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VOL. 86, NO. 9, 32 PAGES
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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Fixing gazebo in stages

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Maintenance of the gazebo at Patterson Park is being limited temporarily to necessities.

The focus is on protecting the structure from the elements. Long-term repairs are on hold until planners determine the structure's role in the park system.

Recreation Director Chad Craig intends to seek funding from the city council next month for a contractor to replace the gazebo's wood lattice roof structure. Recent removal of overgrown vines from the roof revealed framing bars weakened by cracks and rot.

Council approval is needed because recreation commissioners, despite endorsing repairs, lack authority to

allocate the amount of money needed to contract the work.

The objective is to make the gazebo accessible for everything from an individual's pastoral sanctuary to the occasional wedding ceremony or private event for which the city would initiate a fee.

It is in contemplation of establishing a revenue stream that the gazebo may become an important part of the park system's proposed inaugural master plan.

Transforming the gazebo from a retreat into a profit center introduces the prospect of upgrading its electrical service and linking it by sidewalk or driveway to other areas of the park. Currently, when electricity is needed at the gazebo, a power cord is

See GAZEBO, page 2A



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

TJ Malbouef, a technician helping the Historic Surfaces restoration team, widens a crack in the library's ceiling in order to fill the open seam with plaster. It is common to make an open seam or crack larger in order to accept more plaster material as a fill, according to Tony Kartsonas with Historic Surfaces LLC. The more material, the better chance it has to remain stable.

Glimpses of history uncovered during Alger library restoration

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Restoration experts recently discovered an inscription from 1910 on the back of a water-damaged section of plaster molding affixed to the ceiling in the Alger House library at The War Memorial.

The inscription — “MLDG #4 Library Ceil Alger” — indicates its placement and likely means the intricate design was crafted off-site when the residence originally was constructed.

It also represents the latest bit of uncovered history as the caretakers of the estate continue a room-by-room extensive restoration project to return the Alger House as closely as possible to its original likeness in the early 1900s.

The team in early January began restoration of the library, which previously was determined to be the room in need of the most extensive work.

“That room's probably our most exciting one to have complete, because it's used a lot and it's that focal point when people come in and it's got a



PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS RESEARCH LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

The library in 1913, during the Alger's time in residence.

richness to it,” War Memorial CEO and President Maria Miller said. “Originally, it was used as more like a family room. That was their gathering area.”

Today, the library is used for cocktail hours, showers, piano concerts and meetings; though when it reopens to the public around the end of March, the intent will be a more reserved approach to the fre-

quency of its use.

The balance being sought is for the space to feel alive — not as a roped-off museum — while still taking pressure off the historic house.

“The original intent from the donor, Marion Alger herself, was to use the space and for people to enjoy it,” Miller noted, “so we opted not to redo the floors, for example. There's years of varnish

and covering, so they're pretty well protected. The floors are original, but to really strip all those down, it's just kind of pointless to get those down to what they would have (been) originally.”

Ongoing restoration efforts in the library encompass removal of burlap on the walls and repair of the plaster beneath, sourcing furni-

See ALGER, page 2A

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MONTHLY FEATURE SHOWCASING WHAT'S NEW AT LOCAL EATERIES

SEE INSIDE PAGE 9A

Freezing temps spark fire

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — You're in for a tough week when equipment designed to operate your restaurant's water system ignites a fire.

Red Crown Cantina, on Kercheval at the corner of Beaconsfield, remained closed through at least Tuesday, Feb. 25, due to a small fire one week earlier.

The fire, reported shortly after 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, was small by the standards of public safety officers cross-trained in fire-fighting, but big enough to force closing the restaurant for cleaning.

“We are incredibly grateful to the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety fire-fighters for arriving at the restaurant in time to prevent extensive dam-

See FIRE, page 3A

Week Ahead	3A
Opinion	6A
Schools	10A
Features	1B
Obituaries	6B
Sports	1D
Classified ads	4D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Matthew Michels

Home: Grosse Pointe Park

Strength in Motion: How One Trainer Turned Passion into Purpose

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ALGER:

Continued from page 1A

ture that matches what originally was in place — some from The War Memorial’s attic storage — and extensive detail work of the cracked and water-damaged ornate ceiling, restoring it to shades of blues, browns and golds.

Some of the rosettes wrapping around the edge of the ceiling, for example, had fallen off at some point in the room’s 75-year history and simply were glued back on, which explained why, to the restoration team, some are missing.

Cleaning the limestone fireplace, window treatments and replacing the cracked marble baseboards will wrap up the work.

“The baseboards were really, really damaged and they don’t know why,” Chief Operating Officer Nikki Charbonneau said. “They don’t know if it was par-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Considered the room in need of the most extensive work, the Alger House library restoration project should wrap up at the end of March.

tially when they drilled to put electrical outlets in the space. They wanted to try and salvage them, but they were too far gone, so we sourced a very, very similar marble. It’s quite remarkable how they matched it up.” A few portions of the room won’t be as they were in 1910.

Archival photos show there was no chandelier in the space originally; however, there is a need for lighting, so the current chandelier will be replaced with one more period-appropriate.

The team also has to replace the original electrical wiring, given the discovery that cloth wiring has been powering the room’s sconces all this time. Cloth-insulated wiring is common to homes built before 1960, but certainty isn’t up to code today.

Nor will there be a renaissance of the silk wall coverings which originally adorned the walls.

“That one’s a little outside of the budget,” Miller said.

Thursday, Feb. 27, from 7 to 8 p.m., Tony Kartsonas — whose company, Historic Surfaces LLC, is leading the restoration efforts — will offer a sneak peek of the Alger House library.

The free presentation, “Introduction of Historic House Painting and Decoration,” will cover the development of house painting as a craft, different techniques used in decorative finishes and how the major influences of interior decoration have been used in historic homes.

Once work in the library is complete — around the end of March, beginning of April — the gentleman who conducted the plaster work will host a workshop where attendees can practice gilding plaster rosettes as replicas of those on the library’s ceiling.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS RESEARCH LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

The library in 1913, during the Alger’s time in residence.

The Patriot Theater

The War Memorial’s Patriot Theater, closed since June 2021 due to extensive flooding, will return as a mixed-use destination for movies, plays and concerts.

The team currently is in the process of choosing a theater consultant and aims to send out requests for proposals by the end of March, with the hope to secure an architect in April or May. “If all goes well, I’d love to have a contractor selected by the end of this year,” CEO and President Maria Miller said. “This time next year maybe we can say we’ve got building plans.”



This inscription on the back of a piece of ornate ceiling molding is believed to be from 1910 when the room originally was constructed.

GAZEBO:

Continued from page 1A

strung from a pavilion across the lawn, according to Craig.

Accommodating wedding parties involves setting up and taking down chairs and tables in and around the gazebo, which, in its heretofore role as something of a hideaway, is ringed by grass.

“You’re going to have to think about building a path to it,” said newly appointed Recreation Commissioner Roger Basse, former manager of the Freedom Hill Amphitheater, during a Feb. 12 commission meeting.

“I’d also like to see running access to it off the boardwalk, potentially,” Commission Chairman Mike Hindelang said. “You might see with

the parks and recreation master plan more pathways to get to certain features throughout the park,” Craig said.

Commissioner Paul O’Donnell, also newly appointed and attending his first meeting, cautioned about scheduling events at the gazebo that might exceed onsite-parking capacity.

“It’s a big parking lot, but with pickleball and everything else, if you have a wedding with cars coming in, it can be a challenge,” O’Donnell said.

“That’s something we can take into account,” Craig said. “It’s a beautiful park. It’s my job to make sure people are out enjoying recreation and quality of life.”

Craig wants to canvas residents before going full speed on gazebo

rentals.

He said, “It would be nice to get a bit more community engagement, (to see) if people want to turn (it) into an item that gets rented more or something that is available at all times for family access. I hate to nickel and dime every item we have and charge for something.”

He also wants advice from residents and groups such as the city’s beautification commission about options to repair the gazebo’s cracked cement steps, plus missing and broken Pewabic tiles.

“I don’t want to go all-in and completely change the look and feel of what it was,” Craig said. “I also know it needs some updates and changes.”

“Changes can be made to ensure it continues without changing the design completely,” Commissioner Patrick Gleason said.

Next month Craig intends to ask council members to approve a \$19,170 allocation for roof repairs.

“I am working with what I have in the budget to see what I can get done this (fiscal) year and what we can request for the next one that starts in

July,” he said.

There’s no assurance work will be finished this summer.

“We’re going to have to go through a few steps to get there,” Craig said.

He obtained estimates recently from various contractors to perform a range of gazebo repairs. They are:

- ◆ \$3,200 to \$5,000 for new seating and tables,
- ◆ an additional \$10,000 for tile repair and replacement, washing, painting, caulking and sealing the structure;
- ◆ an additional \$19,170 to remove and replace the wood lattice structure with treated wood; and
- ◆ an additional \$21,975 to remove and replace the concrete steps.

“The lattice structure should be repaired,” said Commissioner James Ceuninck, chairman of the commission’s Patterson Park Subcommittee. “Everything else should be left to the subcommittee and master plan discussions.”

Hindelang told Craig, “Go to council for approval.”

The city is unique among the Pointes in having two lakeside parks.

One, Windmill Pointe

Park, is unofficially designated an active park given its action-oriented assets: large swimming pool with diving area, kiddie pool, fountain, year-round meeting facility, year-round activity center, gymnasium, weight room, two movie theaters, concession stand (two if counting the candy counter in the movie theater lobby), tennis courts, picnic tables, grills, marina and more.

The second, Patterson, has been characterized for decades as the city’s passive park.

It occupies the former grounds of a type of lake-side manor foundational to the community’s generations-old legacy. The grounds were given to the city’s residents for their “common pleasures to walk abroad and recreate yourselves,” as Mark Antony attributed to Julius Caesar’s bequeath of arbors and orchards to the citizenry of Rome.

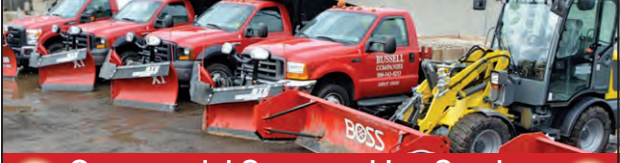
Patterson’s passive reputation is increasingly hard to live up to.

Over the years, it has become host to an ice-skating rink, warming shelter that doubles year-round for get-togethers, putting greens, a dog park, jogging trail with workout stations, kayak storage rack and launch, bocce ball court, picnic shelters, picnic tables, grills, pickleball courts, playscape, boardwalk, splash pad and sledding hill.

As Hindelang said in last week’s report about wanting to draft the city’s first-ever master plan for the parks and recreation department, “Does Patterson remain a passive park? Is there a different vision for it?”



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JOANN going out of business

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Though a date of closure was yet to be released as of press time, liquidation sales began mid-February at JOANN Fabric and Crafts on Mack in the Farms.

Since filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the company initially announced 33 of the 41 Michigan locations would shutter their doors.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, it released the news that all JOANN stores will close following the conclusion of a comprehensive sale process and auction, which named GA Group together with the Prepetition Term Loan Agent as the winning bidders.

“In connection with this agreement, subject to bankruptcy court approval of the transaction, the winning bidders plan to begin winding



JOANN Fabric and Craft Store at 18850 Mack is going out of business, along with all locations.

PHOTO BY
RENEE LANDUYT

down the company’s operations and conduct going-out-of-business sales at all store loca-

tions,” reads a release by a spokesperson for JOANN. “JOANN leadership, our board, advisors

and legal partners made every possible effort to pursue a more favorable outcome that would keep the company in business.”

The crafting retail chain has operated more

than 80 years. It currently has 800 stores across 49 states.

“The last several years have presented significant and lasting challenges in the retail environment, which, coupled with our current financial position and constrained inventory levels, forced us to take this step,” said Michael Prendergast, JOANN interim chief executive officer, in a release prior to the news of a chain-wide closure. “After carefully reviewing all available strategic paths, we have determined that initiating a court-supervised sale process is the best course of action to maximize the value of the business. We hope that this process enables us to find a path that would allow JOANN to continue operating as a going concern.”

JOANN stores will continue accepting gift cards through Friday, Feb. 28, but no longer are accepting returns.

Driving Mack forward

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Strategists for the Mack Avenue corridor improvement project intend to get the most bang for their bucks, boosting the project’s credibility and odds of winning additional funding for greater enhancements to come.

“We want to have something to attach future branding to,” said Ocie Irons, director of economic development for the Eastside Community Network. “We have a huge task in front of us to generate awareness of the project in a way that has, No. 1, the city of Detroit come to the table, but also attract other funding sources to complete what we think is upwards of \$13 million in streetscape improvements.”

If things go according to plan to upgrade both sides of Mack from Alter Road in Detroit to Moross in Grosse Pointe Farms, relatively mundane additions, such as bus stop benches, street trees, updated signage and trash receptacles will lead to hardscape upgrades, such as installing permeable roadside surfaces, crosswalk bump outs and wrought iron

light fixtures.

Modest initial goals reflect the project’s modest initial budget.

“We have a limited dollar amount, \$1 million, available,” said Shane Reeside, manager of the Farms.

Funds came from the state Department of Transportation through Wayne County. A Mack Avenue strategy committee is overseeing operations. Memberships are managers of the City, Farms, Park, city of Detroit administrators, Wayne County and the Eastside Community Network.

“The approach that has been recommended by the strategy committee is to focus on things that visually have an immediate impact and try to create continuity between the areas,” Reeside said. “The nice thing about this group is it has created a dialogue. We have people from the county and Detroit sitting at the same table, which hasn’t happened historically.”

“We’re looking at a holistic approach to improving pedestrian access and safety on Mack,” Park City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “We’re looking at the biggest

impact we can make.”

The in-game strategy is to convince funding sources, whether public or private grantors, to provide additional money to unify disparate areas of the corridor into a consistent whole, not only through Grosse Pointe Park, City and part of the Farms, but also on the Detroit side of Mack.

“We’re in discussions about how to phase and structure that based on available funding,” said Joe Valentine, City of Grosse Pointe manager.

The corridor idea dates back a few years.

One million dollars isn’t what it used to be, especially if spread along both sides of a three-mile, more than 40-block, four-lane avenue. Deciding what section of the corridor gets what also is complicated by the road bisecting neighborhoods of varying economic standing and zoned variously for residential, commercial and civic usage.

As is common to development projects, some seed money has been spent on administrative oversight, hosting community meetings, hiring planning and engineering consultants and commissioning conceptual

designs and renderings.

“The \$1 million grant is terribly small,” Irons said. “Even a smaller amount will be available for actual construction, roughly \$800,000.”

“In the grand scheme of things,” Valentine said, “it’s not much when you start spreading it across multiple communities throughout the corridor. We’re looking at how to leverage that.”

“As we seek to grow community and tax base, bolstering our shared corridors stands to produce results at a multiplier rate, particularly given the fact we are a built-out bedroom community,” Park Mayor Michele Hodges said. “I will continue to make initiatives such as these a top priority, for working in partnership will produce substantial outcomes for all.”

Two engineering and design firms, Spaulding DeDecker and OHM Advisors, have been retained for the project.

In December 2023, OHM produced a Mack Avenue streetscape plan. Findings were based on two surveys, feedback from three town hall meetings, site inspections and evaluation of the corridor.

“It was clear that the streetscape plan must reimagine the corridor as more than just public infrastructure that facili-

tates movement of vehicles,” according to the key findings section. “The streetscape should also be

considered a public space where people are encouraged to gather, dine and interact.”

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 3

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods gazebo and pavilion rentals open, 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Communities United in Diversity meeting, 6 to 8 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods 75th Anniversary Committee meeting, 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Community Events Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods rescheduled Community Tree Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Egg Stroll registration opens, 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Tax Increment Finance Authority meeting, 7 p.m.

FIRE:

Continued from page 1A

age,” according to a notice on the company webpage, redcrownpp.com.

“There was no real damage,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. “Nobody’s life was in danger.”

“Red Crown will remain closed until professional repairs and cleaning are completed,” according to the post.

“It started with a water heater exhaust pipe that ran up a wall and out the ceiling,” Pittman said. “It runs next to a drop ceiling light with a plastic cover.”

Outside air temperatures had been in the single digits since midnight, according to weather readings from the Coleman Young Municipal Airport, about four miles away in Detroit.

“I think with the

extreme cold overnight, the water heater ran all night, the exhaust pipe got hot and, sitting up against that plastic light cover, caused it to ignite,” Pittman said.

A resident alerted officers to smoke or heavy exhaust exiting the roof.

“We sent the rigs and

made entry,” Pittman said. “The fire suppression system within the building had activated and was doing its job. (An officer) supplemented the suppression system with a fire extinguisher to put a small fire out. We didn’t require hoses or any-

thing.”

“Fortunately, no staff was in the building and no one was harmed,” according to the company post. “We will keep everyone updated on our reopening date.”

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Strength in motion

How one trainer turned passion into purpose

By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

In the heart of Grosse Pointe, where the water of Lake St. Clair meets a community built on tradition and success, strength coach and personal trainer Matthew Michels has carved out his own path — one defined by passion, perseverance and a relentless drive to uplift those around him.

Born and raised in Michigan — his family moved to Grosse Pointe when he was in first grade; he attended Kerby Elementary, Brownell Middle and Grosse Pointe South High schools — Michels’ journey wasn’t always leading toward fitness and coaching. He initially pursued a career in computer engineering at Wayne State University, but an internship in software programming quickly revealed that the cubicle life wasn’t for him. Instead, he found himself drawn to personal training, realizing his unique ability to connect with, motivate and mentor others. That realization changed everything and Matt Michels Training — locally known as M2 — was born.

“My family and the M2 family I’ve built over the

years are the most significant parts of my life,” he said. “I put my heart and soul into my clients and they see it. I am forever grateful to be part of such a wonderful community.”

But life has a way of testing even the strongest of the strong. For Michels, that test came in the form of his father’s suicide — an event that reshaped his perspective in profound ways.

“At the time, I thought I’d feel sad forever, that there was no hope,” he said. “After the first six months, his loss began to be my motivation. I just

“My family and the M2 family I’ve built over the years are the most significant parts of my life. I put my heart and soul into my clients and they see it. I am forever grateful to be part of such a wonderful community.”

MATTHEW MICHELS
Grosse Pointe Park

wanted to make him proud.”

That motivation propelled Michels to build a thriving career as a strength and conditioning coach, working with athletes of all ages and skill levels. During the past 15 years, he has trained numerous teams at Grosse Pointe South High School and developed more than 50 college-level athletes. His approach is simple but

effective: Focus on movement, mechanics and mindset rather than trends and shortcuts.

Yet, when asked what he’s most proud of, Michels doesn’t mention championships or accolades. Instead, his first thought is his wife, Janelle, and their young son, Harrison.

“When I decided against a stable career in computer engineering to follow my passion, she was fully supportive,” he said. “She continues to support and amaze me.”

In addition to training, Michels has a competitive

edge that extends beyond the gym. In his younger years, he was a professional gamer, competing in world championships before eSports became mainstream. He’s also a history buff, with an impressive knowledge of World War II battles and generals. And when he’s not coaching or spending time with family, he finds peace in the same place he did as a child — on the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Matthew Michels, his wife, Janelle, and their young son, Harrison.

water.

“Being out on my father’s boat every day in the summer was my sanctuary,” he said. “It still is to this day.”

Michels’ philosophy on fitness is as straightforward as his life motto, a quote from Winston Churchill: “If you’re going through hell, keep going.”

To those looking to start their fitness journey, his advice is equally direct: “Just do it! Start small, build up gradually and don’t focus on the results. They’ll come in time.”

His business, built entirely by word of mouth, is a testament to the impact he’s had on his clients. Whether he’s coaching middle schoolers, training college-bound athletes or helping everyday individuals move and feel better, Michels is, at his core, a

teacher.

“I don’t just train athletes; I aim to make everyone more athletic,” he said. “I make athletes, that’s what I do.”

For those looking to learn more or train with

Michels, he can be reached by text at (313) 806-4952, email at matthew.michels4@gmail.com or on Instagram, @mattmichelstraining. His studio, M2 Training, is located in Grosse Pointe Park.



Park passes getting upgrade with new software

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — As a byproduct of partnering with a new company for parks and recreation software, residents later this year can expect the ability to apply for park passes at city hall rather than only at Neff Park.

The software is responsible for creating and maintaining the database of park passes and also provides the mechanisms through which residents register for programs and classes online.

“I’ve heard complaints from newer residents

saying they can’t get into the park, because they don’t have a pass and they get turned away at the gate when they’re going in to get their appointment to get their pass,” Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak said. “I think if we could move it to somewhere where you can go even without a pass, that might be a little more reasonable. If it’s easy enough just to produce those and we have the staff to do it, to take it out of the park might make some sense.”

The new software through CivicRec not only is cloud-based and, therefore, accessible to city staff from any computer — the current system is married to the Neff Park desktops — but also offers the option of digital park passes via a constantly changing QR code to prevent screenshot sharing.

An additional benefit, Parks and Recreation Coordinator Rebecca Jenzen highlighted, is personalized access to park accounts.

“Right now with RecPro, you can only have one email as the primary login for the entire household,” she explained. “So if you and your wife both wanted to login, you had to use the same email (and) same password. This allows for each email associated with a member of your household to be used as a login.”

RecPro has been used by the city since 2009, but will be discontinued this fall. It also served the Farms, Woods and St. Clair Shores.

Though the communities — including Grosse Pointe Shores, which didn’t have recreation software to begin with — initially intended to jointly contract for the sake of group pricing, they ultimately split in separate directions. The Farms is contracting with RecTrac and the Shores with RecDesk, while the City and St. Clair Shores settled on CivicRec.

The transition will cost the City \$11,088 for its installation and the migration of data, after which next year’s annual fee will be \$3,675. The current fiscal year’s bill through RecPro is \$4,575.

“Our price point is actually significantly lower than the other communities, because it is based upon the amount of money that runs through the software,” Jenzen said of the new contract. “So all the other communities being much larger — the Woods, the Farms — they are running more money through the software, so their price point is actually already higher.”

Council members unanimously voted Monday, Feb. 10, to approve the contract with CivicRec, conditional upon pursuing group pricing, if possible, with the Farms and Woods. However, Farms city council voted the same evening to execute the contract with RecTrac.

“Implementation of this (won’t) happen until the fall, so as not to disrupt summer programming and online registration,” Jenzen said.



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City of Grosse Pointe

Stolen Maserati

A 2018 Maserati Levante was stolen from a driveway in the 300 block of Lakeland between 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, and 12:30 p.m. the next day.

Failed attempt

After stealing miscellaneous items from two businesses in The Village around 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, a 36-year-old Detroit man was arrested as he attempted to flee on foot on St. Clair.

Unlocked

A checkbook and paperwork were stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Alger between 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, and 10 a.m. the next morning.

FedEx

Upon going to a Groesbeck FedEx location to pick up an Apple MacBook, a Grosse Pointe man was informed it already had been picked up by a person who showed his information attached to the suspect's photo.

Blatant theft

A white man in his 30s with a thin build and scraggly beard stole various items totaling \$328 from Half-Moon Outfitters in The Village at 12:05 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

Blocked

After stealing \$154

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

from a store in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, a 61-year-old Detroit woman was arrested while trying to leave the parking lot in her vehicle.

Intoxicated

A 30-year-old Detroit man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 3:50 a.m. Monday, Feb. 24, after being pulled over for speeding and weaving across the center line at Mack and Rivard.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Phone threats

After arguing in a Facebook group about “the patriarchy” Monday, Feb. 17, a 48-year-old Woods woman was kicked out of the group. She then sent the administrator, with whom she had the argument, a photo of her house in the Farms with the caption, “See you soon.”

Fishtail

When asked why he unsafely accelerated and “fishtailed” on Mack at 10:23 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, a 26-year-old Detroit

driver told the officer he slipped.

The man was cited for an improper plate and no insurance, and his vehicle was impounded.

Misdirect

Though he stated he usually leaves his computer in his car, a Mapleton resident left only the computer bag the night it was stolen around 11:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.

The bag was found discarded on Grosse Pointe Boulevard by a man walking his dog.

Breadcrumbs

A vehicle in the 400 block of Moran was stolen between 9:45 and 10:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, when its owners took the keys inside, but left it running.

OnStar tracked the vehicle to McCormick in Detroit, where officers attempted to pull it over and a black male in a red jacket fled on foot from the driver's seat.

Meanwhile, two laptops stolen from the car were found near a green dumpster in Harper Woods; a Moran resident discovered the couple's stolen iPhone while shoveling snow the next day; and a couple on their morning walk two days later found the stolen roll of around \$500 cash in the street in the 400 block of Manor.

Light's out

A 24-year-old Hamtramck man was cited for an expired plate and defective equipment after he was pulled over at Moross and Beaupre for a broken passenger-side tail light at 10:19 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.

Burglary warrant

A 39-year-old Detroit woman was arrested on a burglary warrant out of Birmingham when pulled over at Mack and Radnor for illegally tinted windows and an unreadable license plate at 2:44 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Back again

A homeless man, 43, with few options found none in the lobby of public safety headquarters.

For the second consecutive week — this time at 9:13 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 — officers found him using the building as a bedchamber.

“He was sleeping on a bench in the lobby,” an officer said. “(He was) cited for trespassing.”

On Saturday, Feb. 15, officers arrested him in

the lobby for absconding parole on an unspecified charge, meaning he didn't report to his parole officer or left a jurisdiction for the purpose of avoiding terms of his parole.

The public safety building shares a lobby with city hall. It is partly due to instances of trespassers and vagrants that public counters and department doors at city offices were secured during the latter part of last year with \$26,500 worth of Plexiglas walls and safety locks at employee request.

Larceny

Someone entered an unlocked vehicle while parked overnight Friday, Feb. 21, in the 1400 block of Three Mile Drive and stole a dashboard touch screen, debit card and black hatchet.

Broken main

As the single-digit cold snap snapped and temperatures rose above freezing, residents were alerted around 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, that a water main break at the intersection of Kercheval and Audubon may cause water service disruptions and discoloration.

Temperature fluctuations above and below freezing are usual suspects in water main breaks. Potholes, too.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Green means go

A 43-year-old Sterling Heights man was arrested for drunken driving around 2:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at the intersection of Vernier and Lakeshore.

Officers saw the man's 2024 Chevy Silverado sit through several cycles of the traffic light as he was facing east-bound on Vernier. He was asleep with the vehicle still in drive and his foot on the brake.

He failed several field sobriety tests but refused to take a preliminary breath test before being lodged in the Grosse Pointe Woods jail.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

DDA & TIFA can tap Helm millage

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Voter support last November of a millage to support The Helm senior services organization also gave the Park's economic development entities a chance to capitalize on funding windfalls.

Both municipal entities, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA), are funded by tax increment financing. They can capture a portion of property taxes levied in their respective districts. Doing so is optional.

Each entity can choose to siphon a small portion of the new, six-year, 0.35-mill millage to fund pro-growth programs and developments in their respective districts.

TIFA, which has an annual budget of about \$1.1 million, is the bigger benefactor of the two. It is eligible to reap around \$25,000 annually from The Helm millage, according to Nick Sizeland, city manager.

The DDA's yearly budget of \$120,000 could be augmented by around \$2,500.

Major projects approved or being considered by the DDA, which is figuratively centered around city hall, include revamping the civic campus on Jefferson Avenue and a polycentric drive to

improve economic activity within its boundaries and, in conjunction with other parties, an adjacent Detroit commercial area.

Meanwhile at the TIFA, which overlays the Cabbage Patch district in the northwest section of the city, board members are busy saving funds, collecting grants and retaining designers to renovate streetscapes in the Charlevoix and Kercheval business districts. Work on Charlevoix is supposed to start next year.

Park council members on Feb. 3 unanimously approved an interlocal agreement with the City of Grosse Pointe, Farms, Woods and Harper Woods to jointly act in trust through membership in an Adult Active Commission, the entity being established by The Helm millage. Residents of Grosse Pointe Shores didn't support the millage and are not part of the agreement.

“This agreement was a joint effort between all five city attorneys and managers,” said Morgan McAtamney Martin, Park city attorney. “My main concern was making sure the (Park's) TIFA and DDA have the opportunity to utilize their tax increment funding if they chose to.”

Each entity must decide on its own to capture the windfall. Members of the city council have no direct

say. TIFA and DDA can opt out at their upcoming meetings, Sizeland said.

“The DDA (and) TIFA are separate entities, so the city council cannot bind them,” Martin said. Nevertheless, during their Feb. 3 meeting, no one on the council cringed at the prospect of the DDA and TIFA pocketing their share.

“Also, we are, as a city, allowed to capture 1 percent of general tax,” Sizeland said.

“We can glean a fiduciary fee from that,” Mayor Michele Hodges agreed. “There's no impact at all on our general fund, correct?”

“Yes,” Sizeland said. He also is director of the DDA. Hodges is a board member. The assistant city manager is TIFA director.

The interlocal agreement spells out bylaws for the commission, limitations on authority, insurance requirements and what happens if one or more communities terminate participation or another wants to join.

“This agreement creates (an Adult Active) commission (on which) all member communities will have a (representative),” Martin said. “It governs how these funds are going to be used and who is going to have a say to make sure these funds aren't just going to a nonprofit you have no control over.”

Sizeland recommended the council appoint Hodges to also

serve on the new commission. Hodges already serves as the city's liaison to The Helm.

Councilwoman Christine Gallagher surprised Councilman Brent Dreaver by nominating him, but he'd already made his choice.

“Seeing Mayor Hodges and the work she does with this group and The Helm already, I can't think of somebody better to be the initial liaison,” Dreaver said.

Correction

A photo on page A3 of the Feb. 20 edition of the Grosse Pointe News should have said John Vitale was honored for 30 years on the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission.

“Mayor Hodges would be better to kick us off.”

Councilman Marty McMillan nominated Hodges. Councilman Max Wiener seconded.

“I think very highly of Councilmember Dreaver, but Mayor Hodges has already set up the legwork and is ready to go on this,” Wiener said.

The vote was unanimous.

“I appreciate that vote

of confidence,” Hodges said. “I'll be sure to keep you updated on all actions and relate them to our group.”

First-year revenue from the millage is forecast to total \$1,225,704. The breakdown by jurisdiction is:

- ◆ City, \$163,639;
- ◆ Farms, \$362,110;
- ◆ Park, \$278,850;
- ◆ Woods, \$322,199;
- ◆ Harper Woods, \$98,906.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Remembering MLK in GP

(Editor's note: In recognition of Black History Month, the Grosse Pointe News is honored to reprint the speech Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered in Grosse Pointe March 14, 1968, which was exactly three weeks before his assassination in Memphis, Tenn. Here is Part III. Parts I and II were published Feb. 13 and Feb. 20, respectively.)

Now let me say two other things and I'm going to rush on. One, I want to say that if we're to move ahead and solve this problem we must re-order our national priorities. Today we're spending almost \$35 billion a year to fight what I consider an unjust, ill-considered, evil, costly, unwinnable war in Vietnam. I wish I had time to go into the dimensions of this. But I must say that the war in Vietnam is playing havoc with our domestic destinies. That war has torn up the Geneva accord, it has strengthened, it has substituted. . . (interruption). . . alright if you want to speak I'll let you come down and speak and I'll wait. You can give your Vietnam speech now listen to mine. Come right on.

Speaker: Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Joseph McLawtern, communications technician, U.S. Navy, United States of America and I fought for freedom. I didn't fight for communism, traitors and I didn't fight to be sold down the drain. Not by Romney, Cavanagh, Johnson. Nobody, nobody's going to sell me down the drain.

Alright, thank you very much. I just want to say in response to that, that there are those of us who oppose the war in Vietnam. I feel like opposing it for many reasons. Many of them are moral reasons but one basic reason is that we love our boys who are fighting there and we just want them to come back home. But I don't have time to go into the history and the development of the war in Vietnam. I happen to be a pacifist but if I had had to make a decision about fighting a war against Hitler, I may have temporarily given up my pacifism and taken up arms. But nobody is to compare what is happening in Vietnam today with that. I'm convinced that it is clearly an unjust war and it's doing so many things--not only on the domestic scene, it is carrying the whole world closer to nuclear annihilation. And so I've found it necessary to take a stand against the war in Vietnam and I appreciate Bishop Emrich's question and I must answer it by saying that for me the tuitus? cannot be divided. It's nice for me to talk about ... it's alright to talk about integrated schools and integrated lunch counters which I will continue to work for, but I think it would be rather absurd for me to work for integrated schools and not be concerned about the survival of the world in which to integrate.

The other thing is, that I have been working too long and too hard now against segregated public accommodations to end up at this stage of my life segregating my moral concern. I must make it clear. For me justice is indivisible. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Now for the question of hurting civil rights. I think the war in Vietnam hurt civil rights much more than my taking a stand against the war. And I could point out so many things to say that. . . a reporter asked me sometime ago when I first took a strong stand against the war didn't I feel that I would have to reverse my position because so many people disagreed, and people who once had respect for me wouldn't have respect, and he went on to say that I hear that it's hurt the budget

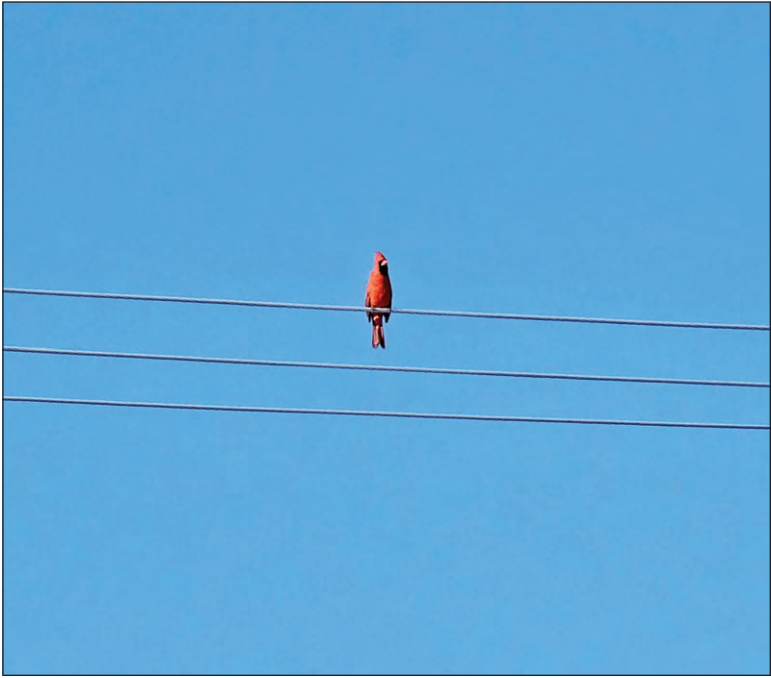


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure GP

There's an old adage that says cardinals appear when angels are near. It is based on the folklore that cardinals are visitors from heaven. Seeing a cardinal can mean a number of things: It can symbolize new beginnings or, according to Native American lore and depending on the tribe, either foretelling rain or good fortune and sun. Either way, this male cardinal's bright red plumage against the brilliant blue backdrop is giving us major spring vibes.

of your organization and don't you think that you have to get in line more with the administration's policy ... and of course those were very lonely days when I first started speaking out and not many people were speaking out but now I have a lot of company and it's not as lonesome now. But anyway, I had to say to the reporter, I'm sorry sir but you don't know me. I'm not a consensus leader and I do not determine what is right and wrong by looking at the budget of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference or by kind of taking a look at a gallop poll and getting the expression of the majority opinion. Ultimately, a genuine leader is not a succor for consensus but a mold of consensus. And on some positions towards ask the question is it safe? Expediency asks the question is it politics? Vanity asks the question is it popular? The conscience asks the question is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politics nor popular but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right.

Now the time is passing and I'm not going to... I was going into the need for direct action to dramatize and call attention to the gulf between promise and fulfillment. I've been searching for a long time for an alternative to riots on the one hand and timid supplication for justice on the other and I think that alternative is found in militant massive non-violence. I'll wait until the question period before going into the Washington campaign. But let me say that it has been my experience in these years that I've been in the struggle for justice, that things just don't happen until the issue is dramatized in a massive direct-action way. I never will forget when we came through Washington in 1964, in December coming from Oslo. I stopped by to see President Johnson. We talked about a lot of things and we finally got to the point of talking about voting rights. The president was concerned about voting, but he said Martin, I can't get this through in this session of Congress. We can't get a voting rights bill, he said because there are two or three other things that I feel that we've got to get through and they're going to benefit negroes as much as anything. One was the education bill and something else. And then he went on to say that if I push a voting rights bill now, I'll lose the support of seven congressmen that I sorely need for the particular things that I had and we just can't get it. Well, I went on to say to the president that I felt that we had to do something about it and two weeks later we started a movement in Selma, Alabama. We started dramatizing the issue of the denial of the right to vote and I submit to you that three months later as a result of that Selma movement, the same President who said to me that we could not get a voting rights bill in that session of Congress was on the tele-

vision singing through a speaking voice "we shall overcome" and calling for the passage of a voting rights bill and I could go on and on to show. . . and we did get a voting rights bill in that session of Congress. Now, I could go on to give many other examples to show that it just doesn't come about without pressure and this is what we plan to do in Washington. We aren't planning to close down Washington, we aren't planning to close down Congress. This isn't anywhere in our plans. We are planning to dramatize the issue to the point that poor people in this nation will have to be seen and will not be invisible.

Now let me finally say something in the realm of the spirit and then I'm going to take my seat. Let me say finally, that in the midst of the hollering and in the midst of the discourtesy tonight, we got to come to see that however much we dislike it, the destinies of white and black America are tied together. Now the races don't understand this apparently. But our destinies are tied together. And somehow, we must all learn to live together as brothers in this country or we're all going to perish together as fools. Our destinies are tied together. Whether we like it or not culturally and otherwise, every white person is a little bit negro and every negro is a little bit white. Our language, our music, our material prosperity and even our food are an amalgam of black and white, so there can be no separate black path to power and fulfillment that does not intersect white routes and there can ultimately be no separate white path to power and fulfillment short of social disaster without recognizing the necessity of sharing that power with black aspirations for freedom and human dignity. We must come to see. . . yes we do need each other, the black man needs the white man to save him from his fear and the white man needs the black man to free him from his guilt.

John Donne was right. No man is an island and the tide that fills every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. And he goes on toward the end to say, "any man's death diminishes me because I'm involved in mankind. Therefore, it's

See KING, page 7A

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.

Just me?

To the Editor:

Was it just me or was anyone surprised the "new board" voted against the advice of its attorney and released the full report outlining human resource complaints against former board member Ahmed Ismail. If the "new board" is not going to follow the advice of its attorney, why is the district paying for legal advice?

MIKE MOORE
Grosse Pointe Woods

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Rain Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Rain/Snow Showers	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
50%	0%	30%	0%	0%	10%	30%
SUNRISE 7:09 am SUNSET 6:19 pm	SUNRISE 7:08 am SUNSET 6:21 pm	SUNRISE 7:06 am SUNSET 6:22 pm	SUNRISE 7:04 am SUNSET 6:23 pm	SUNRISE 7:02 am SUNSET 6:24 pm	SUNRISE 7:01 am SUNSET 6:26 pm	SUNRISE 6:59 am SUNSET 6:27 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima

The future of All-Star games



The time in February and March between the end of the Super Bowl and football season and before the start of March Madness always feels like a dull time for sports fans. Especially when the NHL and NBA take time off for their All-Star game festivities during February, too. However, this year the NHL gave the sports world a big surprise in February with an event that ended up captivating both hardcore and casual fans.

That event, of course, was the 2025 Four Nations Face-Off. The best NHL players from the United States, Canada, Sweden and Finland suited up to represent their respective countries in the tournament that lasted eight days and concluded Thursday, Feb. 20.

It was a massive hit, drawing tens of millions of viewers and resulting in some of the most watched and talked about hockey games in years, if not decades. That was largely due to the rivalry between the United States and Canada. Without getting into the geopolitical undertones and current events that surrounded the storylines of the two games the U.S. and Canada played against each other, just having the best players from the two best hockey nations going head to head was a showcase of what makes the game great.

Of course, all other American hockey fans

and I are still a bit bitter about Canada’s victory over the U.S. in the championship game last Thursday. However, the tournament raised the biggest question of what professional sports leagues should do regarding All-Star games going forward.

While the NHL had a new hit with the Four Nations Face-Off, the NBA’s All-Star weekend continued its long fall from grace. Players were called out for trying to cheat the system during a skills competition event. Mac McClung, a G-League player who is not even currently on an NBA team roster, won the slam dunk contest for a third year in a row and the actual All-Star Game itself continued to be treated like a chore by the NBA’s most talented players giving the absolute minimum amount of effort.

So, do All-Star games matter anymore? The NHL is going back to an All-Star Game next year in 2026, but fans also will be treated to more “best-on-best” international hockey with the return of NHL players to competition in the 2026 Winter Olympics. The league also announced the World Cup of Hockey will return as an in-season tournament starting in 2028, as a way to build off of the success of the Four Nations Face-Off and the renewed hype for international hockey.

One has to think that the NBA already is trying to come up with new ideas to capture the same energy and buzz around its All-Star Game that the NHL did in the last couple of weeks. It is clear that most of the NBA’s best players simply are not interested in taking part in the same old All-Star events year after year without extra incentive.

When it comes to football, the NFL’s Pro Bowl has already become a watered-down and unwatchable version of what it used to be. The teams play flag football and there is even less desire, even for big football fans like myself, to bother tuning in. However, football is such a physically demanding sport that an All-Star event taking place at the end of a season — when all of the players are ready for much-needed rest — is not fair to them in the first place, and I think the NFL getting rid of the Pro Bowl entirely would not be the worst thing.

The MLB All-Star Game always has been one of the best and I don’t think too much needs to change. Players are pretty engaged and it gives fans a chance to see certain matchups on the baseball diamond they might not see every day. The best was when the All-Star Game decided if the National League or American League would earn home-field advantage for the World Series that year. MLB put an end to that in 2017, but having a real incentive for the players to want to win the All-Star Game to give their team a potential advantage if they made the World Series was a great feature.

We will see what the future holds for All-Star events, mostly when it comes to hockey and basketball, but it is clear the NHL set a new bar this year. All-Star games should showcase the best athletes in a sport competing for something that has meaning to them, not just some mindless exhibition. Hopefully, all of the biggest sports leagues begin to realize that and we get All-Star events that are fun to watch once again.

KING:

Continued from page 6A

not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.” Somehow we must come to see that in this pluralistic, interrelated society we are all tied together in a single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And by working with determination and realizing that power must be shared, I think we can solve this problem, and may I say in conclusion that our goal is freedom and I believe that we’re going to get there. It’s going to be more difficult from here on in but I believe we’re going to get there because however much she strays away from it, the goal of America is freedom and our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America. Before the Pilgrim fathers landed at Plymouth we were here. Before Jefferson etched across the pages of history the majestic words of the Declaration of Independence we were here. Before the beautiful words of the Star Spangled Banner were written we were here. And for more than two centuries our forbearers labored here without wages. They made cotton king, they built the homes of their masters in the midst of the most humiliating and oppressive conditions and yet out of a bottomless vitality they continued to grow and develop and if the inexpressible cruelties of slavery couldn’t stop us, the opposition that we now face including the white backlash will surely fail.

We are going to win our freedom because both the sacred heritage of our nation and the eternal will of the Almighty God are embodied in our echoing demands. So however difficult it is during this period, however difficult it is to continue to live with the agony and the continued existence of racism, however difficult it is to live amidst the constant hurt, the constant insult and the constant disrespect, I can still sing we shall overcome. We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.

We shall overcome because Carlisle is right. “No lie can live forever.” We shall overcome because William Cullen Bryant is right. “Truth crushed to earth will rise again.” We shall overcome because James Russell Lowell is right. “Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.” Yet that scaffold sways the future. We shall overcome because the Bible is right. “You shall reap what you sow.” With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when all of God’s children all over this nation — black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old negro spiritual, “Free at Last, Free at Last, Thank God Almighty, We are Free At Last.”

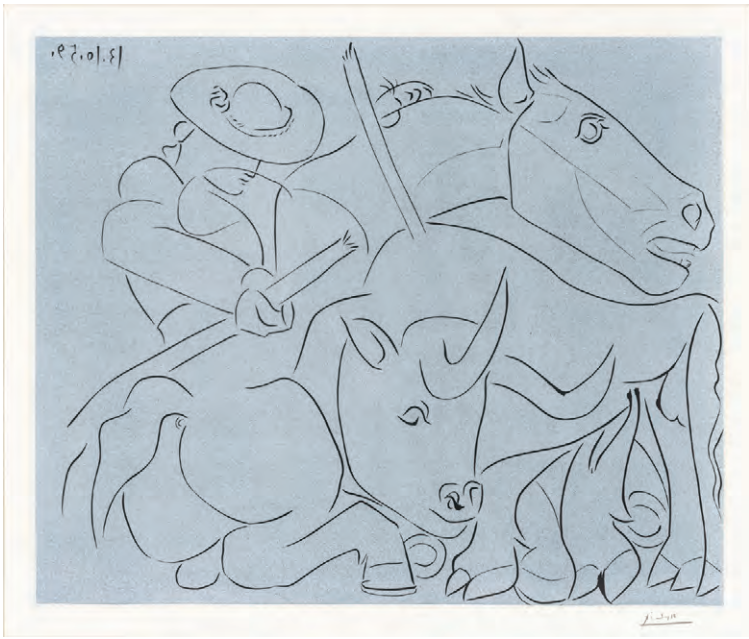
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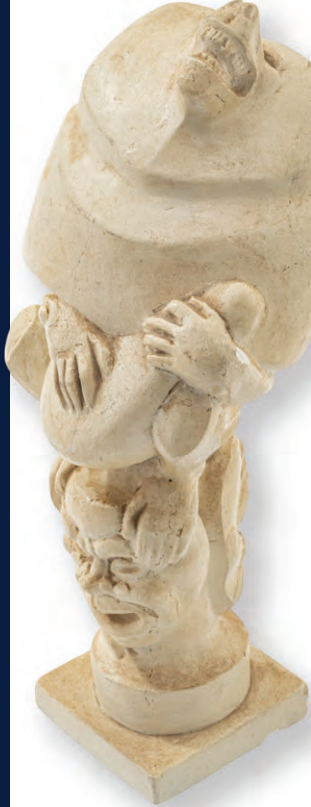
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DDA comes through with ideas

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The time between inspiration and action bubbles with possibilities among board members of the Downtown Development Authority.

“I have a lot of ideas,” member Sharron Corbin said.

“I came up with a list of seven things,” member Giuliano Mancini said.

The board’s meeting Feb. 18 was the first since Mayor Michele Hodges assigned members to suggest ways to partner with other organizations to renovate the authority’s border with Detroit.

“Our charge is improving property values and building tax base,” said Hodges, also a DDA board member. “That would have that multiplier effect.”

“This is exciting, one of the most exciting things since I’ve been on the board,” Chairman and five-year member Ben Wixson said. “It’s cool that we’re talking about expanding our horizons. It’s going to be good for the city and residents and good for our neighbors.”

In preparation for the discussion, Mancini assessed the district’s strengths while walking through it on a Saturday afternoon.

“From a day-to-day foot traffic perspective, there’s a significant lack of retail, food (and) entertainment options,” Mancini said. “Our focus needs to be on cross-border collaboration and connection, but ultimately there’s not going to be much cross-border connectivity if we don’t develop something.”

“Our offering will be the Schaap Center as a point of entertainment,” Wixson said.

The more-than 400-seat A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery is being constructed on Jefferson one block past city hall.

“The Schaap Center is a great start,” Mancini said. “Ultimately, we need to have attractions, events and reasons for not only foot traffic from Detroit, but (also) foot traffic locally, which is lacking in the district.”

“If we did something

along the lines of trying to unify business districts down Jefferson into (the) Jefferson-Chalmers (neighborhood in Detroit), it would be part of a larger plan,” Wixson said. “Discussions with Jefferson East (Inc., a neighborhood improvement group in Detroit) could revolve around unifying the business districts, maybe naming the business district one, single, unified district even though it’s split between two cities.”

Board members reminded themselves not to think too far afield. Their direct oversight is limited to within the authority’s boundaries, which 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 in the same area.

“I don’t think the DDA can spend DDA dollars in Detroit,” Wixson said.

“We’re looking at low-hanging fruit, stuff already there that we can build on and not have to start from new,” Hodges

said.

Tactics that worked before, either for the DDA or municipality, are:

- ◆ funding development with state and federal grants,
- ◆ tapping into private foundations that promote economic development and
- ◆ promoting hands-across-the-border campaigns, such as the annual Motor City Makeover, a beautification effort along roads and alleys bordering Detroit.

Anything Park officials endorse will incorporate ideas commissioned two years ago to revamp the civic campus with landscaped gathering space, including a tree-spotted pedestrian plaza replacing the lawn along Jefferson.

Ideas Mancini came up with during his walk included widening sidewalks to enhance pedestrian access, calming vehicular traffic, increasing parking spaces and adding greenspace — “a place to congregate,” he said, “have food trucks and temporary retail while we’re waiting for

brick-and-mortar retail.”

Critical to deciding what the district needs is knowing what it already has. To that end, board members fully supported Mancini’s idea to obtain informational title reports of properties within the authority boundaries. Reports would only be sought for properties of uncertain ownership.

“There are assets — and this isn’t limited to Grosse Pointe Park, it’s everywhere — that may not be on our books that we don’t know about, but they are sitting there,” said Mancini, an attorney. “Getting an idea who owns them would allow us to tailor our efforts from a real property perspective so we avoid a situation, like we just had, where one entity believes it owns something versus another.”

His reference was to a plot of land next to city hall which DDA and municipal officials were surprised to learn recently belonged to the city, not DDA.

Title reports cost at least \$200 each and list a property’s owner and when they acquired it,

Mancini said.

“Based upon the cost estimates, I could bring it as a budget amendment to the city council for consideration,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

“We need to do that (search),” Wixson said.

Corbin has experience beautifying the border as a volunteer with the Grosse Pointe Collaborative, funded by the Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC), a nonprofit community development organization.

“In 2005, we were funded by the LISC,” Corbin said. “They gave us between \$130,000 and \$200,000 in 2005 for the area. They have an economic development program, greenspace and small business program.”

She also envisioned boosting businesses by having trolleys shuttle patrons between district restaurants, bars, sports and entertainment venues in the Park and Detroit.

“Before a Tigers game or something, incorporate that with restaurants on Kercheval or Charlevoix,” Corbin said. “Have the trolley take us to a show and back to wherever we were eating or drinking to promote business in the area.”

Optimists learn about Narcan

Marrisa Engardio, rescue program coordinator with Face Addiction Now — formerly Families Against Narcotics — recently provided Narcan training to members of the Lakeshore Optimist Club.

Narcan is a nasal spray that can quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. She also provided each member with a Narcan kit containing two applications.

FAN is a nonprofit organization guiding individuals, families and communities affected by substance use disorder by coordinating care and reducing stigma.

For more information, visit faceaddictionnow.org or call (833) 202-HOPE.

Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. See gpoptimists.com or facebook.com/lakeshoreoptimists for meeting locations and dates.



COURTESY PHOTO

Marrisa Engardio, left, of Face Addiction Now with Lakeshore Optimist Club President Steve Licari.

New software to be user-friendly

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — “This met us at kind of a good time,” Parks and Recreation Director Chris Galatis said of the department’s recreation software provider discontinuing service this fall.

“Since being here, we have heard quite a bit of rumblings in terms of the software itself not being very user-friendly.”

RecTrac in late August or early September will pick up where RecPro — current provider since 2003 — leaves off.

It features one-click court reservations; multiple household member login; a mobile app through which residents can register for classes and reserve courts; and the option for digital park passes.

“I’m one of the residents who nagged to death about our software and when we can change, so I’m delighted to see this change and, in particular, I love the one-click sign up,” Councilman Lev Wood said. “That’s really going to be a nice feature

for our residents and then the app is going to be very cool to add.”

To increase city staff efficiency and productivity, the new contract includes invoices mailed out with the click of a button, payment processing done within RecTrac rather than a separate provider, extensive reporting capabilities, compatibility with BS&A software for the city’s financial records and a cloud-based server.

“The great and absolute thing that we love as a staff is we can access this software from anywhere,” Galatis said. “Currently, I have to access the software from my desk. With this new software, I can access it from the pool deck, I can access it from home (or) our staff can access it from home.”

Though the contract with RecTrac is nearly three times that of the lowest-bidding company, city staff and parks and harbor committee members are confident it is the most beneficial choice.

Start-up costs are \$27,315 the first year, followed by a \$16,440 annual charge, which will

increase 3 percent each year.

“Every one of the providers that we researched and talked to had a 3 to 5 percent annual increase, regardless of which one we went with,” Galatis said.

The city will see savings, however, in regard to its current 3 percent credit card processing fee, as well as its 25 cent per translation network charge.

“RecTrac has provided us a 2.25 percent credit card processing fee and 20 cents per transaction,” Galatis reported, “which is probably about a \$4,000 cost savings for us yearly, if it’s the same amount of credit card transactions we currently see.”

After being vetted at length by the parks and harbor committee, city council unanimously approved a three-year contract with RecTrac during its meeting Monday, Feb. 10.

Upon the software’s implementation in the fall, the parks and recreation department intends to provide resident training opportunities.

Grosse Pointe News

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Ferry hosts unique field trip

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Students at Ferry Elementary School earlier this month were treated to a STEAM field trip without having to leave the building.

“It was basically an inside field trip, but the best part was that it was all hands-on,” said fourth grade teacher Anne Flanagan. “We’ve never had something all day like this.”

Students spent the day taking part in seven 40-minute sessions in the gym, where Mobile Ed Productions of Redford set up its portable, hands-on museum.

“I’d seen other, smaller assemblies they’ve done and was very impressed,” Flanagan said. “We were able to impact 400 students.”

The day was paid for by a \$1,895 grant Flanagan received from the GP Foundation for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, athletics, art and mathematics) Support.

The foundation last November announced 31 grants totaling \$258,000 for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Of the 31 grants, 12 were awarded to schools in the north end of the district and 12 to schools in the south end, with the remaining seven to benefit multiple buildings. Some 70 percent of the total dollar amount went to the north end.

Students were able to visit 12 interactive stations that included virtual reality expeditions, a 3D printer and programmable robots.

“The students didn’t get to use the 3D printer, since that can take several hours to create a piece, but they saw examples and learned how the machine works,” Flanagan noted.

The biggest draw, by far, were the programmable robots.

“That was super popular,” Flanagan said. “They were able to use iPads to program robot cars to drive around inside a fenced area.”

Students also enjoyed riding a stationary bicycle that powered a light bulb.

Other features included electronic digital microscopes and a display on paleontology.

“That was basically like a big sandbox where they could dig for fossils,” Flanagan said.

Flanagan credited Ferry Principal Jodie Randazzo for the day’s success.

“Not only did she sign off on the grant application, she helped coordinate all of the parent volunteers,” she said. “We needed six adults for each session.”

Flanagan said she and Randazzo plan to apply to the foundation for another grant to bring the field trip to all other elementary schools in the district.



Above, Kamari Johnson, Ava Leverenz and Evelyn Henriques brush aside the sand to reveal “dinosaur bones” in the “Prehistoric Playground.” Below, Klaire Hamolli tries her best to work a ring around a metal path so she doesn’t make it buzz. Spoiler alert: She did it!



The challenge was to assemble the single blocks to form an arch with the numbers in order on both sides. Standing in back are Sarah McMeen with Mobile Ed Productions and Anne Flanagan, Ferry fourth-grade teacher, who wrote the grant for the museum. Seated are Molly Licavoli, Lyla Samyn, Emmy Dupuy, Alayna McClendon and Anna Carroll.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Sally Toomajan, Mallory Wolf, Dakot Moolet and Maria Toledano each have a color button to press and when theirs lights up, they’re supposed to press it as fast as they can.



Alex Camaj looks through the virtual reality mask and sees sea creatures.

Grosse
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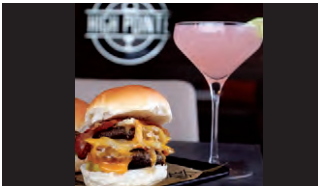


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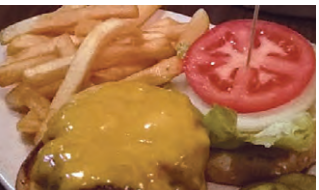


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Liggett students shine at music festival

University Liggett School Middle and Upper School choirs and vocal music students participated in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Solo & Ensemble Festival Feb. 8, at Westminster Church of Detroit. Under the direction of Middle and Upper School Choir Director Jessica Fielder, the students earned high marks in both solo and ensemble performances.

“We are incredibly proud of our students for their hard work and commitment to excellence,” Fielder said. “It’s been a joy to see them shine on stage. This event is a testament to the growth and success of our music program at ULS.”

The middle school choir earned a Division I



University Liggett School’s Middle, left, and Upper School choirs perform at Westminster Church of Detroit at the MSVMA Solo & Ensemble Festival.

rating, with the following soloists achieving top ratings:

- ◆ Olivia Robinson of Detroit — Division I
- ◆ Madeline Taylor-Schirmang of Detroit — Division I
- ◆ Nadia Anderson of

Grosse Pointe Farms — Division II

The upper school choir received a Division II rating. The following soloists were recognized with Division I ratings:

- ◆ Maxwell Brown of Clinton Township

◆ Ari Medvinsky of Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ Amelia Unkel of Grosse Pointe Farms

Caitlin Juip of the City of Grosse Pointe received a Division II rating for her solo performance.

The Division I soloists

from the upper school now advance to the State Solo & Ensemble Festival, which takes place April 12, at Lake Orion High School. “This is a significant milestone for our students and the music pro-

gram,” Fielder said. “Participating in events like the MSVMA Solo & Ensemble Festival gives students the chance to refine their craft, receive valuable feedback and continue their musical journey.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

University Liggett Players present ‘Mack and Mabel’

The University Liggett School Players present the beloved musical, “Mack and Mabel,” a captivating love story set amidst the golden age of silent films.

Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 6 to 8, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9. The senior rose ceremony will begin at approximately 1:55 p.m. before the Sunday performance.

Staged during the 50th anniversary of its Broadway debut, “Mack

and Mabel” traces the real-life romance between director Mack Sennett and silent film star Mabel Normand. The musical brings to life the comedy and charm of the era with legendary characters, including the Keystone Cops, Charlie Chaplin and Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle.

Originally featuring Robert Preston and Bernadette Peters, this silver anniversary production aims to deliver the same emotional depth and nostalgic humor that made the

show a classic.

The Liggett Players’ cast features seniors Ari Medvinsky of Grosse Pointe Woods as Mack and Alexa Kalyvas of Grosse Pointe Shores as Mabel. Joining them are Madison Reeves, Nico Abule, Sishir Chamiraju, Max Brown and Zaire Polk in lead and supporting roles.

Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased online only at uls.seatyourself.biz.

University Liggett School is located at 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.



COURTESY PHOTO

Thirty-two eighth-grade students from University Liggett School recently participated in the inaugural Democracy in Dialogue Virtual Exchange Program.

Eighth graders showcase work in Democracy in Dialogue program

Washington, D.C.

Thirty-two eighth-grade students from University Liggett School recently participated in the inaugural Democracy in Dialogue Virtual Exchange Program, an initiative from the Smithsonian Institution. The program invited students to explore the role their communities have played in shaping the first 250 years of the United States.

In collaboration with the Spring Leadership Academy in Houston, ULS students created short documentary videos that highlighted local art and its connection to civic engagement in their communities. The videos premiered during a special event at The War Memorial, where the student filmmakers answered questions about their work and the process behind it. The videos also were screened for the Office of the Under Secretary of Education in

Washington, D.C.

“This was a unique and invaluable opportunity for our students to connect with peers across the country while engaging with history through the lens of art and civic involvement,” said Chris Hemler, Cynthia N. Ford chair of history and the social studies at ULS. “Through this collaboration, students not only learned about the contributions of their own community, but also gained a broader understanding of how others engage in the civic process.”

Hemler, a history teacher, was one of 20 educators selected nationwide to serve as a Smithsonian Virtual Exchange facilitator. As part of the program, Hemler worked closely with Chad Hardy of Spring Leadership Academy to design activities that encouraged students to investigate and reflect on their hometown identity.

Together, they led the students through an exploration of how local art and history reflect broader societal themes.

The program’s theme — “How Has Your Community Played a Role in 250 Years of the American Experiment?” — aligns with ULS’s Liggett Approach, which emphasizes place-based history and student-driven inquiry. Hemler’s participation in the program also ties directly into the school’s expanding focus on civic engagement and local history for middle school students, who will engage with this curriculum in the upcoming 2024-25 school year.

The collaboration with Spring Leadership Academy allowed students to compare and contrast their findings with students in Houston, fostering a deeper understanding of the commonalities and differences that shape each community.

CONTEST!

“My favorite activity is the word searches. I’m really good at them and I enjoy doing them.”

— Jonathan
Grosse Pointe Farms

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City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PLANNING COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025, 7:00 PM.

In accordance with the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinance, you are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers for the Planning Commission to consider amendments to a special land use at 620 St. Clair Street. The following specifications are proposed for the project:

1. Project Type:

Wireless Communication Antenna/Tower

2. Current Zoning:

T, Transition District

3. Description:

The hearing will consider a proposed revision to the antenna configuration, modification of interior cabinet equipment, and replacement of underground transmission lines for an existing antenna tower. The revised antenna configuration is being proposed in accordance with Section 90-44: Commercial Antennas, of the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinance, which allows antenna towers when they achieve the standards of the ordinance.

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

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on March 17, 2025. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to city@grossepointecity.org. If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800.

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Left, this image of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club was among the Evans Tasiopoulos’ pieces requested for the show. Below, his photo of the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park marina also was selected.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVANS TASIPOULOS

Local artists’ work featured in new TV show

Tapper, Tasiopoulos pieces selected for ‘Grosse Pointe Garden Society’

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Curious residents who noticed several large trucks and lighting umbrellas along Sunningdale between Fairway and Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods last Thursday night may have thought the producers of the television show, “Grosse Pointe Garden Society,” were filming a few establishing shots.

Not so, said Woods officials. The crew was filming a Ford commercial.

However, other than its name, there is a local connection to NBC’s new murder-mystery drama, which is filmed in Georgia. Apart from being created and co-written by former Park resident Bill Krebbs, eagle-eyed viewers may have spotted the artwork of a pair of Grosse

Pointers during its Feb. 23 premier.

It’s been around a year since the creators of the new television series called around Grosse Pointe looking for true-to-life touches to add to the set.

So long ago, in fact, Grosse Pointe Farms resident Pat Tapper had forgotten all about it.

“I told my friends and I told my kids,” she said, “but then I forgot about it. This all happened a year ago. I didn’t think anything would come of it.”

The longtime photographer initially thought the offer to submit artwork to the show was too good to be true.

“They sent me an email and I thought, ‘Is this a scam?’” Tapper said. “But it sounded for real, so I contacted them.”

Tapper and Farms resident Evans Tasiopoulos

were selected from a portfolio of Grosse Pointe artists compiled by Posterity Gallery owner Michelle Boggess-Nunley, who was eager to answer the call when “Grosse Pointe Garden Society” reached out.

“I spoke with a producer in the set department,” Boggess-Nunley said. “They were looking for local artists who would want to be featured in a pilot they were working on. It wasn’t a for-sure thing.”

She said she wasn’t surprised Tapper and Tasiopoulos were selected by the powers that be at NBC.

“They are both incredible photographers,” she said. “They’ve both got great portfolios.”

Producers were looking for pieces that represented Grosse Pointe landmarks and recognizable areas. The artists



negotiated their own contracts and sold the digital rights of their art to NBC. Tasiopoulos said it was exciting to get the call. Much of the photographer’s work is centered in Grosse Pointe.

“I showed them some of my work and they seemed to enjoy it,” he said. “Overall, I think

See GARDEN, page 8B



Pat Tapper’s photograph of St. Paul on the Lake was among her pieces selected.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAT TAPPER

Tapper’s photo of The Village.



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DAM hit with flood

Rebuild efforts include re-establishing relationship with Grosse Pointe

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The morning of Jan. 24, Miah J. Davis, executive director of the Detroit Artists Market, received a distressing call from her art installer, Mike Kearns.

“(He) was in at 8:30 or 9 a.m. to finish installing the exhibition scheduled to open that evening,” Davis said. “Mike’s not a dramatic person. He called and said, ‘It’s raining in the gallery.’”

“... When I got there, it was raining in 80 percent of the gallery,” she added. “It started on the second floor and rained down onto the first floor.”

The “rain” was the result of a burst pipe, which poured water into the gallery for several hours before it was discovered.

Other than a few “soft paper items” that were destroyed, Davis was happy to report 95 percent of the artwork was salvageable. Damage to the building, however, “remains significant and leaves us uncertain of when we will be able to safely reopen to the public,” according to a press release issued by DAM.

“Every artist, except one who lives between Detroit and another state, was available to come



Chunks of plaster lay on the main floor of DAM after water compromised the ceiling.

and pick up their work within an hour and a half,” Davis noted. “It was all out by 10 a.m. ... We had to box up the work of the featured artist, which was on a wall that was impacted, but

it’s ceramic, so it’s restorable.”

“We have a specialty art insurance policy, so the art was handled by a specialist team,” DAM Board President Kate Baker said. “They really understood what they were doing and why it was so impactful to the artists.”

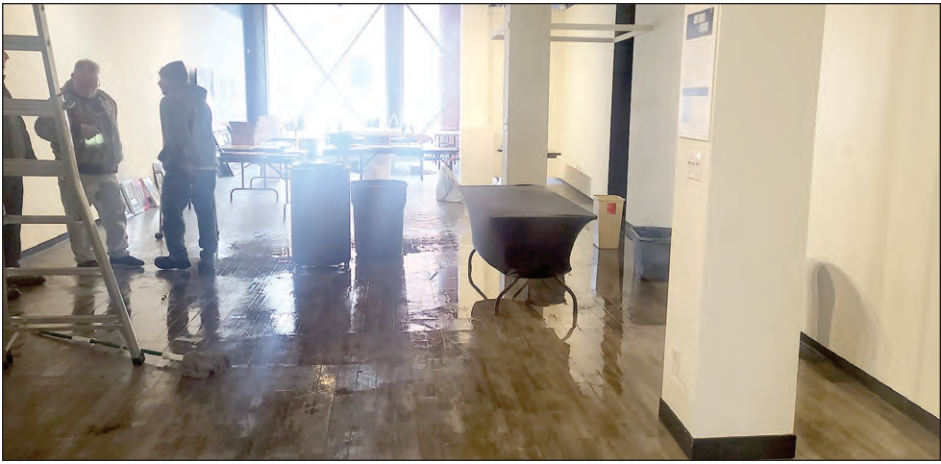
Davis, who has been executive director of DAM since August 2023, credited her team for jumping in to help.

“I’m thankful, as an organization, DAM has always had board members who were willing to roll up their sleeves and help, whether for an event, an exhibition or a crisis,” she said.

Beyond artwork, the administrative office was most damaged. Drywall, the plaster ceiling, carpet, flooring and furniture were among the building’s casualties.

“Lots of repairs need to happen,” Davis said. “The space is a shell right now.”

Several organizations offered space to DAM,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIAH J. DAVIS

The main floor of the Detroit Artists Market flooded after a pipe burst mid-January.

free of charge, to house its current exhibition. One organization was the Grosse Pointe Artists Association. GPAA President Karen Pope offered to go to DAM, pick up the artwork and install it in one of the galleries at The War Memorial.

Though DAM already had put a plan in motion, Baker noted gratitude for the offer.

“There was interruption to one exhibition, but not to the season,” she said.

Davis said DAM plans exhibitions a year in advance, so more help likely will be needed while DAM is “operationally on hold.”

In addition to repairs, DAM is taking the opportunity to make changes to the gallery’s layout. Among them is potentially relocating the gift shop to a spot near the windows, “So it looks like a retail shop,” Davis said. She also hopes to create a designated space for workshops away from the main gallery. “This is a natural opportunity to think about change.”

“We’d also like to upgrade the way technology is run,” Baker said, noting vast changes in technology since DAM moved into the building.

The current space, located at 4719 Woodward in Detroit, is the seventh location in DAM’s 93-year history. It’s been housed there 25 years — its longest tenure after 35 years in Harmony Park.

But its origin has roots in Grosse Pointe.

“It started in 1932, by a group of philanthropic women in Grosse Pointe,” Davis said, noting DAM began in response to the Great Depression, as a way to help the arts industry recover. “It started as the Detroit Young Artists Market,



A stream of leaking water overflows from one garbage can into another after on the DAM staircase.

but in the ’50s they took out ‘young.’ Our focus is on building the careers of emerging artists, regardless of age, and building capital for them by selling their art or through the gift shop.”

“The Fords, the Strohs, every big name in Grosse Pointe was once on the roster,” said Grosse Pointe Park resident Roger Garrett, a longtime DAM supporter and new board of directors member. “Once we left Harmony Park and disappeared on the second floor of Stroh River Place — we spent less than 10 years there — people lost interest, disappeared, became less and less of a player.”

“We have the longest-running art fair — Art for the Holidays,” said Baker, noting an “explosion” of art markets and

fairs over the years. “We used to be the only game in town. Now people are pulled in all different directions.”

“... As we approach our 100th anniversary, we’re going to be celebrating our founding families,” she added. “The spirit of supporting the artists is still here — the energy to support and establish emerging artists.”

Baker said she’s most excited about the new energy surrounding DAM, in Davis’s leadership and Garrett’s addition to the board.

“The new energy carrying forward is not just for the great artistic talent — we have nearly 600 members and around 500 are artist-members — but also the wonderful energy of the board and

See FLOOD, page 3B



Floors throughout DAM were saturated following the flood.

AREA ACTIVITIES

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org

◆ Introduction to Historic House Painting and Decoration, with Anthony Kartsonas of Historic Surfaces LLC, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27.

◆ Luck of the Irish Dinner and Concert, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, March 7. Included a three-course meal from Chef Joe Paxton and music by Black Murray Band. Tickets are \$65, \$25 for the concert only.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men’s Ecumenical Breakfast group meets at

7:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cost for breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

Library

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

◆ Saturday Drop-in Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ OpenSpot Theatre Workshop, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 1, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ OpenSpot Theatre Workshop, 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at

Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Meet Up & Make: Masks, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 3, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ First Tuesday Book Discussion, 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Make Comics Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Capturing Photography with Monica Morgan: Food, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Reader Dog, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, March 7, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, noon to 1

p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

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.

◆ Needle Felting Small Creatures with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

◆ Introduction to Watercolor Pencils with Saveria Giovinnazzo, 10 a.m. to noon Fridays, March 7 to 28.

◆ Landscapes in Oil for Beginners with Linda Boyle, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays, March 13 to 27.

◆ Portraits in the Style of Max Beckman with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays,

See EVENTS, page 8B

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Chamber’s Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week is March 2-8

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

More than 20 local restaurants have signed on to participate in the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce’s Restaurant Week, which this year takes place March 2 to 8, throughout Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities.

“We have several returning favorites and a handful of new participants,” said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and events coordinator.

“Restaurant Week is important because our restaurants are the fuel to the community,” she added. “The restaurant owners pour their hearts into their establishments and are who we lean on to celebrate special moments in life. This time of year can be challenging because the days are still short and cold, and working with the restaurants to promote menu specials is a way to encourage people to support them and treat themselves.

“Restaurant Week also encourages people to try a new place,” she continued. “We have been overwhelmed by the new and creative offerings and hope to see a lot of action out there of people trying something new.”

The chamber also is trying something new this year by teaming up with local food influenc-

ers to help market the event, including Grosse Pointe News Food Gossip columnist Nina Taormina, creator of Grosse Pointe Eats & Treats; Lyndsey Walworth, who runs @WineDineDetroit on Instagram; and Ned Impastato, of Ned’s Eats Detroit on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and X.

They “run successful food blog pages that focus on cuisine in the Pointes,” Turnbull said. “Sponsors have already received highlights in video promotions and this will continue through the next week as Restaurant Week kicks off.”

While the sponsorship deadline has passed, those interested in other opportunities to sponsor chamber events should reach out to the chamber at (313) 881-4722. Restaurants and community organizations are key to making such events a success, Turnbull said.

During Restaurant Week, she encouraged people to envelop the spirit of Restaurant Week — introduce friends to local favorites or venture out to try something new.

“Grosse Pointe has a variety of cuisine that continues to evolve and provide something unique for everyone,” Turnbull said. “Let your winter blues wander away and show your love

Who’s in?

The following restaurants are participating in the 2025 Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week.

** Denotes restaurant sponsors*

- Alma Kitchen
- Antonio’s in the Park
- * Atwater in the Park
- Bricks Pizzeria
- Brine Oyster House
- * Bronze Door
- Cadieux Café
- * Cellar 313
- Champs Rotisserie & Seafood
- Churchill’s Bistro & Cigar Bar
- * The Continental at Ford House
- Detroit Soul
- Ferlito’s Restaurant
- * High Pointe Burger Jointe
- Irish Coffee Bar & Grill
- Le Rouge Boulangerie
- Old Pony Martini Pub
- Pendy’s Grosse Pointe
- Sidecar Slider Bar / SHIFT
- Kitchen & Cocktails
- Sprout House
- Watermark Bar & Grille
- Whiskey Six

Additional sponsors include:
Kozi Vodka
Racing for Kids
Raise Hope & Foster Dreams
SMART
Grosse Pointe News

for the places that give you the greatest nights out.”

For more information about Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week, visit grossepointechamber.com.

ENGAGEMENTS

Scoggin—Marion

Former Grosse Pointe Shores resident Samantha Scoggin and Lucas Marion are engaged.

A July 2025 wedding is planned.

Miss Scoggin, the daughter of Christie Scoggin and the late Patrick Scoggin, earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Duke University. She is a pediatric cardiac nurse in the intensive care unit at Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago.

Mr. Marion, the son of Brad and Laura Marion, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Michigan. He is a senior logistics analyst with Zoro in Chicago.



Samantha Scoggin and Lucas Marion



Mark Byron and Maggie Jackson

Jackson—Byron

Grosse Pointe native Maggie Jackson and Mark Byron are engaged.

A November 2025 wedding is planned.

Ms. Jackson, the daughter of David Jackson and Joan Pfaendtner of the City of Grosse Pointe, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication studies from the University of Detroit Mercy and works as a manager of Medicaid and Medicare Marketing at Henry Ford Health.

Mr. Byron is the son of Scott and Kathy Byron of Brighton. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in movement science from the University of Michigan, a Master of Nursing degree from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing in Ohio and a second Master of Science degree with a family nurse practitioner focus from Saginaw Valley State University. He is a nurse practitioner with Memorial Health.

Kids on the Go

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Kristy Schena, executive director of Kids on the Go, who presented about the nonprofit during the club’s Feb. 11 meeting at Ford House. Schena is the founder of the disability services and support organization, which has been offering essential programs for children with special needs since 1999. Based in St. Clair Shores, the organization provides free summer therapy programs for children, thanks to the generous donors in the community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

FLOOD:

Continued from page 2B

the staff,” she said. “We’ve got this runway to our 100th anniversary and it’s only going to go up.”

While its building undergoes repair, DAM work continues to be shown off-site in the recently opened exhibition, “Detroit DNA,” housed at the University of Michigan Detroit Center.

“We’re focused not just on DAM, but on partnering,” Baker said. “It’s not just about gallery space, but how do we get into the community. Miah’s planning some exciting programs this year.”

Davis encouraged those interested in learning more about DAM to follow the gallery on social media and visit its website — detroitartists-market.org — for information about its temporary gift shop home, changes in exhibition dates and other information.

“If you sign up for our newsletter, you’ll regularly receive updates,” she added.

DAM hopes to raise

\$35,000 to cover immediate expenses, including temporary relocation fees and installation costs. It is hosting an online fundraiser — visit mightycause.com/story/1hrr0g to donate — and is close to reaching its goal.

Davis noted with a measure of optimism, “I’m planning to be open by Hot DAM!, our show in June.

“... This is a great opportunity for the market in terms of engagement and rebuilding relationships and outreach,” she added.

“We’re rebuilding our reputation in not just Grosse Pointe, but the entire community,” Garrett said.

“We’re making the best of a bad situation,” Baker added. “We’re going to learn a lot this year.”

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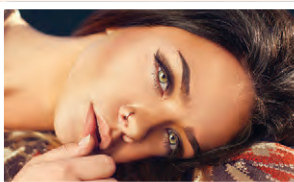
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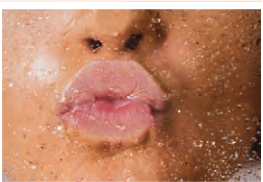


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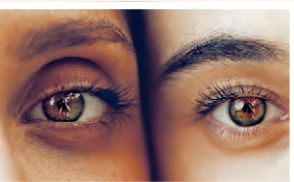
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02/27/25

Once upon a time *once more*



Brides find wedding gown treasures at unique boutique

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

For over three decades, Once Again Bridal Shop has been a beloved destination for brides and prom-goers seeking high-quality, affordable formal wear. After 30 years at their original location, this trusted bridal consignment boutique is embarking on an exciting new chapter with a fresh look and a new address: 35737 Harper Ave. in Clinton Township.

Specializing in never-worn and gently loved women's formal wear, Once Again Bridal Shop offers a carefully curated selection of gowns and accessories for every member of the wedding party. With sizes ranging from 0 to 30 and prices to fit any budget—from \$25 to \$2,500—the boutique ensures everyone can find their dream look. From timeless bridal gowns to stunning prom dresses, their inventory is constantly updated with quality

pieces, making every visit a unique treasure hunt.

Now open with new hours, the shop welcomes walk-ins for shopping and consignment from Tuesday through Saturday. For February only, they're waiving their \$10 account setup fee for new consignors, providing even more reasons to stop in and discover this hidden gem. Whether you're planning a wedding, preparing for prom, or seeking the perfect accessory, Once Again Bridal Shop is committed to saving you money while making your day as special as you've always dreamed.

Mark your calendars for their Grand Opening in early February and experience the warm, personalized service that has made Once Again Bridal Shop a trusted name in formal wear since 1992. No appointment necessary—just come ready to fall in love with your perfect dress!



All gowns are less than three years old and are freshly-cleaned if gently-used. Many gowns are brand new, and all are waiting to be tried on for the ideal fit at Once Again Bridal Shop.



**CELEBRATE
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Once Again Bridal Shop provides a variety of new and used bridal attire for all the women in your wedding party, from the bride to her bridesmaids, to mother of the bride or groom or for great formal looks for special guests.



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Whether a traditional look suits you or you are looking for something more contemporary, Once Again Bridal Shop has a wide selection of elegant gowns.

Visit during the shop’s current hours: Tuesday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Thursday and Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday from noon-5 p.m. The store is closed both Sunday and Monday.



ALL IN THE DETAILS

The lovely lace and beadwork, above, adorns one of the many stunning bridal gowns available. Each gown is checked to be in great condition and ready to wear as you walk down the aisle. These amazing gowns are all perfectly beautiful — they’re meant to be seen and enjoyed once more.



COURTESY PHOTOS

GLITZ AND GLAMOUR

There is more in store beyond exquisite gowns! Pretty headbands, headpieces, hair clips and other accessories fill the counters at Once Again Bridal Shop. It’s easy to pull an entire look together in one visit.

MEET THE TEAM

The helpful team of experts at Once Again Bridal Shop have one mission— to help you find the ideal wedding gown for your style and shape. From left: Amanda Benjamin, Patricia Mok (seated) and Lauren Spear

Shop the new location at 35737 Harper Ave. in Clinton Township. Call (586) 792-1736 or visit online at [onceagainbridal.com](https://www.onceagainbridal.com).



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.

H. Martin Westfall

H. Martin Westfall, 90, of Powell, Ohio, passed away peacefully in his sleep Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025.

Mr. Westfall was born Nov. 22, 1934, in Latrobe, Pa., to Creed and Cecilia Westfall. The eldest of four children, Marty excelled at sports and academics and was awarded an academic scholarship to attend St. Vincent College. He met his beautiful wife of 69 years, Dortha, “Dottie,” as a student at the college. Marty received a Bachelor of Science degree magna cum laude in 1956. He joined the firm of Coopers & Lybrand (then known as Lybrand Ross Brothers & Montgomery) in Pittsburgh later that year. Marty and his young family moved to the Columbus, Ohio, office in 1964. He was admitted as a partner in the firm in 1966. He became the managing partner of the firm in 1971, and subsequently a regional managing partner. The Columbus office became the largest accounting, tax and consulting firm in the city during his tenure and he was very proud of the prestigious companies that were clients of the firm.

In 1981, he and Dottie moved to Grosse Pointe Farms when he became the partner in charge of the Detroit groups of Coopers & Lybrand, which included Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis and Grand Rapids, in addition to Detroit. In 1982, he was elected to the nine-member executive committee of the U.S. firm. At that time, he also was appointed vice chairman, a position he held for 10 years, in recognition of his highly skilled ability to generate new business with major multinational companies. He was responsible for all offices in the firm’s Central, Southern and West Coast regions. He was extremely proud to have worked personally with a number of high-profile executives. In 1992, he assumed the position of U.S. Senior Managing Partner Europe residing in Geneva, Switzerland. In that role, he also was instrumental in the expansion of the firm’s practices in Eastern Europe, Russia, India, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He and Dottie enjoyed traveling throughout Europe with their Shetland sheepdog, Chelsea, during their time in Switzerland. They also traveled extensively throughout Asia, India, the Middle East and Australia. Marty and Dottie returned to Ohio in 1995, and resided in Powell. Marty retired in 1996, after 41 years with Coopers & Lybrand. Following his retirement, he was appointed to lead negotiations to represent the retired C&L partners during the firm’s merger with

PriceWaterhouse now known as PwC. Marty and Dottie resided in Powell for 30 years, until her passing in June 2023.

Marty served on the board of directors for St. Vincent College for 24 years and on the visiting committee for the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan for 14 years. Until his death, Marty also served on the investment committee for the Benedictine Monastery Society in Latrobe, Pa. During his time in Ohio, Marty was a member of the Presidents Club of The Ohio State University and Rotary Club of Columbus. In Michigan, Marty was very active in the Detroit community and served on the executive committee of the Economic Club of Detroit, as well as the board of directors of the Detroit Opera and Detroit Symphony.

Marty was an avid golfer and enjoyed being a member of Scioto Country Club, a founding member of Muirfield Village Golf Club, The Golf Club in Ohio and Rolling Rock Club in Ligonier, Pa. He was a past member of the Country Club of Detroit, Detroit Golf Club and Domaine Imperial in Gland, Switzerland. He also was a past member of the Grosse Pointe Club and a member of the Columbus Athletic Club. He enjoyed the friendships he developed over the years, through the course of his numerous extracurricular and other eleemosynary endeavors.

Marty is survived by his four wonderful children, Martin H. (Diana), Kevin (Beth), Christopher (Maureen) and Laura Casey. He was proud of his children and their accomplishments and likewise proud of his seven grandchildren, Kathleen, Madeleine and Nicholas Casey, Olivia, Henry and John “Jack” Westfall and Karsen Westfall, who all knew him as Pop Pop.

He is survived by his wife, Terri Shane, who lovingly stood by his side and took care of him the last year and a half of his life, and her son, Mark Huffman (John). He also is survived by his brother, David Westfall (Shirley); and sister, Maryann Erdos (Tom). He was predeceased by his brother, Thomas.

A private funeral Mass will take place at St. Vincent Basilica Parish, with interment at Mary Mother of Mercy Mausoleum on the campus of the St. Vincent Archabbey in Westmoreland County, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Creed S. Westfall, C’32 Scholarship that Marty and Dottie Westfall established. Donations may be sent to Creed S. Westfall C’32 Scholarship, c/o St. Vincent College, 300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe, PA 15650.

Lila June Tahnoose

Lila June Tahnoose, 95, died peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, at her home in Grosse Pointe Park. She was born Jan. 9, 1930, in Detroit, to Ameen and Rachel (nee Malouly) Malooly, both now deceased.

Lila was a beloved wife, married 67 years to Jay Tahnoose, who predeceased her. Together they created a thriving family business. Her remarkable legacy will live on through their devoted children, Suzanne Flamm (Martin), Marc Tahnoose (Terri) and Diane Michels (Bill). She was the dear grandmother of Joshua Flamm (Erica), Ryan Flamm, Rachel Malone, Billy Michels, Andrew Michels and Lauren Michels; cherished great-grandmother of Jacob and Adam Flamm; and a loving sibling to the late Thelma Assaf, the late Jerry Malooly, the late Dolores Sawan, the late Diane Codde, the late Robert Malooly and her surviving sister, Sandra McFadden. Her many nieces and nephews also knew the kindness of her heart and the joy of her kitchen.

A true homemaker, Lila took great pride in raising her children and providing a warm and welcoming home. An aunt and matriarch to countless nieces and nephews, she was considered a ‘mom’ to innumerable others; she always had a houseful and cheerfully hosted many family parties. With so many friends, she will be dearly missed. Along with her many wonderful qualities, her voice was not only heard in her lovely singing, but resonated through her actions as the matriarch of her family, guiding them with love, thoughtfulness and kindness. As an accomplished and beautiful singer, Lila graced many with her melodious voice. Her culinary skills made her an exceptional cook and she was happiest when entertaining her family and friends, sharing meals that were made memorable with stories and laughter.

An active, longtime member of Lochmoor Club, Lila’s harmonious spirit was a well-known presence. Her commitment to her community was evident in her remarkable volunteer work at Bon Secours Hospital, where she dedicated more than 25 years of service. Gardening was not just a hobby for Lila; it was an expression of her love for beauty and nature, a passion that could be seen in the vibrant blooms that adorned her home.

A gathering will take place Friday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. until her memorial Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, 11466 Kercheval, Detroit.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, stjude.org; or Capuchin Soup Kitchen, cskdetroit.org.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.



H. Martin Westfall

Jan O’Leary

Jan O’Leary, 81, died from complications from an intestinal infection and other ailments Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, in Naples, Fla., surrounded by her sons.

Jan was born Oct. 5, 1943, in Cincinnati, the first of three siblings, to Wayne Arthur and Phyllis Manson. Her father was in the U.S. Army at the time and stationed near Cincinnati. After the war, Jan moved to Detroit, where her parents had been living and where she grew up, on the city’s east side. She attended Cass Technical High School in its heyday, graduating in 1961, and enrolled at Michigan State University in 1961.

She dropped out in 1964, during her junior year, working afterward for a time as a teller at Michigan National Bank. At the birthday party of a mutual friend the same year, she met Pat O’Leary, who had recently graduated from the University of Detroit’s law school and was studying for the State Bar of Michigan. They married in November 1965, settling on the eastside of Detroit, where two sons were born, Patrick in 1966, and Peter in 1968, who were followed by Michael in 1971, by which time the family had moved to Grosse Pointe Park. They remained in Grosse Pointe, moving from the Park to the City to the Shores over the course of the next four decades.

Shortly before her marriage, Jan converted to Catholicism. The rest of her life, she was a devout Catholic who thrived in the communion arising from the reforms of Vatican II. Throughout her life, she was actively involved in parish life, particularly in leading volunteer activities, such as Meals on Wheels.

She was actively involved in PTA when the boys were attending Defer Elementary School; she was chief scorekeeper for Grosse Pointe Park Little League; and throughout her life took inspiration from lending friends and strangers a helping hand.

In the late 1970s, partly to prove to Pat that she could do it despite his doubts, she trained for a pilot’s license, which involved many months of ground school, followed by many hours of training in the air. Once she received her license in 1981, she delighted in taking her kids and their friends on aerial tours over Detroit, taking off and landing at City Airport. She once flew the kids to Mackinac Island and back on the same day.

In the late 1980s, Jan returned to college, enrolling at Oakland University, where she graduated in 1991, with a degree in general studies. Her goal was to beat Michael out of college, which she did by two years. Around this time, Jan began to work as a travel agent, which



Lila June Tahnoose



Helen Arends

allowed her to share one of her greatest passions, which was seeing the world. With Pat, she visited every continent on earth. She had an abiding love for Europe, especially Italy and France, and in the U.S., Hawaii and Florida. She loved warm weather and preferred the look of a good tan.

Beginning in 2002, Jan and Pat began to spend time in Grand Beach, to be closer to her sons and their families, who were living in Chicago. In 2009, not long after Pat retired from practicing law, they made this move permanent. Her model for being a grandmother was something between a fairy godmother and one of the magical witches who lives in a gingerbread house in one of the tales of the Brothers Grimm. Imagine someone who would provide unlimited access to treats and constantly buy presents — that is a glimmer of what she was like as a grandma. She was adored.

And not only by her grandchildren. She was loved by friends and family for her cheerfulness, love, generosity and, above all, her style. Jan’s fashion choices were bright colors and patterns, even blindingly. The brighter and bolder the color, the better. She loved shades of yellow especially, preferring to paint the walls of the houses she lived in in that shade. She happily professed, “It’s not possible to feel bad in a room painted yellow.”

Jan was a Detroiter at heart. Until the end, she loved Coney Islands, Sander’s hot fudge and Sander’s chocolate fudge bumpy cakes. There were always cold cans of Faygo in her fridge.

Jan was deeply devoted to Pat and their marriage and demonstrably committed to her family, including her sons and their wives, as well as his four grandchildren, but also to an extensive network of nieces and nephews and their husbands, wives and children. She is survived by Patrick and Elizabeth (Crowley), Peter and Rebecca Houze, their children Gabriel and Lucian, and Michael and Una Moon, and their children Esther and Cyrus.

A funeral Mass took place Feb. 26, in New Buffalo. She will be buried at Pine Grove Cemetery in New Buffalo.

Donations in Jan’s memory may be made to Al-Anon, al-anon.org; Meals on Wheels, mealsonwheelsamerica.org; or St. Vincent de Paul, svdpdetroit.org.



Jan O’Leary



Gary Charles Ohlsson

Helen Arends

Helen Arends, 88, passed away peacefully Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025.

Helen was the beloved wife of the late Norman J., M.D.; loving mother of Laura Calcaterra (Larry), Dr. Gregory Arends (Jackie) and the late Dr. Douglas Arends; proud grandmother of Charlie, William, Alex and Elise; dear sister of Robert Taylor (Kathy); and dear aunt of Cari McCalden (Steve) and Lauren Alioso (Nick). She was a proud member of the Daughters of the British Empire and a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 1, with a funeral service to begin at 2 p.m. at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc., 36900 Schoenherr, Sterling Heights.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to InHouse Hospice, 30800 Telegraph, Ste. 1975, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

Share memories with the family at wujekcalcaterra.com.

Gary Charles Ohlsson

Gary Charles Ohlsson, 71, of Grosse Pointe, passed away Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, in Troy.

Gary was born in Detroit, to Gertrude and Charles Ohlsson. He worked in advertising for Applied Graphics Technology and Leo Burnett Worldwide. Gary was a lover of music, the handiest of men and a friend to all. He also enjoyed a good nap.

Gary is survived by his wife, Julie; daughter, Madeline; and son, Charles (Kelsey Devaney).

His ashes will be spread at Hubbard Lake.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/47PrHTz.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. Date and time are still pending. Contact Verheyden Funeral Home for further information at (313) 881-8500.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

OBITS:

Continued from page 6B

Charles Farwell Turner

Charles “Chuck” Farwell Turner, 88, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at home in Stuart, Fla.

A man of many strengths and interests, Chuck will be remembered for his kindness, connections and capacity to make anyone he talked with feel special. His warmth, humor and curiosity about others fostered intimacy in all his relationships.

Chuck was born Aug. 11, 1936, to Farwell and Maude Turner. He had a lifelong friend in his older brother, Keith Turner. He attended Cooley High School and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1959. He remained forever loyal to his Detroit roots and his maize and blue.

After U of M, Chuck served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, finishing officer training in Newport, R.I. He served on the U.S.S. Hawkins as a lieutenant junior grade, gunnery. His four years of service took him on tours across the Mediterranean. For a kid who grew up in Detroit, one of the most influential parts of his naval experience was meeting people from all over the world and learning about their lived experiences and ideas. It sparked a lifelong interest in travel and an intimate curiosity about people and the world around him. He sought out others and never forgot a person’s name or story.

Once he was discharged in 1963, Chuck returned to Ann Arbor to complete his MBA. After finishing his degree, he took his first job with Detroit Bank and Trust (now Comerica Bank) in 1964, in its credit department. Chuck had a challenging yet satisfying 28-year career with Comerica, including leading the bank’s international department. In this role he traveled the globe — often with Mary — visiting Hong Kong, Iran, Saudi Arabia and, ultimately, more than 70 countries. His interest in geography, politics and foreign affairs continued throughout his life and, in the 1980s, he served as president of the Detroit Committee on Foreign Relations.

What Chuck valued



Charles Farwell Turner

most, however, was his family. He married the love of his life, Mary Lynn Herman, June 17, 1965, and was a devoted husband and best friend to Mary for 60 years. Their partnership provided the foundation for all things good in their family life and was an enduring example to their daughters, Mary Beth and Katy, as well as their respective husbands, Rob Garvey and Peter Keim. He and Mary’s grandchildren — Brian, Conor and Delaney Garvey, and Natalie and Tyler Keim — had the opportunity to intimately observe a marriage built on engagement, trust, love for others and humor.

Chuck’s most coveted role was to be a hero in the eyes of his family, which he achieved, even if imperfectly, brilliantly. He was cherished for being in his loved ones’ corner unrelentingly, asking all the right questions and caring deeply about the answers, enjoying others’ every success and bringing humor, joy and mischief to all things. As a father, he will be remembered for mystery trips he planned, foot races on the beach, endless rounds of “Jeopardy!” and trivia, repeated bad jokes and a lifetime of support, wisdom and encouragement.

Revered as a grandpa, his grandkids adored him for his playfulness, humor and unwavering guidance. Chuck championed their every success by attending sporting events and school performances, big and small. He was equally a comfort for all things difficult and someone his grandchildren often sought out. Family trips to Florida, Costa Rica and Montana or hours spent in pools, on golf courses or pursuing outdoor adventures were just a small part of the fun he conjured. Nighttime rides in the golf cart, getting ice cream, Coney outings or talking sports were just another chance to talk with each of his grandchildren, an opportunity he never missed.

Chuck was a great ath-



Norman Samra

lete. He ran track, played basketball through college and enjoyed tennis and golf through most of his life. He loved to ride his bike, which was just an excuse to seek out others and may have involved more socializing than biking. As a competitor, he brought his A-game to everything and losing was not his most graceful moment. As a spectator, he was dubbed “the prince of darkness,” yelling at the TV and always predicting his team may give up a last-minute touchdown or game-losing basket. He was thrilled to see Michigan win a national championship in 2023. It completed his full life.

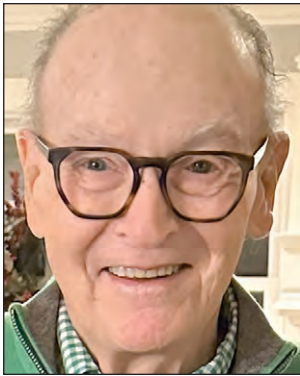
He was a music enthusiast, often playing a familiar backdrop at home on his piano with his deep broadcast voice singing along. His dancing knew no bounds, earning him the nickname “Grover,” and there was no dance floor he would pass up. As in all things, his sense of fun, spirit and belonging left no room for sitting anything out.

A celebration of life is being planned for April in Stuart, Fla. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Andrew’s Church, 2100 SE Cove Rd., Stuart, FL 34997, or a charity of the giver’s choice.

Norman Samra

Norman Samra, 79, passed away Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, at John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit. He was a resident of Grosse Pointe.

Norman was born Nov. 27, 1945, in Highland Park, to Halime and Khazel Samra, both now deceased. He worked for the City of Detroit, as well as Harrison Township and Wayne County. He also served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was a past commodore of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club and a member of the Detroit Regional Yacht-Racing Association. He was an



William Frederick Blake

avid sailor and race committee member, as well as a tennis enthusiast and superb father.

Norman is survived by his wife, Barbara; and daughters, Beth Ann and Emily (Lucien Williams).

Services will be held at Verheyden Funeral Home, Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

William Frederick Blake

William Frederick Blake, 81, a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe, died Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025.

Bill was born Aug. 28, 1943, in Detroit. He was the son of the late Anne and John Blake; beloved father of Patricia Blake and the late Brian Blake; proud grandfather of Christian, Patrick and Blake Ilitch; and great-grandfather of Christian Ilitch Jr. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Mary Ann (nee Stechschulte) Blake; son, Brian; sister, Elizabeth; and brother, Timothy. Bill also is survived by his brothers, John (Jan), Patrick (Laura), Francis (Joan) and Christopher (Anne).

Bill was a proud graduate of Austin Catholic High School and John Carroll University. After graduating from college, Bill went to work at a small accounting firm, Godfrey, Hammel, Daniels and Co. During the course of his career, he helped the firm grow from seven to more than 60 employees. He retired as a managing partner in 2014. His clients respected his accounting and tax expertise, but also recognized him as a confidant and friend because of his business acumen and integrity.

In addition to his children and grandchildren, Bill’s greatest legacy was the work he did mentoring perhaps hundreds of people as part of his association with Alcoholics Anonymous. He had a gift for connecting with people who were new to the program, always empha-



Arlene Louise Cobau

sizing that they were all in this together and their only purpose was to help each other stay sober and alive. Bill was known for his dry sense of humor, keen interest in politics and strong opinions.

Funeral services will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Mariner’s Inn Detroit, 445 Ledyard, Detroit, MI, 48201, or Salvation Army Detroit Harbor Light, 3737 Lawton, Detroit, MI 48208, bit.ly/434Tnnj.

Arlene Louise Cobau

Arlene Louise Cobau passed away Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, after a brief illness.

Arlene was the daughter of June Louise and Joseph Gilbert. She is survived by her four sons, Bill (Marcia), Jay (Ellen), Tom and John (Ellen Grant); and 10 grandchildren, Alexis, Nilo, Timothy, Robert (Elizabeth), Caitlin, John, Joseph, James, Sarah and Anna-Louise. She was predeceased by her husband, Jack; and her granddaughter, Eva.

A longtime resident of Grosse Pointe, Arlene avidly participated in the civic life of the city, including through Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, the Marais Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, numerous bridge, mah-

jong and tennis groups and as an advocate for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Arlene grew up in Abington, Pa., and attended Smith College. After graduation, she married Jack, a loving romance which lasted more than 50 joyful years. The couple moved to Grosse Pointe in 1966. Arlene turned her intelligence, outgoing personality and love of shopping into a career by becoming a senior manager at Jacobson’s department store.

Both Arlene and Jack were art lovers. They toured the country and the world visiting museums wherever they went. As a Detroit Institute of Arts docent, Arlene shared her passion and understanding of the arts with the young. Arlene never walked by the opportunity to help someone in need and she will be profoundly missed by her family and many friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, Arlene asked that memorial donations be made to the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club, P.O. Box 36366, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, bit.ly/4if9rr1.

MEMORIAL

Paul Mabarak

June 29, 1930 — Feb. 1, 2025

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

Variety of Lenten activities offered at St. Paul on the Lake

All are welcome to celebrate Lent at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church on Fridays, beginning Friday, March 7. The church is hosting Lenten fish dinners, Stations of the Cross and the speaker series, “From the Cross to the Eucharist.”

The fish dinners take place 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Paul School cafeteria, located at 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., and include baked salmon, fish sticks, macaroni and cheese,

vegetable lasagna, coleslaw, potatoes, corn, biscuits, applesauce, fruit cups, hot coffee and tea. Prices are \$22 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for ages 6 and younger.

Stations of the Cross take place from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the church, located at 157 Lakeshore.

The Lenten series, “From the Cross to the Eucharist,” takes place

See LENT, page 8B

Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

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Masses

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Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — Noon

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SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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An honor

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant and Rotary Assistant District Gov. Ted Everingham during the club’s Feb. 25 meeting at Ford House. Bryant was inducted as an honorary member of Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary for his many years supporting the club, which is a local chapter of Rotary International. Everingham, a longtime Grosse Pointe attorney, presented to attendees a short history of Rotary International, as a part of the 120-year celebration. Rotary International is a global service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership organization with more than 1.4 million members. The local community is encouraged by Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members to join their Tuesday morning breakfasts and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for further details.



PICTURE CREDITED TO BOB GRAMBO



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT TAPPER

Tapper’s image of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

GARDEN:

Continued from page 1B

they chose 10 pieces.” Images of Ford House, The War Memorial and Jefferson Avenue were included in the package. Five of Tapper’s images were selected, including The Village, Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and Grosse Pointe South High School. “They picked four or five basic photos — not anything fancy — of the area,” she said. “The photos had been in my archives for 50 years. The photo of The Village was from 30 years ago; the cars look a little older than they do now.” Both photographers are enjoying having their work in the spotlight and are open to providing more, should the series continue. “For me it’s a great opportunity,” Tasiopoulos said. “I hope the show continues and goes on for a long time.”

“I belong to a garden club,” Tapper noted. “When I told the other members, everybody was so excited. They said, ‘They should interview us.’” “... It’s been fun from the standpoint of telling people,” she added. “They say, ‘There’s this new series coming out’ and I say, ‘Well, guess what, I have art in it.’ It’s been a fun thing for me.”

Though the show projects a darker image of the real Grosse Pointe, Tasiopoulos said he’s happy the area is getting its name out there. “It was picked up for full season, but if it continues they said they’d definitely reach back out to me to acquire more of my work,” he added. “I told them if there’s something specific they want, I’m happy to go out and

photograph what they’re looking for.” “As a supporter of our local art community, Posterity Gallery was happy to help connect actual Grosse Pointe artists with the show’s set,” Boggess-Nunley said. “It was nice to know they weren’t using generic images and that they were interested in adding a local element to the art on their set.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVANS TASIPOULOS

Tasiopoulos’ image of Ford Cove.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT TAPPER

Tapper’s photograph of Grosse Pointe South High School was selected for the show.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

March 20 and 27, and April 3.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during March. To sign up for the following, visit muturaladoration.com: ♦ Collage Workshops: Framed Pressed Flower Art, 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 1. Cost is \$85. ♦ Jewelry Workshop: Hammered Copper with Courtney Fischer, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1. Cost is \$75. ♦ Jewelry Workshop: Beaded Fringe Earrings, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 2. Cost is \$80. ♦ Knit Night, 6 to 8 p.m. every Thursday in March. All are welcome to this free community-building night. ♦ Textile Dye Workshop: Batik on Bandanas, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Cost is \$85. ♦ Printmaking Workshop: Intro to Lino Cut, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Cost is \$65.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives: ♦ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr., Grosse Pointe Park. ♦ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores. ♦ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. Register at redcrossblood.org.

Ford House

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs: ♦ Design Through the Decades Guided Tour, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in March. Admission prices vary. ♦ Storytime: “Outside My Window,” by Linda Ashman, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in March. ♦ Maker Studio: Reclaimed Wood Sign, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Cost is \$50 for Friends of Ford House, \$60 for the public. Adults only. ♦ New Friends of Ford House Orientation, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, and Wednesday, Sept. 17. ♦ Once Upon a Tea: Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Admission prices vary. For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Rotary member Brandon Elliott speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods presents its “Whine about Winter” wine-tasting event 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at the Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr., Grosse Pointe Park. The event features multiple stations with wine from Village Wine Shop, under the direction of Zach Assaf, as well as charcuterie by Fairfax Market. Cost is \$45 per person, \$55 at the door. Sign up at bit.ly/42UG4G4.

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: ♦ Restorative Evening Yoga, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, through March 20, with instructor Allie Short. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for guests. ♦ Social Media for Mature Learners, 4 to 5 p.m. Fridays, through May 9, with instructor Janisse Green. ♦ Upscale Jewelry Design for Beginners, 10 a.m. to noon Mondays, through March 3, with instructor Kathleen Robinson Young. ♦ Lunch and Learn: Healthy and Happy Aging, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 6, with facilitator Garry Cole. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for guest. ♦ The movie “What We Did on Our Holiday” will be shown at noon Friday, March 7. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests. ♦ Field Trip and Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. Lunch is at Kruse and Muer, followed by a tour of the Leader Dogs for the Blind campus. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for guests.

LENT:

Continued from page 7B

7:30 to 8 p.m., also in the church, and will focus on the last words Jesus spoke before his death and uniting his thoughts through a relationship with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Andrew Smith, Fr. Mark Prill, Deacon Alex Kouris, seminarian Karl Finkbeiner and Fr. Jim Bilot will be presenting.

Bilot also will lead the last session April 4, which includes a Healing Prayer Service with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The last fish dinner and Stations of the Cross will occur the following Friday, April 11. For more information, visit stpaulonthelake.org, contact Anne Graves at agraves@stpaulonthelake.org or call (313) 885-8855, Ext. 144.

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Detroit Zoo collecting old phones, electronics to save wild gorillas

Anyone who has an old cell phone sitting in a drawer, taking up space and collecting dust is encouraged to recycle it at the Detroit Zoo to save the planet, protect wild gorillas and ignite positive change.

The Detroit Zoological Society is partnering again with SAFE Gorilla, or Saving Animals from Extinction, for its Gorillas on the Line ... Answer the Call global recycling challenge. This worldwide initiative unites organizations in a friendly competition to collect old, unwanted cell phones and small electronic devices — all to support gorilla conservation.

Reusable devices will be refurbished and resold, generating funds for SAFE Gorilla’s conservation initiatives in Africa. Meanwhile, unusable devices will be responsibly recycled through certified partners, reducing electronic waste and making the world a greener place.

In 2024, the DZS earned the Silverback Award for collecting 2,792 devices — the highest number in North America. This year, the DZS team is asking the



COURTESY PHOTO

A cell phone recycling bin can be found at the Detroit Zoo through Sept. 1, during the SAFE Gorilla challenge.

public to answer the call and help them defend their title, collect even more devices and save great apes across the world.

“We know we can make an even bigger impact this year — but we need your help,” said Aaron Jesue, DZS zookeeper and program organizer. “By participating, you’re not only

keeping electronic waste out of landfills — you’re also playing a direct role in protecting endangered gorillas in the wild.”

Launched seven years ago, the Gorillas on the Line program was created to combat the destruction of wild gorilla habitats caused by mining materials necessary to power

modern cell phones and devices. Today, Gorillas on the Line remains dedicated to its mission by turning recycled electronics into funding for conservation projects that protect wild gorillas and their homes. To date, the program has collected more than 94,000 devices and raised more than \$48,000. These dollars are distributed by SAFE Gorilla to on-the-

grounds conservation organizations, including the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society and GRACE Gorillas — all of which have a proven track record of igniting positive change for animals and nature.

The public can get involved by dropping off their old, unwanted devices at the collection boxes outside the zoo’s

main entrance and inside the zoo’s Ford Education Center. Local schools, businesses and other groups can also register with the DZS as a team to collect devices in their neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

The annual challenge runs through Sept. 1, but guests can donate devices at the zoo year-round. Learn more and get involved by visiting dzoo.org/gotl.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Paramveer Swaich, D.O.

Understanding seasonal depression

While for some the New Year is celebrated as a time of renewal, this time of the year can also mean the start of feelings of fatigue, low energy, increased carbohydrate cravings, weight gain, sadness and just feeling “bleh.” Known commonly as the “winter blues” and in the medical field as seasonal affective disorder, being able to understand this phenomenon and knowing what symptoms to look out for can help you or a loved one seek appropriate treatment.

At its core, depression and many other mental health-related diagnoses have a common denominator, which is an imbalance in one or more of the neurotransmitters in our brains. One of the most important is serotonin. This neurotransmitter plays a role in emotions, learning, memory and sleep.

From a medical perspective, seasonal affective disorder is defined as recurrent episodes of unipolar major depression that begin in the fall to early winter. For mild seasonal affective disorder, light therapy is recommended.*

The best studied strength for bright light therapy is 10,000 lux light boxes that use fluorescent bulbs emitting white light. The light box should be positioned at a distance that allows 10,000 lux for 30 minutes a day while seated and facing the box. For the best results, it is best used in the early morning, soon after awakening and ideally at the same time each day, including weekends, holidays and vacations.

An alternative to light therapy is dawn simulation. This form of light therapy is administered during the final hours of sleep. It is often placed on a nightstand and emits a low level of light around 250 lux and gradually increases in brightness and is timed with your usual waking up time.

For severe seasonal affective disorder, medications that increase the availability of serotonin, such as SSRIs,



often are prescribed. These may take time to show improvement and changes in the kind of SSRI and dosage might be necessary. Generally, they are combined with light therapy and psychotherapy for an optimal result.

Luckily, there are things you can do that have been shown to help with symptoms of seasonal affective disorder. They include having good sleep hygiene, daily walks outside and aerobic exercise. Good sleep hygiene entails sleeping only as much as you need to feel well rested and then getting out of bed, keeping a regular schedule even on the weekends, avoiding exercise four to five hours before bedtime and avoiding alcohol near bedtime. Daily walks outside, even on a cloudy day, have been shown to provide as much as 1,000 to 5,000 lux of light and up to 100,000 during the mid-day sun. Lastly, aerobic exercise promotes the release of endorphins, which are our natural “feel good” neurotransmitters that improve our mood, help us regulate our emotions and improve our quality of life. As always, consult your physician if you think you have seasonal affective disorder so they can tailor the best plan for you.

** The Grosse Pointe Public Library has six light therapy lamps available for checkout: grossepointelibrary.org/*

Paramveer Swaich, D.O., is a family medicine physician with Corewell Health East-Grosse Pointe. For more information, visit corewellhealth.org.

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

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College applications and the anxiety that follows



Dear Gabby: I've been anxiously waiting for college acceptance letters and the stress is eating me alive.

Some of my friends have already gotten into their dream schools and I am still waiting to hear from some — and have been waitlisted for others.

I am worried about how to handle rejection or celebrate acceptance without making others feel bad. And I am worried I'll be resentful and bitter toward others if I'm the one left out in the cold and don't get into any of my "reach" schools. — Waiting and Worried in the Woods

Dear Waiting and Worried: First, try to take a deep breath. College application season can be one of the most emotionally taxing times in a student's life. The waiting period is tough, but there are things you can do to help ease the anxiety and prepare you to handle whatever news comes your way.

Focus on what you can control — stay engaged in activities you love and that make you feel better. Don't skip out on that work-out class and be sure to keep your plans with friends and family. Sometimes when we are

stressed, our natural reaction is to hide. Don't!

Next, do everyone a favor and try your best not to compare yourself to others. Everyone has a different path; if they didn't, life would be really boring and predictable. Where you go to college does not define your future success or worth. Repeat that three times!

When you do get in, it's OK to celebrate your achievement as long as you are supporting your friends as well and being mindful of others' feelings. If you get a rejection letter, it's OK to grieve. Talk to some-

one you trust and feel free to be sad — but remember it simply means it isn't the right fit for you. Shift your focus to the opportunities still ahead.

Remember, this is one chapter in a MUCH longer story. Whether you end up at your dream school or somewhere totally unexpected, your post-high school experience will be what you make of it. Trust that the right path will reveal itself.

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

A mother's heartache: reaching out to my son

DEAR ANNIE: I'm reaching out with a heavy heart and a mind full of memories. My oldest son, who once called me frequently and with whom I shared countless stories over long phone calls, now seems a stranger. He's married, has two wonderful children and lives out of state. Recently, family drama — something entirely unrelated to me -- has cast a long shadow over our relationship. He accused me of visiting his house and acting as if nothing was wrong, a claim that left me in tears because I have

no recollection of any such act.

I cherish the memories of our warm conversations and the simple joys of staying connected, even from afar. I've tried to reach out — leaving calls, sending texts and even mailing a card to my granddaughters — in hopes of rekindling the closeness we once shared. But now, he's made it clear that he's determined to shield his wife and daughters, even going so far as changing their contact information, which makes me feel completely cut off.

I'm at a complete loss. The relationship we had is now shrouded in misunderstanding and silence, and it's hard not to feel that this rift might be irreparable. I'm torn between continuing to extend my hand in love and stepping back to protect my own heart from further pain.

What do you think I should do? Is there a way to bridge this distance again, or should I accept this painful separation? Your guidance in this tumultuous time would mean more to me than

words can say. — Hurting Mother and Grandmother

DEAR TUNE IN: I'm truly sorry you're caught in such a painful situation with your son. It sounds as though your heart — filled with love and care — is being met with accusations and silence, and that's simply not right. Family matters are often messy, and while your intentions might be good, misunderstandings can lead to hurt feelings.

Write him a letter calmly explaining how his words and actions



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

have hurt you, and ask for clarity on what you did wrong because you want to work on it. Let him know that your love and concern have never wavered, and that you're confused by this sudden estrangement.

Family relationships can be delicate and complex, but healing is possible when both sides are

willing to engage. Stay strong, and remember that you have always been, and will always be, a loving presence in his life — even if he's not ready to see it now.

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

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Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week (part 2)

Hopefully Food Gossip made you nice and hungry last week with Part 1 of the who, what and where of this year's Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week. Let's dig in to part 2!

Last week, we started off in St. Clair Shores. We're returning to the same area this week at Watermark Bar & Grille, located on Jefferson's Nautical Mile. Watermark is offering some great add-ons with the purchase of any entree. And let me be clear, there's A LOT of delicious entrees from which to choose.

That said, here's the "what": free saganaki with the purchase of two entrees; half off a bottle of select wine with the purchase of one entree; and all specialty desserts for only \$6 with the purchase of an entree. If you've been here from the beginning, you know I always add a fun fact at the end of each article. Well, this week I'm adding it here.

Fun Fact: The owners of Watermark Bar & Grille are a trifecta, with The Whiskey Six in The Village and Mack Avenue Grille in the Woods both under their umbrella.

The Whiskey Six also will be participating in Grosse Pointe Restaurant



The Whiskey Six serves up saganaki.

Week this year with the exact same specials. Opa!

One block over, after 6 p.m. at Old Pony Martini Bar, all martinis are just \$7 and its popular cheeseburgers, veggie burgers and chicken sandwiches are only \$5. You can't go wrong.

Cellar 313 in the Park has a few new faces to see and new menu items to try. It's joining the weeklong event with some delicious dishes. For \$28 each, choose from pan-seared scallops with white wine sauce, crab cakes with red pepper remoulade or shrimp scampi over angel hair pasta. Also featured will be its signature Cellar 313 Kozi Vodka cocktails for \$12. Locally owned Kozi Vodka is another one of the

wonderful sponsors of this delicious event.



Kozi Vodka will be poured at multiple Restaurant Week locations.

Its neighbors and grateful sponsors down the street at Atwater Brewery have informed me they will be open seven days a week starting March 1. Under new management, Atwater is revamping the menu and has partnered with Eastern Market's Pietrzyk Pierogi,

which it will showcase during Restaurant Week in addition to its fan-favorite menu items — like that addicting beer cheese.

Staying on that drag of Kercheval, if you're an oyster lover, Brine Oyster House is on this year's list, too, as is The Bricks Pizzeria. Bricks is offering its panzanella salad, a choice of homemade pasta dishes and a delicious slice of key lime pie for \$25. Grab an espresso martini while you're there.

Not far from The Bricks, you'll find Sprout House, doing what it does best by keeping us healthy and fed with a special vegan mushroom rice bowl that's guaranteed to be packed with flavor. This sounds like a very good lunch option.

Another amazing lunch option just down the street is La Rouge Boulangerie, offering delicious coffees, teas, croissants, sandwiches and salads — basically delicious everything. Remember, it closes at 3 p.m. — and it's the perfect way to start your day.

Also in the Park, just a few blocks up on Mack Avenue, is Alma Kitchen. If you have not dined here yet, you are truly missing out on a neighborhood gem. It has one of the most eclectic menus I've ever experienced locally. Alma Kitchen has joined in the fun and is offering a chili orange chicken with lemongrass jasmine rice and a cup of egg drop soup. Everything on the menu is outstanding.

Some finer dining options participating in Restaurant Week are



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Antonio's in the Park, as well as another wonderful sponsor, Bronze Door on The Hill. The latter is offering a \$75 dinner for two that includes Rhode Island-style calamari or grande arancini for starters; chicken picatta, spaghetti alla bolognese, bucatini carbonara or orange-glazed salmon as your pick-two entree options; and, for dessert, New York-style cheesecake or lemon mascarpone cake. Now those are some difficult choices.

Ferlito's in the Woods will be serving a three-course meal for two as well, including an appetizer, entree and dessert for \$75, wine included. Also on Mack, Churchill's Cigar Bar, another gracious sponsor, is sure to come up with something absolutely delicious to highlight its footprint during the week-long event.

Some good eats and a legend have joined in too. Cadieux Cafe told me you'll

get 10 percent off your entire tab if you mention Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week. Check out its Facebook page for its live music lineup for March. There's always something fun happening here.

For those of you who haven't tried Detroit Soul, located on Jefferson and Chalmers, now is your chance. They are one of the most recommended and popular "close to the bubble" restaurants on my Grosse Pointe Eats & Treats Facebook page and their dishes look delicious. I can't wait to see what they're bringing to their tables.

Hopefully everyone gets a chance to dine out and support local next week. Specials start at all these wonderful restaurants Sunday, March 2. Thank you to the Grosse Pointe News, SMART, Racing for Kids and Raise Hope and

See FOOD, page 3C



Old Pony's chicken sandwich.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Watermark Bar & Grille offers several delicious desserts.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Every winter, I promise myself I will wear gloves to keep my hands from turning into cracked, dry disasters. And every winter, I fail miserably. Gloves just are not practical for someone like me who is always doing something. As a kid, my mom had a creative solution for dry hands: slather on a ton of lotion, wrap them in Saran Wrap and cover them with socks overnight. While it worked, the “sock hands” method was



not exactly convenient. Enter fingerless lotion gloves — available on

Amazon — a product that combines practicality and effectiveness. These gloves let you moisturize your hands while still allowing you to use your phone or keyboard, or watch TV. I was skeptical at first, but they are an absolute game changer. The fingerless design is the star feature. You can slather your hands with lotion, slip the gloves on and still go about your life. The open fingertips mean you can easily scroll, text or even cook dinner



while the lotion works its magic. They also are thin and lightweight, so you can comfortably wear them all night without feeling restricted. Made from a blend of cotton and ice silk, the gloves are soft, breathable and even provide a cooling effect, making them comfortable to use year-round. They stretch and fit snugly, and the seamless design prevents irritation. Plus, they protect your clothes and bed sheets from getting lotion stains — a big win in my book. I was especially impressed by how much these gloves improve lotion absorption. After

just one night, my hands felt significantly softer and less dry. Over time, they have helped with stubborn cracked skin and dryness, making them a great tool for anyone dealing with winter skin woes or conditions like eczema. Another bonus is they are machine washable and reusable, so you can use them repeatedly without hassle. I am giving these gloves a solid five out of five alligators. If you struggle with dry hands but hate the idea of losing functionality while moisturiz-

ing, these are a must-have. Comfortable, effective and practical, they are a winter essential for anyone who wants soft, smooth hands. We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com.

5 Out Of 5



Cajun Favorite

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Celebrate Mardi Gras this year with one of my new favorite cajun dinners, pastalaya. This recipe comes from my cousin Emma who is no stranger to the kitchen. Her husband is from Lake Charles, La., so naturally I had to reach out and get their go to cajun dish. Apart from a true crawfish boil and a turtle sauce piquant recipe, we decided to share this one because turtle meat isn’t readily available in the Pointes. Jambalaya is a true Louisiana comfort food featuring a rich, deep and flavorful gravy with spicy andouille sausage and rice. Jambalaya translates to a “mish mash” or “mix up” of rice. Its base is a holy trinity of onion, celery and green bell pepper. It’s flavored with smoked sausage, chicken, creole seasoning and fresh thyme. This recipe has all of those flavors with a couple short cuts and substitutes pasta with the traditional rice. My whole family went wild for it!

The shortcut ingredients are a couple cans of creamed soup and browning sauce. I found browning sauce at Farms Fresh Market. It’s molasses-colored liquid with lots of seasoning. It’s used to achieve the traditional caramel color that you would get from a deep roux. The pasta is finished off in the oven and comes together quickly on the stove. Make sure you have all the ingredients prepped and ready to go before you start. It takes any stress away while cooking. This makes a lot of pastalaya but it freezes well and can be reheated in the oven. One last note, you can make this as spicy as you want by increasing the amount of creole seasoning that you use. I used about two teaspoons and it had a medium heat level. I will absolutely be making this again for my family. Thanks Emma and happy Mardi Gras! Cheers, Mombeau

- Pastalaya**
- 3 slices bacon, chopped
 - 16 oz smoked sausage, sliced
 - 2 cups cubed chicken breasts
 - 2 cups cubed chicken thighs
 - 1 large onion, chopped
 - 1 green bell pepper, chopped
 - 2 celery stalk, chopped
 - 3 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 10 oz can Rotel tomatoes
 - 1 tsp fresh thyme
 - 1-2 tsp creole seasoning
 - 2 cups chicken broth
 - 1 cup water
 - 1 tbsp browning sauce (Kitchen Bouquet)
 - 1 10 oz can cream of mushroom soup



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

- 1 10 oz can cream of chicken soup
- 1 lb farfalle pasta
- 3 green onions, chopped
- Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Make sure all of your ingredients are prepped and ready to go prior to starting. Brown the bacon and sausage until crisp and the fat has rendered out. Transfer to a bowl. Next add in the white and dark meat chicken.

Brown on all sides for a few minutes. The chicken doesn’t need to be cooked all the way through at this point. Remove from the pot and reserve. Add in the onion, green bell pepper, celery and garlic. Cook for five minutes. Next, add all the meat back into the pot along with the thyme, Rotel and creole seasoning. Stir and saute everything together for another few minutes. Pour in the water, chicken broth, browning

sauce and creamy soups. Mix everything to combine and bring to a low boil. Add in the pasta and mix to incorporate with the liquid. Bring back to a boil, cover and place the pot in the oven for 1 hour, stirring once after 30 minutes. After one hour, remove from the oven and take the lid off. Give a final stir and let sit uncovered for about 10 minutes. Stir in the fresh green onions once it’s ready to be served. Enjoy!



Cabernet

The cynic in me has been saying for years that the more you pay for a cabernet sauvignon, the less it smells and tastes like cabernet. This may be a gross generalization that’s hard if not impossible to prove, but a discussion I had years ago with four men who ought to know helped certify the concept. All have long made wine and are judges at major wine competi-

tions where, in the last 30 years or so, they have seen a decline in the cabernet-ness of California’s most popular red wine. Three of the men currently make wine and didn’t want to be identified for this story. But all said that most cabernets today are a parody of the grape and the wine. The fourth man was Dr. Richard Peterson, the former longtime

winemaker at Beaulieu Vineyard and a consultant to many wineries. Peterson said he was dismayed by many of today’s high-end cabernets, noting that few of the expensive wines have much relationship to the grape variety. After trying a number of expensive cabernets, Peterson said he was struck by the fact that there was very little to like. He said most cabernets were “dark and heavy” and had overripe flavors, lots of oak, high alcohol and low acidity. He said few of them worked with food. We chatted about the fact that many red wines, not just cabernets, recently have become so intensely colored and flavored that they defy identifica-

tion. Even pinot noir is being made so dark that most taste more like shiraz, I noted. Peterson said the prices for most of the wines were not only too high for average consumers but that there was better varietal character in many wines at lower prices. “I think many lower-

priced reds are deserving of the public’s support,” said Peterson. He added that many of the more alcoholic and pricey wines do not have much to recommend them. One reason that lower-priced wines typically have lower alcohol levels is that profit margins on such wines are lower, so wineries make them more cost effectively. One way to save money on such wines is to keep alcohols down. Higher-alcohol wines are subject to a higher federal tax; lower alcohol wines pay a lower tax. As a result, many broad-market cabs are under 14 percent, which usually leads to better balance.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

Foster Dreams for your sponsorships as well. This event couldn’t happen without all of you. And a very special thank you to the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce for

all the hard work in putting this event together — and for inviting Food Gossip to be a part of it. This “cute little food column” is honored. I can’t wait to indulge next week within our amazing community. Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF MASTER MIND AND WENDERS IMAGES

Left, Kôji Yakusho as Hirayama and Arisa Nakano as Niko enjoy the scenery in the 2023 movie “Perfect Days,” written by Wim Wenders and Takuma Takasaki and directed by Wim Wenders.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Perfect Days”
2023 - Rated PG
2 hr 4 min
★★★★★

Sometimes we get so caught up in our busy lives and routines, we forget to set aside a few moments for ourselves. It’s important for our mental and physical health to add a little “me time” to each day. Whether it’s a few minutes meditating or practicing mindfulness, doing something physical like Tai Chi or yoga, or just reading a good book.

You could do worse than spending a couple hours taking in “Perfect Days”—the latest film from the innovative director Wim Wenders. It’s a contemplative, poetic movie that will definitely have a calming effect on you.

Before I launch into my review, I’d like to share a bit of the back-story behind this beautiful film. In the lead-up to the 2020 Olympics, the City of Tokyo commissioned some of the world’s leading architects to design unique public restrooms to be located in the city’s parks. The results produced a number of artistic and striking buildings.

Unfortunately, with the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, a majority of the sporting events

played out to empty stadiums. So the government commissioned renowned German director Wim Wenders to make a series of short documentaries highlighting these remarkable structures. His counterproposal was to create a fictional story set against the backdrop of the toilets. “Perfect Days” is the result of that.

Now you’re most likely feeling like this is rather a lame idea. You might be asking yourself, “A movie about toilets?” Describing the movie might further your doubts about this project. But fear not—I’ll do my best to encourage you to give “Perfect Days” a chance.

The plot is a rather simple one. Hirayama

(Kôji Yakusho) is a middle-aged man who lives a most ordinary life. He has a crappy job (sorry, I couldn’t help myself), cleaning the public bathrooms. His daily routine is to get up in the morning, brush his teeth, buy



Hirayama makes a discovery at work.



Photographing the trees.



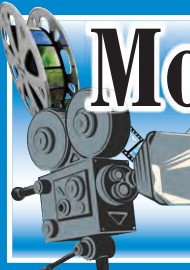
Niko (Nakano) and Hirayama (Yakusho) riding bikes.



Hirayama (Kôji Yakusho) finds a lost boy.



Hirayama (Kôji Yakusho) finds a lost boy.



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



a can of coffee from a vending machine, then drive around Tokyo and do his job. After work he bathes in a public bathhouse, has dinner in the same restaurant, and stops by his favorite bar for a drink or two. Before going to sleep, he reads a few chapters from a classic American novel.

Hirayama’s routine plays out pretty much the same way, every single day. He’s a quiet yet contented man and rarely speaks. In fact, he goes out of his way to avoid talking out loud; often communicating with facial expressions and hand gestures. Every time he leaves his small apartment, he gazes up

at the leaves in the trees and smiles. Things are looking up for him, both figuratively and literally. He doesn’t demand much from life and is satisfied by its sameness.

While commuting, he loves to listen to his beloved cassette tapes. And the classic rock tunes from the late 60s and early 70s never fail to put a smile on his face. He also enjoys taking Zen-like nature photos with his trusty film camera. While his routine is mundane, there are subtle little diversions that liven up his day. He finds a child hiding in one of the toilets and he leads the boy back to his distraught mother. Another time, a tourist can’t figure out how to make the glass walls of a bathroom stall turn opaque. While we follow Hirayama on his rounds, we’re treated to a peek into just how distinctive and imaginative each of these structures is.

In the course of the movie, we learn very little about his past and what made him satisfied with such a mundane existence. At one point his niece Niko (Arisa Nakano), who’s run away from home, visits him. They spend several days together and she joins him at his job. Niko even helps him with his work before her mother comes to bring her home. It’s hinted that he may have left a much more complicated life and problems behind and this is his way with dealing with it.

As stated earlier, the movie is a quiet, gently paced tone poem of sorts. It takes a true genius like Wim Wenders to pull off such a feat. And thanks to the masterful work of cinematographer Franz Lustig, just about every shot in the film is a veritable

work of art. “Perfect Day” is a lovely two-hour respite from the real world and I highly recommend it. Not surprisingly, it’s won a number of international awards at film festivals including Cannes, and has been nominated for an Oscar. If you enjoy this movie, you might want to check out some of Wender’s other works including “Wings of Desire” and “Paris, Texas.”

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy, and to rent on Apple TV, Amazon Prime, and other streaming services.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you’re embarrassed to admit you’ve seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

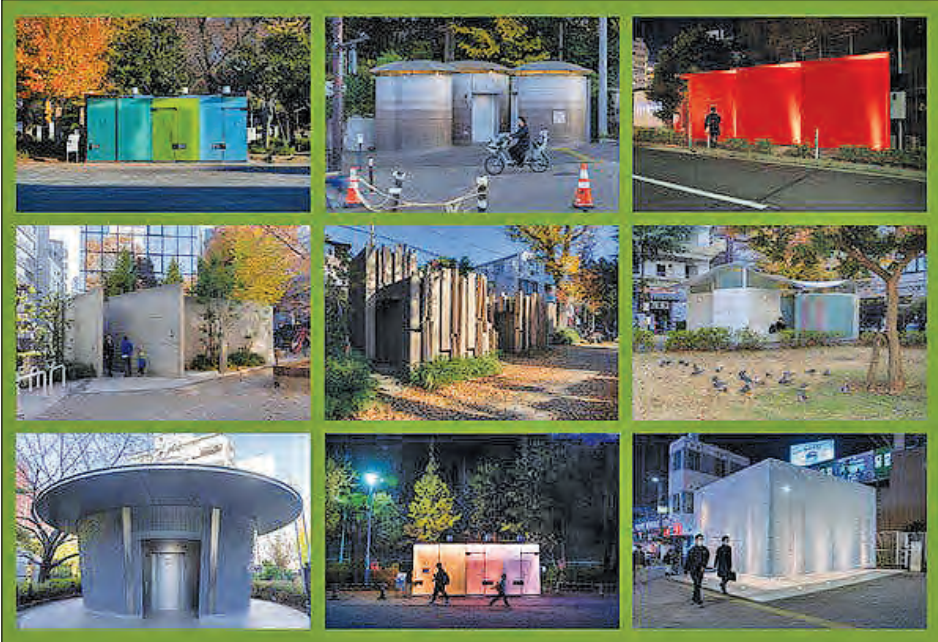
★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren’t any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you’d actually go out and buy it!

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com. Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Tokyo’s distinctive public restrooms.



A distinctive bathroom.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: After 4 a.m. EST today (1 a.m. PST) there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The New Moon in Pisces is exact at 7:45 p.m. EST (4:45 p.m. PST).

Happy Birthday for Thursday, February 27, 2025:

You're confident, charismatic and observant. You want freedom for yourself and commitment from others. This year is slower paced and more laid-back. Focus on business and personal relationships, and seek out people who have your back. Concentrate on what brings you happiness.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today's New Moon is your chance to focus on your inner world and your spiritual life. Take time for reflection. Focus on getting enough rest and respecting your own self-care. It's the best day of the year for you to nurture yourself. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Today's New Moon offers you the opportunity to consider your circle of friends. Are these your people? Do they have your back? Are you hanging out with quality people? These are questions that today's New Moon prompts you to consider. Tonight: Friendships.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Today the New Moon is at the top of your chart, which means it's the perfect time to question your life direction in general. Are you headed where you want to go? Are you happy with your image and your reputation? Where do you want to be five years from now? Tonight: You're admired.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Each New Moon offers us a chance to set intentions. Today's New Moon is an opportunity to think about what further study or training you might get that will improve your job or whatever you do. Likewise, what further travel might enrich your life? Tonight: Explore!.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today's New Moon is in one of your Money Houses, which includes shared resources, shared property, assets, debts and investments. Clarify your goals, financial plans and values, even if they differ from someone else's. Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today the only New Moon all year opposite your sign is taking place, which is an opportunity to think about how to improve your closest partnerships and friendships. For a relationship to be successful, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you. Tonight: Cooperate.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is an excellent day to jot down some ideas about what you can do to improve your health now and in the future. This might include stopping bad habits as well as encouraging good ones. Likewise, this New Moon is your chance to think of how you can work more efficiently. Ideas? Tonight: Work.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

It's important to balance work and play, and today's New Moon prompts the question: Do you take enough time out for fun and recreation with others? Do you enjoy playtime with your kids

or your friends? Do you take time to express your creative talents? Tonight: Socialize!

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This might be one of the best days of the year to ponder how you might improve your home so that you're happier to be there. Likewise, what can you do to improve family relationships so that they are warmer and more mutually rewarding? Tonight: Relax.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Each month, the New Moon takes place in a different sign, and it gives us different opportunities to make resolutions. Today's New Moon urges you to think about your style of communicating with others. Are you a clear communicator? Do you listen when others are speaking? Tonight: Discussions.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This is the perfect day to think about your wealth and possessions. Sometimes we are a victim of our possessions. Sometimes they seem to own us instead of the other way around. Do your possessions make your life easier, or not? Tonight: Check your belongings.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Today the only New Moon in your sign all year is happening, which is your chance to take a look in the mirror and assess the image that you create on your world. Can you improve your image? Are you happy with the impression you create? Tonight: You win!

BORN TODAY
Actress Elizabeth Taylor (1932), actress Kate Mara (1983), actress Joanne Woodward (1930).



Find 10 Differences



Color the Picture



Contract Bridge

CLEAR CHOICE

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Opening lead — nine of hearts.

Declarer is sometimes faced with a choice of two seemingly equal lines of play. If the opposing cards are divided one way, declarer should choose one approach, while if the opposing cards are divided differently, he should adopt another.

Such problems are seldom decided by the mental toss of a coin. There is nearly always some clue to point declarer in the right direction.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against South's four-spade contract. East plays the Q-K-A of hearts,

declarer ruffing the third round. South must now decide how to continue.

One possibility is to cross to dummy with a trump, lead the queen of clubs and finesse. In the actual deal, West wins with the king, and declarer can no longer make the contract since he must still lose a diamond trick.

Alternatively, South can play the ace and another club at tricks four and five, after which the contract cannot be defeated as the cards lie. If West takes the king and, say, returns a trump, declarer wins, draws trump ending in dummy and discards his two diamond losers on the Q-J of clubs.

If West does not take the club king, South then plays the A-K and another diamond to ensure 10 tricks, ruffing his fourth diamond in dummy before drawing trump.

Declarer's choice therefore boils down to who he thinks has the king of clubs. If East has it, South should finesse, while if West has it, declarer should play the ace and another club.

While South has no surefire choice, there is a strong indication that West has the king. Once East turns up with the A-K-Q of hearts on the first three tricks, what initially looks like a 50-50 proposition changes radically. This is because in virtually all hands where East is dealt the A-K-Q of hearts and king of clubs, he would open the bidding as dealer.

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by Steve Becker

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



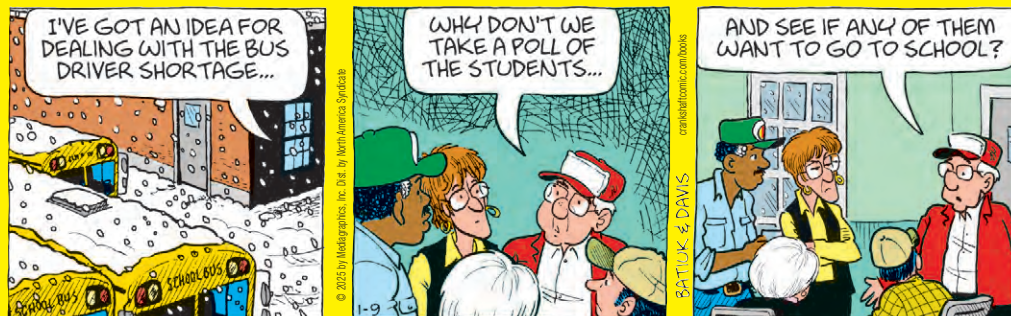
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



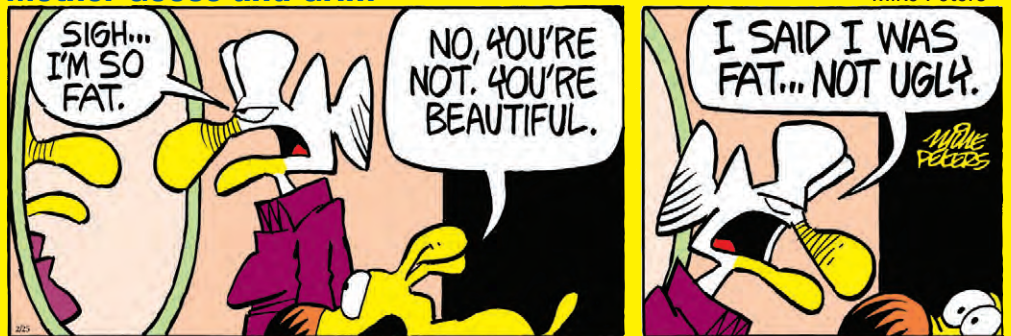
Crock

Created by Bill Rechlin 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





Kid Scoop

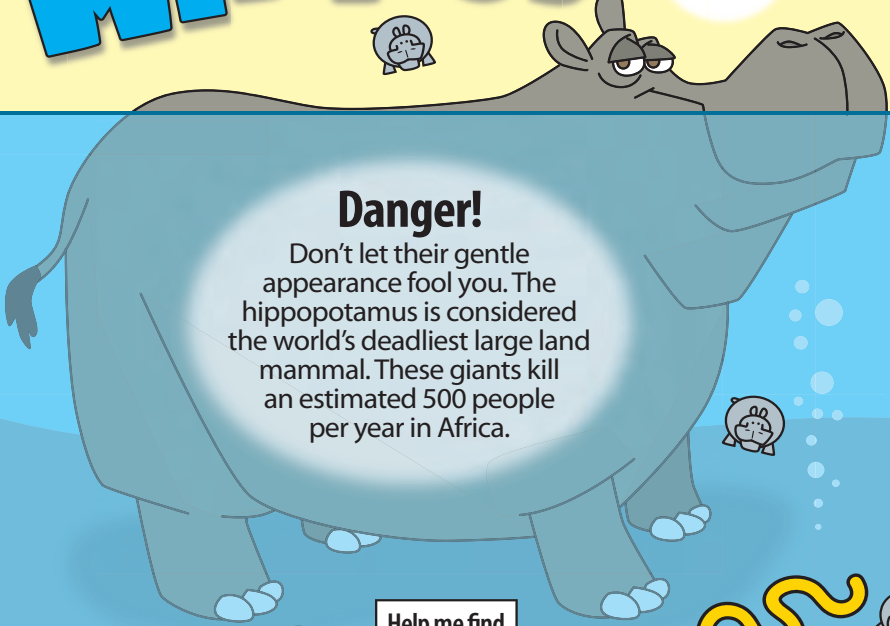
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HIPPOS



Danger!
Don't let their gentle appearance fool you. The hippopotamus is considered the world's deadliest large land mammal. These giants kill an estimated 500 people per year in Africa.

Hippos are found in these regions of Africa.

Hippos leave the water at night to look for food. They like to eat grasses—lots of grass. They eat 80 lbs (35 kg) of vegetation each night.

How many hippos can you find on this page?

CAUTION: SPEEDING HIPPOS

Open Wide!
Hippos have a huge mouth, measuring up to 4 ft (1.2 m) when opened wide!

Hippos have a pair of huge incisors in each jaw. The large, curved lower canine teeth are like tusks as they grow throughout a hippo's life. They can reach a length of 1 foot 8 inches (50 cm)! These teeth are used for combat, not eating. When a hippo yawns, it's not tired but it is a sign of a threat.

Extra! Extra! Opposites
Look through the newspaper to find words that are opposites. For example: large and small wet and dry

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Recognize antonyms.

How Hippos Keep Their Cool

To stay cool in the African heat, hippos spend most of their day in rivers and lakes. Their eyes, nose and ears are located on the top of their head, which means they can see and breathe while the rest of their bodies are under water.

The Hippo Code

Use the code to discover some facts about hippos.

■ = CALF	▼ = BULL	■ = COW
● = RIVER	■ = HORSE	■ = TUSK

Q: What does the word *hippopotamus* mean?
A: ● ■

Q: What is a baby hippo called?
A: ■

Q: What is a female hippo called?
A: ■

Q: What is a male hippo called?
A: ▼

 Kid Scoop Together
Let's Draw a Hippo!

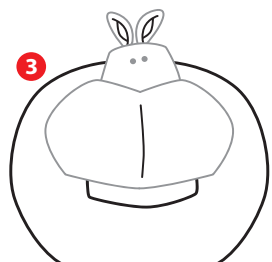
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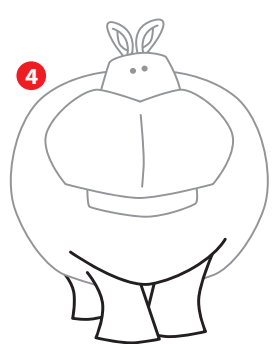
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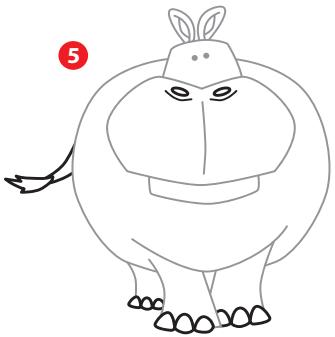
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4



5



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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: COMBAT

The verb **combat** means to fight with or struggle against.

When you have to **combat** a cold, plenty of fluids and lots of rest are helpful.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Sweaty, Sweaty Hippos?

Hippos have an oily red liquid that oozes out of their skin. It isn't sweat. Sweat evaporates and cools a body. This liquid looks red in sunlight and it stays on the skin and protects it from drying out—and acts as a sunblock, too!

When early European explorers first noticed this reddish liquid on the hippos they observed, they gave it a name.

Circle every other letter to see what they called it.

DBKLTOWOYDJSAPPEAVT

B _____

Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

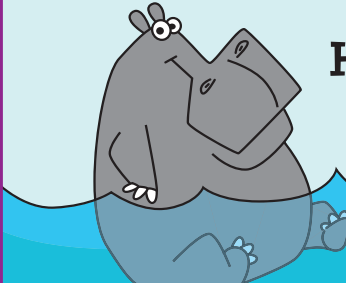
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE **Kid Scoop** LESSON LIBRARY

Fact and Opinion

Look through the newspaper to find and circle five facts. Then look through the newspaper to find and underline five opinions.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Know the difference between fact and fiction.



How does a hippopotamus get out of the water?

ANSWER: Wet and wrinkled!

Write On!

Alliterations

Hippos hardly hold hankies is a sentence where every word starts with the same letter. This is an alliteration. Write three alliterations.

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North, South earn impressive wins to open boys hoops district playoffs

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It may not be March yet, but excitement for postseason basketball already is palpable in the Pointes. The boys' varsity basketball teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South kicked off their playoff action Monday, Feb. 24, in the first round of the Division 1 district tournament. With the games held on South's

home court, both the Blue Devils and Norsemen showcased impressive shooting in their victories, advancing to the next round.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen opened Monday night's playoff doubleheader with a matchup against Detroit Western International. North came out of the gate knocking down shots and did not stop the entire night as the

Norsemen cruised to a 65-24 win over the Cowboys.

"We continue to share the ball and our box score shows that everybody eats and that's kind of been our mentality," North boys basketball coach Rob Johnson said. "Ben Dragich had a great night and got us going early. Ben Rickerman was hitting. A lot of these guys stepped up and we know we're going to need to make threes in our next game too. These guys have a lot of confidence right now and there's a lot of belief in the locker room."

North started the game with an 8-0 run that forced the Cowboys to call a timeout less than halfway through the first quarter. This seemed to set the tone for the night, as the Norsemen were in control and never let up. Six three-pointers in the first quarter helped put North ahead by a sizable margin of 22-5 at the end of the first eight minutes.

Everything continued to go North's way the rest of the night. The Norsemen doubled their already high point total from the first quarter in the second quarter as



South's Vince Vachon heaves a long pass up the court against East English Village Prep Academy.

the defense continued to suppress the Cowboys, making the score 44-7 in favor of North going into halftime.

With the game already well in hand by the time the second half started, North was able to ride into the sunset with a win. The lead was 55-14 at the end of the third quarter and the Norsemen won by 41 in the end, with 12 made three-pointers in the game for North making a huge difference.

"It's good to get those

reps in and see that even with Leo (Perettie) going down, still doing the things that have gotten us here," Johnson said. "We're playing great defense, sharing the ball, knocking down threes and feeding our big men. We're playing inside-out ball right now and we've just got a great group of guys."

11 Norsemen found their way onto the score sheet by the end of the game. Dragich led the Norsemen with 17 points while hitting five three-

pointers throughout the game. Jason Hubbell had seven points, while Rickerman and Lewis Simmons finished with six each.

North moved to the district semifinal round, where it faced Detroit Cass Tech Wednesday, Feb. 26, after press time.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils took the floor in the second game of Monday night's playoff action. South's

See HOOPS, page 6D



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

North junior Daniel Lefevre jumps to take a shot and avoid a Cowboys defender.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Hepner eyes back-to-back titles to cement wrestling legacy at South

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Wyatt Hepner is no stranger to making history in his wrestling career. As a sophomore in 2023, he became the first wrestler from Grosse Pointe South to reach a state championship match. Last year, he became the first Grosse Pointe South wrestler ever to win a state championship. Now he is on a quest to close out his senior year by becoming the first to win back-to-back state titles.

Hepner will have the chance to do that this coming weekend at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling State Championships beginning Friday, Feb. 28, at Ford Field in Detroit. As the defending Division 1 state champion, Hepner knows a target has been on his back ever since his arm was raised in the final match at Ford Field last year, but that has not changed anything.

"The only actual pressure is what I put on myself," Hepner said. "I

Grosse Pointe News



Wyatt Hepner

School: Grosse Pointe South

Sport: Wrestling

Sponsored by Shana Sine Cameron
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won it last year, but I have to win it again. ... I just keep putting my head down and keep putting in the same amount of work that I've been doing my entire wrestling career. Nothing really changed besides that label was put on me."

Hepner qualified for the state finals each year of his varsity wrestling

career, earning his spot at Ford Field this year after again capturing the Division 1 150-pound regional championship Feb. 15. It was another season full of wins for Hepner and another trip to Ford Field, but the journey this year feels a bit sweeter given what he had to go through in the offseason.

After winning last year's state championship, Hepner suffered a knee injury in the spring that required surgery. The injury caused Hepner to miss most of his senior football sea-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Hepner gets his hand raised as a Division 1 state champion at the 2024 MHSAA Individual Wrestling State Finals. He became the first wrestler from Grosse Pointe South to win a state title.

son in the fall and being fully back in shape required him to make a quick transition into

See ATHLETE, page 2D

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Field upgrades, state tournament signal big year for Woods-Shores Little League

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League may have celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2024, but it is eager for 2025 to become its biggest season yet. The league has exciting plans for the upcoming season centered around initiatives, like substantial upgrades to the fields at Ghesquiere Park, hosting this year’s 11U Little League State Tournament and

revamping its senior league programs. “I’ve been involved in this league four years, coaching, on the board, etc., but this is my first year as president of the league and I couldn’t be more excited for this season,” Woods-Shores Little League President Derek Augustyn said. “Our league is in great shape, numbers are good, volunteers and community support have been off the charts. We’re very fortunate for that and appreciative.

We want to continue to give our kids and their families the best experience here. Their future and the future of our program looks bright.” Woods-Shores Little League has been working with the city of Grosse Pointe Woods and its sponsors to make improvements to the fields at Ghesquiere Park. Several of those initiatives are already underway and upgrades will cover all five fields, including the three Little League diamonds, the softball diamond and the Senior League diamond.

All five fields will receive new fencing. There also will be three new sets of bleachers installed complete with concrete slabs for those bleachers. Field No. 3 and the Senior League diamond are receiving new dugouts and there will be new backstop netting for the Senior League field. Fields No. 1, 3 and 4 also will be equipped with new field drainage systems, new sod for the infield and new playing surface leveling and grading.

The improvements are expected to be completed mid-April, before the beginning of the Little League season.

While they are going to be a major upgrade for the league’s day-to-day operations during the season, they also are being used to help provide the best experience possible during this year’s 11U Little League State Tournament, the first state tournament at any level hosted by the league since 1988.

The other major focus the league has this year is growing its Senior League division. The division is open for players ages 13 to 16, and is focused on both fun and competitive baseball after Little League.

“This Senior League division, also referred to as Babe Ruth in the past, has a rich history of success and even state championships over 20 years ago,” said Nathan Treska, head of the Woods-Shores Little League’s Senior League division. “This is a great league for kids that still want to play baseball after they age out of Little League, have fun with friends and play competitive ball as they transition to high school sports. Plus, they can dual roster in this league, meaning if they play travel ball they can also still play Senior



A program from the 1988 Little League state tournament, the last state tournament of any kind hosted by the Woods-Shores Little League.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League is set to host this year’s 11U state championship tournament, the first state tournament hosted by the league in nearly 40 years.

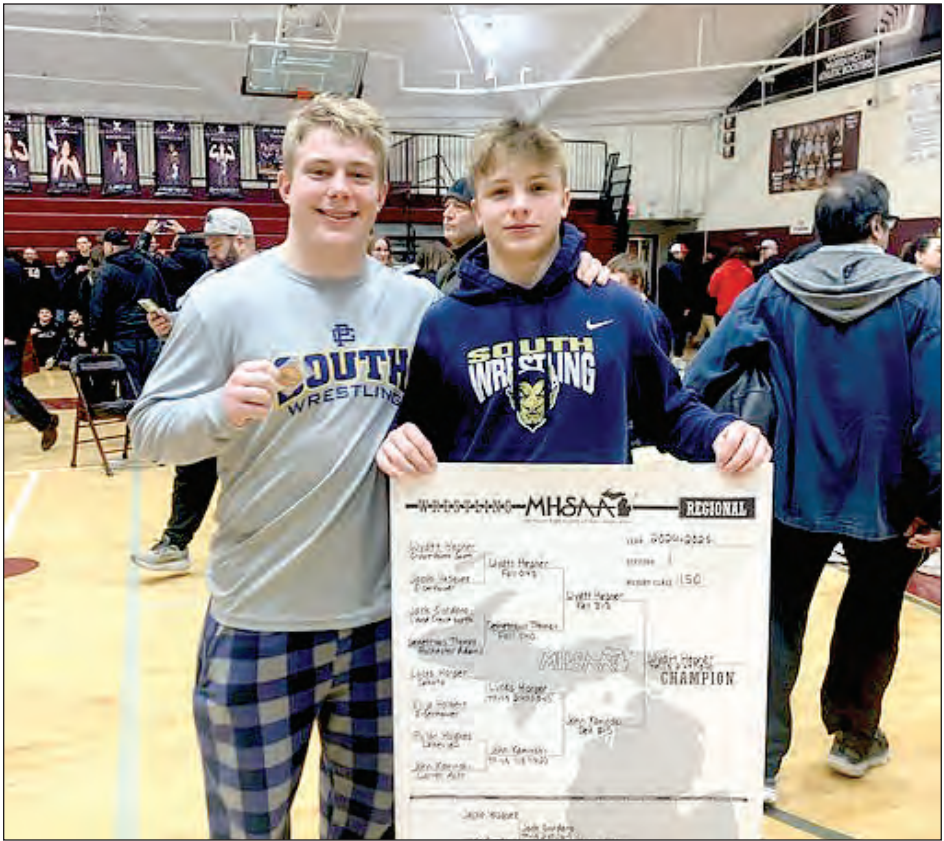


PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Hepner, right, with teammate Lex Willson at this year’s Division 1 regional tournament on Feb. 15. Both Hepner and Willson will represent South at Ford Field in the state finals starting Friday, Feb. 28.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

by the time wrestling season began.

“I was in a brace and on crutches for four to six weeks and from there, I got more range of motion and was able to walk,” he said. “... It was a lot of physical therapy and not getting frustrated with my inability to do the simple stuff. ... I needed a good mentality to make it go by faster.”

Once Hepner got back on the mat for the Blue Devils, there were not many signs his injury slowed him down at all. He was able to make a full recovery and be ready in time for the season thanks to his perseverance and the support of his teammates and coaches.

Coaches like Dave and Patrick Salazar for South have been working with Hepner since he entered the program and

knew exactly what to expect. Hepner had plenty of experience in junior wrestling before high school and his coaches knew that — and their style of coaching when it comes to Hepner has been beneficial throughout the years.

“They gave me some freedom and also they pushed me,” Hepner said. “They’ve been able to coach me and also give me freedom to learn and do what I needed to do.”

Another coach who has worked with Hepner at South and before is Tony Cimmarrusti, who also has become a major influence for the next steps of Hepner’s wrestling career. Hepner recently signed his official letter to join the wrestling team at Harvard University, the same school where Cimmarrusti wrestled and was a team captain.

The idea of wrestling at Harvard was men-

tioned as early as Hepner’s freshman year, but to him, it seemed far-fetched. However, as time went on, it began to feel like more of a reality until the opportunity became one Hepner knew he could not pass up.

“After my junior season last year, I went on my visit and it didn’t feel real until like halfway through when I thought, ‘Wow, I might actually attend Harvard,’” he said. “... I realized that I can succeed in wrestling anywhere, but I want to succeed outside of wrestling when it’s all said and done. The greatest way to do that would be to go to Harvard, which is pretty self-explanatory, and I knew this was an opportunity that I had to take.”

The idea of wrestling at a place like Harvard might be intimidating for some, but if anyone knows anything about Hepner, he is not intimidated by anything. Regardless of what happens at the upcoming state championships, Hepner will go down as one of the best wrestlers the Pointes have ever seen. Those who know him well know he is going on to even bigger and better things in the next part of his journey.

“He just continues to work so hard and he’s such a great kid,” Cimmarrusti said. “He’s a great student and a great role model. I have him work with the young kids in the kids’ club and it’s a blessing to have him in our room. ... He’s a great student, a great athlete and a great young man. ... I can’t wait to see him as an All-American in college, because I would be shocked if he doesn’t get onto that medal stand in the next four years.”

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The 2025 March Board of Review will convene in the City Hall at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
March 17, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

APPEAL HEARINGS
March 17, 2025 @ 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 18, 2025 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Assessor’s Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer and done by a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor’s office. Written petitions must be received by the end of day Tuesday, March 18, 2025 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act”.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor’s Office at (313) 885-5800.

GPN: 02/27/25, 03/06/25, 03/13/5

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City

2025 BOARD OF REVIEW SESSIONS

The Assessments for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores in Wayne and Macomb County has been completed for 2025. The Board of Review will hear petitions on the following dates:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 1:00 P.M.
MONDAY, MARCH 10TH
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
795 LAKE SHORE RD.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025
1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
(2nd Floor Meeting Room)

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Board will meet in the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building (first floor), 795 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. All property owners wishing to appeal their assessments must make an appointment or file a write in appeal. Either appeal method must be accompanied by the petition form (L-4035) provided by the state of Michigan (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/l4035f_2658_7.pdf). Appointments may be made by calling 881-6565. **Petitions by mail must be received by the Board PRIOR to the last session (3/17/25) so they may be reviewed in a timely manner.** You may call 881-6565 for an appointment.

If there are any questions, please contact the Assessor’s Office at 313.881.6565 or email pbierzynski@gpshoresmi.gov.

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 2/20/25, 2/27/25, 3/6/25

Detroit Boat Club Crew prepares to begin new era with new facilities

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

One of Michigan’s most historic sporting organizations soon will begin a new era. Detroit Boat Club Crew and Friends of Detroit Rowing are prepared to break ground on a new boathouse and facility for the Detroit area’s most storied and successful rowing club.

Detroit Boat Club Crew, the oldest rowing club in North America, had long operated out of the Belle Isle Boat House. However, the club had to make adjustments in recent years after state officials shut down the use of the historic boat house in 2022, due to structural problems. This left the organization facing issues with equipment storage and having to use facilities without basic amenities such as heat or proper bathrooms and locker rooms.

The situation left the Detroit Boat Club Crew struggling to find a solution. Plans for a new home for the club’s boats soon will become a reality.

“We’re in a situation regarding the boathouse where we have to do something,” said Dr. Henry Goitz, president of Friends of Detroit Rowing. “... Most of our boats are all sitting out in the elements and we lost a number of them. We had a small bubble that we put a bunch of boats in in the parking lot for the time being, but it doesn’t really shield it tremendously from the elements. We’ve been raising dollars to be able to place a



PHOTO BY STEPHEN MALBOUEF

A rendering of what the new Detroit Boat Club Crew boathouse will look like when completed. The project for the club’s new facilities is expected to begin construction this spring.

new facility on the grounds and it’ll be a campus that is already approved by the state to build, on the parking lot site itself. We’ll have a building for our boats, that’s phase one, and the second phase will be a training facility.”

One of the organization’s biggest fundraisers happened Feb. 1, when it hosted its annual Oarsmen’s Ball. Funds have been raised and plans approved by the state for construction to begin on the new facility, with Detroit Boat Club Crew and Friends of Detroit Rowing hop-

ing to break ground on the project as early as this spring.

The first phase of the project involves constructing the new storage facility for the club’s boats, but the project goes far beyond that.

“We realized that the area of the shoreline that we use is very valuable and very protected in terms of access to the riverfront,” Goitz said. “... We developed a concept called ‘Bridge to the Beach,’ with the ultimate goal of breaking ground for a new facility when the thaw comes this spring. Our goal is to put the structure up this spring because we have to protect our equipment. ... Bridge to the Beach is about that area being not just for rowing. ... We thought we would develop almost a campus where you could have kayaking and pad-

dle boarding and various other activities.”

While one of the project’s main goals is to continue the club’s success, another is to ensure the benefits of a new facility go far beyond the club’s rowers. The organization wants to ensure that all types of athletes from around the area can enjoy the benefits of the new project, especially those from the military community and those with disabilities.

Without a boathouse and proper facilities, it has become harder for the organization to advance those initiatives, but this new project is what they hope will open many doors to working with athletes of all abilities, as well as continuing other initiatives like the organization’s youth STEM classes.

“The goal is to have

anybody of interest have accessibility,” Goitz said. “It can be for recreational sport or competitive. It’s all aspects of this that can be done and we want to have accessibility for anyone who is interested. The ultimate goal is, as we generate funds, now we can focus less on the building and patching up roofs and more on the programming that we’re doing and really expand it.”

“We want to work with more adaptive athletes and have been trying to grow our military and veterans crew, but a lot of the veteran community has special needs and may not be able to walk across the uneven terrain and gravel to where we have to go,” added Melanie Parks, Secretary of the Board for Friends of Detroit Rowing.

Detroit Boat Club Crew attracts athletes not only from Detroit and the Pointes but from all around the metro Detroit area. The club sees this new project as the next phase of growth for the historic program and the continuation of spreading knowledge and love for the sport of rowing — a sport it believes can help athletes learn about more than just competition.

“The idea of leadership and sportsmanship and rallying around your teammates and being there for them working together,” Goitz said. “... The idea of working together for a common goal is huge and for the young people to come and experience that is tremendous. ... It’s a different kind of sport and the opportunities are great for our young people.”

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

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Crown Castle is proposing to install a 45-foot telecommunications utility pole at the following site: 17800 Mack Ave, Grosse Point, Wayne County, MI 48230, Latitude: 42-24-11.12, Longitude: -82-55-0.6. The structure will be in the public right of way on the east side of Mack Ave. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting Amanda Minetti, a.minetti@trileaf.com, (630) 227-0202 ext. 534 during normal business hours. Comments must be received at 1821 Walden Square Suite 500, Schaumburg, IL 60173 by 30 days of the date of this publication.

Crown Castle is proposing to replace an existing light pole with a new 45-foot-overall telecommunications light pole at the following site: 47 Grosse Pointe Blvd, Grosse Pointe, Wayne County, MI 48236, Lat: 42-23-24.5868, Long: -82-54-2.1558. The structure will be in the public right of way at the Grosse Pointe Blvd and Pine Ct. intersection. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting Alaina, a.decamposalles@trileaf.com, 630-227-0202 during normal business hours. Comments must be received at 1821 Walden Office Sq, Ste 500, Schaumburg, IL 60173 within 30 days of the date of this publication.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will meet in the Conference Room at 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:		Appointment Time	Petition
Date	Day		
March 11, 2025	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 11, 2025	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
March 18, 2025	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	
March 25, 2025	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2025 Board of Review Petitions are required and must be submitted to the Assessor’s Office prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in-person before the Board of Review is end of day Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Form 618 Petition to Board of Review L-4035. The Petition is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search Treasury - Forms [618]. Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper. All board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act.” If you have any questions please contact the Assessor’s Office at 313.343.2452

G.P.N.: Publishing Dates
2/20/25, 2/27/25, 3/6/25

Eric Dunlap
City Assessor

CITY OF HARPER WOODS

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

The City of Harper Woods 2025 Board of Review will conduct hearings on the following dates for appeals from citizens regarding the 2025 assessment, at City Hall located at 19617 Harper Ave. Harper Woods MI 48225. All appeals are by appointment and can be in-person or submitted in writing. Letters of appeal must be received by March 24, 2025, by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

To schedule an appointment, please call the Assessor’s Office during office hours on Wednesday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Phone (313) 343-2527

Appointment Dates for Hearing:

Monday	March 10, 2025	1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday	March 24, 2025	9:00 am to 3:00 pm

All people protesting their assessment must complete a petition (form 618) L-4035 which can be obtained at City Hall, provided to you at your appointment, or the city website: harperwoodscity.org

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.00%
Commercial	48.71%
Industrial	49.68%
Residential	46.34%
Timber-Cutover	50.00%
Developmental	50.00%
Personal Property	50.00%

City of Harper Woods

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, & Mar. 6, 2025

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school winter 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:

The University Liggett varsity boys basketball team lost its first round game of the Division 3 district playoff tournament on Monday, Feb. 24. The Knights fell to Warren Michigan Collegiate 91-61, ending their season with a final record of 9-11.



Grosse Pointe South varsity girls hockey won its final game of the regular season on Friday, Feb. 21, defeating Regina 7-1. Sophia Husek and Abby Evans scored two goals apiece while Bella Peruski, Charlie Harr and Molly Reynolds added goals as well. The Blue Devils will begin the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League play-offs on Saturday, March 1st, with their opponent to be determined.

University Liggett School's varsity girls hockey team finished a busy weekend with three wins. On Friday, Feb. 21, the Knights defeated the 16U Metro Jets 2-1 with goals by Caroline Krall and Kate Ricci. The next day, Saturday, Feb. 22, Liggett won 1-0 over Mid-Michigan Alliance with the lone goal by Sophia Secco.

Liggett ended the weekend with a 2-1 win against Bloomfield-Birmingham on Sunday, Feb. 23. Miranda Alcala and Secco were the goal scorers for the Knights. Liggett begins the MGHSHL playoffs Saturday, March 1, against an opponent to be determined.

The varsity girls hockey team from Grosse Pointe North played its final game of the regular season on Saturday, Feb. 22, defeating Livingston United 5-2. Josie Cueter had four goals and Leanna Phillips added another for the Norsemen. North plays its first game of the MGHSHL playoffs on Thursday, Feb. 27, against Livonia United at 7:30 p.m. The game will be hosted at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

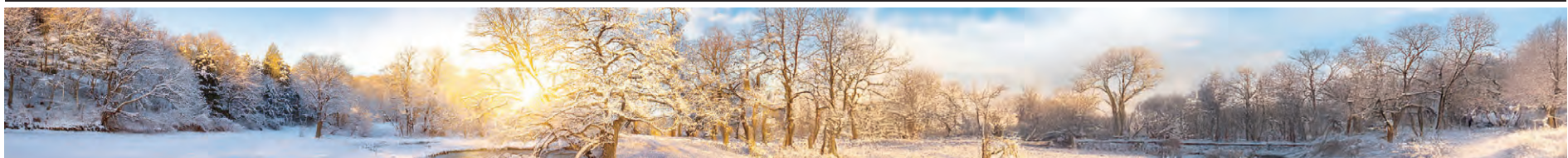
Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball got a win on senior night last Friday, Feb. 21, defeating Port Huron 52-39. Maddy Benard led the team with 16 points while Morgan Duff added 12. South plays its regular season finale on Thursday, Feb. 27, on the road against Detroit Country Day.

The University Liggett School varsity girls basketball team beat Cranbrook-Kingswood 42-40 last Wednesday, Feb. 19, to advance to the Catholic League St. Anne Division championship game. The Knights played for the league title on Saturday, Feb. 22, but were unable to capture the trophy after losing to Everest Collegiate.

Liggett finishes the regular season on Thursday, Feb. 27, hosting crosstown foe Grosse Pointe North at 7 p.m.. The team then begins the Division 3 district play-offs on Wednesday, March 5, against Detroit Northwestern hosted at Detroit Central High School.

Grosse Pointe North varsity girls basketball narrowly defeated Dakota last Friday, Feb. 21, 43-41, winning the game in the final seconds. The Norsemen then went on to earn a sizable win 65-31 over Detroit Osborn on Monday, Feb. 24. North ends the regular season on Thursday, Feb. 27, with a road game at University Liqaett.

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Playoff losses end seasons for all three boys hockey teams

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The boys varsity hockey postseason got underway last week and the teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School all took the ice looking for postseason success. Their dreams for deep playoff runs were cut short, however, as all three teams’ seasons came to an end with losses in the regional tournament.

University Liggett
The playoffs began for the Knights Tuesday, Feb. 18, as the team played in the first round of the Division 3 regional tournament. Liggett faced Bishop Foley in the opening game of the playoffs and earned a 9-1 blowout win.

Griffin Marchal led the way in the victory with four goals for the Knights. Drake Griffin, Gary Stacy, Nick Gould, Andrew Kubitz and Cam Stapleton all scored for Liggett as well.

The Knights then moved on to the regional semifinal round Friday, Feb. 21, where they faced De La Salle Collegiate. Liggett was looking for another appearance in the regional final, but instead had its season



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Liggett’s Drake Griffin tallied a goal in the Knights’ 9-1 first-round playoff win over Bishop Foley last Tuesday, Feb. 18.

ended with a 2-0 loss to the Pilots.

“They battled all the way to the end,” Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said. “... We struggled getting pucks to the net and getting traffic to the net. We stress to the boys that in playoff games, it’s usu-

ally the dirty goals that help springboard you to a win and we just didn’t get there.”

The Knights finished the season with a 16-10 record. This year’s team was led by a large group of veteran leaders and, even though many of them will graduate and

not be with the team next season, the coaching staff is confident these seniors are leaving a legacy with the program that will stick with the returning players going forward.

“I actually wrote them a long note about how thankful I was to have this group of seniors,” Smith said. “... They did everything right. They took the younger guys under their wing and our senior group made the younger guys feel like they were part of the team from the start. All of the guys hung out and included everyone and it had been that way since they were freshmen. ... They filled the leadership roles better than I even expected. ... They exemplified what a leader should be all season long.”

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils began the Division 2 regional tournament Saturday, Feb. 22, with a game against U of D Jesuit in the semifinals. Despite earning a victory over the Cubs just nine days earlier, South was unable to get the win this time, with U of D winning 4-1 to end South’s season.

“I was very proud that we were still playing our best hockey at the end of the year,” South boys

hockey coach Alan Korolewicz said. “This entire season as a whole was great for our young players. They had a lot of firsts: their first taste of high school hockey, their first taste of the MIHL and their first playoff game. ... Someone can tell you for hours, plenty of times, that this is going to be intense hockey, but until you experience that, it’s not a reality. ... This playoff experience is going to serve them well in the future.”

This season had plenty of ups and downs for South as the team finished with a record of 6-19. Though the team did have plenty of young players who had to learn on the fly, there were still some veteran leaders on the team who were a major help during the process. The experience through which they helped many of the younger players is what the Blue Devils think will be valuable in the future.

“They left a really deep impact on a lot of our players,” Korolewicz said. “Evan Bernard really rubbed off on a lot of our young forwards and Quinn Cameron was really helpful to our young defensive core. I know a lot of our young players on both sides, both the offense and the defense, were very appre-

ciative of them and their leadership all season. I know that by not only practicing with them, but watching them play. They learned an awful lot.”

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen played in the first round of the Division 3 regional tournament Tuesday, Feb. 18. North was matched up against Marysville in the first game of the postseason, which ended as a 7-2 loss for the Norsemen.

Aidan Burney and Johnny Cueter were the goal scorers for North in the loss. North’s season came to an end with the team having a final record of 9-15. With a team filled with relatively young players, the Norsemen feel like they made tremendous progress throughout the season not only by winning some games but by coming together as a team and gaining experience playing at the varsity level.

“They really improved in figuring out what kind of work ethic and dedication it takes to play high school hockey,” North boys hockey coach Rob Blum said. “...Now they understand what’s expected and what’s required to come in ready to go to start next season.”

HOOPS:

Continued from page 1D

first-round matchup in the district tournament saw it taking on East English Village Prep Academy. While the Bulldogs hung around in the game for a bit and tested South at times, the Blue Devils still looked largely impressive on their way to a 66-56 win.

“I told them they look like they’re playing Blue Devil basketball, which we haven’t played in probably 14 games,” South boys basketball coach Stephen Benard said after the win. “That’s been the basis of our program. Share the ball, read the defense, attack and kick, make the extra pass and bang threes. We did that tonight. Having Tory (James) back is a game-changer for us because now we have a kid who’s a problem for other



South sophomore Sam Roueleau jumps for a layup in the Blue Devils’ playoff victory over East English Village Prep Academy on Monday, Feb. 24.

PHOTO BY
RENEE LANDUYT

teams.”

James, who only recently returned to

South’s lineup after missing a majority of the season due to injury,

spent much of Monday night’s win looking like he could not miss. He ended up leading the

team with 18 points, coming from six made three-pointers.

The first quarter was

evenly matched, with both teams feeling each other out and trading some shots. The opening frame ended with the sides tied 13-13, and it was not until the second quarter that the Blue Devils found themselves building a lead. South started to set the pace higher and left the Bulldogs needing to catch up, as the Blue Devils took a 34-24 lead into halftime.

That is how things remained much of the second half. South kept leading on the scoreboard by enough to feel comfortable without the game becoming a blowout, but South’s ability to consistently find smart shots and knock them down left the Bulldogs playing catch-up.

South led by 13 with a score of 51-38 as the fourth quarter started and closed out the game and won by 10. James, as mentioned, led the team with 18 points, while Kooper Richards had 15 points. Freshman Jamison Spratt also added 11 points in the win for South.

“The experience some of these guys have gotten is 10-fold,” Benard said about his team’s depth. “... It’s a big atmosphere for some of them to play in a district game like that and I’m pleased with their development. There’s been a lot of ups and downs, but I’ve told them we can make a run.”

The Blue Devils took on Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. Wednesday, Feb. 26, after press time, in the district semifinal round. The district championship game is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, hosted at Grosse Pointe South.

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK 2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Grosse Pointe Park will be conducting the 2025 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Hall at 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Organizational Meeting
March 11, 2025 1:00 PM

Appeal Hearings
March 11, 2025 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 25, 2025 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. In person hearings are by appointment only and write in petitions will be accepted. **COMPLETED 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS (L-4035 FORMS) ARE NECESSARY**, and must be filled out entirely prior to your appointment or petition drop off. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is by Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by a taxpayer representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor’s office. Written petitions must be received by the Assessor’s office end of day Tuesday, March 25, 2025 to be reviewed by the Board. **Postmarks are not accepted.**

More information on Board of Review dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the city website.

If All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act”.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor’s Office at (313) 822-6200

GPN: 2/27/25, 3/6/25

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2025 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025
From 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
and
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025
From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
and
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 640-1618. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters **HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY 4:00pm ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25th.**

G.P.N.: 2/13/25; 2/20/25; 2/27/25