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Neff ice rink permanently shutting down

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Facing \$16,000 in repairs and prompted by responses to a Neff Park survey conducted this summer, city council Monday night unanimously voted to permanently close the Neff Park ice rink.

“At the same time (as responses questioned the viability and usage of the rink), a number of people were asking for sand for the volleyball nets rather than grass,” Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak, a member of the parks and harbor commission, said of the survey. “The discussion went around, what’s the relative use of volleyball in the summer versus

the ice rink in the winter, because the ice rink is rather small, but it takes up exactly the space where the volleyball is. So we can’t put sand down there and put the ice rink on top of sand.”

Use of the ice rink has declined from a high of 1,094 visitors in the winter of 2020, to 177 and 293, respectively, the last two winters.

Because of warmer winters, the ice rink has been opening later in the season and, the last three winters, has seen closures on approximately one-third of the season’s days.

Significant repairs to

See RINK, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Making a list

Ford House recently hosted its annual Cookies with Santa event, during which children and families scheduled private time to talk with Santa about their Christmas wish lists. Among Santa’s visitors was Eva Scherba, who tells Santa what is on her list while her siblings, Solomon and Owen Scherba, wait patiently for their turn. See more Cookies with Santa photos on page 3A.

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Section C

Pearl funds free parking on The Hill

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Cheerful, red bags were wrapped around parking meters along Kercheval on The Hill last week, as Pearl partnered with the city to offer free two-hour parking in the business district through the end of the year.

“It’s one less thing that people have to worry about and they just can run in and don’t

have to worry about getting a ticket,” store manager Gigi Badalamenti said. “... We just wanted to make it easy for people to shop local, because it’s all about shopping local.”

The inspiration came from Edmund T. AHEE Jewelers, which for its 75th anniversary in

See PEARL, page 3A

Free two-hour parking on The Hill is courtesy of Pearl.



PHOTO BY DAVID HUGHES

Pointer of Interest . . . 4A
Opinion 6A
Schools 9A
Features 1B
Obituaries 4B
Sports 1D
Classified ads 4D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

GPPSS adding administrators

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — While several central office positions went unfilled last year as the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education focused on fixing the district’s budget woes, those roles now are ready to be filled.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle announced at the board’s meeting Monday, Dec. 9, that Grosse Pointe South High School Principal

Moussa Hamka will be the new assistant superintendent of human resources.

“I find him to be the most excellent choice,” Tuttle said. “There is a quote, ‘you hire people better than you.’ I always look for someone who will not only fill our team but make our team better and I think Principal Hamka is that individual.”

Hamka thanked his family and colleagues at South in addressing the board.

“I would not be standing here today without our custodians, engineers, support staff, our teachers, our paraprofessionals, counselors and secretaries,” he said. “You’ve all helped shape who I am today.”

Tuttle said Hamka would remain at South until February while she searches for his successor. Hamka has a bachelor’s degree in teaching and a master’s degree in educational leadership

See ADDING, page 10A

BoE votes to internally review Ismail HR report

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education voted unanimously to allow board members to review the full 27-page report detailing an investigation into human resource

complaints filed last year against Vice President Ahmed Ismail. Ismail, who is not running for re-election, made the motion at the board’s final scheduled meeting of the year Monday, Dec. 9.

“Everyone has made assumptions about what is in the report,” he said. “I’d like to see it be done with.”

After a closed session

ahead of the board meeting in early February, a motion was made by Trustee Valarie St. John to give all members except Ismail access to the report. The motion failed 4-2, with President Sean Cotton, Secretary Lisa Papas, Treasurer Terry Collins and Trustee Ginny Jeup voting no. St. John and Trustee Colleen Worden voted in favor, while Ismail recused himself. Cotton

See REPORT, page 9A

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Border plan in works

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Forward-thinkers on the Downtown Development Authority board flipped their year-end, look-back meeting into a futuring session eyeing area prosperity that could benefit the eastside from here on out.

Attendees committed themselves to efforts years in the making with a payoff for generations. Prompting discussion and setting the first of what are expected to be a series of incremental benchmarks for achieving a series of goals was board member Mayor Michele Hodges, trained in urban planning.

Ears perked up during the normally routine final DDA meeting of the year Dec. 10, when Hodges pointed out a way for the board to achieve the difficult goal of growing the nearly built-out municipal tax base.

“One endeavor that has the potential to have the multiplier effect would be to stabilize the borders (with Detroit),” she said. “That’s a rational solution for a lot of reasons. It could be a way to propel our property values and probably the most meaningful one.”

“That’s a conversation we want to start now,” DDA Chairman Ben Wixson said. “This could be a real game changer in terms of how our DDA looks and our interactions with our neighbors.”

Members passed a resolution tasking DDA Director and City Manager Nick Sizeland

to present during the next board meeting, Feb. 18, 2025, a skeleton outline of proposed actions for the coming 12 months.

“If the DDA of Grosse Pointe Park succeeds, Detroit succeeds and vice versa,” Sizeland said.

Hodges characterized the idea as foundational for reams of benefits allied to the Park and Detroit in general, but specific to their border along Mack Avenue and Alter Road.

“If we were strategic and practical about entering into a process with our neighbors and partners to make that happen, that could really advance the DDA and community at large into a whole new realm of resources that can support an enhancement of our (city) services,” Hodges said.

She wants to build upon relationships already established with Detroit government officials and their eastside residents. The shared goal is to make areas contiguous to both sides of the border more inviting to investment.

“We talked with Detroit before about coordinated planning and zoning,” Hodges told the board. “If they were looking for a north star that can garner results and create momentum, that would then make everything else fall into place. I think there’s some magic there. That would be a smart move for a lot of reasons.”

Authority boundaries encompass commercial and public property on both sides of Jefferson

from the Detroit border to Somerset. DDA funding comes from property taxes generated within the district that must be spent within the same area.

Thoughts

There’s a three-part saying, the first of which is, “Thoughts are free.”

“We need to move that forward and get it off the dime, keep politics out of the way and approach it from a scientific as well as community-minded manner,” Hodges said.

Sizeland agreed. He said he has relationships with members of eastside Detroit community groups committed to ensuring the Jefferson East neighborhood thrives.

“(We) have had several conversations about projects on the border; new housing and development of Alter Road and where we can be of help seeing opportunities grow on Alter,” Sizeland said.

Talk

The second part of that saying is, “Talk is cheap.”

“We should set some measurables and timelines of when we’d like to accomplish this,” Hodges said, seeking commitment to match words with deeds. “Otherwise, it’s too open-ended.”

She compared the strategy to the city administration’s recent pincer movement on Grosse Pointe public school officials to revive vacant Trombly Elementary School as a place of learning.

Hodges presented to school board members

this month a city council resolution demanding action but also offering inducements, such as infrastructure upgrades of direct benefit to Trombly property, plus enhancing the city’s attractiveness to families with young children.

“I want to see a process that has milestones attached to it, not just talk,” Hodges said of the border initiative. “We, as a DDA, can give some good input on how the administration proceeds with that and use some of our resources to make that happen.”

Newest DDA board member Guiliano Mancini recommended each of his colleagues provide three tactics for consideration during the group’s February session.

“Come up with three action items,” Mancini said, “whether they be boundary extensions, working with partners, that sort of thing. Then come together with our goals and see where we have common ground where we want to run with this.”

Sharron Corbin, the most veteran member of the board, appointed mid-2019, has experience working on joint-border improvements.

She volunteered about two decades ago for a Detroit-Grosse Pointe collaborative.

“They did things like block and neighborhood clubs that crossed the border with Detroit,” Corbin said. “We did recreational activities that crossed the border. I did theater with kids from Detroit and Grosse Pointe Park, things like that. We cleaned up a house on Alter and planted flowers

See PLAN, page 3A

See the holiday lights across Grosse Pointe

THE GROSSE POINTES AND ST. CLAIR SHORES — Though organizers hope momentum grows for next year, the inaugural Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores Self-Guided Holiday Light Tour list went live Tuesday, Dec. 17.

“We don’t have a ton of people, but the people that did submit their names are very excited to have more visitors to their homes,” said Rebecca Jenzen, coordinator of both the tour and the City of Grosse Pointe’s Parks and Recreation Department.

As of press time, homes promising to be worth the visit were:

◆ Grosse Pointe Park — 1012 Three Mile, 717 Middlesex and 15725 Windmill Pointe Dr.;

◆ Grosse Pointe Farms — 263 Cloverly, 357 Lakeshore and 407 Barclay;

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores — 571 Lakeshore;

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods — 1597 Prestwick, 991 S.

Oxford Lane and 1056 Woods Lane.

Additional houses interested in participating will be added to the document — which can be found on the City’s website, at tinyurl.com/mrxueacs or via the QR code below — through the end of the week.

“Check that out on our website and check out some cool lights,” Jenzen said.

Any homeowners who wish to add their home to the tour may email their full names and home addresses to parks@grossepointecity.org.

— Laurel Kraus



Farms sports court ordinance passes

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Farms city council nearly tabled the matter until its February meeting, but at the last moment unanimously passed a sports court ordinance amendment last Monday,

requiring site plan approval for pickleball courts in residential districts.

The sense of urgency was produced from a pending property sale, with which the buyer already has noted intent to construct a pickleball

See COURT, page 8A

RINK:

Continued from page 1A

the chillers totaling \$16,000 are needed to

make the rink operational this winter, combined with an annual cost of \$3,700 for salaries of employees who manage the rink.

“The commission felt that \$16,000 to just bring it up to speed for this winter was kind of exorbitant,” Tomkowiak said. “And then the concern that I have, you look at the staff hours and the cost of the staff hours to maintain it. It’s not just the cost of the staff to maintain it, but what are they not doing

when they’re dealing with the ice rink? Which is a luxury and not a necessity.”

To construct the ice rink each winter, it takes at least 80 man hours in addition to clearing leaves from the surface daily.

To get the rink back into working order after each warm spell, staff

must layer water onto the refrigeration coils to create even and solid ice layers; pack edges and corners of the rink with snow and ice to prevent leakage and allow new ice to form; and shave the ice when air bubbles or pitting has occurred.

“Today’s actually a perfect example,” Parks and Recreation Coordinator Rebecca Jenzen said Monday, “because we had those wonderfully cold days at the end of last week and over the weekend, but one day like today decimates the rink with the rain coming down.”

“It would take us two, three, four days to get it back up to working speed. So we don’t just

lose one day when it’s warm and rainy, we lose multiple.”

With the closure, the city plans to sell its rink equipment.

“I just hate the thought that our residents would be cut out for a period of time,” Councilman Chris Moyer said. “I’m a sand volleyball guy, to be perfectly candid with you, but would our residents have access to other (rinks) in the winter?”

Though the rink at Ghesquiere Park in Grosse Pointe Woods is flood-only — meaning it doesn’t have refrigeration coils — Jenzen said, it could be an option for City residents, as it’s not a gated park.

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Sitting with Santa

Ford House sold out each of its Cookies with Santa events, during which children and families met with Santa to share their wish lists. While waiting to see Santa, youngsters had the option to color or work on a puzzle page. After each visit, children received a frosted holiday cookie from Santa. Right, Landon Cordtz was mesmerized by Santa and did really well sitting on St. Nick's lap.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



While waiting his turn, Matteo Matusz got excited when he heard it was his turn to talk with Santa.



Aurora Cecchini was pretty excited to spend some time with Santa.



Santa asked Olivia Wieczorek to put her letter in Santa's mailbox so he could double-check it later.



Kelly Salis, Nora Salis-Timm and Dana Timm get a family photo with Santa.



George Ghanem happily sat under the Christmas tree near all the presents after he saw Santa because, his family said, "He is our gift."

Defendant's mother in Ridge Road fatality will not be charged

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office announced last week the denial of a warrant request for charges against the mother of a 17-year-old Grosse Pointe boy, who is awaiting a second-degree murder trial for the death of Flynn Mackrell in a single-car accident on Ridge Road in November 2023.

The defendant was the driver of the vehicle, which crash data showed accelerated to 105 mph on the residential street before hitting a crown in the road near Moran and rolling numerous times. Mackrell, belted into the passenger seat, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

At the request of Mackrell's mother — alleging inaction and negligence by the defendant's mother regarding her son's history of reckless driving — Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy in July requested the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department open an investigation into the defendant's mother in connection with the fatal crash.

On Aug. 15, a warrant request was presented to the prosecutor's office and an extensive review of records and evidence over a period from 2018 to 2023 was conducted regarding the mother's conduct over the years leading up to the crash.

"As a result of the review (by a panel of assistant prosecutors), WCPO has found that the respondent's mother has consistently taken reasonable measures to assert parental control over her son over the years as it relates to his general behavior and his driving leading up to the fatal car crash," a release from the prosecutor's office reads, adding the request was denied due to insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt any crime was committed by the defendant's mother.

"Parenting is hard in the best of circumstances," Worthy said in a statement. "Most parents do everything they can to mentor their children and steer them in the right direction. The juvenile respondent's mother was no different. She took consistent, active steps to try to make sure that he stayed on the right path.

"There will be those that say she should have done more, but we have looked at all of the facts and those facts dictate no criminal charges here. We will not be more specific about her actions because her son will be facing trial in February."

The 17-year-old is scheduled for a settlement conference at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, and a jury trial Monday, Feb. 3, Tuesday, Feb. 4, and Wednesday, Feb. 5, before Judge Michael McClory.

"We have spent a significant amount of time discussing this case and have looked at all of the applicable law," Worthy said. "We looked at police reports and other documents. We are confident that the facts and evidence will prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the juvenile respondent committed the offenses that we have charged."

PEARL:

Continued from page 1A

2022, began covering the charge for meters along Mack in the Woods throughout November and December.

Though it was late in the game of the holiday shopping season when inspiration struck to do so on The Hill, Badalamenti said, "it's still the thought that counts."

Pearl, which rebranded from Capricious earlier this year, will reimburse the city for lost meter revenue and intends to make this an annual Christmas tradition on The Hill moving forward.

"We want to spread great holiday good will," Badalamenti said, "(and) that's what I think it's created."

— Laurel Kraus

PLAN:

Continued from page 2A

along Mack."

Action

Funding for the collaboration came from public and private sources, which brings up the third part of that saying,

"Action is expensive."

Hodges said cross-border operations benefiting everyone are the types of things that appeal to grant makers.

"There's asking money out there if (the project doesn't involve) just Grosse Pointe Park," Hodges said. "It could be a pivotal moment for this board and for those who would be partnering."



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Rocking across the waves

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — “Mom, can I have a drum set?”

“No, dear. Too loud.”

“Dad —”

“No.”

“Please?”

“NO.”

Young Ben Wixson never got a drum set.

“I wound up with a guitar,” he said.

It was probably the best thing that ever happened.

“That was in the ‘90s,” he said. “Through playing music, I made a lot of formative relationships with friends I still have. There’s a shared interest and shared community. Detroit has such a rich musical history that even being a blip on that is really cool.”

Wixson is now a young-at-heart manager in the automation field. He also has a Cornell University MBA, is a Ph.D. candidate and still plays guitar — bass guitar.

It’s the closest thing in a rock band to playing drums. Both stress rhythm, not melody, although Wixson likes to expand his instrument’s voice.

“When I was a kid, the bands I liked were The Clash and Rancid, where the bass was more out front, a little more melody to it rather than being under the guitar and playing root notes of the chords,” Wixson said. “I learned to play bass as a really noodly, more-that-root-note kind of instrument. You can play melody on it and do interesting things.”

Growing up in Shelby Township, Wixson played in punk bands, one called Only in Movies, and staged shows at VFW and



COURTESY PHOTO

Ben Wixson helms “Live Forever,” a C&C 35 MkIII, with crew, left, Dr. Stephen Liroff, and right, Greg Sanders.

Knights of Columbus halls.

“Four hundred to 500 people showed up for them,” he said. “If I were smarter at the time, I might have charged more money to get in. But we covered the cost of the venues.”

Some bands made names nationally.

“One that’s still around is Black Dahlia Murder, a metal band,” Wixson said.

Another, Gym Class Heroes, won the 2007 MTV Video Music Award for Best New Artist.

Wixson’s current band, Frank White, is named after Christopher Walken’s character in the 1980 movie, “King of New York.”

Frank White performed recently at Small’s Bar in Hamtramck. A video of the show is on YouTube.

Wixson plays bass and is lead singer.

“We usually play five or six times a year around town,” he said.

Scheduling shows requires bandmates to juggle busy lives.

In addition to Wixson’s job, he’s married to Erin (“We met years ago when I was playing in a band,” Wixson said), studying for a doctorate at Case Western Reserve University and chairs the Grosse Pointe Park Downtown Development Authority.

“Our guitar player is a physician,” Wixson said. “It becomes tough playing in a band the older you get, but it’s one of those things.”

Another thing in Wixson’s life is trying to figure out why Rust Belt cities lag other areas of the nation in technology.

“I think about Detroit’s

history of being the birthplace of industrial manufacturing, at least in the sense of how it’s done today,” he said. “It’s not so strong in Detroit anymore. There are reasons for that. I like to see Detroiters doing what we do best, which is building things. Not just with our hands, but also with how we use technology.”

The question hits home to Wixson, group manager at Automation Solutions of America.

“I got into this because of my dad,” he said. “He worked in the controls system industry. All my uncles and whole family are connected to the Detroit automotive industry. I really like this world.”

Wixson’s job description requires being “a quantitatively astute strategist and creatively innovative thinker.”

“The best way to describe it is we create control systems for things that move in manufacturing,” Wixson said. “It’s the data system that connects all those things as well.”

For his Ph.D., he’s studying technology implementation specifically by small and medium manufacturers in the Rust Belt.

“We have a lot of old buildings, old equipment and an aging workforce,” Wixson said. “It’s tough when you’re trying to

bring something brand new and put it over a system built 50 years ago. Some stamping places in Detroit are using presses from World War II. In those cases, if it’s not broken, don’t fix it. But in others, you need to figure out ways to at least augment it so you can be competitive. Part of the problem is we lose people who are STEM graduates, engineers or computer scientists, to the coasts when there are great jobs here in Detroit.”

All those cares go out to sea when Wixson takes the wheel of his sailboat, “Live Forever,” a C&C 35 MkIII docked during summers at Windmill Pointe Park.

“I didn’t grow up sailing,” he said. “We didn’t own a boat. My dad would get seaisick looking at a boat. But I always wanted to learn how to sail.”

He got his chance by accident during the Grosse Pointe Sail Club’s series of Tuesday evening sailboat races.

“I’ll never forget this day,” Wixson said. “My wife and I went to Windmill Pointe Park. Unbeknownst to me, my park pass mis-scanned and didn’t accept me, but I drove in anyway.”

They stood on the main pier when a man dressed like a naval captain approached.

“He said my park pass

didn’t work,” Wixson said. “At first, I was kind of defensive. He goes, ‘No, no, I’m just telling you so if there’s something wrong with it.’”

The man was vice commodore of the sail club.

“He invited me to sail on another person’s boat,” Wixson said.

He did and was hooked. He’s now vice commodore.

“Having grown up playing in bands my whole life, sailing on a boat is like playing a song,” Wixson said. “Everybody has their part. You’re doing things in synchronicity and playing along with the wind. The wind is your drummer. Your mainsheet trimmer is your bass player. The jib trimmer is the guitarist and the guy piloting the boat is the singer or front-man.”

Nor will Wixson forget a day in 2019. He, his wife and fellow sailors were celebrating a regatta at Crescent Sail Yacht Club when his mother called to say his father died.

“It was a moment where the world went from vivid color to shades of gray,” Wixson said. “I don’t know if I would have wanted to receive this news anywhere other than where I was because I had so many people who’d become such close friends.”

Offers to help came one after another. A sailor said he’d tend the Wixsons’ dog while they handled matters. Another walked Wixson and his wife to their car.

“Tim Proffit — he’s won every race there is — offered to sponsor our wake at Bayview Yacht Club, of which we aren’t members,” Wixson said.

“All these things came into place. The sailing community rallied around us. It was an amazing feeling. And we were outsiders. We didn’t grow up sailing, as many of these people did. It’s an amazing community of people who care about it for selfless reasons. Their reasons are sharing the sport and continuing the support.”

Sailing isn’t always soothing, but it is rewarding.

“Bringing back the music analogy, sometimes when sailing, you’re living at the edge of chaos,” Wixson said. “It’s like playing a really fast song. It can fall apart at any time, but it doesn’t. That’s an amazing feeling.”

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Ford House places 5th in national contest

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Home for the Holidays at Ford House finished fifth in voting in the best holiday historic home tour category in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards.

“We’re thrilled to be recognized as one of the top historic home tours in the country,” said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. “This award is especially meaningful because it was decided by the public — those who support and love Ford House. It shows how much our visitors value the effort we put into making the holidays

truly special.”
The top 10, according to USA Today:

- ◆ Graceland, Memphis, Tenn.
- ◆ Meadow Brook Hall, Rochester, Mich.
- ◆ Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, Akron, Ohio.
- ◆ Merrhope, Meridian, Miss.
- ◆ Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores.
- ◆ Staatsburg State Historic Site, Staatsburg, N.Y.
- ◆ Glensheen Mansion, Duluth, Minn.
- ◆ House from “A Christmas Story,” Cleveland, Ohio.
- ◆ Brucemore, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- ◆ Lilly House &

See CONTEST, page 8A

City of Grosse Pointe

Not my business

A woman who lived in Grosse Pointe at the time discovered through a collection agency last week a fraudulent \$20,000 small business loan was taken out in her name in 2021.

Coal for Christmas

A 61-year-old Grosse Pointe man turned himself in last week for three separate retail frauds he committed in November, from a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Holiday feast

After consuming a sandwich, bag of Takis and coffee without paying and while still inside a business in the 19000 block of Mack, a 34-year-old Detroit man received a trespass warning at 9:08 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Christmas miracle

Nothing appeared to be missing from a vehicle in the 300 block of Kerby that was rummaged through between 11 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, and 8:30 a.m. the next morning.

Porch pirate #1

An Amazon package containing clamps and

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

FedEx package containing a cellphone extender were stolen from a porch in the 300 block of Touraine around 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Another FedEx package previously was stolen from the same house at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. In that instance, the homeowner's sister was arriving and witnessed the thief tell the delivery driver he was the recipient and take the package.

Porch pirate #2

A Briarwood Place homeowner witnessed a man steal a Wi-Fi router package off her porch and run to a waiting red Chevrolet Cruze at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Holiday cheer

A 53-year-old Sterling Heights man was arrested for drunken driving around 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, in the parking lot at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Officers said the man drove his 2020 Ford Edge into the rear of the vehicle in front of him after getting it back from a valet attendant.

After failing several field sobriety tests, the man's blood-alcohol con-

tent registered at 0.127 on a Breathalyzer.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Wrong number

A resident in the 1200 block of South Oxford filed a report of identity theft around 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11.

The woman said someone used her personal information to open an account with Sprint and she was unaware of it until receiving notice from a debt collector that she owed \$2,323 dating back to November 2018.

School run

A 54-year-old Grosse Pointe Shores resident was arrested for drunken driving around 3:05 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, in the pickup line at Grosse Pointe North High School.

The vehicle was impeding traffic and the driver was asleep at the wheel. He was arrested after failing several field sobriety tests and also cited for refusal to take a preliminary breath test.

Still getting drunk

The blood-alcohol content of a 24-year-old Southfield resident increased from 0.108 percent after a preliminary

breath test to 0.116 percent between the time he was arrested around 5:20 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, and the time he was taken to the public safety department.

He was arrested after being discovered asleep at the wheel at the intersection of Allard and Harper.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Thefts from cars

Between 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, and 9 a.m. the following Monday, someone stole a wallet containing \$40 from an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of a house in the 1000 block of Buckingham.

In the 1300 block of Harvard at 12:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9, a security camera showed an unknown suspect taking items, later identified to include credit cards, from an unlocked parked vehicle.

"Multiple attempts were made to use the stolen credit cards," police said.

Tools missing

Several tools were reported recently missing and presumed stolen out of a municipal vehicle. "(It is) unknown when

and where the vehicle was when the tools were taken," according to police.

The incident may have happened between the morning of Friday, Dec. 13, and afternoon of Monday, Dec. 16.

Pipes pinched

Twenty copper pipes, each 20 feet long, were stolen overnight Sunday, Dec. 15, from the Schaap Center construction site in the 15000 block of Jefferson, according to police.

There are no known suspects.

Failed car theft

A woman living in the 1300 block of Beaconsfield discovered early Monday, Dec. 16, that someone tried to steal her Kia Seltos.

"(She) heard her car alarm and discovered the passenger-side window had been broken out," a public safety officer said. "Further investigation revealed damage to the steering column consistent with an attempted theft."

The incident happened between 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, and 3:28 a.m. the following morning.

Masked burglar

Surveillance cameras recorded an unknown man forcing his way

through the window of a business in the 15300 block of Mack at 1:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 16.

"(He) stole money out of the cash register," according to police.

The unidentified man wore a hood, mask and gloves.

Man wrestles officer

A drunken male driver wrestled a female public safety officer this week and wound up in a holding cell, according to police.

A member of the road patrol pulled over the man, 27, of Flat Rock, on Mack near Whittier shortly before 9:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, for driving erratically.

"(He was) intoxicated," police said. "(The officer) attempted to make an arrest and the subject resisted. The suspect grabbed (the officer) in a headlock and drug her to the ground before fleeing on foot."

Police later took him into custody. A detective said that in addition to being arrested for drunken driving, charges are being sought for assaulting a police officer.

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

Crime of opportunity crew caught

THE GROSSE POINTES — Within the first week of December, the Farms experienced 14 larcenies from vehicles, 99 percent of which were from cars left unlocked.

However, a multi-jurisdictional effort Friday,

Dec. 6, culminated in the arrests of a crew of five suspects, who are believed to be in connection to at least 10 of the thefts.

While officers in the City of Grosse Pointe investigated a larceny

from auto that occurred in the 17000 block of St. Paul at 12:10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 6, multiple reports

of other larcenies from autos poured in from the Farms.

No less than 10 vehicles were ransacked,

See **CAUGHT**, page 8A



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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

Shop 'til you drop

With apologies to Clement Clarke Moore.

'Twas the week before Christmas when all through the Pointes, everyone was scurrying at all the shopping joints.

On Discover, on Visa, on MasterCard, on AmEx. Search every last rack, from front to back, just have a ball. Now spend away, spend away, spend away all.

As the age-old saying goes, it is better to give than to receive. That is more than evident, both locally and nationally, at this time of year. According to a recent survey by NerdWallet.com, Americans planned to spend an average of \$925 each on Christmas presents this year.

But what would Grosse Pointe be if not above average? Our recent reader poll (below right) found that 43 percent of you planned to spend more than \$1,000 on gifts for your family and loved ones.

Another 27 percent said you would spend between \$500 and \$1,000, with 20 percent spending up to \$500. The Ebenezer Scrooges among you came in at 11 percent. We are not sure if that means spending relatively little or nothing at all, but if you see someone buying a bag of charcoal at this suspicious time of year, that might be a hint.

Or it could just mean that some people prefer to celebrate this joyous time of year just being together and focusing on the less secular aspects of the holidays. We prefer that explanation.

In a twist on the phrase we all learned in civics class, caveat emptor. That is Latin, of course, for "let the buyer beware" and most commonly refers to do their own research before buying a product. But in this case, we literally mean buyer beware. As in, be aware of your spending habits.

Kim Palmer, a personal finance expert with NerdWallet, said 10 percent of shoppers revealed they would use savings meant to be used in case of emergencies to fund their gift purchases. Another 9 percent said they would use some of the money set aside for paying bills to buy gifts. That fancy new kitchen gadget or game console will not work so well if your electricity gets turned off, nor will they keep you warm.

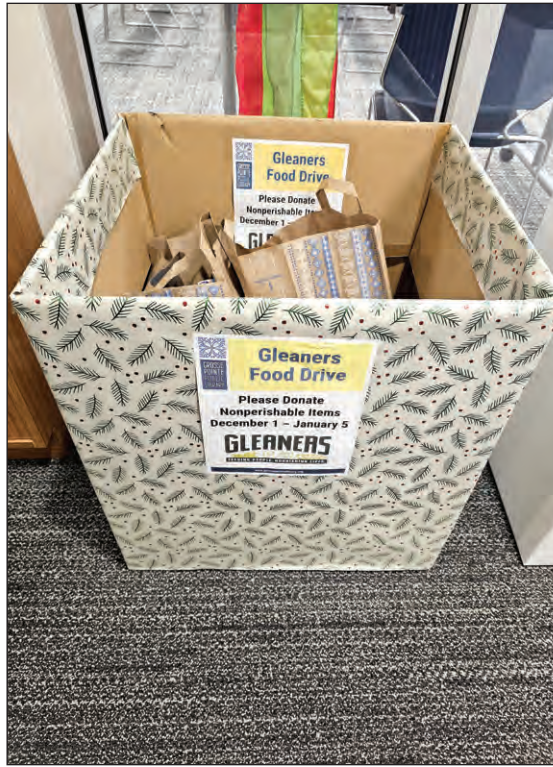
Overall, Americans this year planned to spend \$17 billion more on gifts and \$45 billion more on travel than they did last year.

But wait, there's more. About 30 percent of respondents said they were still paying off debt they accrued from last year's buying spree. Around the same percentage said they also have not paid off what they spent on holiday travel last year.

Less than one-third of shoppers — 31 percent — reported paying off their holiday debt last year on the first statement. The others paid some interest and some continue to do so. Sorry Johnny and Jenny, no 529 Plan contributions this year, but it was great watching you open all those presents!

Here, however, is the rub. More than half of Americans — 55 percent — say holiday spending causes them to stress out. In the words of former First Lady Nancy Reagan, just say no.

But nearly one-third of shoppers — 32 percent — say it is important to them to buy gifts because they see it as an expression of love. Another 42 percent say their usual travel plans are important enough to them that they will keep them, no mat-



Pure Grosse Pointe

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Two donation bins can be found at all three Grosse Pointe Public Library branches — one for Gleaners Community Food Bank and one for Uplift Family Services. The food drive for Gleaners is for nonperishable items and runs through Jan. 5. Diapers, wipes and pull-ups for Diapers to Mamas will benefit Uplift Family Services in Detroit and runs through Dec. 20.

GUEST VIEW By Lisa Brown

Rethinking the Christmas story

December brings a wonderful tapestry of spiritual celebrations across the world. Whether it's the lights of Hanukkah, the reverence of Mawlid al-Nabi, the enlightenment celebrated on Bodhi Day or the joy of Pancha Ganapati, this month holds deep meaning for many faiths.



Among these traditions, Christians celebrate Christmas — or as we sometimes say in more theological language, we celebrate the beauty of the incarnation.

At this point, even many lifelong Christians might be raising an eyebrow and thinking,

"the beauty of the what now?"

We have all witnessed a dramatic shift in church attendance in recent decades. So many of our friends and relatives have drifted away from organized religion. Some of this exodus we, as a church, have solidly earned through our own missteps. Others might argue this is simply part of spiritual growth; a natural movement toward finding truth across all traditions — and while there's profound

wisdom in seeking what unites us rather than what divides us, those of us who still identify as Christian find ourselves asking a genuine question: What makes this path unique?

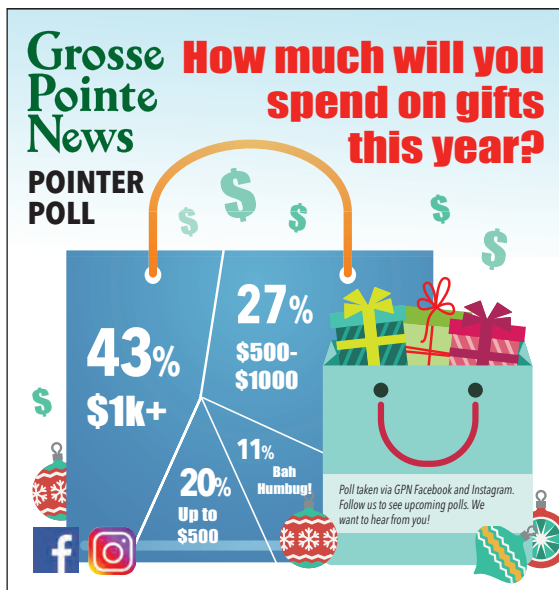
Not in a defensive, circle-the-wagons kind of way, but in an honest search to understand — why Jesus? For many religious traditions, the path to God involves escaping the physical and transcending the mess of the world in the name of the spiritual. One metaphor suggests humans from all different religious traditions are traveling up the same mountain on different paths to the same God. But what makes Christianity distinctive is that we don't travel up the mountain to find God — God comes down the mountain to find us.

Some theologians say the first and primary claim of the gospel isn't what we often think that Jesus died for our sins. Nor is it, as we're sometimes told, that God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives.

Rather, the first and primary claim is simply this: God is here. The word "Emmanuel" literally means "God with us." We Christians believe God saw us going astray and took the initiative. It is not we who travel to God, but God who comes to be with us — right here in our very own history, in our joys and hopes, in our sorrows, grief and anxiety.

Our Doctrine of the Incarnation speaks not of a God somewhere "out there" or "up there," transcendent and aloof. Instead, we believe in a God who humbled himself to walk the earth with us, who still is physi-

See GUEST, page 7A



ter the cost. Before getting carried away, please keep in mind there are 51 other weeks and 364 other days during the year to show your loved ones you care.

We implore you, please do not be part of the 9 percent who plan to use a cash advance app or 7 percent planning to use a payday loan service. NerdWallet reports that hidden fees and other costs with those can lead to triple-digit interest rates.

The good news is that 27 percent of respondents said they set a strict budget and planned to stick to it. That included buying fewer, less expensive gifts per person and/or reducing the number of people they buy for.

Regardless, "Happy Christmas to all and to all a goodnight."

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
December 19 - 25						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
33° 27°	33° 18°	25° 11°	25° 16°	31° 31°	38° 36°	49° 46°
Cloudy	Chance of Snow	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
20%	40%	10%	0%	10%	10%	20%
SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:03 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:03 pm

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

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.

Please and thank you

To the Editor:
Please keep Mark Domin's movie column. It's awesome! He's a good reviewer and I read it all the way in D.C.

WILL DAWSON
Washington, D.C.

I SAY By Laurel Kraus



'One thing have I desired of the Lord'

This month of December, my Bible reading accountability buddy and I are taking on a fun and meaningful challenge to each day read one chapter from the gospel of Luke. The book has 24 chapters, so on Christmas Eve, we will have read the full account of Jesus Christ's earthly life. Last Wednesday, Dec.

10, we read Luke chapter 10, which recounts the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan, as well as Jesus' visit to the home of two sisters in Bethany — Mary and Martha.

After welcoming Him into their home, Martha rushes around embodying the diligent host, while Mary rests at Jesus' feet, hanging on His every word.

Becoming frustrated with handling all the preparations by herself, Martha asks Jesus to instruct her sister to help her. "And Jesus answered

and said unto her, 'Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

"But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

As we read, I felt God saying, "Laurel, Laurel, you are careful and troubled about many things."

Perhaps you, too, can hear your name inserted.

For many, the joy and nostalgia of Christmastime illuminates pangs of sorrow for our circumstances and departed loved ones.

For most, it's a hectic season of handling all the preparations by yourself.

But just as Jesus provides the diagnosis, in the next breath He offers the answer.

We need only concern ourselves with one thing, He says.

When I followed the references through the Bible of what that "one thing" referred to, I was led to Psalm 27:4.

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to

enquire in his temple." And to Psalm 73:25.

"Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee."

Mary of Bethany is not typically the Mary we look to during the season of Christ's birth; however, one reason she and her sister were included in the living Word of God was to serve as a precious reminder of the one thing God desires from us.

Approximately this time of year, 2,024 years ago, God the Son became flesh and dwelt among us. He experienced los-

ing a loved one, being ridiculed, being betrayed by a friend, being tempted by sin, horrible physical affliction and even death — living through the trials we face and personally taking on our sin, so we could have direct access to Him.

What an immense sacrifice by the creator of all, to have a relationship with His creation.

All He asks in return is for our belief and love — for our desire.

Even more so than a child running down the stairs Christmas morning, let us desire for the Lord to be our one thing.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1949

75 years ago this week

G.P. FARMS BECOMES CITY AT 8 TONIGHT: The Farms citizens voted on Dec. 12 for the approval of the new city charter, by practically the same percentage they voted for the conversion to a city at the election on March 17. There were 1,059 votes cast for approval of the charter to 422 against; a total of 1,481. Only four voters failed to vote on the charter question.

1974

50 years ago this week

WOODS SENIOR CITIZENS' HOPE'S REVIVED FOR OWN HOUSING COMPLEX IN PARK: In a comeback that would please any athletic coach, Woods senior citizens rallied from certain defeat on their request for a housing complex at the west end of Ghesquiere Park to a more hopeful and stable plane.

1999

25 years ago this week

ST. JOHN TO BREAK GROUND FOR CANCER CENTER: An Eastside cancer center will break ground this week. Construction of the St. John Health

System Cancer Center will start Dec. 17. The building will be located on the St. John Hospital and Medical Center campus on Mack and Moross. The three-story, state-of-the-art facility should be open by October 2001.

2014

10 years ago this week

COTTAGE GETTING NEW YARD: A verdant landscape with a trellis and shaded patio will replace the vehicle drop-off and short-term parking area in front of Henry Ford Medical Center-Cottage on Kercheval. A yard-like setting is intended to complement adjoining resident neighborhoods.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

cally present in a simple meal of bread and wine shared among us and who lives within each and every human being.

Also, we don't believe the incarnation is something that began in Bethlehem and ended on the cross, either. Rather, we believe the incarnation continues in us. Our scriptures don't say we "symbolize" or "resemble" the Body of Christ; they plainly state we ARE the Body of Christ.

As St. Teresa of Ávila says, "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which He looks compassion on this world, yours are the feet with which He walks to do good, yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world."

Whether we are Christian or not, there's something captivating about this idea of the incarnation — a divine love story where God doesn't just watch human life from a safe distance but chooses to dive right into its messy reality. Not through some grand entrance,

but through perhaps the most human experience of all: a baby born to a displaced family, amid straw and animals, in all the beautiful chaos of birth.

Maybe that's why this ancient story still catches our imagination. In our fractured world, it whispers something surprising to our modern ears: the sacred is already here. Instead of demanding we climb spiritual mountains to find meaning, love comes seeking us out. It shows up not in our perfect moments, but in our ordinary ones — in shared meals, in hard conversations, in showing up for each other. That's exactly what our disconnected world is hungry for — not more rules or rituals, but the simple, radical truth that the divine doesn't wait for us to get our act together. It comes to us in a baby's cry, in a stranger's kindness, in the messy beauty of human love. Perhaps what we need most is not just the courage to believe love comes looking for us, but the willingness to be that kind of love for others.

Lisa Brown is associate for children, youth and family at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Visit lisaabadbrown.com for more of her writings.

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THE ATHENEUM 1000 Brush Street Detroit, MI 48226 Atheneumsuites.com

Lucky Detroit opens in The Village

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Though it wasn't open for business until Wednesday, Dec. 4, Lucky Detroit Coffee & Espresso in The Village welcomed parade-goers through its doors for free coffee, lattes and hot chocolate during the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Parade Friday, Nov. 29, as its introduction to the neighborhood.

The interior's old-school aesthetic is complemented by vintage antique decor and pairs well with the cafe's concept — everything is made in-house with clean ingredients.

"We'll be able to make all of our alternative milks in-house with our three-ingredient super clean products," owner Chad Buchanan said. "We make pistachio, almond, oat



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Lucky Detroit Coffee & Espresso at the corner of Notre Dame and Kercheval opened Wednesday, Dec. 4.

(and) cashew in-house. ... We roast all of our own coffee. Most of our coffee is organic, so it's a super clean product. And then all of our syrups are typically two ingredients, no preservatives.

"Everything that we are making or you are drinking from our shops is clean, clean, clean."

Alongside a variety of breakfast sandwiches

served all day, the cafe will produce sweet and savory pastries, including vegan and gluten-free options.

Though a walk-up window along Notre Dame is a highlight of the Lucky Detroit location, it likely won't open for a couple months.

"I'm just hoping we're a really good alternative to what has historically been

in The Village," Buchanan said of integrating into the downtown strip. "Not saying any of the options are bad. We just have a very different offering I think no one can compete with, so I hope everyone in The Village really loves what we're doing and our love for coffee."

As The Village location opens at 17001 Kercheval, Lucky Detroit in Grosse Pointe Park behind Detroit Barber Co. will close.

"The transition will be from one to the other," Buchanan said. "... (The Park) location is so small, so we're going to be able to use that space for something else and then the staff is actually going over to The Village location."

Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, though may change depending on customer interest.

CAUGHT:

Continued from page 5A

many with doors left hanging open, in the 200 block of Hillcrest, 300 block of Ridge, 300 block of Touraine, 200 block of Merriweather, 200 block of Mt. Vernon and 300 block of Belanger.

A suspect vehicle description was obtained and an officer in the area attempted to pull it over. The vehicle fled on eastbound Jefferson at a high rate of speed through the Farms and into the Shores, where it crashed at Lochmoor and Lakeshore.

The occupants fled on foot, but through a coordinated search using drones and all Grosse Pointe departments and Harper Woods, all five were located and detained.

"Our midnight crews had a fantastic arrest," City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. "... The

cold weather helped, I think. At one point — these were all children — they were knocking on some doors, because they were so cold being outside."

All five confessed to involvement in three larcenies from vehicles in the City of Grosse Pointe, including in the 500 block of Neff and 700 block of Rivard.

Along with the arrests, stolen property was recovered.

"Please make sure you're locking your cars," Alcorn said. "Tell your neighbors. Lock your cars. Keep your valuables out of sight."

The Farms also experienced a string of larcenies from unlocked vehicles Wednesday, Dec. 4, in the 200 block of Ridge, 300 block of Kerby and 300 block of Hillcrest.

"We're pleading with residents to lock their vehicles," Farms Public Safety Director John Hutchins said.

— Laurel Kraus

COURT:

Continued from page 2A

court.

"Since this does give us some very quick authority over this right now, we amend it tonight knowing that we might amend it in 60 days again," Mayor Louis Theros said. "This way we can get control of this now ... and we can come back and talk about the use restrictions as we get into the better weather."

Prior to the amendment's passage, there was no restriction or regulation for the construction, maintenance or use of pickleball courts on residential properties throughout the city.

Complaints by neighbors about noise nuisance and hours of operation prompted the city to draft regulation for "other sport courts" — not singular to pickleball, though it is the predominant motivation — and tack it on to the

already existing tennis court regulation ordinance, Code No. 7-09.

"What we have here is hopefully a framework, because we have them in the neighborhoods already," Theros said. "People have built pickleball courts without any restriction, without coming in front of the BZA (board of zoning appeals). This is an opportunity for us to remedy that, so somebody doesn't wake up with a cement pad next to their house with no consideration by this council as to impact on the neighborhood, lot coverage, etc."

"I'm looking at this as an opportunity for us to remedy something that, frankly, right now is the Wild West."

Under the other sports court amendment, residential pickleball courts now must comply with:

- ◆ obtaining a building permit following city council approval of a site plan,
- ◆ a public hearing with

notice given to all property owners with residences located within 300 feet of the applicant's property boundary,

- ◆ including the area of the court when calculating the maximum percentage of lot coverage,

- ◆ landscaping to screen the court from public rights-of-way and adjacent or adjoining residential properties,

- ◆ any lighting, if allowed under the city's zoning ordinance, shaded from other properties and not used between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

- ◆ and council consideration of the potential nuisance or inconvenience to nearby residents of any noise associated.

The ordinance states, "Shouting or any use of voices or any other noise-making apparatus in connection with the use of such outdoor tennis court or outdoor sports court above a normal voice level shall not be permitted and shall be in violation of this ordinance."

It's also within the zoning board's powers to

impose restrictions on hours of play.

"Not unlike other discretionary uses that would have to go before the board for a site plan review, the board would be empowered to take into account placement, distance from nearby residences, whether or not soundproofing barriers are contemplated by the applicant," City Attorney Bill Burgess explained. "It's basically a nuisance amelioration concept that would come before the board on a discretionary basis."

"... In the case of pickleball, it's often not the time of day, it's the duration and the constant noise that can be generated," Burgess added. "The whole concept of the site plan review is to let you deal with a case-by-case situation, in which you might want to impose time limits given the parameters of a particular place."

Though Theros said the ordinance is "about 97 percent of the way there," he and the rest of council

will consider shoring it up during the February meeting, possibly to formulate greater nuisance restrictions.

"This is about balancing people's ability and right to use their property in the way that they would like, while also ensuring that the community has input into building the kind of community that they want to live in," Councilman Neil Sroka said.

Aside from pickleball, other sports courts subject to the ordinance are defined by 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, hockey or lacrosse.

Surface pads designed for vehicular access and parking, such as driveways, are exempt. So too 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.

CONTEST:

Continued from page 4B

Gardens, Indianapolis, Ind.

Interestingly, three of the top 10 have ties to the early days of the automotive industry. Aside from Ford House, Meadow Brook Hall was built by Matilda Dodge, widow of John Dodge and former Pointer, and Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, built by Goodyear Tire Co. founder F.A. Sieberling.

"I would like to congratulate our colleagues at Meadow Brook Hall, who came in at No. 2," Heppner added. "It's exciting to know that Michiganders have two nationally ranked historic estates in their midst."

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.

Home for the Holidays at Ford House continues 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 29. New this year, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will greet guests for photos. Guests can 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.

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REPORT:

Continued from page 1A

owns the Grosse Pointe News.

"I want the board to know what's in it," Ismail said of his motion. "I've been maligned, I've been slammed in public without a chance to defend myself."

Board members will review an unredacted version of the report with its attorneys.

"We need to make sure there's no liability for the district," Ismail said.

The district has rejected numerous Freedom of Information Act requests, including from the Grosse Pointe News, for the full report. Board members will not be allowed to share it with members of the public as the district continues to maintain attorney-client privilege.

Cotton in late February laid out a timeline to more fully explain what transpired.

Aug. 25, 2023

The board received a letter from Dan Griesbaum Sr., baseball coach at Grosse Pointe South High School, requesting the athletic fields at Grosse Pointe North High School be named in honor of Frank Sumbera. He coached baseball and football at North for 49 years and is in the coaching hall of fame for both sports. It was co-signed by Gary Bennett, North boys basketball coach; Tim Brandon, former South football coach; Russ Hepner, former South football coach; Chad Hepner, South football coach; Steve Zaranek, South cross country/track coach; Gary Spicer, attorney; and Bill Babcock, former North baseball player.

Aug. 27, 2023

The district received a formal HR complaint from "staff member A."

Aug. 28, 2023

The district received a formal HR complaint from "staff member B."

Cotton said both indicated they felt their jobs were being threatened by members of the

board and referenced both the cancellation of the proposed health clinic at North and articles in the Grosse Pointe News about Sumbera over the past six years.

An independent investigator would eventually use the phrase "terminated" in regard to Sumbera, but the district in 2018 said in a statement he retired. Through comments from Worden and those speaking during public comment, Kathryn Murray and Michelle Davis, former principal and athletic director/assistant principal at North, respectively, were identified as the complainants.

Sept. 12, 2023

The board held a closed session with Clark Hill, the district's attorneys, about the matter. Clark Hill recommended the board empower Interim Superintendent Chris Fenton to hire an independent investigator, which was the Miller Johnson law firm.

Sept. 14, 2023

Miller Johnson began interviewing eight people, including Ismail, on Nov. 15, 2023.

Jan. 4, 2024

Miller Johnson provided its findings to Fenton in a 27-page report.

Jan. 16, 2024

Fenton provided the board with Miller Johnson's two-page executive summary and his three-page determination letter. Fenton waived attorney-client privilege on the executive summary and his determination letter, both of which the Grosse Pointe News obtained.

Cotton said it was the advice of Fenton and Clark Hill not to make the full report public.

"It contains the names of the interviewees, which could chill future investigations," he said. "That could breach expectations of confidentiality in such important matters."

Cotton also said the district spent \$33,511 in legal fees on the matter. That included \$15,675 to Miller Johnson; \$12,910 to Clark Hill; and \$4,926 to Collins and Blaha.

According to Miller Johnson, Ismail made the comment that the board had plans to "push out" Murray and Davis while talking to an unnamed administrator who no longer is with the district. The summary indicated Ismail and the administrator were talking "as that employee was contemplating a job offer to leave GPPSS." Miller Johnson also said Ismail and that employee were the only two present during the conversation. Neither the executive summary nor determination letter indicate how Murray and Davis became aware of Ismail's comments.

Ismail has since said he was talking with an assistant principal about taking a new job and encouraged him to stay as there could be room for advancement in GPPSS due to possible retirements. Miller Johnson also determined neither Ismail nor the board had "taken any actions relative to complainants indicating an attempt to terminate" the employment of the complainants, but that Ismail had engaged in "retaliatory behavior toward the complainants."

Fenton, however, disagreed there was any retaliation. Writing in his determination, Fenton said, "In support, he (the Miller Johnson investigator) cited two instances — one with respect to each complainant — that could be explained as retaliatory conduct, but could also be explained as simple communications failure. (The investigator's) explanation for his conclusion is not well-documented or persuasive."

Fenton further recommended Ismail, Murray and Davis engage in "restorative justice efforts" in a facilitated meeting with a third party. Cotton said Ismail reached out to Fenton and expressed interest in such an effort, but was unsure at the time if Murray or Davis had done so.

Murray and Davis left the district at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Poupard sale gets another extension

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

HARPER WOODS — After more than two years of discussion, the sale of the former Poupard Elementary School could come to fruition early next year.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education voted 5-2 at its meeting Monday, Dec. 9, to grant Robertson Brothers Homes a 30-day extension to close the deal, which was supposed to have happened later this month.

Trustee Ginny Jeup and Secretary Lisa Papas voted against the amended contract. President Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, voted yes along with Vice President Ahmed Ismail, Treasurer Terry Collins and Trustees Valarie St. John and Colleen Worden.

"I said when we signed the contract this was a moonshot if we could get the funding we need," Robertson CEO and President Jim Clarke told the board. "We're a month or two away from landing that spaceship."

The last piece of the puzzle is final approval from the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, which does not meet again this year.

"They are 100 percent behind us, but I don't control Wayne County," Clarke said. "I can't make them meet."

The district agreed to sell Poupard to Robertson Brothers in November 2022 for \$650,000. The first extension was granted in April 2023 while the developers went about securing grant funding for the project to offset construction costs. They have received more than \$5 million from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and other sources.

The company originally planned to build 100 attached townhomes and stacked flat units between 700 and 1,400 square feet on the 6.5-acre site. New plans call for a mix of 70 single-family homes, duplexes and townhomes between 1,200 and 1,400 square feet. Each would be two bedrooms and

two bathrooms and include a den with exterior access that could be used as a third bedroom.

Clarke last year told the board the company thought it could sell each unit for \$200,000, but it would cost \$325,000 to build each one.

Collins suggested last week a condition of the extension be that the \$45,000 downpayment Robertson Brothers made be non-refundable, but the company would not agree. Instead, they will make a further non-refundable deposit of \$5,000 and pay the \$24,000 cost of removing any personal property, including several pianos, left in the building. Robertson Brothers earlier wanted GPPSS to split that cost.

"There was a verbal agreement that any contents left could go down with the building," Superintendent Andrea Tuttle told Clarke. "We turned off the electricity, at your request, so now the elevators don't work."

Tuttle also said the district already has spent close to \$100,000 on the deal, including legal fees, closing costs and consulting fees.

Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle told the board the city supported the extension.

"They can get their finances in order and that would put us over the top," she said. "We've got jobs coming and we need housing."

She was referring to the recently completed \$135 million redevelopment project at the former Eastland Center mall.

"I understand where Harper Woods is coming from with wanting to go forward," Ismail said, "but I thought this deal was a giveaway in the first place."

Cotton added the situation differs from that of Trombly Elementary School, which closed at the same time as Poupard. Families in the Trombly catchment area, as well as the Grosse Pointe Park City Council, continue to be vocal about seeing it reopen.

See SALE, page 10A

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10A | SCHOOLS

Lakeshore Optimist Club hosts annual Youth Appreciation Awards

The Lakeshore Optimist Club hosted its 42nd annual Youth Appreciation Awards Nov. 14, at The War Memorial.

Twelve high school seniors representing Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett high schools were honored for their achievements in school and particularly their service to their communities.

Honorees were:
Grosse Pointe South: Alexander Wilson, Jasse Schmidt, Charlotte Glasser and Margaret O'Brien.

Grosse Pointe North: Blerta Berisha, Beatrice Guibord, Alexandria Noyd and Christopher Routsis.

University Liggett



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured, from left, are Lakeshore Optimist Club Vice President David Franks; scholarship winners Alexander Wilson of Grosse Pointe South, Charles Cooksey of Liggett, Blerta Berisha of Grosse Pointe North and Jasse Schmidt of Grosse Pointe South; and Lakeshore Optimist Club President Steve Licari.

School: Charles Cooksey, Claire Juip, Mya Shah-Littles and Benjamin Wehrmann. Maggie Varney, CEO

that after reading the applications from the students and meeting them in person, a common thread among the students is that they have servant hearts. Highlights of each student's academic and community service were presented by David Franks, Lakeshore Optimist Youth Appreciation co-chair.

Lakeshore Optimist Club President Steve Licari presented four students with certificates and \$595 scholarships to be used toward college expenses. All other honorees received a \$100 gift card along with their certificate. Licari and David Franks also presented a check to Varney in support of Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids.



Maggie Varney, right, receives an award and donation from Lakeshore Optimist Club Vice President David Franks, left, and President Steve Licari.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Visit gpointimists.com for locations, dates and times.

SALE:

Continued from page 9A

"I keep seeing comments online saying, 'What about Poupard?'

But the leadership in Harper Woods want it sold and developed," he said. "It's the opposite of what we're seeing with Trombly."

ADDING:

Continued from page 1A

from Wayne State University and is a certified human resources

specialist through Michigan State University.

Two curriculum directors also will be added, one at the elementary level and one at the sec-

ondary level. Those positions previously were filled by Keith Howell and Dan Hartley, respectively. Howell took over all curriculum responsibilities after Hartley left in July 2023 to become principal at Bloomfield Hills High School. Howell recently was named superintendent of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools.

The board also gave Tuttle permission to offer the newly created role of supervisor of community relations to Mary Anne Brush. She previously worked in communications for the district until her position was eliminated during

budget cuts in spring of 2023.

Brush subsequently filed a lawsuit against the district in June, saying her termination was a violation of her constitutional rights.

Tuttle said last week the district had not yet formally extended an offer to Brush, "as we are currently collaborating with our attorney to finalize the logistical details."

Brush had not responded to an offer to comment from the Grosse Pointe News as of press time.

Three other members of central office will receive new titles and

potential pay raises in the new year.

◆ Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent of instructional services, will become deputy superintendent.

◆ Chris Stanley, executive director of learning technology and strategic relations, will become assistant superintendent of learning technology and preK-12 operations.

◆ Brandy Pavlik, executive director of finance, will become assistant superintendent of finance and building operations.

Tuttle also said the salary bands for members of central office will change, but will not

affect current salaries. Those are:

◆ Director \$118,477 to \$145,797;

◆ Executive Director \$124,815 to \$152,490;

◆ Assistant Superintendent:

\$131,154 to \$160,235 and

◆ Deputy Superintendent:

\$146,154 to \$175,235.

Trustees Valarie St. John and Colleen

Worden objected, saying the board should wait for a January budget update.

Treasurer Terry Collins reminded them the district's 2023-24 fiscal year budget ended

with a \$1 million surplus and the current budget is balanced.

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2-3B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4-5B OBITUARIES | 5B CHURCHES

Meaningful menagerie

Park woman celebrates the season with African American Santa Claus collection

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

She calls it a labor of love.

Dr. Margaret Hudson-Collins has been collecting African American Santa Clauses for decades. The now-retired chief medical director of the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network has amassed hundreds of black Santas, which tastefully decorate her Grosse Pointe Park home.

From afghans, pillows and stockings to nativity sets, figurines and candles, her collection ranges from antique collectibles to commercial buys.

One yarn doll sits amidst the menagerie — and is the reason for its existence.

“My mother gave this to me when I was in my 20s,” Hudson-Collins said. “It was the first black Santa Claus I’d ever seen as a figurine or gift.”

The Tallahassee, Fla., native said even though her father taught at a Historically Black College and there was a black Santa Claus there, she couldn’t wrap her head around two things: “One, he was black; I had never seen that,” she said of the doll. “And two, he was skinny. I thought, ‘I don’t want anything to do with a skinny black Santa Claus. ... But it became our family folklore.’”

Now, though hard to come by, skinny black Santas are among her favorite items to purchase.

Though she lost several pieces in a basement flood a few summers ago, Hudson-Collins estimates her



Above, Dr. Margaret Hudson-Collins sits next to her favorite afghan while cradling the first black Santa Claus she ever received, a gift from her mother when she was in her 20s. Right, Hudson-Collins purchased this nativity set from Hudson’s department store around 30 years ago.

PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

collection to be in the hundreds.

“Two hundred is a conservative estimate,” she said. “Maybe 250 to 300.”

She sets out less than half of it each season.

“My husband (Steven) brings all this stuff up from the basement,” she said. “He and his friend pulled all of it out and thought I’d be tickled, but it’s too much. Sometimes less is better. There’s a whole lot more in the basement.”

Of her nearly 20 snow globes, for example, three are displayed. Her array of nutcrackers is



only a small selection of the whole.

Hudson-Collins changes the display from year to year, though her favorite pieces are set out annually. Among them is a nativity scene she found at the old Hudson’s department store some 30 years ago.

“It’s so beautiful and elegant,” she said. “It’s refined and delicate and unusual.”

Hudson-Collins decorates according to theme, nestling nutcrackers in one area, setting skinny Santas in another. A row of



A row of Afrocentric Santa Clauses are a treasure.

Afrocentric figures dressed in kente garb — called Kente Claus — is prominently displayed. On a nearby shelf,

Thomas Blackshear’s “Gift Giver,” a black Santa Claus dressed in a green robe, is featured. The detailed statue, signed by the artist, is perhaps her favorite piece of them all.

Other favorites include several works from Sarah’s Attic that still bear price tags so Hudson-Collins remembers how much she paid for them.

On the other end of the spectrum, among the commercial pieces she treasures are figurines featuring both black Santa Claus and black Mrs. Claus, as they’re tough to find.

There is, however, at least one white Santa Claus among her collection. It stands next to a black Mrs. Claus to represent her interracial

marriage.

Hudson-Collins said she keeps an eye out for anything that has “an African American visual presence” and she’s happy to see it becoming more popular.

“I still collect and people collect for me,” she said. “There’s no telling where I might get something. My whole family knows, so if they see one, they’ll get it for me.”

She said she’s particular about “getting a black Santa Claus that’s not a white Santa Claus painted brown. It has to have African American features. The ones that reflect the African American look, I like those.”

She hopes to diversify



Skinny black Santa Clauses are among her favorites.

See SANTA, page 2B

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2B | FEATURES



SANTA:

Continued from page 1B

her collection even further by finding Santas of other nationalities, such as Asian or Mexican.

"I'm trying to collect non-American Santa Clauses, which is hard to do," she said. "I'm diverging from black Santa Claus to a more international flair.

"... I always look for Mr. and Mrs., because they're hard to come by," she continued. "And I want to branch out to other nationalities. I do want to expand my collection."



Above, Black Santa stockings hang from the fireplace, which also features black Santa candles and a copper piece made in 1975, in Uganda, that Hudson-Collins inherited from her aunt. To the left of the fireplace, a white Santa Claus and black Mrs. Claus represent Hudson-Collins' interracial marriage to Steven Collins. Left, one of several nutcrackers displayed this season.

PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

Alliance Française offers winter session French classes

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Those interested in learning to parler Française are invited to sign up for French language classes offered through the Alliance Française.

Ten-week sessions begin Tuesday, Jan. 14, and run through early April at Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

Three levels of adult classes are offered: A1 for beginners, A2 for beginners who know some of the basics and B1 for intermediate students. Placement tests — are offered to learn which class to attend.

French language classes are just one of the offerings available through the Alliance Française de Grosse Pointe.

"Alliance Française is a nonprofit organization that is worldwide," Grosse Pointe chapter president Amal Elhosni said. "Its mission is to promote French language and francophone culture. There are over 50 countries in the world where French is spoken as a first or second language or even as a third language. It's more prevalent than people think."

Elhosni, who lives in Grosse Pointe, hails from one of those French-speaking countries.

"I grew up in Lebanon, speaking French, my native language," she said. "I went to a French government school and grew up with French people. When I moved to the U.S. 40-some years ago, I decided to switch majors and got a master's degree in French and became a French teacher."

Elhosni taught French at The Grosse Pointe Academy for 14 years, retiring in 2020 after the pandemic hit. She's been a member of Alliance Française since 1995, "since the day I moved to Michigan," she said.

"With my love of where I grew up and my profession, the natural next step is wanting people to know about the French language and culture."

The mission of Alliance Française is to do such — promoting the language, as well as cultural aspects like French literature, cinema, cooking "and all aspects of French," Elhosni said.

There are 106 chapters of the nonprofit throughout the U.S. The Grosse Pointe chapter was formed in 1970.

"Before that, it was Detroit," Elhosni said. "Then Grosse Pointe decided to found its own chapter. Each chapter has a fundamental mission like everyone else, but each chapter also has the freedom to do its own

activities."

The Grosse Pointe chapter offers a variety of activities, some for members, some open to the public; some free of charge, some paid.

Its French film club, Ciné Club, for example, meets regularly to show free French films to the public. Most recently, it met Dec. 14, at the Woods library.

"(The film) is in French, but with English subtitles," Elhosni said. "We make sure everyone feels welcome and is able to participate."

A group also meets monthly for conversation at Village Grille, most recently Dec. 17.

"We're always looking for people in the community to communicate with," Elhosni said, adding that a Village Grille cook is a native French speaker from Senegal who hopes to talk with the group at a future gathering.

"Some programs are very cultural, some are about learning," Elhosni said.

"One big thing within the community is an awards ceremony at The War Memorial," she added. "We've been doing this over 10 years. Every year we communicate with the French teachers in the local high schools (Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South, Regina and De La Salle high schools and University Liggett School). They send the names of the best-performing students at each level and we invite them, their families, their parents, to recognize them for their efforts."

Students are awarded gift certificates and a book, either in French or about French culture.

Next month, Alliance Française will team up with the Grosse Pointe Historical Society for Fête des Rois. At 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, a family-oriented French film — with English subtitles — will be shown, followed by a special dessert.

"Fête des Rois, or l'Épiphanie, is celebrated with a galette des rois, or king's cake," Elhosni said, noting that registration for the Fête des Rois is mandatory as space is limited. "There is a token baked inside and whoever gets the token in their slice of cake is king or queen for the day."

"This teaches people about traditions they may not have heard of before," she added. "It's a teaching moment that's constructive and fun."

Teaching is at the heart of Alliance Française as its winter session of French language classes begins. Classes are taught by Nagham El Hage, who also teaches French at Grosse Pointe

Upcoming events

Jan. 14
Groupe de Conversation, 6 p.m. at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

Jan. 18
Ciné Club, "Notre-Dame brûlé," 1:30 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Jan. 26
Fête des Rois, 2 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
Learn more at afdegrossepointe.org/main-calendar/

North.

"The classes are under the Detroit Alliance umbrella," Elhosni noted, "but in our area for our students and members — and for anyone who wants to take them. But to take classes you must become a member."

Costs vary and students are offered a reduced fee. Early-bird discounts are offered until Tuesday, Dec. 31.

"I'm a big proponent of learning other languages in general," Elhosni said. "Learning a new language gives you such freedom — freedom of expression, freedom in traveling. Sure, there's Google Translate, but that does not teach culture. It does not teach how to approach someone properly. It does not teach you how to feel the language."

"It's important to learn different languages," she continued. "It gives you a lot of freedom and understanding of other people and a lot of empathy."

She cited the American belief that French people are rude and abrupt. For example, she said, while American shoppers will enter a clothing store and begin browsing or enter a bakery and place an order, in France, it's customary to first greet shopkeepers before business is conducted.

"You have to say hello and greet the person first, acknowledge they exist, then ask for the order," she said. "Bonjour and merci are the secret — the key for niceness."

"... It's not that they're not nice," she added. "We just don't understand their customs or their way of life."

"If someone is not made aware of these things, how would you know? ... That's why it's important to learn languages. If in our own way Alliance Française can help people learn the language and the culture, hopefully we've fulfilled our mission."

For more information or to register for French language classes, visit afdegrossepointe.org.

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Book Sale

Shaw's Books, 14932 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, hosts its 15th annual Holiday Book Sale 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, through Jan. 5. All books, ephemera, prints, maps, posters and other paper collectibles — more than 25,000 items — are 20 percent off. For more information, call (313) 824-4932.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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 "A Rainy

Day in New York" is shown at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Electronic Device Tutoring, noon to 3 p.m.

See EVENTS, page 3B

Park man creates brand, lands exclusive deal with Shinola

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe Park resident Dan Elhosni has combined his passion for watches and pride for his heritage to create Habibi Edition, a luxury lifestyle brand that creates meaningful and unique collaborations with a Habibi spin.

"Habibi" means "my love" or "my darling" in Arabic, but it's also a general term of endearment, Elhosni said.

"It's an inclusive term that draws you in and shows warmth," he added. "The Lebanese culture is a warm culture and it draws you in and makes you feel at home and loved wherever you are. It's grown from calling someone 'Habibi' to an identity itself."

Elhosni, who grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods, then lived in Chicago before moving to the Park a few years ago, said his venture started as a passion project.

"I've always loved watches; watches are a passion," he said. "And I'm first-generation Lebanese. I grew up in the Detroit area. I'm very proud of both those things. I wanted to combine the pride of my background as a Detroit and first-generation Lebanese to do something my community would be proud of and there's no better partner than Shinola to do that."



The Shinola Habibi Edition watch features Arabic numerals with a distinct polished edge and inset luminescent coating.

In September, Elhosni launched Habibi Edition's first luxury item — a watch created in partnership with Shinola.

"After multiple discussions, it grew from a Habibi edition of a watch into a brand in itself," Elhosni said. "Shinola has never done anything like this before."

Through the exclusive agreement, Shinola cannot make similar

watches — that is, watches bearing Arabic numerals — without consulting Elhosni.

Just 500 Habibi Edition watches have been made.

"I wanted to take the Habibi identity and turn it into its own product — especially with a company like Shinola," Elhosni said. "Instead of calling it the 'Arabic edition,' I wanted it to have character, meaning and to be more per-

sonal."

Working with Shinola's design team, Elhosni set out to take an automatic version of the Runwell and create something truly unique for Habibi Edition.

"It's an automatic watch — a complicated way to do something simple," Elhosni said. "It's an analog watch in a digital world."

He said watch enthusiasts will appreciate the subtle details:

◆ **Movement** — The self-winding automatic Swiss movement watch has a 38-hour power reserve driving hours, minutes, seconds and a calendar aperture function.

◆ **Dial** — Applied Eastern Arabic numerals have a distinct polished edge and inset luminescent coating. Complemented by a deep blue sunburst dial, the sub-seconds and date wheel also are adorned with Arabic numerals.

◆ **Case** — The polished stainless steel 45mm case is inscribed with the Habibi Edition name and unique limited edition numbering. The domed design and sapphire exhibition window offer a view of the 31-jewel automatic movement.

◆ **Strap** — The premium black leather embossed alligator motif is cut and sewn in America.

"This is a special piece that isn't going to be on

the wrist of hundreds of thousands of people," Elhosni said.

The Shinola Habibi Edition watch sells for \$2,800 exclusively through habibiedition.com.

"In the watch world, that's not a lot," Elhosni noted. "I wanted to make sure we were doing something special, regardless of ability to purchase, whether this is a casual purchase or something you have to save up for."

"People will see it, appreciate it, hold on to it longterm and look back fondly on it," he continued, noting it's the perfect item to pair with an accomplishment, memory or life event. "(It's) a material object to tie to a life event like a marriage, business accomplishment or even as a push present."

Sales have been solid so far, he noted, adding he expects a good push during the holiday season.

The watch game is new for Elhosni, whose background is in civil engineering and finance. The former consultant for McKinsey

See HABIBI, page 4B



COURTESY PHOTOS

Dan Elhosni is the creator of Habibi Edition, which partnered with Shinola to create the Shinola Habibi Edition watch.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Friday, Dec. 20.

◆ The movie "Operation Christmas Drop" is shown at noon Friday, Dec. 20. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

Library

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

◆ 1,000 Hours Year-End Solstice Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Detroit: An Illustrated Timeline, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, The Neighborhood Club boardrooms, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26,

Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Ford House

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

◆ Home for the Holidays at Ford House, entry times every half hour from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, through Dec. 22. Admission costs vary.

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

◆ Mistletoe Mingle, 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Ages 21 and older welcome. Tickets

are \$55 for members, \$70 for nonmembers.

◆ Brunch with Santa, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. Prices vary per table size.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Concert

Planet D Nonet will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at the Cadieux Cafe's 18th annual Christmas Party. Cover is \$10. The Cadieux Cafe is located at 4300 Cadieux, Detroit.

GPPSS

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

◆ 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.

GPAA

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 grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ Venturing into Abstract and Nonrepresentational Art with Marcia Hales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.

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

◆ The Art and Science of Color: Understanding and Applying Color Interaction with Mihir Sharma, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 16, 23 and 30.

Chamber

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosts After Hours Networking, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Closet Connections, 20427 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Heroes' Movement

The inaugural Heroes' Movement gala takes place 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The event includes appetizers, an open bar, a live auction, live music and a keynote speaker. Cocktail attire is recommended. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available online at heroesmovementusa.org

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.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets in person at Wayne County Community College District's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods, as well as on Zoom, at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

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You're invited!

Christmas Eve Worship

Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church
19950 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods

7:45 pm - Prelude
8:00 pm - Worship Service

4B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Rose DeAnne Nehra

Rose DeAnne Nehra, 75, died unexpectedly Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, during a brief hospitalization. She died with her brothers, sister-in-law, Susan, and two best friends by her side.

Born Aug. 9, 1949, in Detroit, to John and Teresa (nee Bolus) Nehra, DeAnne attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Grosse Pointe Farms from kindergarten through high school. She subsequently attended Marymount University in Virginia and graduated with a degree in fashion and marketing. In 1982, after a successful decade as a buyer for department stores in Michigan and Washington, D.C., DeAnne was hired as the administrative director of the nascent division of professional liability for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). She thrived at the college, earning the role of director of the Council on Resident Education. DeAnne was a force at ACOG and worked closely with the leading educators in women's health.

Dr. Douglas Laube remembers DeAnne as well organized, accommodating and loyal — at times fiercely loyal, supporting those who were lucky enough to be part of her educational com-

mittees. She oversaw meetings across the country and was involved with educational directives that were critical to future physicians. She developed close friendships with many academics and residency directors. She maintained these relationships beyond retirement. These include Mark Woodland, John Musich and Douglas Laube.

DeAnne had an exceptionally close relationship with her "Aunt Poe," Rose Ann Michael. DeAnne was another daughter to Aunt Poe and a sibling to Rose Ann's children. DeAnne passed away exactly one year to the date of her beloved aunt's death. DeAnne took great pride in her own role as aunt, providing unwavering love, devotion and fun to each niece and nephew, sharing deeply in life's joys and sorrows. Her adoration for her family knew no bounds and only grew as she became a great aunt, or "Auntie" and "DeDe," as she was affectionately known.

Following retirement, DeAnne split her time between Washington, D.C.; Stuart, Fla.; and Grosse Pointe. In Florida, DeAnne was devoted to caring for her parents and spent a great deal of time with them as they edged into their late 90s and beyond. She especially enjoyed an early evening scotch with her

"Pops." DeAnne's life was a testament to deep connections. Beginning as early as kindergarten, DeAnne formed and nurtured many-decades-long friendships. She developed an especially strong bond with Mary Dee Clancy that began at Marymount. DeAnne and Suzy Kitun met as roommates in Georgetown in 1972. Both friendships flourished into lifelong sources of love and support.

Through Suzy, DeAnne met Jeff Vanni, a dear friend and life partner the last several years. Additionally, DeAnne shared a special and enduring relationship with Mark Woodland, his husband, David, and their two children. These cherished friendships, among many others, were a cornerstone of DeAnne's life, providing her with a network of love and loyalty she deeply valued and reciprocated in kind.

DeAnne lived life to its fullest. She said yes to nearly every opportunity and invitation that came her way. She took great joy traveling, whether for work or pleasure and whatever the destination. DeAnne understood the importance of presence in the lives of her loved ones. Her presence will be greatly missed.

She was predeceased by her father, John; Aunt Poe; Uncle, Mike, Sam and George; and great-nephew, Kyle. DeAnne is



Rose DeAnne Nehra



Sharon Margaret Backer



Kathleen June Graham

survived by her mother, Teresa; brothers, Anthony (Carlene), John (Susan) and Paul (Jane Ann); nieces and nephews, Anthony, Terese, Joshua, Lauren, Katie, Clare, Annie, Mary and Kate; grandnieces and grandnephews, Lizzy, John, Charlotte, Oliver, Sullivan, Maxwell and Paul; her dear Aunt Priscilla; her beloved cousins and their families; and many treasured friends.

A funeral Mass celebrating DeAnne's life will take place at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 3, at St. Christopher Catholic Church in Hobe Sound, Fla.

DeAnne was involved in numerous health-related charities, especially those devoted to cancer prevention and care. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Less Cancer, bit.ly/3Dv473m; or Marymount University, alumni.marymount.edu/Donate-Now.

Sharon Margaret Backer

Sharon Margaret (nee Cottrell) Backer, 86, passed away Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024.

She was born Aug. 21, 1938, in Detroit, to John and Mary (nee Young).

Sharon attended St. Anthony and then St. Jude Elementary School and Harper Woods High School. She worked at Palmer Moving Services before dedicating her love to raising her family, chaperoning countless school field trips four times over, volunteering at St. Jude Children's Hospital whenever and wherever needed, working the voting precinct in Harper Woods and being a supportive friend to many.

Later, she was proud to work with her sons at Backer Landscaping and her dear friends at Whistle Stop Hobby and Toy. Above all, she loved nothing more than devoting her time to her husband, Joe, creating a loving and welcoming home, gardening, baking, cooking fabulous comfort food, road tripping and doing all things family. She cherished

being a wife, mom, mother-in-law, grandma and friend.

Sharon's family was her greatest source of joy. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Joe; and siblings, Jerry, Leo, John and Evelyn. She took great pride in her daughter, Gretchen, and sons, Joseph Jr. (Amanda), Kurt (Laura) and Karl (Leslie). She treasured her grandchildren, Benjamin (Krysten), Zachary (Toby), Rachael (Colton), Andrew, Maxwell, Bridget, Eric, Nicholas, Paden McCown and Katherine Partridge (Alexander); and great-grandchildren, Lucas, Adelaide and newborn Johnathan, who she was looking forward to meeting. She was excitedly awaiting the birth of Hudson. Sharon also is survived by nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. She will lie in state beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, bit.ly/4fhcg8S, or the Kirk Gibson Foundation, kirkgibsonfoundation.org/donate/.

Kathleen June Graham

Kathleen June Graham of Grosse Pointe Farms passed away Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024.

Kathleen was born June 18, 1930, in Toronto, Canada, to Tom L. Graham and Sarah Mullen Graham. She soon moved to Detroit and became a U.S. citizen. She attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Albion College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French. Kathleen moved to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1952, after her family built a home on Lochmoor Boulevard.

Kathleen worked for J. Walter Thompson in Detroit after college, before starting her family. After her last child was in school, she went to work for Automatic Tooling Corp., and became vice president of

the company. She later went back to school, receiving a Master of Arts degree from Walsh College in accounting and finance.

Kathleen co-chaired The Grosse Pointe Academy's Action Auction in 1970. She worked for numerous years at the Neighborhood Club Thrift Shop and was a sustaining member of the Junior League of Detroit.

An avid sports fan, she enjoyed rooting for all Detroit sports teams, as well as the Toronto Maple Leafs. She loved tap dancing and took lessons with her sister for many years. She was a wonderful hostess, setting a beautiful dining table to welcome all. Baking shortbread cookies was a Christmas tradition. She was a talented seamstress and enjoyed starting — and eventually finishing — needlepoint projects. Breakfast with her family at Coney was always a treat.

Kathleen was predeceased by her parents; sister, Mirna Graham; and brothers, Bertram and Tom Graham. She is survived by her children, Hal Smith (Catherine) of Grosse Pointe Farms, Graham Smith (Carol) of Grosse Pointe Farms, Dean Smith (Diane) of Harrison Township, Sarah Gibb (the late Michael) of Yalding, Kent, England, and Jeffrey Smith (Kristin) of Grosse Pointe Farms. She also is survived by her grandchildren, to whom she was affectionately known as "KK": Lauren Smith, Larson Campbell, Caroline Campbell, Daisy Gibb, Madison Kiegiel and Griffin Kiegiel.

The family extends a special thank-you to Diana D'Agnesse, who was a wonderful caregiver, companion and friend of Kathleen the past four years. In addition, she had wonderful and caring case managers and staff during her short stay at Sunrise Senior Living on Vernier.

Services will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of the giver's choice.

See OBITS, page 5B

Eric Byron Andreou



Eric Byron Andreou, 59, of Grosse Pointe Woods, died peacefully Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, surrounded by family. Eric was deeply loved and will be eternally missed.

Eric was born July 31, 1965, at Harper Hospital in Detroit to Diane Schendel Andreou and Dr. Byron A. Andreou. Eric was predeceased by his father, a pediatrician who practiced in southeast Michigan after emigrating from Greece.

Eric's focus of looking after his widowed mom over the years was to create outdoor beauty in her Grosse Pointe Farms home backyard with seasonal flowers, plants, trees, birdbaths, feeders and fountains. It reminded Eric of his family's tradition of creating a festive environment at their LaSalle Place home's backyard.

Eric loved to share stories and jokes with family and friends. He dearly loved to laugh. Eric was a dreamer and very creative, but was also a straight blunt communicator.

Eric graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1984. Eric studied fine arts at the College for Creative Studies (CCS) in

Detroit. He then earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education at Wayne State University (WSU) and completed student teaching in Detroit. He taught art and participated in juried art shows in southeast Michigan and Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Eric deeply appreciated the Grosse Pointe public school system K-12 teachers, as well as the CCS and WSU professors whom he found especially devoted, supportive and compassionate. A lodestar was CCS professor Bill Girard. Under Girard's guidance, Eric relished painting studio participation, working almost exclusively in oil paints and completing commissioned portraits, landscapes and abstract art. Eric looked forward to the annual student show of works and encouraged family and friends to tour the displays with him. While favoring sizable canvases for his artistic expression, Eric's extra special labor of love was a tiny detailed icon of Saint Demetrius, the patron saint of his dad's hometown of Thessaloniki, Greece, which Eric prayerfully created with egg tempera paint and gold leaf on wood.

Eric cherished his family's annual vacations to Florida. While there, Eric also loved fishing with his dad in Sarasota Bay and deeper Gulf waters.

Eric enjoyed shooting skeet and trap, as well as upland hunting pheasant, grouse, quail and partridge with his dad and friends around Michigan. Over the years, they shared thoughtfully-curated purchases of guns that were like works of art, including beautifully engraved Browning

Belgium side-by-side and over-under shotguns.

Eric proudly earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and won trophies for skill and sportsmanship. Eric also studied Aikido. Eric loved playing tennis, snow skiing, running and golfing. He enjoyed watching the Detroit Tigers at Tiger Stadium and Comerica Park and listening to the ball games on the radio.

Eric was an avid reader of art history and built a collection of beautiful art books that inspired him in his own painting. Eric also loved to cook; his favorites to make were artisan pizzas and souvlaki.

Eric most loved spending time with his family and playing board games and cards, particularly backgammon and chess, including tournament play. Eric then leveraged his game playing strategy and insight to become a successful and active investor in the stock market.

Eric is survived by his mother, Diane Andreou; sisters, Jennifer Andreou, Mary Van Osdol (Paul) and Amy Miller (Scott); nephew, Peter Van Osdol; and nieces, Lydia and Caroline Miller. Eric is also survived by maternal relatives in Oregon and Arizona, and paternal relatives in Greece.

Memorial donations in Eric's memory may be sent to Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 1169 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor MI 48108, nkfm.org/ways-to-give/donate-now/; or The Mandell Chess Club, 22011 Coolidge, Oak Park MI 48237. The chess club was founded by Dr. Ed Mandell and Allan Watts, a teacher in Grosse Pointe.

HABIBI:

Continued from page 3B

& Co., admits he was "as far from fashion and design as I could be. But I wanted this personally and I felt other people would be excited about it. I started it because I wanted a watch like this for myself. I think most meaningful brands come from the heart. I wanted to share that."

His desire for the unique watch turned into a brand when Elhosni realized he wanted other "Habibi edition" items for himself. He plans to announce future collaborations and launch other Habibi Edition

products, outside of watches.

"We will continue to build and come out with more — maybe clothing or home goods — but we will be thoughtful in all we do," he said, "We will not just slap our name on something and monetize it. We want to be thoughtful and create a relationship with our customers."

Taking an intentional, meaningful approach moves beyond Habibi Edition designs. Elhosni long ago decided he wanted to give back through the brand. He selected St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as the beneficiary. St. Jude provides cutting-edge treatments

for children with catastrophic diseases at no cost to their families.

"They have such great people over there," he said. "I can't imagine being in a situation where we have a child there. They're helping kids get better and easing minds."

"... It's a charity my mom especially has always loved," he said. "... A portion of all sales go as a cash donation to St. Jude. We also donated watch No. 313 to St. Jude and they will auction it off at their Detroit gala in January."

For more information or to purchase a *Shinola Habibi Edition watch*, visit habibiedition.com.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Dorothy Jean Nelson

Dorothy Jean Nelson, 92, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, in Grosse Pointe.

Dorothy was born Dec. 27, 1931, to Edward and Kathleen Singelyn, both now deceased. She was the beloved wife of John Nelson for 41 years.

Dorothy, a proud graduate of The Liggett School in Detroit, was an excellent and beloved mother to her three children. She was a longtime member of Christ Church Grosse Pointe and volunteered with charitable organizations such as Sigma Gamma and the Junior League of Detroit. Dorothy also was a proficient seamstress and enjoyed making outfits for herself and her children.

She had a lifelong love of dogs. In the early 1950s, she trained and entered many of her dogs into American Kennel Club dog shows. Dorothy also was a good skier and skied often in Michigan and the western United States, including Aspen, Colo. She loved sailing and cruising the Great Lakes, Bermuda, the Bahamas and destinations in the Caribbean such as the British Virgin Islands. She also loved tennis and was known among opponents for her powerful serves. After a knee injury, Dorothy became an avid golfer, a passion she shared with her husband, John.

Dorothy's other travels included Busch Gardens, Disney World, Cape

**Dorothy Jean Nelson**

Canaveral, Fla., Newport, R.I., and the Grand Canyon, as well as international trips to Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean Islands, Ireland and the United Kingdom, Switzerland and China. She particularly loved trips to visit her parents at their home in Gaylord.

She is survived by her brother, Dr. Thomas Singelyn (Denyse); children, Kathleen O'Connell (Terry) and Brian Woodhouse (Marie); grandchildren, Maxim and Lauren Woodhouse; and stepchildren, Scott Nelson (Nancy), Lindsey Pravettone (Guy), Henry Nelson (Karen) and Elizabeth Breslin (William). She was predeceased by her son, John Woodhouse IV; and her husband, John Nelson.

A funeral will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. The interment service will be followed by a reception in the church undercroft.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, bit.ly/47PrHTz.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Ford House unveils 2025 lineup

New cabaret series, outdoor dining included

Ford House, the historic home of Eleanor and Edsel Ford located in Grosse Pointe Shores, recently announced a dynamic lineup of events for the 2025 season.

Experiences like guided tours of the main residence and gardens return, including the audience-favorite Nooks & Crannies Behind-the-Scenes and All About Eleanor guided tours. New specialty guided tours will explore the Fords' art collection, architectural elements and other unique aspects of the home.

As always, families are invited to enjoy experiences throughout the year. From meeting the Easter Bunny for a photo Sunday, April 13, to daytime trick-or-treating during Little Goblins Saturday, Oct. 25, children have lots of opportunities for play and exploration. New in 2025 are Ford House's Once Upon a Tea children's teas. These relaxed tea services are created for children ages 12 and younger and center around favorite children's literary characters. Families can attend the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, celebrating the whimsical "Alice in Wonderland," at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15, and the Emerald City Tea Party in July, celebrating L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Guests will enjoy tea and child-friendly treats while costumed characters travel the room and chat with children.

Families also can immerse themselves in educational adventures. Lake Fest, which takes place Saturday, July 26, is a STEAM-based learning festival celebrating Lake St. Clair and the flora and fauna living in and around it. Story Festival, set for Saturday, Sept. 6, and produced in partnership with the Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores libraries, will bring children's favorite stories and characters to life through interactive experiences.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, Grosse Pointe



COURTESY PHOTO

Ford House will welcome guests to its Outdoor Summer Concert Series next summer.

Theatre returns to Ford House for the second year of the Shakespeare Stroll. Attendees will experience the timeless works of Shakespeare as the Bard's stories come to life across the grounds of Ford House. This walking theater event invites guests to wander from scene to scene, where professional actors perform vignettes from some of Shakespeare's most beloved plays.

In 2025, Ford House will introduce Cabaret Over the Cove, a new, intimate concert series set in the Lake Shore Room on the second floor of the Visitor Center, overlooking Ford Cove and Lake St. Clair. These performances offer guests an elegant and cozy musical experience. The inaugural series will feature the White Pines String Quartet at 7 p.m. on Valentine's Day, Friday, Feb. 14. Guests will enjoy a signature cocktail and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a special three-course dinner and champagne with dessert.

Three additional Cabaret Over the Cove events are scheduled throughout the year. At 7 p.m. Friday, May 9, Ben Sharkey will bring his blend of vintage cool and contemporary energy, fusing jazz, soul and pop. Future cabarets include performances Friday, Nov. 7, and Friday, Dec. 19, for a holiday-themed

Christmas Cabaret Over the Cove: Yule Be Singing. Each includes passed appetizers, drink tickets and access to a cash bar. These concerts are capped at 150 attendees, creating an intimate and exclusive experience.

Ford House also debuts Gather in the Garden, an outdoor dining experience designed to immerse guests in the beauty of nature while offering a unique and intimate culinary adventure. Set against the backdrop of the formal garden, this event combines the charm of al fresco dining with the tranquility of Ford House's historic estate and live music. Gather in the Garden takes place 7 p.m. Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29.

Ford House kicks off its Outdoor Summer Concert Series at 7 p.m. Friday, July 18, with Dancing Queen: An ABBA Salute, during which guests can relive the magic of ABBA and say "I Do, I Do, I Do" to a night filled with catchy tunes and unforgettable memories. Following, the renowned Michigan Philharmonic will grace the stage at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15, bringing its symphonic brilliance to the grounds. To wrap up the Outdoor Summer Concert Series, Ford House welcomes back The Dave Hamilton Band on Friday, Sept. 12.

Harvest Day invites

visitors to Ford House on Saturday, Sept. 27, for a day of seasonal delights and timeless traditions. Visitors can dine on fresh cider and doughnuts as they explore the fall market, filled with unique goods from dozens of local vendors.

Ford House invites adults who are into the Halloween season to attend one of four Murder Mystery Dinners on Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 10, 11, 17 and 18. Each takes place in the Lake Shore Room on the second floor of the visitor center. Tickets include a seated dinner, two drink tickets and access to a cash bar.

Big Goblins, Ford House's adult Halloween party, is back in a whole new way. On Saturday, Oct. 25, adults age 21 and older will enjoy a spooky nighttime twist on the Little Goblins event by collecting adult treats while evading shadowy characters lurking in the darkness along an eerie trail. The event also includes bar and concession stands, a bonfire, live entertainment and a haunted hayride.

During winter, visitors have several opportunities to enjoy the Christmas charm of Ford House and meet Santa Claus. On select dates in December, children can get their picture taken with the Jolly Old Elf at

See FORD, page 6B



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Holiday performance

The Regina High School choir performed for the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club at Ford House during the club's Dec. 10 meeting. The choir, under the direction of Eleanore Ellero, performed a medley of Christmas carols in a performance that has become a highly anticipated and delightful annual tradition for the attendees. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool

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www.christthekinggp.org

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
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church

(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY



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Holiday Mass Schedule
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve Mass ~ 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25, 2024
Christmas Day Mass ~ 10:00 am

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
New Years' Day ~ 10:00 am

Saturday, January 4, 2025: Vigil Mass
Feast of the Epiphany ~ 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 5, 2025
Feast of the Epiphany ~ 10:00 am

Sunday, January 5, 2025
Feast of the Epiphany

Christmas Carol Sing-along ~ 3:30 pm • Vespers Service ~ 4:00 pm

Worship Service



Christmas at St. Michael's Church

Sunday, Dec 22 ~ Join us for Breakfast at 9 am
10 am Worship ~ We welcome Bp. Bonnie A. Perry

Tuesday, Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve
4 pm Choral and Strings Prelude
4:30 pm Celtic Christmas Worship

Dec 29 ~ The Sunday after Christmas Day
10 am Holy Communion and Carols of the Season
Coffee and hot chocolate in the parish hall after worship

20475 Sunningdale Park
Grosse Pointe Woods

313.884.4820
stmichaelsgpw.org

Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48250

Masses

Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. ☩
Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Mass
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — St. Francis Day —
Blessing of Pets — Noon Mass

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

6B | FEATURES

Racing For Kids brightens the holidays for hospitalized kids

Racing For Kids made an early Christmas visit to hospitalized children at Henry Ford St. John Children's Hospital in Detroit. The visit was a Christmas gift drop off to help brighten a holiday season hospital stay for many metro Detroit children.

For the visit, Santa helpers Pat and Debby Wright and Linda Finger of Racing For Kids stopped by the hospital Dec. 4, bearing bags full of gifts for kids. This year's gifts were astronaut star projectors, which project stars and a colorful aurora borealis onto the ceilings of their hospital rooms.

Since 1989, Racing For Kids has used the popularity of motorsports to raise funding and awareness of children's

healthcare needs. At the heart of the mission are driver visits to hospitalized children, bringing the excitement of the auto racing world, as well as hats and toys, to their bedsides. Racing For Kids also make donations to the hospitals they visit, with the funds earmarked for special therapies or for playroom development.

Racing For Kids has visited more than 47,000 children in more than 750 children's hospital visits in the United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Australia. It has raised more than \$8 million for the hospitals visited and other children's health institutions.

For more information, visit racingforkids.org.



On hand for the gift delivery were, from left, Pat Wright and Linda Finger with Racing For Kids; Lisa Pinkowski with the St. John Foundation; Pediatric Intensive Care Nurse Samantha Galati; Marcus DeGraw, M.D., chairman of the Department of Pediatrics; Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Coordinator Darlene Kameg; Sandra Scerri, director of nursing for women and children; and Debby Wright with Racing For Kids.

COURTESY PHOTO

Spreading good news through Optimist Club

The Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe in October welcomed Stephanie DiVirgil, director of operations of the Full Circle Foundation. DiVirgil gave the club an update on the programs provided by Full Circle, whose mission is to support activities that foster a sense of self-worth and independence in persons with disabilities by providing opportunities to contribute and participate productively in the community. Full Circle founder Mary Fodell began the organization in 2009, through the Grosse Pointe school system by providing gently used prom dresses and blazers to raise funds for young adults with special needs. The organization grew to offer a resale shop, as well as micro-enterprises such as shredding, laundry services and hand-made dog biscuits. For more information about Full Circle's programs, visit full-circlefdn.org/



COURTESY PHOTO

Full Circle's Stephanie DiVirgil and Lakeshore Optimist Club President Steve Licari.

The Gearheads robotic team of Grosse Pointe recently presented to the Lakeshore Optimist Club, including a live demonstration of its 2024 robot. The team, which includes students from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools, participates in competitive robotics events through FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The team builds a robot each year based on criteria provided by the FIRST



COURTESY PHOTO

Lakeshore Optimist Club President Steve Licari, second from left, presents a check to the Gearheads robotic team.

organization. Gearheads celebrated its 21st year as a team in 2024. Students participated in local, regional, state and world competitions, and were eliminated in the world finals. Their presentation highlighted their commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as their support of each other and the community. For more information, visit gearheads1189.weebly.com/

Leslie Moffat of The Arc of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods presented an update on the organization's programs and services at a recent meeting of the Lakeshore Optimist Club. The Arc is a membership organization that works directly with children and adults with all levels of intellectual and related developmental disabilities, to advocate for their rights to participate fully within the community. It provides information, referral, support and advocacy services to people with disabilities and their families to ensure they are obtaining appropriate services in education, housing, employment, family support, prevention and health care, case management and recreation. For more information about The Arc, visit thearcgp-hw.org/.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend, listen to interesting speakers and learn what the club is about. For monthly locations, dates and times, visit gpoptimists.com/ or find the club on Facebook.



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Licari, president of the Lakeshore Optimist Club, and Leslie Moffat, incoming CEO of The Arc of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ford House welcomes visitors of all ages for activities inside and on the grounds of the historic estate.

FORD:

Continued from page 5B

Cookies with Santa. Families can sit down to a delicious holiday brunch at Brunch with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 7 and 21, for a hot buffet and a chance to say hello to Old Kris Kringle.

For those looking for a magical evening experience, Home for the Holidays at Ford House welcomes guests on an enchanting evening stroll throughout the estate. Open Fridays


through Sundays, Dec. 5 to 21, Home for the Holidays at Ford House is a one-mile path that sparkles with shimmering lights. On the walk, guests can step inside the main residence for self-paced exploration of Eleanor Ford's adorned decorations.

It wouldn't be the holidays without a special visit from Santa Claus at the playhouse. Capture the magic with a photo along the path. Friends of Ford House, media partners and select VIPs are invited to a VIP

Preview of Home for the Holidays at Ford House on Saturday, Nov. 29.

"Our 2025 season is shaping up to be one of our most exciting yet," said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. "From new events like Once Upon a Tea and Cabaret Over the Cove to beloved traditions like our summer concerts and holiday celebrations, there's truly something for everyone to enjoy. We can't wait to welcome our community and visitors from near and far to experience the joy, beauty and history of Ford House in new and meaningful ways."

Guests are invited to enhance their experience by becoming a Friend of Ford House, enjoying exclusive benefits such as discounts on tickets, dining and shopping, as well as access to pre-sales for popular events. Tickets to Ford House's 2025 events and programs go on sale soon. Visit fordhouse.org for more information.



Join Grosse Pointe Memorial Church this holiday season as we await the arrival of Jesus our Savior!

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
5:00 pm*
Family Service (Childcare available)
7:30* and 10:00 pm
Candlelit Service with Full Choir and Brass

*If you can't join us in person, tune in to our livestream services.
Visit our [YouTube channel at gpmchurch.org](http://YouTube.com/gpmchurch.org)

GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH
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City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

**PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 466**

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 466 adding Sections 2-68 – 2-74 to the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances standardizing all City Commissions and clearly defining their roles and membership. This Ordinance will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 466 is available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 12/19/24



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Detroit Zoo planning 7-acre Discovery Trails experience

The Detroit Zoo announced details of Discovery Trails, an immersive, seven-acre experience dedicated to the wonder of wildlife, power of education and joy of discovery. The site is expected to open in 2026 along the southwest corridor of the zoo, spanning the area from Buddy's Pizza to near the current bison and wolven habitats.



COURTESY PHOTO

Discovery Trails will feature expansive habitats for new and returning species — such as alpacas, burrowing owls, bush dogs and bamboo sharks — along with updated spaces for zoo favorites, including giant anteaters, miniature donkeys and prairie dogs. The immersive area also will bring guests closer to wildlife through up-close animal encounters. From a tank where guests can touch and feed stingrays to a barnyard where they can brush goats and feed chickens, Discovery Trails is designed to spark curiosity and a deeper connection with the natural world.

“Discovery Trails is a shining example of our mission coming to life,” said Dr. Hayley Murphy, executive director and CEO of the Detroit Zoological Society. “These up-close encounters in Discovery Trails will foster empathy and understanding for animals, nature and the

The immersive area also will bring guests closer to wildlife through up-close animal encounters.

environment, creating meaningful connections and building curiosity and appreciation for the world around them.”

In addition to new animal encounters and habitats, Discovery Trails also will feature a host of other experiences, including:

- ◆ diverse educational experiences made especially for children, such as an imaginative farmers market, garden grove and outdoor classroom, a senses trail and Little Sprouts area that will encourage young guests to explore, move and have fun;

- ◆ an accessible Canopy Trail that will elevate guests 14 feet off the ground as they gain new perspectives and an appreciation of nature;

- ◆ sustainable, accessible features that ensure Discovery Trails is an inclusive space that protects the planet and is

welcoming to all and;

- ◆ numerous areas for guests to rest, refuel and reconnect with family and friends. These include sensory-friendly quiet spaces, allowing guests to step away from the pathways and play areas to have a moment to reset.

Discovery Trails is expected to cost more than \$20 million, with the majority of funds coming from gifts and grants. At the same time, Discovery Trails is projected to increase the zoo's regional economic impact to \$185 million annually, increase zoo visitation and membership by 12 percent and 11 percent respectively and bring an additional 13,000 children via school field trips each year.

For more information and updates as Discovery Trails construction takes shape, visit dzoo.org/discoverytrails.



Discovery Trails, an immersive, seven-acre experience dedicated to the wonder of wildlife, power of education and joy of discovery, is expected to open in 2026 along the southwest corridor of the zoo.

COURTESY RENDERINGS



Grosse Pointe native shares holiday gift ideas for wine lovers

Just in time for the holidays, Grosse Pointe native and service-disabled veteran Norma “Normington” Smihal unveils an episode of her vodcast, “Just the Sip: Tongamic Wine Exploration & Adventure with Norma,” dedicated to helping viewers find the perfect gifts for the wine lovers in their lives.

Smihal, who grew up in Grosse Pointe and still has family in the area, brings her local charm and passion for wine education to this holiday episode, titled “JTS Special: Uncork the Perfect Holiday Gifts.” Viewers will discover a curated selection of unique and charming gifts, from elegant wine accessories to fun and festive finds.

“Growing up in Grosse Pointe instilled in me a love of community and a deep appreciation for the finer things in life,” Smihal said. “This episode is a way to share that love with others and help them find gifts that bring joy and

connection this holiday season.”

“Just the Sip” offers a welcoming space for those curious about wine, making education accessible and enjoyable for all. Smihal's journey with the show began after retirement, showcasing her dedication to lifelong learning and passion for sharing knowledge.

Tune in to “Just the Sip” on YouTube and Spotify and discover unique gift ideas, learn about wine and connect with a former Grosse Pointe community member and veteran.

About Just the Sip

Created, produced and hosted by Norma Smihal, “Just the Sip” is a vodcast dedicated to making wine education accessible and enjoyable. New episodes are released monthly, covering a range of topics from tasting techniques to regional wine explorations.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The artist stands by one of her pieces, on exhibit at the Boll Family YMCA through January.

Park artist's 'White Series' exhibition now through January

Grosse Pointe Park artist Megan Foley presents “The White Series: Abstract Expressions of a Spiritual Journey,” now through the month of January at the Boll Family YMCA, 1401 Broadway, Detroit.

“The White Series” is a visual meditation on the transformative power of spiritual awakening, according to the artist.

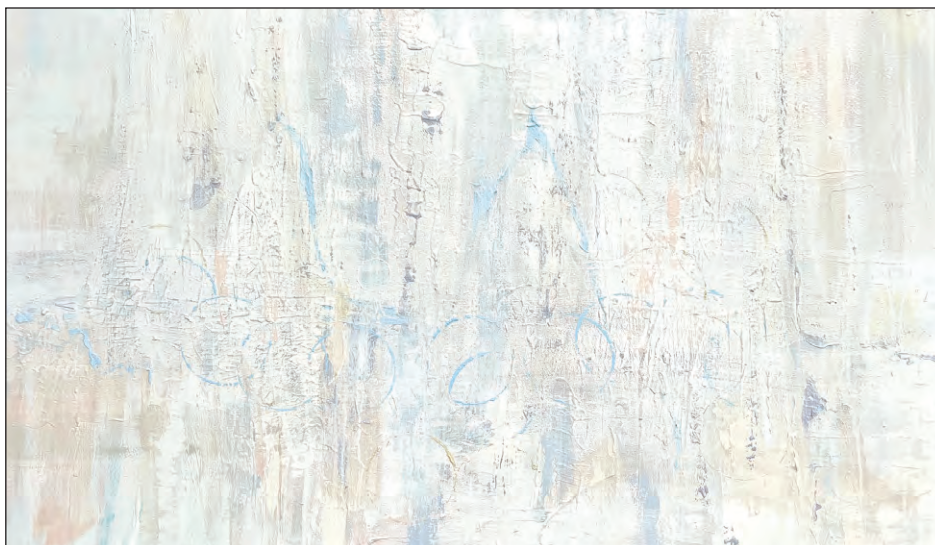
Inspired by her personal journey toward inner clarity and enlightenment, each painting challenges the notion of minimalism while exploring the complexity of human experience.

“The abstract forms, textured layers

and subtle gradients of color reflect the unseen forces that guide and shape our inner experiences,” Foley wrote. “The ethereal nature of the white tones invites the viewer into a space of introspection, encouraging a connection with the unseen forces that guide us toward greater understanding and peace.”

“The series speaks to the quiet, yet profound moments of awakening and transcendence,” she continued, “offering a visual metaphor for the constant evolution of spirit.”

Learn more about Foley and her work online at meganfoleyart.com



One of the pieces Foley is displaying in her “White Series.”



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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



POINTING YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH REAL-LIFE ADVICE!

Three simple rules for regifting this holiday

Dear Gabby: Is it ever OK to regift something? — Wondering in the Woods

1. Make sure the original giver and the new recipient don't cross paths.

something intentionally vintage.

The long and the short of it is, don't just regift because you are being lazy.

— Gabby

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

Dear Wondering,

These days, you can get away with more regifting as it's become chic to be eco-friendly.

However, there are a few rules to live by:

2. Only regift to a new recipient if it is a thoughtful present you truly feel the person will love.

3. Do not ever give anything that you have used — unless it's a special record album or



Happy Holidays to all

DEAR READERS: Wishing you and all a very happy holiday season. Hope you enjoy these poems for the holidays.

"Love Came Down at Christmas"
by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign."

An excerpt from "Old Santeclaus"
by Clement Clarke Moore

"Old Santeclaus with much delight
His reindeer drives this frosty night,
O'er chimney-tops, and tracks of snow,
To bring his yearly gifts to you.
The steady friend of virtuous youth,
The friend of duty, and of truth,
Each Christmas eve he joys to come
Where love and peace have made
their home."

An excerpt from "Christmas Bells"
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet, the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

"Christmas in the Heart"
by Paul Laurence Dunbar

"The snow lies deep upon the ground,
And winter's brightness all around
Decks bravely out the forest sere,
With jewels of the brave old year.

The coasting crowd upon the hill
With some new spirit seems to thrill;
And all the temple bells achime.
Ring out the glee of Christmas time.

In happy homes the brown oak-bough
Vies with the red-gemmed holly now;
And here and there, like pearls, there show
The berries of the mistletoe.

A sprig upon the chandelier
Says to the maidens, 'Come not here!'
Even the pauper of the earth
Some kindly gift has cheered to mirth!

Within his chamber, dim and cold,
There sits a grasping miser old.
He has no thought save one of gain, —
To grind and gather and grasp and drain.

A peal of bells, a merry shout
Assail his ear: he gazes out
Upon a world to him all gray,
And snarls, 'Why, this is Christmas Day!'

No, man of ice, — for shame, for shame!
For 'Christmas Day' is no mere name.
No, not for you this ringing cheer,
This festal season of the year.

And not for you the chime of bells
From holy temple rolls and swells.
In day and deed he has no part —
Who holds not Christmas in his heart!



An excerpt from "Christmas in War Time"
by Richard Le Gallienne

"O pray with all your hearts that war
may cease,
And who knows but that God may
hear the prayer.

So it may come about next Christmas
Day

That we shall hear the happy
children play
Gladly aloud, unmindful of the dead,
And watch the lovers go
To the old woods to find the mistletoe."

Send your questions for Annie Lane
to dearannie@creators.com.
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Bogart's Food & Spirits for adults and kids

If you're looking for the perfect neighborhood gathering place to meet friends, family, neighbors or teammates — where the kids can do their thing while the adults do theirs — then look no further than Bogart's Food & Spirits.

Named after famous actor Humphrey Bogart, owner Jason Vanbiervliet tells me his father chose the name "because of his love of old movies."

Bogart's opened in the former location of West Port Grill, which moved in after Captains Too moved out, in 2005, at 17441 Mack Avenue, on the Grosse Pointe/Detroit border. In 2013, Jason bought the business from his father, after years of being employed by him. His 20-year anniversary in this location is coming up next year.

One of the first things he changed was the curbside appeal.

"I had the building facade changed over from Captains' signature wood panel to a brick that was hiding beneath," he said.

Jason also has updated the menu over the years. I always like to ask what the specialties are. I feel like this is something

most restaurants put a lot of effort into. Their niche, if you will.



COURTESY PHOTOS
Pizza and mozzie sticks.

"Our specialties are, of course, our pizzas, which are baked on the original oven deck oven from Captains," Jason said.

Let me tell you something: If you have not had pizza from Bogart's yet, you are missing out! This is definitely the place to have your kids' birthday parties and team gatherings. You can build your own pizzas or choose from a variety on the menu.

Another reason this restaurant is perfect for the young ones is because there's an arcade involved, which is always a great incentive for the kids to clear their plates. The arcade also provides



Dean burger.

a great distraction so adults can enjoy conversations as well. Tuesday nights are half-off pizza and it's a deal that cannot be missed.

Jason said everything they make is done in house.

"Things like our 'mozzie' sticks or Rueben egg rolls, even our fries are hand-cut and made in house," he said. "Our burgers are also a staple."

Their burgers definitely hit the spot. They're not just your average burgers either. The Dean Burger is stacked with one hand-formed burger patty, corned beef, Swiss cheese and a fried egg. That's a mouthful of flavors, as is the Buster Burger: one hand-formed burger patty, a fried egg, bacon and pepper jack cheese. Yum!

There's also a "secret menu" that offers a spectacular Olive Burger, so I suggest you ask to see that menu. They have two delicious vegetarian options too.

The bar area is very welcoming with TVs to view and 12 beers on tap that rotate seasonally. Jason recently overhauled the wine list with the help of Veritas Distributors, which is a huge upgrade to their selection that certainly makes half-off Wine Wednesdays worth it, especially since that's also trivia night at Bogart's.

If beer and wine are not your choice, Bogart's also offers great cocktails as well. As far as "signature



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

cocktails," Jason thinks the Bogart's Spritz is pretty popular and features Aperol, Tito's Vodka, Prosecco and soda — with an orange slice, of course. After all, who doesn't love a good Spritz?!

Happy-hour specials run 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. In the summer months, the decorative patio out back is a great place to enjoy some "Bogies Blondes," the house draft blonde ale. It goes great with a couple slices and friends.

Wings are a Bogart's house favorite and the tower of beer-battered onion rings definitely are worth sharing.



Fish n' chips.

Bogart's has a full menu featuring favorite entrees from over the years such as steak and fries, cajun pasta, herb lemon chicken and pub fish n' chips, which is always popular on Fridays. They also have excellent salad choices, sandwiches and flatbreads. Their Reuben looks amazing and is definitely on my list to try. Plus, there's a kids menu too.



Bogart's summed up in one picture: arcade tokens included.



Wings.

Bogart's isn't just pizza, burgers and booze. For starters, Conrad's

See FOOD, page 9C

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



As someone who loves the polished, put-together look of freshly manicured nails but hates the process and price of salon visits, I was eager to try the Dazzle Dry Mini Kit 4-Step System.

I'd heard it dries fast and is practically fool-proof, which sounded perfect for someone like me, who wishes they could just drop their hands off and pick them up later, nails done. So, in the spirit of saving both time and money, I decided to give it a try.

The Dazzle Dry kit comes with four steps that create a long-lasting,

glossy manicure. Step one is the nail prep, which cleanses and primes the nails,

followed by step two, a base coat that helps the polish adhere. Next is step three, where you apply your chosen color and, finally, step four, a top coat that seals everything in.

I went with a baby pink shade that looked fresh and flattering on any skin tone. The system

had some definite advantages. The polish dried incredibly fast, living up

to its name. There was no waiting around or carefully holding my hands in the air, trying to avoid smudges.

Once it dried, the polish looked great and lasted a solid few weeks, which was a big improvement over regular nail polish.

However, despite its longevity and ease, I still found myself missing the

sleek, perfected finish of a shellac manicure from the salon. Although I followed every step, I just didn't get the same polished result I get from a professional.

For me, the convenience and quality of a professional manicure still come out on top, even if it means spending a bit more time and money. Still, Dazzle Dry is an excellent option if you're in a pinch before an event or need a quick, at-home touch-up.

In the end, I'd give the Dazzle Dry Mini Kit 4 out of 5 alligators. It truly delivers on its promise of

quick-drying, long-lasting nails, but for those who seek that salon-perfect look, nothing quite replaces a professional manicure.

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.



Christmas morning casserole

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

We always have a make ahead casserole dish for our Christmas morning breakfast. It's so effortless to wake up and take the dish right out of the fridge and place directly into your oven.

Opening presents and enjoying family time is that much better with the smell of something amazing bubbling away in the background.

This year, however, I'm planning on making a ham and cheese croissant dish from start to finish that morning. This recipe is so easy and so elegant, I'm not concerned at all.

Ham and cheese croissants have always been in my top 10 list of favorite foods. They make me think about standing in line at Pointe Pedler on the Hill during my lunch hour at South High School. The hour where a quaint and quiet cooking store turned into lunch haven with a line of hungry high schoolers hoping the warm and savory croissants haven't yet been sold out!

There are so many recipes out there for ham and cheese croissant casseroles. I took the best

from each one and created this one based on my preferences.

The croissants are cut into thirds and quickly dipped into a fresh rosemary and egg mixture. Slices of swiss and ham are placed in each crevice and then baked until bubbling. The final touch is a brown sugar and rosemary butter that is brushed on top. It creates a glistening, sweet layer that complements the rosemary, cheese and salty ham.

The large bits of ham and croissants will require a fork and knife. But, you can customize each bite to your liking.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas filled with joyous laughs and happy bellies.

Cheers, Mombeau

Ham and Swiss Croissant Bake

- 4-6 butter croissants
- 8 slices deli ham
- 4 ozs jarlsberg
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup half and half

- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp fresh chopped rosemary
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 tbsp brown sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9x13 inch casserole dish. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, half and half, mustard and one tablespoon of rosemary. Add in the salt, pepper and cayenne. Mix to combine.

Next, cut the croissants into thirds. Dip each croissant piece into the egg mixture and place them in a single layer until the bottom of the dish is completely layered. Pour over any remaining egg mixture evenly over top.

Take each slice of ham and fold in half. Fold the ham in half two more times so it resembles a rose. Neatly tuck each piece in between the croissant pieces.

Next, slice the jarlsberg into thin rectangle pieces and place them, lengthwise, into each nook and cranny. Place in the oven and bake for 20 minutes.

While this bakes, melt the butter, brown sugar and rosemary in a small saucepan on medium low heat.

Once the dish has baked, take it out of the oven and brush the rosemary butter over top. Serve with a knife and fork!

PHOTOS BY KAREN FERGUSON



Barolo

In the introduction to their 1990 book "Barolo, Tar and Roses," authors Michael Garner and Paul Merritt describe the aroma and taste of the classic red wine from Italy's Piemonte, Barolo:

"The initial sensations are fleeting: fruit, mainly black cherries, raspberries, and plums, and sometimes ... strawberries. Flowers follow, often violets and the classic 'faded rose petals' intermingled with herbs like mint and camphor.

"Then secondary aromas ... where the wine's extraordinary power begins to assert itself — scents of tar, licorice, truffles, bitter chocolate, ground coffee, tobacco, burnt coffee, aniseed, and other spices; the list could go on and on."

That's quite a statement, especially for a wine so hard to sell in the

United States.

Despite those glowing descriptions of one of the world's greatest red wines, there is a problem with it when it is young. To me, Barolo conjures up an image of a brooding bear, growling until age can tame its talons.

Good Barolo has loads of tannin and requires aging time. Ten years is common; well-made Barolos can go 30.

Things changed 30 years ago when some new winemakers pioneered a modern style of Barolo. The wines were lighter, more elegant. This modernist Barolo generated some excitement for the wine here in the mid-1980s.

This more approachable version of Italy's most age-worthy red made a wine that was easier to consume earlier.

But eventually, the traditionalists won out. Now I am seeing a trend toward even better winemaking.

Most traditional producers reverted to the older versions, much to the delight of those who understood the wine.

To me, the current style of Barolo is better than ever, because it has some of the fruit of the newer style but the "grip" of the old style.

In the Barolo book mentioned earlier, the authors acknowledge that Barolo has a "notorious vicelike grip of tannin," which some of the new-style producers tried to wrest out of the wine to make it more approachable earlier.

In that, they succeeded. But some critics argued that the newer style of wine wouldn't age as well.

For those of us who adore the older style of Barolo, the vintages of 2019 and 2020 both were so exceptional that demand for the wines has risen significantly.

Although many of these wines are expensive, every now and then a good value comes along.

By reverting to the older style of Barolo, many of the traditional producers

made a much more interesting and provocative Barolo. This wine is not for everyone. But it illustrates how a great grape variety can survive even misguided efforts to improve it.

Barolo's main problem today is that the top wines remain expensive. Most great producers' wines are \$80 to \$100 a bottle. Pricey? Yes — but significantly below the cost of Napa cabernets.

One reason is that the number of dedicated Barolo lovers is limited. Bordeaux and California cabernet sell to a far wider audience. Still, top-rate Barolos remain one of the most fascinating and esoteric niche markets in the wine business.

Wine of the Week: 2018 Boassa Barolo, Serralunga (\$60/see left) — This 50-year-old house has long made traditional style Barolo, and this wine from a very good vintage has attractive red fruit, sour cherry and mineral elements that allow it to be drunk much sooner. I bought several bottles because

it's a good example of Barolo at a fair price. Bottle Barn in Santa Rosa, Calif., has this wine for \$37.99 and can ship. <https://bottlebarn.com/products/2018-boassa-barolo-del-comune-di-serralunga-dalbas>.

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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SEE MENU

f

2024

HOLIDAY

Pets!



There is something about animals that can warm our hearts on even the chilliest of winter days. Especially during the holidays, our furry friends only add to the spirit of love and joy we all share.

We asked readers and Grosse Pointe News staffers to give us a peek at the special family members that are as precious to us as they are fuzzy.

Enjoy each heartwarming face and gentle expression. We hope they bring you an extra smile as we enjoy this Christmas season.

Gabby

This little brindle girl is sure to steal Santa's heart! Five-year-old Gabby, left, is a Pug/Boston Terrier mix who is as cute as a button. She lives with pet parents Bailey and Alex Neigebauer in St. Clair Shores and loves to play, play, play! As sweet as she is, there is no doubt that Santa will add to her collection of "babies" this year, just like her dear little deer friend she is snuggling. Have a wonderful Christmas, Gabby and may all your holiday wishes come true.



Chase

The Festival of Lights is drawing near and little Chase is eager to wish you a Happy Hanukkah. Precious Chase belongs to Amy Moulton of Grosse Pointe Woods and he is all dressed to celebrate in his adorable dreidel scarf.



Luigi

This Italian Bolognese doggie is looking handsome for the holidays in his plaid holly scarf. Fluffy Luigi, above, is as beautiful as snow on Christmas morning! He belongs to Nancy Reyten of Grosse Pointe Woods.



Lexie and Shadow

These two sweethearts, left, with a lookalike pal, are holiday dogs on the go. Lexie and Shadow are active pups, enjoying walks, treats and running agility. Pet parents Barb and Jim Glovac of Grosse Pointe Woods say that Lexie and Shadow love attention— and we bet they get plenty based on how cute they are!



Chi Chi

"Do I smell Christmas cookies?" little Chi Chi, above, seems to say! Mom and dad Liz Martin and Loren Mannino of Grosse Pointe Farms say the "mostly shy" chihuahua pup was a big help with online holiday shopping this year. Chi Chi knew to always bark loudly to announce the arrival of incoming gifts from delivery people from FedEx, UPS, Amazon and the US Postal Service. Great work, Chi Chi! We are pretty sure at least some of those presents will be for you.

Louis

Some lucky dogs can spot a great photo opportunity when they see it. Louis, above left, took advantage of such a moment on a recent sunny walk along Lakeshore Dr. Seeing the glorious tree in front of the War Memorial decorated for Christmas, he knew he just had to stop for a snapshot. And we are so glad he did! Stately Louis belongs to Christof Haindl of Grosse Pointe, who told us that Louis wanted to pass along greetings for a happy holiday season for all.



Sherri

Sweet Sherri is staying at the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society in Harper Woods temporarily. That's just until this adorable 1-year old special needs charmer can find her forever home. Sherri has some balance issues, but that doesn't stop her from being a loving companion. Contact gpaas.org to make her your own.



Romeo

Romeo takes a break at a recent play date to wish everyone a Merry Christmas! When 1-year old Romeo is not redecorating the Zetterlund home in St. Clair Shores, he can be found trying to get his sister cat to chase him down the hall or playing with all the toys Santa brought him last year. With any luck mom Donna, a Grosse Pointe News page designer, will be picking lots MORE fun stuff up off the floor after Santa returns this year.



Bruin

Lovely Bruin just turned one, so this will be her very first Christmas! Since she LOVES playing in the snow, this pretty girl might just make Christmas her favorite holiday. The light of the season shines in her big, brown eyes. She belongs to proud pet mama Caitlin Miller of Grosse Pointe Park. Happy first Christmas, Bruin, and many more!



Wheezy

Pretty Wheezy, left, is all-in for the upcoming Christmas festivities. Looks like she had to “paws” to approve the beautiful decor in her East English Village home in Detroit. Wheezy loves the holidays so she can lounge by the fireplace but keeps busy year round exploring every empty box she can find.

Mom Lisa Masserang shared Wheezy’s secret obsession – fries from her dad’s restaurant, Cadieux Cafe. No doubt Wheezy has been a good girl this year so some French fries from Dad...we mean...um... Santa will be in her future this holiday season.



Benson and Moo

Bernese Mountain Dogs Benson, below left, and Moo – on the right, are happy to sit around the tree waiting for what’s to come. These handsome boys belong to Grosse Pointe News Circulation Manager Ellie Carter and her husband Phil. The Carters were our Grosse Pointe News Wedding Guide cover couple in 2023 and their precious pups are equally photogenic. We are hoping Benson and Moo get everything they are wishing for – how could Santa resist those sweet faces?



Chloe

Little Chloe, above, LOVES to open Christmas presents! Good thing she’s so cute and well-behaved that she probably gets lots of them. Hanging out in her little Santa bed might warm Santa’s heart even more on Christmas Eve, and net her oodles of goodies! Adorable Chloe belongs to Jeffrey Froggett, of Grosse Pointe Farms.



Winifred

Looks like Winifred, left, has some pretty famous friends. She could almost be a teddy bear herself – and cozying up with them seems to be a perfect way to spend a cold winter’s day. Fluffy Winifred belongs to Kevin Martin, of Grosse Pointe Woods and sits pretty as a picture for this delightful holiday shot.



Sissy

Fashionable Sissy, left, definitely knows how to rock a hat! Eight-year-old Sissy is the pride and joy of mom Mary Schlager of Richmond. Mary is a talented member of the Grosse Pointe News production team where she works as an advertising designer. If Santa needs any help, sweet Sissy could jump right in!



Lulu

This precious 15-year old Chihuahua is such a charmer, even the Grinch loves Christmas when she's around! Sweet Lulu, above, looks forward to the holidays each year so she can spread Christmas cheer. Though she is tiny, the happiness she brings is as huge as the winter moon.



Teddy

Talk about living your best life! Teddy, above, shows he knows how it's done as he enjoys the best seat in the house, toasty and warm by a crackling fire. Cute Teddy lives in Grosse Pointe Woods with BFF George Lapastoria. Such a relaxing and festive scene – it surely puts one in the mood for Christmas. Nice job, Teddy and George, for creating the perfect picture of holiday happiness.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Fisher

Gorgeous Fisher, above, is a 7-month old Golden Retriever pup. He's decked out in his favorite jersey because he wants only ONE thing for Christmas this year – a Detroit Lions Super Bowl win! He's certainly not alone – so we are hoping Santa hears all the wishes being sent to the North Pole and makes this dream come true. Cute Fisher is the best buddy of Ryan Hurd of Grosse Pointe Woods. We think Fisher's dad might have the same Christmas wish and hope they **both** get what they are asking for.

Molly

Pretty Molly, right, must be dreaming of sugarplums and doggie treats as she slumbers, preparing to celebrate. Little Molly belongs to Michael Burton of St. Clair Shores.

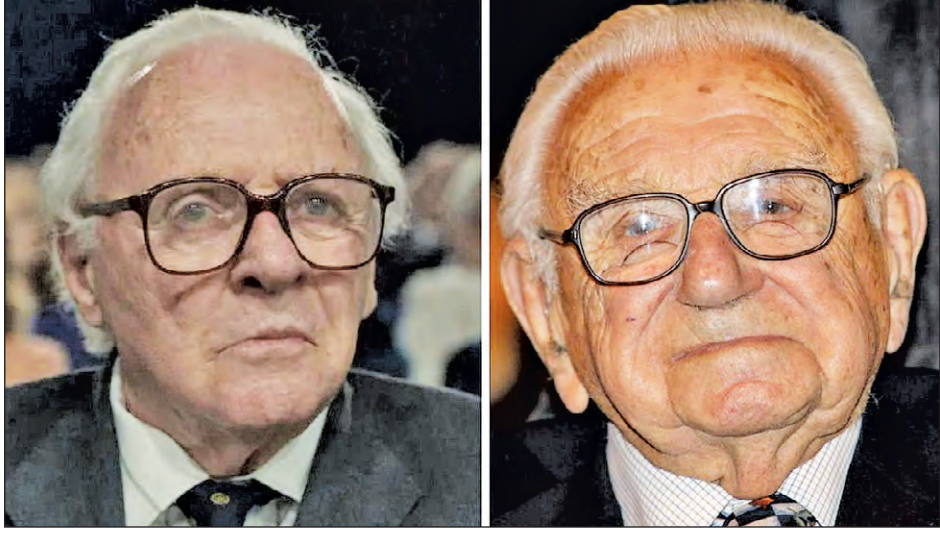


8C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEE-SAW FILMS, MBK PRODUCTIONS AND BBC FILM

Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton as played by Sir Anthony Hopkins, poring over his records in the 2024 movie "One Life," directed by James Hawes.



Sir Anthony Hopkins and the real Sir Nicholas Winton.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "One Life"
 2023 - Rated PG
 1 hr 49 min
 ★★★★★

I made an observation a few weeks back in this column regarding how many stories about acts of heroism during World War II keep surfacing, even after all these years.

Well, you can add this tale to the list of poignant and inspiring ones. It recounts the life and remarkable deeds of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a London stock broker who managed to rescue over 600 children in the months leading up to the start of the war. He's been dubbed the "British Schindler" which I think

is a fairly apt moniker. "One Life" is the directorial debut of James Hawes, best known for the fine TV series "Slow Horses." It was written by Lucinda Coxon and Nick Drake and is based on the book by Winton's daughter Barbara Winton. The film takes place in two different time periods, jumping back and forth between the late 1930s and the



Young Nicky (Johnny Flynn) at the train station.



Doreen (Romola Garai) registering the refugees.



Movie Poster.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



1980s. Hawes uses the technique quite effectively to recount the story. The role of Winton is played by Sir Anthony Hopkins in the 80s, and by Johnny Flynn in the earlier time period.

We first meet the elderly Winton, a well-off stockbroker at his lavish home. His wife Greta (Lena Olin) has encouraged him to clear his study of some of the clutter — he's a massive packrat, so it's a daunting task. While cleaning, he comes across numerous documents from the past and that sets him down the path of ruminating on his pre-war deeds. Then we learn of his remarkable accomplishments.

In the years leading up to WWII, Hitler had seized the Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia. European leaders thought that would be the end of his land grab, and that it would appease the dictator. Winton correctly saw the writing on the wall and wanted to do something about it. At this time, locals were interested in getting dissidents out of the country. However, Winton was more concerned with the plight of the Jewish children of Prague. He witnessed first hand thousands of young kids living in dire conditions. While there was the Kindertransport program, which focused on children from Germany and Austria, nothing was being done about the Czech youths.

Winton faced a number of obstacles. The first was convincing the local Jewish elders that he was sincere in his intentions. Although he was of Jewish heritage, his family was now Christian, which made them a bit suspicious. The second was getting approval from British authorities, and raising the funds for Brits to adopt the children. With the aid of his mother, played by Helena Bonham Carter, he took the establishment on and raised awareness and the necessary funds to transport the children to safety.

Jump ahead to the 1980s. At the prodding of an old friend Martin (Jonathan Pryce), he goes to the local paper with the idea of running an article about his pre-war exploits. He does this not so much as an ego thing, but he felt it was a story that needed to be told. A reporter rejects the story idea because as he states, "there's no local angle," whatever that's supposed to mean. He's finally put in touch with Elizabeth "Betty" Maxwell (Marthe Keller), a Holocaust researcher and the wife of media magnate Robert Maxwell. She's so taken by his account, she promises to get him and his story the recognition they deserve.

Eventually he's featured on a popular BBC television program, "That's Life!" And it leads to an unexpected and quite emotional ending to the movie

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

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While all the actors turn in solid performances, it's really Sir Anthony who shines in the film. He's a riveting presence whenever he's on screen. You can sense his pain — he feels that even though he helped rescue over 600 children from certain death, he thought he could have done more. It's a role and a film you won't soon forget. And it's remarkable people like Winton who restore your faith in humanity.

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy. Also on Paramount+, and to rent on Apple TV, Fandango, Amazon, and other 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.



The children get ready to depart.



Babi (Bonham Carter) with her son Nicky (Johnny Flynn).



Nicky is honored on the show "That's Life!"

FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

Bogart's is available to rent for private events, aside from hosting local

teams and other types of parties. If you are interested in reserving a space or renting for a private event, call them directly or contact them via social media. Find them on

Instagram at @bogartz-foodanspirits, on Facebook at Bogart's and online at bogartzdetroit.com

"Food. Fun. Friends. Drafts. Laughs. Spirits." That's their motto, and they're sticking to it. Bogart's is open 3 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday.

Fun Fact: Jason's family has been in business in the area for 93 years, come 2025.

"My great-grandfather started the auto shop which led to the restaurant in 1932," he said.

We love a good family story here at Food Gossip! Happy holidays and cheers to a prosperous New Year to you all!



Onion ring tower.



Steak fries.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or major decisions from 9 p.m. to 11:55 p.m. PST today. After that, the Moon moves from Leo into Virgo.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 19, 2024: You're imaginative and observant. To others, you act quiet and easygoing, but you're a determined, immovable force! This has been a fun-loving year; however, 2025 will be a time of creating solid foundations in your life, both externally and internally. It's time to get grounded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This is a fabulous day to schmooze with friends and enjoy the company of others! Your interactions with clubs, groups and associations will also be successful. Make plans to have fun with your main squeeze. It's also a great time to enjoy movies, the theater, sports events and activities with children. Tonight: Socialize!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You make a wonderful impression on everyone today, especially bosses, parents and VIPs! People see you as attractive, appealing and successful. It's a small wonder that you might have a romantic, fun-loving evening! Meanwhile, finances look great. Tonight: Relax and entertain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Enjoy conversations with partners, close friends and members of the public today. People are friendly! Everybody wants to share ideas and talk to others. New acquaintances and, certainly, new romance could begin this evening. Meanwhile, travel for pleasure will delight you! Tonight: Expressions of affection.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
This will be a pleasant day at work. Interactions with clients, customers and work colleagues will be positive, warmhearted and friendly. Discussions about shared property, loans and mortgages will benefit you. Meanwhile, romance is sexy! It's a great date night! Tonight: Check your money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Get out the glitter, because it's time to go dancing! This could be one of the most romantic, amorous nights of the year! It's the perfect time for a vacation, the theater, entertaining diversions, sports and fun with children. Make an effort to socialize with someone. Tonight: You win!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You will enjoy socializing with others in a friendly, low-key way today. Perhaps you want to keep things on a one-on-one basis. You might entertain one or two people at home. Or you might simply enjoy your own company. Look for opportunities to be friendly! Tonight: Happy solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Don't sit at home getting dusty today or tonight. You are a social creature, and this is the perfect evening to make plans for a romantic dinner, a movie, a play, sports events or, better yet, a mini holiday! That's because this is a marvelous, sociable day for you! Romance will flourish! Tonight: Cozy friendships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
This is an excellent day for financial negotiations, especially with important people — bosses, supervisors and VIPs. It's also a wonderful day to entertain at home. Enjoy romance

and the company of others. Tonight: You're adored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is a fabulous day! The Sun is in your sign dancing beautifully with the Moon in your fellow Fire sign. Meanwhile, fair Venus is in your House of Communications smiling at Jupiter, which makes all your interactions with others upbeat, heartfelt and uplifting. Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Although you prefer your privacy now -- which is why you might take a backseat to whatever is going on around you — this is an affectionate, warm, sociable day! On top of that, you might see ways to boost your income! Whatever you do today will be a win-win. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is full of harmony in all your relationships. You will encounter abundance and generosity wherever you go. Opportunities for inner growth and appreciation exist and you will enjoy socializing with others. Romantic relationships will be affectionate and even dazzling! Tonight: Be friendly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
This is a wonderful day to engage in any kind of socializing with others. Whatever happens will probably promote your appreciation of the arts and yourself. You might receive gifts or favors from others, especially bosses and people in authority. This is a fortunate day for you! Tonight: Get organized.

BORN TODAY
Actor Jake Gyllenhaal (1980), actress Alyssa Milano (1972), TV host Richard Hammond (1969).

Find 8 Hidden Objects In The Picture



Find 10 Hidden Objects In The Picture



Contract Bridge

FAR FROM HOPELESS

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 9 8 7 5 3
♥ 10 4
♦ Q J
♣ A 6 2

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

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Whenever declarer finds himself in what appears to be a hopeless contract, he should try to visualize some lie of the opposing cards that might allow the contract to be made.

Sometimes the possibility might be extremely remote, but if it offers the only chance, declarer should plan his play on that basis. To do otherwise would amount to giving up.

Consider this deal where it seems that South must lose two club tricks at six spades and go down one. However, South has an excellent chance for the slam if he plays his cards correctly. West's two-club overcall should guide him to the winning method of play.

Declarer ruffs the diamond lead and cashes the ace of trump. When both opponents follow suit, South knows that East started with a singleton spade and, in view of West's two-club bid, with either one club or none.

It follows that East must have lots of hearts and diamonds — and, more especially, that East almost certainly has more hearts than West. If this probability pans out, the slam is ice-cold.

So, South cashes the A-K of hearts and ruffs a heart, then cashes dummy's ace of clubs and ruffs the queen of diamonds.

The stage is now set for the key play. South leads the eight of hearts and, when West shows out, discards a club from dummy! East wins with the queen and is forced to return a diamond. This allows declarer to ruff in his hand as he discards dummy's last club, and the slam comes rolling home.

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by Steve Becker

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



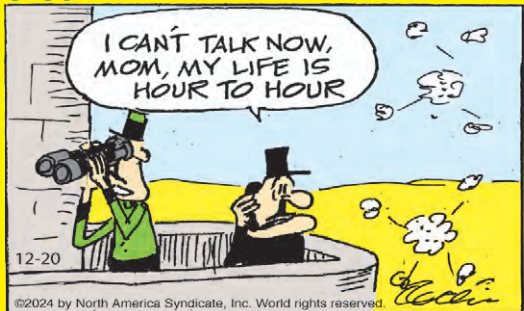
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



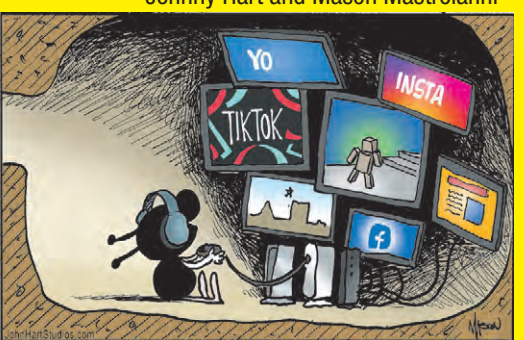
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



"I'LL BE THANKFUL FOR WHATEVER YOU GIVE ME... EVEN IF I DON'T LIKE IT."

The Lockhorns

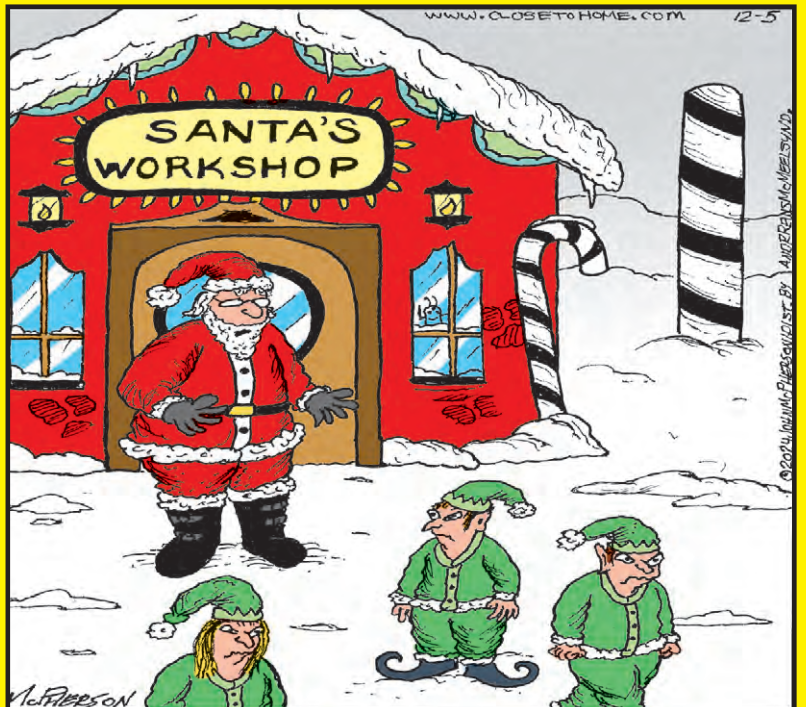
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"WE DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS... THEY'RE STILL UP FROM LAST YEAR."

Close To Home

John McPherson



"I'm sorry I have to let you go. It's just that little girls don't want toys anymore. They want tickets to see Taylor Swift."

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Marmaduke wants to check the trees for squirrels before we go in."

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Kid Scoop Together

Christmas Trees

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition over four centuries ago. Christians in Germany brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce.

Race a family member to the Christmas tree!



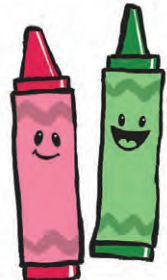
Christmas Around the World

Nearly everyone celebrates some sort of holiday in the winter. For many people, it's **Christmas**. Let's take a trip to celebrate with kids around the globe!

Frohe Weihnachten

Merry Christmas from Germany

The advent calendar is long part of the German tradition to help children countdown the days until Christmas Eve. The calendar has 24 doors with little surprises inside and starts December 1. Each day, children open a calendar door until Christmas Eve arrives.



Color one space on the advent calendar below every day through Christmas Eve!

1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6
7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12
13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18
19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24

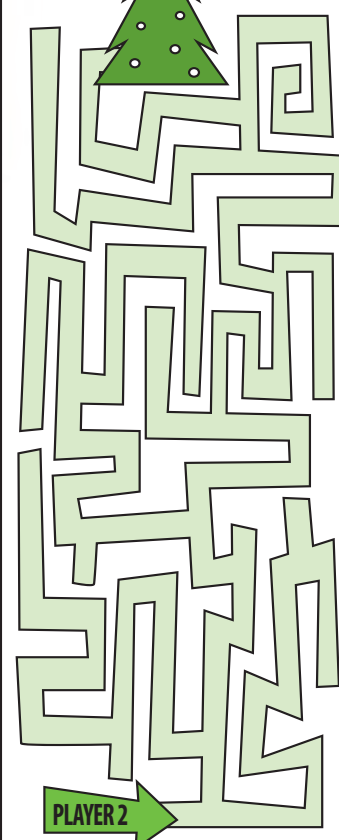
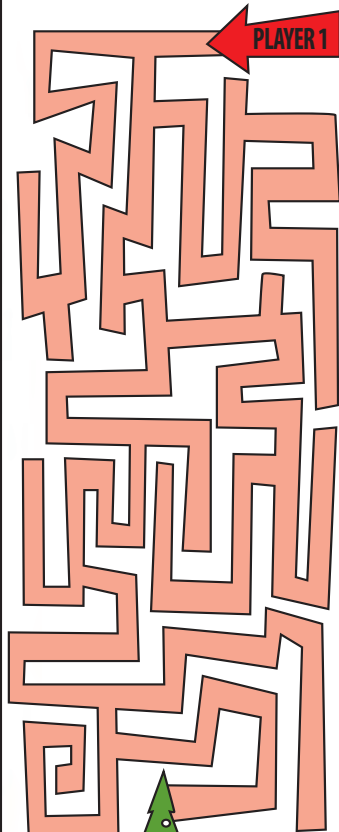
Joyeux Noël

Merry Christmas from France

In France, some families find a large log to burn. They call it the **Yule Log** and light it on Christmas Eve using a piece of unburned log from the year before. Some save the ashes from the Yule Log, believing these ashes can ward off sickness and other misfortunes.

Today, instead of burning a Yule Log, many French people make and eat a beautiful chocolate cake in the shape of a log.

Can you find your way through the Yule Log maze?



God Jul

Merry Christmas from Sweden

On December 13th, the eldest daughter plays the role of St. Lucia and serves coffee and sweet rolls to the family. She wears a lighted holly wreath on her head and sings carols.



Feliz Navidad

Merry Christmas from Mexico

On Christmas Eve, children celebrate with a **piñata**. The children are blindfolded and take turns trying to break it with a stick. When it breaks open, there are lots of goodies for everyone!



Can you find the piñata that's different than the others?

Extra! Extra!

Gifts from the Heart

Can you find examples in your local newspaper of gifts people can give that don't cost money?

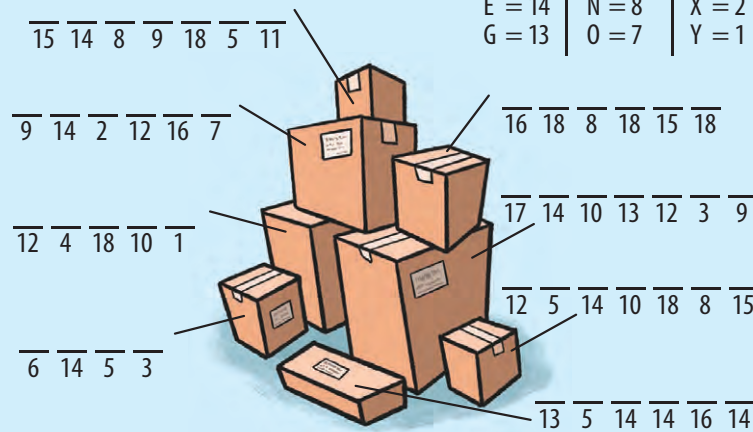
Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Standards Link: Social Studies: Learn traditions of other cultures.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Where in the world are these packages being shipped? Use the code to find out!

A = 18	I = 12	P = 6
B = 17	K = 11	R = 5
C = 16	L = 10	T = 4
D = 15	M = 9	U = 3
E = 14	N = 8	X = 2
G = 13	O = 7	Y = 1



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- CAKE
- CALENDAR
- DOOR
- EVE
- FAMILY
- HOLLY
- LOG
- PINATA
- ROLE
- SAVE
- STICK
- SWEDEN
- SWEET
- TRIP
- YULE

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

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kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ROLE**

The noun **role** means a character played by an actor.

Steven played the **role** of Ebenezer Scrooge in the school play.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Explore the World

Look through the newspaper to find examples of foods, products, words, names, etc., that show a connection between our community and the rest of the world. Clip the items and attach them to the correct region on a map.

Standards Link: Compare everyday life in different places.



Write On!

My Family Tradition

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Knights girls hockey victorious in annual Holiday Tournament

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last weekend, the University Liggett School varsity girls hockey team hosted its annual Holiday Tournament. The weekend's matchups featured all of the teams from the Pointes, including Liggett, Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North, along with Regina. After two days of action on the ice, the Knights ended up champions of their home tournament after a thrilling victory in the finals over South.

"A lot of the girls proved something to themselves and proved what we knew in that they were capable of doing something like that, so it was refreshing," Liggett girls hockey head coach Casey LaFrance said about the team's victory in the tournament.

The first game of the weekend Friday, Dec. 13, saw Liggett taking on Regina, with the Knights winning 4-0. Avery Welsh opened the scoring in the first period with her first of two goals on the night. Aline Rahaim extended Liggett's lead to 2-0 in



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

The University Liggett School varsity girls hockey team celebrates with the championship trophy from its home Holiday Tournament, defeating Grosse Pointe South 3-2 in a shootout on Saturday, Dec. 14.

the second period, with Sophia Secco and Welsh adding a couple of more goals to the Knights' total in the third period to finish the win.

Last Friday night's second game featured a

crosstown rivalry matchup between North and South. The Blue Devils dominated the game, coming away with an 8-0 victory over the Norsemen.

Molly Reynolds, Sophia Husek

and Bella Peruski all scored twice for South in the win. Ruby Lenhard and Charlie Harr added the other goals for South.

North went on to face Regina Saturday, Dec. 14, earning a 6-1 win.

Josie Cueter led the way with four goals for the Norsemen, while Leah Burney and Paige Martin found the back of the net as well.

The weekend's finale lived up to the hype of

what fans have come to expect in a matchup between Liggett and South. The rivals faced off in the tournament final last Saturday night, with the Knights taking the win 3-2 in a game that went down to a shootout.

South jumped out to the lead in the first period as Molly Reynolds and Audrey Reynolds scored for the Blue Devils to give them a 2-0 lead after the first frame. The 2-0 score remained through the second period. It was not until the third period that Maggie Weiss and Miranda Alcalá helped tie the game for the Knights. Stella Smiatacz scored the game-winning goal for Liggett in the shootout.

A huge part of the win last Saturday for the Knights was earned in net. Junior goalie Madeline Hexter made 40 saves in the victory, one of her most impressive performances of the season so far, proving why the Knights have confidence in her as a leader in net.

"She's reinforced the

See HOCKEY, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Liggett's Short embracing being a leader in multiple sports

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Kerith Short loves to compete. The University Liggett School senior is a jack of all trades when it comes to sports, excelling in practically anything she tries, whether it is field hockey, cross country, basketball or soccer.

Everything she does is an opportunity to show off her athleticism, as well as a chance for her to learn more about not only the sport, but also the teammates and classmates who surround her.

"All of them, field hockey, cross country, soccer and basketball, they're all different," Short said. "You have to learn to work as a team differently. It takes different perspectives from people to work together and find out what the goal is for that sport and how we're going to get there."



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Kerith Short
School: University Liggett
Sport: Basketball, field hockey, soccer
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

Short currently is playing through her senior season on the University Liggett varsity girls basketball team, averaging 16 points per game so far. Once basketball season is over, she will hit the field in the spring with Liggett's varsity girls soccer team. When she is not with the Knights, she plays soc-

cer year-round for her club team Liverpool FC, which she won the USL

Short and Strong

- Senior captain and academic All-Catholic for ULS varsity field hockey
- Member of ULS varsity field hockey, basketball and soccer teams
- Averaging 16 PPG with Liggett varsity girls basketball this season

Youth National Finals with on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

In the fall, she was a senior captain of Liggett's varsity field hockey team.

While every sport is different and requires different skills and thinking, there are ways in which they blend for an athlete like Short. One example is something she can see in herself now, through just the first few games of the basketball season.

"Being a soccer player, I'm a little aggressive when I play basketball,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGGETT ATHLETICS
Kerith Short

Short said. "... There are only five people out there, so you have to give every single second that you're out there and push yourself. ... It takes the team coming together to do that." Before she picked up field hockey last season as a junior, Short was part of Liggett's varsity cross-country team during the

fall. However, she decided to switch and challenge herself with something new, becoming one of the team's top defenders in the process and working her way up to being a captain. "I enjoy team sports more and it was kind of hard at Liggett because we didn't have as many people (for cross country)," Short said. "It was hard because I've always loved cross country and having to leave that

See ATHLETE, page 2D



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2D | SPORTS

South boys hoops wins low-scoring battle with Fitzgerald

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys basketball team always enjoys a challenge, especially early in the season. So far, the Blue Devils have been standing up to those challenges well.

The team earned its fifth win in its first six games on Thursday, Dec. 12, in a close 39-37 victory at home over Warren Fitzgerald.

Last Thursday's game was close from beginning to end, with defense being the main theme despite both teams averaging over 50 points per game so far this season. However, it took time for either side to establish a rhythm on offense, with the score at the end of the first quarter being just 12-9 in favor of Fitzgerald.

Strong defense continued in the second quarter with the Blue

Devils only allowing the Spartans to score six points in the eight minutes before halftime. That was when South took some advantage, winning the quarter and taking a narrow 19-18 lead into the halftime break.

Coming out of halftime, South maintained a narrow lead in the close battle. The Blue Devils had their best quarter of scoring in the third quarter, extending their lead to five at 31-26 going into the final frame.

Throughout the night, it seemed like this would be a game that came down to the wire and it certainly did. South had the lead through much of the fourth quarter, but Fitzgerald was able to stay on the Blue Devils' heels and eventually took a two-point lead with just over a minute to play.

Looking for a big shot,

sophomore guard Kooper Richards ended up being the hero for South. Richards drained a three-pointer from the corner with 50 seconds remaining to put the Blue Devils back in front 38-37. South's defense then came up clutch when it mattered most, with a steal by James Michelotti playing a big part in the closing seconds to help South come away with the close win.

Richards led South in scoring with 14 points in the victory. Fellow sophomore Nolan Gross tallied seven points as well.

South takes its home court again Thursday, Dec. 19, hosting cross-town rival Grosse Pointe North at 7 p.m. After a break for the holiday, the Blue Devils take on Bloomfield Hills in the annual Roundball Classic at Ferndale High School on Friday, Dec. 27.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Kooper Richards had 14 points, including the game-winning shot, in the team's win over Warren Fitzgerald on Thursday, Dec. 12.



Senior guard Vince Vachon holds the ball at the top of the key looking to make a play for the Blue Devils.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

this year, because I just did field hockey for my senior year, I had to focus and be a captain for the team this year."

Being a captain and leader is a position Short is finding herself in a lot this year. Right now, she is one of only two seniors on the roster for Liggett varsity girls basketball.

The team has plenty of youth with three freshmen and three sophomores. That leaves Short as one of the few veterans on the team who can be a mentor for the next wave of Knights. It is providing her with an experience she feels her entire high school career has been leading up to.

"Being a leader and going through and seeing other leaders in each sport before me helped me grow into that position now," she said. "... I just think about, 'How do I take and grow the community out of the people that I'm surrounded by and build people up?' ... I really like being able to see that as a leader

and that's what I think is the most important."

The opportunities Short has to be a leader this year are what she thinks will shape her legacy as a Knight. Wins on the field or court are great and she has experienced plenty of that. In basketball alone, she has been a three-time district champion throughout her career.

The wins are only part of it. Short wants her legacy with Liggett to be about the people who have helped her and the ones she has led along the way. Her goal this year is to represent herself and her school the

best she can in every contest; that is what will make her senior year memorable.

"The head of school, he talked to us at the beginning of the year and said, 'When you go

'Being a leader and going through and seeing other leaders in each sport before me helped me grow into that position now.'

through your daily life, do you represent yourself well, do you represent your school well and do you represent your family well?'" Short said. "That stuck with me for my senior year. It's been a very important goal for me to represent my school and represent my friends and have sportsmanship and go out there and give it my all."

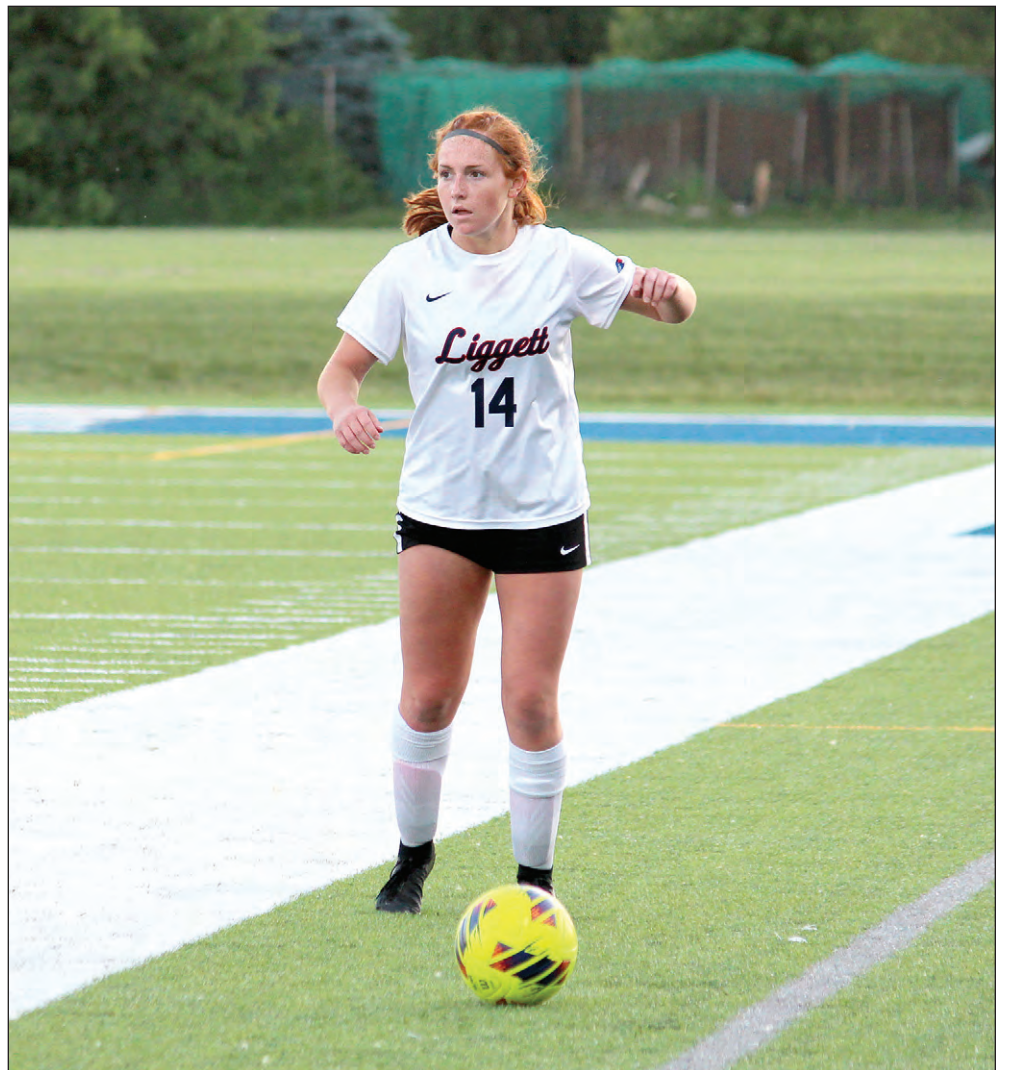


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

While she excels in multiple sports, soccer has always been one of Short's biggest passions, playing for the University Liggett varsity girls soccer team in the spring and playing year-round with her club team, Liverpool FC Michigan.

Grosse Pointe News




Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?
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Grosse Pointe News

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Client review; Zillow- 11/2024

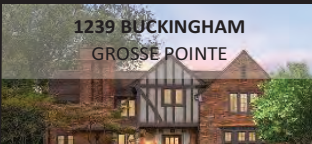
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Thomas helps lead Tar Heels to women's soccer national title

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Dec. 9 was a day for which Olivia Thomas and her University of North Carolina women's soccer teammates had been waiting a lifetime. That was the day the Tar Heels defeated in-state rival Wake Forest 1-0 in the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer National Championship game, with the game-winning goal scored by the Grosse Pointe native and University Liggett School alumna.

"It's still so unreal," Thomas said. "I was just overwhelmed with joy. It was a really cool experience to play in a stadium like that packed with fans because you don't really see that in women's soccer a lot. It's something I'll definitely remember."

The entire season will certainly be one Thomas remembers for a long time. It brought adversity for her and her entire team but also saw perseverance as it brought the Tar Heels back to the pinnacle of women's soccer.

Thomas, a sophomore, played a huge part in that. Despite



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA TU

University Liggett School alumni Olivia Thomas holds the NCAA Division I National Championship trophy surrounded by her University of North Carolina women's soccer teammates. Thomas scored the game-winning goal for the Tar Heels in a 1-0 win over Wake Forest in the national final on Monday, Dec. 9.

missing portions of the season due to continued issues with a hamstring injury that occurred her freshman season, Thomas still finished this season with nine goals in 19 games, including four in the NCAA Tournament. It was the last goal, which came during a free kick with just over 28 minutes left in the national

championship, that was the biggest.

"It just came down to the fact that I drew a foul and was able to take advantage of it," Thomas said. "... In those moments, I'm really in a flow state. I wasn't nervous stepping up to the ball. A lot of people probably think it's overwhelming, especially in that environ-

ment. It all faded out in the moment. I set the ball up, spoke to my teammate, stepped back, and just went for it."

The championship was the 23rd for North Carolina women's soccer and the program's first since 2012. It also was won with an interim head coach, as Damon Nahas was tasked with taking over the program after legendary coach Anson Dorrance announced his retirement in August, just days before the beginning of the regular season.

Normally, those would seem like circumstances that might lead to a down season and in the current state of college sports, players deciding to leave the program. However, Thomas and her teammates stuck together and rallied around their new coach to end the team's title drought.

"My teammates who I've spoken to, we're like, 'Wow, I can't believe we actually did it,'" Thomas said, "especially after 12 years. They called it the 12-year drought. ... The season was definitely not the season that people expected for this to

happen. We lost more than half of our team. We had more new players than returning players. Our head coach retired. We had a lot of odds against us and people talking about the program, saying it was the end of Carolina soccer and the dynasty was falling."

Nahas, who served as interim head coach this season, was announced as North Carolina's full-time head coach on Monday, Dec. 16, a week after winning the national title. He has been part of the Tar Heels' coaching staff for nearly a decade and already had the support of Thomas and everyone on the team the moment he took over.

"On our team, there was nobody who contemplated leaving after head coach Anson (Dorrance) retired because we were all so bought-in to Damon (Nahas)," Thomas said. "... This was genuinely a team where the players and the coach were on the same page. ... This was a year where it was all the coaches and the staff — everyone was involved. That's what differentiates us from other years. Every person bought in to the

idea that we could win this."

As Thomas heads into the offseason, her main focus is on completely healing her body ahead of training in the spring and next fall season; however, 2024 will always be special because of the moments she shared with her North Carolina teammates and coaches. It will be etched into the legacy of an already legendary soccer program.

It all became possible for Thomas because of what she learned before getting to Carolina. Thomas remembers lessons from her coaches at the Michigan Hawks Soccer Club and coach David Dwaihy from University Liggett that helped make her the kind of player capable of being a key piece on a championship team.

"(Coach Dwaihy) brought a different perspective to soccer for me," she said. "Playing at Liggett was a lot of fun. Playing club was fun, but was a lot more competitive. Liggett was pure joy and pure fun. It reminded me of why I started playing at the beginning of my career. It really helped me bring back my love of the game."



Thomas finished her sophomore season at North Carolina scoring nine goals in 19 games. Four of her goals were scored during the team's run through the NCAA Tournament including her game-winning goal in the National Championship Game.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program Sanitary Sewer System Improvements

The City of Harper Woods will hold a public comment period and a public meeting on the proposed Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Program for the purpose of receiving comments from interested persons.

The public meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2025 at 7:00pm, during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting in the City Council chambers, located at Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225.

The purpose of the proposed project is to rehabilitate certain locations within the sanitary sewer system that were identified to be in poor structural condition based upon a recent sewer cleaning and television investigation program. Structural defects identified include cracked or broken pipe, offset pipe joints and interior surface deterioration. Rehabilitation will include sectional removal and replacement of defective sewers and installation of cured-in-place pipe liners. The estimated cost to users for the proposed project is expected to be approximately 5 million dollars utilizing a low-interest loan over a 20-year period.

Copies of the plan detailing the proposed project will be available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office, in the Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225. The plan will be available beginning Thursday, December 19, 2024 and will be available through January 22, 2025.

Written comments regarding the draft project plan will receive a written response in the final project plan. Written comments should be sent to the city's consulting engineer preparing the final project plan. Direct written comments to Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, ATTN: R. Ryan Kern, Project Manager, 51301 Schoenherr Road, Shelby Township, Michigan 48315 or by e-mail at rkern@aeawinc.com.

Published: GPN, December 19, 2024

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2024

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindie 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 November 18, 2024 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Beautification Commission meeting held on August 26, 2024, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meeting held on November 20, 2024 and the Planning Commission meeting held on November 20, 2024.
- 2) to approve the changes to the City Council meeting dates as listed for 2025 as follows: January 20 to January 22, 2025 for the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; February 17 to February 19, 2025 for the observance of President's Day and September 1 to September 3, 2025 in observance of Labor Day, and further that the City will meet on June 9, July 14 and August 11, 2025, the second Mondays only of the summer months.
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 131340 through 131435 in the amount of \$510,592.72 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 McKenna Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$5,446.57 for the professional services provided with the update to the Zoning Ordinance and on site plan reviews. (3) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$7,604.78 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of adapters and cables. (4) approve payment to Uni-Dig, Inc. in the amount of \$16,920.00 for leaf disposal in conjunction with the curbside leaf pickup program. (5) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$16,900.00 for the removal of dead trees, which includes trimming, chipping and disposal of debris. (6) approve payments to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$12,987.00 for assistance with election set up, leaf pickup, lawn restorations and fall maintenance in various areas of the City. (7) approve payment to the State of Michigan - EGLE in the amount of \$5,658.03 for the city's annual water supply fee. (8) approve the request to have the fire department heating unit repaired in the amount of \$5,960.00 by K & S Ventures.

Valerie Kindie, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, December 19, 2024

4D | SPORTS

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:

SOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball went on the road last Wednesday, Dec. 11, with a thrilling 46-44 win over Port Huron Northern. Senior Maddy Benard won the game in the final seconds, hitting a three-pointer with three seconds left on the clock, changing a one-point deficit to a two-point lead for the Blue Devils to win. Benard had 15 points in the win and so did fellow senior Morgan Duff. Sophomore Ciara Pongratz scored nine points.

Benard went on to score 28 points in South's next game, a 47-40 loss on Saturday, Dec. 14, to St. Mary's of Lancaster from New York in the Best of Michigan Showcase at Belleville High School. South is back in action again on Thursday, Dec. 19, facing Fraser on the road at 4 p.m.



Maddy Benard

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

BOYS HOCKEY

University Liggett School varsity boys hockey traveled to Jackson on Saturday, Dec. 14, to face off against Jackson Lumen Christi. The Knights

were able to secure their fifth win of the season so far, defeating the Titans 5-1. Griffin Marchal scored twice, while Alex Gould, Nick Gould and Blake Shock all found the back of the net as well. Liggett is back on the ice at home on Friday, Dec. 20, taking on M-1 Unified at 7:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe North varsity boys hockey won dominantly on Saturday, Dec. 14, taking down New Boston United 9-1. Brandon Shock had a hat-trick in the win and Levi Olsey scored twice. Ben Clor, Evan Michalski, Johnny Cueter and Aidan Burney were the Norsemen's other goal-scorers in the team's third win of the season so far. North faces crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South on Friday, Dec. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at McCann Ice Arena.



NORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe North girls basketball took the floor twice last week, earning a win and a loss. The victory came on Friday, Dec. 13, when the Norsemen went on the road and beat Bishop Foley 42-27. North then traveled on the road again on Monday, Dec. 16, losing 44-37 to Port Huron Northern.

North goes on an extended break for the holidays and returns to action on Monday, Jan. 6, with a road game against Warren Cousino.



WRESTLING

Grosse Pointe South varsity wrestling went 2-0 in a matchup against Allen Park and Clawson on Wednesday, Dec. 11. Wyatt Hepner, Neil Honablu, Lex Willson, Matt Duso and Jeff Hermann all went undefeated on the day, winning two matches each. The Blue Devils hosted Grosse Pointe North in the Battle of the Pointes on Wednesday, Dec. 18, after press time. Come back to the Grosse Pointe News next week for full coverage of the annual rivalry match.



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100 ANNOUNCEMENTS


 In observance of **CHRISTMAS 2024** the office is closed **MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY** December 23, 24, 25 Grosse Pointe News **CLASSIFIED DEADLINE** **Friday 1PM** **December 20** For **December 26** Issue

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6D | SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

Grosse Pointe South alumni and University of Michigan football defensive back Will Johnson announced he is entering his name in the 2025 NFL Draft.

Former Blue Devil Johnson declares for NFL Draft

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Fans who remember watching Will Johnson suit up for Grosse Pointe South a few short years ago should get ready to watch the former Blue Devil play Sundays in the National Football League. Wednesday, Dec. 11, the University of Michigan defensive back and South alumnus officially announced he has declared for the NFL Draft.

"To my coaches — thank you, Coach Harbaugh, for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to play at Michigan," Johnson said in a statement on social media. "... Thank you to SMSB and all my high school coaches and youth coaches that

helped me get to this point. It's been a dream come true."

Johnson is widely regarded as one of the best defensive players and overall athletes in the 2025 NFL Draft. He is projected to be selected in the first round, with many outlets predicting he will be chosen within the top 10.

In his three seasons with the Wolverines, Johnson had an accomplished collegiate career. He was a first-team All-American in 2023, and a two-time All-Big Ten selection. Johnson also was named Defensive Most Valuable Player of the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship Game when the Wolverines defeated the University of Washington to win

the program's first national championship since 1997.

Johnson finished his career at Michigan with nine interceptions. Three of his interceptions he returned for touchdowns, making him the Wolverines' all-time leader in that category. Two of those interceptions returned for touchdowns occurred this season, one against Fresno State on Aug. 31, and the other against the University of Southern California on Sept. 21. Johnson played in only five games for the Wolverines this year, making his last appearance against Washington on Oct. 5, before being sidelined due to injury.

The 2025 NFL Draft begins Thursday, April 24, in Green Bay, Wis.

HOCKEY:

Continued from page 1D

confidence that we've had and proven to herself that she's able to do it," LaFrance said. "... It's great that she's able to rise to the occasion and battle when it's necessary."

The Knights hosted Walled Lake Tuesday, Dec. 17, after press time, and are in action again Thursday, Dec. 19, hosting Livonia United at McCann Ice Arena at 6:30 p.m.

Following the team's first loss of the season, South took the ice again Wednesday, Dec. 18, after press time, against Orchard Lake St. Mary's. The Blue Devils then go on a long holiday break before their next game,

'She's reinforced the confidence that we've had and proven to herself that she's able to do it'

CASEY LAFRANCE,
LIGGETT GIRLS HOCKEY
HEAD COACH ON
JUNIOR GOALTENDER
MADELINE HEXTER

hosting St. Mary's Thursday, Jan. 9.

North went on the road to face Ann Arbor Pioneer after press time Wednesday, Dec. 18. The Norsemen also go on a holiday break and resume action Wednesday, Jan. 8, with a home matchup against Sacred Heart.

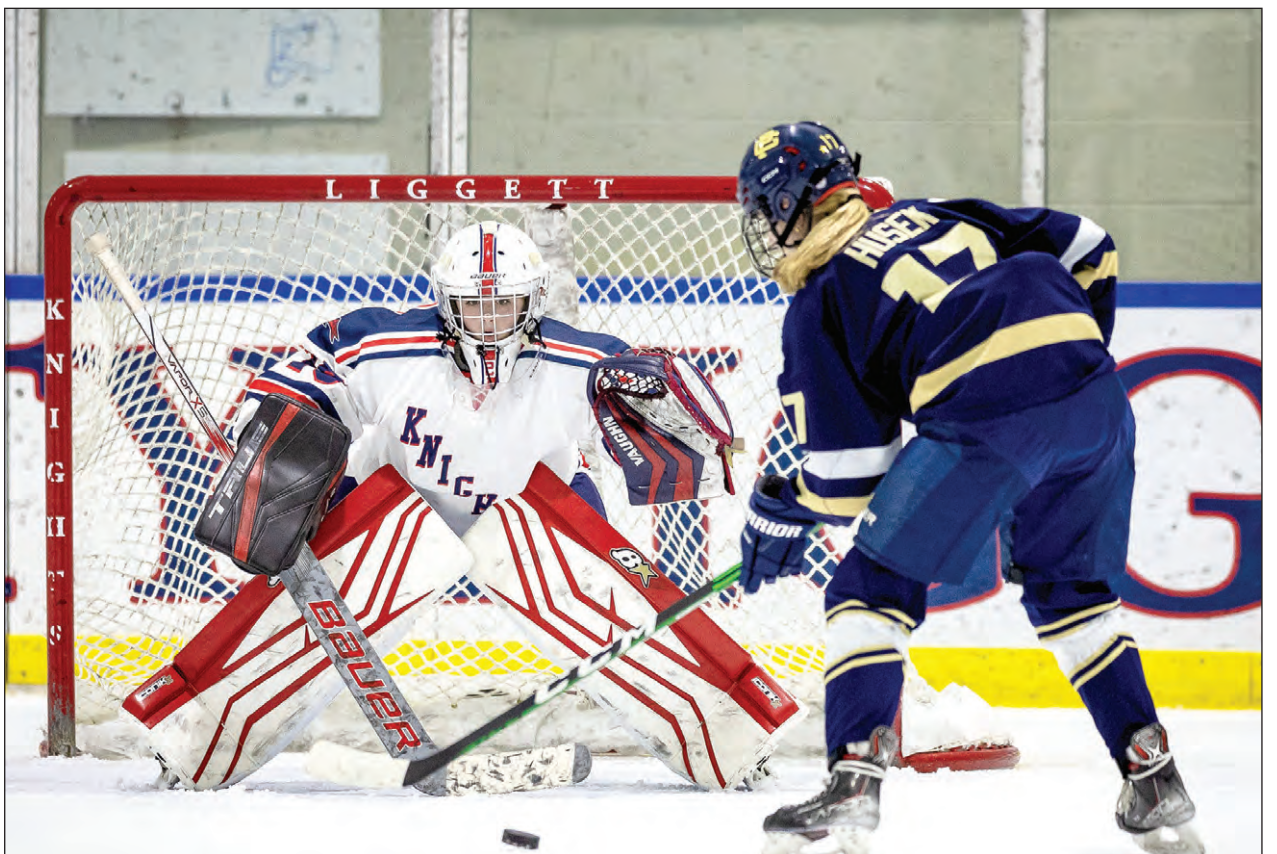


PHOTO BY LEON HALPI

Liggett goaltender Madeline Hexter prepares to make a save in net with South's Sophia Husek bearing down on the ice on a breakaway in the final game of Liggett's Holiday Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 14.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Technology Department
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

RFP-USF FORM 470/FY2025 – The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools will accept bids for fiber maintenance and network electronics for FY2025 of the Universal Services Fund (USF) E-rate Program. Specifications are available from the following web site: USAC.org. You may also obtain a copy of the RFP at the Technology Department 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236 or on USAC.org website. All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Garrett Kelley at kelleyg@gpschools.org. RFP's will be received in the Technology Department until **2:00 P.M. on January 24, 2025**. The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools reserves the right to reject or decline all bids.

Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Law

It is the policy of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, height, weight, disability, religion, or marital status in any of its programs, activities or employment.

Published: GPN, December 19, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 402

THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS HAS ENACTED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 199, IN ORDER TO REGULATE THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND USE OF OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS AND OTHER OUTDOOR SPORT COURTS WITHIN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS IN THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS.

A true copy of this ordinance, which is effective twenty days after enactment, may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk at Grosse Pointe Farms City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, except weekends and holidays.

Made and passed by the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, State of Michigan, this 9th day of December 2024.

Louis Theros, Mayor
Derrick Kozicki, City Clerk

Published: GPN: 12/19/24

City of **Grosse Pointe Park**, Michigan

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE The Planning Commission of the City of Grosse Pointe Park will Public notice is hereby given that a Municipal Ordinance creating licensing requirements for Short-Term Rentals has been adopted by the Grosse Pointe Park City Council on December 9, 2024. The Amended Municipal Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after the adoption of the Ordinance. Copies may be purchased or inspected/reviewed during regular business hours of regular business days at the City Clerk's offices located at 15115 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230. A summary of the proposed amendments are as follows:

Amendments to the Ordinance include: licensing requirements for Short-Term Rentals in the City. All Short-Term Rentals must apply for a Short-Term Rental License within 120 days, must provide a nuisance response plan, and must comply with the obligations of the Ordinance. Failure to abide by the terms of the Ordinance may result in penalty.

The full text of the City of Grosse Pointe Park Amended Ordinance is available for purchase or inspection/review at the Grosse Pointe Park City Clerk's office at 15115 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230, during regular business hours of regular business days. A complete copy of the Amended Ordinance is also posted on the City's website.

The Ordinance amendments shall take full force and effect upon publication. Documents pertaining to the adopted Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased at the offices of the Grosse Pointe Park City Clerk's Office, 15115 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230, at all times said offices are open for business. Anyone needing special accommodations should contact the clerk's office at least 2 business days in advance.

Bridgette Bowdler,
City Clerk

GPN: 12/19/24

City of **Grosse Pointe Park**, Michigan

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE The Planning Commission of the City of Grosse Pointe Park will Public notice is hereby given that a Zoning Ordinance Amendment has been adopted by the Grosse Pointe Park City Council on December 9, 2024. The Amended Zoning Ordinance will take effect seven (7) days after the publication of the instant notice. Copies may be purchased or inspected/reviewed during regular business hours of regular business days at the City Clerk's offices located at 15115 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230. A summary of the proposed amendments are as follows:

This is a wholesale amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance. It creates new zoning districts, new standards for development of those districts, and clear requirements for zoning.

The full text of the City of Grosse Pointe Park Amended Ordinance is available for purchase or inspection/review at the Grosse Pointe Park City Clerk's office at 15115 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230, during regular business hours of regular business days. A complete copy of the Amended Ordinance is also posted on the City's website.

The Ordinance amendments shall take full force and effect upon publication. Documents pertaining to the adopted Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased at the offices of the Grosse Pointe Park City Clerk's Office, 15115 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230, at all times said offices are open for business. Anyone needing special accommodations should contact the clerk's office at least 2 business days in advance.

Bridgette Bowdler,
City Clerk

GPN: 12/19/24