratings along the way. He studied piano under Flavio Varani at Oakland University,



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Anne Roberts and Joseph Palazzolo rehearse for their upcoming performance.

where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in piano performance.

In 2022, he retired as Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church’s music director and currently is the music

director of the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Farmington Hills. He teaches 22 students — who consistently earn high ratings and awards — in Grosse Pointe and at his home in Ferndale.

“What’s interesting about Joseph is, not only as a participant, but I went to a concert at the temple where he works,” Roberts said. “He really knows how to put on a show.”

Palazzolo also is a composer and arranger whose string quartet, Sweet Home, was commissioned in 2012 and performed for Chamber Music at the Scarab Club and Tuesday

See PIANISTS, page 7B



COURTESY PHOTO

Guest pianist Tamara Baubie, left, will join Anne Roberts in playing a suite during the performance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

## Higher Ground

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Donna Coulter, the CEO of Higher Ground Abodes, during the club’s Sept. 24 meeting at Ford House. Coulter introduced attendees to HGA, whose mission is to assist with housing, financial and life support for extremely low-income individuals in Detroit who age out of foster care at 18. This vulnerable group of youth often suffer adverse adult outcomes, which HGA works to mitigate through its various support initiatives. Grosse Pointe Rotary Sunrise Club members extend an open invitation to residents to join their Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.

## Hollyfest

The Family Center

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Join us for a festive evening benefiting The Family Center. Together we can help build happier, healthier families!

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## 4B | 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.

## Mary Eileen Wright Dimick

Former Grosse Pointe resident Mary Eileen Wright Dimick passed away Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, at her home in Wind Point, Wis., at age 72.

Eileen grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms, the youngest child of Alice and Joe Wright. She attended St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School from first through 12th grade and graduated in 1970. After receiving a degree in journalism from Marquette University, Eileen began her career working on publications in Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan before returning to Milwaukee for her dream job in corporate communications at Miller Brewing Co.

Eileen met her future husband, Ron Dimick, while working at a newspaper in Michigan and they were married in 1978. They settled in Whitefish Bay, Wis., and raised their daughters, Julie and Ellen, in a neighborhood that revolved around a tight-knit circle of friends and neighbors. Eileen and Ron volunteered in several community organizations and were active in their church and schools. They also loved to travel and particularly enjoyed excursions to Canada, Europe and Australia.

Eileen's love for the Great Lakes and her fascination with the stories of her maternal grandfather's life as a freighter captain led her to write her novel, "The Captain's Wife," which was well received by book clubs around the Midwest.

Eileen is survived by her daughters, Julie Dimick and Ellie Dimick Heine (Tim); and her grandsons, Michael and James Heine. She also is survived by her brother, J. Patrick Wright (Debby); and sisters, Maureen Wright and Kathleen Wright Conway (Mike); as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by Ron, her husband of 46 years; her parents, Alice and Joe Wright; and brother, Daniel Wright.

A memorial service was held Sept. 17, in Milwaukee.

## Richard Sterrett Keys

Richard Sterrett Keys, 86, passed away peacefully Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, in Grosse Pointe Park.

Born Sept. 12, 1938, Richard was a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe and attended Grosse Pointe High School. He served honorably in the U.S. Army on active duty from 1960-62, followed by

service in the reserves from 1963-68.

His commitment to service was a defining aspect of his character; Richard said the skills he learned in the Army served him well the rest of his life. He worked at the family-run Crowley, Milner & Co. department store for his career. Starting in the stock room, Richard rose to the position of boys' wear buyer, a job at which he worked until his retirement in 1999, when the business closed.

A kind, generous and humble man, Richard was deeply spiritual and maintained a lifelong commitment to helping others, particularly through his 45-year friendship with Bill W., aiding many in their journey toward sobriety. He also was an avid reader, with a particular interest in history books focused on the American Civil War and the World Wars. Richard also had a passion for classic cars, attending many shows with family and friends.

Richard is survived by his loving children, Jerome E. Keys and Meredith E. Foulkes (Thomas D. Foulkes); grandchildren, Ava E. Thompson and Hugh W. Thompson; niece, Dr. Michelle Keys; and sister-in-law, Cheryl Keys. He was predeceased by his parents, John G. and



Mary E. Wright Dimick



Richard Sterrett Keys



Nancy Jean McCall

Marjorie (Crowley) Keys, and his brother, Joseph C. Keys.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date to honor Richard's life and legacy.

In lieu of flowers, charitable donations are encouraged in Richard's name to the Wounded Warrior Project, a cause close to his heart, reflecting his deep appreciation for his fellow veterans.

## Nancy Jean McCall

Nancy Jean (nee Bershback) McCall, 76, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully in her sleep Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, after a six-year battle with dementia.

Born Nov. 19, 1947, Nancy was a proud alumna of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School in Grosse Pointe Farms and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Michigan State University.

Widowed at the young age of 36, and having lost both parents by age 38, Nancy faced tragedy with strength and grace. Despite hardship, she thrived as a single mother.

Nancy also was successful in two vastly different career paths, first as an elementary school teacher in Ortonville and later as a paralegal specializing in asbestos litigation in Detroit.

Nancy had a passion for travel, both internationally with her parents as a teenager and then later in life exploring the United States with her partner of 32 years, Andy Anderson. Her favorite destination was the Black Hills in South Dakota, where she delighted in seeing prairie dogs and wild buffalo. Nancy loved animals and took great care to make her yard a sanctuary for neighborhood birds, squirrels and rabbits.

Nancy was predeceased by her beloved husband, George R. McCall. She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Eisenbrey (Ned) of Virginia; sister, Sally Bershback (Conrad Sobczynski) of Grosse Pointe Woods; boy-

friend, Andrew Anderson; son-in-law, Ned Eisenbrey; and cherished grandchildren, Finley and Sophie.

Visitation takes place from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. A funeral Mass is scheduled at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores. Burial will occur at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Perry Mount Park Cemetery, 878 N. Perry, Pontiac.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, alz.org; or Humane Society of the United States, humane society.org.

## Claire Orians Allen

Claire Orians Allen was born Feb. 19, 1930, in Detroit, and died Friday, Oct. 11, 2024. She was 94 years old.

Claire was a social worker, psychologist, artist and interior designer. She graduated from the University of Detroit and received a master's degree from Oakland University. Claire taught at Oakland University, Wayne State University, Oakland Community College and others.

Claire has three daughters: Judy, of Alaska; Michele, of Lansing; and Renee, of Alaska. Being a mother was what she wanted to do most, but the greatest joy in her life was being a grandmother to Michele's children, Jenny and Michaela, who have a lifetime of stories about good and crazy times with Duba, as they called their grandmother.

Claire was predeceased by her husband, Rollin Allen; and parents, Jean Pierre and Olga Courtois.

Though Claire's parents came to the United States as newlyweds, Claire was very close to her family in Luxembourg. She made many trips to Luxembourg, including five trips in the first 10 years of her life. Claire stayed in touch with her cousins and part of her



Claire Orians Allen

soul was always in Luxembourg.

Claire was very involved with her community. She was one of the founders of the Farmington Community Center and the Oakland University Continuum Center. Claire helped students as the director of Farmington's Youth Employment Center and Youth Substance Abuse Center. She was a member of the Grosse Pointe Village Garden Club and served as a council member at St. Lucy's Catholic Church, involved with many church activities.

Claire loved to travel the world and was a member of the Circumnavigators International travel organization. She visited more than 53 countries and most of the U.S. and was on the Queen Mary II ship during its maiden voyage around the world, an 83-day trip.

Claire had a close relationship with the Blessed Mother. She went to Lourdes, France, two weeks a year for many years, taking care of the sick and going with them to the Grotto of Our Lady. Claire took hundreds of prayer requests to Lourdes from her church and friends.

Most important to Claire was her loving family. She never met a stranger and cared about all she met.

Those who wish to honor Claire may donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at fundraising.stjude.org/goto/claire allen or by mailing a donation to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

See OBITS, page 5B

# James P. Danaher

May 26, 1922 - October 7, 2024



It is with both sadness and great hope in the promises of Christ that the Danaher family announce the death of their father, James P. Danaher. Known affectionately as "Irish Jim," he died October 7, 2024, at the age of 102 after living a remarkable life. He was born in Berkeley, CA., on May 26, 1922, and grew up on a lumber mill in Placerville, California. In 1931 his adoptive parents died and he moved to Grosse Pointe to live with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Danaher and their two children, Jack and Mary.

After graduating from Detroit University School (now University Liggett School (ULS) in 1940, he attended the University of Notre Dame where he was the junior football manager. He left Notre Dame in 1942 to join the Naval Air Corps as a fixed aerial gunnery instructor. After the war he worked as a security salesman for First of Michigan Corporation.

Jim then transitioned to the nascent television industry. He worked in advertising producing commercials and televised the first Detroit Tigers and Lions games in 1948 when there were only about 2,000 television sets in the Detroit area. In 1950 he joined the Radio-Television Public Relations Department of the Ford Motor Company. He was a pioneer member of the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

After leaving Ford he joined Purdy and Edgar Real Estate in Grosse Pointe and eventually started Danaher, Baer, Wilson and Stroh in 1974. He was President of the Grosse Pointe Real Estate Board.

He founded the Grosse Pointe University School (now ULS) carnival that raised thousands of dollars for the school. In 1968 he organized and was the first chairman of the Grosse Pointe Academy Auction. It was one of the largest fundraisers in the country at the time having raised millions of dollars for the Academy.

Jim was a loyal Life Member of the Country Club of Detroit, his "home away from home." He was also a member of the Bayview Yacht Club, and numerous clubs in Vero Beach, Florida, where he enjoyed winters with his second wife, Mary Anne Dodge Danaher.

He was predeceased by his first wife of 25 years, Charlotte Brabbee Vaughan, with whom he had five children. He then enjoyed 35 wonderful years with Mary Anne Dodge. Following her passing, he married Janet Dillon McPhail in 2010 and she passed in 2012.

He is survived by his five children, James P. Danaher, Jr. of Natick, Mass.; Eileen (Frank) Traum of Grosse Pointe; Thomas C. (Mallory) Danaher of New York City; Steven E. Danaher (Rose) of Longwood Florida; Kathleen Rybicki of Vacaville, Calif.; one grandson Christopher (Monica) Danaher; granddaughters Kelly Humphrey (Josiah) and Brooke Danaher; great grandsons Grayson and Andrew; step sons John Moran and Mark (Kate) Moran of Au Gres, Michigan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A viewing will be held at 11:30 a.m. and a funeral Mass at noon, Thursday, Oct. 17, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, with a reception to follow.

To honor his life, donations may be made to the 1897 Fund at the Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, or to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207-3485, cskdetroit.org/ways\_to\_give/donations/.



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## OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

## Susan Mary Hanawalt

Susan Mary (Droze) Hanawalt of Grosse Pointe — and a proud resident of Fisher Road for just shy of 50 years — passed away Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, at age 76. She was predeceased by her parents, Francis and Eileen Droze; husband, Thomas Edward Hanawalt; and sister, Nancy Getzen.

She made many joyful memories with her family and friends during her last weeks.

Sue was lovingly married to her husband, Thomas Edward Hanawalt, for more than 30 years. Together they had two children, Jason Hanawalt (Maureen) and Edward Hanawalt (Jennifer). Her greatest joys in life were her grandchildren, Charlie Weikel, Hadley and Henry Hanawalt, and Oliver, Sophie, Hoyt and George Hanawalt.

She spent many happy years with her loving companion, Donald Sitarski. They enjoyed traveling, spending time at Sue's cottage on Lake Huron, socializing with friends and attending countless events at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Sue was born Feb. 15, 1948, in Detroit, to Francis and Eileen Droze. She was the second of five children and proud sister to Maureen Bosman (Tom), Michael Droze (Sue), Marty Droze (Laura) and the late Nancy Getzen. She spent lots of time with her 16 nieces and nephews and 23 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Sue loved nothing more than spending time



Susan Mary Hanawalt

with her family. She was a wonderful wife, mother, aunt, sister and friend. Sue was always there for her family and extremely proud of everyone. She always stepped in to help and checked in with people frequently just to ask how they were doing. She was there for as many events and accomplishments of her children and grandchildren as possible, a passionate supporter at games, recitals and award ceremonies. Sue constantly advocated for the inclusion of her grandson with special needs.

Sue always had a house full of people, taking pride in her ability to bring people together and the beautiful details at the family gatherings she hosted. She loved to cook everything from brisket at her cottage to cakes with her grandchildren.

Sue graduated in 1966, from St. Cecilia High School in Detroit. She worked at Jacobson's for many years and always seemed to know how to find the perfect outfit for her clients. Raising her two sons, Sue served as a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts and a volunteer for St. Patrick's in Detroit. Later, she enjoyed working at Racing for Kids as a hospital visit coordinator, where she traveled around the country sup-



Marie Kuhnlein Gilbert

porting children with life-altering illnesses.

Visitation takes place 1 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, with a prayer service at 6 p.m., at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. She will lie in state at 9:30 a.m., with Mass beginning at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Detroit Cristo Rey High School, 5679 W. Vernor Hwy., Detroit, MI 48209, or detroitcristorey.org; or National Council on Severe Autism, P.O. Box 26853, San Jose, CA 95129, or ncsautism.org.

## Marie Kuhnlein Gilbert

Marie Kuhnlein Gilbert (né Cataldo), 96, of St. Clair and Grosse Pointe, passed away peacefully in her home Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024.

Born March 15, 1928, in Detroit, to Frances (né Napolitan) and Charles Rocco Cataldo, Marie had a zest for life. Once chastised by a teacher for being "too enthusiastic," she greeted each day with optimism, embracing hope and celebrating joy. She was a devout Christian throughout her life,

which helped her overcome life's challenges.

Marie's friends and family were many. Born into a large, tight-knit Sicilian immigrant and first-generation family, she was supported by three loving sisters and many wonderful aunts, uncles and cousins. Her childhood home was filled with love, music, food and extended family. This trained her for life.

After graduating from Eastern High School in 1945, and earning a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights College and master's degree from Wayne State University in elementary school education, she married the love of her life, Daniel Edward Kuhnlein in 1953.

They had 10 children in 11 years; each year Dan got a promotion and Marie had a baby. It was a time of abundance. Together, they built a strong family, characterized by Sunday dinners at Grandma's and major adventures, including a cross-country car ride in 1968 — 12 people packed into a pre-seatbelt-era station wagon — to visit their beloved Aunt Eleanore and Uncle Dennis in Los Angeles, with many adventures along the way.

Then tragedy struck and Marie was widowed at age 43. With enormous faith she raised 10 children, teaching them to face life doing their best and accept life's challenges. She prioritized education ensuring that all 10 children graduated college. She often told her children — and later her 32 grandchildren — that education is a life-long gift you take with you wherever you go.

She shared this message as a teacher for more than 30 years in

Detroit Public Schools. She also started and led a weekly women's prayer group that lasted 38 years. And she loved to host her book club, where she was known to say, "Do I have a book for you! Run, don't walk, to get it!"

But perhaps she is best remembered for her very personal handwritten notes and unique handwriting. She put enormous thought into them, sometimes writing friends daily through their illnesses. Her children treasured the regular handwritten, photocopied family letter that chronicled everything from daily life to major family news. Marie fostered the joy of personal correspondence in her grandchildren by promising to write back and enclose one dollar for every handwritten note she received.

Marie met Henry "Harry" R. Gilbert, a widower, through their daughters and they were married in 1983. They enjoyed 31 years of marriage filled with travel, grandchildren and family celebrations until Harry's death in 2014.

Throughout life, Marie's faith centered her. She prayed the Rosary every day, one bead for each child, grandchild, in-law and special intention. She was known to say, "Just throw it up to the Lord."

Marie's words to her guests at her 95th birthday party truly capture her spirit: "My heart's gift is rich in blessings ... precious blessings of wonderful friendships. My faith, loving family and friends have been my support throughout my entire life, whether in times of sorrow or joy. I am so delighted to have this opportunity to say

thank you to each of you. You are my blessing. Just be sweet to one another with kind words and gentleness and stay healthy."

Marie was predeceased by her husbands; parents; sisters, Laura Cataldo and Helen Ruda; brothers-in-law, Dennis Downey, Donald Gilbert, Bob Henze, Pete Kilcline, Frank Kuhnlein, Jerome Kuhnlein, Red Lee, Rudy Pale, Anthony Ruda, Gene Rutt and Ed Schmidt; sisters-in-law, Marie Gilbert, Mary Lou Henze, Mary Sue Kuhnlein, Marilyn Lee, Margaret Pale and Mary Rutt; and grandson, Mark DeFour.

Marie is survived by her sister, Eleanore Downey; children, Joellyn Gray (Kevin), Beth, Claudia Eaton (Bob), Dan, Allison (Ron Lang), David, Letty Helgans (David), Karen Jones (Jim), Donald (Lauri Read) and Dean (Nicole); son-in-law, Francisc Parcerisas; daughter-in-law, Susan Kuhnlein; Harry's children, James (Dick Wagner), Jan DeFour (Ralph) and John (Charlotte Pauls); sisters-in-law, Jackie Kilcline and Mary Schmidt; 32 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; numerous godchildren; and many extended relatives and friends.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, Oct. 7, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, Marie requested donations be made to the Rose Hill Foundation, 5130 Rose Hill Blvd., Holly, MI 48422, or donate online at [rosehillcenter.org/donate/](http://rosehillcenter.org/donate/).

A website featuring her life may be viewed at [mural.life/mariekuhnleingilbert](http://mural.life/mariekuhnleingilbert).

## AREA ACTIVITIES

## Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

## The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit [warmemorial.org](http://warmemorial.org)

◆ Civility Session with Stephen Henderson and Nolan Finley, 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17.

◆ A Magical Kids Night Out — Harry Potter Style, 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. Includes two crafts and pizza. Cost is \$65.

## The Helm

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

following:

◆ Preparing for the Unexpected, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, with attorney Maura McKeever, community educator Rachel Powell and social worker Frank Wilberding.

◆ Halloween Cake Decorating, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, with instructor Erika Clark.

◆ Health for Her at The Helm, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22.

◆ The Helm Cultural Exploration Series: Latinos in America, 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, with Osvaldo Rivera.

◆ The movie "The Fall Guy" is shown at 5:30

p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ The movie "A Haunting in Venice" is shown at noon Friday, Oct. 25. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

## The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted.

Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org) or RSVP to [maryjo@familycenterhelps.org](mailto:maryjo@familycenterhelps.org).

◆ Wellness Series, Free Community Yoga, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, through Oct. 29.

◆ Preparing for the Unexpected, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. Panelists will discuss trusts and wills, end-of-life wishes and advanced directives, as well as ways to support those who are grieving. Desserts and beverages will be served.

◆ "Surviving & Thriving During Your

Child's Teen Years," with Dr. Renee Catrambone, 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays. Topics include depression Oct. 21 and anger Oct. 28.

◆ QPR training, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Next Chapter Books, 16555 E. Warren, Detroit. QPR training is like CPR for mental health. Ages 15 and older are welcome to this free training, which helps participants recognize suicide warning signs, understand ways to initiate conversation and refer someone to appropriate resources.

See EVENTS, page 8B

## Worship Service



**Saint Ambrose Catholic Church**  
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**Masses**  
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. (☩)  
Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.  
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Mass  
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.  
Friday — St. Francis Day — Blessing of Pets — Noon Mass

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

# Pediatrician retires after decades of serving community

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

A combination of circumstances led Brian Engel, M.D., to retire after practicing medicine for 30 years. His length of service was one of them.

"I've been practicing a long time," the Grosse Pointe Park resident said. "My first grandchild is on the way, too. My kids are grown — two are here and two are in Chicago. And I love to travel."

The longtime pediatrician officially retired from Northpointe Pediatrics Oct. 1.

"I started out wanting to be an OB-GYN, but I realized it was the babies I loved," he said. "I was always around youth sports and coaching. My dad coached Little League for 30 years. So (pediatrics) combined my love of medicine and my love for kids."

The lifelong Grosse Pointer

made his way through the district attending Ferry Elementary School, Parcels Middle School and Grosse Pointe North High School before earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Albion College in 1984. He graduated from Wayne State School of Medicine in 1990, then completed his pediatrics residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan in 1993.

"I always wanted to be a community physician, so that's what I did," he said.

In 1994, Engel started his career at Northpointe Pediatrics, which he referred to as his "other family."

"The six partners have been together for over 25 years," he said. "I'm the second to retire. It's a great practice, which made it easy."

"He has been a loved and well-respected pediatrician for many Grosse Pointe residents over many decades," Northpointe's Jeannette



COURTESY PHOTO

**Brian Engel, M.D., retired Oct. 1, after 30 years of practicing medicine.**

Marchand-Mateyak, M.D., wrote in an email. "We will miss him very much, but we are also very happy for him."

Not only will Engel miss his partners, but his patients will remain dear to him. When asked what he'd miss the most, he was quick to answer:

"Seeing the kids — and lately the second generation of kids. It's like being a grandfather to many," he said. "... My kids went to school with some of my patients."

Outside of work, Engel was able to practice another childhood love — sports — in the community. His baseball and basketball coaching career started at the Neighborhood Club, then carried into Grosse Pointe Park Little League and St. Paul on the Lake School. He hung up his coach's whistle when his children were in high school.

A member of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Engel has volunteered for the church's homeless events and other activities. He also has been on the board of Loyola High School almost a year.

"That combines my love for pediatrics — I saw a lot of adolescent boys in my practice — and reaching out to the underserved," he said.

Engel said he looks forward to being around his grandchild in Chicago and otherwise plans to stay active. He enjoys golfing, biking and walking.

And though he plans to fully enjoy retirement, medicine won't be completely excluded from his future.

"Eventually, I'll do some consulting, but on my own schedule," he said.

"I truly thank the families for having trust in me and allowing me to help guide them and to be part of their life," he added. "I always tell them I'll see them around town."

"And if there's really anyone to thank for all this, it's my family: my wife, Paula; my three girls who graduated from South, Carly (Matt), Carmen (Michael) and Natalia; and my son, Ricky, who graduated from U of D Jesuit. That's the biggest thing."

## Garden Center lecture is Oct. 22

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center presents a lecture by noted floral arranger, floral exhibitor and floral installation specialist Laura Daluga at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, in the library of The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

As this "Botanical Wonder Woman" creates, designs and arranges an awe-inspiring floral display, guests will learn some of her techniques and the

thought process behind her distinctive creations.

Daluga is a fourth-generation floral designer and Chicago transplant living and working in Detroit. She is an accredited member of the American Institute of Floral Designers and a certified floral designer. She is the creator of Detroit's annual floral sculpture show, "Art in the Elements," an event installation specialist at fleurdetroit and design director for

OASIS.

Daluga also is an avid competitor, ranking top of many competitions including the Bobbi Cup in 2014 and 2016, the FTD America's Cup in 2018 and 2022, and the People's Choice winner of the Designers America for the International Floral Expo in 2016. She has been published in AIFD's recent American Floral Art, as well as International Floral Art on multiple occasions.

For more information, visit [gpgardencenter.org/](http://gpgardencenter.org/) or call (313) 499-0743.

To register, visit [bit.ly/sueabbott24](http://bit.ly/sueabbott24)

## GP Symphony Orchestra opens 72nd season Oct. 27

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra opens its 72nd season with a concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, in the ballroom of the Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The orchestra, led by conductor and music director Joe Striplin, will open the concert with Georg Philipp Telemann's Concerto in E minor for flute and two violins.

The orchestra next welcomes soloist Jeremy



Jeremy Crosmer

cert lecture at 6:15 p.m. during which WRCJ-FM radio host Davis Gloff will introduce and discuss the concert music.

Tickets are available at the door or online at [gpsymphony.org](http://gpsymphony.org). Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for college students and free to K-12 students.

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra continues its 72nd season with its annual holiday concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairfield, Grosse Pointe Woods. The concert will feature holiday favorites, including orchestral excerpts from the opera, "Hansel and Gretel."

The season continues in 2025, with concerts Sunday, March 2, and Sunday, May 4, as well as a summer concert to be scheduled in August.

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra is 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing local professional and accomplished amateur musicians the opportunity to perform the classical symphonic repertory for the community at large.

Following intermission, the orchestra will conclude its concert with a performance of music from Aaron Coplin's ballet, "Billy the Kid," which incorporates many themes from American folk music and cowboy tunes into an orchestral suite of six connected movements.

The audience is invited to attend a free pre-con-

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# 'Little Goblins' takes over Ford House Oct. 19

Ghouls, ghosts and giggles are on the horizon as Ford House presents its fun and kid-friendly Little Goblins event Saturday, Oct. 19.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., children and families can enjoy the grounds and gardens while participating in family-friendly activities throughout the property, including:

◆ **Trick-or-Treat Trail:** Children can travel along the Trick-or-Treat Trail, stopping at child-friendly Halloween stations to collect treats and goodies from friendly characters.

◆ **Jack-o'-lantern decorating:** Let creativity run wild as kids unleash their artistic talents on Cuties mandarin oranges, transforming them into festive



masterpieces to take home.

◆ **Photo opportunities:** Whether sitting under the 15-foot tall Pumpkin King

or galloping through a mini-corn maze, there are innumerable opportunities to capture your family's smiling faces on camera.

◆ **Haunt-free hayride:** Hop aboard the haunt-free hayride for a tractor-pulled trip from the main residence to the gate lodge.

◆ **Cider and doughnuts:** Every ticket includes free cider and a doughnut.

"This event has always been a special time for families across metro

Detroit to come together, celebrate the season and make lasting memories," Ford House Director of Communications & Engagement Tommy Karr said. "Little Goblins is more than just a festive gathering. It's an opportunity to build community, spark joy and create moments that children and their families will cherish for years to come."

Concessions will be available. In addition to seasonal treats and snacks, adult beverages will be offered for purchase.

Tickets may be purchased online at [fordhouse.org/littlegoblins](http://fordhouse.org/littlegoblins). Early bookings are encouraged as this experi-



COURTESY PHOTOS

Costumes are encouraged at Little Goblins.

ence tends to sell out quickly.

Admission is \$20 per child and \$8 per accompanying adult. Friends of Ford House enjoy dis-

counted tickets of \$15 per child and \$5 per adult.

To learn how to become a Friend of Ford House, visit [fordhouse.org/friends](http://fordhouse.org/friends).

## PIANISTS:

Continued from page 3B

Musicale.

Roberts also has been playing piano much of her life, starting at age 6.

"At age 3, my grandmother gave us a piano; my mother played," she said. "My mother found a teacher to teach me every day, so I was off to a great start. I was good until I was a teenager, then I got distracted, so my father said he wasn't paying for lessons anymore."

However, she caught the attention of a music teacher at Grosse Pointe South High School.

"He liked the way I played, so he had me accompany the choral

groups," she said.

Throughout junior and senior high school, Roberts was the lead accompanist for all the choirs and glee clubs. She also got a new piano teacher. She attended Smith College and earned a degree from the University of Michigan School of Music.

Roberts, a co-founder of the women's vocal jazz group Noteworthy, has played in a trio for Grosse Pointe Chamber Music for years and plays piano during summer services at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. She also has been the rehearsal and orchestra pianist for several theater musicals.

When she and her husband, John, got married,

they each moved a piano into the house.

"That started my life as a two-pianist," she said.

"I love it," she added. "I'm passionate about it and I'm so grateful. Dueling pianos has a little bit of magic to it. I've done solo work, but this is just a special opportunity, no question about it."

Making this performance even more special is the addition of a guest artist. Tamara Baubie will join Roberts for a suite composed by Julia Smith. "American Dance Suite" includes "Lost My Partner," "Lullaby" and "Chicken Reel."

Baubie, who also started playing piano at a young age, also played bassoon in middle and high school,

as well as keys in the jazz band and was a drum major with the Oscoda High School marching band. She also was a member of the Michigan Lions All-State Band from 1991-94.

Baubie has a Bachelor of Music degree from Michigan State University with a specialty in music therapy. At MSU, she played tenor saxophone in the Spartan marching band and led the saxophone section her senior year.

Previously, Baubie was a music therapist at Bon Secours Nursing Care Center and children's choir director at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. She currently is a member of the choir and handbell choir and occasionally fills in for the organist.

She is co-owner of Tower Therapeutic Fitness & Wellness, which

opened in January.

"She's my pilates instructor," Roberts said. "I found out she's a pianist. She came to our concert last year and I said to Joseph, 'What about inviting Tamara to play a few pieces?'"

"She's a dynamo," Roberts added. "She is this fine musician who also has a lot of irons in the fire. She has already said she'd like to do it again next year."

"A Musical Potpourri" features works by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Debussy, as well as assorted jazzy numbers, Roberts said.

"There are a couple of heavy pieces," she added, "but it's a mixture that is interesting. And it's not real long — just over an hour."

Roberts said she's particularly looking forward to performing the closing piece, "Dance of the

Russian Sailors" by Gliere.

"At first I thought it would be a piece of cake, but I was wrong," she said. "It's fast. Anytime you play anything fast, you have to work into it. Joseph said I promise the audience will love it — and he's always been right before."

Tickets for "A Musical Potpourri" are \$25 general admission, \$50 VIP, which includes a seat near the front.

Tickets are available online at [gpuuc.org/concerts](http://gpuuc.org/concerts) or by scanning the QR code.



## CROPS:

Continued from page 1B

they try to teach me," he laughed, adding, "I've learned over the years don't buy children's shovels or tools. They want to use adult sizes."

Two boys this year are growing their own gardens at home and come to Crawford for advice, he said.

For the really young ones, he oversees in silence.

"One thing I try to do as we plant, little kids will plant things upside down, but I don't tell them," he said. "I come back later and straighten it out. But they learn so much."

"... It gives me a warm feeling, getting to know these young people and they get to know me," he added. "... My first group, by now, has graduated from college. Someone will come up to me 20 years later and say, 'Do you remember when you taught my Sunday School class?'"



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Brynn Baubie rakes dirt in preparation for seeding.

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**Eastside Dermatology welcomes our new provider Kendall Rabaut**

**Kendall Rabaut, FNP-C** is an American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University, and received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Detroit Mercy. She completed her Master of Science specializing in Family Nursing Practice at Chamberlain University in Illinois. She worked in Dermatology as a Registered Nurse for 3½ years as she obtained her Masters Degree. She has recently participated in two medical mission trips with the Haiti Africa Relief Team (H.A.R.T.) serving underprivileged communities in the Dominican Republic. In her spare time, she enjoys working out, traveling, outdoor activities, and reading.

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## EVENTS:

*Continued from page 5B*

**Food drive**  
The Men's Group at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is hosting their third annual food drive from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. The drop-off location is Fresh Farms Market, 355 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe. Donations benefit The Second Mile Center of Detroit.

**Ford House**  
The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:  
◆ Autumn Landscape Guided Tour, 11 a.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, through Oct. 29; and 10 a.m. Nov. 5 and 10. Admission costs vary.  
◆ Storytime: The Camping Trip, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, through Oct. 29.  
◆ Nooks & Crannies Behind-the-Scenes Guided Tour, Tuesdays through Sundays, through Nov. 10. Tour times and costs vary.  
◆ Little Goblins, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. Includes trick-or-treating, hay rides, candy bags and more. Admission costs vary.  
For tickets and information, visit [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org).

**Library**  
The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org).  
◆ Readers' Choice Book Discussion Group, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.  
◆ Media Mania: Stand-Up Comedy Fundamentals with Heather Joy, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.  
◆ To-Go Craft Kit: Halloween Crafting Fun, all day Monday, Oct. 21, at all three branches.  
◆ Sensory Friendly Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.  
◆ Youth Coding, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.  
◆ You Kill Me: The True Crime Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.  
◆ In Cold Mug Book Discussion, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at The Whiskey Six, 646 St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe.  
◆ 5th & 6th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.  
◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.  
◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.  
◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.  
◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

**Blood drives**  
The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:  
◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, Lakeview High School, 21100 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.  
◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.  
◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, De La Salle High School, 14600 Common, Warren.  
Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

**Chamber**  
The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosts the following networking events:  
◆ After Hours Networking, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at The Storybook Boutique, 17904 Mack, City of Grosse Pointe.  
◆ Before Hours Networking, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, at The Rivers, 900 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

**Rotary**  
The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Sen. Kevin Hertel will speak about cleaning up the Great Lakes. Email [grossepointerotary@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointerotary@gmail.com).

## PGS Dentistry, Growing Smiles provide care from ages 1 to 99

As a new arm of Growing Smiles Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, PGS Dentistry now uniquely allows the office to offer a one-stop shop in St. Clair Shores for every family's full range of dental needs.

With pediatric specialists, orthodontic specialists and now a general dentist all in the same location, patients no longer need to form relationships with multiple providers or travel to various destinations.

Unlike many dentist offices in the surrounding area, Growing Smiles and PGS have made it their mission to provide care throughout the whole life of a patient.

Typically pediatric patients graduate to PGS around the age of 12 or when they start showing they have the vast majority of their adult teeth.

"We have the goal to be a seamless transition from children to adults and a one-stop shop for the entire family, so that they don't have to go anywhere else," said Amber Sharpley, DDS, a general dentist with PGS Dentistry. "Being able to provide care from ages 1 to 99 in different aspects of comprehensive care as well drew me to this office."

Sharpley has worked as a dental hygienist since 2012, but upon growing her love for the field, returned to school and graduated with a doctorate in dental surgery in May 2023.

She was drawn to PGS Dentistry because of its



COURTESY PHOTO

**Amber Sharpley, DDS, a general dentist with PGS Dentistry, is all smiles with a patient.**

uniqueness as an established pediatric office now growing to serve the whole family.

"It's always been important to me to make sure that I'm able to give back to the community," Sharpley said. "So for me, it's special — because I live in this community — to be able to provide for my neighbors and their families."

As part of its commitment to patient care, PGS Dentistry has the latest technology, including a state-of-the-art scanner which offers a smoother and more efficient process for crowns, partials, bite guards and more.

"It eliminates that old-fashioned use of impres-

sion material, which makes the patient a little bit uncomfortable," Sharpley explained. "The scanner makes it more comfortable for the patient and is actually a quicker turnaround too."

PGS Dentistry is in network with "most" insurance companies and its team of insurance experts will be happy to help clients navigate the details.

PGS Dentistry's St. Clair Shores office is located at 22524 Greater Mack Ave.

Current hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

To schedule an appointment, call (586) 800-7471, email [familydentistryscs@pgsdentistry.com](mailto:familydentistryscs@pgsdentistry.com) or visit [pgsdentistry.com](http://pgsdentistry.com).

## Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe recognized as a complex care medical center

Vizient recently reclassified Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital from a community hospital to a complex care medical center.

"We are doing complex, complicated care for people with multiple medical conditions and comorbidities," said Jodie Rappe, M.D., vice president of medical affairs. "We're doing cutting-edge work here."

"We're not 'just' your neighborhood hospital. We have that small-town feel and comfort level, so it's not big and overwhelming. But the care we're providing is significant."

As a level three trauma center, the hospital features newly renovated operating rooms and a cardiac catheterization lab. Its brand-new PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) lab — "that's when they go up into the blood vessels to remove a blockage or place a stent in the heart during a heart attack," Rappe explained — recently earned the institution a 2023 Excellence in Cardiology Award from BMC2, a collaborative focused on improving cardiovascular health and outcomes across Michigan.

U.S. News & World Report has recognized the hospital as high performing in maternity care for the past two years, and it also received a 2023 Michigan Aim for Quality Improvement Award for enhancing care for mothers and babies statewide.

"Our labor and delivery unit is thriving and our birth numbers are consistently increasing," Rappe noted, "but we're also being recognized nationally."

The hospital has earned a four-out-of-five-star overall quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, an "A" LeapFrog Hospital Safety Grade



Jodie Rappe, M.D.

and ranks 13th out of 204 hospitals nationwide for top decile performance in quality by Vizient. It also holds a Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, awarded to only about 8 percent of hospitals, which is a point of pride for Rappe.

"That's one of the awards I'm most proud of," she said. "It reflects a genuine partnership among doctors, nurses and hospital administration in shared decision-making, all aimed at fostering a quality work environment and ensuring patient safety. Very few hospitals attain that designation."

When reviewing Corewell GP's labs, the College of American Pathology praised them for multiple best practices.

"Not only did we receive no negative findings, but one inspector joked, 'You know, this is kind of disappointing. In my entire career, I've always been able to find something. I could find nothing here,'" Rappe recalled.

The hospital's advanced technology includes ultrasound elastography, which detects and characterizes liver fibrosis using non-invasive sound waves to assess the liver's elasticity.

It has also resumed pediatric surgeries post-COVID and is expanding its primary care staff, with some doctors available to see patients within a week.

"Because that's the goal," Rappe emphasized. "As fabulous as this hospital is, your first choice is never to have to come here. Finding a good primary care doctor for preventative care is ideal."

Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital is located at 468 Cadieux in the City of Grosse Pointe.

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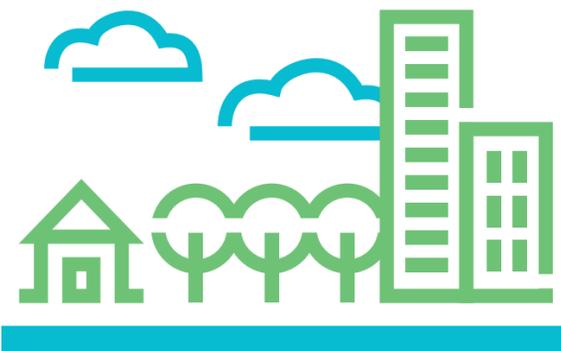


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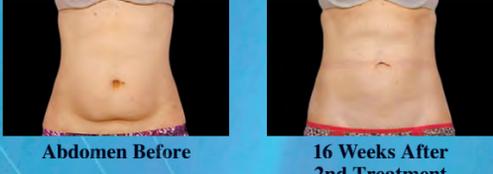
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# Dr. Shauna Diggs, CosmedicDerm offer the latest in skin care

Wrinkles and blemishes are just a few of the thousands of skin conditions that affect the skin. Some cause mild symptoms, while others may be serious and interfere with everyday life.

A dermatologist is a doctor who specializes in treating the skin, hair and nails. While some treatments improve the look of your skin, others, such as checkups for skin cancer, can save lives.

Dr. Shauna Ryder Diggs is Michigan's leader in comprehensive skin health and rejuvenation. Her practice, CosmedicDerm, is located in The Village of Grosse Pointe and offers patients the most cutting-edge treatments available.

PiQo4 is the latest laser technology on the market and is used to help with a number of different pigment conditions or for overall rejuvenation. The PiQo4 laser targets pigment in the skin to remove sun and age spots, freckles and birth marks, and create a more even skin tone.

This also is the best way to remove tattoos because it removes all color pigments, meaning fewer treatments for the patients, Diggs said.

Along with improving abnormal pigment, the PiQo4 laser also is used for overall skin rejuvena-

tion. The laser stimulates new collagen grown to promote smoother, younger-looking skin.

"This is a great way for patients to just improve their overall look," Diggs said.

The NuEra Tight and Legend Pro are two new devices in the office. They provide the most powerful solution on the market today for non-invasive skin tightening, reduction of cellulite and the treatment of wrinkles.

Using radio frequency, wrinkled areas on the neck and cellulite on the body can be gently heated to tighten the skin. Typically treatments last about 30 minutes and are very comfortable with no downtime.

Diggs listens to patients and responds by offering the latest in dermatology, which is why she recently added the PiQo4, Splendor X, NuEra and Legend Pro to her practice.

Additional cosmetic options are available, as are medical treatments for acne, skin cancer and other skin conditions.

Diggs cares for all ages and is an American Board of Dermatology-certified dermatologist, a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and a Fellow of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery.



Dr. Shauna Diggs

She's a graduate of the University of Michigan and served as the first medical director of the Detroit Medical Center Advanced Laser Treatment Center.

She is the creator of the CosmedicDerm Professional Skin Care line, products formulated with green tea, vitamin- and fruit-based antioxidants and retinol, all of which promote skin health and natural beauty.

In addition, she recently was named one of Hour Magazine's Top Docs.

"I like to think I bring the latest technology, but practice in a traditional way," she said.

CosmedicDerm is located at 17000 Kercheval, Ste. 215, City of Grosse Pointe. For more information, visit [drshaunadiggs.com](http://drshaunadiggs.com) or call (313) 882-5777.

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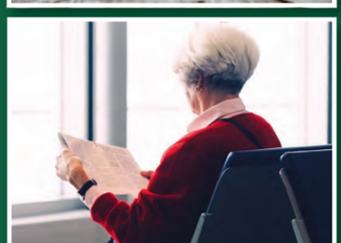
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Julie Temrowski, RN

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We are an eldercare service that provides a full range of personalized home care needs to older adults in the Metro Detroit area. Our services are completely customizable and vary from client to client, making sure we meet your loved ones non-medical needs. Temrowski Eldercare offers in-home service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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**Mathew Temrowski, CDP**  
Certified Dementia Practitioner, Certified Dementia Educator

**Administrative staff**  
**Michelle Columbo**  
Certified Dementia Practitioner, Certified Dementia Educator

**Call 313.415.0663**  
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[www.temrowskieldercare.com](http://www.temrowskieldercare.com)



COURTESY PHOTO

Temrowski Eldercare is located at 18455 Mack Ave., and provides a wealth of comprehensive services so older adults can age in place.

## Age in place with in-home, individualized care

Temrowski Eldercare specializes in supporting its clients as they age in place with dignity and comfort.

Its comprehensive services include advocating during medical appointments with feedback to the family, transportation, personal care, meal preparation, medication reminders, shopping and errands, light housekeeping, laundry and linens, and dementia support and training by a registered nurse, as well as end-of-life care alongside hospice agencies.

"I love taking care of the elderly," said Julie Temrowski, a registered nurse who started the business alongside her

son, Matthew, five years ago. "It's just always been my passion. I've been a nurse for 40-plus years and I've always worked in the geriatric field of nursing.

"Both my mother and father had dementia and for four years we had in-home care for them," she added, "which led me to believe that I could do a better job than what was being done for them, so that's what led me to start this company."

Julie Temrowski is a long-time Grosse Pointe resident, active member in the community and has worked as a registered nurse since 1982. Matthew Temrowski is a life-long Pointer and

graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University, as well as a Certified Dementia Practitioner license.

Temrowski Eldercare operates out of 18455 Mack, with clients throughout metro Detroit, including the Grosse Pointes, St. Clair Shores, Roseville, Eastpointe, Fraser, Warren, Sterling Heights and Macomb Township.

To discuss care plans for yourself or a loved one, visit [temrowskieldercare.com/contact](http://temrowskieldercare.com/contact) or contact Temrowski directly at (313) 415-0663.

# Hackett Homecare: 'Our family caring for your family'

At Hackett Homecare, clients always receive top-of-the-line service. Hackett has core values of trust, honesty, integrity and compassion. Their slogan, "Our family, caring for yours," demonstrates the personal touch clients will receive.

Founder and owner John Hackett is a Grosse Pointe Farms native who grew up in the Grosse Pointes. John has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing – BSN. After playing professional baseball he moved back to Grosse Pointe and raised his family here. He has worked in the medical field his entire life.

The business, Hackett Homecare, began as he took care of his own parents, who struggled with issues related to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. He decided to create a homecare business for other elderly people like his parents.

"I knew that I could help a lot of people in their later years providing them with an extremely high quality of care along with loving, compassionate and honest caregivers," he said.

Hackett Homecare specializes in companion care, personal care, Alzheimer's/dementia and Parkinson's care, traumatic brain injury, ALS and catastrophic injury care.

"If you or a loved one is growing increasingly dependent on others with everyday activities," the



company's brochure says, "Hackett Homecare can help regain and restore your quality of life."

"I'm just very blessed to have some outstanding caregivers who are hard-working, loving and caring and that's what makes it work seamlessly," he said.

Many of his caregivers have been with him for 15-plus years and embody the company's core values. They are the best, the heartbeat of the company and the reason why the company has had success. Robyn, Megan, Crystal, Jeff, Sheryl, Cathy, Tracy, Roberta, Kathleen, Jenn, Pam, Jose, Necole, Natalie, Juanita, Sue, Jamika, Allison and John are some of the phenomenal caregivers that make up Hackett Homecare. His staff consists of registered nurses (RNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and companion aids, and provide care from a few hours at a time to 24/7 around-the-clock care.

"Robyn is one of the kindest and most loving individuals there is with a heart of gold and has a

passion to help seniors. Megan provides a wealth of knowledge with her RN care and is a leader in the industry. They work tirelessly to make sure everything runs smoothly."

Above all, Hackett prides himself on the depth and quality of service the company provides, which sets them apart. Hackett states, "I wouldn't place a caregiver into any client's home unless I felt comfortable enough to have them in my parents' home. Having caregivers for my own parents, I completely understand the importance of going the extra mile to only hire high-quality caregivers who have a passion for caring for those in need. If they don't meet the most stringent qualities, we will not place them in any client's home. We are so blessed and I don't take that for granted."

To learn more, visit HackettHomecare.com or email HackettHomecare@gmail.com. To schedule a free consultation, call John Hackett at (313) 319-8050.

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*Lifelong Grosse Pointe Resident  
John Hackett*

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# Ferrara Dermatology uses a pan-facial approach to skincare

Having offered comprehensive dermatologic care covering both medical and aesthetic needs since 1960, the Skin & Laser Center at Ferrara Dermatology has both the foundational history and cutting-edge techniques to give the highest quality care.

Consistently keeping an eye on the latest clinical trials and approved products, the practice's two board-certified dermatologists, Dr. Richard Ferrara and Dr. Katie Caretti, recently attended a master injection series to further build their expertise on the science, techniques and new features in the filler market.

"We're always trying to fine-tune our skills and see if some of the national experts have little contributing points that make our injections better," Ferrara said.

With their passion to provide a pan-facial approach to care, the doctors now can offer patients Volux, a product with special properties that help redefine the jawline.

"With the whole repertoire of fillers, we can concentrate on working the whole face and not just the old-school way of injecting around the nasolabial folds or just the cheeks," Ferrara said. "We can really assess and have tools to manage the whole face, which is an exciting direction.

"It's expanding our repertoire of being able to offer the full servicing of these fillers and hydrators," he added.

Ferrara Dermatology Clinic is located at 20043 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. For more information, call (313) 884-5100 or visit ferraraderm.com.



**Dr. Richard Ferrara**



**Dr. Katie Caretti**

## HEALTHY SKIN *starts here*

Under one roof, Ferrara Dermatology & the Skin and Laser Center of Grosse Pointe offer dermatologic, medical, surgical and aesthetic services to treat and improve a variety of skin conditions.



From yearly skin examinations to the management of skin cancer and other skin conditions such as acne, psoriasis and eczema, our board-certified dermatologists, Dr. Richard Ferrara and Dr. Katherine Caretti, provide individualized services to help you maintain healthy skin throughout the stages of your life.



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**WWW.FERRADERM.COM**

# Grosse Pointe Public Schools: Financial Success Story!

## 2024 Audit Results Show Growth and Strong Financial Management

We are excited to announce the outstanding financial achievements of the Grosse Pointe Public School System for the 2023-2024 fiscal year! Our district is not only **financially sound** and back on track, but also thriving thanks to **responsible budgeting** and **strategic oversight**.

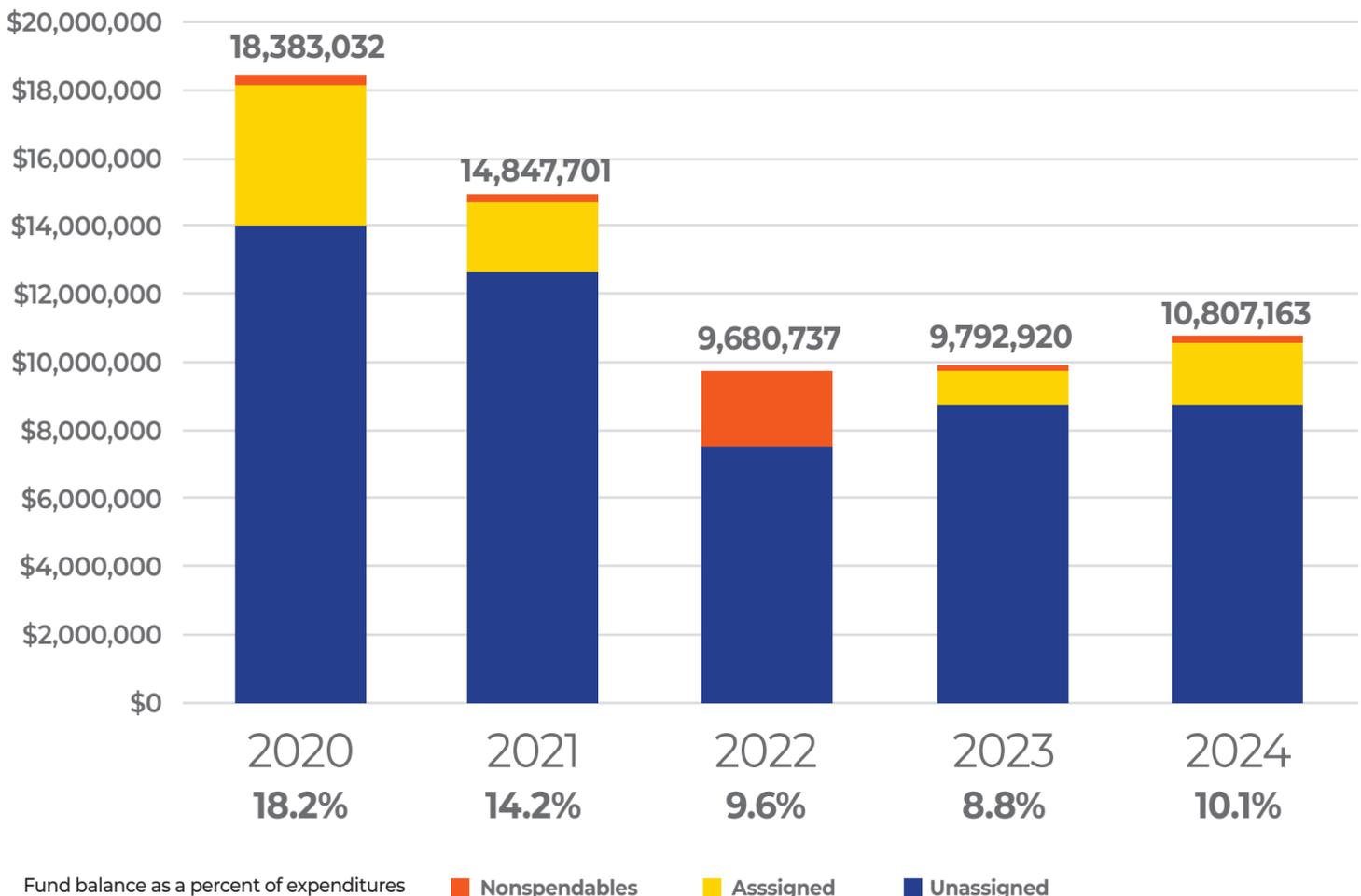
### WHAT SETS THIS YEAR APART?

**Prudent Spending** – With revenues exceeding expenditures, the GPPSS added more than \$1 million to the fund balance!

**Fund Equity Growth** – The district’s fund balance increased to \$10.8 million, representing a 10.1% fund balance, ensuring stability for the future.

**Controlled Spending** – Careful financial management kept expenses in check while ensuring the continuation of our exceptional student programs.

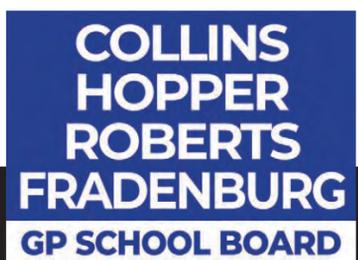
**Clean Audit** – Once again, GPPSS received a clean audit, confirming transparency and accountability in every dollar spent.



This was not easy, as we had been in a structural deficit, evidenced by the significant operating losses incurred in prior years. The remarkable turnaround is the result of **visionary leadership** from the Board of Education, which passed the budget on **June 20, 2023**, and the Administration’s skillful management of district resources.



**A stronger future is here, and Grosse Pointe schools are thriving. Let’s keep moving forward together!**  
Vote Collins, Fradenburg, Hopper and Roberts!



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# LIFE & LEISURE

**THE GROSSE POINTE ACADEMY**  
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2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 8C & 9C COMICS

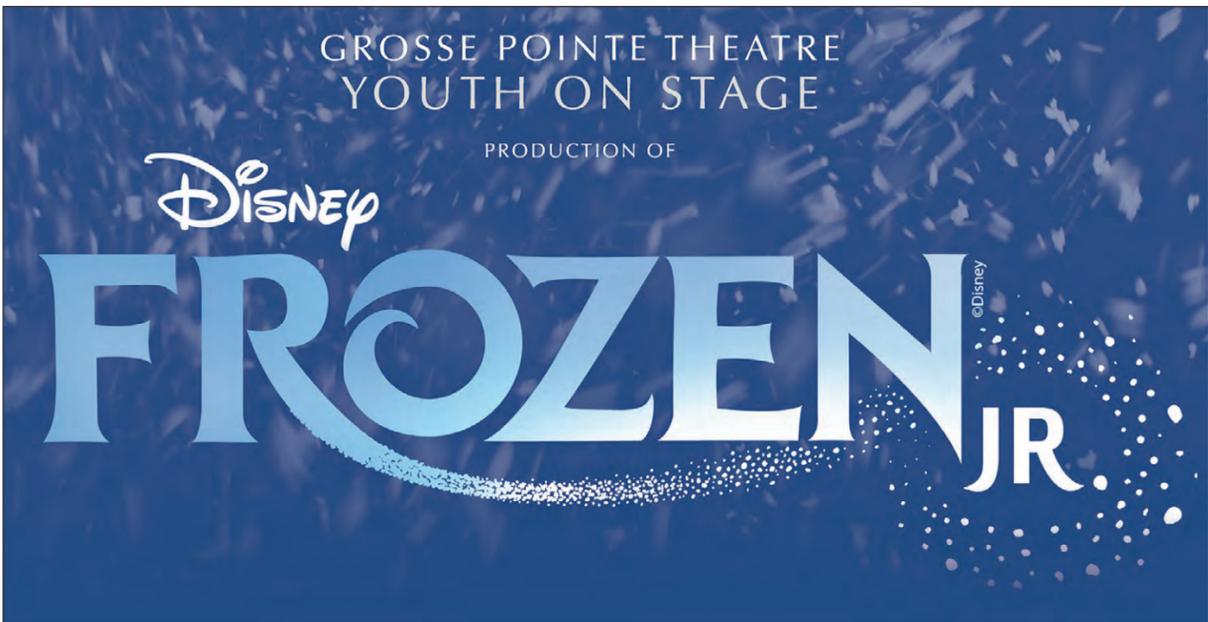
## 'Frozen Jr.' hits the stage Nov. 1-3

Participants in Grosse Pointe Theatre's Youth on Stage program will put their hard work into play when they perform Disney's "Frozen Jr.," from Nov. 1 to 3, at Parcels Middle School.

With music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson Lopez and Robert Lopez, and book by Jennifer Lee, "Frozen Jr." is an enchanting modern classic from Disney.

Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee, the 2018 Broadway musical brings Elsa, Anna and the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage.

The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production. It's a story of true love and acceptance between sisters and expands on the emotional relationship and journey



between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood.

The Youth on Stage production will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, and Saturday, Nov. 2, as well as 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3.

A special sensory-friendly production takes place 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2. Sensory-friendly performances are designed to create a welcoming and comfortable arts experience for people with autism, sensory sensitivities or other social, learning or cognitive disabilities. It also is perfect for young, first-time theatergoers.

The sensory-friendly performance includes an advanced social nar-

rative with pictures; reduced special effects and lighting, reduced sound levels, quiet space in the lobby and allergy-free snacks. Additionally, the house lights will remain on and a visual schedule and simplified synopsis will be available at the performance. Personal headphones, cushions or fidgets are welcome and attendees are welcome to move around as needed.

Grosse Pointe Theatre's Youth on Stage program has been

an annual offering to the community since 2001. The program teaches youth, ages 6 to 14, basic acting and performance techniques through participation in classroom sessions and live performances under the guidance and direction of seasoned actors and directors from Grosse Pointe Theatre, as well as guest artists. The program also offers an opportunity for parents and older siblings to participate in the Youth on Stage shows by help-

ing with sets, costumes, props, makeup and backstage crews.

Grosse Pointe residency is not a requirement. Youth on Stage provides a safe, cooperative environment where boys and girls can develop a positive self-image while learning various aspects of theater, including audition preparation, the rehearsal process, acting techniques, character analysis and development, improvisational

skills, speech projection and clarity, mental and physical preparation for roles and technical aspects of theatrical productions.

The next Youth on Stage production is "The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition," set for April 11 to 13. A sensory-friendly performance takes place April 12.

Tickets to Disney's "Frozen Jr." are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, and may be purchased online at [gpt.org/youth-on-stage/](http://gpt.org/youth-on-stage/)

**ASK THE EXPERTS** By Dr. Renee Catrambone

## Teens and anxiety

Teenagers with anxiety are common now in my office. Rates of anxiety disorders among this age group have increased significantly, leaving parents and pediatricians struggling to know how to help. Is this a normal anxious feeling or is it a disorder that needs some intervention?

Due to the internet, many kids have self-diagnosed anxiety disorders when they are facing normal anxious feelings. Anything that is new, important and has uncertain outcomes creates anxiety in all of us. Giving a speech in front of the class, learning to drive and taking an important test can trigger anxiety in most teenagers.

A racing heart, upset stomach or shortness of breath are normal reactions to fear or danger. When we face our fears, the anxious feelings eventually release their grip. If teens are unable to do what they want to do or need to do, this is a problem.

If the teen is anxious, but is able to give the speech and feels better afterward, then this is normal anxiety. We should applaud their bravery in facing their fear and encourage them to do more anxiety-producing events. When normal anxiety is something we try to avoid or help our child avoid, the monster grows and becomes more intense. When teens can't go to school because they are vomiting outside the building or can't go into the movie theater with friends because they're paralyzed with fear, it is a problem that needs help.

Interventions like ladders of exposure, cognitive behavior therapy and occasionally medications like antidepressants are necessary to help teens improve their ability to face their fears and anxiety. Ladders of exposure start with small steps toward their biggest

fear. Have your child make a list — like driving by the theater, going in to look at the lobby, going in to buy a ticket, going with one person and just sitting in the theater for a few minutes during a matinee — and build up to going into a crowded theater with friends. Applaud their bravery at each small step.

As a parent, you can help by accepting and recognizing your child's anxiety while keeping your boundaries applauding bravery. You might say, "I know you are nervous about this speech, but you can't stay home and I know you can be brave," rather than, "There is nothing to be nervous about. You will do fine."

When the intensity is great, don't tell them to calm down. I don't think that ever helped anyone. Ask questions and be curious. Would you like a hug? Would it help to practice in front of us? Would it help if we went for a walk? Would it help if I leave you alone? When things are not intense, have them develop mindfulness practices to help ground them and get out of their heads. Praise the bravery of anyone doing something that makes them anxious. If they still can't do the things they want to do or need to do, get help from your doctor or mental health provider.

Dr. Renee Catrambone trained at University of Chicago Children's Hospital and has been in pediatric practice for 25 years. She has a special interest in child mental health and emotional growth. She currently sees patients at Cornerstone Pediatrics.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org).

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# GROSSE POINTE Gabby



POINTING YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH REAL-LIFE ADVICE!

## Creating a sense of belonging with other neighborhood dads

**Dear Gabby:** I recently moved to the Pointes, and I'm feeling somewhat out of place among all the other dads. They seem so involved with their kids' activities, home improvement projects and balancing work-life stuff.

How do I fit in and feel more comfortable in this suburban dad life? — Left out in the Woods

**Dear Left Out,** It's normal to feel overwhelmed at first when stepping into suburban dad territory — and Grosse Pointe can feel like a tough nut to crack. There are so many people who have lived here their whole lives, which can leave newbies feeling like outsiders looking in. The key is to understand that no one has it all figured out, and

everyone's juggling the same set of responsibilities in their own way. Start by getting involved in your kids' activities — whether it's coaching a sports team, attending school events, or even just hanging out at the park. Home improvement dilemmas can be a fun way to bond with neighbors. Grosse Pointers take pride in their

homes and are not afraid to tell anyone who will listen about their latest projects — both good and disastrous. Ask a neighbor or acquaintance for advice — this will help break the ice.

As for work-life balance, it's always a challenge, but you'll find that suburban dad life is less about having it all together and more about finding your own rhythm. Give yourself time, get involved, and remember that behind every perfect-looking dad is some-

one just trying to keep it all together too.



— Gabby

We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to [advice@grossepointenews.com](mailto:advice@grossepointenews.com).

## Healing after accusations and heartbreak

**DEAR ANNIE:** I have a friend I'll call "Scott." We have known each other for 15 years or so and have been retired for the last few years. He enjoyed working before he retired due to a plant closure.

Now Scott drinks from eight a.m. until two or so in the afternoon. He is in good spirits in the morning but is an absolutely depressed person by two.

He tries to tell you that the world sucks now compared to when we grew

up. It's so hard to listen to him go on about this.

I want to tell him that he needs help, but I am afraid to do so. I can't even hang out with him due to his problem. I know where to send him for help but have no idea on how to send him there. — Want My Friend Back.

**DEAR WANT:** Your concern for Scott is totally valid. It sounds like he's been stuck in a bad place for quite some

time, and he might not even realize how out of control things have gotten.

When he's sober, share your worries with him. Let him know you want to help him if he's open to it and that ultimately, you just want to see him happy again.

You can't force Scott to stop drinking, but the reminder that he has you cheering in his corner might do more good than you know. Check out an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, too.



## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

**DEAR ANNIE:** My husband and I are in our 70s. We have friends who are in their 40s, with two kids (6 and 4). We have gone out to lunches with the four of them, and it's always been a bad experience. The kids tear through the restaurant and scream. It's becoming very embarrassing.

The next time they invite us, we don't want to be in a restaurant again. We don't want to go to their place because the wife is a hoarder and there is only one room we can sit in — and besides, the kids still run and scream in their own home.

What do we do or say the

next time they invite us for lunch? — Tired of Chaos

**DEAR TIRED:** The energy of young kids is unmatched, so it's understandable that you're frustrated.

Next time your friends invite you to lunch, why not suggest a place with ample outdoor space so the kids can run around? Some restaurants offer outdoor areas with lawns and sometimes even a playground. Or perhaps you could orga-

nize a picnic in a park, so the children can get all their energy out without disrupting the adults.

Another option is to invite them over to your house and, provided the parents are OK with it, put on a movie for the kids, complete with popcorn and blankets.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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GROSSE POINTE NEWS: SHORT STORY CONTEST

Introducing the Grosse Pointe News

## NARRATIVE NOOK

### Calling All Writers!

Enter to be a Featured Author in the Grosse Pointe News Narrative Nook!

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**Wine Talk**  
by Dan Berger

## Wine bargain time?

Wine sales throughout the United States are slower than maple syrup at a January campsite breakfast, mainly because consumers are extremely tired of drinking high-alcohol wines.

Moreover, alternative beverages that are much lower in alcohol, or even have zero alcohol (such as "mocktails"), have invaded the beverage scene and are taking up permanent residence.

The result is a chaotic situation for retail stores that specialize in fine wine. Supermarket chain stores are offering as deep a discount as they dare, and still sales are sluggish. Most wine industry analysts that chart these periodic industry downturns know they come along regularly. Wine is, after all, an agricultural product that conforms to the ups and downs most ag products go through. You'd think this will lead to lower wine prices

See WINE, page 3C

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# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



As a self-proclaimed skincare product aficionado, I've dabbled in virtually every blush out there, from high-end luxury brands to drugstore finds. My quest has always been for a blush that actually sticks around and something my wallet can attest to, given the countless trials and purchases.

So, when my friend suggested trying the Makeup By Mario Soft Pop Blush Stick, I was both skeptical and hopeful. With a spending freeze on the horizon, I decided to test

one final blush and landed on a winner.

I visited Sephora and picked up the Soft Pop Blush Stick. This product is a game-changer for anyone who's ever struggled with blush that seems to vanish midway through the day.

The blush stick comes in a diverse range of shades, thoughtfully designed to complement every skin tone. Whether you prefer soft pinks or deeper berries, there's a shade to suit your complexion and mood.

The application is incredibly straightforward.

The stick format means you can swipe it directly onto your cheeks and blend with ease, no need for extra tools or brushes. It's the perfect solution for those of us who are always on the go or simply prefer a fuss-free beauty routine.

What truly sets this blush apart, though, is its longevity. I'm talk-



ing about a blush that truly lasts all day. From the early morning rush to late-night outings, this blush stays vibrant and fresh, which is nothing short of miraculous.

I often wake up looking a bit pale and zombie-like, but the Makeup By Mario blush breathes life and color into my face,

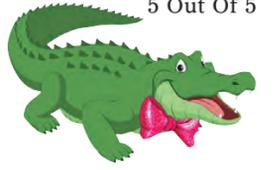
making me look awake and radiant throughout the day. It's the blush that finally solves the problem of fleeting color and has earned a permanent spot in my makeup routine.

In short, if you've ever battled with blush that fades too quickly, the Makeup By Mario Soft Pop Blush Stick is worth trying. It's a reliable, vibrant option that delivers on its promises, even for someone with a borderline obsessive relationship with makeup products. Available at Sephora, this blush

stick might just be the answer to all your blush-related woes. I'm giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators for obvious reasons.

*We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com.*

5 Out Of 5



## A cozy Saturday dinner

### Courtesy of Mombeau's Table



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Comfort food cooking season has arrived and I could not be more excited! Make way for braises, soups, stews, casseroles and slow roasted dishes that are "stick to your ribs" hearty and delicious. The kitchen becomes the warmest room in the house and the cook gets to play with the season's best fruits and vegetables.

I recently had a dinner party and wanted to feature some great fall produce. Since the squash displays are now front and center in every grocery store, acorn squash

seemed like a wise starting point. They are cute, small, sweet and nutty when caramelized in the oven.

For this dinner, I decided to stuff them with a rice and sausage filling. Each person got their own beautifully stuffed squash.

To keep with the theme, I added diced apples, sage and rosemary. Then I threw in lots of grated parmesan cheese. Comforting doesn't always have to mean extra butter and cheese but come on, it helps.

The squash is stuffed and put back into the oven where it becomes

hot, bubbly and golden brown. Everyone was very happy. It may have been cold and windy outside but inside it was warm, cozy and delicious.

This recipe will convert anyone who is on the fence about squash. I rounded out the meal with a crisp green salad and a hot baguette. You don't have to serve fancy, complicated dinners to your friends. Beautiful comfort food can be achieved with simple, seasonal ingredients.

Cheers, Mombeau

#### Sausage Stuffed Acorn Squash (Serves 4)

- 2 acorn squash
- 1 lb sweet Italian sausage, casings removed
- ¾ cup white rice
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 apples (Honeycrisp or Granny Smith), diced
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 tbsp each chopped sage and rosemary

1 cup chicken stock

1 cup grated parmesan cheese

2 tbsp olive oil

2 tbsp butter

Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 350. Trim the top and bottom of the acorn squash, with a serrated knife, so it can lie flat without rolling. Then cut the squash down the center and remove the seeds with a spoon.

Brush with one tablespoon of olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake flesh side down on a parchment paper lined baking sheet for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool. While the squash is cooking, cook the rice to package directions. Fluff with a fork and add to a large mixing bowl.

In a skillet, brown the sausage in remaining olive oil. Remove with a slotted spoon and add to the rice. In the same skillet, cook the butter, onion and apples. Season generously with salt and pepper.

Cook over medium heat until soft, about 10 minutes. During the last

couple minutes add in the garlic, sage and rosemary. Pour the mixture into the bowl with the rice and sausage along with the chicken stock and three quarters cup of the cheese. Mix well.

Flip the squash halves up and scoop some of the flesh out to create a larger well for the stuffing. Add the flesh into

the rice mixture so as not to waste it. Generously spoon the stuffing onto each squash. Mound them up!

Then sprinkle on the remaining quarter cup of parmesan. Turn the oven up to 400 and bake the squash for 30 minutes.

For an extra brown top, broil for one to two minutes at the end.

## WINE:

Continued from page 2C

at retail stores. And you would be right, but with some provisos. First, of course, is the demographic market in which you live. Wine prices in small towns rarely go down immediately; major cities are the best places for discounts.

Also, the downturn is barely a year old, and although prices have come down for some items, premium wine prices are the last to decline. Savvy buyers check internet offerings regularly before making a decision. Sometimes it pays to have the wine shipped to you if the price is low enough to cover shipping costs.

Based on the price of grapes this year, the best value in the coming year will probably be cabernet sauvignon. Napa Valley cabernet grapes that normally sell for \$8,000 to \$9,000 per ton (which equates to wines that sell for \$80 to \$90 a bottle) sold in September for \$1,000 a ton.

By Oct. 5, several grape growers had agreed to give their fruit to anyone without charge if they

paid for the picking of grapes as well as trucking them to a winery! And still, there were no takers!

Since there are costs to produce wine, do not expect to buy \$80 wines for \$12 anytime soon, but anybody can see from the above numbers that cabernet in the coming two years should be good value—prices will be soft.

However, most discounts will not be seen on high-image wines. The best deals will be in "house brands" developed by fine wine shops. Many will be made by contract wineries from better fruit than has been available for such wines in about 20 years.

The best bets in cabernet, now and soon, may well be wines from Chile and France. They tend to offer good value in wines of nice structure, which typically means alcohol levels below 14 percent. Too many California cabs are a bit too alcoholic for today's consumer seeking lower alc.

One major retailer told me last week that he normally gets about five offers a week from wineries to produce a quality house brand, white or

red. In the last few weeks, he said, "I'm getting about 30 to 40 offers per week."

Final tip: Watch the vintages. Some older wines from vintages four and five years old are being closed out not because of the glut but because the wine is tired. Try before you buy.

Dan Berger lives in Sonoma County, California, where he publishes "Vintage Experiences," a weekly wine newsletter. Write to him at [winenut@gmail.com](mailto:winenut@gmail.com).

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4C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHERIDAN ROAD PRODUCTIONS

Hermione Corfield as Kirsty, delivering some flowers in the 2021 movie "The Road Dance," directed by Richie Adams.

MOVIE REVIEW  
"The Road Dance"  
2021 - Not Rated  
1 hr 56 min  
★★★★★

The recent film "The Road Dance" harkens back to Hollywood films of the 1930s and 40s. It's an epic tale that deals with love, loss, and perseverance in the face of adversity.

It features strong females who rise above hardships and if it were made back in the day, would most likely star

someone like a young Bette Davis.

This fine movie is based on the novel by John MacKay and is the directorial debut of Richie Adams, who co-wrote it with MacKay. It's supposedly inspired by a true story.

This beautiful film is set in the Outer Hebrides, a chain of remote islands off the coast of northern Scotland. The action takes place in 1914, in the period leading up to World War I.

Cinematographer Petra Korner does an amazing job presenting the breathtaking landscapes. She weaves beautiful scenes into the action to paint a striking portrait of the area. The rugged coastline. Rolling hills. Desolate fields. And the modest dwellings in the

small village. It brings to mind the old adage, "It's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there."

Our story is centered around Kirsty (Hermione Corfield), a headstrong young woman who lives with her sister Annie (Ali Fumiko Whitney), and mother Mairi (Morven Christie) in a remote part of Scotland. Her father died when she was young and the girls were raised by their mother.

The three live in a modest home and they just barely eek out a living farming the land. It's a bleak existence with a less-than-promising future in store for them.

Kirsty has her share of young suitors, but the one who she's drawn to is Murdo (Will Fletcher). The two have a love of reading in common and



The young lovers Murdo (Fletcher) & Kirsty (Corfield).



A bittersweet celebration.



Sisters Annie (Ali Fumiko Whitney) and Kirsty (Hermione Corfield).

# Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



Doctor Maclean (Gatiss).

keeps an eye on her. The doctor is a worldly gent, and he recently left a practice in London. It makes you wonder why he'd choose to relocate to such a remote setting.

It isn't long before Kirsty discovers she's pregnant. If the villagers found out, her life would become a living hell. When she begins showing, she does everything in her power to keep it secret. She binds her midriff with cloth strips to hide her condition. Her deception can only work for so long and she eventually tells her sister and mother. Then things take a turn for the worse and she goes into labor early.

I won't reveal any more of the plot and I'll just say the story takes a number of twists and turns — some expected, but most will catch you totally off guard.

I thoroughly enjoyed "The Road Dance" for a number of reasons. The cast was absolutely perfect, filled with a number of actors you've no doubt seen in other British productions.

This is Ms. Corfield's first leading role and does she ever shine. Her performance is nothing short of riveting. This is definitely her breakout movie, and I know she's well on her way to a successful career.

As mentioned earlier, the cinematography will make you want to pack your bags and book the next flight to Scotland.

Another factor that made the film so memorable is the gorgeous soundtrack by Carlos Jose Alvarez. It's a nice mix of Celtic music, ranging from lively jigs and reels to sad, lilting melodies.

I must say, it's one of those movies that I found emotionally draining, so be sure to have some tissues on hand. The only nit I



have to pick with the film is the ending. Without spoiling it for you, let's just say it sort of came out of left field. I definitely didn't see it coming. But since it's supposed to be based on true events, I'll cut the filmmakers some slack.

Currently streaming for free on Kanopy and Hoopla (with your library card), Tubi, and Vudu. Also on Prime Video, and to rent on Apple TV, and other services.

Note to parents: The film is not rated but I'd probably give it a PG-13..

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

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.

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# FIRE IN THE SKY

The aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights, graced the Michigan sky again this year the evening of Oct. 10. The luminous colors are visible when the earth's magnetic fields interact with charged particles from the sun. The northern lights occur year round, but are better observed during winter.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNA SYSLING

Left and above photos come from Calumet, Mich., in the Keweenaw peninsula.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH STAHL

Above and above right photos were taken near Traverse City, Mich.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY CURMI-HERRERA  
Left and above right photos come from Roland Road in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA SYSLING  
From Calumet, Mich., in the Keweenaw peninsula.



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**Kid Scoop Together**

# Respect Bingo

Directions: Play this game with a friend or a family member. When you see a person doing each of the respectful behaviors on the bingo card, mark it off. Who can complete one row first? Can you cross off all the behaviors?

HOLDING A DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE	SOMEONE SAYING "PLEASE"	SOMEONE SAYING "THANK YOU"
TWO PEOPLE SHAKING HANDS	SOMEONE SHARING WITH ANOTHER	SOMEONE PICKING UP LITTER
SOMEONE BEING KIND TO ANIMALS	SOMEONE LISTENING WITH RESPECT	SOMEONE SAYING A KIND WORD
FRIENDS HELPING EACH OTHER	SOMEONE SAYING "I'M SORRY"	SHOWING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

HOLDING A DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE	SOMEONE SAYING "PLEASE"	SOMEONE SAYING "THANK YOU"
TWO PEOPLE SHAKING HANDS	SOMEONE SHARING WITH ANOTHER	SOMEONE PICKING UP LITTER
SOMEONE BEING KIND TO ANIMALS	SOMEONE LISTENING WITH RESPECT	SOMEONE SAYING A KIND WORD
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**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**This week's word: RESPECT**

The noun **respect** means treating people, animals and things in a kind and thoughtful way.

Anya showed **respect** for her neighborhood by picking up litter.

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

# The Winning Game

The Game of Respect

## Why Play a Game That Everyone Wins?

To be a winner or to be successful in life, you need to be smart in a lot of different ways. Reading, writing and arithmetic are very important, but so is knowing how to get along with others.

### Game Rules:

- 2-4 players or teams
- Find a marker for each player or team.
- Flip a coin to move. Heads: move two spaces. Tails: move one space.
- Play until everyone finishes and you are all winners!

**Standards Link:** Follow multiple-step directions. Recall information. Connect prior knowledge.

### Bonus Challenge:

How can you turn losing a game into a win?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Extra! Extra!**

## What is fairness?

Cut words and photos from the newspaper to show what you think fairness sounds like, looks like and feels like.

**Standards Link:** Make reasonable assertions through supportive citation. Analyze text.

**START**

Spoke kindly to family member. **FREE TURN!**

**GO!** Fed your pet. **TAKE THE SHORTCUT!**

Describe something your family did together.

Respected your sister's or brother's privacy. **MOVE AHEAD TWO SPACES!**

Cleaned your room without complaining. **Do a cheer!**

Shared your toys. **Give a high five to the person next to you.**

Find a newspaper article about people cooperating.

Act out making your bed.

Asked permission to play outside. **MOVE AHEAD ONE SPACE.**

Name two ways you and the person on your right are alike.

**PUT-DOWNS! YELLING! INSULTS! LOSE A TURN!**

Compliment the person on your left.

**SMILE!**

**LISTEN**

Find an example in the newspaper of someone helping their community. Tell why you respect this person.

Tell about a time you helped at school.

Name a volunteer job you could do.

Planted flowers. **TAKE THE SHORTCUT!**

**BE TOLERANT**

Gossiping? **LOSE A TURN.**

Close your eyes and draw your home.

Name something you own that is reusable.

Forgot to take out trash. **LOSE A TURN.**

**Reduce:** Find something you could do without.

**BE HELPFUL**

Tell about a time someone was kind to you.

Talk about things that make you feel better when you're sad.

Cut through a neighbor's yard. **LOSE A TURN!**

Talk about things that make you feel better when you're sad.

Name three great things about another player.

Talk about a time you showed kindness.

**FREE TURN!**

Help without being asked. **MOVE AHEAD ONE SPACE.**

Act out helping someone carry a big bag of groceries.

Thank another player for playing this game with you.

You treat others with respect despite differences in age, gender, race or religion. **YOU ARE A WINNER!**

**FINISH**

**BE TOLENTANT**

**Local News**

Find a newspaper article that shows teamwork. Explain why you chose it.

Tell what it feels like to be treated with respect.

Find something at home you could recycle.

**BE HELPFUL**

Interrupting. **LOSE A TURN.**

Compliment each player.

You helped a younger student. Nice!

Polite to yard duty teacher. **TAKE THE SHORTCUT!**

**SHHHHHH!**

Talked when teacher was giving directions. **DO NOT TALK UNTIL NEXT TURN!**

Polite to school custodian. **MOVE AHEAD ONE SPACE!**

Tell how you help keep your classroom clean.

Name two classmates who are respectful to others.

Listened quietly while a classmate spoke. **MOVE AHEAD ONE SPACE.**

Helped someone carry something. **FREE TURN!**

Name a law you must obey.

Shake hands with the person on your right.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**  
 Does fair always mean equal? Should bedtime be the same for all family members?

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

**FAIRNESS**

Draw lines to divide the pizza into equal slices to share with your friends. Name friends you are sharing pizza with:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Standards Link:** Recognize, name and compare fractional parts.

**Double Double Word Search**

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

CHEER  
 CLEAN  
 DRAW  
 FIND  
 FINISH  
 LISTENED  
 KINDLY  
 NICE  
 POLITE  
 RESPECTED  
 START  
 TWO  
 TURN  
 WIN  
 WORDS

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

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

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**Give and Take**

To receive respect, you must also be willing to give respect. Look through the newspaper and clip pictures and stories of people giving and receiving respect. Find examples of people not treating others or things with respect.

**Standards Link:** Social Studies: Civic responsibility and understanding social interactions as it focuses on the concept of respect, how to demonstrate it, and the consequences of not showing respect.

**What did the ocean say to the crab?**

**ANSWER:** Nothing. It just waved.

**Write On!**

**Can a Loss Be a Win?**

How can you turn a losing game into a win?

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# Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping or important decisions from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. EDT today (12 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. PDT). The Full Moon in Aries peaks at 7:26 a.m. EDT today (4:26 a.m. PDT).

**Happy Birthday** for Thursday, October 17, 2024: You are determined, intelligent and have strong opinions. You are also a gifted communicator. This year you will reap the benefits of your hard work by being recognized by others. You might receive awards, kudos, a raise or promotion. Seize opportunities that are presented to you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Today the Full Moon is in your sign, which could create tension with your closest relationships — friends, spouses and partners. Make an effort to see the other person's point of view. (You might be surprised how things appear. I'm looking at you.) Tonight: Check your belongings.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Today you might feel pulled between feeling the need to "get away from all this" versus cooperating with others and getting involved in work or perhaps something to do with a pet. It's always a balancing act, isn't it? Tonight: You win!

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Because of the Full Moon today, be extra patient with your kids. Likewise, be reasonable and tolerant with friends, as well as romantic partners. This tension will be gone in 48 hours. Sit up and be a person. Everything improves as the week wears on. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
It's a Full Moon today, which means the Sun and the Moon are opposite each other. This is why you might feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your job, career or external world. It's tough. Good luck. Tonight: Be friendly.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
Be careful today. This particular Full Moon creates an accident-prone influence for you. Of course, an accident doesn't have to happen, but if you're angry or distracted, it could. Therefore, pay attention to everything you say and do. Chill out. Tonight: Show respect.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Every Full Moon tends to bring issues to a head. And this is what you might discover today, because this particular Full Moon deals with earnings, assets, debt, taxes and shared property. You might see more sides to these issues. Tonight: Explore and learn!

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Today the only Full Moon opposite your sign all year is taking place, which is bound to create a bit of tension between you and partners, close friends and spouses. Obviously, because this is a short-lived event, you are best served by being tolerant. Tonight: Check your finances.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Be patient with co-workers today, because you might bump heads with someone. Because of the Full Moon today, people are emotional and inclined to vent. Every Full Moon

creates a bit of tension, but it is short-lived. Gone in 48 hours. No biggie. Tonight: Compromise a little..

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
This is the classic day that will require more patience from you to deal with your kids, romantic partners and friends. Why? Because today is a Full Moon that will stress these particular areas more than usual. Tonight: Work..

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
You might feel like you're caught in a tug-of-war between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your external world — your career and your reputation in the community. That's because of today's Full Moon. Meanwhile, tension with partners and close friends is also likely. Demonstrate grace under pressure. Tonight: Socialize.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
Make an extra effort to pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is an accident-prone day for your sign. This covers physical and verbal accidents, which means you need to think before you speak to avoid making a gaffe that you will later regret. Tonight: Relax.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
Money squabbles might take place today or quarrels about handling how to pay for costs in a fair way. Possibly, something could impact your travel plans. Get things straightened out so you feel that you are treated fairly. You deserve this. Tonight: Engage in discussions.

**BORN TODAY**  
Rapper, songwriter Eminem (1972), actor Michael McKean (1947), actor Matthew Macfadyen (1974).

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## Contract Bridge

### EAVESDROPPING ON DEFENSE

West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ 10 9 7 5  
♥ A 8 5 4  
♦ A J  
♣ A K Q

**WEST**

♠ Q 6 2  
♥ 10 6  
♦ 8 7 3  
♣ J 9 8 6 2

**EAST**

♠ A K 8 3  
♥ K 9 2  
♦ 10 9 6 5 4  
♣ 4

**SOUTH**

♠ J 4  
♥ Q J 7 3  
♦ K Q 2  
♣ 10 7 5 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥

Opening lead — two of spades.

An important part of declarer's job is to play close attention to how the opponents defend on each deal. It is good policy to assume that they are defending in their own best interests, so whatever they do should be given careful consideration.

Take this case from the 2003 North American Open Pairs, where declarer failed to draw the proper inference

continued with a third spade, ruffed by South with the three as West followed with the queen. East's unusual defense — helping declarer establish dummy's ten as a trick — failed to make an impression on declarer, who next led the queen of hearts and finessed.

This was the opening East had hoped for. He took the king and returned his fourth spade, and South was doomed. If he ruffed low, West would overruff with the ten, and if he ruffed with the jack, East's nine would become a trick.

Declarer could have averted this ignominious outcome simply by crossing to the jack of diamonds and leading a heart toward his Q-J-7. As long as the opposing hearts were divided 3-2, this would have assured the contract.

If East rose with the king and returned a spade, South could ruff with the jack, after which his queen and dummy's ace would take care of the missing trumps. And if East did not rise with the king, declarer would win and play the ace of hearts next to achieve the same result.

Finally, if West had the king of hearts, leading a heart toward the Q-J-7 would also limit the defense to one trump trick.

It is true that if West had led a club initially, or if East had shifted to his

by Steve Becker

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Selected winners will be featured in a 2025 article about the winners, a 3-month subscription to the Grosse Pointe News and a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to a top local restaurant.

**TO ENTER:**  
Email your high-resolution (300dpi at 12" wide or larger) photograph to:  
[media@grossepointenews.com](mailto:media@grossepointenews.com) with the subject line PHOTO CONTEST. Entries must be received by October 31, 2024.

Include your name, address, city and phone number along with your photo entry. Winners will be notified by November 6, via email.

**Grosse Pointe News**

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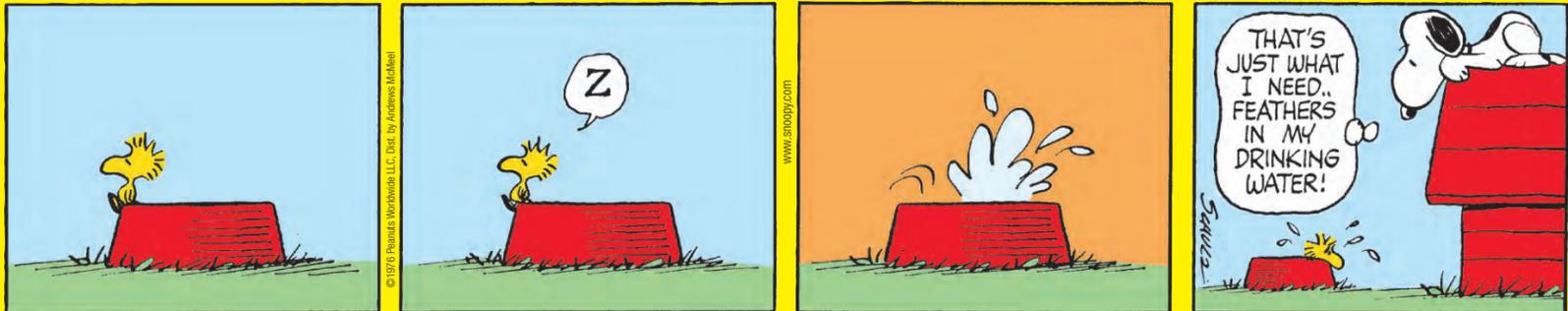
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# Comics

## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



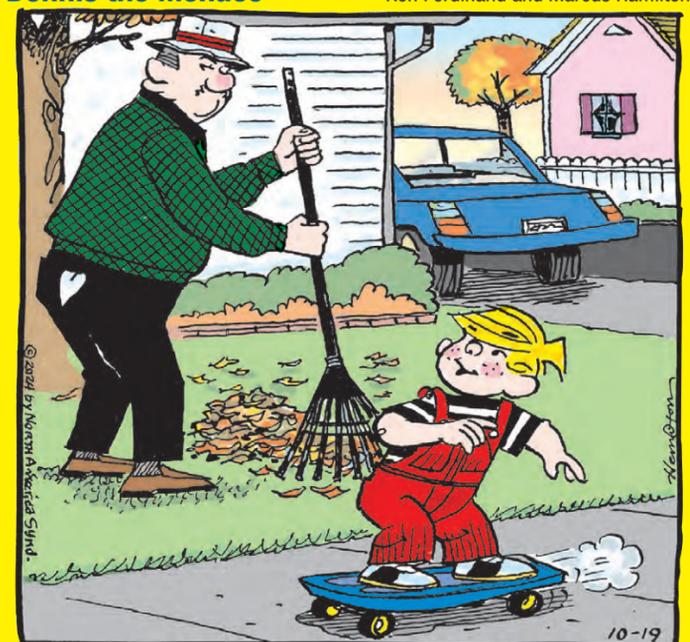
## Hagar The Horrible

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



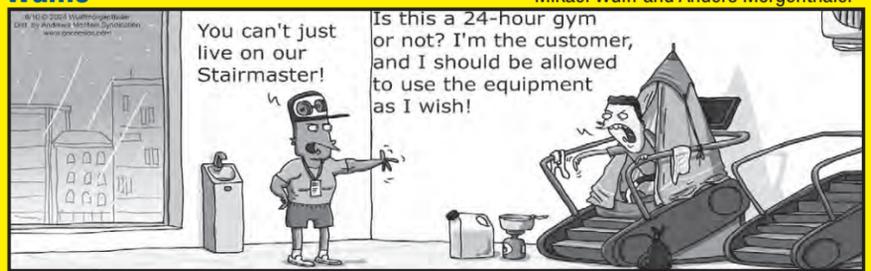
## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



## Wumbo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



## Reality Check

Dave Whamond



## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



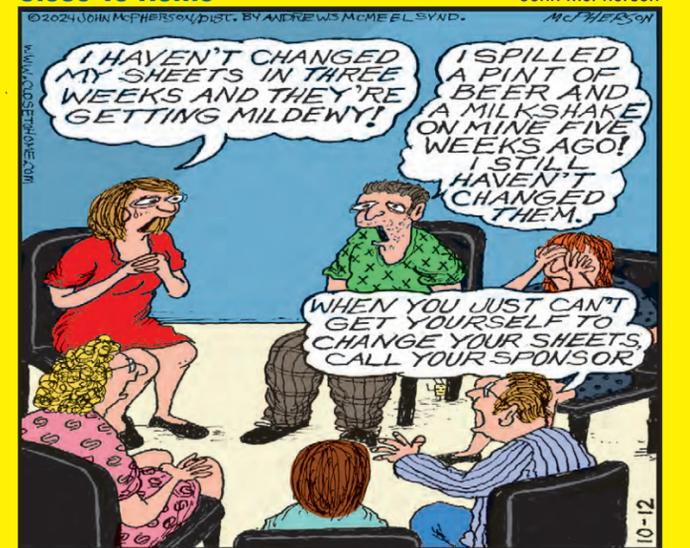
## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



## Close To Home

John McPherson



At a "Feeling Guilty About Not Changing My Bed Sheets" Support Group.

## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



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## North, South and ULS tennis teams all headed to states after top regional finishes

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

There will be no shortage of representatives from the Pointes at this year's varsity boys tennis state finals. The teams Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School competed in their respective regional tournaments Wednesday, Oct. 9, and all three earned qualifying spots in the

upcoming state finals, including a regional championship for the Knights.

In the Division 2 regional tournament, the Norsemen finished second, with the Blue Devils one point behind in third place. Both earned trips to states. The highlight of the day for the Norsemen was a regional victory in the No. 1 doubles bracket, with the team of Gruhith Yerramalli and

Louis Macres defeating Arun Kensora and Truman Yaldeo from U of D Jesuit 6-0 and 6-2 in the final match.

"Every player on the team goes out with a mindset that is rare because they think that they're capable of beating anyone," North boys tennis head coach John VanAlst said. "Every match is a winnable match to them and it takes a long time to get that buy-in."

In No. 2 doubles, Jack Sendoykas and Sam Michael from North defeated South's Max Prather and Matthew Hamilton in the semifinals before falling to a duo from U of D Jesuit in the finals. Stephen Listman and Emerson Hilliker made the finals for North in No. 3 doubles. In No. 4 doubles, Jackson Kean and Henry Logan from the Blue Devils also were finalists in the bracket.

Matthew Holowinski from South and Xavier Sarnaik from North made it to the No. 1 singles semifinals. In No. 2 singles, North's Troy Lipscomb defeated South's Brendan Stafford in three sets for a semifinal victory. Lipscomb lost the championship match to U of D Jesuit's Liam Nantais.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGARET HAMILTON

Oscar Deluca, Ashton Zimmerman, Matthew Hamilton and Joseph Guthat pose with the painted rock in front of Grosse Pointe South High School to commemorate the Blue Devils boys tennis team qualifying for the state finals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

North's Gruhith Yerramalli, right, and Louis Macres won the regional tournament in the No. 1 doubles bracket last Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Matthew Bartoszewicz got a victory for the Blue Devils over North's James Muawad in the No. 3 singles quarterfinals. Bartoszewicz made it to the finals before falling to Demitri Goffas from U of D Jesuit. South's Oscar DeLuca reached the finals in No. 4 singles where he was defeated by U of D

Jesuit's Roman Vuljaj. In Division 4, Liggett emerged as regional champion at the end of last Wednesday's tournament. The Knights dominated the day, winning seven out of eight brackets. The only bracket in which the Knights did not end up victorious was No. 1 singles, where

Liggett's Charlie Cooksey lost the final match to Rocco Wisniewski from Notre Dame Prep. Tise Courtright was victorious in No. 2 singles for Liggett. Yuri Polnyi won No. 3 singles and Rene Quint took the championship in No. 4 singles.

See TENNIS, page 6D

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Webber embodies versatility for Blue Devils field hockey

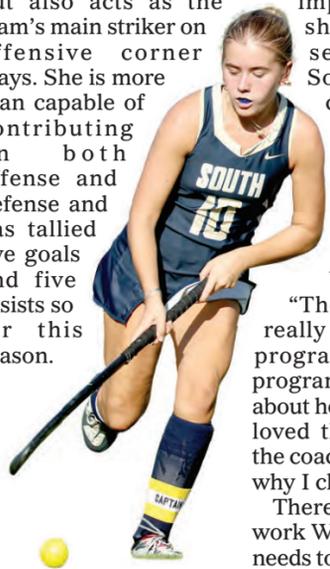
By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Just a few years ago, before she began high school, Scout Webber did not know much about field hockey. Now in her senior year at Grosse Pointe South, Webber has become a cornerstone of the Blue Devils' varsity field hockey team and is on her way to playing at the collegiate level. It all began with a simple idea to pick up another activity.

"I started playing in eighth grade because my mom wanted me to play a fall sport," Webber said. "I really liked it and my coaches said I was good at it, so they relayed that I was good to a travel team based in Ann Arbor. I started playing travel and then I really grew a love for the sport."

From that simple start, Webber has grown into a

player who can do it all for South. She plays primarily in the midfield and at defensive back, but also acts as the team's main striker on offensive corner plays. She is more than capable of contributing on both offense and defense and has tallied five goals and five assists so far this season.



COURTESY PHOTO

Scout Webber

What Webber has been able to do for the Blue

Devils and with her club team, Pinnacle Field Hockey based out of Ann Arbor, has made an impression. After she finishes her senior year at South, Webber is committed to playing NCAA Division III field hockey at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York.

"The school has a really good academic program and athletic program," Webber said about her choice. "I really loved the facilities and the coach, so that's really why I chose it."

There is still plenty of work Webber knows she needs to put in before she gets to the next level. She already is capable of doing whatever is asked of her on the field, but her main focus all season

with South has been building every skill she has even more to become the best athlete and teammate possible.

"I want to become more versatile and not be mainly a forward or defender," she said. "I play midfield, but I want to have a better field hockey IQ and be able to see players on the field better and distribute the ball."

The hard work Webber has been doing to achieve that is not lost on her teammates and coaches. She has worked closely with the coaching staff at South for years and those coaches have seen her

grow from a player who did not know much about the game into an athlete who opponents must plan around.

"She's worked very hard the last four years to become one of the most versatile players we have ever had in my time as head coach," South varsity field hockey head coach Jessie Rouleau said. "She controls the midfield and stops opponents' scoring

opportunities in the backfield. She outworks her opponents, is fearless and puts her heart into every play. You can see when she is out there that she just loves the game."

Webber's love for the game has grown largely because of coaches like Rouleau. She knows she likely would not be playing at the level she is

### Scout's Honors

- 5 goals and 5 assists for South varsity field hockey this season
- Senior captain of the Blue Devils
- Committed to play NCAA field hockey at Hobart & William Smith Colleges

See ATHLETE, page 6D



Grosse Pointe News  
**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**  
**Scout Webber**  
School: Grosse Pointe South  
Sport: Field hockey  
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2D | SPORTS

# South football continues unbeaten run, wins MAC White Division

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South varsity football has looked dominant through almost every minute of MAC White Division play this season. That did not change Friday, Oct. 11, when the Blue Devils visited Lakeview for their final game in division play. South rolled to a 49-14 victory over the Huskies that clinched the team's third consecutive MAC White Division championship.

"I think sometimes in this day and age, with so much emphasis on the playoffs, those things are forgotten," South football head coach Chad Hepner said. "We worked hard for that (division) championship and we're proud of it. We enjoyed it for a moment, but now we're on to what's next and that's trying to keep this undefeated season alive."

The Blue Devils got on the board first with a touchdown pass from senior quarterback Jack Lupo to sophomore receiver Trey Grabowski. South extended the lead to 14-0 when Ben Kocik



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South's Ben Kocik reaches the end zone for a touchdown after picking up a Lakeview fumble in the Blue Devils' 49-14 win over the Huskies Friday, Oct. 11.

scooped up a Lakeview fumble and took it to the end zone.

Down by 14 in the second quarter, Lakeview pulled back to within one score on a 97-yard touchdown run by senior running back Eric Simmons. South answered back and built on its lead again when Grabowski caught

his second touchdown of the day to make it 21-7. The Blue Devils struck again when Lupo made a touch pass to sophomore Sam Rouleau, who ran the ball 36 yards to the end zone to give South a 21-point lead before half-time.

"It doesn't take long to single him out as a differ-

ence-maker," Hepner said about Rouleau. "His size and speed and athleticism are special. He's the type of kid, he could be a quarterback or a running back, and we've had him at slot receiver for us. ... We're trying to get the ball in his hands in open space as much as possible and let him just

go to work. Definitely one of the more gifted athletes we've had in the program and he's only a sophomore."

South continued rolling in the second half. Lupo earned a touchdown on the ground with a 40-yard rush to the end zone that made the score 35-7. Simmons then had

his second touchdown of the day for Lakeview on a 61-yard run, but that score ended up as the Huskies' last points of the night.

Lupo capped off the night with two more passing touchdowns. The first was caught by junior Stanton Kapla and the second by senior Lex Willson as South secured the victory.

Lupo threw five touchdown passes in the win while completing 12 of 20 passing attempts for 182 yards. He also led the team in rushing with 85 yards on just three carries.

While he went without a touchdown in the game, Vince Vachon led South in receiving with 81 yards and six catches. Josh Lemanski led the defense with 13 tackles. Andrew Pazuchowski had five tackles and a sack.

After securing the MAC White Division title, South welcomes a foe from the MAC Red Division in Week 8. The Blue Devils host Anchor Bay for their final home game of the regular season Friday, Oct. 18, with kickoff set for 7 p.m.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL ATHLETICS



## Knights bounce back with win over Irish

The University Liggett School varsity football team earned a 31-24 victory over Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard last Friday, Oct. 11, to put the team back in the win column after back-to-back losses. Nikkos Davis, pictured above left with teammate Santino Cicarella, threw for 282 yards and two touchdowns as well as rushing for one touchdown on the ground. Cicarella had 164 yards receiving and a touchdown while Julius Barnett Jr. had 68 yards receiving and caught the game-winning touchdown in the fourth quarter (pictured above right). The win improves the Knights' record to 4-3 this season. They return home in their on Friday, Oct. 18, hosting Detroit Loyola. Kickoff is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 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

**MOTIONS PASSED**

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held September 16, 2024 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Library Board meeting held on August 15, 2024.
- 2) To adjourn to Budget Workshop session.
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED**

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 130860 through 131022 in the amount of \$820,303.32 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 Macomb Community College in the amount of \$5,339.00 for the enrollment of a cadet to the police academy. (3) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$13,700.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (4) . approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,384.16 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of October 2024. (5) approve payment in the amount of \$7,988.50 to Drive Creative Services, LLC for the printing, sorting and delivery of the fall newsletter. (6) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$8,076.33 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of a hard drive and a power strip. (7) approve payment to John R Spring & Tire in the amount of \$5,407.66 for the replacement of shocks and springs on Engine 1. (8) . approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$9,754.00 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks. (9) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$35,689.74 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of September 2024. (10) . approve payment to Plante & Moran in the amount of \$34,600.00 for professional services related to the City's financial reporting and preparation of the 2023 financial statements.
- 2) approve payment to PK Contracting LLC in the amount of \$12,103.78 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the 2024 Pavement Striping Program, #180-342.
- 3) **RESOLVED** to accept the grant from Wayne County in the amount of \$379,035.00 to be used for the City of Harper Woods Community Center, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the intergovernmental agreement with Wayne County on behalf of the City.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, October 17, 2024

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# Norsemen win thriller over Fitzgerald to clinch share of MAC Gold

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity football team entered last Friday night's game against Warren Fitzgerald knowing it had little room for error if it wanted to earn at least a share of the MAC Gold Division title. The Norsemen battled the Spartans Oct. 11, and the two teams found themselves in a back-and-forth thriller that ended with North on top 42-34.

"They've learned resilience," North football head coach Joe Drouin said about his team after the close win. "I think these boys are going to take more out of being in close games this season than if we were running away with games. They learn how to persevere and deal with adversity."

The game's first few minutes made it seem like Fitzgerald could be in for a dominant performance. Less than two minutes after the opening kickoff, the Spartans took the lead on a long touchdown



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

The Norsemen defense lines up across from the Fitzgerald offense as the two teams matched up on Friday, Oct. 11.

pass that put them up 6-0. Fitzgerald's defense then forced the Norsemen to punt and, on the first play of their second drive, the Spartans' Devon Billings broke an 80-yard touchdown run to make it 12-0.

North finally answered on its next drive as junior quarterback Deon Doe connected on a 60-yard touchdown pass to

Philip Prost to put the Norsemen on the board. Fitzgerald's Angelo Lipscomb added to the Spartans' lead before the end of the opening quarter to make it 18-7.

The Norsemen were set up nearly on the goal line after Ethan Hamilton's big kick return and opened the second quarter with a touchdown run by Doe to make the score 18-13. Another touchdown run

by Doe later in the quarter put North in front 19-18, which remained the score going into halftime.

The second half brought even more excitement as the teams continued to trade blows. The Norsemen started the third quarter with a touchdown pass from Doe to Leo Perettie, extending the team's lead to 26-18. Fitzgerald answered

with a touchdown, scored by Jaylen Maddox, with a two-point conversion successfully tying the game at 26. Before the end of the third quarter, Daylon Doe came up with North's biggest play on defense, intercepting a Fitzgerald pass and returning it to the end zone to put the Norsemen ahead 33-26 going into the final frame.

The drama continued in the fourth and final quarter as Fitzgerald's Angelo Lipscomb broke through North's defense for a 46-yard touchdown run. Another successful two-point conversion gave the Spartans a narrow 34-33 lead. Fitzgerald remained in front by one until there were around five minutes left in the game. That was when North blocked a Spartans' punt that went out the back of the end zone for a safety, putting the Norsemen back in front 35-34.

North got the ball back following the safety and wasted little time extending its lead. Doe made a short pass to Perettie, who ended

up taking the ball 40 yards to the end zone for a touchdown to put the Norsemen up by eight. An interception on defense by James Shefferly then helped North put the game away and secure a fourth straight win.

The victory improved North's record this season to 4-3. With it being the final game of MAC Gold Division play, the Norsemen ended up in a three-way tie for first place in the division, with Fitzgerald and Lamphere also getting shares of the title.

"Goal No. 1 was to win the Gold and we accomplished that," Drouin said. "Goal No. 2 is to make the playoffs, and by all accounts that looks like that's going to happen for us. Goal No. 3 is to win the crosstown rivalry game. Now we start adding some new goals. We want to play in Week 10 and Week 11."

North returns home in Week 8 and welcomes Warren Mott from the MAC Blue Division. The Norsemen host the Marauders Friday, Oct. 18, with kickoff at 7 p.m.

# North and South cross-country teams race in one of season's final invitationals

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The varsity boys and girls cross-country teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North made the trip to Hudson Mills Metropark in Dexter Saturday, Oct. 12, to compete in the 40th annual Father Gabriel Richard Invitational. Both Norsemen and Blue Devils ran some of their best times of the season and South's girls team came away with a third-place overall finish.

Helping propel the Blue Devils into third place were seniors Chloe Caulfield and Sarah Koval. Both crossed the finish line in less than 20 minutes,

with Caulfield in sixth place at 19:48 and Koval in seventh place with a time of 19:49.

South had six runners finish within the top 50. Adelina Parikh finished 16th and Savannah Spangler in 17th as both cracked the top 20. Paige Garbo took 26th, while Calisse Budek also made the top 30 in 28th place. Rylee Piornack and Morgan Costello raced to 32nd and 33rd place finishes respectively, while Erin Korsak came in 41st.

"We are really running well right now and excited for the big MAC meet on Saturday," South girls cross-country coach Steve Zaranek said. "We'll keep working hard to improve even more as all on our

team are nearing top performance."

North's girls team finished in eighth place, with senior Ashlei Anatalio having the team's best finish in 44th. Avery Boutell finished just outside of the top 50 in 52nd and Mimi Trupiano finished 55th.

In the boys race, both the Norsemen and Blue Devils earned top 10 finishes as a team. South finished in sixth place led by senior Jack Martin, who earned 17th place overall. Tethyan McKenzie crossed the finish line 22nd and Edmund Shall cracked the top 50 in 47th place.

Caleb Kosel was the first Norsemen to cross the finish line in 29th place with a time of



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW FEGAN

Runners from Grosse Pointe North's girls cross-country team take off from the starting line at the Father Gabriel Richard Invitational.

17:03. Paul Stephens from North also got into the top 50 in 43rd. Junior Neil Orłowski was just outside of the top 50 in 52nd place.

North's boys and girls teams are set to race Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Dryden Cardinal Classic hosted by Dryden High School.

The boys and girls teams from South travel to Lake St. Clair Metropark Saturday, Oct. 19, for the MAC White Division Meet.

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- Kate Elizabeth Hopper

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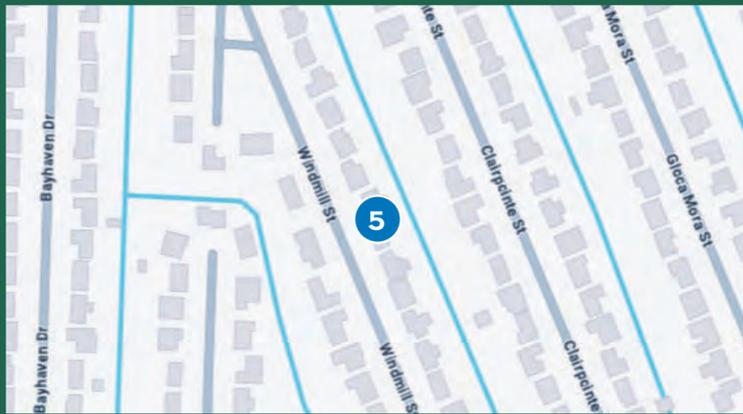
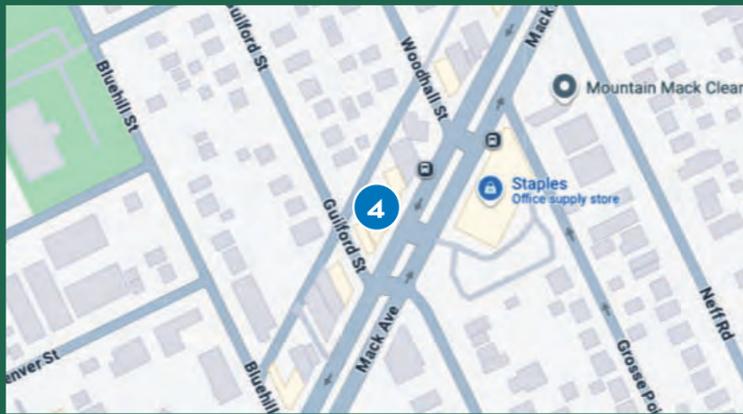
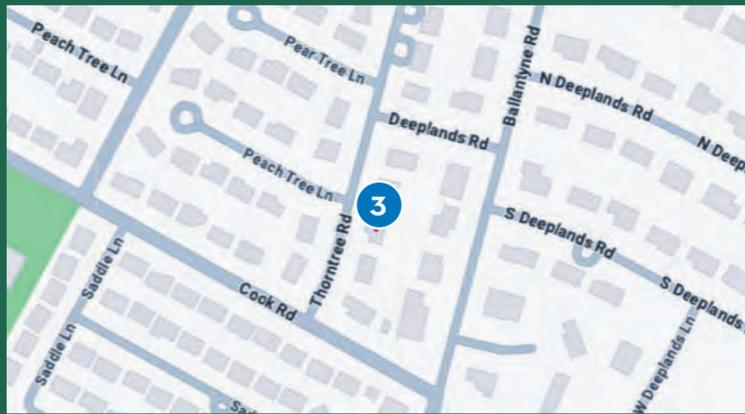
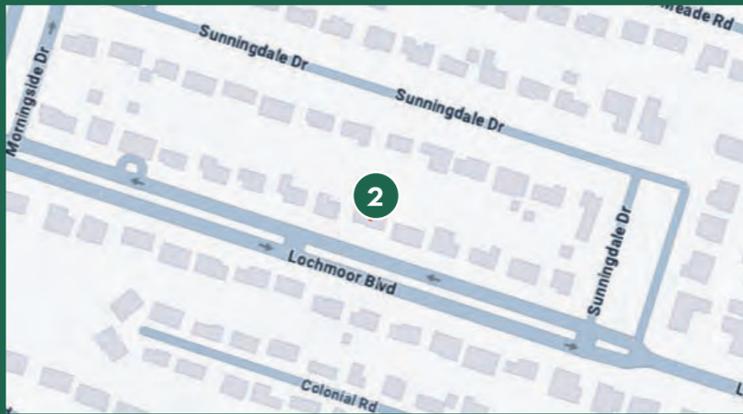
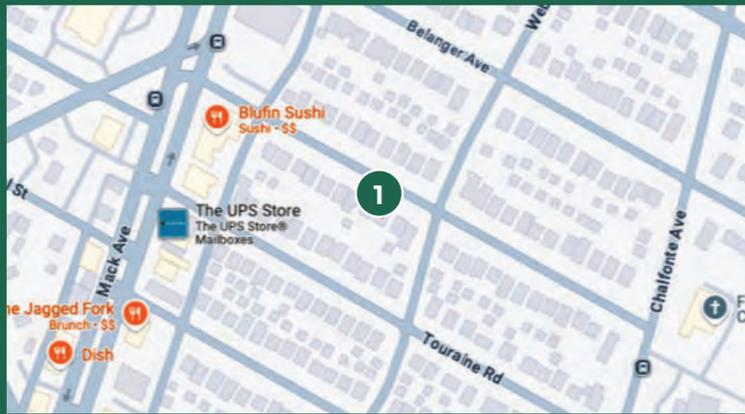


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## Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



### THIS WEEK

1. 455 Calvin Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms
2. 76 Lochmoor, Grosse Pointe Shores
3. 516 Thorn Tree, Grosse Pointe Woods
4. 17307 Mack Ave., Detroit
5. 41400 Windmill St., Harrison Twp.

○ = YARD SALE    ● = ESTATE SALE  
See Classifieds for more details

# 6D | SPORTS

## ATHLETE: *Continued from page 1D*

without them and has trusted them throughout her career to coach her and her teammates in the most impactful ways.

“They’ve learned how to teach us the way that we learn the best,” Webber said. “... They

keep everything very competitive at practice so when we get into a game we still have that competitive mindset.”

As South moves from the regular season into the playoffs, coaching like that is what Webber believes could give the Blue Devils an upper hand in some of the biggest games of the year.

What also helps is the strong team chemistry she feels among her teammates, no matter what class they are in.

Webber is one of South’s senior captains this season, a role she has embraced. It allows her to help mentor the next generation of Blue Devils — including her sister and freshman teammate, Wells Webber — and ensure the program is in good hands after she and her fellow seniors play their final game.

“Our team chemistry is some of the best I’ve seen,” Webber said. “I play with my sister and having her on the team really helps my playing style. We play very similar and I know how she plays and she knows how I play. There are also players who’ve been on varsity as long as I have and we know how to play off of each other, and the new girls have come in ready to learn and work.”



COURTESY PHOTO

South’s Scout Webber is committed to play NCAA Division III field hockey at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in New York.

## TENNIS: *Continued from page 1D*

Liggett’s team of Landen Maltby and Luca Marciano came out on top in No. 1 doubles. Niko Cooksey and Griffin Marchal won No. 2 doubles. Peter and Charlie Laethem were champions of No. 3 doubles, while Davis Ford and Lucas Ferguson won the finals in No. 4 doubles.

The Knights have

plenty of young talent on this year’s team as they look to compete for a state title. The players and coaches are starting to believe that some of the tough challenges they have faced on the court all season have prepared them well for big postseason moments like regionals and states.

“They’re starting to understand that every match you play, even if you’re playing a team in Division 1 or Division 2 and we’re a Division 4

team, every match matters,” Liggett tennis coach Mark Sobieralski said.

Liggett advances to the Division 4 state finals, scheduled to begin Monday, Oct. 21, hosted at the Midland Tennis Center.

North and South will compete in the Division 2 state finals starting Thursday, Oct. 17, hosted in Kalamazoo at both Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College.

# HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it’s games, meets or matches, high school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week’s biggest hits and highlights from include:

## SOUTH GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

Grosse Pointe South girls varsity swim and dive traveled to Cranbrook on Saturday, Oct. 12, to compete in the CK Invite. Competing in both the Oakland County division and the Non-Oakland County division, South finished first in the standings in both divisions at the end of the day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

Some highlights from the meet included Mischa Eng, Nicole McEnroe, Caroline Bryan and Quinn Ryan taking first place in the 200 medley relay and swimming a personal best time of 1:49.58. Sophomore Amelia MacGillis won the 50 and 100 freestyle races. Freshman Avery Stevenson took first in the 100 breaststroke.

## BULLDOGS HOCKEY BENEFIT

The Detroit Bulldogs Hockey Program is teaming up with the Detroit Red Wings Alumni and the cast of the hit TV show Shoresy for a night of hockey fun at Little Caesars Arena. The cast of Shoresy will face off against the Detroit Red Wings Alumni on Nov. 11 in the Shoresy Fall Classic with a portion of the proceeds from the event benefiting the Detroit Bulldogs Hockey Program.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased [www.letterkenny.tv/pages/shoresyclassic](http://www.letterkenny.tv/pages/shoresyclassic)



## VOLLEYBALL

Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South varsity volleyball faced off in a crosstown rivalry matchup last Tuesday, Oct. 8. While North played host, the Blue Devils ended up victorious in three straight sets, winning 25-16, 25-20 and 20-10.

University Liggett School varsity volleyball took on Everest Collegiate in the CHSL semifinals last Tuesday, Oct. 8. The Knights were unable to come up with the victory, losing in three straight sets 25-10, 25-13 and 25-7.

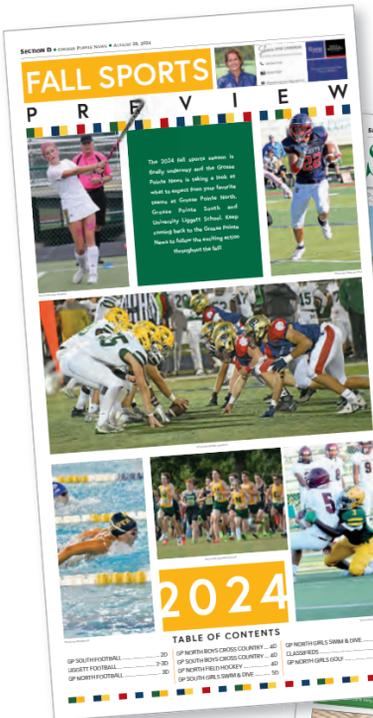


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

The University Liggett School varsity boys tennis team celebrates after taking home the regional championship and earning a trip to the Division 4 state finals.

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