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GPPSS looks to implement parental rights policy

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education is on track to add back a parental rights policy that was eliminated earlier this year after a change in

state law caused public school districts to change some policies.

The document was discussed at a recent Policy and Contracts Committee Tuesday, Nov. 12.

“Parents choose to send their kids to our schools and we want to err on the side of not

breaking their trust,” board President Sean Cotton, who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, said.

Cotton originally planned to bring the policy up for full board discussion Tuesday, Nov. 19, but chose not to.

“At this time, we need

to focus on the hard work that Dr. (Andrea) Tuttle is bringing to the board with respect to staffing at central administration,” he added. “My hope is that the board will take this policy up in January of 2025.

“I believe this policy is one that will ensure that

parents continue to be the lead decision makers in their children’s lives and that the trust that they give to our district in sending their children to our schools is one that is given back to them by the district,” Cotton said.

“A simple policy to ensure that the nonsense

going on nationally is never one they need to worry about.”

At issue are changes the board made to its policies in February in light of changes that were made to the Michigan Public Employment

See POLICY, page 9A

In time for Santa’s Workshop to welcome young Grosse Pointers, the unfinished walls will be covered with plywood on which children will be invited to hang their coloring pages.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

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Santa’s Workshop is coming to town

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Through a sliding barn door in the back of The Spice and Tea Exchange, a larger-than-life Pinocchio peeks out from behind a Christmas tree to get a glimpse of the green velvet chair where Santa

soon will take his rightful place Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Charlie Brown and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer also are present and accounted for, as is the main feature of this year’s Santa’s Workshop in The Village — the seven dwarfs climbing and chipping away at an

iceberg with their pickaxes to get presents.

“Everything is sculpted out of styrofoam,” including the three-dimensional, 6-foot-tall gingerbread boy and girl, said Laura Clements, City of Grosse Pointe Foundation member and president of Bishop Design and Display. “It’s all done by hand. We

start with a brick of styrofoam, we have a design, we cut out chunks. ... It’s a lot of fun.”

Santa comes into town with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Parade the day prior and will stick around for the season to meet and take photos with good little boys and

girls from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 30, which also is Small Business Saturday, and Dec. 7, 14 and 21.

His workshop will be filled with take-home ornament crafts, coloring pages, a post box for letters to Santa and a story corner staffed by National Honor Society volunteers.

“We want a quieter space too for either kids

See SANTA, page 4A

Public hearing set for outdoor sport court regulation

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A proposed amendment to the city’s ordinance on regulating the construction, maintenance and use of outdoor tennis courts is “intended to address sport courts that are outdoors other than tennis courts,” City attorney William Burgess said, “the motivation being recent complaints that we received in Grosse Pointe Farms in particular with respect to

pickleball and noise and potential nuisance associated with that.”

Because the ordinance currently is written specific to tennis courts, a public hearing is scheduled during the city’s next council meeting Monday, Dec. 9, to discuss the incorporation of other types of sport courts under the same ordinance.

For the purposes of the ordinance, “outdoor sport court” is defined as an outdoor surface pad that may or may not

include boundary lines or fencing and is intended for sporting activities such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, pickleball, hockey or lacrosse.

However, the proposed language clarifies “a surface pad designed and permitted for vehicular access and parking — such as a driveway — shall not be deemed an outdoor sport court merely because sporting apparatus — such as but not limited to a basket-

See COURT, page 3A

Rec Commission upping its game

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The alchemy of a well-run bureaucracy prescribes elements essential for making sums worth more than their parts — managers and staff doing what they are supposed to do and being mindful of goals.

“We are going through a transformational change in the city, from accounting to financials, new policies and

procedures,” Councilman Tom Caulfield said. “It’s a big lift.”

Caulfield is liaison to the Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Committee, where he and Chairman Michael Hindelang are changing focus from what was to what will be. The intent is to be prepared for what is coming next, not only responding to what went wrong and thereby

See GAME, page 2A

GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Gerry Connolly
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Waste hauler follows through

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Critics of Priority Waste were faced this month with the company's improved performance data that didn't require a mother to love.

Dan Venet, Priority's vice president of municipal sales, returned to city council chambers Nov. 12, to report a more than 99 percent success rate with its rubbish-hauling and recycling contract with the city. Priority Waste took over the service in July by acquiring the previous vendor, Green For Life.

Performance data during October accounts for Priority receiving only 86 "action items" from residents and municipal officials while serving the city.

"We service just over 4,700 homes," Venet said. "That's three touches per home, or 13,000 or 14,000 touches per week. And 86 reported actions is a very low number for us. We want that number to continue to drown down."

The downward trend is continuing this month, he said: "We're continuously proving to push the boundaries to excellence."

He credited the improvement to employee training and almost real-time monitoring of field operations.

"Employees we took over from the acquisition are now more familiar with our practices," Venet said. "We're getting more efficient and accustomed to your (city's) service."

As part of the compa-

ny's technology and data-driven management style, cameras and global positioning trackers have been installed on all vehicles operating in the city.

"This allowed us to track more appropriately the service being rendered and give active feedback to members in the field as well as to the public," Venet said.

"These numbers are great," Councilman Tim Kolar said.

"I've seen an improvement," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

"Unfortunately, there's still a perception out there that quality and service has diminished," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We have to dig out of that hole."

She encouraged Venet to publicize the company's turnaround.

"Repetitive communi-

cation strategy and education is definitely a step in that direction," she said.

Priority's shaky takeover of Green For Life, attributed in part to poorly maintained, even sabotaged equipment and sullen legacy employees, prompted the council in September to pass a resolution demanding improvements.

Venet attended that meeting and forecast improvements in October.

"The trendline is getting better," Sizeland said. "It's not perfect. Dan and I talked about that. Every time we call Priority, someone calls us back right away."

Venet said recent company statistics show a 93 percent first-call resolution rate.

See HAULER, page 5A



COURTESY PHOTO

Celebrating 60

Members of Pear Tree Questers No. 193 celebrated their 60-year anniversary Friday, Nov. 1, with a noon luncheon at Dirty Dog Jazz Café on The Hill. Chairwoman for the event was Jenny McAtee. Pictured standing, from left, are Liz Hardwick, Sandy Magreta, Sharon Lutz, Jenny McAtee and Joanne Niederoest; and seated, from left, are Madeleine Phillips, Pam Barthel, Janet Leze and Dorothy Bejin.

GAME:

Continued from page 1A

stuck in a lingering state of crisis intervention.

"That helps make sure the big things are ahead of us and we're talking about (them) so they're not failing," Hindelang said. "And when we're talking about how to fix something that's broken, we're planning on how to maintain, repair, replace whatever it is."

Caulfield said the city would benefit from the commission and its subcommittees to plan at least one quarter or six months ahead, such as with Memorial Day events and next summer's street festivals.

"Let's start those conversations now and get those ideas on the board so we're not (playing catch up)," Caulfield said. "That's when things fall through."

Since becoming chairman in late 2022, Hindelang organized the commission's 10 members into subcommittees dealing specifically with Patterson Park, Windmill Pointe Park and the municipal marina at Windmill.

He also has levels of expectation for each commissioner and subcommittee.

"Subcommittees should be meeting between Parks and Rec meetings," Hindelang briefed the group during a meeting Oct. 10. "The purpose of the subcommittees is to help drive the actions of this commission. We want these to be proactive committees. Keep that in mind."

Commissioners currently are working with recreation administrators to develop a list of projects to be evaluated by city hall administrators and council mem-

bers in terms of need, attainability, affordability and cost effectiveness.

"I'd like to get a little help and assistance from you guys," Recreation Director Chad Craig told commissioners about drafting a list of projects that Hindelang wants in final form in time for discussion during the next commission meeting Dec. 12. "I may not have processes or complete, accurate numbers or things like that."

"It's meant to be a working document that future councils and administrations can use," Caulfield said. "It could be anything from maintenance agreements to wish lists. You can put down things like life expectancy of pool pumps or what's coming down the pike."

Hindelang told Craig, "In the spirit of conversations we've been having for a while now about looking ahead, (the) document allows

Tom to go to city council or administration to say, 'We have an awful lot of things coming up in a three-year window.' It will make your life a lot easier. I look forward to seeing that."

Commissioner Howard Bouton doesn't want commissioners to nitpick.

"On our Windmill Pointe subcommittee, we talked about things that maybe didn't warrant discussion in this body," he said. "We don't need to bother Chad about weeds near the playscape because we know he's working on it because it's on the list."

"One of the things the subcommittee is supposed to do is (select) items for Chad that slipped through the cracks," Hindelang said.

"To be helpful, not get in the way," Bouton said. "We can talk about prioritizing things in terms of what (Craig is) struggling with resource-wise or looking for guidance.

I'm looking forward to how that will help this body move forward once we start getting that."

"I will support anything that we are helping Chad and am not supporting things that are creating work," Commissioner Paul Spratt said. "We're here to grease the wheels and help him get things done at council."

"Absolutely," Caulfield said.

"Once Chad starts expressing potential priorities, our job is to get feedback from the community," Commissioner Mike Bannon said.

"That's exactly right," Hindelang said. "The department is Chad's department. Our goal with this is to help not only the commission give Chad better feedback, but then for Tom, the council and administration help fund that."

"We are challenging our commissions and committees," Caulfield told the group. "I appreciate the volunteer efforts you are putting into this. Let us keep forward thinking."

Registration open for Kevin's Song conference

Registration for Michigan's largest conference on suicide — the Kevin's Song ninth annual Conference on Suicide: Creating & Supporting Lives Worth Living — opened Nov. 20. Featuring a roster of mental health professionals, educators and advocates, the conference takes place Jan. 23 to 25, at Saint John's Resort in Plymouth.

The three-day conference brings together educators, mental health professionals, first responders, clergy, suicide prevention advocates, veterans, students, business and community leaders as well as the public, survivors of suicide loss, and attempt survivors and their family members.

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Woods bestows beautification awards

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The city's beautification advisory commission held its 50th annual Beautification Awards ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Assumption Cultural Center.

"For 50 years, this community has thought it important to recognize neighbors and businesses who make the community better," commission Vice Chairman Matt Wettstein said. "This community has purposefully spent time and energy paying homage to ordinary citizens and business owners who make this community the wonderful, inviting place that it is. It is an endeavor well worth it, in my opinion."

Mayor Art Bryant shared a similar sentiment.

"I am so glad that all of you could be here tonight at this wonderful event," he said in welcoming attendees. "The homes and businesses look so nice and beautiful again this year. I know it was tough to decide who the winners should be. I know because years ago I was on the commission and had to make some difficult choices."

Commission Chairwoman Rachelle Koester said members



1461 Oxford

spend a great deal of time to come up with the winners among the city's 6,500 residences.

Here are the winners, along with comments from commission members:

◆ 1775 Kenmore, Terry Niggeman and Matthew Peplinski. "A picture-perfect home with a vibrant red door and additional pops of color with red geraniums and white impatiens."

◆ 1706 Bournemouth, Bob and Liz Sherry. "The

front landscaping allows you to make connections with neighbors and make the community better."

◆ 1997 Severn, Sarah Eisenberg and Mike Hiemstra. "This beautiful brick home is overflowing with blooming hydrangeas in front and a very well-kept lawn."

◆ 2100 Beaufait, Lyndsey Walworth and John Fradeneck. "The landscaping has been painstakingly maintained with a backdrop of hydrangeas, accented with lovely annuals around a raised bed."

◆ 2135 Lennon, Wayne and Bonnie Dula. "The fresh, new look of the landscaping and the front lawn are sure to grab you as you walk up the clean lines of the new walkway and driveway."

◆ 1231 Paget Court, Carolyn and Randall Eissa. "A variety of colorful flowers and shrubs of varying heights and



Above, 1775 Kenmore
Left, 2100 Beaufait

COURTESY PHOTOS



2135 Lennon

sizes adorn the front of the house."

◆ 1081 Torrey, Marie and Ed Zawol. "New landscaping incorporates foundation planting and colorful perennials and annuals."

◆ 1636 N. Renaud, Gerald and Kathleen Hilton. "The yard is adorned with a harmonious mix of green hues, complemented by red and magenta, adding to its inviting allure."

◆ 1461 Oxford, Charles and Marie Thomas. "This center entrance colonial feels cozy and tranquil with a stone walkway lined with hostas leading you to a charming bench."

◆ 1716 Brys, Claire and Stephen Doyle. "The thoughtful layout, plant selection and inclusion of a birdbath reflect careful planning and attention."

◆ 19981 W. Emory Court, Peter and Patty

Groezienger. "Lasting color throughout the summer season and beyond is everywhere."

◆ 685 N. Brys, David and Maria Chapman. "Potted plants accentuate green and white hostas, giving this charming home great curb appeal."

◆ 562 Woods Lane, Corey and Maggie Eko.

"The hedges and shrubs are neatly trimmed and there are pops of seasonal color throughout the front yard."

Business awards went to Lamia + Lamia, Da Eduardo, Salvatore Scallopini, Moehring Woods Flowers, Alternative Health Care and MI Nails.

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, NOV. 26

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Woods Aglow, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 28

- ◆ Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, NOV. 29

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Santa Parade, 10 a.m. along Kercheval, from Lewiston to Cadieux.

COURT:

Continued from page 1A

ball goal or hockey net — are located thereon or adjacent thereto, so long as the predominant use of such surface pad is for vehicular access and parking."

Also exempt from the designation are temporary wintertime ice surfaces so long as they don't have walls or barriers of a height "greater than reasonably necessary" to contain the ice surface.

Regulations for outdoor sport courts within the ordinance include requiring site plan approval by city council with notices of the hearing afforded to residences within 300 feet of the applicant's property line.

"You want to have adequate distances from other properties, as well as (monitor) the impact on impervious surfaces," City Manager Shane Reeside said. "So the concern that somebody takes the rear yard and (it) becomes all hard surface could be problematic too, in terms of stormwater manage-

ment."

The area of the outdoor sport court also would be included when calculating the maximum percentage of lot coverage under the city's zoning ordinance.

"To me, one of the primary issues of this is how much lot coverage is being utilized by these additional courts," Mayor Louis Therios said. "That's one of the key aspects I want everybody

to think about over the next month, is people are constructing sport courts, pickleball courts, and they're impervious, but it also creates an issue that they exceed what would normally be in a lot coverage for any other structure that would be placed on people's backyards or front yards."

Depending on the specific language council may choose to pass in the amendment, already

existing courts could see restrictions such as with allowable hours of use.

"If the question is that people are complaining about the noise, frankly, I think the argument can be made that a basketball (game) that goes on can be just as noisy as a pickleball," Councilwoman Beth Konrad Wilberding said, before council approved the public hearing for its December meeting.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Details matter to longtime travel agent

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Gerry Connolly was bit by the travel bug at a young age. She fondly recalls a childhood trip to Europe.

"My grandmother had 28 grandchildren and she believed travel was a means to education," said Connolly, a City of Grosse Pointe resident. "When I was 14, she took me, two of my brothers and five cousins to Europe. We did five countries. ... It was quite an experience. It opened up my eyes to different cultures and different people."

The lifelong Grosse Pointer left the community for college, but returned to the Pointes soon after, in 1969.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do," she said. "So I started working for Priscilla Moorman with Moorman Travel."

The opportunity launched the career of a lifetime, which included working for several travel agencies — Ask Mr. Foster Travel and Greatways Travel, among several others — before opening an agency of her own, Connolly Travel Inc. She credited many mentors for helping her along the way.

"Starting downtown and making my way back to Grosse Pointe was an interesting journey," she added, noting she earned her certified travel consultant designation,



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, Gerry Connolly is flanked by her son, William, and daughter, Rory. Right, Connolly with her grandchildren, from left, Maureen, Cameron and Connor.

"which is equivalent to a master's degree," in 1983. "It's nice to be home these last years. It's a wonderful community and a wonderful place to raise children. The people here are generous with trying to help others and every little bit helps."

Championed by her mother, Connolly found the perfect home for her own business on The Hill.

"Peter Bologna was building a new building at 131 Kercheval," Connolly said, noting her mother scouted and toured the location while it was being constructed. "I have four brothers who are all attorneys. My mother wanted to be a

CEO herself. Through me, I think she saw my potential. She was always supportive. My mom passed away in 1987, at age 70. I opened my own agency in August 1988.

"... My thrust to open my own agency was two-fold," she continued. "First, I have two children. I'm a single parent and I wanted to put them through college, which I did. The second was to employ people. It started with two of us in 450 square feet at the back of the building. Within a year, I hired three or four more people. They were wonderful women I worked with. I wanted people who cared about other people."

The agency operated with the motto, "No trip is too small for Connolly Travel." Connolly said she has always enjoyed mapping out itineraries for any budget.

Planning leisure travel is her strong suit, particularly to international destinations. Her niche is foreign independent travel, or FIT, for which she plans the itinerary, chooses guides, hotels, restaurants and other details. Her eye for detail and giving clients the best experience possible has served her well.

Connolly's staff joked that she should have "counselor" added to her nameplate, as many clients would visit her office just to talk.

"I'm a good listener," she said. "... You have to respect people's privacy. You have to pretend you're a priest. It's been an interesting career, to say the least."

Italy, France and Egypt are among Connolly's favorite destinations. She has yet to visit China or South Africa. And, as a tennis enthusiast, she hopes to return to France to see the French Open, combined with a cruise to Normandy.

Several of her early trips were prompted by

her interest in learning about other religions. She spent time in the Middle East, as well as areas like Singapore and Thailand.

"I've been to Thailand several times," she said. "I like the people there. They have respect for the human soul."

Throughout her career, Connolly has weathered numerous changes in travel, like the aftermath of 9/11, when her agency closed for three months, and the mortgage crisis in 2008.

"In 2010, I decided I had to cut back on staff, which was devastating," she said, noting she left her storefront to operate Connolly Travel from her home.

She also outlasted COVID, even after it shut down her agency for several months.

"I had 25 international tickets and I had to cancel all of them," she said. "But I got all of my clients their money back. COVID was a challenge. Now I just pick and choose what I want to do."

... Travel is a business you can stay in as long as you want."

Most of her personal travel these days occurs in country. She allows herself three weeks off each year — a week up north with grade school friends and two weeks in Florida.

No matter her destination, her motivation behind it remains the same.

"You never stop learning," she said. "It's always continuing education."

"... Travel keeps your mind going," she added. "I've been very blessed. I'm grateful to all the mentors I've had. My clients have been supportive for over 30 years. I'm grateful to my children and my parents. I'm doing exactly what I like to do."

With no plans to retire anytime soon, Connolly continues specializing in foreign independent travel, but handles the gamut of travel requests.

"You have to have a good heart to be in travel," she said. "I have to meet clients' expectations. Everybody has wants, needs and desires. That's something I tried to teach the gals I worked with."

During the decades she's spent working to ensure others enjoy their time away, Connolly has had the longtime support of her family — her daughter, Rory; son, William; and grandchildren, Cameron, Connor and Maureen.

"I'm very blessed," she said. "My children have raised their children very well."



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SANTA:

Continued from page 1A

that are waiting or might have a little Santa anxiety and need to observe a little bit more," Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcock said. "A

space where they can just chill out and do their own thing if they want to."

While not fully revived to the grandeur possible in years past when Santa's Workshop could take advantage of vacancies in The Village to set up shop in spaces such as the 3,000-square-foot Lululemon building, the dedicated space should be a far cry from last year when the workshop only could find a home in the lobby and hallway of the Kercheval Place building.

"It's a sad thing, but it's a good thing," Clements said of organizers' dilemma. "In the past, there's been vacancies in The Village, so we've had

an actual storefront (where) people can walk by and see it."

Santa's Workshop in The Village will be located inside The Spice and Tea Exchange at 17037 Kercheval. The festivities are free and no registration is required.

Parents need only bring their little ones, a camera to capture memories and trust in the jolly old elf.

"When I was in Ferndale, we did an ice festival and Santa would come," Willcock said. "One year Santa luckily was a city councilman and he called me over. He's like, 'Hey, do you see that kid that just got off my lap? Do you see

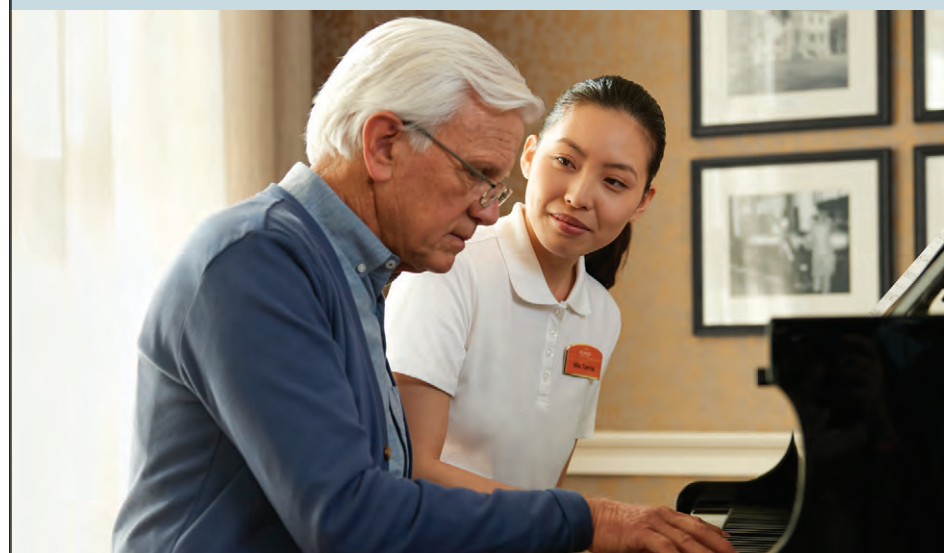
his parents here?' I said, 'Yeah,' and he said, 'Do you want to give them this back? He just gave me a diagram of his house with the alarm code so that Santa could get in.'"

Holiday pet portraits

Local pets can get a photo with Santa at Pet Supplies Plus in The Village from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29.

For \$10 per 4-by-6-inch print photo, Ruff Life Photography will capture Christmas memories of Pointers' furry friends. All proceeds will be donated to KARENS — K-9 Animal Rescue Emergency Networking System.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Left behind

A man in his 30s passed a counterfeit \$50 bill to a cashier at a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 5:40 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11, requesting a Chime account be filled.

When the cashier refused the transaction, he left without the bill.

Out from under nose

A 29-year-old Roseville man was arrested while attempting to flee the area at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, after the manager at a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval watched him steal \$235 worth of groceries.

Give and take

A 29-year-old Detroit man tried to sell a coin worth \$1,300 to the business he previously stole it from in the 17000 block of Mack at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15. He promptly was arrested.

Sharing is caring

Two men stole a single pack of Marlboro Black cigarettes from a busi-

ness in the 17000 block of Mack at 4:50 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Loud and drunk

A pair of people arguing loudly around 4 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, in the 1300 block of Berkshire prompted a complaint to the public safety department.

Officers responded. The people were gone.

"But the vehicle they were in was located in the area," an investigator said. "The vehicle was stopped and the female driver (a 26-year-old Park resident) was intoxicated."

Officers tallied her arrest among others this year for drunken driving.

Unlicensed

Police couldn't find evidence to confirm the

report of a motorist driving through a front yard at Kercheval and Beaconsfield early evening Thursday, Nov. 14, although they did find the motorist, a 70-year-old Park woman.

"(She) was found to have a suspended driver's license," said police, arresting her for the transgression.

Jeep stolen

Someone during the early hours of Monday, Nov. 11, stole a red 2019 Jeep Compass parked in front of a residence in the 1300 block of Somerset.

Purse missing

A resident of the 1400 block of Three Mile Drive reported earlier this month the loss of a blue Burberry purse worth \$800.

The victim told police that several home health care workers have been in the home.

Drunken driver

A St. Clair Shores man, 46, was arrested for

drunken driving on Mack near Whittier at 10:05 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8.

The arrest resulted from an investigation for speeding.

Recovered

Police traced a Park resident's stolen 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee to Detroit and found the vehicle unoccupied.

Whomever took the Jeep did so while it was parked in the driveway of a house in the 1100 block of Buckingham between 11 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, and 8:25 a.m. the next day.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Fraud

A 63-year-old resident on Woodland Shore reported around 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, that she was the victim of potential fraud after getting a

credit alert that someone tried to open a credit card using her personal information.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Home arrest

A suspect was arrested for drunken driving around 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at his home in the 1500 block of Blairmoor Court after hitting a vehicle on Mack and driving home. The victim followed the man and called police.

The suspect has two prior convictions for drunken driving.

Wrong location

A 38-year-old Detroit man was arrested around noon Sunday, Nov. 17, after rear-ending a vehicle on Mack in front of the public safety department. The man tried to flee but hit a utility pole,

then attempted to run away but was caught by officers.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Keep it in the family

A father and daughter were targeted with bank fraud Tuesday, Nov. 12.

The most substantial loss was \$211,795 transferred from the 70-year-old Farms man's account to an unknown Chase Bank business account in his name.

His daughter also saw more than \$7,000 transferred from her Chase Bank checking and savings accounts — which are joint accounts with her father — to the fraudulent business account.

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

Woods embezzlement case delayed

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A probable cause hearing for a man facing nine felony charges in an embezzlement case has been delayed about a month, but there have been new developments.

The hearing, scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 13, has been delayed to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, as both sides continue to gather information.

Ishpinder Sahni, 31, was arraigned late last month by municipal Judge Theodore A. Metry according to a press release from Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. The release said Sahni worked as chief operating officer at Woods Wholesale Wine from

2021 to 2023, and allegedly embezzled more than \$350,000.

At the arraignment, Metry gave Sahni permission to leave the country to attend a cousin's wedding in Dubai later this year.

"The victims are concerned about his permission to travel because they fear he may have plans to move to Dubai," Assistant Attorney General Dan Grano told Metry. "We've since learned that Dubai does not have an extradition law."

Sahni's attorney, George Brown, told Metry his client has reason to return.

"He owns a house here in the Woods," Brown

said. "His wife is an engineer at Ford."

Metry agreed that if the state secured a lien against Sahni's house, he would allow him to make the trip.

Sahni is charged with three counts of embezzlement over \$100,000; three counts of using a computer to commit a crime; and three counts of failure to file taxes. The first six charges are all punishable by up to 20 years in prison, with the last three punishable by up to five years in prison.

— *Ted O'Neil*

HAULER:

Continued from page 2A

tion rate of customer concerns.

"We want to get that raised (to) the 97 percent," Venet said.

Kolar cited a video on social media of a Priority Waste employee combining rubbish with recyclables, a violation of the contract.

Venet said, "(With the camera), we caught it (and) were able to halt it. The employee was disciplined to make sure they understood that was never acceptable."

Venet also explained why crews often delay collecting bulky items, such as couches, until the end of their runs.

"You can put that in the back (of the truck) and it will push the other mate-

rial forward into the truck," he said. "If our trucks are full, we may have to wait on that and come back and get it. Our goal is to get everything off the ground every day by 7 p.m."



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“JUST THE FEELING OF KNOWING YOU’RE NOT ALONE IN THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN A BIG HELP.” — SANDY

MEET ME AT THE HELM

Sandy joined the grief group at The Helm shortly after her husband, Tom, passed away. In addition to finding others who could support her and she support in return, Sandy made new friendships and discovered activities (especially field trips!) at The Helm that help her stay social and get out of the house.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Honor thy father and thy mother

A common phrase across the political spectrum is “(fill in the blank) rights are human rights.” Sounds like a good reason to support the Grosse Pointe Public School System potentially reinstating and updating its parental rights policy (see story page 1A).

As the story explains, the policy was inadvertently dismissed earlier this year as the GPPSS Board of Education was updating a host of policies due to changes in the state’s contract bargaining law, known as the Michigan Public Employment Relations Act. The updated policy was discussed at the board’s Policy and Contracts Committee Tuesday, Nov. 12.

We wholeheartedly support this policy. As noted below, state law is very clear about the “natural, fundamental” rights of parents to have the final say when it comes to their children.

We do not think anyone would be opposed to the mental health aspect of the policy. If a student were to raise concerns about a mental health issue, it is obvious their parents or legal guardian should be notified immediately. If the situation is dire enough, though, the district can act “in loco parentis,” which is Latin for “in place of a parent.” The same holds true for serious injuries to a student.

We suspect, however, objection to the policy stems from prohibitions surrounding physical health matters, particularly abortion.

Previously, public school personnel in Michigan were prohibited from discussing abortion with students or facilitating one at the risk of their district losing state funding. Democrats in Lansing repealed that law in 2023, but did not prevent districts from maintaining the policy.

The portion of the policy dealing with physical care for minors spreads a wide net and could apply to what some call “gender-affirming care,” which would include everything from binding and tucking devices to medical options such as puberty blockers.

It goes without saying that it worries us why any adult would even want to discuss such matters with minors.

As for puberty blockers, consider this. Several countries in Europe that many people would probably consider to be much more progressive than America — socially and medically — have either outright banned the use of such treatments for minors or put extremely strict standards in place. That includes England, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and France.

Most said the decisions were made due to a lack of evidence about the long-term effects of the drugs.

Beyond that, a Los Angeles doctor is refusing to publish the results of a \$10 million, taxpayer-funded study about the effects of puberty blockers on minors because the study found no evidence the drugs improved patients’ mental health.

Her reasoning was that the study could be “weaponized” against the use of such treatment. A study that showed the drugs had no positive value could be used to show the drugs have no positive value. The irony is absolutely mind-boggling.

Here is a draft of the policy given to the Grosse Pointe News:

Definitions:

“Parent” shall refer to the term “parents” as defined in MCL 722.1 and/or any individual with legal custody or guardianship of a student.

“Minor Children” refers to students under the age of 18, or students over the age of 18 who are not able to care for themselves due to physical, mental or



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

developmental limitations, as determined by applicable law or documented evaluation.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the implementation of Section 10 of the Revised School Code, which states as follows: “It is the natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching and education of their children. The public schools of this state serve the needs of the pupils by cooperating with the pupil’s parents and legal guardians to develop the pupil’s intellectual capabilities and vocational skills in a safe and positive environment.” A further purpose of this policy is to ensure that every parent with legal custody of a child is the primary decision-maker in matters concerning their minor children’s welfare, including decisions related to physical and mental health-care. This policy establishes guidelines for staff communication, notification and deference to parental authority for minor children, reinforcing the positive impact of parental involvement on student well-being. However, nothing in this Policy shall be implemented contrary to board policy and administrative guideline 4.20.

Policy Statement:

The Grosse Pointe Public School System recognizes and values the fundamental role of parents as primary leaders and decision-makers for their minor children’s education, health and overall well-being. The district commits to maintaining open communication with parents and deferring to their decisions in all matters affecting minor children’s welfare, fostering a collaborative environment that supports student success.

Procedures for Parental Notification and Leadership:

This policy applies to all students under the age of 18 (“minor children”). For students 18 years of age or older, the district recognizes their legal independence and will engage directly with them regarding all matters unless otherwise directed by applicable law or the student’s express written consent.

Parental Leadership in Physical Health Matters (Minor Children):

◆ Staff members, administrators and counselors shall not refer or facilitate any decisions related to physical health care, abortions or related matters for minor students without the parent’s consent.

◆ All decisions in these matters will be determined by the parent(s) and staff must defer to their direction, ensuring that all actions align with the parent(s)’ explicit instructions.

Parental Leadership in Mental Health Matters (Minor Children):

◆ If a minor student raises concerns regarding mental health, the staff member shall inform the designated school administrator or counselor, who will promptly notify the parent(s).

◆ The parent(s) will lead and make all related decisions, with staff required to defer to and

support the parent(s)’ directives.

◆ This policy shall not require staff members to engage in actions which are in violation of MCL 330.1707.

Documentation Requirements:

All communications and interactions regarding student requests or concerns under this policy shall be documented, including the nature of the student’s request, steps taken to involve the parent(s) and all subsequent actions as directed by the parent(s).

Staff Training and Compliance:

◆ Staff will receive training on this policy, including compliance with procedures for parental engagement, and understanding their role in deferring to parent(s)’ leadership in all matters affecting their minor children.

◆ The district will ensure staff adhere to this policy and prioritize parental authority in all aspects of minor children’s welfare and decision-making.

Board President Sean Cotton, who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, said he hopes the board takes up the matter in January. We would like to see it addressed sooner, but the district is busy trying to fill top administrative positions and come to a conclusion about the future of Trombly Elementary School.

We see no reason why this should not pass. A district seen as being “anti-parent” risks losing more enrollment — and thus state aid — particularly in the Pointes where most families can afford private school as we saw during COVID.

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 or by filling out the letters form on our website, grossepointenews.com.

Facts, not opinions

To the Editor:

You recently published a letter titled, “Reporting needs to be unbiased.” The author of this letter criticized an article written by Brad Lindberg, calling the article a so-called news article and stated the article should be located in the Opinion section. Brad Lindberg correctly pointed out that a local crime was committed by an undocumented national and that neighborhood campaign yard signs supported open-border candidates and that Michigan is now a border state. These are facts, not opinions.

The letter writer then goes on to state statistics that undocumented nationals commit crimes at a lower rate than American citizens in an attempt to somehow minimize the crime of this undocumented national in the city of Grosse Pointe Park. This writer is clueless as to the point of the article in that if undocumented nationals weren’t in this country to begin with, they wouldn’t be committing any crimes at all. Not to mention that an undocumented national commits a crime just by entering this country.

I bet this letter writer would change his tune if the undocumented national that was arrested for committing crimes in Grosse Pointe Park had committed a crime at his

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

November 21 - 27



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
40° 33°	45° 38°	45° 35°	46° 37°	48° 36°	48° 39°	48° 36°
Rain/Snow Showers	Rain Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain Showers	Rain Showers
70%	40%	0%	0%	0%	35%	35%
SUNRISE 7:32 am SUNSET 5:10 pm	SUNRISE 7:33 am SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNRISE 7:34 am SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNRISE 7:35 am SUNSET 5:08 pm	SUNRISE 7:36 am SUNSET 5:07 pm	SUNRISE 7:38 am SUNSET 5:06 pm	SUNRISE 7:39 am SUNSET 5:05 pm

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

See LETTER, page 7A

I SAY By Renee Landuyt

Secret Santa, the anonymous gift giver



Secret Santa. I'm sure you're familiar with that term and perhaps might even have been one at some point. Secret Santa is a fun twist on holiday giving where the giver remains anonymous, hence the name Secret Santa.

The first Secret Santa was a homeless man named Larry Stewart who, in 1971, wandered into a small town in Mississippi and was very hungry. He went to a local diner and ordered the biggest breakfast on the menu. He was planning on slipping out before the bill came. Ted Horn, the owner of the diner, sensed what was about to happen, so he came up next to Stewart and handed him a \$20

bill and said, "I think you may have dropped this."

Horn thought that was the end of it, but Stewart promised if he ever got rich he would return the favor tenfold. Well, it turns out Stewart did get rich making millions in cable and he became the first ever Secret Santa. His identity was revealed when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer and told his friend what he had been doing. Stewart said his only regret was that he couldn't help more people. By the time he died 20 years later, he had given away more than \$1 million to strangers — \$100 at a time — all because he was given a gift of \$20 when he was hungry and had nothing.

Here is the story of another Secret Santa, this one from Idaho. He wants to remain anonymous and, though we don't know his name, we do know his heart. This Secret Santa has been working with the online news station East

Idaho News out of East Idaho Falls the past 10 years, giving away gifts to people in need and nominated by others. This particular Secret Santa began giving back after an experience he had while he was temporarily living overseas. On Christmas morning, when he went for breakfast, he found a present on his table. It was an anonymous gift, the only one he received that year, and it made a big impact in his life. He felt like someone loved and cared about him and he has never forgotten how it made him feel.

This Secret Santa has given away gift cards for gas stations and grocery stores, has paid for funerals, purchased headstones, bought washers and dryers and purchased many a car for individuals who walked hours to work and back, needed a car but didn't have one or whose vehicle needed constant repair. He's given gifts to people

going through cancer treatment, grandparents raising their grandchildren or injured in an accident. Many of the recipients are people who are giving back to the community themselves, even when they don't have much.

The relief on the recipients' faces when they see what Secret Santa has done for them is overwhelming. It leaves them speechless. I know what it feels like when someone helps you during a time when you don't know what you're going to do. The relief is immediate and you feel like you can breathe again.

This Secret Santa started out by giving away \$100,000 and within a few years began giving out \$1 million dollars during the Christmas season. The East Idaho News team, wearing Santa hats and led by news reporter Nate Eaton, are the elves who surprise each recipient either at home or at their work.

Everyone who is gifted something from this Secret Santa is grateful, surprised and moved. I get teary-eyed nearly every time I watch. The videos are short but such a wonderful pick-me-up for the day. I look forward to this every Christmas.

You can view the episodes or binge a season on YouTube by typing in Secret Santa East Idaho News in the search bar or go to their website, eastidahonews.com, and search for Secret Santa to watch these heartwarming segments. You won't be disappointed. I promise you, you'll be hooked. Watching each episode gives you all the feels and you'll especially love how good it feels to see others being helped. This has to be the best part of the East Idaho News team's job. Their crew is so kind, always giving out hugs, being so gracious to every recipient.

Reporter Nate Eaton and the team at East

Idaho News have been working with this Secret Santa since 2015. He has helped over 600 people up to this point. Over \$4.6 million in gift cards, gifts and checks have been given out. Before the news team says goodbye to each recipient, Eaton tells them that Secret Santa wants them to know someone loves and cares about them.

According to the East Idaho News team, "Secret Santa believes that giving anonymously with no expectation of receiving anything in return is the ultimate expression of love and caring. He wants others to have the experience he had as a young man decades ago."

One of the secrets of happiness is to give back. I hope this story inspires you to do your own random acts of kindness. Even the smallest thing can make a difference. You never know the impact you could make in someone else's life.

Park tree lighting Nov. 30

GROSSE POINTE PARK — There's a secret recipe for this year's Christmas tree lighting shortly after dusk Saturday, Nov. 30, in the traffic circle at the intersection of Kercheval and Wayburn.

"We're still waiting to hear details, but I am told it's going to be even

better than last year," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

The annual tree lighting, in the lower Kercheval business district, is presented by private sources, not the city.

"Last year it was beautiful," Hodges said. "I've

been told this year is going to be even more spectacular."

The lighting is one day after the 49th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade presented by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. Parade participants step off at 10 a.m. Friday,

Nov. 29, on Kercheval at Lewiston in the Farms and march to Cadieux in the City of Grosse Pointe.

"Come to the parade the Friday after Thanksgiving," Hodges said. "The (Park) tree lighting Nov. 30 will probably be at 5:30 or 6 p.m. on Kercheval. Come out and be part of the community celebration."

LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

residence. This undocumented national put additional strains on the city of Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department as they are busy protecting city of Grosse Pointe Park residents against crimes committed by American citizens. We don't need undocumented nationals committing additional crimes.

My opinion is shared by a majority of people in Michigan and the United States as the open-border candidates have been voted out of office.

JANE GRANT
Grosse Pointe Park

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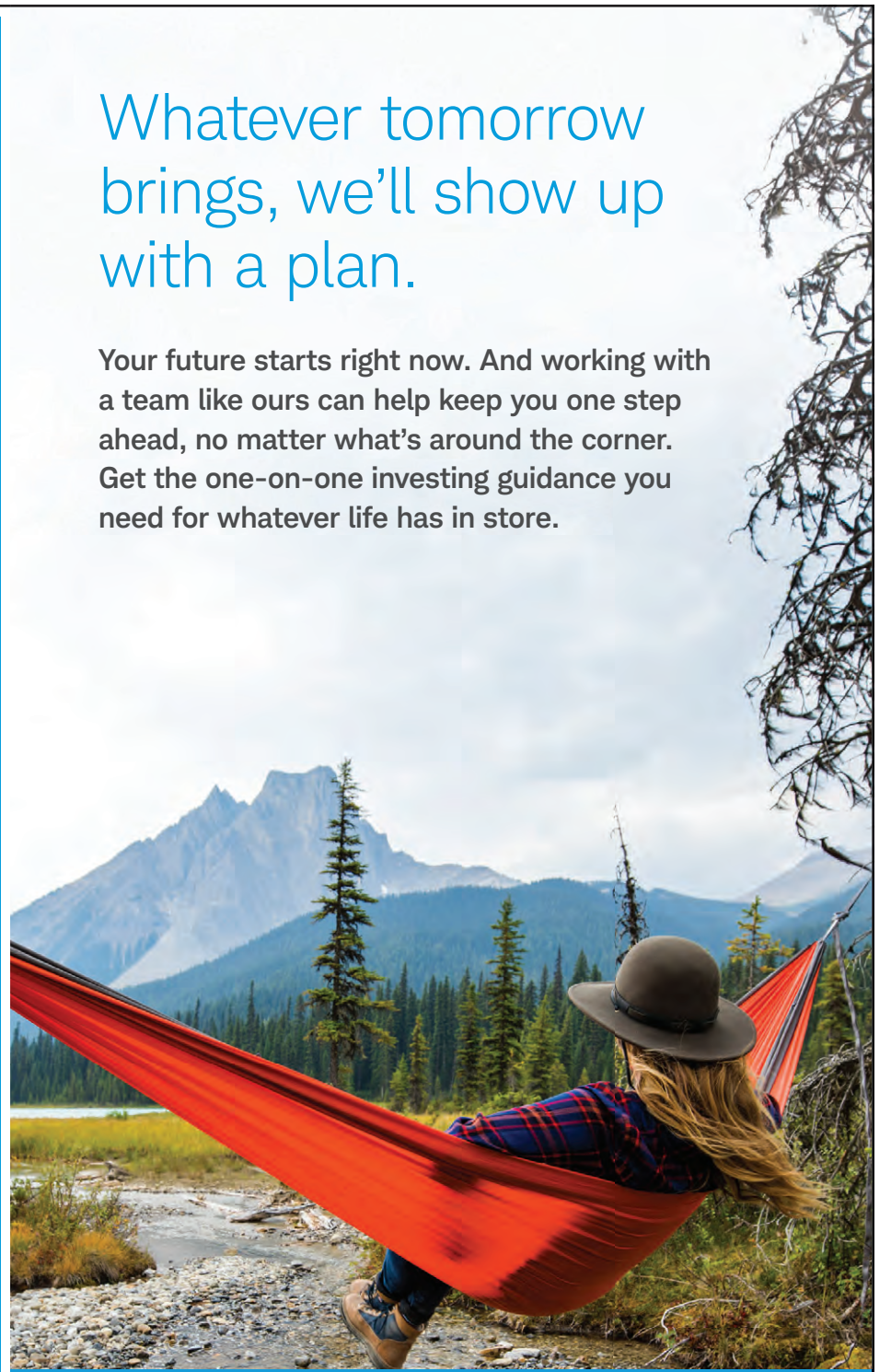
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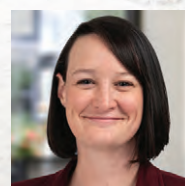
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Long investigation nabs fraudster

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — All the fingers and toes in town can't count the cost of neutralizing a career fraudster, caught recently trying to tap a retired teacher's nest egg.

The perpetrator is the subject of 175 police contacts in various jurisdictions, according to Paul Pionk, one of the Park's three detectives.

Pionk received a department citation Nov. 12, for catching the fraudster and helping save the targeted victim from losing more than \$40,000 in unauthorized bank account withdraw-

als.

It costs an average \$15,000 to \$20,000 to investigate those types of cases, according to the 2002 Department of Justice Office report, "Identity Theft: Prevalence and Cost Appear to be Growing."

Adjusted for inflation, the 22-year-old range of costs becomes \$26,736 to \$35,648.

The thing that broke Pionk's case was the bad guy trying to transfer the victim's funds into an unauthorized joint account.

"My victim was on the ball from the get-go," Pionk said. "He routinely checked his account bal-

ances."

Noticing suspicious activity, the victim contacted his banker.

Pionk described it as "going into protection mode. They started an internal investigation and saw discrepancies. The next day, a bank employee (at an Ann Arbor bank) immediately noticed it. The banker knew (the suspect) from previous incidents."

The investigation spread over four months through multiple agencies. Prosecution reached a high point when the suspect showed up in Park Municipal Court.

"We arraigned him," Pionk said. "He was

locked up. Wayne County decided to let him go, so he's off in the wind again."

Police think the suspect, technically homeless, migrated to Shelby Township.

Given the suspect's history of lawbreaking, police also figure time is on their side and that he, in essence, will come to them.

"Conventional wisdom says he's going to run into the police again," said Pionk, a 21-year veteran of the department and beginning his fourth year as a detective. "It's like a snowball rolling downhill."

Park Chief Jim Bostock

credited Pionk's stick-to-itiveness.

"If somebody knows if they get caught committing a crime in Grosse Pointe Park, chances are they're not going to come back and do it again," Bostock said. "With that, we build community trust. Successful investigations build that trust. The community knows we're working on its behalf."

"The goal of local government is to protect the health, safety and welfare and property," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "Detective Pionk, that's exactly what you did. Thank you."

"That's the tip of the

iceberg these men and women do on a day-in, day-out basis," Bostock said. "No matter how small or trivial you think the report is, we're going to take leads until we can't go any farther. Paul, great job."

Part of the citation reads, "What would normally be a closed case with no follow-up turned into an excellent investigation resulting in the suspect being charged with multiple felony counts. Investigations of this type are difficult and Detective Pionk showed how his experience and investigative acumen are an asset to our organization."

Grown up Letters to Santa

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Though perhaps past the age of being able to hear the ring of the silver bell from Santa's sleigh — as goes "The Polar Express" legend — Pointers still can experience the Christmas magic of asking for what they want through a jolly third party, thanks to a new "shop local for the holidays" initiative in The Village — no sitting on laps or posing for fridge pictures required.

Grown up Letters to Santa invites Pointers to fill out a wishlist of Christmas gifts they'd like to receive from participating Village businesses and take the guesswork out of holiday shopping by providing details such as brand, color and size. The lists then will be disseminated to the businesses, where shoppers can inquire as to what their loved one hopes to find under the tree.

"Within 48 hours, the list will be updated in the hands of the businesses," said Cindy Willcock, executive director

of Main Street Grosse Pointe.

Launching for the holiday season Thursday, Nov. 21, Grown up Letters to Santa also provides space for a list of preferences for those who prefer a bit of surprise. Jot down favorite color, drink, scent, etc., and then choose between markers such as salty or sweet, experience or items, sophisticated or casual, indoors or outdoors and chocolate or vanilla.

"You can do pretty much all your shopping down here," Willcock said of the variety among Village businesses.

The initiative may be particularly pertinent when Men's Night returns 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, inviting local gents to The Village for an evening of holiday shopping.

While more are expected to join the festive fun, currently participating businesses are Apple Blossom Baby, Dawood Boutique, Glitter & Scotch, Posterity Art & Framing Gallery, Ridge Crest, Savvy Chic Boutique, Small

See LETTERS, page 13A

New member

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb, second from right, stands with Rotary District Gov. Nick Krayacich, left, and Rotary Assistant District Gov. Ted Everingham, right, as new Sunrise member Kate Trost is inducted Nov. 5, at Ford House. Krayacich also accepted a donation from the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club in support of World Polio Eradication Day.

Krayacich addressed attendees, reiterated core club values and emphasized that Rotary is a "movement" that offers everyday people a chance to be and do something more than they can do alone. Rotary member service projects change lives locally and connect with other clubs to work on international projects that address today's most pressing challenges like drug addiction, the environment and worldwide polio eradication.

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an open invitation to residents to join their Tuesday breakfast and presentation at 7 a.m. at Ford House. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

City protects employees with amended healthcare plan

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — When the City first hit its state-imposed hard cap limit on

what it could contribute to healthcare costs last year, employees already were in the midst of open enrollment.

As such, council voted to exempt itself from the

cost-sharing requirement within Public Act 152, bare the cost within the city budget and push off the decision on how to best manage the increase until options

could be fleshed out for 2025.

Because the city now is facing a \$138,000 exceedance come Jan. 1, "this would equate to effectively going from zero dollars per month for your healthcare cost coverage," City Manager Joe Valentine explained, "to about \$130 per month for an individual, \$310 per month for a two person and almost \$400 per month for a family. And that could have some detrimental effects on our workforce."

To remedy this, and with a focus placed on employee retention, city administration collaborated with employees and the police unions to

modify its healthcare plan and reallocate some of those costs.

The compromise will allow for a continuation of no employee contribution to healthcare, while eliminating the city's health savings account contribution and implementing 10 percent co-insurance after the deductible is met.

The HSA elimination alone reduces the \$138,000 exceedance to \$71,000. Instituting co-insurance further reduces it to \$16,272, which the City has agreed to cover.

"I do want to compliment the employees on working with them to come to this resolution,"

Valentine said. "Obviously, a lot of this is impacting them, but it's also benefiting them and I think they've realized that we have the opportunity to collaboratively work to address these issues in a way that doesn't really penalize them."

"In doing this, if you don't meet your deductible, there's no change in your healthcare plan costs," he added. "It's only when you exceed that, that you would participate in that 10 percent cost-sharing."

Council voted Monday night to approve the changes 6-0, with Councilman Seth Krupp absent.



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The Family Center helps fund schools' therapy dog training

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The joy is evident on students' faces as they shuffle through the hallways between classes at Grosse Pointe North High School. Their Cheshire Cat-like grins come during encounters with Casey, the school's new therapy dog.

Casey, along with Larry, who works with "mom" Stacey Roy at Defer and Maire elementary schools, is fairly new to the district. Both dogs received therapy dog training funded by The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

"We don't pay for the dogs, just the training," said MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration with The Family Center. "The kids love therapy dogs."

It was in the halls at North that Casey's "mom," Mollie Keuten, learned about the role of therapy dogs and pursued the opportunity herself.

"In January, the counseling staff brought therapy dogs in for back to school," Harris said. "Mollie told me her dog had just died. She was struggling; it was hard. We talked about getting a therapy dog and she said if she got a dog, would The Family Center pay for training."

"Casey lived with his original family for five years until they surrendered him to the Golden



Larry gets comfortable between Henry O'Laughlin, left, and John Vader while Stacey Roy supervises.

Retriever Rescue of Michigan," Keuten said. "Due to his allergies, they were unable to give him the proper care he needed. He then went to three foster homes before we found each other. It really was meant to be that he joined our family, as we all have fallen head over heels with him."

Casey, a 6-year-old golden retriever, sits with Keuten in the front office at North, where he has a bed and a special bone to chew. Keuten, a building sub and lunch-time detention monitor, as well as freshman class co-adviser, takes Casey wherever she goes.

"If I have to go to a classroom to sub, I have to go before the bell rings," she said, noting

Casey's popularity may make her late for class. "He came to detention with me today and the kids were receptive. ... He's very good here."

She noted that students light up when they see Casey, who usually is decked out in a tie or ascot.

"Their whole demeanor changes," she said. "... He gives everyone amazing neutral baseline happiness. Having a bad day? Here's a dog. Hungry? Here's a dog. Tired? Here's a dog. ... Just looking at a dog makes people happy. And if they're not interested, they can look away."

Casey went through obedience training and was certified through the Alliance of Therapy

Dogs.

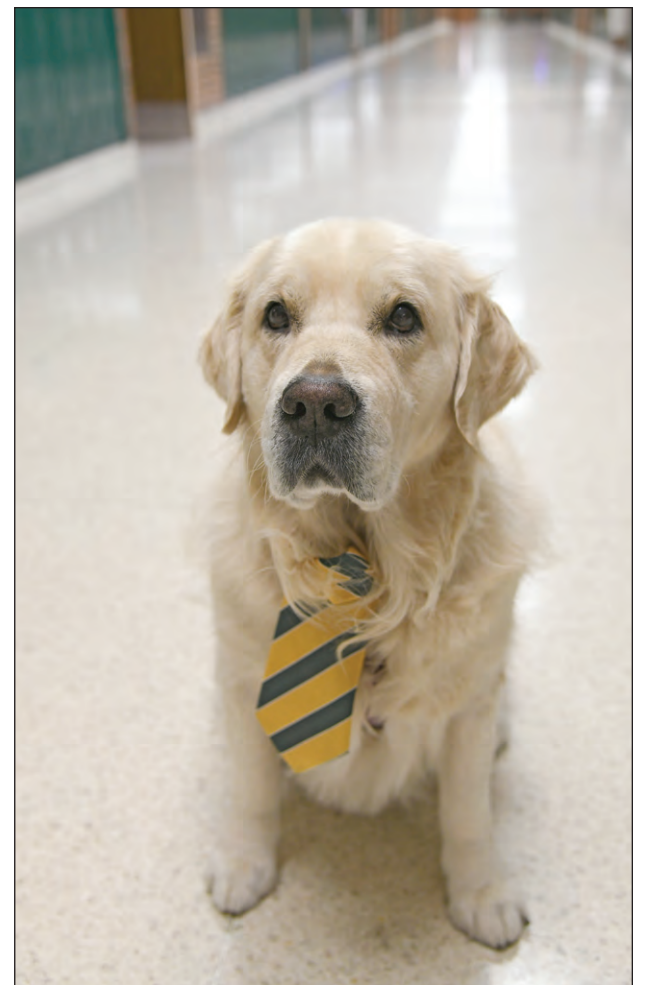
"The lady who ran the (obedience) class was a tester for the Alliance of Therapy Dogs," Keuten said. "She guided us in the direction we needed to go for him to become a therapy dog."

"He gets lots of exposure," she continued. "I take him everywhere — car rides, school pickup. Wherever he can go, he goes."

Casey began visiting North toward the end of last school year; he returned last month.

"Not only were MaryJo and (counselor) Jill Davenport heavily involved, but (former North Principal) Kate Murray was very supportive in making this a reality," Keuten said.

Though Casey doesn't



Casey bears school colors when he's on duty at Grosse Pointe North High School.

have a set schedule at North, Keuten plans to bring him to school one full day each week.

"He loves coming to school," she said. "Anytime he sees his harness or my work bag, he's eagerly and excitedly waiting at the door — which he can open by himself — to start his day of work. Since he rules the house, if Casey is happy, we're all happy."

Students and staff alike have been receptive to having Casey around, she added.

"Thank you to MaryJo and everyone at North who has embraced this," Keuten noted. "It's a wonderful, wonderful

thing and hopefully dogs can bring us all together."

Larry received the same warm reception at Defer and Maire, where he spends most of his time sitting with students in Roy's reading groups. Roy also brings him along to special events, like Defer's Breakfast with the Principal.

"When I have time in my schedule, kids will come and visit him," she added.

Larry, a 3-year-old golden retriever, also was certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Like Casey, he worked on obedience, as

See DOGS, page 11A

POLICY:

Continued from page 1A

Relations Act.

Items that had been prohibited topics for bargaining are now required. PERA was changed in 2011, when Republicans held control of the state legislature and governorship, to prohibit bargaining on things such as teacher placement, discipline, layoffs and performance evaluations. With Democrats now in charge of the legislature and governorship, those prohibitions were lifted.

"Even though state law changed, this type of policy is no longer required, but there's nothing in the law limiting districts from having it," attorney John Kava of Collins and Blaha said at the committee meeting. "This puts the district in line with section 10 of the Revised School Code."

That section states: "It is the natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching and education of their children. The public schools of this state serve the needs of the pupils by cooperating with the pupil's parents and legal guardians to develop the pupil's intellectual capabilities and

vocational skills in a safe and positive environment."

The policy, since updated, addressed two main areas for minor students, those being physical and mental health.

For example, it would prohibit school personnel from discussing with students topics such as family planning, abortion and gender-affirming care — including preferred pronouns — without parental consent. If a student were to raise an issue of mental health, it would be referred to an administrator or counselor, who would then notify the parents and follow their direction.

Kevin Cox, an English teacher at Grosse Pointe South High School and member of the committee, said there have been times he's reached out to a parent with a concern and was told not to engage the student.

"It's only happened a handful of times, but all of them are memorable," he said.

On the matter of pronoun use, parents would be contacted if a minor student requested to be called by a name or pronoun that differs from their enrollment paperwork.

"If they're OK with it, we're OK with it," Cotton said.

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10A | SCHOOLS

Celebrating Defer's centennial anniversary with cookies

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The almost-state cookie was on the menu during a city hall celebration of Defer Elementary School's centennial.

A unanimous city council on Nov. 12,

resolved to honor the school on its 100th birthday.

"As Defer endures, we endure," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We also want to make sure Grosse Pointe public schools endure."

"The Defer Elementary centennial celebration presents an opportunity

to reflect on the school's past accomplishments, honor those who have contributed to its success and look forward to the future as it continues to educate and inspire students for many years to come," according to a portion of the resolution.

Numerous Defer stu-

dents and teachers joined Principal Lisa Rheaume attending the ceremony, which was part of a council meeting.

"Defer was a rhubarb field before," Hodges told the students. "Did you know that?"

They didn't. Also on the agenda

were three boxes of a chocolate-cocoa-cherry cookies that in 2004 Defer fourth-graders sought to become the official cookie of Michigan.

Then-state Rep. Edward Gaffney, R-Grosse Pointe Farms, introduced a bill to make it so, but it didn't make

it to the floor for a vote. Yet, the Michigan Treasure Cookie and its recipe from Defer are worthy, according to all students at the meeting and customers of LeRouge Bakery on Kercheval in the Park, where it is on the menu and listed as the Defer cookie.

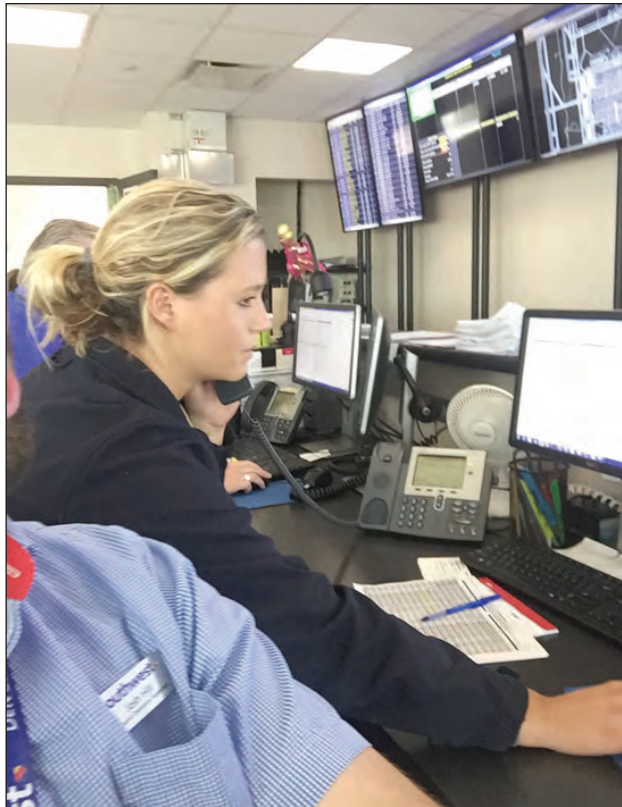


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS FLYNN

Career taking off

Kelsey Flynn, a 2010 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate, spoke to the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club via Zoom from Dallas on Oct. 22. Flynn discussed her new role as a certified dispatcher with Southwest Airlines at its headquarters. She explained her journey from an exchange student in high school, rowing in college to her eight years with Southwest. Her complex job is a mix of flight planning, in-flight monitoring and pilot communication.



Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an invitation to residents to join their Tuesday breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.



Boy Scouts properly dispose of a worn U.S. flag.



Farms public safety officers stand with two Boy Scouts.

Holiday cards support children in need

Throughout this holiday season, Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan, a 501(c)3 organization that provides wigs and support services to ages 3 to 18, at no charge

throughout Michigan, is selling holiday cards in three new designs that feature photos by Anne Nicolazzo, community ambassador.

Cards with envelopes



come 10 to a package and are \$20 each. Two packs of cards cost \$30. Cash, check, money order and credit cards are accepted. Funds raised help ensure more Michigan children will continue to be served.

Holiday cards may be purchased securely through PayPal online at wigs4kids.org under "How You Can Help —

Merchandise" section or by calling (586) 772-6656. Cards also may be purchased in person at the Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan Wellness Center, 30130 Harper, St. Clair Shores

All proceeds benefit the charity.

Since 2003, the organization has provided more than 5,400 wigs and support services to local children in need. Those who know of a child in need of Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids services should call (586) 772-6656 or email maggie@wigs4kids.org.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Several members of the LSC chapter attended the ceremony.

Flags retired

Members of the Louisa St. Clair Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as Boy Scout Troop 96, Children of the American Revolution and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Post 57, hosted a flag-retirement ceremony Oct. 7, at Pier Park in Grosse Pointe Farms.

A flag-retirement ceremony is a respectful way to dispose of worn out American flags. The ceremony recognizes the history and sacrifices of the flag and freedom it represents.

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DOGS:

Continued from page 9A

well as being in various public settings.

“He’s gone through basic training,” Roy said. “He worked with an assessor on how not to react in certain situations.”

Larry was the Roy family’s personal dog when Roy took notice of the popularity of therapy dogs in other school districts.

“His demeanor was so gentle at his age, I thought he might be a good candidate,” she added.

Roy reached out to other teachers with therapy dogs and learned about the training process. She also was connected with The Family Center.

“They’re the ones that sponsor some of the



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Casey gets friendly pets during a visit to Aileen Hurtig’s German class.

cost,” Roy said. “They covered basic training and some of the materials he needed.”

“... He was certified at the end of last (school)

year and was at Defer,” she added.

When she brought Larry to Maire, she gave a slideshow to students on the rules, including using quiet voices and asking first before petting the dog.

“I’m trained to look for the dog’s reactions,” Roy noted, “like nervousness or if he’s unsettled. Then it’s time for a break if he’s overstimulated.”

Roy spends mornings at Maire and afternoons at Defer. Larry joins her two or three days a week.

“I get a lot of positive comments like, ‘He made me feel so good today’ and ‘We love seeing him,’” she said, “especially from kids who are not allowed to have family dogs because of allergies in the family or whatever reasons the family can’t have a dog.”

Both Keuten and Roy are well aware not everyone is comfortable around dogs.

“I let them know they don’t have to pet him; they can wave to him instead,” Roy said.

“I’m also very mindful of allergies and sensitivities.”

Roy said she has received great support from both schools and has seen the difference among students, as well as staff.

“He brings out a different kind of comfort to kids than anything else,” she said. “They see it as positive experience at school. All sorts of kids come up and hug him. It’s a chance to have affection and comfort during the school day. It’s something they like coming to school for.”

Casey and Larry are the second and third therapy dogs whose training was funded by The Family Center. Two years ago, the nonprofit helped train Ferry Elementary School Principal Jodie Randazzo’s dog, Chupa. “Anytime we do a

Wellness Day at the schools, we bring therapy dogs from different organizations,” said Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of The Family Center. “They (GPPSS) saw the value of having them there and established guidelines around a therapy dog program for the schools.”

“We would love to partner with other schools that have therapy dogs,” Harris said. “Someone has to have a dog that’s able to be trained and has the right personality.”

With funding from The Family Center, dog owners choose the training program that works for them and their schedule.

“If a school comes to us and has approval to move forward, The Family Center is glad to support it,” Bingaman said. “The kids just love the dogs.”

Added Harris, “Even kids that have dogs at home, it doesn’t matter. When they see dogs in school, if they’re having a bad day, the dog takes their mind off of what’s happening, even just for a few minutes.”

For more information,

Therapy dogs within school settings

The Grosse Pointe Public School System’s therapy dog program purpose states, in part, “There is longstanding evidence that there is a strong association between well-being and learning outcomes. Children with higher levels of well-being learn more effectively, have lower levels of absenteeism at school, better academic engagement and also have more satisfying and successful peer relationships.” Research has found that therapy dogs increase students’ well-being by:

- ◆ reducing physiological symptoms of stress through lowering cortisol levels;
- ◆ increasing positive emotions;
- ◆ promoting engagement in learning activities and positive attitudes toward learning;
- ◆ reducing negative behaviors such as anxiety, task avoidance and aggression in the classroom; and
- ◆ encouraging prosocial behaviors like self-esteem and motivation, as well as acting as a social catalyst to facilitate social encounters with others.

visit familycenterhelps.org or call (313) 447-1374.



Lala Broner stops to pet Larry during a visit to the Maire Elementary School office.



Casey happily chews a bone while his “mom,” Mollie Keuten, works.

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Making life beautiful

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Terry Riddle and his wife, Dawn, are best buds in the garden.

“It’s a partnership,” Terry Riddle said. “She’s a Master Gardener.”

“I couldn’t do it without his muscles and his support,” Dawn Riddle said. “I come up with some of the designs, but he helps me implement them.”

Teamwork earned them a 2024 Residential Beautification Award from the city’s volunteer beautification committee.

The couple were among 37 recipients of awards presented during a ceremony Nov. 14, at the Tompkins Community Center, Windmill Pointe Park.

“This evening, we come together to recognize and celebrate the imagination, artistic skill and landscape designs of the residents of Grosse Pointe Park,” said Lisa Kyle, recently elected to a second term as chair of the commission.

Dawn Riddle described being shocked at being selected a winner and almost as startled by the commission’s selection process. Members go around the city photographing properties warranting consideration.

“Whoever came to our house was standing in my driveway taking pictures of my house,” she said. “I thought, ‘What are they doing?’ I went outside and said, ‘Can I help you?’ It was a little scary, but he explained



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Recipients of the 2024 Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission awards attend a ceremony Nov. 14 at the Tompkins Community Center.

he was from the beautification commission.”

“Tonight is all about celebration,” Mayor Michele Hodges told attendees seated at banquet tables. “You’re the cream of the crop.”

It was only the first of her puns.

“Thistle be a night to remember,” Hodges said. “It’s thyme to party and turnip the volume. We’re going to put the petal to the metal. We’re going to knock your stalks off and you’re going to look radishing doing it.”

Commissioners Pat Deck, Kelly Konieczki and City Forester Brian Colter presented awards in five categories: residential, century (for houses among the 343 in the city that are 100 years old this year), sustain-

ability, business and civic.

Announcing residential winners, Deck said, “These are given to residents who have enhanced the appearance of our community through landscaping, floral displays, renovation and restoration, preservation and maintenance and new additions which, in turn, enhance the total appearance of the greater community.”

As recipients walked to the podium to accept their awards, Hodges called from the wings, “You grow girl.” “Did it take a lot of trowel and error?” “Not a trick peony.” “Oh, my gourd. You’re so amazing.”

Antonio Scerri won an award for his restaurant, Antonio’s in the Park, on

Kercheval.

“It was a surprise,” he said. “I really appreciate it. It’s hard work.”

Paul VanTol received a civic award for donating 100 sycamore trees to the city. He grew the trees on property he owns in Macomb County.

“Paul actually dug them up and balled them in burlap himself,” Colter said. “He knew what he was doing. The Grosse Pointe Park Foundation paid for the labor to transplant the trees. The result was fantastic.”

“I’m passionate about trees,” VanTol said. “I have about 200 to 250 more trees. I can’t make them grow faster than they’re growing, so I’m not sure how many are going to be available, but I’m hoping for 50 to 60 again next spring. We can continue that until all 350 trees are donated.”

Winners and judges’ comments are:

Residential

◆ Gregg Munsterman, 1006 Nottingham. “This charming home is neatly lined with curved beds planted in a contrast of color and texture.”

◆ Katrina Wojtan and Andrew Davis, 1264/66 Maryland. “A live wreath and stone pots planted with canna lily and cascading lime green plants

highlight this lovely front façade.”

◆ John and Victoria Lange, 803 Beaconsfield. “A Chicago-style bungalow, this home (has) a stand of common milkweed along the fence (that) will surely support monarch caterpillars and butterflies.”

◆ 1444/46 Beaconsfield. “Perennials fill the beds, including butterfly bush and rudbeckia, to support our local pollinators.”

◆ Ana Southers, 1129 Wayburn. “Pyramid-shaped perennials and variegated hostas add texture, and a neat row of red and white impatiens add a note of formality.”

◆ Ava and Michael Schoenith, 567 Middlesex. “(A) massive ginkgo climbing tree directs your eye to a stunning newly landscaped berm, complete with a soothing water feature and attractive stone accents.”

◆ Vincent Galewski, 806 Barrington. “Maple and tricolor beech trees beautifully adorn this home, as well as cheerful perennials and annuals which certainly greet each passerby with a smile.”

◆ William Schipper III, 560 Barrington. “The front yard showcases a mini-forest of river birch amongst beds of grasses and perennials, such as lavender and coral bells.”

◆ Chris and Diane Huchingson, 904 Lakepointe. “The homeowner is often seen working outside in the garden, showing great care and attention to detail for this delightful property.”

◆ Terry and Dawn Riddle, 750 Westchester. “A beautiful large potted fern greets you to the front door, mirrored by a whimsical weeping cherry on the opposite side.”

◆ The Evans family, 727 Harcourt. “Displays of tall ornamental grass fill the front bed creating a simple yet striking landscape across the front of the house.”

◆ The Yee family, 737 Bedford. “Slight sections of lawn are lined with neat rows of boxwood surrounding the raised porch, ending in a small ornamental tree and shrubs to one side.”

◆ Michael and Fiona Parker, 660 Bedford Lane. “Curved beds surround the front façade of this house, softening the straight lines of the property.”

◆ William Snyder, 630 Bedford Lane. “A distinctive brick pathway winding through lush perennial beds gives a cottage-like feel to this one-story home.”

◆ Mark and Sandy Corrión, 771 Bedford. “USA is the theme for this stately Tudor home. United States flags adorn the lower beds and upper windows, complementing the large flag and USA-colored wreath on the front door. The sailboat in the front window adds the finishing touch.”

◆ David and Theresa Klaasen, 818 Park Lane. “Boxwood and yews are punctuated by hostas and sprays of red and white blooms. The perennial bed includes a variety of flowers in a rainbow of colors with a backdrop of white daisies and hydrangea. Beautiful.”

◆ Peter and Betsy Mogk, 1006 Yorkshire. “Plantings, both controlling and interesting, coexist in a wonderfully blended display that punctuates the front and leaves abundant space for light to shine on the flowers and grasses.”

◆ Jay and Hollie Ritchie, 1174 Kensington. “As the eye is drawn along undulating beds, natural-colored stone holds a variety of shrubs and perennials, with variegated leaves making a star appearance.”

◆ Stephen and Lisa McQueen, 1012 Three Mile Drive. “Neatly clipped foundation plantings are softened by flowering shrubs and accent trees, while a sweep of fresh annuals greet both resident and visitor alike.”

◆ Robert and Jeanine Morris, 1025 Devonshire. “Where to begin with this home, which gives so much? A start would be the wonderful flower bed by the sidewalk. A riot of color and shape, this introduction to the property appeals to visitors and pollinators.”

◆ Laura L. and Stephen Benard, 1145 Berkshire.

See BEAUTY, page 13A

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BEAUTY:*Continued from page 12A*

"This lovely home exudes warmth. A stand of feathery evergreens and a silver birch allow dappled light to bathe this area, which reinforces this special home's feeling of comfort."

◆ Marc Gosselin and Mimi Chen, 1321 Devonshire. "A boxwood hedge runs across the full property width, defining the beds filled with shrubs and flowering plants accented by two manicured, ornamental trees."

◆ Ronny and Amy Mauwad, 1341 Kensington. "The house and landscaping are meticulously maintained. A mature tree accents the front lawn. Two decorative planters grace the front door. A beautiful balance of plantings, textures, and colors."

◆ Nikolaus and Julianne Jost, 1217 Kensington. "Ornamental wrought iron fencing accents the front porch where one can enjoy relaxing on the garden bench. Evergreens define the beds containing hostas, coral bells and two ornamental trees."

◆ Richard and Mary Berschback, 1351 Yorkshire. "Well-manicured shrubs combined with hostas and hydrangeas plus a mature ornamental tree to the left side of the property create this lovely front yard."

◆ Oktavijan and Alexia Minanov, 1251 Yorkshire. "Two mature ornamental trees anchor the asymmetrical shade garden featuring a green and white color combination."

◆ Stanley and Kimberly Danieluk, 1310 Grayton. "This property is noteworthy for the unique living tree sculpture prominent in the front yard. The sculpture tree frames the entire front view of this house."

Century

◆ Carole Lytle McDowell, 835 Edgemont. "Ornamental trees, perfectly manicured boxwood and cheerful annuals give seasonal color to this beautiful home."

◆ Lawrence and Michelle Stone, 1044 Bedford. "Garden beds along the front of the house have a combination of heritage garden plantings and shrubs that lead to the sound of a trickling three-tier water fountain."

◆ David and Elizabeth Steiner, 1371 Berkshire. "A small white hydrangea tree centered in a divided front walk catches your attention as

you approach the grand porch and front door."

◆ James and Terry Guillaumin, 1105 Kensington. "Rows of tidy boxwoods lead visitors down a curved pathway to the striking red, arched front door."

◆ Patrick and Polly Ryan, 1222 Yorkshire. "The house and garden are meticulously kept,

and an assortment of shrubs and grasses line the symmetrical garden beds which are grounded on each side with vibrant Japanese maples."

◆ Dave and Judy Brophy, 1314 Yorkshire. "Numerous evergreens and plants fill the garden, and a variety of potted plants sit on the deep window sills."

Sustainability

◆ Jeff and Chris Parcells, 498 Barrington. "Garden beds were refreshed with a mix of natives, perennials and grasses with an emphasis on low maintenance." The lawn is clover. "The casual observer of this property would not know it (is) not a conventional grass lawn."

Business

◆ Antonio's in the Park, 15117 Kercheval. "Topiaries and sun-yellow annuals grace the front entrance, welcoming guests to enjoy the wonderful Italian fare inside."

◆ Pointe Hardware & Lumber, 15202 Kercheval. "A wonderful

improvement to downtown Grosse Pointe Park."

Civic

◆ Paul VanTol, for donating 100 sycamore trees to the city. "They grow up to 100 feet tall, providing shade in our neighborhoods while supporting native wildlife."



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LETTERS:*Continued from page 8A*

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TWAL celebrates 1st anniv. with Christmas collection

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — “When I say spur of the moment, I mean spur of the moment,” Meta Martinez said of when she and business partner Maggie Ehrlich registered the name for their destination-based design company.

“It’s really celebrating what we love about the places we’re in,” Ehrlich said. “... We’ve been battling around this idea for years and we went for it.”

The two City of Grosse Pointe residents launched TWAL last December and now are ramping up its offerings for the holiday season as they celebrate the shop’s one-year anniversary.

“TWAL is a modern version of the French Country Toile,” Ehrlich explained. “That’s that pastoral scene, the white background with the blue print that you often see, which actually originated in Ireland, but the French aristocracy took it on so it’s considered French Toile. That cele-



The TWAL Days of Christmas features 15 Grosse Pointe ornaments, with six new designs added this year.

brates destinations, pastoral things usually, and we liked that.

“We like that motif, but we wanted to put our own spin on celebrating

iconic things.”

This manifested into Grosse Pointe Christmas ornaments featuring designs such as a fishfly at the center of a

Christmas wreath; a Jacobson’s gift box for nostalgia purposes; the wagons at Grosse Pointe parks, in a nod to summers with their children; and new this year, Rustic Cabins Bar, because “growing up here, everybody’s hit Rustic Cabins,” Martinez said.

Additional new ornament designs are Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, The Central Library Calder Mobile and The Ford House.

They join the returning originals — Fish Fly Wreath, Grosse Pointe South, The War Memorial, The Wagons of the Pointes’ Parks, The Historic Joy Bells, The Freighters of Lake St. Clair, Herend Bunnies, Grosse Pointe Woods Clock and Jacobson’s Gift Box — to complete the TWAL Days of Christmas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONI VALENTINI/ SMALL SESSIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

Co-founders Maggie Ehrlich and Meta Martinez.

“How we came up with Christmas ornaments is our company’s name, TWAL,” Martinez said. “In Scotland, TWAL means 12, so we did all the 12 days of Christmas.”

“Our 12 days have become 15 because of demand,” Ehrlich added.

Alongside the TWAL Days of Christmas, the shop offers Christmas cards, hats and other apparel, water bottles, coasters and lacquer and lucite trays.

Its design styles fluctuate between the traditional watercolor design featured on the Christmas ornaments and a more modern, colorful pop-art style.

“We’re having fun doing it,” Martinez said, noting both women have jobs outside of TWAL. “It’s a lot of hard work and takes a lot of time, but we’re having fun doing it.”

“Meta and I both like the design process so much,” Ehrlich said, “we get energized when we start thinking about a

new destination and laughing.”

TWAL products are featured at Small Favors in The Village and its entire inventory is available online at TWAL.

shop. It also will be at local holiday pop-ups including:

◆ Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Holiday Boutique, open to the public noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21;

◆ Kerby Elementary School Holiday Market, 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6;

◆ “Sip, Shop & Sparkle Squad,” a holiday collaboration with childcare at The Friendship Factory in Grosse Pointe Woods, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13;

◆ and Holiday Pop-Up at Small Favors, the evening of Thursday, Dec. 17.

Though anchored in Grosse Pointe, TWAL also has a Charlevoix collection and intends to launch a Mackinac Island collection next year.



A TWAL tray from its Grosse Pointe Classic Christmas Collection.

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MacGriff selected as next DWSD general counsel

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department recently welcomed Scott MacGriff of Grosse Pointe Farms as its new general

counsel and chief compliance officer.

MacGriff previously served the city of Detroit as senior assistant corporation counsel for transactions and economic development. Prior to working in city government, he was a member at the law firm of Dickinson Wright, PLLC. Before joining the private sector, MacGriff served with the United States Department of Justice as justice attaché for the U.S. to Afghanistan at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, as well as a trial attorney, representing the U.S. as lead counsel in government contract actions in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

City Corporation Counsel Conrad Mallet said, “The law department thanks Scott for his service. His help with the administration of the city of Detroit’s American Rescue Plan Act programing has been invaluable. We wish him well and we will certainly be in touch.”

At DWSD, MacGriff will

direct a team of attorneys and professional staff engaged in a range of legal matters including, among other things, legal strategy, regulatory compliance, litigation (contract disputes, billing disputes, collections activities, damage claims and employment disputes), investigations, Freedom of Information Act requests and organizational policies.

DWSD Director Gary Brown said, “DWSD has a responsibility to be good stewards of ratepayer dollars and meet or exceed state and federal regulatory requirements. Scott’s legal acumen with broad government experience provides the right balance to lead our compliance efforts, responsibly represent the organization in legal matters and further help our team improve policies. We appreciate Mayor Mike Duggan and Conrad Mallet in supporting Scott’s transition from the corporation counsel office to DWSD.”

The DWSD general counsel position has been vacant since June 2024.

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Why can't we be friends?

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — That familiar song title by the band War is exactly what Erin Danforth had in mind when she opened her business, The Friendship Factory.

"I love the message," she said. "Be nice, develop friendships and be inspired."

Located at 20100 Mack, the three-story, stand-alone building offers a wide range of activities and events, primarily aimed at girls ages 3 to

13. The flagship location is in Rochester, which Danforth discovered a few years ago during a holiday event at the Country Club of Detroit.

"They had a presence at most family events there and my kids loved the crafts," she said. "It gives the parents a chance to sit back and relax."

She next attended an event with her daughter, Maggie, at the Rochester Hills location.

"I talked with the owner and we had similar media backgrounds and knew a lot of the same people,"

she said. "There's nothing like this in the Grosse Pointe area and she was interested in franchising. We really hit it off."

Danforth said the business fit her needs perfectly.

"I had resigned after 18 years in corporate America and was looking for opportunities," she said. "I was getting on a plane to New York every Monday and coming back Thursday night and realized I was missing my children's childhoods."

"Now, my kids (including son Kade) come here after school and do their

homework," she added. "They even have their own craft stations set up. They and my husband, Bobby, were the big inspiration for this."

Drop-in options range from craft stations to cookie decorating to spa creations and glitter tattoos. Specific, theme-centered events include movie nights, pajama parties and glam Wednesdays that feature hair braiding, makeup and manicures.

Private parties, held one at a time to maximize safety, range from one to three hours and offer a variety of choices.

"We take care of everything from set-up to entertainment to tear down," Danforth said. "The parents can just sit back and relax. They appreciate it."

Aside from Danforth, the store is staffed by the Sparkle Squad.

"These are amazing young women who do their best to make the day the best it can be," she said. "I've got some 13-year-olds who are chomping at the bit to turn 14 and join the squad, because that's sort of when they age out of the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Erin Danforth and her husband, Bobby, with daughter Maggie and son Kade at The Friendship Factory's grand opening.



Erin Danforth and her team at The Friendship Factory.

things we do. Plus, those who will be heading off to college next year promised to come back and help during breaks."

Danforth said her location is perfect. "We've got 2,200 square feet, so there are a lot of event rooms," she said. "We have our own parking lot and as a standalone building the girls can be as loud as they want."

The space also includes a retail shop with clothing, jewelry and accessories.

Danforth said her team

also is available for on-site events.

"When we do that, we focus on crafts that are more gender-neutral," she said. "We were at the Defer Elementary School open house, printing their new logo on hats and pencil cases and the boys loved it."

Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends, with private events held after closing. See thefriendshipfactory.com or call (313) 600-8426 for more information.

Corewell GP earns 'A' hospital safety grade

Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital earned an "A" hospital safety grade for fall 2024 from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog that sets standards for excellence in patient care.

The distinction recognizes the achievements of the hospital in protecting patients from preventable harm and error.

The Leapfrog Group assigns a letter grade to general hospitals across the country twice annually, using up to 30 national performance measures from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Leapfrog Hospital Survey and information from other supplemental data sources. The single letter

grade represents a hospital's overall performance in keeping patients safe from preventable harm and medical errors.

"We are very proud that five Corewell Health hospitals received an 'A' safety grade for fall 2024 and we continue to collaborate with Leapfrog on our safety journey," said James Moses, M.D., chief quality, safety and experience officer for Corewell Health. "That said, there are more opportunities to ensure all our hospitals get to 'A' when it comes to safety. We are looking forward to the work ahead that will get us there."

Corewell Health hospitals in Big Rapids, Greenville, Ludington and Zeeland also earned 'A' hospital safety grades for fall 2024.

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2&6B AREA ACTIVITIES | 6B OBITUARIES | 7B CHURCHES

Staying strong Mini Picassos founder planning classes amidst cancer battle

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It's been months since Mini Picassos owner Kate Wereley stepped foot into the children's art studio she founded nearly a decade ago.

In September, after adding a new play village to the studio, she was involved in a fender bender on her way home. Though uninjured, she noticed a pain in her chest where her seat belt restrained her. Upon further examination, she noticed a lump in the area.

"My mom went into remission three years ago, so I got in right away," Wereley said. "Within a week and a half, I was diagnosed with stage 2 triple-negative breast cancer."

Wereley described TNBC as an aggressive and fast-moving breast cancer. In just four months, her tumor had grown to 5 centimeters. If it's not caught right away, it quickly can spread to the spine and brain.

"As of now, it has not spread," she added. "... I'm a firm believer that the car accident, that someone was looking out for me and we found it right away."

Wereley is about a third of the way through 18 rounds of weekly chemotherapy, as well as immunotherapy every three weeks. Next, she'll undergo a double mastectomy and hysterectomy, before receiving additional treatments.

"It's been a total whirlwind," she said. "It came out of nowhere."

Wereley's compromised immune system has kept her away from her business since mid-

September; however, she has received tremendous support along the way.

"Through all of this, I've really learned the community is amazing and supportive and understanding and loving," she said. "They are really getting me through this terrible time in my life by bringing food, checking in, giving rides to my kids."

Though Wereley isn't able to be there, Mini Picassos still carries on with help from a handful of instructors.

"My mom, Miss Heather, is still doing Art After School," she said. "Miss Grace is still doing toddler and preschool art. Miss Colleen is doing the Play Village and Art Zone. Miss Maureen is helping Miss Heather. And there are high school students who come in for extra assistance after school. They've really stepped up; they're answers to my prayers."

Classes and camps are going strong at Mini Picassos, which this fall added its Play Village and Art Zone. The village includes a veterinary office, science laboratory, grocery store and other creative stations. The entire back of the studio features the Art Zone, complete with a tinker bar and creative camps.

"Mini Picassos is my fourth kid," Wereley said. "I love all my kids. When you're with them on a weekly basis during Art After School, you form friendships with them when you see them every day. I really miss them. My mom didn't hesitate to take my place."

Wereley said she hopes to return to Mini Picassos in the spring, "as long as my numbers keep going

down and the tumor is shrinking," she said. "I do miss it a lot."

"Mini Picassos will be 10 in December," she continued. "It literally is a part of me, a part of my soul. If I'm having a bad day, that special kid will give me a hug. I love it. I love what I do. To not be with my own kid every day all the time is really tough."

"... For somebody who's always on the go doing stuff and loves that, being bed-bound a couple days a week is challenging. I'm still planning all the art projects from my bed for Art After School. I gotta keep doing it."

To assist Wereley with medical expenses, as well as the keep the lights on at Mini Picassos, the family has started a GoFundMe page, which already has garnered \$9,200 of its \$30,000 goal. "Everything is appreciated and loved," Wereley said to her supporters. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for stepping up and helping my family during this crisis. I couldn't get through it without you. These are answers to my prayers to get me through the day. It makes realize how amazing of a community we have. When I think about all the help we've gotten I get choked up. It's overwhelming."

Wereley and her husband, Steve — "He's my biggest cheerleader. He's turned into Mr. Mom." — have three daughters, Savanna, Lucy and Emma.

"That's the positive I take out of a negative situation," Wereley said. "I'm feeling the love from my kids, my husband, the business I love, my mom. I'll do anything to get



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY WERELEY

Katy Wereley sits with some of the cards Art After School students from Monteith Elementary School made for her. "They put me in check," she said. "I'm going to get through this."

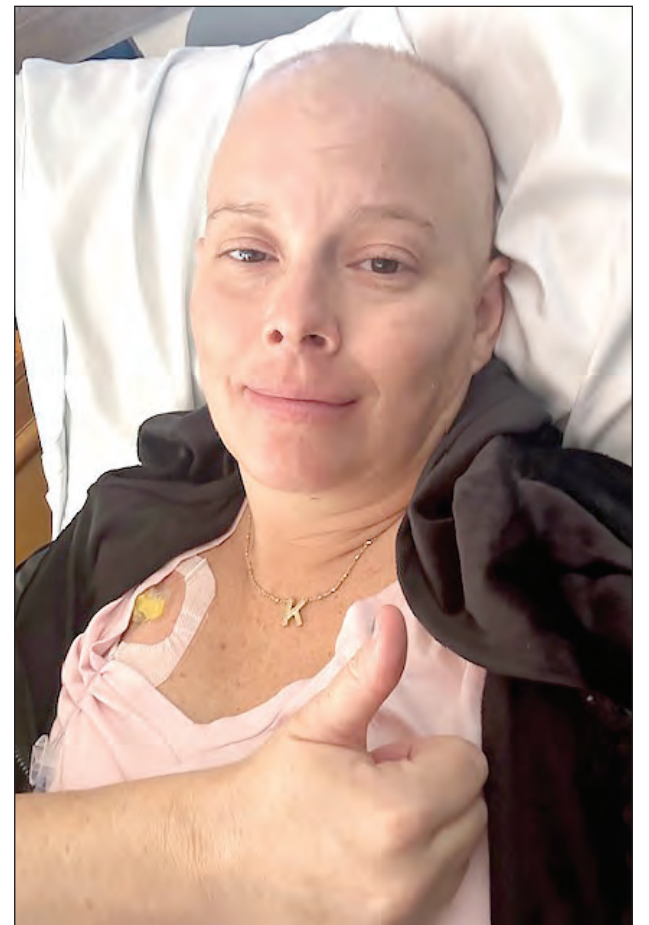
through this.

"Triple-negative breast cancer is a scary diagnosis; it's earth shattering," she added. "I gave myself two days to digest (the diagnosis). There's not many people who can say they've faced their own mortality. ... I'm going to get through this. I have no choice. There's no way I'm going to let it get me, my family, my kids down."

To make a GoFundMe donation, visit gofund.me/021add07 or scan the QR code.



Support Katy



Wereley gives a thumbs up from her bed at home.



Youngsters use their imagination in the Play Village.

More in store

Mini Picassos offers several holiday-themed programs in the coming weeks, including:

- ◆ Thanksgiving Eve Mini Art Camp, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. Children in kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to get crafty during this camp, which costs \$60 per child and \$40 per additional sibling.
- ◆ Toddler Art Mondays Holiday Edition, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mondays, Dec. 2 to 16. Each week, crafters will create a special keepsake gift for the holidays. Cost is \$75 per child and \$40 per additional sibling.
- ◆ Ornament Making Night, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6. All ages are welcome, but adults must stay with children ages 5 and younger. Cost is \$40 per child and \$25 per additional sibling.
- ◆ Holiday Paint Day — a step-by-step painting process — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, for ages 7 and older. Cost is \$30 per artist.
- ◆ Gingerbread House Night, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13. All ages are welcome, but adults must stay with children ages 5 and younger. Cost is \$35 per person.
- ◆ Christmas Camp: A Mini Holiday Art Camp, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, for children in kindergarten and up. Cost is \$60 per camper and \$40 per additional sibling.

Additionally, Mini Picassos offers its Play Village and Art Zone, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Mini Picassos is located at 21520 Harper, St. Clair Shores. For more information or to sign up for a class, visit mini.picassos.gp@gmail.com or call (313) 283-6710.

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Former Pointer in new SNL movie

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

Locals might recognize former Grosse Pointe Jeff Witzke from the movies, TV shows and commercials he's been in. They won't, however, recognize his voice in "Saturday Night," the new movie about the first broadcast of "Saturday Night Live."

Viewers will, however, recognize the voice when they hear Witzke. He does an impersonation of Johnny Carson on a telephone call to Lorne Michaels, the creator of SNL.

"The movie is about all of the chaos surrounding that very first show," Witzke said by phone recently from his home in Los Angeles. "Even in the hours leading up to it, they weren't sure if they were a go or if NBC was going to show a rerun of 'The Tonight Show.'"

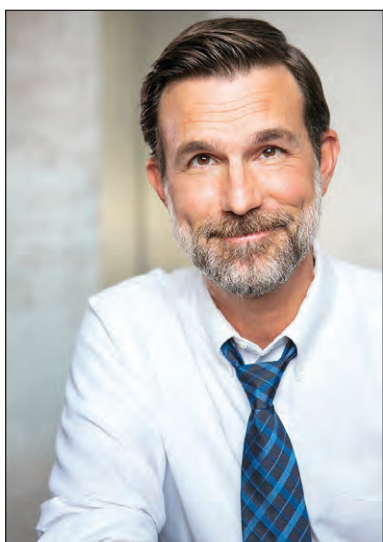
Witzke said Carson wasn't necessarily opposed to "Saturday Night Live," but didn't think the show would make it.

"It was a new form of TV comedy," he said. "Up until then, people only knew Johnny Carson and Milton Berle."

Witzke said he was on vacation in London when he got a text from Jason Reitman, the writer and director of "Saturday Night," asking him to be in the movie.

"I've known Jason a long time," Witzke said. "I was in his first three movies and almost every one since then."

"I told him where I was, since they were filming in Atlanta,



Jeff Witzke

and he said, 'It's only a phone call,'" he laughed. "So with all the technology, we were able to make it work. I don't even know if he knew I did a Johnny Carson impersonation."

The 1988 Grosse Pointe North High School graduate perfected the voice in the mid-1980s.

"I'd put a tape recorder next to the TV and tape his monologue," he said. "Then I'd mouth along and mimic his mannerisms, then started doing the voice."

It was at North when the acting bug bit Witzke.

"My best friend, Jim Clor, and I decided to take a theater class sophomore year and try out for a play," he recalled. "I was cast as Fagin in 'Oliver,' and I was hooked. He and I ended up doing 'The Odd Couple' senior year."

Witzke and Clor didn't just act

in school.

"His family had a home video camera, so we created a show for local cable," he said. "It was 'Money Man,' Grosse Pointe's first superhero. He solved crimes by throwing money at them! So the whole summer of 1989 we ran around town spoofing 'Batman.'"

After a year at DePaul University, Witzke transferred to Michigan State.

"I was a communications major," he said. "Being a good Grosse Pointe dad, I can still hear him saying, 'You can't get a job with a theater major!'"

While at State, Witzke and some other students created a sit-com on local cable called "The Show."

"It's still on," he said. "It's the longest-running college sit-com in the country."

The move to LA came via Chicago.

"Warner Bros. used to conduct a sit-com writing workshop and Reinhold Weege, who created 'Night Court,' decided to do one in Chicago," he said. "Steve Van Wormer, who was on 'The Show' with me, and I submitted one of our scripts. Most people were submitting spec scripts for actual TV shows, but I guess ours was so different that we got picked. So after seven days in Chicago we loaded up a U-Haul and drove to LA and neither of us have left."

Once in Hollywood, Witzke said he was determined to make it on his own.

"People say it's all about who you know and not what you

know, but with my Midwest work ethic and Grosse Pointe public school education — which was a very good education — I was going to make it on talent," he laughed. "But then I realized that it's all about networking. The more people you help, the more they'll help you."

Witzke, who lives in LA with his husband, Jordan, makes it back to the Pointes on occasion.

"I don't have any family there anymore, but I have a sister in Troy," he said. "Whenever I visit her I like to drive around Grosse Pointe to see what's changed and what hasn't."

He also keeps in touch with Clor and several other North alumni who were in theater. The two in 2018 helped organize an all-class performing arts reunion to honor Ben Walker, North's longtime choir director. More than 100 people attended.

"It was a great time with great people," Witzke said. "After those first few plays sophomore year, we really bonded and hung out all summer. It was actually in my basement on Roslyn when we were watching 'The Tonight Show' that I first started doing my Carson impersonation."

Aside from acting and writing, Witzke also teaches acting classes.

"I tell my students about my experiences," he said, "getting to be in movies with people like George Clooney and Hugh Jackman and Kate Winslet. I tell them it's not to name drop, it's to show them anything can happen if they follow their dreams."

AREA ACTIVITIES

Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical Breakfast group meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Heather Thumger, associate pastor at Memorial Church, speaks. Cost for breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28300 Rockwood, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, Recreation Authority of Roseville/Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.

Register at redcross blood.org.

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:

◆ The movie "Under the Same Moon" is shown at noon Friday, Nov. 22. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Lunch at The Helm, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. Cost is \$14 for members, \$16 for nonmembers.

◆ Premier World Discovery presents "Music Cities — New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville," 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. Learn about the itineraries for these two trips.

◆ Holiday Church Tours, Lunch and Dessert, 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$112 for members, \$120 for nonmembers. Participants will

See EVENTS, page 6B

GPT accepting 10-minute play entries through Dec. 31

Grosse Pointe Theatre is calling all playwrights, experienced or new, to submit their creative 10-minute plays for consideration in the 2025 Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival, which will be held June 12 to 14, 2025. The plays must follow the criteria set and encompass this year's theme, "Rockin' Through Life," with a rocking chair as a prominent part of the storyline. Play submissions are due by midnight Dec. 31, and should be emailed in proper transcript form to playfestival@gpt.org.

"We are thrilled to be able to engage the public in our 12th annual Ten-Minute Play Festival, which has grown substantially since its inception," said Mary Lou Britton, creator and program director. "Our festival has attracted many talented playwrights from Michigan, across the U.S. and beyond and we look

forward to seeing what creative and entertaining 10-minute plays will be submitted for consideration this year."

Playwrights must adhere to the criteria to move on to the final adjudication, which will be evaluated by judges not affiliated with Grosse Pointe Theatre. The judges' top 10 scored plays will be performed at the 2025 festival.

Criteria for play submission

Playwrights must follow this year's criteria to be considered in the adjudication process. Plays that do not follow the criteria will automatically be disqualified without notice.

◆ The theme of the 2025 festival is "Rockin' Through Life." All plays must incorporate a rocking chair within the story and on stage. The same rocking chair set piece will be used in all per-

formed plays.

◆ Ten-minute play sets must be simple (minimal black box-style set) with limited props and small set pieces, limited actors (two to four), simple costumes, etc. There must be no actual doors, windows or other large set pieces, so one play can easily and quickly transition to the next.

◆ Plays must not exceed 10 minutes, be of a suitable length (approximately 10 pages), in the proper typed manuscript format and include a two-to-four-sentence synopsis of the play. The action of the play should be contemporary and continuous, without scene breaks.

◆ Scripts that include inappropriate language are not suitable for this audience.

◆ When submitting a play, the author's identifying information should be removed from the body of the play and on all corresponding play pages. The author's name, address, email and phone number should only appear on the

accompanying email cover sheet.

◆ Playwrights should submit plays electronically by or before midnight Dec. 31. Email submissions to playfestival@gpt.org.

◆ Entries will be judged anonymously by a panel of local and out-state judges, not affiliated with

be announced in early spring. Once plays are selected, characters are determined and directors are in place, Grosse Pointe Theatre will hold open auditions for the available roles Saturday April 5, at Grosse Pointe Theatre, 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe. Each director will set their rehearsal schedule.

The Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival will be performed June 12, 13, and 14, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe in Grosse Pointe Farms. All those involved in the plays are expected at rehearsals, tech week, performances and set teardown following the last performance.

"The Ten-Minute Play Festival is a wonderful opportunity to experience the magic of live theater," Britton said. "Whether you write a 10-minute play, audition for one or volunteer to be part of the critical production and event crew, we welcome you to be part of this exciting and educational theater experience that continues to be a crowd-pleaser for audiences."

For more information, visit gpt.org/take-ten/. Email additional questions to playfestival@gpt.org.



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Community coming together

The Family Center hosts additional QPR training in response to recent suicides

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Approximately every 11 minutes, someone in the United States dies by suicide.

In Michigan, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death.

According to the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission's 2023 report, 1,482 people lost their lives to suicide in 2021. In the last few months, at least four suicides have occurred close to home.

In response, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods hosts suicide prevention training, called QPR. According to the QPR Institute, QPR is not a form of counseling or treatment. It is intended to offer hope through positive action.

"QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer — the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide," said MaryJo Harris, The Family Center's director of programs and administration.

"We do QPR training at least twice a year, for the last four years," said Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of The Family Center. "We also coordinate the suicide prevention walk at South; we've done that the last eight years. There's always more that needs to be done and we're willing to do

whatever it takes."

Why QPR?

Last year, The Family Center paid for a member of its Association of Professionals, Sarah Kost-Cox, to be trained as a QPR therapist. Kost-Cox will facilitate QPR training at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch in Grosse Pointe Park.

"We planned the training for early December so families can get this important training before students come home for holiday break and family members are together who may not have seen each other for a while," Harris said. "For many people, the holidays are a time where mental health is a challenge. Feeling alone, remembering family members who have passed, stress and unrealistic expectations can bring about feelings of helplessness and even thoughts of suicide. In fact, instances of suicide are highest just after the holiday season."

Kost-Cox, the middle and upper school therapist at University Liggett School and in private practice, agreed.

"There are a lot of lonely people during the holidays and not just seniors; there are lonely adults during the holidays," she said. "Holidays are stressful. People don't always get along with family members. Then there's the time change — the darkest

days of the next few months; it changes our rhythm and how we view things. And there's the recent unfortunate losses in our community, too."

As a clinical psychologist for more than 15 years, Kost-Cox eagerly pursued QPR training when it was offered by The Family Center last December.

"As a mental health professional, I didn't know this modality existed," she said, noting QPR training has made her more aware.

"My first experience with death by suicide was in 1997," she said. "I was a freshman in high school. It was a friend of my brother's. Since then there have been many more. It shakes your world."

"I want people to have this information, to feel that it's OK to ask, even if your voice shakes. It's about empowerment. You don't have to be a professional to help in that crisis."

Kost-Cox has facilitated three QPR trainings so far through The Family Center and hopes to offer it through other organizations.

QPR, she added, is for anyone seeking clarity on how to approach someone who may be silently suffering.

"It could be a parent to a child, a friend to a best friend, a sibling to an older or younger sibling," she said. "This allows that space to learn how to ask questions and how

not to ask questions — the right language to use.

"... It might seem silly until you've been there, where you've lost somebody in a death by suicide. You think, 'There's more I could have done.'"

QPR training fills in those blanks.

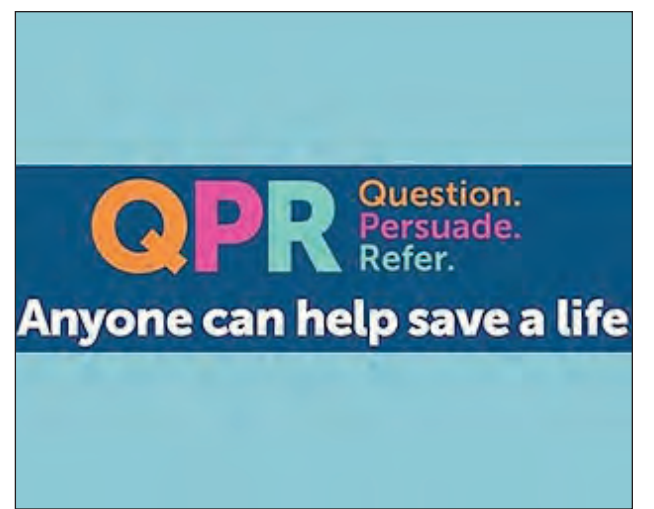
"Attendees will learn how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health crisis," Harris said.

Harris and Bingaman encouraged QPR not only for support, but also to combat myths and misinformation about suicide.

"A lot of people have never asked somebody if they're going to kill themselves," Kost-Cox said. "That question tends to stop people in their tracks. You don't know if you're sure you should ask, so it stops right there."

"... One of the myths is if you talk about suicide, somebody becomes suicidal," she added. "Often, when the question is asked, it can be very freeing for (the distressed person) because somebody knows. There's a glimmer of hope. Someone is paying attention and sees their pain and wants to help. It's about offering that hope to people."

"QPR trains us to ask questions so we can persuade them to get help," Harris said. "You don't even think you're going to ask, but when you ask — it's a very difficult thing — you're poten-



tially saving their life."

Added Bingaman, "It might be the hardest question you've ever asked, so it's really helpful to go through training and practice so you're better prepared."

How it works

During QPR training, Kost-Cox starts with an introduction and shares her background and experience.

"I make sure to mention that I don't anticipate anyone sharing why they're here," she noted. "They all have their own reasons. Maybe they're a survivor of or had a death by suicide in their own life."

Training also includes a PowerPoint presentation and handouts, like things to say and not to say.

"It's training you to think and to have the courage to speak," she said.

She may lead participants through a role-playing exercise, but understands that may not be for everybody. She'll also run through myths and facts about suicide.

QPR lasts around an hour and typically includes time for questions. Participants are welcome to share their own stories if they're comfortable doing so.

Everyone leaves with Kost-Cox's contact information.

Training is for ages 15 and older. Participants may include "someone with suicidal ideation, someone who has attempted before, the caregiver of a chronically ill person, the elderly, someone with a terminal illness," she said. "... I get lots of parents in the audience who have questions if it comes up with their teen or their teen's friend, just to have some information. It's wonderful to share information with parents or adolescents with friends who are struggling — and it's easy to remember."

Kost-Cox said she's grateful to The Family Center for allowing her to help others through QPR.

"I enjoy just being in the community to be able

See QPR, page 4B

Fox Creek Questers host lecture

The Fox Creek Questers invite the public to the free lecture, "Interpreting American Decorative Arts and Architecture," presented by Peter Cook, a retired museum curator/director and academic.

The lecture, which takes place at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, will include topics such as how to protect and share objects that are held in public trust, the passion for collecting cultural heritage, and guides and docents in the house museum.

There will be time for questions and discussion following the lecture.

Cook has advanced degrees in museum administration and education and is widely published on the subjects of textiles, hand-spinning and the decorative arts. His career has included chief curatorial or administrative positions at the Bennington Museum, Plimoth Plantation and Historic New England. He taught for many years as an adjunct associate professor at Boston University and Lesley University and was a visiting Fulbright professor at Tetavo State University in Northern Macedonia.

The lecture is presented as a gift from the Fox Creek Questers 216, based in Grosse Pointe.

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Holiday Homecoming

Tree lighting, vintage holiday market at The War Memorial

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

A recently rediscovered black and white photo of unknown date depicts a tree-lighting ceremony at The War Memorial from decades past and calls into remembrance a forgotten Grosse Pointe Christmas tradition — the Tribute Tree.

The War Memorial's first Tribute Tree lighting ceremony was held December 1985, and offered community members the opportunity to place a white light on the tree, for a \$5 donation, in honor of a loved one, living or deceased. The annual ceremony continued into the early 2000s, drawing hundreds of attendees for Christmas carols, hot cocoa and a chance to see Santa.

Though the tribute concept for now will remain a fond memory, the legacy of a tree-lighting ceremony at The War Memorial will make its grand return Sunday, Nov. 24, for the organization's 75th anniversary year.

"It's special to have something that was a legacy traditional event at The War Memorial, to be able to bring it back," President and CEO Maria Miller said. "The team has built a whole event around lighting the tree that will be pretty spectacular, so I'm happy



COURTESY PHOTO

The date of this past tree-lighting ceremony at The War Memorial has been lost to time.

we're doing it for the community."

A live caroling group will set the stage for the 20-foot tree to be lit in front of the front circle fountain at 5:30 p.m., while a vintage Christmas market featuring gifts and holiday-themed wares will be spread throughout the Alger House reception room, dining room and palm room from 4 to 7 p.m.

The collection of artists, makers and curators of vintage and antique items will include Nicholas Roncone Pottery, Nanny Goat Co., Bakers Studios, Ava's Hot Cocoa Bombs, Jujoli Candle Co., Noreen Neubar Vintage, Good Morning Girl Vintage, Simplicity by NW Jewelry and All the Things.

See HOLIDAY, page 5B



Home for the Holidays at Ford House includes elegant decorations outside and in.

COURTESY PHOTO

Ford House up for national recognition

Home for the Holidays at Ford House has been nominated in the best holiday historic home tour category in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards.

"Being nominated is an incredible honor for all of us at Ford House," President and CEO Mark Heppner said. "Our team pours heart and creativity into making the holidays magical here and this recognition truly reflects their dedication."

Voting is open through 11:59 a.m. Monday, Dec. 2. Winners will be announced at noon Friday, Dec. 6. See <https://shorturl.at/0PtIH> to vote.

"We are deeply grateful to our community for their support and enthusiasm. Your votes mean so much to us," Heppner added. "Thank you for helping Ford House shine as a place to create lasting holiday memories."

Other historic homes that were nominated include Meadow Brook Hall in nearby Rochester, Elvis Presley's Graceland in Memphis, Tenn., and the house from "A Christmas Story" in Cleveland, Ohio.

As of press time, Ford House was in fifth place.

Home for the Holidays at Ford House is an evening holiday stroll through the glittering grounds as thousands of lights illuminate the estate, guiding guests on a one-mile walking tour throughout the property.

On the grounds, weeping willows are

dripping in lights, the rose garden is aglow in rich hues and the main residence is decked in ribbons of starry lights. Inside the home, decorated in Eleanor Ford's signature style of "understated elegance," showcases original ornaments and décor from when the family resided there.

Friends of Ford House are invited to an exclusive preview at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, where Santa Claus will throw the switch and illuminate the estate for the first time. Home for the Holidays at Ford House continues 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6 to 29.

New this year, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will greet guests for photos. Guests will warm up with a complimentary hot chocolate or, for adults, cocoa may be upgraded with a splash of the Christmas "spirit" for a festive treat.

Tickets for Home for the Holidays at Ford House are \$28 for adults, \$14 for children. Children age 2 or younger are admitted free. Friends of Ford House enjoy a discounted \$20 admission for adults and a discounted \$10 admission for children 15 years old or younger. Timed entries ensure an intimate experience, so guests are encouraged to purchase tickets early to guarantee their preferred date and time.

See fordhouse.org/holidays for ticket information and other holiday events.

QPR:

Continued from page 3B

to offer that piece of myself," she said. "... I hope people within any community feel safe to reach out to those in helpful roles. And if you're not comfortable to come to QPR, call the trainer. Ask the questions you need to ask to feel comfortable. If you don't want to be out of your comfort zone, a quick phone call prior to might help put you at ease.

"And be curious about mental health," she added. "We all have mental health — whether we're good or struggling at different times. Keep the conversation going. It's not a weakness if you struggle one day versus the next. It makes you human."

988

Much like calling 911 for an emergency requiring police, the fire department or an ambulance, there is a hotline available for people who are struggling or know someone who is struggling. Calling the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline puts the caller in touch with a trained responder.

"It's like 911 but for mental health," Bingaman said. "It's staffed 24-7 and dispatched locally. It's for someone experiencing a mental health crisis or to support someone helping another person through a mental health crisis. If a friend is suicidal or depressed or just not themselves, call 988 (or text) and they'll give you advice and resources.

"You never have to be alone," she added. "You always have this resource."

Kost-Cox said she's been fortunate to meet some 988 operators, who she described as "wonderful humans who want to help."

"When you learn about the people behind the number, you feel more comfortable," she added. "They are people who truly are there to support."

Other opportunities

In addition to QPR, The Family Center offers a variety of online resources, including helpful articles and professional referrals, for people who are struggling with mental health issues.

Bingaman said she's noticed the issue of isolation becoming a bigger problem.

"People are missing human connection," she said. "They're on their phones or on Zoom meetings and not connecting with people in person. Being together is a big part of feeling a connection with other people in the community."

"Sitting at home is clearly something caus-

ing mental health issues," Harris added.

"With the holidays coming up, social media compounds it. People only post beautiful pictures, because they're not going to post bad things. Others think they're having a Hallmark Christmas, but in reality that's not how it is. Everyone has their struggles."

Putting down the phone and getting out among other people is a goal of the many programs The Family Center provides, each of them an opportunity for connection.

"We have Community Yoga, Community Book Club, programs on a variety of topics — just to get people out and socializing," Bingaman said. "One of our board members said people come to The Family Center if they're struggling or if they want information about a certain topic, but they also come to The Family Center if they're thriving and looking for more, for something interesting to do."

For more information or to register for QPR, visit familycenterhelps.org, call (313) 447-1374 or email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

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Fontbonne's White Christmas Ball recognizes healthcare heroes

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It's been nearly five years since the COVID-19 pandemic first ravaged the world, yet the chaos it caused to those in the healthcare industry is still fresh in mind.

To honor the frontline workers who sacrificed their own health to save others, the Fontbonne Auxiliary of St. John Hospital hosts its 71st annual White Christmas Ball, "A Holiday for Heroes," at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

"With this year's theme, I'm thrilled," said Kimberleigh Bill, R.N., chairwoman of this year's ball. "Our healthcare heroes needed recognition, from top to bottom, doctors, nurses, housekeeping — everyone in the system who had to deal with COVID.

"... They could not work from home," she added. "These were frontline workers who went in like firemen or policemen. Their self-sacrifice is something that doesn't get enough recognition."

Bill and Fontbonne Auxiliary President Lorna Zalenski, R.N., were among the frontline workers who went above and beyond during the pandemic.

"When they started giving out vaccines, they would staff the hospital but also volunteer at clinics to give vaccines," Zalenski said. "I volunteered in the clinics to give vaccines. A lot of people were working double duty at the expense of spending time with their own families."

"I didn't see my own children for three months," Bill added, noting her husband, son and daughter also work in the medical field.

More recently, the health system was hit with a ransomware attack that put an additional burden on the staff.

"The staff had quite a challenge," Bill said, noting the hospital system's shift to a 1970s method of documentation referred to as SOAP, which stands for subjective, objective, assessment and plan. "(CEO) Dr. Kevin Grady worked with residents to get back to that type of format. They got into the trenches and didn't come back out until it was over."

Added Zalenski, "Then they had to (manually) put all that data into the system."



To recognize their efforts both during the pandemic and the data breach, the auxiliary will dedicate funds raised from its White Christmas Ball to the hospital's educational fund.

"It's called the Gift of Knowledge," Zalenski said. "We want to increase the fund so more physicians and nurses can use it to better educate themselves. Some are required (to take courses) every year to maintain their licenses. We want to make it easier on people."

"We are raising money to give back to the associates who have gone above and beyond these last five years," she continued. "These associates gave selflessly. Fontbonne

Auxiliary will continue to raise money for the Moross location. We believe that providing a way for staff to get the educational credits they're required to get or are going above and beyond to get will directly benefit patients."

"Collectively during the epidemic and beyond, caretakers appear at many levels," explained Madeline Phillips, committee member.

"There are nurses, doctors, occupational therapists, physical therapists, laboratory technicians, medical assistants, housekeeping staff and a plethora of others. We are fortunate to have these collaborators in our midst."

"... This is Fontbonne's commitment to thank and give back to our associates for their continued commitment, resilience and perseverance during the years of COVID and the recent cyberthreat," she added. "Our associates gave selflessly during these times and continuously put the needs of patients before their own. The Fontbonne Auxiliary recognizes this and wishes to show our appreciation and continued patronage."

Bill's first ball was in 1994, and also was in support of the Gift of Knowledge fund.

"It's nice that it's come full circle 30 years later," she said.

The event kicks off at 6 p.m. with heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks, fol-



COURTESY PHOTOS

White Christmas Ball committee members recently got together for a "mailing party" to prepare invitations.

lowed by dinner at 7 p.m.

"There will be recognition of staff members," Bill said. "Some heroes will be in attendance, but we will not individualize each person."

Skyline and the Backstreet Horns will provide live music for the black-tie event.

Ticket reservations are required by Friday, Nov. 29. Donations to the ball must be received by Friday, Nov. 22.

For tickets, call Zalenski at (313) 590-5607 or email llz523@aol.com.

Committee

White Christmas Ball Committee members include Debbie Bellovich, Stephanie Berri, Dr. Katherine Bill, Camille Cracchiolo, Jordyn Cytacki, Sally Cytacki, Dr. Kimberley Demerle, Cathy Grady, Teresa Lucido, Kathleen McDonald, Megan Mezey, Patricia Minnick, Charlotte Morrow, Lorraine Owczarek, Madeleine Phillips and Linda Schaden.

"This committee is A-plus," White Christmas Ball Chairwoman Kimberleigh Bill said. "They are the nicest group of women. They



White Christmas Ball chairwoman Kimberleigh Bill

are beautiful, brilliant, strong, but kind. They really have love for each other."

Added Fontbonne Auxiliary President Lorna Zalenski, "It's a sisterhood. I joined when my husband was a resident in '84 or '85. We're there for each other, even beyond Fontbonne. Anyone can call on any member for anything. It's definitely a sisterhood. And we believe in our mission, the mission of Henry Ford St. John Hospital."

The Fontbonne Auxiliary has supported the hospital through its philanthropic efforts since its inception in 1947.

Literacy initiative

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb, stands with guest speakers Sue Zarin and Sheila Blair-Mosley from Windsor-Roseland Rotary, during the club's Oct. 29 meeting. Zarin and Blair-Mosley introduced the club to the Guatemala Literacy Project, which provides resources for reading, textbooks, computers and scholarships to children in rural areas where these resources barely exist. This Rotary initiative has helped drive a 100 percent improvement in rural literacy and foster job-ready school graduates into entry-level employment. More than 800 Rotary clubs and 90 districts have been working together since 1997 to improve education for underserved students in Guatemala. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an invitation to residents to join their Tuesday breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

HOLIDAY:

Continued from page 4B

"We've partnered (for the market) with Mata Kartsonas, who's the wife of the historic preservationist that we're working with for some of the restoration work of the Alger House," said Leah Celebi, vice president of community engagement and programming.

With marshmallows for roasting and The War Memorial's signature hot chocolate for sale at the outdoor warming area, the free-admittance tree-lighting ceremony also features:

◆ crafting paper cranes for Christmas tree decoration in the Alger House library from 4 to 7 p.m., with the Grosse Pointe Artists Association and instructor Nobuko Yamasaki;

◆ storytime and photo opportunities with Princess Belle from Part of Your World Princess Party Company in the Alger House library at 4:15, 4:45, 5 and 6:15 p.m.;

◆ and signature War Memorial ornaments for sale for the organization's 75th anniversary.

A VIP reception inside the ballroom will feature Michigan wines from Grand Traverse Winery, a signature cocktail and appetizers curated by The War Memorial's executive chef. Tickets are \$45. Children may attend for \$20 and enjoy appetizers and hot chocolate.

"Since Maria has been CEO, there's been a reinvigoration to recommit ourselves to our original purpose and dedication of being a place to honor, reflect, remember and enrich the community

and a place to bring people together," Celebi said. "So that's where the idea of the Holiday Homecoming and inviting people to feel like this is their home came from."

The tree-lighting ceremony likely will become an annual event going forward, she added.

The War Memorial's Holiday Homecoming programming also includes Bedtime Stories with Santa 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, and Thursday, Dec. 12 — as well as, new this year, a sensory-friendly edition at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 — and Breakfast with Santa at 9 a.m. and noon Sunday, Dec. 15.

Purchase tickets at warmemorial.org/holidayhomecoming.

"That culminates our holiday season with lots of fun, joy and Christmas holiday cheer," Celebi said.

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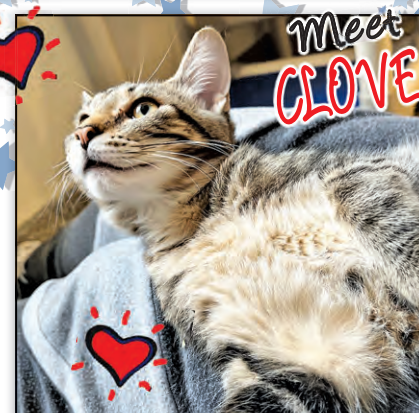
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6B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Joseph John Perry

Joseph "Joe" John Perry, 78, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, at his home in St. Clair Shores, sitting in his favorite chair.

Joe was born July 23, 1946, in Detroit, and grew up in Warren with his brother, Robert, and sister, Kathy. After graduating high school, he served in the U.S. Army for four years before receiving an honorable discharge. He then returned home and met his beloved wife, Bonnie, while working at Peninsular Steel.

Joe had a long career in insurance and risk management, obtaining multiple certifications and never fully retiring. More than that, he was a loving provider to his daughter, Tara, and son, Joey, and later in life, to his daughter-in-law, Nana, and his grandchildren, Joseph and Elijah.

Joe leaves a legacy of expressing his love for others through acts of service and support. From the seemingly trivial, like always stopping to pick litter off the ground, to the deepest commitments, like caring for Bonnie when her

health declined, he gave all he could. Most who knew him have a story of how Joe helped or showed up for them in some way, which is a testament to the kind of husband, father, grandfather, brother, godfather and friend he was.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, bit.ly/47PrHTz. Share memories with the family at ahpeters.com.

Dr. Roger Meyer

Dr. Roger Meyer, 85, passed away Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.

Roger was born to proud German parents in a small farming community in Okolona, Ohio. With German being the language spoken at home, Roger first learned English in kindergarten.

Although he had respect for the hard work required, Roger followed his academic dreams to become a medical doctor. This dream was in part inspired by an early childhood accident that required him to spend many months in and out

of hospitals, undergoing multiple surgeries to successfully save his injured leg.

Roger proudly attended the University of Michigan, joined a fraternity, sang in the choir and played in the marching band. He loved all the university had to offer, but mostly the academic training he received. Upon graduation, he went to medical school at The Ohio State University. While in medical school, he got married and had his first daughter, Lauren Elizabeth Meyer. After medical school, he graduated top of his class as a U.S. Air Force flight surgeon, first receiving his training in San Antonio, then moving to the Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda. During his time in the Air Force, his second daughter, Jennifer Susan Meyer, was born.

After a short stint in an orthopedic residency, Dr. Meyer realized his passion lay in the newly emerging field of transplant surgery, specifically cornea transplant surgery. While pursuing academic excellence and medical acumen, Dr.



Joseph John Perry



Dr. Roger Meyer

Meyer did two ophthalmology fellowships in the field of transplant surgery, first at the University of California in San Francisco and next at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Dr. Meyer joined the University of Michigan Department of Ophthalmology in 1975. He was proud to return to U-M. As a research scientist and greatly respected surgeon, Dr. Meyer helped shape and develop the field of cornea transplant surgery and ophthalmology as a whole during his 30 years with the university. He presented countless research papers and presentations across the world. Widely renowned as one of the premier cornea transplant surgeons, Dr. Meyer never lost his humble desire to restore vision to his patients. One of his proudest contributions to humanity was the gift of sight to thousands of people.

Dr. Meyer's other joy was being a proud girl dad. Never reluctant to

wear pink and let his girls dress him up, his daughters were his pride and joy. He shared his passion for education with his children and grandchildren. He also was a huge ski fan, taking his family to the Aspen Corneal Society meeting every year in February. What began as a family ski trip with his two daughters soon grew into an annual ritual with his grandchildren and their friends. He wanted them to excel at skiing and implemented the rule to stay in ski school until they could ski a Double Black Diamond run. Needless to say, all of his grandchildren are excellent snowboarders and skiers.

Dr. Meyer also had a passion for travel, which he shared with his beautiful wife, Judy. Their adventures began while Roger was at U-M and continued after they married, ultimately living in Laguna Beach, Calif. Being on the West Coast with Judy was one of the happiest times of his life.

Judy and Roger traveled the world extensively and shared their love of ophthalmology together.

When Judy unexpectedly predeceased Dr. Meyer, a part of his heart went as well. Dr. Meyer moved back to Michigan and had the opportunity to enjoy his children and grandchildren for two years. Always an optimist and looking for silver linings, Grandpa Roger felt this was such a beautiful and valuable part of his life.

Dr. Meyer was a cherished husband to the late Judy Gordon; beloved father of Lauren Crow and Jennifer Burt (Keith); proud grandpa of Maxwell, Natalie and Catherine Crow and Madison and Morgan Burt; loving brother of Carolyn Smelker (Jack), Bill Meyer (Janice) and the late Delbert Meyer (Mildred); and dearest friend to the children of Judy Gordon and Glenna and Grant Gordon. He also is survived by many other loving family and friends.

A memorial celebration will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Roger F. Meyer Lectureship in Cornea, University of Michigan, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, (734) 763-0875.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

visit Historic Trinity Lutheran Church and First Congregational Church of Detroit, with a stop at Amore de Roma Cafe for lunch and dessert at Shatila.

◆ The movie "Operation Christmas Drop" is shown at noon Friday, Dec. 13. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

◆ Holiday Karaoke Party, noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$22 for members, \$26 for nonmembers, and includes lunch catered by Andiamo.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit grossepointelibrary.org.

◆ Dino Movie, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe

Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 4th Monday Book Discussion, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Mystery Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ In Cold Mug Book Discussion, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Whiskey 6, 646 St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ 5th & 6th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Thanksgiving Break Family Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Dino Drop-In Craft, 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at all three branches.

◆ Early closing for Thanksgiving, all branches will close at 5 p.m.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

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

◆ Modern Manners: Youth Etiquette, 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24.

◆ Tree-Lighting Ceremony, 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24. A VIP reception costs \$45.

◆ Vet Connect Seminar Series: Tri-County Veteran Navigators, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Cadieux Cafe

Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit, welcomes Planet D Nonet at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24. Planet D Nonet will perform swing music by Basie, Waller, Moten, Henderon and Ellington. There is a \$10 cover charge.

GPPSS

The Grosse Pointe Public School System offers a series of informational nights for various grade levels. The schedule is:

◆ Eighth Grade Day, Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South — 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26.

◆ Rising Fifth Grade Info Night, all GPPSS middle schools — 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6.

◆ Rising Freshman Info Night, Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.

◆ Kindergarten & Young Fives Info Night, all GPPSS elementary schools — 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.

Holiday floral workshops

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Lauren Radke is offering four holiday floral workshops: 1 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, and 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17. Participants will create centerpieces using a mix of flowers. Cost is \$45 and includes all supplies. To register, visit laurenradkeart.com. For more information, text (313) 510-0767 or email lauren@laurenradkeart.com.

Santa at Schwab

Charles Schwab of Grosse Pointe, 20879 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, is hosting photo opportunities with Santa Claus from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. Cocoa and cookies will be provided. The public and friendly pets are welcome; however, reservations are required by calling (313) 743-0433 or emailing jackie.piper@schwab.com.

Matty's Friendsgiving

The eighth annual Matty's Friendsgiving

takes place at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, at Fishbones in St. Clair Shores. The event includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Proceeds from a raffle and silent auction benefit the Jamie Daniel Foundation, whose mission is to provide support programs and resources to address substance use disorder. The foundation focuses on children and young adults through education, prevention, recovery and stigma reduction. The Peyser family holds this event in remembrance of their son, Matt Peyser.

Ford House

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

◆ Storytime: A Walk in the Forest, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, through Nov. 26, for ages 7 and younger.

◆ Holiday Main Residence Guided Tour, 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Sundays, Nov. 29 to Dec. 31. Admission costs vary.

◆ Home for the Holidays at Ford House, entry times every half hour from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, Nov. 30 to Dec. 22. Admission costs vary. For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free QPR training at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, at the Ewald library, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. Participants learn how to question someone struggling with their mental health, encourage them to get help and where to find resources. Training is free, but registration is appreciated. Email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

Chamber

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosts the following networking events:

◆ Holiday Happy Hour, 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Rustic Cabins/Original Buscemi's 313, 15209 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ After Hours Networking, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Closet Connections, 20427 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

GPA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartists.org.

◆ Watercolor and Gomuban with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Registration closes Nov. 21.

◆ Relax with Poetry and Painting: A Nancy Philo Experience, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12 and 13.

◆ Portraits in the Style of Berthe Morisot, with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 16, 23 and 30.

◆ Landscapes in the Style of Pierre-Auguste Renoir, with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 20 and 27, and March 6.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

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Crosspointe Christian Church hosts free outdoor Christmas photo booth

Crosspointe Christian Church recently announced the launch of its outdoor Christmas photo booth, a free festive photo station open to the entire community.

Families and individuals are invited to visit the church campus at 21336 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, to capture their own Christmas photos in a welcoming environment that reflects the spirit of the season.

The photo booth, located outside Crosspointe Christian Church, is decorated with Christmas garlands and string lights, creating a memorable backdrop. Visitors may drop by at their convenience, take photos and bring the holiday spirit home to share with loved ones.

In addition to providing a festive photo opportunity, the church welcomes the community to attend worship services throughout the Christmas season.



Visitors may pick up a rack card with the service schedule and contact information at the photo booth.

"This project is about more than just offering a fun Christmas photo opportunity; it's a chance to invite people into the joy and love of the season by extending an open invitation to come and worship with us," said Gary Abud Jr., who oversees the church's discipleship efforts. "We hope families will take advan-

tage of this free service and feel the warmth of Christ's love through this simple but meaningful gesture."

The booth will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. throughout the Christmas season. Families are encouraged to share their photos on social media using the hashtag #C3Christmas to help spread holiday cheer.

For more information, visit yourc3.org or email discipleship@yourc3.org.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Crosspointe Christian Church, 21336 Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods, offers a photo station that is open to the community.

American Legion Post 303 hosts speech contest

American Legion Post 303 Commander Dan McCrary invites high school students to compete in the 2025 High School Oratorical National speech contest. High school level winners receive \$150 to \$175, regional level winners receive \$200 to \$500, state level scholarship awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and one winner will compete at the national level, with scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000. The American Legion will pay the expenses of the state and national winners.

The subject of the pre-

pared oration must be about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the U.S. government. It must be the original effort of each contestant and must be eight to 10 minutes long. A three- to five-minute extemporaneous speech on one of four preassigned amendment topics also is required.

The winner of last year's Detroit area and Michigan speech contest was Wisdom Love Walker, a home-schooled junior from Detroit. Her speech was titled, "What

Happens When the Cameras are Turned on and the 4th Amendment Off." Wisdom went on to compete at the national level with 50 other state contestants at Hillsdale College and placed 15th. She was sponsored and coached by Grosse Pointe Post 303. To see her speech at the national contest, visit michiganlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/videos/Wisdom.mp4.

Local high school students in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, including the Grosse Pointes, are invited to compete in this year's

American Legion contest. Since 1938, the program has provided participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches leadership qualities, the history of the nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president Bill Clinton, presidential candidate Alan Keyes, television commentator Lou Dobbs, Vice President

Mike Pence and Grosse Pointe attorney and resident Ted Everingham. Recent Grosse Pointe state finalists include Grosse Pointe South graduate Sophie Hugh, University Liggett School graduate Maria Fields, South graduates Ponette Rubio, Abigail Turnbull and Gabriella Scipione and, standing for the regional level of the American Legion, Detroit Catholic Central High School graduate Andrew Kill, who took part in the national championships and was one of the final 15 contestants.

Registration deadline for the contest is Monday, Dec. 9. Register online at [torical. Applications will be rejected if the deadline is missed. The first local level of competition begins in January 2025. The state contest takes place March 15, at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. The top finalist of the state contest goes to the national contest May 16 to 18 at Hillsdale College. Contest dates will be provided by email.](http://michiganlegion.org/ora-</p>
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For resources and videos to help students with the oratory content, rules and topics of the contest, visit michiganlegion.org/oratorical or legion.org/oratorical/resources. For more information, call McCrary at (313) 492-7462.



DAR board members announced

For more than a century, members of the Louisa St. Clair Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution have served the Detroit metropolitan community with a particular focus on education, historical preservation and patriotism. Members recently announced their new 2024-25 executive board:

Seated, from left, Recording Secretary Molly Clark, Vice Regent Deann Newman, Regent Patty Drury, Chaplain Jane Turnbull and Corresponding Secretary PJ King Steeby; and standing, from left, Past Regent Kris Fontichiaro, Treasurer Beth Norris, Registrar Marcia Powell, Organizing Secretary Barb Davis, Director Rebecca von Wormer and Director Patti Theros. Not pictured are Finance Secretary Peggy King Scully, Historian Ellisse Thompson, Librarian Amy O'Shea, Director Julie Thompson, Part Regents Dot Martin, Kay Burt-Willson and Andi Weyhing.

For more information, visit louisastclairchapter.org

COURTESY PHOTO

Worship Service



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15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230

Masses
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. (☩)
Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Mass
Friday — Noon Mass

(313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish
☩ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

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SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
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Keep your furry companions safely at home

Take action before and after a pet gets away with community and technology

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Pets are beloved members of the family. They provide unconditional love and companionship for many years and become integral to the lives of the people and families they join. When a pet goes missing, it can be devastating and their loving guardians want to bring their companion animals home to safety as soon as possible.

The ASPCA indicates that around one in three pets will go missing in their lifetimes. Lost Pet Research & Recovery and PurringPal indicate that at least 14 percent of dog owners lose their pets in a five-year period, while 15 percent of cat owners will experience a lost pet.

While Lost Pet Research & Recovery says only 6 percent of dogs are not recovered, a much larger percentage of cats (34) are never found.

But there is preventative help. Pet owners can take certain steps to recover their furry friends quickly.

The following actions may

prevent the heartache and stress a missing pet can bring.

Train your dog

Well-trained dogs who respond well to basic commands like “sit,” “stay” and “come” may be recovered more easily. That’s because simply calling for your dog — who may not have ventured too far — is the simplest way to have him or her return to you immediately. Also, anyone else who comes across your dog can offer simple commands to sit and stay so the dog can be safely leashed until you can claim him.



Update pet identification

The more forms of identification a pet has, the better the chances for recovery. While a collar with ID tags is essential,

microchipping is an additional safeguard. Be sure to routinely update the microchip database or tags with your current phone number and address.



Act quickly

Don’t waste hours or days waiting for a pet to return home. The sooner you begin searching the area, the better the odds of finding the pet. Start with the immediate area right outside your home and branch out from there. Check nearby areas familiar to your pets, like parks and friendly neighbors’ yards.

For cats, putting their litterbox on the porch can help trigger a return.

Check nooks and crannies

Pets may become frightened of noises or escape homes to chase

other animals. Look for places the pet may become trapped, such as in basements or garages. Other places to look include under vehicles. Pets may hide during the day, so return to areas at night. Bring along a toy or treat that may lure the pet out of hiding.

Use social media

Promptly post a photo of your pet on platforms like Facebook, who often have pages specifically designated for your community or exclusively for lost pets. It sometimes takes a village to coordinate recovery of an animal wandering your neighborhood, and caring people near you can be local heroes.



Check with shelters

Pets can be picked up and brought to animal welfare organi-

zations or even law enforcement agencies. Pets that are wearing tags or are microchipped may have their owners notified. Animals without identification will sit unless the owner comes to recover the pet. Check shelters every two days.



Activate a lost pet alert

Pets can be registered with the microchipping service AKC Reunite. Pet owners can call 800-252-7894 to let the service know their pet is lost and to enable an operator to create a “Lost Pet Alert.”

Notify locals

Place ads in local newspapers and offer a reward. Also check found animal ads that may be close to your pet’s description.

Sometimes we just can’t help it and a frisky dog or curious cat gets away from our loving arms. With fast action and smart advanced planning, they can often be recovered safely.

Adopt a Pet

Every pet deserves a home. GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY • gpaas.org



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HEALTH



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Following in her footsteps Mother, daughter nurses cover same unit at Corewell GP

By Jody McVeigh
 Editor

Lexi Janas wasn't sure the path she wanted to take when she was in elementary and middle school, but by the time she hit high school, she realized medicine was her calling.

"Growing up, my mom would come home with all these wild stories," she recalled. "We would sit at the kitchen table and I'd say, 'Tell me

about your day.'" Her mother, Meredith Janas, has been a fixture at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital for 34 years.

"I started here right out of high school as an aide and never left," she said. "I like to care for people. I find it challenging and I hope I make a difference."

Meredith Janas's influence over her daughter led Lexi into the same field.

"I think I always wanted to go into nursing, but never admitted it to myself," Lexi Janas said. "When I was more mature, I realized I always wanted to be like my mom."

Lexi Janas, who also started as an aide at the hospital, graduated from the University of Toledo in August. When she was applying for a nursing job, she jumped at the chance to apply at Corewell but kept it a

secret from her mom. "When I got an email about an interview, I had to tell her," Lexi Janas said.

"... With this unit, I've kind of grown up with them," she added. "The nurses will say, 'I remember when you were born.' The majority of the nurses have stayed here their whole careers, because of the camaraderie, the environment, the teamwork. That drew me — the family-oriented environment. Having people having your back is everything."

Both mother and daughter work in the critical care unit at Corewell Grosse Pointe. They both said the staff there is like family.

Finding out her daughter was going to join the nursing staff in her unit was exciting for Meredith Janas.

"I love where I work and I love my coworkers," she said. "I wanted Lexi to have a positive first experience as an RN. I knew she'd get it here."

Because Meredith Janas is a charge nurse, technically the two can't work together.

"I would be considered her supervisor," Meredith Janas explained.

To which Lexi Janas replied, "She is; she's my mom."

While the newcomer works nights, her mother is on days; however, their shifts do cross over when reports are handed off.

"We work in the same



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lexi and Meredith Janas recently became coworkers after Lexi was hired at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, where her mom has worked for 34 years.

unit, so we know all the same people," Meredith Janas said. "We share stories at home. My husband gets grossed out so easily."

Added Lexi Janas, "The best part is being able to bond over it. I see her handwriting all over the unit."

Nursing isn't the only mother-daughter bond the duo share. The Chesterfield Township residents also enjoy going for walks and watching "House Hunters" together. Lexi Janas said she looks forward to joining the unit's book club and, "once I get into my routine, we'll

volunteer together at an animal shelter."

"I couldn't be any more proud of her," Meredith Janas said. "When she passed her boards, that was one of the proudest moments in my life."

Added Lexi Janas, "I've never seen her cry so hard."

"If I could be half the nurse she is, I'd consider myself a good nurse," she added. "She is so ambitious and empowering. She can facilitate so much within the unit. I ask her questions and she can explain it all so well. I want to be following in her footsteps in everything."



The mother-daughter duo work in the same unit, but not on the same shift.

New home

When Eastland Mall was slated to be torn down, the hospital was contacted to assist with finding a new home for the Marshall Fredericks' historic and beloved sculptures: "Lion and the Mouse" and "Hippo." The folks at Ascension St. John Hospital worked for some time to find the right placement on campus.

Many philanthropic supporters brought the sculptures' new home to life in the hospital's courtyard for patients, visitors and associates to enjoy. Hospital administrators said it is an honor to share in the preservation of these historic sculptures, which were formally installed Friday, Sept. 6, during an outdoor reception that included remarks from Megan McAow, director of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum.



"Lion and the Mouse" are settled at their new home, the Ascension St. John Hospital courtyard.



From left, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Keith Bellovich, CEO and Regional President Dr. Kevin Grady and Executive Assistant/Project Management Lisa Caradonna.



The mouse perched on the lion's paw.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Flu season tips: When to visit the emergency room

As flu season takes hold, emergency departments — more commonly known as emergency rooms — are seeing more patients. While minor symptoms can often be handled at home or at urgent care, sometimes a trip to the ER is the safest option. We spoke with Glen Clark, M.D., CHIEF OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, for his insights on when to come in and what to expect.



Glen Clark, M.D.

“Flu season is October through May, and during this time, we see higher volumes of patients,” Clark said. “For mild symptoms like a sore throat, low fever or cough, home care or urgent care is usually fine. But if symptoms are more serious — chest pain, trouble breathing or sudden weakness, for example — we encourage you to come to the ER right away.”

The ER is equipped for a wide range of conditions.

“We’re a Primary Stroke Center, which means we’re specially certified to provide fast, effective stroke treatment,” Clark said. “We also handle heart attacks, with a team trained in cardiac catheterization to quickly open blocked

arteries. We’ve received multiple awards from Corazon and the BCBS of Michigan Cardiovascular Consortium for outstanding cardiovascular care and outcomes.”

The hospital is a Level 3 trauma center, which means it is equipped to treat a variety of injuries and traumas, from broken bones to complex wounds.

When people arrive at the emergency department, they are seen by a triage nurse who will assess the urgency of their symptoms. They might start labs or other tests so that when a doctor sees the patient they already have some helpful information.

“We do our best to see everyone quickly,” Clark said. “But people with life-threatening symptoms are prioritized.”

While urgent care centers are excellent for less severe symptoms, the ER is best for serious concerns.

Clark explained. “We’re here to give you the reassurance and support you need during flu season and beyond.”

Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital is located at 468 Cadieux Rd. in the City of Grosse Pointe.



Black Friday BOGO deal for massages and facials

This Black Friday weekend, Hand and Stone Massage and Facial Spa is featuring a special buy-one-get-one gift card sale to kick off the holiday season.

“This is actually the best gift card sale of the entire year,” said January Thomas, franchisee of the St. Clair Shores location.

Whether to treat yourself or those on your gift list, non-members who purchase a gift card for \$129.95 — the cost of a one-hour massage or facial — will get a second gift card of the same value for free.

Members get an even more exclusive deal. By purchasing two gift cards each worth \$79.95 — the member price for a one-hour service — they receive a third card of the same value for free.

“We will be offering this in-store-only promotion until Nov. 30,” Thomas said.

Formerly Massage Green, Hand and Stone Massage remains in the same location at 21920 Greater Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores. It continues its prior offerings, but with a variety of additional services.

“Behind the scenes, we have a lot of the same staff and the concept is pretty similar,” Thomas

said. “But we do a lot more with skincare and waxing now than we did before and we incorporated a lot of different enhancements you can add to your massages.”

These include the signature Himalayan Salt Stone Massage, which makes use of 84 naturally occurring essential minerals in the salt stones, as well as a Cold Stone Face Massage.

“You would think you wouldn’t like the cold, but it’s so soothing, so relaxing and really good for headaches,” Thomas noted.

Hand and Stone’s offerings also incorpo-

rate skincare lines, IMAGE and Dermalogica.

“They have so many options and enhancements and upgrades and new tricks up their sleeve if you’re looking for hydration or anti-aging or soothing red rosacea skin,” Thomas explained. “These two lines are really fantastic.”

Hours at Hand and Stone Massage and Facial Spa are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Book an appointment at handandstoneclairshores.com or by calling (586) 863-4580.



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Fresh options ahead of the holidays

As the holiday season approaches, Dr. Richard Ferrara and Dr. Katie Caretti of The Skin & Laser Center at Ferrara Dermatology are excited to share updates on the latest advancements in neuromodulators and fillers, offering patients fresh options for looking their best this season. These minimally invasive treatments have become increasingly refined, with recent FDA approvals expanding the range of on-label applications, making cosmetic enhancements safer, more precise and tailored to individual needs.

According to Dr. Ferrara and Dr. Caretti, Botox remains the leader in the neuromodulator category and its reach is continually growing with new FDA-approved areas. Botox is now approved to treat crow's feet, forehead lines, frown lines and, most recently, the platysma muscle, which is responsible for vertical lines in the neck. Although doctors have been treating neck lines with Botox for years, this latest FDA approval provides studied guidelines and adds credibility to its impact, ensuring patients receive safer, more effective results while targeting this area.

When it comes to fillers, different products are formulated with specific characteristics, or "personalities," that



Dr. Richard Ferrara



Dr. Katie Caretti

suit distinct areas of the face, giving patients the benefit of a customized approach. The latest approvals bring even more options to the table. Voluma, which previously was approved for use in the mid-face, chin and cheeks, now has been approved for the temples. Treating the temples is an effective way to add volume to areas that tend to lose fullness with age, resulting in a more youthful appearance.

Additionally, Volux, a newer filler, is designed specifically to add definition along the jawline. With a firmer texture than traditional fillers, Volux holds its shape well, offering structure and contour for patients seeking a more defined jaw.

With these advancements in FDA-approved neuromodulators and fillers, patients have access to a growing range of safe, scientifically backed options that meet their unique

aesthetic goals. There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach in cosmetic treatment and the anatomy and needs of each individual are central to selecting the appropriate product. Dr. Ferrara and Dr. Caretti are dedicated to helping each patient find the best solution, offering personalized care that enhances natural beauty through these expanded, innovative treatment options.

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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PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Operation Youth Uplift

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb, right, stands with guest speaker Latresa Rice, of Operation Youth Uplift, during the club's Oct. 15 meeting. Rice explained the organization's current charitable focus — creating card kits for hospitalized children. The gifts, distributed during the holidays, consist of construction paper, crayons, stickers and a stuffed animal. Young patients often are separated from loved ones during their hospital stay and the gifts serve as a reminder that others care about them and encourage them to continue the work to get better. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an open invitation to residents to join their Tuesday breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House. For more information, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Expo success

Assumption Cultural Center's 29th annual Senior Expo drew more than 1,500 seniors, their families and caregivers to the free event. The Senior Expo, a day for senior wellness, recreation and resource information, took place Thursday, Oct. 17, and included more than 50 exhibitors, workshops, health screenings, a complimentary lunch by Henry Ford Health, raffles and giveaways and a keynote address by WDIV-TV anchor Devin Scillian, who also performed with his band, Arizona Son. Pictured, from left, are Senior Expo Committee members Rachel Nagorsen, Kelli Lipinski, Olga Cardasis, Michelle Curtis, Joan De Ronne, Terri Murphy, Scillian, Karen Adair, Dr. Sarah McGhie, Dr. Kenneth Hamilton, Frank Tassone, Maggie Jackson, Heidi Uhlig-Johnstone and Julie Yonkus.



A Grosse Pointe Woods native has joined the ranks at Corewell Health in Grosse Pointe. Dr. Hakim, a gastroenterologist, has returned to the very hospital where his mother passed away from colon cancer 15 years ago, fulfilling a mission that was sparked by a profound loss.

Dr. Hakim's approach to care is one of prevention and education. As a gastroenterologist, he emphasizes the importance of early screenings starting at age 45, particularly for colon cancer which can often be detected before symptoms arise.

Now accepting new patients, Dr. Hakim is excited to be part of a team of skilled physicians, Dr. Taha and Dr. Whitmer, at Corewell Health, where his personal commitment to patient care aligns with the hospital's values of compassion and excellence.



Christopher Hakim, M.D.
25631 Little Mack Ave.
Suite 205
586.443.2930 Office

PACE CEO recognized as Notable Leader in Health Care by Crain's

PACE Southeast Michigan recently announced President and CEO Mary Naber, a resident of Grosse Pointe Park, was named a 2024 Notable Leader in Health Care by Crain's Detroit Business.

Naber's team nominated her for the award because of her clear passion for improving the lives of older adults through physical, mental and spiritual healthcare. During the 10 years she has been president and CEO, the nonprofit has added multiple new centers and been named a Detroit Free Press Top Workplace six times. Prior to PACE, Naber's diverse leadership

experience includes 33 years with a major healthcare system.

"We're successful in providing quality care to seniors because of Mary's unwavering commitment to her employees and the well-being of our community's older adults," said Laurie Arora, vice president of public affairs, philanthropy and organizational development for PACE Southeast Michigan.

Crain's Notable Leaders in Health Care issue recognizes top healthcare professionals in Michigan who have bettered or expanded their field. The 2024 class was announced Monday, Oct. 21. Additionally, the

National PACE Association named Naber the 2024 recipient of the National PACE Association Judy Baskins Volunteer Leadership Award. Recipients create positive change and advocate for the people served by PACE.

"I have been humbled by the recognition from Crain's and the National PACE Association, and I share this honor with the PACE SEMI team," Naber said. "I truly believe the PACE model of physical, emotional and spiritual care for seniors changes lives. It's an honor to wake up and do this work every day."

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Annual Santa Claus Parade returns to Kercheval Nov. 29

By Jody McVeigh
 Editor

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce will lean into green this year as it celebrates The Grinch during the annual Santa Claus Parade.

"Last year, The Grinch made an appearance at the Santa Claus Parade and tried to steal Christmas," said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and events coordinator. "To make a statement, we decided to go all in on embracing The Grinch and will welcome him with lots of Grinchery in the parade. Our friends at Davey Tree Expert Co., are helping us as they're bringing lots of Whos and many other sponsors and groups will be spreading holiday cheer while being a little green."

Spectators of all ages are invited to line Kercheval, from Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms to Cadieux in the City of Grosse Pointe, to watch new and returning parade favorites pass by. The fun starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 29.

"We're looking forward to welcoming back several crowd-favorite marching bands, the Ghostbusters and, of course, Santa Claus," Turnbull said. "This year, we're excited to have more characters involved in the parade that will engage the crowd with gifts. This theme has been fully embraced by so many participating groups and we're excited to see it all come together."



COURTESY PHOTOS

A sample of the props available for use during the scavenger hunt.

help usher in the Christmas season.

"Get ready to jingle all the way, because Santa Claus is making his grand entrance at the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade," she said. "This festive extravaganza is a beloved tradition in the community, bringing joy and cheer to all. From marching bands playing merry tunes to floats decked out in glittering lights, this parade has everything you need to get into the holiday spirit. And of course, the star of the show is jolly old St. Nick himself, arriving in style on his sleigh. So grab your hot cocoa, dust off your Santa hat and get ready for a holly jolly good time as Santa Claus comes to town in the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade!"

"We're also excited for some new floats that will be part of the parade, from The Parade Company," she added. "It'll be fun for everyone to see some local monuments on display in the parade."

Adding to the excitement this year is a scavenger hunt, which also features The Grinch.

"To keep with the theme of the parade and encourage foot traffic to our local businesses throughout the holiday season, there will be a Grinch scavenger hunt that will kick off with the Santa Claus Parade," Turnbull said. "These participants will be throughout the Pointes

and maps will be available to track down all of the Grinches in our own little Whoville. Maps will be available at the chamber in our literature box and will also be online."

Businesses that wish to be added to the scavenger hunt list still have time to sign up. For a small fee, businesses can choose from three Grinch props to display for the hunt.

Email info@grossepointechamber.com to sign up.

The chamber extended its thanks to the many parade sponsors who make the event possible.

"Their contributions not only ensured that this beloved holiday tradition

continues, but also allowed us to create an unforgettable experience for families and children in our community," Chamber President Jennifer Boettcher said. "From the stunning floats

to the festive music, their support plays a crucial role in spreading joy and cheer during the holiday season."

Boettcher encouraged one and all to make their way to the parade, to



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Riding autumn waves

Right around dusk Wednesday, Nov. 13, an adventurous man in a full wet suit took advantage of the windy conditions that really got the waves churning. He hopped onto his surfboard and headed out into Lake St. Clair, just north of Pier Park in Grosse Pointe Farms, to ride the waves.

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Help! My first time hosting Thanksgiving!

Dear Gabby: I'm hosting Thanksgiving for the first time this year and I'm completely freaking out. How do I make sure everything runs smoothly? I am afraid my in-laws will think I'm incompetent. — First timer in the Farms

Dear First Timer,

First of all, congrats on taking the hosting plunge. Hosting Thanksgiving can be like running an Olympic event: You don't have to

win the gold medal, but you have to finish the race.

Start by prepping as much as humanly possible in the days leading up to the event. You can set your table weeks in advance and keep adding to it in the days leading up. You can chop and bake ahead of time, too, in the comfort of your kitchen without the crowd of onlookers.

Keep your menu extremely simple, avoid anything complicated and err on the side of too much

food rather than not enough.

Finally, take your relatives up on offers to bring side dishes, desserts, rolls and wine. For the most part, your guests are thrilled to not be hosting themselves and want to help out.

— Gabby

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



When friendly favors go to far

DEAR ANNIE: Last week, my good friend "Jess" called me at 6 a.m. to ask if I could drive her to an appointment that same morning, even though I had to be at work by 8. This kind of last-minute favor is becoming a pattern. I've been tempted to say no, but she will always guilt me with something like, "You're the only one I can count on!"

I really do value our friendship, but I feel drained by her constant needs. How can I let her know I need some firmer boundaries without mak-

ing her feel like I'm abandoning her? — Feeling Drained

DEAR FEELING DRAINED: You're going to have to do what you've been avoiding: say no.

Tell her you want to be there for her, but you simply don't have the time or energy to drop everything at a moment's notice. It might be awkward at first, but a true friend will respect your limits.

DEAR ANNIE: I have been married to my husband for well over three

decades. We have two sons, one in his early 30s and the other in his early 20s. My husband "Gus" hates his sons with every fiber of his being. Gus destroyed their childhood by wanting nothing to do with them. To this day, Gus ignores them or does whatever he can to hurt their feelings.

I am at a point where I can't take it any longer. My oldest has moved out and created a good life for himself. My youngest is still at home and desperately wants a relationship with his dad. What

would make a man hate his sons so much? My husband will absolutely not go to counseling as he doesn't think this is a problem. Please offer some advice. My heart can't take much more. — Broken Hearted Mom

DEAR BROKEN HEARTED MOM: In addition to the way he treats your boys, your letter also begs the question -- how does Gus treat you? Without his cooperation or openness to improving his relationships with his sons, I'm afraid we'll



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

never truly know the underlying reasons for your husband's lack of love or paternal instinct.

Instead of trying to force Gus into being the father your sons deserve and likely disappointing them even more, focus on making sure they know how much you love and support them, especially your youngest still under your roof. I strongly sug-

gest counseling, for yourself and your kids, to help you all start to heal from this unfortunate trauma and learn how to create boundaries that protect you from Gus' emotional abuse.

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

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Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Thankful Thanksgiving

And just like that, out with the ghosts and ghouls, in with Turkey Day gobble.

Over the years, my Thanksgiving traditions and attire certainly have evolved. From cute outfits as kids, mom begging for "something presentable" as teens,

comfy "cooking for hours" sets as young adults and, now, Lions gear, stadium hot pretzels, power hour drinks and some form of post-game dinner. Maybe turkey, maybe not.

Restaurants over the years also have evolved. Once

upon a time, Thanksgiving dinner was prepared at home, over the course of days, from beginning to end. It was cooked all day until the thermometer popped and consumed in less than 20 minutes, followed by a nap and an hour of clean up.

Now, there are options: dine in and carryout, fabulous desserts made without error, easy reheat and fast cleanup.

Around town, reservations can be made for your feast at places like Gilbert's Lodge, Waves and Fishbones. Gilbert's is kicking off the holiday on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday night, with

food and drink specials and live music.

Thanksgiving feasts run 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, with reservations only. They're likely filled already, but cancellations are always expected, so it's definitely worth a phone call.

Over on the Nautical Mile, Waves is offering an extensive Thanksgiving Day menu with favorites from their main sprinkled in. Reservations are required with times ranging from noon to 6 p.m. and plenty of seating is available. Fishbones is offering its regular dine-in menu, as well as a classic Thanksgiving din-



COURTESY PHOTO

ner with all the fixings. Reservations are recommended, especially if you're there for the turkey. Savor those dinner rolls while you're at it. I've literally ordered just those for pickup

on holidays and served them at home.

Carryout feasts are available at some excellent locations as well. Cutoff for orders at Ferlito's is today, Nov. 21, so put the paper down, close your screen and call now to place your order for pickup. This is an excellent option that comes with reheating instructions to guarantee perfection.

Dish Detroit on Mack has a delicious menu, featuring roasted Miller's Amish turkey, two different stuffings, green bean almondine and other delicious sides — and desserts too.

Individual dinners, a la carte pans and family pans are available. They've got "whatever your Thanksgiving heart desires," as their advertisement states. Cutoff for ordering is Nov. 25, with pickup on Thanksgiving day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Over in Harrison Township on Jefferson, Jefferson Street Pub has half- and full-tray options of all things Thanksgiving, with portions that can serve eight to 20 people. The cutoff for orders is tomorrow, Nov. 22, and pickup orders will be ready to reheat and serve.

Are you a guest at someone else's table? You can't show up empty handed. Cheese Shoppe has amazing holiday board options with cheeses, meats, preserves and crackers to please any crowd while stress-snacking during the game.

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



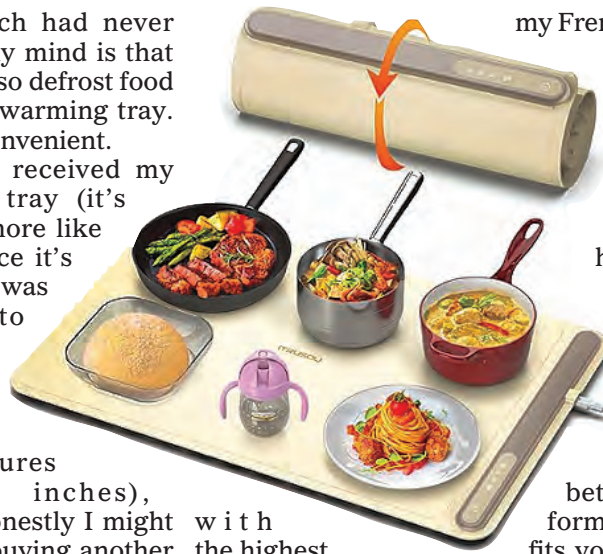
If you are hosting at any point during the upcoming holidays, chances are you have already made a list or two. As I was checking out recipes and texting my in-laws about who will bring what, I was reminded that my mom's old 1970s warming tray got wiped out in the last flood. I miss that old thing — even though it wasn't really big enough to hold more than one item and it took up a lot of space in my kitchen storage. It always helped me feel less stress about the timing of the 25 things either in the oven or on the stove; I never

can get it all timed exactly right.

I never realized that warming trays had modernized. Looking online felt so exciting. I ended up going with "Amazon's Choice" of an iTrusou Food Warmer for \$69.99. I went with the light beige color to blend in with my counters, but it also comes in a pretty blue color as well as gray. It seemed to have some cool features, like it's made of silicon so it's light and rolls up like a newspaper. Additionally, it heats up quickly, has three temperature settings and is easy to clean. One feature that is adver-

tised which had never crossed my mind is that you can also defrost food using the warming tray. Sounds convenient.

When I received my warming tray (it's actually more like a mat since it's flexible), I was excited to give it a try. The area is pretty big (it measures 16-by-24 inches), though honestly I might consider buying another to cover a full buffet space for the whole holidays spread. After reading the instructions, I went



with the highest setting and threw my coffee mug on it to give it a whirl. It most certainly works and kept

my French brew nice and hot. After that, I reheated a meal and set it on the mat. As promised, it successfully kept it piping hot. I like the consistent heat and it doesn't seem like there are hot spots.

All in all, you can't really ask for a better product performance-wise if this fits your holiday entertaining needs. I have only tried it a few times thus far, but I'm happy to see it comes with a one-year

warranty. I am giving this 5 alligators — anything that works well, gets delivered in one day and saves my holiday meal from getting cold is a slam dunk. You can find it here: tinyurl.com/498fbk2p.

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.



Don't forget the salad

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

The salad at Thanksgiving dinner is always an afterthought. It's the one side that you feel obligated to offer and delegate out because you'd feel guilty if it wasn't provided. Something fresh to accompany all of the heavy weight favorites is necessary for balance. Because of this, it's always lacking that special something. Here is a recipe that is fit to serve.

This Thanksgiving salad is packed with crunch, different textures and can sit while everyone is standing around waiting for the turkey to be carved.

Brussel sprouts are the base along with arugula so you don't have to worry about it getting soggy too fast. However, if you do make this ahead, wait on adding the dressing until about a half hour until serving time. I roasted off butternut squash in cumin and just a hint of cinnamon for spice. Creamy goat cheese is added along with toasted pumpkin seeds. A homemade salad dressing always tastes best and this maple, mustard balsamic dressing is the perfect thing to tie all the ingredients together.

Pomegranate seeds

are becoming a staple in my house. I've been putting them in everything. They are beautiful, jeweled bursts of tart and sweet juice. Don't be intimidated by buying a whole one. They come out much better if you seed them yourself. Simply cut the pomegranate in half at its equator. Over a bowl, grip one half with the seed side down and smack the outer rind with a heavy spoon. The seeds fall right out.

To remove any white pith that has fallen in the bowl, add water and the white will float to the top. I like to reserve some extra seats for garnish when plating.

If you are in charge of the salad this year, try this recipe out. I promise it will be a memorable addition to your plate.

Cheers, Mombeau

Brussel Sprout and Arugula Salad with Butternut Squash (Serves 8-10)

1 small butternut squash, peeled and diced to 1/2 inch cubes

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 4 cups shredded brussel sprouts
- 2 cups baby arugula
- 1 shallot, thinly sliced
- 4 oz crumbled goat cheese
- 1/3 cup toasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds

Preheat the oven to 425. Toss the butternut squash cubes together with the oil and spices and lay in an even layer on a baking sheet. Bake for 25 minutes, stirring halfway through. Set aside.

In a large bowl, add in the shredded brussel sprouts and arugula. Toss in the butternut squash, shallots, pumpkin seeds, goat cheese and pomegranate seeds. Pour all of the dressing over top and use salad tongs to combine.

- #### Balsamic and Maple Dressing
- 1 garlic clove, minced
 - 1 tbsp dijon mustard
 - 2 tbsp real maple syrup
 - 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
 - 1/4 cup, plus 2 tbsp olive oil

- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper.

Mix all ingredients except for oil together until combined. Slowly drizzle in the olive oil until the dressing is emulsified and thick.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

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SEE MENU

Wine Talk

by Dan Berger

Elegance in wine

I had a glass of wine recently at a cafe, and it reminded me that too much knowledge can be a detriment.

Buying wine either at a retail store or in a restaurant can be risky. Either you know very little about wine and are willing to accept being ripped off, or you know so much that you get irritated when your order is not what you expected.

The glass I had was a sauvignon blanc. It was \$16. When it was served, it was ice cold and filled to the brim of a small glass. I couldn't smell it because of its temperature. Nor could I swirl it — the glass was too full. I got an empty water glass and poured part of it into the water glass.

Even after it warmed up a bit, it didn't smell like sauvignon blanc. One tiny sip proved that it had no flavor of sauvignon blanc either.

I returned it, looked again at the wine list, realized that it was atrocious and ordered a beer. Which arrived so cold I couldn't smell it.

Beverage service in restaurants these days can be awful. Many restaurants choose quality wines and overcharge for them — or they choose inexpensive wines and overcharge for them, too.

The \$16 failed sauvignon blanc was a wine that normally sells for about \$15 a bottle in a regular retail store or \$12 in discount shops.

And restaurant owners now complain that people aren't dining out as much as they once did. Gee, I wonder who they think caused this.

Let us ignore special wines that we want to serve to impress guests. Let's think about weeknight wines to go with simple dinners. For such occasions, my rule of

thumb is: You can get pretty good wine for about \$10 to \$13, even at a grocery store.

This requires a bit more knowledge than the average person has. Here are some basics:

- Try to find wines with lower alcohol levels. They tend to have more flavor and balance than wines with higher alcohols.

- Avoid any wine under

\$20 that carries the word "reserve" anywhere on the label.

- Avoid pinot noirs under \$15 per bottle.

Dan Berger lives in Sonoma County, California, where he publishes "Vintage Experiences," a weekly wine newsletter. Write to him at winenut@gmail.com.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BBC FILM, BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
 Left, Frankie Corio as Sophie and Paul Mescal as Calum in the 2022 movie "Aftersun," written and directed by Charlotte Wells.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Aftersun"
 2022 - Rated R
 1 hr 42 min
 ★★★★★

I saw this wonderful film when it was released a couple years ago and was going to review it then. Somehow, other films took precedent over it and it got lost in the shuffle. Recently, a follower of this column recommended I write about it. After re-watching it, I definitely feel it deserved some ink. I'm not alone in admiring "Aftersun." It garnered a number of prestigious awards including a BAFTA, Cannes Film Festival awards and an Oscar nomination.

The film is a memorable coming-of-age drama, which combines joy, family relationships, melancholy and beauty. It's the first full-length feature from Scottish director Charlotte Wells. "Aftersun" is also visually striking, thanks in large part to the superb camerawork of cinematographer Gregory Oke,



A tender moment between dad and daughter.

who delivers shot after shot that would make beautiful paintings. In most films the cinematography goes largely unnoticed, but not here. It's an hour and forty minute film class.

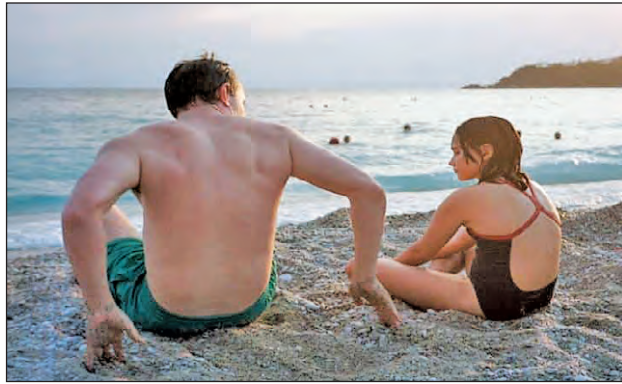
I should say, the movie is not for everyone — it's

a nuanced and slowly paced work. There isn't a lot of action, and the story jumps around a bit. But overall, I found it totally captivating, mesmerizing, if you will, and I wished it went on a little longer so I could find out what happened to the

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



A day at the beach.



lead characters. Perhaps that's the beauty of it. It leaves it up to the viewer to fill in the blanks.

The story is about a young divorced dad, Calum, played by Paul Mescal, who's known for his role in the TV show "Normal People." He's on a summer vacation with his 11-year old daughter Sophie (Frankie Corio) in Turkey. The couple is determined to make it the best holiday ever and they spend their days engaged in activities like swimming in the hotel pool, exploring the antiquities in the area, snorkeling and playing in the arcade. Ms. Corio's performance is absolutely riveting and the way she interacts with Mescal is so natural, you can easily forget they're acting and are almost convinced they're father and daughter in real life.

Throughout the movie, there's a liberal use of camcorder footage the couple took to document their time together. We also jump ahead several times and witness an

older Sophie (Celia Rowson-Hall), watching the home movies. She seems to be looking for clues about her father and their relationship. There's also an underlying feeling of sadness in the movie. When the camera catches Calum off guard, we sense that he's suffering from bouts of depression. While he does a fairly good job of hiding it from his daughter, she can't help but suspect something's amiss with him.

There's a haunting scene about halfway through the film. Late one evening, Calum heads to the beach. Then he starts walking into the ocean and you get a feeling that he's about to drown himself. It's a subtle yet ominous moment, which resolves itself in the end. However, it makes you wonder if it's a hint of what's to come. Is something bad going to happen to him? Is that why the older Sophie is looking at the vacation footage?

As per usual, I won't give away any more of the plot. You'll just have

to watch it for yourself and see what transpires.

If you're in the mood for a beautiful movie with great acting, gorgeous cinematography, and a heady dose of late 90's-era pop songs, don't miss "Aftersun."

Warning: The film includes several scenes with strobe lights, which may affect some people.

Note to parents: For some reason the movie is rated "R" but I'm really not sure why. I'd probably rate it "PG-13."

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy and Hoopla. Also on Netflix, Paramount, and to rent on Apple TV, Amazon, and other streaming services.

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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NARRATIVE NOOK

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DEATH WATCH

by Bill Bradley

Part 4:
 Abort Mission

The choppy seas strengthened the hull speed with each push of the throttles rapidly increasing Billy's speed. The cobalt needle in the speedometer dome climbing, 18, 25, 44 and 65 mph. The Marlin fighting chair gripped Billy's body as Thor rocketed to the gunpowder sky.

Katie softened the tension on the sheet line and slid the block way back on the traveler and locked it. The stiff winds began to strain the rigging as the white caps rolled with crests reaching three feet. Jasmine's gallant bow

dove into the seas as water raced over the deck into the Bomar hatches and rushed down their baffles. Pitching in the heavy seas oily bilge water rolled over the scattered floorboards. The heavy wind forced the stainless steel stays to moan and the winch drums to groan.

Katie knew from her years on the lakes, a breach point takes place and no matter what you do, you're going down. The legendary freighter Edmund Fitzgerald, at 729 feet, was the largest cargo carrier on the Great Lakes. She nose-dived in Lake Superior with all 29 hands lost, in

a wicked snow squall called "the witch of November" that roared across the lake in November, pummeling the steel structure filled with 26,000 tons of ore into an icy tomb. The hull sections had been filling with bone freezing water without the knowledge of the captain or crew. The riveted seams had secretly opened from the relentless pounding waves that leaked into the cavernous bilge. The captain and crew had no time for life rafts as the rising water trapped the ship and sailors sinking them in 530 feet of water.

See PART 4, page 5C

FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

Call to get your orders placed in time for Wednesday pickup. Grab some of those famous "car cookies" (chocolate chip/sea salt) while you're there too. Need some wine with that cheese? Cheese to Please has you covered. Grab n' Go Rounds and an excellent wine selection make this a great one-stop shop. Pre-order online to guarantee your goods.

Enough of the savory and snacks. Thanksgiving isn't complete without the sweets. Delight Bakery on Mack is known for its holiday pies and definitely doesn't skimp on the fillings. Pre-orders are open and recommended. There is so much deliciousness to choose from.

On Kercheval, Morning Glory has the classics and some other goodies lined up for pre-orders to be filled by Nov. 22, with pickups from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 26 and 27. On Harper in St. Clair Shores, Wally's Frozen Custard pies just hit different — and in a good way. Caramel Apple Custard Pie? Yes, please! Pumpkin Cobbler or Ultimate Reese's have my attention too. Get your



COURTESY PHOTO

orders in, paid and ready to be picked up between Nov. 25 and 27.

Off the beaten path, but close enough to enjoy, are two bakeries that deserve to be mentioned. Apple Annie's Kitchen & Bakery on Gratiot at Martin Road in Roseville is accepting orders for its famous 8-inch pumpkin, apple, cherry and berry pies, as well as its sugar-free apple pie. It also offers specialty favorites like strawberry shortcake and cannolis by the half or full dozen. Prepay order forms may be found on its Facebook page and turned in at the location, or just call directly to place orders by Nov. 25.

Another hidden gem of the Eastside is Kalindi's Cakes and Pies, located on 10 Mile in Eastpointe. This husband-and-wife duo puts out spectacular homemade entrees and her desserts are truly to die for. Call directly to place your

orders as soon as possible. I promise once you walk in their shop, you'll definitely be going back.

All pickup days are Wednesday, Nov. 27, unless otherwise mentioned. Make sure to confirm timeframes as they vary per location and please check social media pages to view Thanksgiving Day menus.

That said, pumpkin spice out ... peppermint mocha in. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving wherever you spend it and with whomever you share it. GO LIONS!

Fun Fact: This past week marks Food Gossip's one-year anniversary. To say I am thankful for all of you who have complimented my articles along the way would be an understatement. I appreciate you all and I'm happy you're enjoying my favorite form of gossip.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

PART 4:

Continued from page 4C

Moments before she disappeared from the radar screen of the freighter the Anderson, while streaming for shelter in White Fish Bay, the Fitzgerald's captain radioed to them "We are holding our own."

Starter began to shiver as the Jasmine pitched and yawed in the heavy seas.

"How long can we hold on before one good roll sends us over, and how much water is in the bilge?" Katie strained to calculate her odds, as the radio transmitted heartless reports of gale force winds.

"Damn, a rogue storm," Katie shrouded under her breath.

She had no choice but to head for Le Collier sound. The Jasmine lurched as she drove the boat into a sharp right turn and her father's words pierced her emotions.

"As fast as they come, is as fast as they go. Stand by the wheel."

"Coast Guard search and rescue distress call to the yacht Jasmine. Are you in peril Jasmine? Do you read me? Respond Jasmine, if you read me."

"Search and rescue this is the vessel Thor responding to the search of the yacht Jasmine," Billy relayed.

"Acknowledge transmission from the captain of the Thor, abort your search and rescue assistance," Todd ordered.

"Bill Hawkins and the vessel Thor continuing assistance and search."

"This is Lt. Todd of the United States Coast Guard. This is a direct order. Abort rescue and seek safe harbor."

"That's a negative lieutenant. Assistance rendered under the Federal Maritime Good Samaritan regulation."

"Your Good Samaritan Regulation is overruled under the authority of the United States Coast Guard and Rule 2(b) of the Prudential rule regarding limitations of vessels to avoid collision and avoid immediate

danger. You are forbidden to interfere with our mission of priority. I'm giving you a long count to get the hell out of here, Hawkins. We got enough problems without another wild card out there."

"Sorry to hear that Lt. I have just entered international waters and left your authority and jurisdiction. The Port of Departure and Port of Entry International Maritime law are now in effect with my vessel and you try to have a nice day."

"You hear this Cervera? Just what I need another buccaneer barber on the high seas."

Billy released the sound button on his VHF radio and clamped his kidney belt.

"That SOB is going to jail if he lives through this," Todd fumed as Cervera tightened his life jacket as gusts of wind punched the Monarch fighting to hold its course.

Capt. Lieng pinpointed the location of the Jasmine and steered toward her. He relied on his abacus, a lunar calendar and Pyxis constellations for a true mariner's compass heading.

"This is Capt. Lieng of the freighter Red Star on course to the yacht Jasmine. To all vessels in the vicinity. I am north, outside the storm and she's coming and she's coming on strong. Coast Guard should abort mission. I will continue rescue mission. Winds too strong for helicopter."

"This is Lt. Todd of the Coast Guard Monarch to Captain Lieng of the Red Star. I am within range of distressed vessel Jasmine and will continue my mission."

Lieng turned to his 1st mate, Jaing and said, "The Americans, they send butterflies."

Sheets of rain poured on the Jasmine as Katie struggled with her sail. The bilge pump gushed oily water from under the floorboard. She threw open the aft hatch cover and grabbed the rubber straps of the Avon life raft. She pulled out the flare gun next to it

and jammed two rounds into the stubby chamber and pulled the trigger. The small rocket shot into the dark sky and burst into a luminous flash. The hull pitched and broached as she struggled to keep the Jasmine upright. The engine clumped and wheezed from the smoky engine room.

The fragmented rescue teams saw the incandescent sparks swim in the black sky. A second flare burst as they all raced to its northeastern site. Katie heard a distant thumping as she clipped a lifeline on Starter and pulled the inflate pin to the life raft. A spotlight shadowed and chased over the waves as the chopper screamed over the boat.

"Get out the bucket, Cervera," Todd commanded.

Ensign Cervera forced open the side door and deployed the webbed survival harness. Todd squinted and rubbed her eyes in search of the mast light of the battered sloop. She made another low pass as the cable of the litter harness swung out of control like a wrecking ball. Cervera yelled helplessly, "You're too low, you're too low." As the survival bucket hooked the forestay. The Monarch froze and then jolted up as the stays and part of the mast ripped off the deck and flew recklessly into the rotor blades.

Look for part 5 in next week's Grosse Pointe News.

About the Author: Bill Bradley graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School. He was a dock boy at Kean's Marina and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1968 and served 13 months in Vietnam. He taught sailing in the Atlantic Ocean and delivered sailboats up the East Coast. A graduate of Burlington College in Burlington Vt. with a B.A. in writing & literature. A certified grant writer and animal rights advocate. He is currently working on a novel. E-mail: lakeclair48080@yahoo.com.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Leo.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, November 21, 2024: People respond to your dynamic energy because you're playful and passionate. Nevertheless, you are determined and serious about going after what you want. This is a year of work, building and construction. Take charge of your health. Stay grounded and level-headed.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Good news! The next four weeks will be more upbeat and joyful. You will have many opportunities to explore your world more through travel or making travel plans. You can also benefit by checking out opportunities in medicine, the law, publishing, the media and higher education. Tonight: Party!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, which means you'll be interested to know that in the next four weeks, your interest in shared property, taxes, debt, insurance matters and inheritances will be stronger than usual. You might sign important papers. You might make important decisions. Tonight: Family discussions.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Once a year, the Sun will sit across from your sign for four weeks. Today is the beginning of this annual event. For starters, it means that you will need more sleep in the next four weeks because you will be more tired. You will also have a chance to more objectively see your role in your closest relationships. Tonight: Conversations.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Roll up your sleeves. You'll be keen to be as productive as possible in the next four weeks. You want to get things done, and you want to do them as efficiently and effectively as possible to make every action count. This could be influenced by the fact that you're hemorrhaging money. Tonight: Money ideas.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Lucky you! While fiery Mars boosts your energy, today the Sun moves into your fellow Fire Sign for the next four weeks, giving you opportunities to socialize, enjoy the arts and be active in sports events. Opportunities for romance will flourish! Tonight: You're chatty!

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You will have a stronger focus on home, family and your private life for the next four weeks. Many will be more involved with a parent. Family discussions will take place. You might tackle some home repairs. Nevertheless, partying and fun times are promising. Tonight: Quiet times.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks because you have things to do, places to go and people to see! This is a wonderful time to study and learn. Travel if possible. Even short trips. Enjoy redecorating your home and entertaining. Tonight: Friendships.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Very likely, you will give some serious thought to your value system in the next four weeks. For example, we all know that our time on this planet is

limited. How do you want to spend the time that is left to you? What are your goals? What really matters? Tonight: Show respect.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today the Sun enters your sign to stay for four weeks. (This occurs once a year.) This will attract favorable situations and people to you. This Sun will also make you project yourself with more power and charisma. Oh yes, this is your hour! Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

As your birthday looms ahead, it means your personal year is coming to an end (birthday to birthday). Therefore, use the next four weeks to ponder how you want your new year to be different from this last year. Ideas? Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your popularity will increase in the next four weeks as the Sun travels through your House of Friendships. Enjoy good times with others. Secret love affairs are likely. Be patient with partners, and close friends while Mars opposes your sign. Tonight: New information.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

The Sun will be at the top of your chart for the next four weeks. (It happens only once a year.) This symbolizes that the Sun is shining down on you and casting you in a flattering spotlight. This is why you look so good to everyone. Tonight: Ideas?

BORN TODAY

Actress Goldie Hawn (1945), actress Isabel May (2000), actress Cherry Jones (1956).

Contract Bridge

INTERCHANGEABILITY

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 7 4
♥ 10 9 7 5
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ 9 6 2

WEST

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ A 6
♦ A K J 9 2
♣ Q 4

EAST

♠ Q 10 5
♥ Q 3
♦ Q 6 4
♣ J 10 8 7 3

SOUTH

♠ A K 9 3
♥ K J 8 4 2
♦ 7
♣ A K 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	2♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥			

Opening lead — diamond king.

You usually break even by swapping one loser for another, but there are times when the exchange gains a trick.

Consider this case where South got to four hearts on the bidding shown. His double of two diamonds was for takeout and indicated a strong hand with support for the unbid suits. North could do no more than show his heart support, and South eventually pressed on to game.

West started off with K-A of diamonds. Declarer ruffed, cashed the A-K of spades and trumped a spade in dummy. He then led the ten of hearts and followed low, crediting West with the ace of hearts for his overcall.

West took the ace and, recognizing from East's play of the queen of spades on the previous trick that East had no more spades, led the jack of spades. Declarer ruffed in dummy, East overruffed with the queen, and South later lost a club trick to go down one.

Declarer played correctly up to the point where he trumped West's jack of spades return in dummy. He shouldn't have ruffed, since it was certain that East had no more spades and would overruff.

Instead, South should have discarded a club from dummy, deliberately allowing West's jack to hold the trick. Had he done this, he would have made the contract by eventually ruffing his third club in dummy.

The reasoning behind the club discard is simple enough. South is sure to go down if he ruffs the spade jack in dummy and is very likely to make the contract if he discards a club instead. He should therefore swap his club loser for a spade loser, gaining the game-going trick in the process.

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by Steve Becker

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



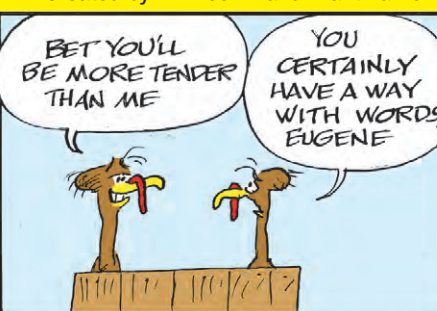
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



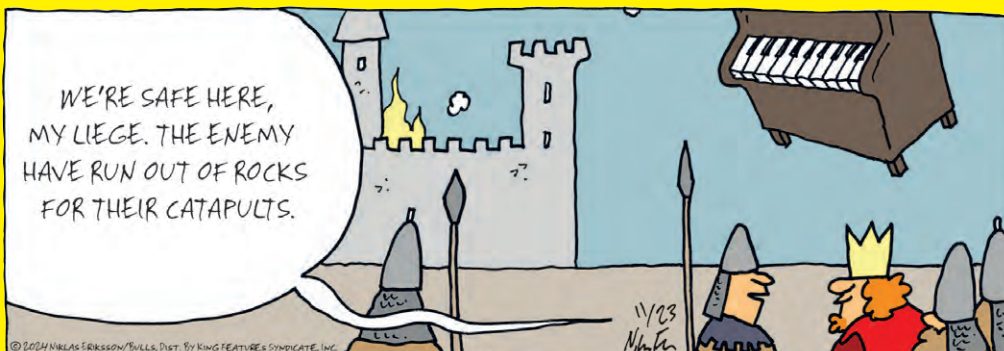
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner





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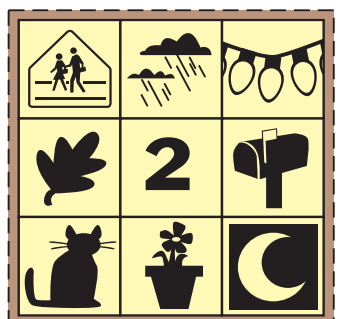
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Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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After Dinner Bingo
After dinner, take a stroll around your neighborhood with friends or family members. On this walk, each of you take one of the cards below and cross out items as you see them. First one to black out the card wins!



Standards Links: Investigation: Record information about the living world.

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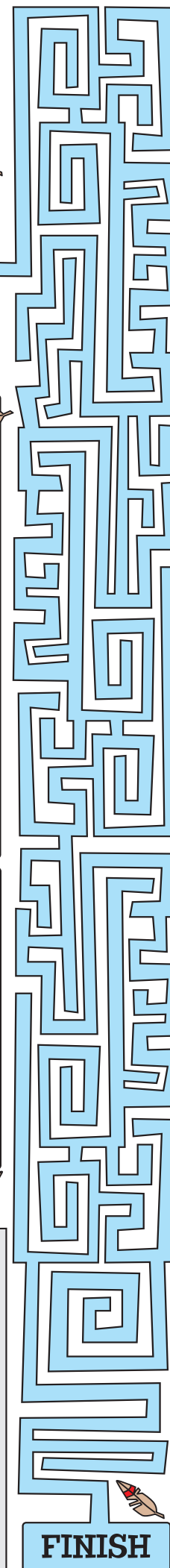
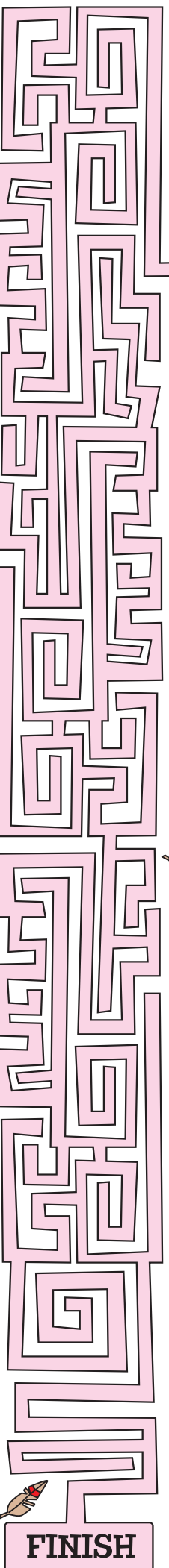
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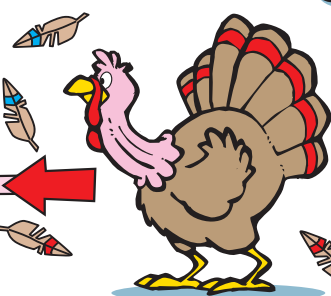
Kid Scoop-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **TURKEY** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



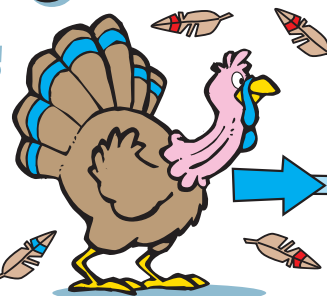
DON'T DO THIS PAGE ALONE: This special *Kid Scoop* Thanksgiving page is designed for you to do with a friend or family member. So find someone to share the fun!

Thanksgiving Together!



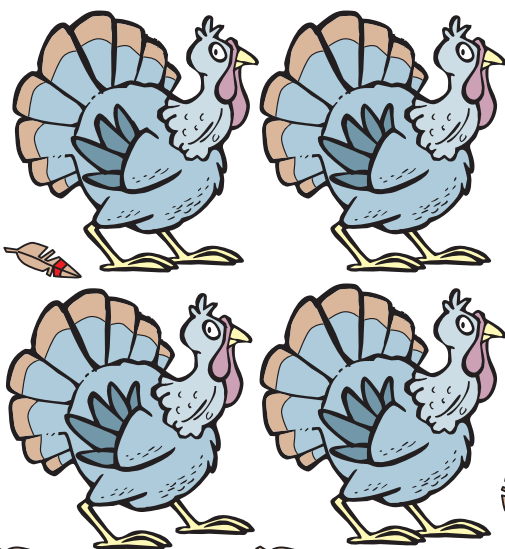
Turkey Tracks

Have your partner use a RED crayon and you use a BLUE one. Which turkey will reach the finish line first? On your mark, get set ... GOBBLE!



Who can find the most turkey feathers on this page in 60 seconds?

Find the turkey that is different.



A Slice of PI

All of these words start with the letters P-I. Read the clues and work together to fill in the missing letters.

1. O
2. K
3. C
4. T
5.

1. A heavy musical instrument with keys.
2. A small cucumber preserved in brine.
3. A meal packed to eat outdoors.
4. A person who robs ships at sea.
5. A platform over water that starts at the shore.

Your Riddle, My Riddle

You circle every other third letter to reveal the punch line to your riddle. Your partner circles every third letter to reveal his or her punch line.

What's the best thing to put in a pumpkin pie?

**ACYTBONMUSQRP
BTJSENBKWTGZH**

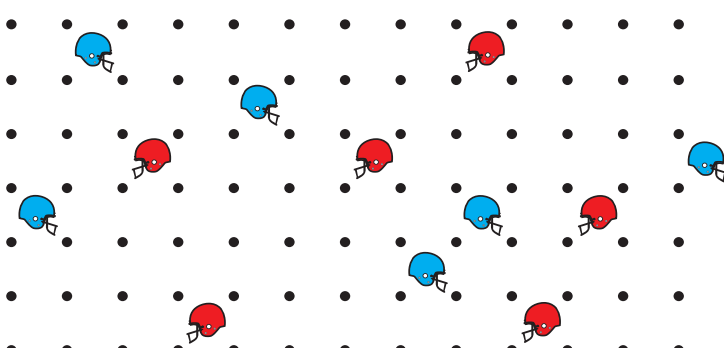
What smells the best at Thanksgiving?

**ACYTBONMUSQR
VWNJSOCWSUTE**

Standards Links: Life Skills: Share a task with others.

Football Fun

You use a BLUE crayon and your opponent uses a RED crayon. Take turns connecting two dots each time. The person who completes a square gets one point. A square with a football helmet in it is worth three points!



Extra! Extra! Rhyme Time

Browse the newspaper for 10 words that would make good halves of a rhyming pair. Then have your partner scour the newspaper for words that rhyme with each of the ones you chose. Switch roles and try it again.

Standards Links: Vocabulary: Identify rhyming patterns and words.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Practice saying **Thank you** in seven different languages! Match the **Thank you** to the country from which it comes.

- Tak** (tak)
- Gracias** (gra-see-us)
- Merci** (mehr-see)
- Kiitos** (kee-toas)
- Danke** (dahn-kah)
- Arigato** (ahree-gah-tow)
- Dziekuje** (dsyne-koo-yeh)

- FRANCE**
- DENMARK**
- JAPAN**
- POLAND**
- FINLAND**
- MEXICO**
- GERMANY**

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- TOGETHER
- CUCUMBER
- PUMPKIN
- PARTNER
- MUSICAL
- FAMILY
- TURKEY
- BRINE
- SHORE
- WATER
- SHARE
- HOUSE
- CLUES
- PIE

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Black Friday

The day after Thanksgiving is usually the busiest U.S. shopping day of the year. Imagine you have \$100 to spend. Look through today's newspaper and list what you'd buy. Did your partner choose any of the same items?

Standards Links: Mathematics: Calculate sums to 100.



What do snowmen eat for Thanksgiving dinner?

ANSWER: Cold-slaw.

Write On!

I am thankful for ...

What people, places and things are you thankful for?

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WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Get ready for the new season with winter sports previews

By GPN Staff

With the fall high school sports season wrapping up, the winter season is already kicking into gear for teams

around the Pointes. The Grosse Pointe News is here to help fans get ready for the winter sports season with everything you need to know about your favorite ath-

letes and teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School.

The winter season features hundreds of ath-

letes on more than a dozen varsity teams. This week's featured teams for season previews include the boys varsity basketball teams and girls varsity hockey

teams for the Blue Devils, Norsemen and Knights. Look inside for all of the information you need to know about these amazing teams and athletes beginning on page

2D. Make sure to come back next week for more winter previews on girls basketball and boys hockey as the games and matches of a new season begin.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Handwork helping South swim sprint toward another strong season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Whitney Handwork first became inspired to swim by watching her older sister, Phoebe, in the pool. Now, just like her sister, Handwork is winning championships and building a legacy of her own in the water with the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls swim and dive team.

Handwork has been having an exceptional junior season in the pool this fall for the Blue Devils. Her specialty has become sprint races and her stroke of choice is the freestyle. Unlike some swimmers, her niche did not seem to come naturally, but instead was a result of trying a bit of everything and seeing what worked best.

“Throughout my whole life, I’ve kind of gone through different events,” Handwork said. “When I first started swimming, I did some breaststroke and a little bit of freestyle. It was really in the

last year or so that I really found my spot as a freestyler and that was through just practicing it more and working through sprints.”

Her strengths were on full display at the MAC Red Championship meet Nov. 9, where Handwork helped the Blue Devils to an unprecedented 24th consecutive league championship. She won league championships as part of the 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay teams.

Handwork also earned the league championship



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Whitney Handwork
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Swim and dive
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

in the 50 freestyle with a time of 23.78, setting a personal record and earning the rank of the third best time for the event in the state. That performance helped her accomplish one of the biggest goals she set coming into this season and now has her wanting to keep going for more.

Way to go Whitney!

- Won MAC Red Championships in 50 free, 200 free relay and 400 free relay
- Ranked as No. 3 swimmer in the state in the 50 free with time of 23.78

“I wanted to go under 24 (seconds) in my 50 freestyle and under 53 (seconds) in the 100,” she said. “I did both of those at the MAC meet and now I have to reshape my goals. My overall goal is not about what place I finish in, but getting the best time and having fun while doing it.”

A lot of what makes swimming great for Handwork is how much fun she has doing it. Swimming has a deep and rich tradition at South, which she is proud to be a part of with her teammates. The bond Handwork and her teammates have created and their desire to carry on that tradition is what she thinks makes swimming great for the Blue Devils.

“I think what makes South such a tradition of excellence is just how close we are with each other,” Handwork said. “We feed off of each other’s energy and use each other to get even faster.



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior Whitney Handwork has been a force in the pool for the Blue Devils this season, recently earning MAC Red championships in three different events.

The end goal is to swim fun with it at the same fast, but you can’t swim fast if you’re not having fun with it at the same fast. See *ATHLETE*, page 8D



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2D | SPORTS



UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

Girls Varsity Hockey

Liggett looks to maintain championship standard with overhauled lineup

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

There is a championship standard surrounding the girls varsity hockey program at University Liggett School. The Knights fell just short of winning a fourth straight Division 1 state championship last season, losing in the final game to Grosse Pointe South, and look to get back to the mountaintop this winter.

However, things might look a bit different on the ice this season for Liggett. Several key pieces from the teams that won three championships the past four years have graduated from the program. The Knights' roster this year looks a bit smaller and younger than fans have

grown accustomed to, but that is not giving the team any doubts as the season gets into gear.

'We've got a great group of girls and there's an excellent vibe this year'

CASEY LAFRANCE, ULS GIRLS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

"We've got a great group of girls and there's an excellent vibe this year," Liggett girls hockey head coach Casey LaFrance said. "... It was a bad pass in the middle of the ice in the state title game (last year) and that'll bite you. Despite having a small roster, we should hang in there and I hope our stamina is up to par."

The Knights had seven seniors graduate from last year's team. This season's roster is

comprised of just 11 skaters and one goalie. Despite not having as much depth as usual, Liggett is confident the

talent this team still has can carry it far.

Some familiar names returning from last year's team that are expected to step up in big ways include senior forward Sophia Secco, junior forward Avery Welsh and sophomore Louisa Dragovic. The Knights' coaching staff also expects some big contributions right away from freshman Kate Ricci.

Stepping into one of the most important roles on the team is

junior goaltender Madeline Hexter. Hexter takes over after the graduation of former goalie Brooklyn Peshl, who has stuck around with the Knights in a coaching role to help continue to mentor Hexter to become the next great Knights' goalie.

"They had a really good relationship and I think that helps keep Madeline's confidence high and not feel like there's so much pressure with her being the only goalie," LaFrance said. "She's got that support system that she's comfortable with.

... She's been putting in the work."

While the team may not have the depth this season it normally does, it means they have to make up for it in other ways on the ice. The Knights have plenty of speed and know if they can stay well-conditioned, they can compete with anyone.

"Our speed is something that is going to help us out because we have some fast girls who aren't afraid to carry the puck," LaFrance said. "As long as we can stay

conditioned long enough to handle a full game against the deeper benches that we're going to be playing, I think that's going to be the biggest factor."

The Knights opened the season with a 4-1 loss to Grosse Pointe South Wednesday, Nov. 13. Secco scored Liggett's only goal.

The team hosted Grosse Pointe North Tuesday, Nov. 21, after press time and will host Washtenaw United at McCann Arena at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP
Avery Welsh

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Girls Varsity Hockey

North girls hockey hopes the new season shows promise for future

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity girls hockey team hopes this season will bring some immediate success and prove to be a promising sign for the program's future. The Norsemen have a solid core of experienced, returning players in this year's lineup, but also bring a new crop of young players who are newer to the game of hockey.

Even with the mix of experience and teammates getting to know each other, the Norsemen can already feel the urgency to get on the ice together.

"So far, everyone is so happy and the locker room is really energetic," North girls hockey head coach Taylor Shaheen said. "Everybody is talking and having a good time and hopefully they'll all kind of meld together here at the beginning of

the season."

The core group of returning players includes senior captains Josie Cueter, Leanna Phillips and goalie Madeline Plfaum. Fellow senior Anne Cleland is expected to be an anchor on the blue line for North's defense this season and the team also looks for big contributions from junior Paige Martin.

See NORTH, page 3D



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

Josie Cueter wins a faceoff for the Norsemen in the team's home opener against Ann Arbor Skyline-Huron on Saturday, Nov. 16.

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WINTER SPORTS

PREVIEW

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Girls Varsity Hockey

Blue Devils girls hockey prepared to defend state championship in 2024-25

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls hockey for years has been seen as one of the premier programs in the state and that is not changing this winter. The Blue Devils are fresh off of winning their 14th state championship in school history, beating crosstown rival University Liggett School in the championship, in 2023-24.

South is set on defending that title and raising another banner this year. A program this experienced in winning knows it will not always be an easy road and managing the expectations that come with championship success is step one.

"There are high expectations. ... I think our captains are holding themselves to a really high standard," South girls hockey head coach Lexi Bohlinger said. "... I always worry that if you win a state championship you might come in a bit cocky. We're



PHOTOS BY LEON HALIP

South senior Molly Reynolds controls the puck for the Blue Devils in the team's game against University Liggett on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

kind of knocking that out of them right away and saying it doesn't matter what you did last year or what you think the team looks like, this is a fresh season and a fresh team."

This season's Blue Devils team is a pretty mixed group when it comes to experience. The roster includes six seniors and six juniors with championship experience under their belts, but the team also welcomes a group of five freshmen.

What could be South's biggest strength is the leadership from this year's senior captains. This year's captains include Abby Evans, Bella Peruski and Molly Reynolds. Also serving as a captain is senior goalie Rosie Smith, who comes into the season as South's stalwart between the pipes.

"She's been a first-team All-State goalie two years in a row," Bohlinger said about Smith. "She's coming in as a senior captain so

much more mature than even the last two years. ... She's buying into wanting to be that person for her team again and it's such a blessing to have a really skilled goaltender for as long as we've been able to have her."

Smith's experience in net is one of South's biggest strengths this season as it looks to defend its state title. She stopped 19 shots in South's 4-1 win over Liggett Wednesday, Nov. 13, in a state championship game rematch to open the season. Reynolds scored twice in that win, with Evans and Ruby Lenhard also finding the back of the net.

The Blue Devils faced Mid-Michigan Alliance on Friday, Nov. 15, winning 3-1. Lenhard and Evans both found the back of the net, with Sophia Husek also scoring. South finished up its weekend road trip with a 3-2 win over Traverse City on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Everything for South this year seems to come down to leadership. The seniors know what is expected of them and the underclassmen who are joining the program are learning that standard as well, while also adding some much-needed depth. That combination could be what helps propel the Blue Devils back to the state championship game in March.

"I would say we have three very strong, playable lines at any time," Bohlinger said. "In high school, it's uncommon to have three lines that you can play all game. ... We have four very clear leaders who I always knew were going to be wearing those captains' letters and I couldn't ask for a better group of captains and leaders."



Senior goalie Rosie Smith returns to South's lineup this season after being a key piece in the team's state championship run last winter.

NORTH:

Continued from page 2D

The Norsemen hope that group and other returning players will carry things early in the season while the team's newer players get up to speed and that everything comes together down the road. As the team began the season last week, some promising signs were already there.

North opened the new season against Regina Thursday, Nov. 14, and won 9-3. Cueter scored six goals, while Martin added one and Kate Kasuba scored twice. The team also won its home opener

on Saturday, Nov. 16, against Ann Arbor Skyline-Huron 3-2. Cueter found the back of the net twice and Martin also scored in the victory for the Norsemen.

A strong start is always helpful, but North's focus this season includes the long term as well. There is hope that this year's team can lay the groundwork for the future of the program and, with so many newly recruited players already joining the fold, the focus is on continuing that.

"The goal is to grow hockey at North really," Shaheen said. "... We're trying to make it an

inclusive team and we want people to come out and see if it's something that they would be interested in doing. ... Without these recruits, we would've only had juniors and seniors returning this year, so we want to keep growing the program and show the people at Grosse Pointe North that we can have a great team and a great program and these girls can have so much fun playing a winter sport."

The Norsemen faced Liggett Tuesday, Nov. 19, after press time. They are home again Friday, Nov. 22, hosting Mid-Michigan Alliance at 7:30 p.m.

Have a safe & happy holiday season!



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4D | SPORTS



| GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Boys Varsity Basketball

Veterans are key to helping Norsemen boys basketball team take big leap

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For certain high school sports teams, there are times when a class of athletes who have been together for years finally reach the culmination of their careers together. That is what the Grosse Pointe North varsity boys basketball team is experiencing this season as the Norsemen are looking for a large and

experienced senior class to carry the way.

"This is probably the hardest-working group of seniors that I've had because they're so dedicated to basketball," North boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson said. "Basically, since March they've been going nonstop in the weight room and they've played summer ball and fall ball. They've been really nonstop and have

been working their tails off, so they're ready to go."

North's team this season is made up of a majority of seniors. Some of the ones expected to lead the way should be familiar to Norsemen fans. Leo Perettie is going to be a focal point while running North's offense from the point guard position. In the paint, senior big man RJ Williams is expected to be a force. Other seniors Johnson looks to play big roles include Dequan Howell, Ben Rickerman, Devin Hedd and Josh Sherrill.

This season, North will be competing in the MAC Blue Division, so divisional opponents include Fraser, L'Anse Creuse, Henry Ford II, Warren Cousino and Anchor Bay. Outside of league play, North has a strong schedule that includes games against Roseville Dec. 12, and a rivalry showdown at Grosse Pointe South Dec. 19. The Norsemen also get to play in a few different showcases throughout the season, providing them with a strong variety of competition that should test them well.

"Playing different teams this year is going to be cool for us,"



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

The Norsemen expect senior guard Leo Perettie to play a major role on this year's veteran-led team.



RJ Williams is one of several key returning seniors on this year's boys hoops squad for North.

Johnson said. "We had a good enough summer where we got invited to some showcases. ... There's a lot of different teams we're playing against this year that have us excited."

While it is sure to be tested, North is hoping its strong group of upperclassmen can lead them to wins in some of those tough matchups. The name of the game for the

Norsemen this year is culture and the coaches and players are confident it can take them far.

"We set a good tone and had a good foundation last year working on our culture," Johnson said. "... Now, these guys are a confident group of kids. They've played a lot of basketball and they're all best friends. They're an unselfish group and they know

that they're going to have to sacrifice for each other and they're willing to sacrifice for each other."

North opens the season with a road game at Warren Woods-Tower Tuesday, Nov. 26, tipping off at 7 p.m. The Norsemen's home opener is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 4, against Lake Shore, starting at 7 p.m.

| UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

Boys Varsity Basketball

Young Liggett boys hoops team hopes culture sets the tone for success

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last season marked the beginning of a new era for the University Liggett School varsity boys basketball team with the arrival of new head coach James Scott. After finishing 8-12 and losing in the district semifinal round of the playoffs last season, the Knights are optimistic about the future heading into the second season with Scott at the helm, with what they believe to be a strong basketball culture growing at the school as the season gets ready to tip off.

"We had a lot of freshmen come out and I think the basketball culture is getting really exciting," Scott said. "... The energy from the guys has been great. They're learning and I've seen some of our returning guys from last year getting better and taking on more leadership roles."

Having a strong freshman turnout seems to epitomize what this year's Liggett team

is largely about: youth. The Knights are going to have plenty of depth with young players they believe can be developed into exciting talent, but the few veterans the team still has are going to be a main focal point.

At the forefront are the Knights' only two seniors on the roster, Bobby Harthorn and captain Jackson Fetter. Expected to make major contributions alongside those two seniors is junior Deagan Barr, giving Liggett a "big three" of sorts.

"Those three will spearhead us and we've got some younger 10th-grade guys that are going to play well because we're pretty young," Scott said.

When it comes to the younger players on this team, Scott is expecting some big things from sophomores Sean Harris and DeVon Abbott. Those are just two of the players who could play key roles in the Knights' youth movement.

The rising talent Liggett believes it has this season is giving hope that this new era of Knights basketball will start to take off. The growth and development of more talent also is going to help the Knights be more versatile on the court, giving opponents more things to defend and look out for.

"I think we've got more athletes than we had last year, so we'll be able to push the tempo a bit," said Scott. "... I think we've also improved our shooting. Guys have been putting in the work and we've added some guys who can shoot the basketball a little bit. They're playing fast and playing at a better pace. We have more space on the floor and with Jackson Fetter being our big man, it'll be a bit harder for teams to double- or triple-team him a lot and that could help us."

Liggett boys basketball opens the season at home Tuesday, Dec. 3, hosting Oakland Christian at 7 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Senior Jackson Fetter will serve as a captain of this year's Liggett boys basketball team.



GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Boys Varsity Basketball

Sharpshooters ready to lead Blue Devils boys basketball this winter

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys basketball team has been preparing for the 2024-25 season since last winter season ended. The Blue Devils have a strong core of returning veterans to this year's roster, mixed with a few up-and-coming underclassmen, who are all champing at the bit for the season to tip off.

"They came in ready to go," South boys basketball head coach Stephen Benard said. "... We played a lot in the summer and did a lot in the offseason. We had a regular practice plan starting from day one and it's nothing these guys couldn't handle and nothing that we haven't done in the past."

South's staple in recent years has been strong shooting and that should be no different this season. Leading the group of sharpshooters for the Blue Devils is senior Tory James, who broke a school record with eight made three-pointers in a game against Dakota last season.

Expected to help lead South's offense production alongside James are



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Tory James set a school record for three-pointers made in a game last season and returns this winter looking to be a key contributor for the Blue Devils on the court.

fellow seniors Vince Vachon, James Michelotti and Adam Czarnik. Sophomore Kooper Richards also will help run the offense from the point guard spot.

With the Blue Devils' shooting ability also comes what Benard believes to be great vision and playmaking ability among some of the team's top players, which could make South a very

difficult team to stop. "Not only shooting, but we're going to move the ball well, since that's been our staple," Benard said. "It's even more intensified this year. We've got a lot of guys who can get into the

paint and make things happen and draw and kick."

The Blue Devils' abilities, especially on offense, are going to be put to the test week in and week out this season. South once again is play-

ing in the MAC Red Division and will be looking for a third consecutive division championship. That means the team's league schedule will include the likes of Dakota, Chippewa Valley and

Roseville, as well as newcomers Port Huron Northern and Warren Lincoln.

Outside of the stacked MAC Red, South has plenty of tough non-league tests on the slate this winter. The Blue Devils are expecting a battle against crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North Dec. 19. They face Canton in the Holiday Extravaganza at North Farmington Dec. 29, and South also takes on Old Redford in the D Zone showcase that the Blue Devils are hosting Feb. 8.

"We try to play the best teams and play away from South a lot," Benard said. "We're playing in three showcases this year. ... Lincoln and Port Huron Northern moved up to the (MAC) Red. Lincoln won a state championship last year and we were their last defeat in the MAC Championship. ... We've got a really good schedule."

South begins the season at home Monday, Nov. 25, hosting Romeo at 7 p.m.

City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan
PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINANCE NOS. 464 AND 465

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 464 amending Section 82-67 - Lawn Extensions, and Ordinance No. 465 amending Chapter 50, Article III - Special Events, of the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances.

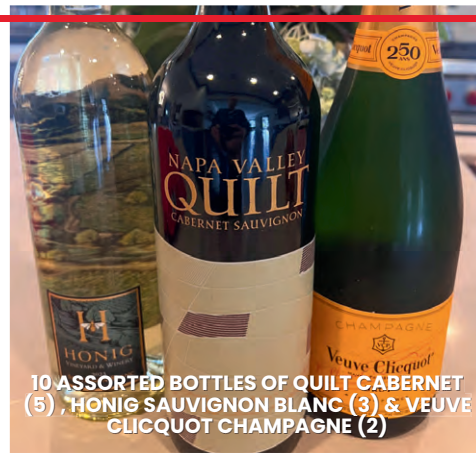
Ordinance No. 464 amends Section 82-67 - Lawn Extensions to further detail the uses permitted and maintenance required on city property between the sidewalk and the street.

Ordinance No. 465 amends Chapter 50, Article III - Special Events clarifying expectations and enhancing the special event application process.

These Ordinances will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 464 and 465 are available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 11/21/24



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Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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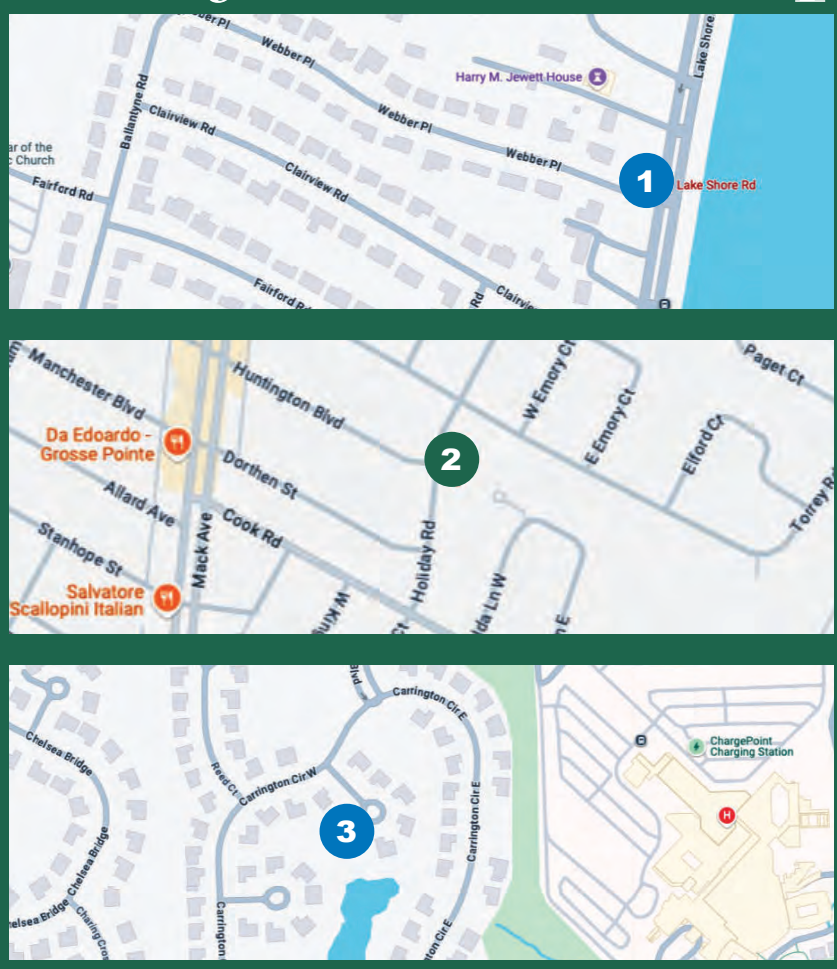


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<p>911 BRICK / BLOCK WORK</p>  <p>MADISON MAINTENANCE specializing in restoration of chimneys, porches, houses, brick walls, tuck pointing, all masonry. Grosse Pointe resident. Free estimates. Licensed and insured. masonrygp88@gmail.com (313)885-8525 Cell (313)402-7166 NOW OFFERING FINANCING</p>	<p>920 CHIMNEY REPAIR</p>  <p>MADISON MAINTENANCE specializing in restoration of chimneys, porches, houses, brick walls, tuck pointing, all masonry. Grosse Pointe resident. Free estimates. Licensed and insured. masonrygp88@gmail.com (313)885-8525 Cell (313)402-7166 NOW OFFERING FINANCING</p>	<p>936 FLOOR SANDING / REFINISHING</p>  <p>FLOOR laying, sanding and refinishing. Laminate flooring installed. Free estimates. Terry Yerke (586)823-7753</p>	<p>943 MAPLE VALLEY LAND MANAGEMENT founded by Charlie Gmeiner in January 2024, originated from his dorm room at Michigan State University. A Grosse Pointe South '23 graduate, Charlie studies Construction Management at Michigan State University. His company specializes in landscaping and development, offering innovative solutions for transforming outdoor spaces. With a focus on aesthetic appeal and functional design, Maple Valley Land Management combines cutting-edge techniques with a commitment to sustainable practices, aiming to enhance and revitalize properties while reflecting Charlie's dedication to quality and creativity. Call today for all of your landscaping and development needs. We even deliver firewood! (313) 686-1281</p>	<p>GUTTER CLEANING Gutter Repairs Downspouts Deck Staining Painting • Plaster Work Fully Insured. 40 year Grosse Pointe Resident Call Steve (313)244-9651</p>	<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>We're your "TO DO" list handymen! Let us help you with any plumbing, electrical, carpentry and much more. RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>	<p>954 PAINTING / DECORATING</p>  <p>GROSSE POINTE PAINTERS</p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES Interior/Exterior Commercial & Residential 313.882.9234</p>	<p>McCarver Mechanical Heating & Cooling</p> <p>SPECIALIZING IN SERVICE & INSTALLATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Water Heaters Tankless Water Heaters Boiler Repair (Steam & Hot Water) <p>(586)489-3884 www.mccarvermech.com FREE ESTIMATES!</p>
<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chimneys Porches Concrete Steps Stonework Tuckpointing Patios Fireplaces Brick Work <p>RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>	<p>927 DEBRIS / CLUTTER REMOVAL</p> <p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>Debris Removal • Clean Outs • Hauling Unwanted Items • Dumpsters Available RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>	<p>939 GENERAL SERVICES</p>  <p>GUTTER • WINDOW CLEANING Insured Call Tom Micoli (313)656-9402</p>	<p>943 LANDSCAPERS / TREE SERVICE/GARDENER</p> <p>HADLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT INCORPORATED</p> <p>(313)886-0520 TREE REMOVAL</p>	<p>ROYAL ENTERPRISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Cleanup Leaf Pickup Gutter Cleaning Gutter Screening Gutter Repair Residential/Commercial Fully Insured <p>RAY (313)218-2150</p>	<p>947 HEATING & COOLING REPAIR</p> <p>McCarver Mechanical Heating & Cooling</p> <p>SPECIALIZING IN SERVICE & INSTALLATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furnace & Boilers Air Conditioning SDHV Spacepak Indoor Air Quality Ductless Mini Splits Tankless Water Heaters <p>(586)489-3884 www.mccarvermech.com FREE ESTIMATES!</p>	<p>JOHN'S PAINTING Interior/Exterior Repairing: Damaged plaster, drywall, cracks, windows puttying, caulking. Fire/Water damage insurance work. All work guaranteed G. P. References License/Insured Free estimates Senior Discount (313)882-5038</p>	<p>960 ROOFING SERVICES</p> <p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>NEW INSTALLATION Roofs, Gutters Repairs Siding Financing Available! RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>
<p>912 BUILDING / REMODELING</p> <p>SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1(855)861-4501</p>	<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>DUMPSTERS AVAILABLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Outs Basement/ Garage Clean Out Debris Removal <p>(313)408-1166</p>	<p>DAVE'S TREE & SHRUB Tree Removal/ Trimming Stump Grinding Gutter Cleaning FREE ESTIMATES 30% WINTER DISCOUNTS SENIOR DISCOUNTS * FIREWOOD * AVAILABLE 25 Years (586)216-0904</p>	<p>944 GUTTERS</p> <p>ELIMINATE gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris- blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off entire purchase. PLUS 10% Senior & Military discounts. Call 1(866)495-1709</p>	<p>HADLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT INCORPORATED</p> <p>SEAMLESS GUTTERS Temper Aluminum Gutter Covers Insured Free Estimates (313)886-0520 Grosse Pointe Woods</p>	<p>948 INSULATION</p> <p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>A quiet home is a relaxing home! Blown in Cellulose Insulation is GREEN, cost and energy efficient. Red Baron Enterprises, LLC can insulate your home. RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>	<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>Painting Services Interior & Exterior Floors Drywall Plaster Restoration Wood Finishing + Staining + much more! RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>	<p>HADLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT INCORPORATED</p> <p>Residential Commercial ROOFING EXPERTS Lifetime Warranty on Shingles Licensed & Insured Free Estimates (313)886-0520 Grosse Pointe Woods</p>
<p>Nick Karoutsos</p> <p>Since 1965 586.778.9619</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CUSTOM CARPENTRY WOOD REPAIR & REPLACEMENT HANDYMAN SERVICES <p>~All Work Guaranteed~ FREE ESTIMATES • LICENSED • INSURED</p>	<p>SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!</p> <p>Grosse Pointe News (313)882-6900 ext. 1</p>	<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>Debris Removal • Clean Outs • Basement/ Garage Clean Out</p>	<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>Handyman Services Electrical - Plumbing Carpentry 313-886-8088</p>	<p>945 HANDYMAN</p> <p>DeBeers HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Handyman Service Electrical - Plumbing Carpentry 313-886-8088</p>	<p>948 INSULATION</p> <p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>A quiet home is a relaxing home! Blown in Cellulose Insulation is GREEN, cost and energy efficient. Red Baron Enterprises, LLC can insulate your home. RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>	<p>Nick Karoutsos</p> <p>Since 1965 586.778.9619</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INTERIOR & EXTERIOR RESTORATION CUSTOM PAINTING <p>~All Work Guaranteed~ FREE ESTIMATES • LICENSED • INSURED</p>	<p>968 SHRINK WRAPPING</p> <p>DeBeers HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Seasonal Work Shrink Wrap "Patio Furniture"</p> <p>313-886-8088</p>
<p>914 CARPENTRY</p> <p>Nick Karoutsos</p> <p>Since 1965 586.778.9619</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CUSTOM CARPENTRY WOOD REPAIR & REPLACEMENT HANDYMAN SERVICES <p>~All Work Guaranteed~ FREE ESTIMATES • LICENSED • INSURED</p>	<p>SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!</p> <p>Grosse Pointe News (313)882-6900 ext. 1</p>	<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>Debris Removal • Clean Outs • Basement/ Garage Clean Out</p>	<p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>Handyman Services Electrical - Plumbing Carpentry 313-886-8088</p>	<p>945 HANDYMAN</p> <p>DeBeers HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Handyman Service Electrical - Plumbing Carpentry 313-886-8088</p>	<p>948 INSULATION</p> <p>REDBARON ENTERPRISES</p> <p>A quiet home is a relaxing home! Blown in Cellulose Insulation is GREEN, cost and energy efficient. Red Baron Enterprises, LLC can insulate your home. RedBaron Enterprises.com (313)408-1166</p>	<p>957 PLUMBING & INSTALLATION</p> <p>DeBeers HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Handyman Services Plumbing Needs</p> <p>313-886-8088</p>	<p>Some classifications are not required by law to be licensed. Please check with the proper state agency to verify license.</p>

Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK

1. 5 Lakeshore Rd. Grosse Pointe Shores	2. 19840 Holiday Rd. Grosse Pointe Woods	3. 6866 Cambridge Ct. West Bloomfield
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● = ESTATE SALE ○ = YARD SALE See Classifieds for more details

THE MARKETPLACE

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES

What's Old Is News Again

Sell your Art, Antiques, Furniture, etc. in our special section featuring treasures and vintage items from here in the local area and around the region.

Special Pricing!
\$20 plus free photo



ITEM NAME HERE
Two-lines of a short description goes here

ITEM NAME HERE
Two-lines of a short description goes here

ITEM NAME HERE
Two-lines of a short description goes here

\$000.00
(000) 000-0000

Call the Classifieds for more details.
313-882-6900 ext. 4

8D | SPORTS



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



PHOTO BY COLIN SMITH

North, South athletes make college futures official

Above left: Three Blue Devils make their athletic futures official as they sign on to play at the next level. Left, South girls basketball's Madison Benard signs with the women's basketball team at Wayne State University. Center, Andrew DiLodovico becomes a Falcon as he signs with Bowling Green State University baseball. Right, Savannah Spangler officially joins the women's soccer team at Marian University in Indiana.

Above Right: Grosse Pointe North swimmer and 2023-24 Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Year winner Avery Beal, joined by sister Hadley Beal, mom Whitney Beal, dad David Beal and brother Conrad Beal, signs her letter to join the women's swim and dive team at Oakland University.



COURTESY PHOTO

Handwork, center, with South swim and dive teammates Heidi Bryan, left, and Hannah DiDio.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

time."

It is not just her teammates, but Handwork's coaches as well, who make it such a great experience to be a Blue Devil. Some of her coaches, including head coach John Fodell, have been with her throughout most of her swimming career as Handwork also swims for the Grosse Pointe Gators club team. It is coaches like Fodell

who have been with Handwork so long that they know exactly how to keep her motivated. Handwork has felt her confidence building all season, just from how well her teammates — and especially her coaches — know her and the great things she is capable of. That is what she and the rest of her team hope can help push the Blue Devils toward a state championship to end the fall.

"Last year, I feel like I wasn't as confident in

myself and I would be really nervous," Handwork said. "... Sometimes, it feels like (Coach) Fodell knows us better than we even know ourselves because he watches us every practice and he knows what we're capable of. I like to go up to him before every race and ask him, 'What do you think I'll go on this?' and the time is usually pretty accurate to what he says. He gives us a lot of confidence and the coaches are all very supportive."

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:

NORTH, SOUTH & LIGGETT VOLLEYBALL

The Grosse Pointe North varsity volleyball team's season ended on Tuesday, Nov. 12, in the regional semifinal round as the Norsemen lost 3-1 to Eisenhower. Grosse Pointe South varsity volleyball's season also ended on Nov. 12 as the team lost in the regional semifinal to Livonia Stevenson 3-1. University Liggett School varsity volleyball also lost the regional semifinal in Division 3 on Tuesday, Nov. 12, falling 3-0 to Cass City.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

WRESTLING CLUB READY TO HIT THE MATS

The Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club is back for its 22nd season this winter for both new and experienced wrestlers to get into action. The club is once again led by coach Tony Cimmarusti, former Grosse Pointe South varsity coach and Harvard University wrestling captain.

Cimmarusti will also be joined by other coaches and Grosse Pointe wrestling legends, including current South varsity coaches Dave and Pat Salazar as well as former South captains Luke Davey, Joe Kurta, Alex Manchester and more. The club will also feature guest coaching sessions from wrestlers and coaches from around the state.

The club is open to interested athletes from kindergarten through 8th grade from the Grosse Pointe area. Practices will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Grosse Pointe South High School wrestling room inside the main gym.

The first two practices will be held on Monday, Nov. 25 and Tuesday, Nov. 26. Registration forms will be available at the opening practices, and parents are welcome to ask questions to coaches before and after practice. Registration costs \$75 for the first athlete in a family and \$35 for each additional athlete.

For more information or to ask any questions, contact coach Cimmarusti at GPWrestlingclub48236@gmail.com.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 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 October 21, 2024.
- 2) To open the Public Hearing on the 2025 Budget.
- 3) to close the Public Hearing.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 131129 through 131233 in the amount of \$694,813.22 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 Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$15,300.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (3) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$16,664.45 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes and the Library. (4) approve payment in the amount of \$18,450.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks and replacement of stop boxes at various residential locations.
- 2) to adopt the Tax Levy Resolution set forth on page 1 of the budget document hereby establishing the following tax rate for 2025.

General	18.8398
PA 359	.1769
Refuse	2.4034
Milk River Drain	10.5000
Library	1.8053
Debt	0.0000
Total	33.7254

- 3) to Approve the Budget Adoption and Appropriation Resolution found on Page 2 of the budget document, thereby adopting the 2025 Budget as presented.
- 4) to, in accordance with Milk River Intercounty Drain Assessments, Chap. 21, 1956 PA 40, as amended and its obligations under the Michigan Drain Code, Harper Woods City is mandated to levy 10.5 mills on all taxable properties in the City to fund the Milk River Intercounty Drain Assessments on its tax bills dated December 1, 2024.
- 5) to approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of \$356,018.00 for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Drain.
- 6) to approve the payment to the Michigan Department of Transportation in the amount of \$10,502.07 for the city's proportionate share of the Beaconsfield Resurfacing Project, Phase II.
- 6) to approve payment to PK Contracting LLC in the amount of \$34,987.05 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2024 Pavement Striping Program, #180-342.
- 7) to approve the transfer of \$50,687.00 for Miscellaneous City Services, \$19,120.00 for Special Pickups and \$4017.00 for Meter Replacements (total of \$73,824.50) to the 2024 Winter Tax Roll as proposed and submitted by the acting Treasurer.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Grosse Pointe Public School System will receive sealed bid proposals until **2:00 p.m. EST on December 2nd, 2024**, for Paving Contractor Services. Grosse Pointe Public School System will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

Pre-bid Clarifications must be sent to Gary Kent from Plante Moran at gary.kent@plantemoran.com by **November 18th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. EST**

All bids must be addressed to: Grosse Pointe Public School System, 20601 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. Attention Ben Matteson, Director of Facilities.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the school district. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must also be included along with a Familial Disclosure Statement, Criminal Background Disclosure Affidavit, and a Non-Collusive Affidavit.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=c91afabc9214d80abf4d7cbfad92871>

Documents will be available for viewing on **November 12th, 2024**. Any questions, contact Gary Kent from Plante Moran at gary.kent@plantemoran.com.