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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Tree sale back

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES AND HARPER WOODS — When Rick Whitney became passionate about regrowing the Pointes’ tree canopy in 2016, it was because he noticed the elm trees original to his block of University between Maumee and Jefferson were on their way out and wondered about the plan to replace them.

“Just in the last year, the last of those elm trees was cut down,” he said. “They were about 125 years old.”

See TREES, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Burn, baby, burn

Approximately 2.25 acres of the grounds at Ford House were set ablaze recently as part of a management plan the estate has used for years. Here, the burn crew sets fire to native plants and weeds. When the fire is initially lit, it burns high and hot. The heat from the fire creates visible heat, called a heat shimmer. The visible heat is a combination of hot air rising and mixing with the cooler air above it and as the air density increases, the light bends and creates visible mirage-like wavy lines — which ultimately make a photograph look like a painting. Find more photos of the controlled burn on page 3A.

TIFA house grants raised to \$5,000

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — TIFA residential property improvement grants are back and bigger than before.

Board members agreed with Warren Rothe, director of the Tax Increment Finance Authority, this month to extend the program from last year, boost the overall budget to \$120,000 and increase individual grants up to \$5,000 each.

Aside from that, nothing changes.

Terms are a 50/50 match.

“You put in a dollar, you get a dollar,” Rothe said.

The maximum individual award is \$5,000, a \$1,000 increase from last year.

Rothe considered it a bulwark against inflation.

“Cost are always going up,” Rothe said.

“We’d like to keep increases to the grant program incremental so we can hopefully continue to increase it, but never have to go backwards, as we have in the past,” TIFA Vice Chair Christina Anton said.

Maximum grants apply to improvements costing at least \$10,000.

Grants apply to proper-

See TIFA, page 2A

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Coste is top Shores officer

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — People can wind up pursuing a new career for any number of reasons, no matter how ironic they might be. Just ask Lt. Ron Coste of the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department.

“I was in a car accident and was a little disoriented,” he said. “When I woke up in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, the two guys



Lt. Ron Coste

attending to me were guys I knew from high school. They seemed to

be enjoying themselves and I figured if they could do it, so could I.”

Coste, who will mark 25 years with the Shores later this year, received the 2024 Director’s Award during the March 18 city council meeting.

“The presentation of this award is not for any one incident or project that he supervised in 2024,” Public Safety Director Ken Werenski said. “Instead, Lt. Coste is receiving this award because of his 25-year commitment to our core motto, ‘customer service.’”

Werenski noted the award goes to a public safety officer who “consistently exceeds the expectations of the job description and performs at a level not bound by what is expected, but what is required for the efficient operation of the department.”

Coste, a West Bloomfield native, began his first responder career in 1992, as an EMT with

See OFFICER, page 3A

Henry Ford pharmacy now open on The Hill

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Now nearing the fourth year since Henry Ford Pierson Clinic ceased operations on The Hill due to smoke and water damage from a fire on the third-floor decks in August 2021, the first-floor pharmacy resumed service in late February.

The third-floor ear, nose and throat specialist was the first office to reopen in early 2023 — at which time hospital represen-

tatives said renovations on all floors aside from the basement would be completed by early fall of that year.

“With the evolving landscape of outpatient pharmacy services, we are excited to support our community through the reopening of our HFH Grosse Pointe pharmacy,” pharmacist Lynnann Caslin said via a press release. “As a proud member of this community, I am personally

committed to providing exceptional pharmacy services focused on enhancing the overall experience and care of our patients.”

Henry Ford Grosse Pointe Pharmacy — formerly Henry Ford Pierson Pharmacy — offers individualized consultations, assistance in navigating insurance challenges, access to a broad selection of hard-to-find medications and prescription

refill reminders.

The pharmacy also offers special discounts on over-the-counter medication, which swap out with new deals every three months.

Current offers valid through the end of the month include \$1.75 for a 100-count bottle of Motrin and \$2.50 for a 90-count bottle of Zyrtec.

See OPEN, page 2A

Grosse Pointe News

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MONTHLY FEATURE SHOWCASING WHAT’S NEW AT LOCAL EATERIES

SEE INSIDE PAGE 9A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Reagan Henry and Chris Schmidt

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Business grants restored

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The TIFA business façade improvement grant program is back and out of the blocks early. But, it's no false start. The grant program, originally set to return with the new fiscal year July 1, is being jump-started before the current fiscal cycle ends June 30. A bulging TIFA budget, due in large part to winning a \$1.8 million fed-

eral Transportation Alternatives Program grant last year for Charlevoix streetscape reconstruction, allowed board members to not only reinstate grants for business façade upgrades, but also draw on savings to kick things off three months ahead of schedule. Grant eligibility also was expanded to cover landscape improvements. All grants are a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$10,000, or for something

costing \$20,000. "If it's a \$5,000 project, it would be a \$2,500 grant," said Warrant Rothe, TIFA director and assistant city manager. The grant program — self-funded by capturing a portion of tax increases within TIFA boundaries for purposes of enhancing the district — supports owners of commercial property within the Park's Tax Increment Finance Authority. District parameters are Mack Avenue almost to East Jefferson and from Wayburn to the alley behind Nottingham. Portions of three commercial zones are eligible: lower Mack, Charlevoix and Kercheval.

TIFA board members decided during their March meeting to not only revive the loan program — which had been shelved last year to save money for the Charlevoix work, set to start in spring 2026 — but also broaden loans to cover landscaping in addition to façade work. Board member Arthur Mullen recommended the landscaping addition. "We have a couple property owners who have space that will enhance the streetscape," he said. Rothe suggested starting the loan program this fiscal year instead of making applicants wait until mid-summer's arrival of fiscal year 2025-26.

"It might not be a bad idea to amend our current year budget to fund two or three (grants)," he said. Member Christina Anton, chairing the meeting during the excused absence of Chairman Curt Ralstrom, suggested the group amend its current budget to set aside \$20,000 from reserves for grants awarded between now and July. "It makes sense to get us through to the beginning of fiscal year 2026," Anton said. During a five-minute recess of the meeting, Rothe called the authority's attorney, Kevin Kilby, to confirm the legality of amending the budget despite the action not being on the pre-released agenda. Rothe said Kilby told him, "As we are in a regular meeting with a quo-

rum present, we are free to make a motion to amend the budget to allow for allocations for the commercial grant program for fiscal year 2024-25, which ends June 30, 2025." Rothe decided to resurrect commercial loans in part due to the wishes of business owners. "When I started here in 2022, we had a small commercial grant program," he said. "We did not do a commercial grant program last year. One of the things I heard from business owners is that it would be great if that commercial grant program could be rolled out again." "It needs to be a multi-year program," Mullen said. "I think it's going to be around for at least one more year after this upcoming fiscal year," Rothe said.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Henry Ford Grosse Pointe Pharmacy, 159 Kercheval on The Hill, is back open after being closed more than three years.

OPEN:

Continued from page 1A

"This is not for prescriptions," noted Kimberly Call, marketing manager for Henry Ford pharmacies. "This is just over-the-counter, but the prices are unbelievable." Customers do not need to be patients within the Henry Ford network to take advantage of the prices. Henry Ford Grosse Pointe Pharmacy is located at 159 Kercheval, Ste. 110, with its entrance

off Kercheval. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. "With the reopening of Henry Ford Grosse Pointe Pharmacy, residents regain a trusted local healthcare partner," Call said. "More than just a place to fill prescriptions, the pharmacy remains a familiar and reliable presence, dedicated to serving the community with expert care and personalized support."

— Laurel Kraus

Vietnam Veterans Day Luncheon this Saturday

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Kicking into high gear The War Memorial's year of Vietnam veteran-focused programming, the second annual Vietnam Veterans Day Luncheon will be held 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29.

Lunch and the commemoration ceremony start at noon, with a Presentation of the Colors by Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 of Clinton Township. Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Brian Love then will speak and lead a pinning ceremony for Vietnam veterans. "There are U.S.-issued pins that are commemorative pins only given to Vietnam veterans in recognition of their service," Leah Celebi, vice president of community engagement and pro-



gramming, previously said. "... Anyone who hasn't been pinned yet will have that recognition to stand up before the crowd and be pinned at our luncheon."

The ceremony will conclude with the playing of taps and a 21-gun salute. Also part of the luncheon will be a veterans resource fair, featuring

about a dozen veteran and military-related organizations from across metro Detroit. The luncheon is free for veterans of any era. Guests and the general public may purchase tickets for \$22. Reservations are required and may be made at tinyurl.com/3we5vd3a. The War Memorial is an official commemorative partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, allowing it to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Defense for the pinning ceremony. Throughout this year, programming heavily will focus on honoring Vietnam veterans, as well as education on the war and its lasting impact.

— Laurel Kraus

Household hazardous waste drop off this weekend

GROSSE POINTE CITY, FARMS, PARK & SHORES — This year's household hazardous waste drop-off day takes place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Pier Park, 350 Lakeshore.

A driver's license will be required to verify residency, as the program is open to residents

of the City, Farms, Park and Shores. Pointers may use this opportunity to dispose of oil-based paint and solvents; aerosols; corrosives, including acids and bases; pesticides and herbicides; reactives and oxidizers; non-regulated waste; automotive fluid, such as

oil and antifreeze; over-the-counter medications; elemental mercury; propane cylinders up to 30 pounds each; mixed household and auto batteries; fluorescent lamps and PCB light ballasts; fire extinguishers and smoke detectors; and biomedical sharps in rigid containers.

TIFA:

Continued from page 1A

ties within the authority's

district bounded by Mack Avenue almost to East Jefferson, and from Wayburn to the alley behind Nottingham. "It's been a great program," board member Jim Robson said. Loans are for residential property owners to upgrade exterior façades. Eligible work consist of such things as: ♦ front and rear construction or revitalization of such things as porches, overhangs, railings and stairs; ♦ side façades that are visible to the public eye,

♦ enhanced front entryways, ♦ aesthetics, such as awnings; ♦ fencing along alleyways or street-side yards, ♦ and painting, new doors and windows if part of comprehensive façade improvements. Grant applications must be approved prior to work commencing. "Work completed prior to grant approval will not be reimbursed," according to the rules. TIFA programs are self-funded by capturing a portion of property

taxes within the TIFA district that otherwise would go to the county and state. Funds are to be spent for the benefit of the district. Rothe increased the grant budget this year 20 percent for a total of \$120,000. At a maximum \$5,000 per grant, 24 maximum amount grants are available — and many more if awarded for lesser amounts. Rothe said he expects to end this fiscal year June 30 with 29 or 30 residential grant awards.

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Under control

Ford House controlled burn helps manage prairies

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Approximately 2.25 acres of the grounds at Ford House were set ablaze recently as part of a management plan the estate has used for years.

“This is our third burn,” said Karl Koto, director of landscapes at Ford House. “We have been burning every other year. However, this is the first burn for the area behind the parking lot, near the picnic benches and the wetland garden, next to the



tribute garden.”

The reason Ford House does a controlled burn is because its eco-systems have to evolve

with fire.

“Controlled burns are an excellent way to help manage many of the weeds that invade



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, moving slowly and controlled, a fire is lit downwind near a fire break. Left, a burn crew member lights a fire with a drip torch as the “Burn Boss” patrols the perimeter, monitoring the fire behavior and wind direction to make sure it is going in the direction needed.

our native prairies,” Koto explained.

“Without fire, we would need to use more chemical herbicides to reduce the number of invasive weed species, which is not ideal. This is a natural, safe method to help manage our prairie areas.

“In addition, fire actually helps promote native plants by burning off thatch, allowing more light to reach the ground,” he added. “The native grasses need warmer ground temperatures to germinate and grow, so the blackened earth warms the soil faster.”

The controlled burn was overseen by David Borneman, LLC — Restoring Nature with Fire. A professional team burned into the

wind to allow the wind to slow the progression of the fire and keep it under control.

“A perimeter is established around the burn zone by weed whipping or mowing, then by using blowers to remove any flammable material,” Koto said. “On this fire break, the burn crew sprays water. In the burn area there are a number of trees that we do not want to burn, so the crew will spray water on them and light small fires around each so it does not get hot enough to cause any damage.”

Ford House landscape staff also manned a water trailer as an additional precaution.

— Renee Landuyt

Shores honors public safety officers

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Aside from Lt. Ron Coste receiving the Director’s Award (see story, page 1A), three other members of the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department were honored at city council’s meeting Tuesday, March 18.

Sgt. Jason Cook, the 2022 recipient of the Director’s Award, was given a certificate of merit.

“He’ll probably take my job one day,” Public Safety Director Ken Werenski laughed while introducing Cook.

The afternoon of Oct. 23, 2024, a resident on Willow Tree requested an ambulance for her elderly husband, who she described as “in an altered mental state and verbally unresponsive.” The department’s ambulance already was on another call, so assistance was requested from MedStar. The man eventually collapsed and went into cardiac arrest.

“Once on scene, Sgt. Cook realized the patient was in critical condition,” Werenski said. “He took the role of lead medic and directed the patient’s care with the assistance of MedStar’s medics.”



PHOTO BY TED O’NEIL

From left, Lt. Ron Coste, Public Safety Director Ken Werenski, Officer Billy Howe, Officer Dillon Taylor and Sgt. Jason Cook.

They were able to stabilize the man and transport him to the hospital, where he made a full recovery.

“Our resident was provided excellent customer service,” Werenski said. “That service started with Sgt. Cook responding within minutes and continued with his 20 years of EMS experience and finished with his supervisory skills to take charge of the scene and his ability to rely upon his training and perform in critical moments.”

Officers Dillon Taylor and Billy Howe were

given department citations for their quick thinking during a vehicle stop on Lakeshore the evening of Aug. 20, 2024.

After advising the driver to exit the vehicle because he had several traffic warrants, no insurance and no registration, the man fled the scene, driving over sidewalks and lawns along Lakeshore.

“The driver made an error and turned onto Newberry in Grosse Pointe Farms, which is a dead-end street,” Werenski said. “They were able to box in the

vehicle that ended with a charge of felony fleeing and eluding.”

Werenski said the actions of Howe and Taylor were impressive because each had been with the department just three years at the time.

“This was a critical incident where seniority and experience are valuable, but these officers conducted themselves as seasoned veterans,” Werenski said. “They relied upon their training, followed department policies and procedures and demonstrated common sense.”

OFFICER:

Continued from page 1A

American Medical Response.

“I ended up working for Tri-City Fire, which is where those guys were from when I was in the car accident,” he said.

Before joining the Shores in 2000, Coste was on a wait list for the West Bloomfield Fire Department.

“The day I signed my papers with the Shores to go to the police academy, I got home and there was a letter in my mailbox asking to set up an interview,” he laughed. “We know how that turned out and I have no regrets.”

Werenski said Coste, who also serves as deputy fire chief, oversees all fire operations including training, vehicle and equipment maintenance and purchasing.

“Additionally, he is the department training officer,” Werenski added. “His responsibilities

include designing the yearly training curriculum and keeping track of required credit hours that are deemed mandatory by the state and federal governments.”

Werenski said Coste’s importance to the department was evident while the latter was on medical leave last year.

“There’s an old saying

that goes, ‘You don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone,’ he told council. “During Lt. Coste’s absence, it was obvious that our leader was missing. He called me every day, worried about the schedule, training and equipment orders. The whole time he was off, he was thinking about Grosse Pointe

Shores and our operations.”

Coste, who also received the award in 2019 and has received two life-saving awards, five unit commendations and a certificate of merit, said he was honored.

“It’s nice to be recognized, but this is recognition for all the people I work with as well.”



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MONDAY, MARCH 31

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education closed session, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 to 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods rescheduled Community Tree Commission tree dedication ceremony and meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Infrastructure Committee meeting, 4 to 5 p.m.



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From coast to coast, then coming home

By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

After years of moving between some of the country’s most dynamic cities — San Francisco, Denver and New York — Reagan Henry and Chris Schmidt knew exactly where they wanted to put down roots: Grosse Pointe.

For them, it wasn’t just about moving back to Michigan. It was about coming home.

“We both grew up in Michigan and while we loved our time on the coasts and in the mountains, we always knew that when it was time to settle down, it was Grosse Pointe or bust,” Schmidt said.

The couple officially returned to Michigan in October, purchasing their home in Grosse Pointe Park in January. Their decision was driven by a desire to be closer to family, but also by a deep appreciation for the community’s character and charm.

“I grew up visiting my great-grandparents on Roslyn and spending time with family in the

Farms and Woods,” Schmidt said. “This place has always had a sentimental pull for me.”

Their journey back to Grosse Pointe was anything but ordinary. Both Henry and Schmidt have had impressive careers that have taken them across the country and around the world.

Henry, an intelligence analyst for an international security and defense firm, has dedicated her career to mitigating global threats and crises. She earned a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, specializing in international security and conflict resolution. While at Columbia, she worked with the International Peace Institute, analyzing the threat of terrorism and security gaps, as well as the dynamic of peacekeeping partnerships between the United Nations and the African Union in Somalia, Darfur and Mali.

Her passion for global affairs started early. As an undergraduate at

Michigan State University, she studied abroad in Greece and worked in refugee camps, later interning in Washington, D.C., advocating for adoption policies. From there, she worked in legal research at Stanford Law School before heading to New York for graduate school.

Schmidt, on the other hand, has built a successful career in the tech industry. He is currently the vice president of Go-To-Market for North America with UserTesting, a software company. His journey into the tech world was inspired by his mother, who launched a software company in Ann Arbor.

“I got a front-row seat to watching a company start, scale and succeed, and it fascinated me,” he said. “That experience led me to Silicon Valley, where I joined a company in its early days and helped it grow into a multi-billion-dollar business.”

Along the way, he also earned an MBA from the University of North Carolina and, during the pandemic, fulfilled a life-



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Schmidt and Reagan Henry

long dream of getting his pilot’s license.

Despite their extensive travels — having visited more than 15 countries together during the last five years — Henry and Schmidt said they’ve never felt more at home than in Grosse Pointe.

“The best part about being here has been how quickly it’s felt like home,” Henry said. “We’ve moved a lot in the last few years and while it’s been an adventure, settling into our forever home has been really special. Our neigh-

bors have been so kind and welcoming. We feel incredibly lucky.”

Schmidt echoed that sentiment.

“The people of Grosse Pointe are what make it so special,” he said. “The sense of community here is unlike anywhere else.”

Though they moved in during winter, the couple already is looking forward to summer on the lake, where they can enjoy sailing, boating and time at the park.

As they prepare for their wedding this September in Bermuda, Henry and Schmidt also are looking ahead to how they can get more involved in the Grosse Pointe community.

They recently welcomed a new member to their family — a 4-month-old Golden Retriever named Ham — and look forward to joining local organizations and clubs.

For Schmidt, returning to Grosse Pointe means embracing both its history and its future.

“Michigan has changed so much since we left and we want to be a part of that growth,” he said.

No STR complaints

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Five short-term rental licenses have been approved under terms of the new municipal zoning ordinance.

Passage of the ordinance in December 2024 was notable, in part, for

codifying for the first time rules and regulations governing the licensing, inspection and operation of short-term rental properties.

A short-term rental, or STR, is defined in the ordinance as “the rental or subletting of any dwelling on a premises for a term of 28 days or

less.”

Rules include:

- ◆ properties may only be used for residential purposes, not large commercial gatherings, commercial filming, non-owner wedding receptions, class reunions or retreats;

- ◆ quiet hours are 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.,

- ◆ guests must use designated off-street parking spaces provided by the licensee and

- ◆ the number of overnight guests can’t exceed the property’s posited maximum occupancy.

Current STR operators have 120 days to comply with the ordinance or be shut down.

“We are almost exactly in the middle of the 120-day registration period which will end April 25,” said Warren Rothe, sec-

retary to the planning commission, earlier this month. “All of the five registrations have been residential that were grandfathered in.”

He said he expects about 15 to 20 licenses to be issued.

“None are under review at the moment,” he said.

Final registration numbers will be tallied by the time of the planning commission’s next meeting 7 p.m. Monday, May 19, at

city hall.

According to the ordinance, city officials mail notices to property owners within 200 feet of each short-term rental applicant.

STRs were suspected of operating in the Park for at least a decade prior to the passage of regulations.

The ordinance forbids establishing any new short-term rental opera-

See STR, page 10A

TREES:

Continued from page 1A

In keeping with his mission, the All Pointes Tree Sale is back and enhanced in a number of

ways.

Though retaining its name in its second year, “Our target audience is now much bigger,” Whitney said, as Harper Woods residents now are included in the opportu-

nity to purchase trees at wholesale prices.

“We’re so fortunate across all of the Pointes to have as many trees as we do, but there still are a tremendous number of gaps,” he added. “... A lot of trees still need to go in the ground, in my opinion.”

Residents of the five Pointes and Harper Woods have until 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, to place orders, which the sale’s organizers then will funnel through Willoway Nurseries in Ohio.

Species offered are:

- ◆ red sunset maple,

\$40 or \$100 depending on height, colorful with its crimson/orange foliage in fall;

- ◆ eastern redbud, \$40 or \$100 depending on height, recognizable by its purple/pink flowers during spring and well-paired with evergreens to shelter it from intense sunlight;

- ◆ tuliptree (yellow poplar), \$40 or \$100 depending on height, named for bright green leaves which resemble tulips, as well as tulip-shaped flower blooms in summer and yellow hues in the fall;

- ◆ white pine, \$20 or \$50 depending on height,

the state tree of Michigan, which grows fast and has a long lifespan with feathery, soft needles and an open canopy;

- ◆ London planetree, \$100, featuring peeling bark that exposes green, gray and cream hues;

- ◆ white oak, \$40 or \$150 depending on height, considered the most majestic of oak trees, it supports a variety of biodiversity, can live up to 600 years and is prized for strong wood and storm resistance;

- ◆ red oak, \$40, native to the Midwest as a faster-growing oak with attractive leaves throughout the year, is tolerant of salt and air pollution and supports biodiversity;

- ◆ shumard oak, \$40 or \$125 depending on height, a good choice for street trees in urban areas and is long-lived with a red/orange fall color; and
- ◆ giant sequoia, \$40, native to the Sierra Nevada mountains, but some have thrived in Michigan.

“We want a variety of species in terms of height and growth form,” Whitney said. “Some people are going to want some smaller trees that might be near a garden and, in other cases, we want some canopy-level trees.”

Though the sale previously welcomed purchasers to pick up their trees from one of the Pointe parks on a designated day, trees ordered during this spring sale will be delivered free of charge between April 18 and 25.

The only exception, Whitney noted, is if there is a significant influx of orders.

“We are also offering planting for \$50, which is a huge deal,” he said. “To pop a tree in the ground with mulch and soil amendment and staking for only \$50, that’s a huge deal.”

The spring 2025 All Pointes Tree Sale is being held in honor of Brian Colter — city forester in the City, Farms and Park — who was passionate about restoring the tree canopy in the Pointes and unexpectedly passed away Saturday, March 15.

“He has been such a force for good in all of the Grosse Pointes and we really appreciate everything he has done and we appreciate who he is,” Whitney said. “So we really want to honor his memory by having as many trees as possible put in the ground through the sale.”

Orders may be placed using a form found at tinyurl.com/5weetmzn or via the QR code below.

For questions, reach out to gptrees1@gmail.com.

The tree sale likely will be held again in the fall.



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City of Grosse Pointe

Intoxicated

After he was reported at 10:30 p.m. Monday, March 17, for being parked at a gas station pump for a prolonged period of time, a 52-year-old Detroit man was found to be intoxicated and was arrested.

Warrants

When officers responded to a local store at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, to remove a 65-year-old Detroit man who recently had stolen from it, they discovered he had several misdemeanor warrants from the Park, for which he was arrested.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Here we go again

A front vanity plate was left lodged in the Pier Park exit gate after the first car of the year drove into it at 4:24 a.m. Monday, March 17. The gate camera observed a dark-colored Chevrolet Impala on

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Moross disregard the flashing red light at Lakeshore and crash into the gate before reversing and driving away.

Stop, go

After being seen drifting across lane lines on Mack in her vehicle at 10:50 p.m. Monday, March 17, a 33-year-old St. Clair Shores woman stopped at a red light at Bournemouth before proceeding through it.

She was pulled over and admitted to drinking 45 minutes prior. A preliminary breath test found her blood alcohol content to be 0.114 percent and she was arrested for open liquor transport, a second offense of operating under the influence and violation of a restricted license.

DWLS

A 58-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving while license suspended after being pulled over at Moross and Chandler Park for expired license plate tabs at 4:52 p.m. Thursday, March 20.

Headache

A 56-year-old Park woman, there for a headache, was escorted from a local urgent care at 7:02 p.m. Thursday, March 20, after throwing her debit card at the receptionist due to an argument about scanning into the system her passport instead of her license.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Going nowhere

Shortly before 2 a.m. Wednesday, March 19, public safety officers investigated an occupied vehicle that a witness said had been parked for three hours in the 1000 block of Lakepointe with its engine and lights on. “(Officers) made contact with the driver, who was sleeping with an open can of beer,” according to an investigator. The driver, identified

as a 53-year-old Park man, registered a 0.21 percent preliminary breath test, according to police, more than 2.5 times the legal limit to operate a motor vehicle in Michigan. “(He) was arrested,” police said.

Bike stolen

A red Trek Viper mountain bike valued at \$1,900 was reported stolen at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, March 20, from a garage in the 1300 block of Maryland. The perpetrator, believed to be male, appeared on surveillance video wearing a hooded sweatshirt.

Hits pole

A single-vehicle crash last weekend was credited to a drunken 41-year-old Warren man. Police said witnesses reported the driver’s vehicle jumped the curb in the 15100 block of Charlevoix and hit a light pole at 10:07 p.m. Saturday, March 22. “(Officers) located the

intoxicated driver inside a bar,” police said.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Broken windows

Miscellaneous items were stolen from six different vehicles after their windows were broken around 3 a.m. Friday, March 20, in the parking lot at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

Jeeps stolen

Two Jeep Grand Cherokees were stolen recently. The first occurred sometime

Saturday, March 15, in the 1700 block of Bournemouth, but was not reported until Friday, March 21, because the owner had to leave for a business trip.

The second, left unlocked with the key fob inside, was stolen sometime overnight into Sunday, March 23, in the 19000 block of East Ida Lane.

Larceny x 3

Three instances of larceny from an auto were reported the morning of Sunday, March 23. They were:

◆ a broken window led to a wallet being stolen in the 17000 block of Edshire,

◆ an iPad and \$400 gift card were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 19000 block of Edshire and

◆ tools worth \$150 were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 1500 block of Cook.

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

Officer sworn into City

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — While working for the Highland Park Police Department, Officer Randy Perry went back to school to be cross-trained in firefighting and ice rescue.

He then spent nine years with the Wayne County Airport Authority Police Department before being sworn in Friday, March 14, as a new hire in the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department.

“I like to be engaged in the community,” Perry said regarding his inspiration for choosing law enforcement as a career path. “I like to see change firsthand and after I looked into careers, being in law enforcement, it does that.”

Prior to joining the Pointe department, Perry served on bike patrol, worked as a taser instructor and spent five years as a bomb technician.

“Randy received very high praise from his co-workers on both a professional and personal level and he comes to us highly recommended,”



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

City Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. “We’re honored to have (him) joining us.”

The support Pointe public safety departments receive from the community, as well as recommendations from previous co-workers, are what drew Perry to the City, he said.

“My goal is to continue working here — hopefully retiring with the City — and to continue to serve the community,” the officer said.

—Laurel Kraus

Officer Randy Perry, right, is sworn in by Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Chris Hardenbrook in court chambers Friday, March 14. Public Safety Director John Alcorn is center.



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

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Lots of work, little time

The clock is ticking. The Grosse Pointe Public School System and its newly named Bond Advisory Committee have a Herculean task ahead of them and a relatively short window of time to accomplish it. The committee by around mid-June has to recommend to the GPPSS Board of Education whether to seek a renewal of the “safe and secure” bond that was first approved in June 2018.

That includes outlining a list of projects the money would be used for if the bond is approved in November.

The \$111 million bond originally was approved by 55 percent of voters in November 2018. The district can collect up to 3.14 mills if the debt service schedule justifies that amount. A mill is \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value.

If approved, the bond would bring in \$120 million over 20 years to use on facility upgrades. That would complement the sinking fund millage, approved by 66 percent of voters last November, which will bring in \$111 million over the next decade.

The need for the committee is because while sinking fund money can be spent on any project allowed by state law, bond money can only be used on projects laid out in the ballot language.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle has said bond elections across Michigan that do not include a millage increase have an 84 percent chance of passing, on average, while those that include a millage increase pass at a 51 percent average. This renewal would not be an increase.

Committee members include board President Colleen Worden, Treasurer Tim Klepp and Trustee Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News.

District employees include Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop, Grosse Pointe South High School Principal Cindy Parravano, Grosse Pointe North High School Principal Sara Delgado, Defer Elementary School Principal Lisa Rheume, South Athletic Director Andy Rishmawi, Pierce Middle School Principal Sara Dirkse, Parcels Middle School Assistant Principal Sam Lamberti-McGrath, North Athletic Director Jim Ellis, Mason Elementary School Principal Anita Hassan, Director of Facilities Ben Matteson and Grosse Pointe Education Association Co-President Taryn Loughlin.

Community members are Andrea Gruenwald, Rebecca Fannon, Thomas Caulfield, Andrea Doherty, Wilson Jon Moin, Mariel Krupansky, Juan D. Ruiz Jr., Joe Genest, Walt Fitzpatrick, Neil Sroka, John Arnold, Sarah Coats, Ed Lazar, Patrick Chesterton, Melissa Palepu, Bob Kruse, Tim Brumbaugh, Andrea Glynn and Kaveh Kashef.

The reason for the quick turnaround is because the district will have to submit ballot language to the Wayne County Clerk’s Office by Aug. 11 to be included on the Nov. 4 ballot. If approved, the bonds must be sold and delivered by the end of November to appear on the December tax rolls.

We are disheartened to see there have been rants on social media that some people will vote against the bond solely based on political disagreements with certain members of the committee. This is the same “bite off your nose to spite your face” approach other people took on social media last fall, claiming they would vote against the sinking fund millage because they did not agree with the makeup of the board of education at the time. Such attitudes are unproductive and unreasonable.

At the time the committee was announced and the application posted online, Dr. Tuttle said, “We’re



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RENEE LANDUYT



looking for people who have a vision of the district in mind, not just a singular passion or interest.”

When the committee was announced, Ms. Worden said, “We are thrilled at how many people in the community with strong qualifications and interest applied. The administration and I worked together to develop a committee that represents a cross section of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods and various demographics and backgrounds, to gather innovative ideas for a bond that will gain community support to continue to invest in our schools and the advancement of educational excellence in GPPSS.”

We believe they accomplished their goals and thank the people who have volunteered their time to serve on the committee.

What the committee and district must keep in mind, however, is that they have to be as upfront as possible.

“We need to clearly and accurately describe the intended use,” Dr. Tuttle told the committee during its first meeting earlier this month. “Clarity and transparency are essential to building trust and ensuring voters understand.”

Everyone remembers the copious amount of sticky notes that were plastered in every school building ahead of the 2018 bond vote, touting what projects the money would pay for. Nowhere is that memory more prominent than in the Trombly Elementary School catchment area, which was slated for closure just eight months after the bond passed.

We would urge the committee to make a declarative statement that it will not make any suggestions that include closing any other school or redrawing attendance boundary lines. Beyond that, we strongly urge the board of education to pass a resolution to the same effect at its next meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, March 31, at Brownell Middle School.

Such a move would send a strong message to those opposed to the bond strictly based on

certain committee members that there will not be any surprises if and when the bond passes.

Here is just some of what the committee is dealing with. Consultants at Plante Moran three years ago said GPPSS had \$252 million in maintenance needs over the next 10 years, including \$150 million in critical needs that should be addressed in three years, meaning by now. That list grew to \$319 million due to inflation and increases in the operations and maintenance budget. Work already completed has reduced the list to \$198 million.

Dr. Tuttle at the committee meeting said its focus should be on \$60 million that are “the most critical of the critical needs.”

Working in small groups, members were asked to rank possible projects the bond should address. Included on a longer list were:

- ◆ what to do with the middle school pools,
- ◆ relocating the main office at Grosse Pointe South High School,
- ◆ adding central air conditioning to all buildings,
- ◆ reopening Trombly Elementary School,
- ◆ what to do with the IA building at South and
- ◆ building an athletic fieldhouse.

Plante Moran will present the results at the committee’s next meeting, scheduled 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in the Grosse Pointe North High School Library.

We encourage interested voters to attend the meeting and make their voices heard, as well as the meeting Wednesday, May 21, in the same location. A June meeting has not yet been determined.

In addition, it is likely most — if not all — of you know at least one person on the committee, either personally or professionally. Reach out to them, as well, with your concerns, desires and preferences.

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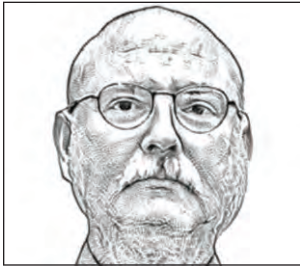
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LETTERS

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.

I SAY By Ted O’Neil



(Author’s note: This column is taken, in part, from something similar I wrote a few years ago while working at the Bryan County News in Richmond Hill, Ga.)

A scouting we shall go

Hopefully you had a chance to read reporter Laurel Kraus’s story earlier this month about the first Grosse Pointe-based female troop under Scouting America. The organization formerly known as Boy Scouts of America officially changed its name in February to coincide with its 115th birthday. Kudos to the adults —

especially the moms — who organized Troop 86G and to its first six members. It got me thinking back to 2017, when then-BSA announced it would begin accepting girls into Cub Scouts the following year and into Boy Scouts in 2019. As a proud Eagle Scout and an even prouder dad of one, I received more than a few questions at the time from family and friends about that announcement. My initial reaction was Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting, must be rolling over in his grave. We know boys mature at a slower rate than girls and by junior high, when they transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts, they are a roiling mess of hormones, puberty, inse-

curity and just general goofiness. Being in Scouting gives them a chance to challenge themselves, fail and try again in — for lack of a better term — a safe environment. Male leaders, along with older Scouts, are there to lend a helping hand, provide encouragement and guidance and help younger Scouts progress while learning lifelong skills. Throw girls into the mix and common sense among boys pretty much goes out the window. Troop 86G is partnered with Troop 86B, which makes sense because the established all-male troop has the framework in place — including equipment — to conduct activities. Those will include combined camping trips, albeit with sep-

arate accommodations. While girls are allowed to join Cub Scout dens, which are age-based units from kindergarten through fifth grade, older girls can join gender-specific troops where they can work toward the rank of Eagle. Becoming an Eagle Scout is no small feat. Only about 4 percent of boys who join Scouting ever get there. It is held in such high regard that it is the only rank an adult leader who holds it can wear on his (and eventually her) uniform, and the Eagle Scout Oath — in which a new Eagle reaffirms their commitment to the values of Scouting — closes with the words “To this I pledge my sacred honor.” Sound familiar? Yes, it’s taken directly from the last line of the Declaration

of Independence. People my age and older most likely remember a BSA commercial from the 1970s that featured famous Eagle Scouts such as Hank Aaron, Gerald Ford and Neil Armstrong. I can see why a lot of girls would want to join Boy Scouts. Outdoor adventure, rifle and archery shooting, camping, the list goes on. When I became an adult leader of my son’s troop years ago, I attended some training seminars and one was focused on providing the kinds of activities Boy Scouts are known for. The guy leading the workshop asked what the Boy Scouts would be without all the fun outdoor adventures and a voice from the back of the room simply

responded, “Girl Scouts.” We all had a good laugh, but humor is only funny if there’s an element of truth to it. No disrespect toward the Girl Scouts, but my daughter grew tired of it very quickly. For a girl who got a kick out of learning the different ways to build a campfire and never shied away from baiting her own fishing hook, I know which organization she would have gotten more out of. As my son pointed out when we talked about this, maybe having girls around showing they can excel at the same activities and challenges will make boys act less goofy toward girls and foster more respect toward women later in life. And future generations full of men and women who better respect each other and show leadership, integrity and self-sufficiency isn’t a bad thing at all.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1950
75 years ago this week

EDUCATORS PUSH BUILDING PLANS: That the Board of Education is moving ahead as rapidly as possible in the completion of the necessary steps preparatory to the construction of the school building approved by the voters of the district at a special election Feb. 24 was indicated by a report made by John R. Barnes, Superintendent of Schools, at the regular Board of Education

meeting. Barnes’ report indicated that all the necessary resolutions have been prepared and approved by the board for the sale of the bonds authorized by the vote of the people.

1975
50 years ago this week

OVER 700 PAY LAST RESPECTS TO POLICEMAN: Farms Police Officer Kenneth Pine was laid to rest March 20, with about 750 persons in attendance at funeral services.

2000
25 years ago this week

EDSEL & ELEANOR FORD HOUSE HONORED FOR LANDSCAPING: The American Society of Landscape Architects paid homage to one of the jewels of Grosse Pointe

last week with the presentation of a bronze medallion in recognition of the Jens Jensen landscape at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. The society, in honor of its 100th anniversary in 1999, began awarding bronze medallions to recognize and demonstrate to the public that hundreds of America’s beloved landscapes are more than fenced-off nature preserves.

2015
10 years ago this week

CITIES PAY TRIBUTE TO HEENAN: Monday night’s

Park city council meeting was unlike any in recent memory. Mayors from the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores sat in the front row. Proclamations from Gov. Rick Snyder, the Republican Party and each of the five Pointes were prepared and many in the crowd came to express something other than displeasure with issues or opinions on topics. The meeting was a near 90-minute tribute to now former Mayor Palmer Heenan, who submitted a letter more than a month ago stating he was retiring effective at the start of the council’s next meeting, which was Monday night.

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GPPSS hires ‘new’ CFO

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education voted 7-0 at a special meeting Tuesday, March 18, to hire Dee Ann Irby as the district’s new chief financial officer.

Irby was director of business operations for GPPSS from 2017 to 2022.

“I’m excited to get back into the district,” she said. “I’ve spent my entire career in municipal and school accounting, so it should be an easy transition.”

“She is highly sought after,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle told the board. “I wanted to act quickly on this because she actually had an offer from another school district.”



Dee Ann Irby

The St. Clair Shores resident also previously served as the comptroller/treasurer for Grosse Pointe Woods and was finance director in Troy and Bloomfield Hills.

“All of her references who I talked to said they would hire her back if they had the chance,” Tuttle said. “And her being right in St. Clair Shores is a huge advantage.”

Tuttle joked that Irby did have one caveat now that the board moved its meetings from Tuesday nights back to Monday nights.

“She said if her son gets drafted by an NFL team and they have a Monday night game, she won’t be here,” she said.

Irby’s son, Harold, recently completed his football career at Saginaw Valley State University and is considered a prospect for next month’s NFL draft.

Irby earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration from Grand Valley State University and a master’s degree in administration from Central Michigan University. Her first day with the district will be Monday, March 31, which is the day of the next scheduled board meeting.

“I’ll be jumping back into everything on day one,” she said.

Her first two orders of business will be getting the 2025-26 fiscal year budget ready and preparing for the audit of the current fiscal year.

“You have to have a sharp pencil and account for every dollar coming in and going out,” Irby said. “That’s the way you maximize your buying power, whether that’s through salaries and benefits for good teachers and staff or making buildings safe for students.”

Irby said she was drawn to civil service by her grandmother, a former township supervisor.

“It’s about working directly to help people and keep the finances in line so you have more money for student performance.”



COURTESY PHOTO

ULS students win prizes in C-SPAN’s National Documentary Competition

C-SPAN recently announced that University Liggett School students Otto Massie, Kerith Short and Anna Gray earned honorable mention prizes in C-SPAN’s 21st annual StudentCam competition.

The trio will received \$250 for their video, “The State of Social Security in the U.S.”

C-SPAN also recognized educator Scott Pangrazzi at University Liggett, who served as an adviser in the StudentCam competition.

In cooperation with its cable and satellite television partners, C-SPAN asked middle and high school students to address the theme, “Your Message to the

President: What issue is most important to you or your community?”

Students were asked to explore and analyze matters of personal, local or national importance. C-SPAN received more than 1,700 entries and nearly 3,500 students participated from 42 states and Washington, D.C.

Students from Royal Oak High School and International Academy OKMA in Bloomfield Township also won prizes.

“Congratulations to all of the incredibly talented young students who won awards in this year’s competition,” said

C-SPAN’s Director of Education Relations Craig McAndrew. “Through in-depth research and interviews with an array of topical and technical experts, you have crafted impactful short stories that capture issues of wide public interest and importance. Your documentaries set a very high bar for future StudentCam filmmakers and you should be proud knowing your work will inspire your peers and foster thoughtful consideration from all audiences. We can’t wait to see what you do next.”

The 150 winning videos may be viewed at studentcam.org.

Honored

St. Paul Catholic School fourth-grade math teacher Martha Waterson was selected for the Amazing Catholic Educator Honorable Mention Award. The Catholic Foundation of Michigan recognizes teachers, specialists and administrators for creating a school culture that is proudly Catholic and academically excellent.

Waterson will receive her award in the mail. In the meantime, staff at St. Paul honored her with flowers and balloons in her classroom Friday, March 7.

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MARCH 17, 2025**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED

1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held March 3, 2025 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Beautification Commission meeting held on November 12, 2024.

2) to adopt the amended “Guide to Public Participation at Council Meetings.”

3) to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing information related to a civil action subject to attorney/client privilege.

4) to direct the City Attorney to explore possible settlement of a lawsuit.

5) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 132094 through 132170 in the amount of \$458,193.65 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$28,185.78 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of February 2025.(3)approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of \$7,024.63 for the printing, folding and mailing of the monthly water bills for Districts 1, 2 and 3. (4) approve payment in the amount of \$27,465.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks at various residential locations. (5) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$11,500.00 emergency removal of trees where water main break repairs were being performed. (6) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$6,936.00 for salting and snow removal in various residential and commercial areas of the City. (7) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$43,586.35 for professional services during the month of February 2025 for the following projects: City Hall Generator; Beaconsfield Resurfacing, Misc. Concrete Repair, Joint/Crack Sealing, Sidewalk Program, Miss Digs, Eastland Center Development, Temporary Water Operator, Sanitary Sewer Cleaning, Sanitary Sewer FCIPP, Storm Sewer Repair, DWRF Project Plan, Distribution System Materials, DWRF Lead Service Replacement, DWSD Sewage Discharge, Roscommon Pocket Park, City Hall Evacuation Plan and the FDCVT Grant Application. (8) approve the purchase of a new Server for City Hall from Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$26,124.68. (9) approve the purchase of a server upgrade and a 5-year service agreement from Equature in the amount of \$8,097.60 for the first year, and \$7,438.03 annually for years 2-5, for a total cost of \$34,488.00. (10) approve payment to McKenna in the amount of \$8,057.57 for providing professional services in conjunction with the Zoning Ordinance update and the Lennon street vacation and other projects. (11) appoint Sheila Printup to the Planning Commission for an unexpired three-year term ending January 2026.

2) to approve payment to L.J. Rolls Mechanical in the amount of \$46,084.55 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the City Hall Generator Project No. 180-291.

3) to approve payment to Super Construction in the amount of \$11,070.00 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the DWSRF Lead Water Service Replacement Program, #180-331.

4) to approve payment to Duke’s Root Control in the amount of \$8,400.00 for Progress Payment No. 4 (Final) on the 2024 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and CCTV Investigation, #180-340.

5) to approve the Wayne County Storm Water Maintenance Permit No. M25-0021 and Exhibits A and B for Underground Detention Construction with Storm Sewer Install, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the permit on behalf of the City.

6) to approve the Wayne County Storm Water Maintenance Permit, #M25-0026 and Exhibits A and B for Commercial, New Gas Station, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the permit on behalf of the City.

7) to approve the Contract Modification in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 with Michigan Joint Sealing for the 2025 Miscellaneous Concrete Pavement Repair Program, #180-366.

8) to approve the Contract Modification in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 with Duke’s Root Control for the 2025 Miscellaneous Concrete Pavement Repair Program, #180-365.

9) to approve payment in the amount of \$1,058,532.12 to Wayne County for the Milk River Drain principal and interest payments; \$906,751.69 principal and interest on the SRF Bond#5446-01 and \$151,780.43 principal and interest on the SRF Bond #5446-02.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, March 27, 2025

International festival a hit

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Students and families from Pierce Middle School and Defer and Maire elementary schools were able to travel the globe earlier this month without leaving town at their annual international festival.

The event was held at Defer and coordinated by the PTOs from each school.

"Everything went really well," said Michelle Shalhoub, who chaired the event. "We had about 200 students, plus a lot of parents and grandparents."

Restaurants donating food were Baobab Fare, Crispelli's, Sierra Station and Park Grill. Zestia Greek Street Food, Noojahan Indian Grill, Emily's Deli, Buscemi's and Summer Palace offered items at discounted prices.

"They were all very generous," Shalhoub added.

Families set up tables representing 11 countries that featured treats or cultural information. Those were the Philippines, India, Japan, Bulgaria,

Australia, Mexico, Poland,
Germany, France, Japan
and Ghana.

"Each of the families had some sort of connection to their country," Shalhoub said.

Students also designed stickers that were used for a passport.

"They did some research and designed the stickers with something about each country," she said. "Those who visited each one got a piece of candy."

Entertainment was provided by the Ballet Folklorico from Wayne State University, the Bulgarian Youth Folks Ensemble and the EMA Singers from Expressions Musical Academy, of which Shallhoub is a member.

The event dates back to 2014, when it started at Trombly Elementary School.

"It was mostly a potluck and the students would do crafts and little shows," Shalhoub said. "Now, we call around to various cultural centers to get our entertainment."

—Ted O'Neil



COURTESY PHOTOS

Dancers from Wayne State's Ballet Folklórico.



Assia Likomanov from Bulgaria in front of her Bulgarian display.



Above, attendees enjoyed food from several area restaurants. Right, committee members, from left, Salvador Martinez, Meghan Westphal, Asia Likomanov, Doris Grose, Kelly-Ann Francis, Renee Jakubowski, Sophan Buffa, Blanchy Kaminski and Chairwoman Michelle Shalhoub.



ULS student magazine, Lambrequin, earns top honor

University Liggett School's Lambrequin has been recognized as a REALM First Class magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English.

This year, schools in 46 states and five countries nominated 422 student magazines. Magazines from middle school, high school and higher education were welcomed for the 2024 contest. Of them, 125 magazines were awarded the contest's highest distinction, REALM First Class.

"We are incredibly proud that Lambrequin has been recognized as a REALM First Class magazine," said Elizabeth Wagenschutz, Lambrequin advisor and English teacher. "This honor reflects the hard work, creativity and dedication of our students, who pour their passion into

every issue. It is a privilege to guide such talented writers and artists as they share their voices with the world. This achievement is a testament to the spirit of collaboration and excellence that defines our community at University Liggett School."

Nearly 10 years ago, Wagenschutz founded Lambrequin at ULS to showcase the talents of upper school students and provide an outlet for them to express themselves through visual art, photography, poetry, short stories and music.

The REALM program publicly recognizes excellent literary magazines produced by students with the support of their teachers. It is designed to encourage all schools to develop literary magazines that celebrate the art and craft of writing.



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4/2/20

P&R supervisor leaves Pointes for new role

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Rebecca Jenzen first was employed by the City as a seasonal lifeguard in 1999. Cut to 25 years later and she’s leaving the Pointe as its parks and recreation supervisor, having been in charge of leading Neff Park operations and city events since 2021. In between, she worked her way through the ranks as swim instructor, swim coach and recreation and aquatic coordinator. “Without the system we have here in the Grosse Pointes, where you get to come up

through the swim lessons through the swim team to become a lifeguard, I wouldn’t be here,” Jenzen said. “The young people working for me when I left were people who I had initially taught to swim 15 to 20 years before, so it’s an incredible program and I am just so blessed and lucky to have been a part of it.” Though her last day with the city was March 4, Jenzen remained as a usual fixture at the city council meeting last Monday, where she was honored by Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak with a proclamation of appreciation for 25 years of service to the community. “We’re fortunate to have so many valued



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Rebecca Jenzen, with City Manager Joe Valentine, is honored with a proclamation for 25 years of service in the City’s parks and recreation department. employees here at the city, but Becca really has a passion for the parks and everybody who knows her knows how hard she worked over

there, so we really appreciate her,” City Manager Joe Valentine said. “I wish her all the best in her new role.” Since becoming head of the department in such a small community, Jenzen was a one-woman operation and the singular parks employee in the City during the off-season winter months. Throughout the years, she managed and administered safe aquatic programming, lessons and special events, as well as supervised and monitored countless seasonal staff. Jenzen also routinely served as the election inspector chair for the city’s absentee voter counting board during numerous election

cycles. “Be it resolved that the mayor, city council and the citizens of Grosse Pointe do hereby extend their most grateful appreciation to Rebecca Jenzen — Becca as we know her — for her public service career with the city,” Tomkowiak read from the proclamation. As Jenzen moves on to a new opportunity as Clinton Township’s senior center recreation coordinator, the parks and recreation office will be staffed by returning staff member Liesel Lagrou until a new coordinator is hired. Lagrou has worked in the department in various roles the last 10 seasons, most recently as park supervisor.

Movie theater seats on order

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Coming attractions at the Carol C. Schaap movie theater feature new seats. The theater, located in the Lavins Activity Center at Windmill Pointe Park, will be closed for up to four days while 70 original seats are taken out and new ones put in. Park resident Dr. Paul Schaap donated \$65,000 to replace the old seats, original to the \$700,000 theater’s grand opening 10 years ago. He gave the money in memory of his late wife,

Carol, for whom the theater has been named since the beginning. “We’ll have new seats by Memorial Day thanks to our donor, Dr. Schaap,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. Schaap’s donation came with one wish. “The only request Dr. Schaap had was to keep the seats red,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “(Recreation Director Chad) Craig and I met with Dr. Schaap to make sure we were carefully fulfilling his wishes.” New seats are in the style of the original high-backed, cushioned recliners, the coverings of which were cracked and

worn thin from packed audiences watching first-run features. Irwin Seating, a company in Grand Rapids, was contracted for \$57,000 to provide and install the new seats described in company literature as “zero gravity spectrum recliners.” “We will be able to add two additional seats to the theater, which will take the total to 72 and include going from two ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) handicap spaces to four,” Sizeland said. Features include cup holders, swing-aside desktops and center armrests that lift out of the

way, affording lounging space for viewers during shows that aren’t sold out. Irwin representatives visited the theater to double check measurements in preparation for installation. “Measurements we were taking didn’t seem to align with what they proposed,” Craig said in February. “I didn’t feel comfortable with what they were putting in place, so I requested they have a site visit.” Irwin’s terms and logis-

tics came out ahead of a competitor in Mississippi, on the Gulf of America. “We will save money on shipping and handling fees, as they (Irwin) are not (from) out of state,” Sizeland said. “If we were to experience unforeseen issues, (Irwin) would be able to come in person to address the issue. This should also make it easier for us to obtain replacement items. They also have slipcover pieces for almost the entire seat if a section was damaged

or vandalized.” A company located in the Park, Brosnan Builders, was contracted for \$1,300 to haul away the old seats. Schaap’s donation, announced last September, eliminated a line item in the city’s fiscal year 2027 capital improvement plan to buy new chairs. “Without his donation, we would be talking about this during budget discussions,” Sizeland said. “That’s what makes Grosse Pointe Park so special, where we have people who are willing to help out in any way possible.”

City mayor headed to Harvard

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — For three weeks in June, City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak will attend an intensive, prestigious program for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard University. She and Bloomfield Township Treasurer Michael Schostak were selected last week for the 2025 Taubman Fellowship for Executive Excellence. It is administered through the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and covers the tuition for two public officials each year to attend the Harvard program and broaden their awareness of effective approaches to public-sector problems. “For more than 30 years, Taubman has supported SEMCOG’s Taubman Fellows program and its mission to provide Southeast Michigan leaders with access to the very best practices and people from around the world,” said Robert S. Taubman, chairman and CEO of Taubman, in a release. “With the knowledge gained from this substan-

tial program, our representatives become even more well equipped to serve our region, our state and its people.” The program — administered through Harvard Kennedy School, which is the school of public policy and government at Harvard University — aims to provide fresh insights into strategic management and public sector issues, as well as negotiation and leadership training. “What I like about this program a lot is that it’s not just academics,” Tomkowiak said. “It is very much participatory, where you’re put into groups to work with leading people from around the country to solve real-world problems for the participants.” The mayor noted economic development, specifically fostering it in a community that already is built up, as a top issue in the City. She also anticipates a focus on housing issues. In Grosse Pointe, the concern regards enabling residents to age in place by providing housing options, so they don’t have to leave the community as they grow older. “This kind of intensive education is always trans-

formational,” Tomkowiak said. “... Having done similar programs in the past, I knew I really wanted rigorous training for the job as mayor.” For the three weeks of the program, Tomkowiak intends to square away her day job obligations and put her life on hold. Because the City doesn’t have a mayor pro tem position, longest-serving councilmember Chris Walsh will fill in during her absence. “Everyone I’ve spoken to who has gone has said it’s enormously rigorous, there’s a ton of work and it’s worth every minute,” Tomkowiak said. She first was elected to city council in 2017, and has served as mayor since 2019. She also is co-chairperson of the Healthy Climate Task Force for Southeast Michigan; member of SEMCOG’s executive committee; member of SEMCOG’s general assembly; member of the Water Infrastructure Task Force for Southeast Michigan; adjunct instructor of journalism at Wayne State University; and principal/creative director of Grayton Integrated Publishing.

Know Your Skin

by Lisa A. Manz-Dulac, M.D.

Do you regularly check your skin?

Everyone should do a skin exam at least every 4-8 weeks. And if you or family members have a history of skin cancer, it is especially important to do regular self skin examinations of your entire body, from your scalp down to the soles of the feet. But what do you look for?

A good tool to use is the ABCDE’s. Benign lesions are typically round (symmetrical); an Asymmetric shape (the “A”) is often a sign that a mole could be cancerous. Also, the Borders (the “B”) of suspicious lesions are often uneven with jagged or notched edges. Color (the “C”) is another important characteristic. Lesions that have multiple shades of colors or are very dark in color should be brought to your physician’s attention. Large moles with a Diameter larger than

the eraser on a pencil (the “D”) may also indicate malignancy. Watch for lesions that are starting to evolve or change (the “E”) in one of these areas. Most benign lesions do not change over time.

Once you bring a lesion to the attention of your doctor, she/he may recommend biopsy, destruction, excision or other complete removal, or you may be advised to continue to watch the lesion, depending on the diagnosis.

If you have a suspicious lesion, or to learn more about skin exams, contact your dermatologist, or call us at Eastside Dermatology, Dr. Lisa A. Manz-Dulac and Associates.

Eastside Dermatology has offices in Grosse Pointe Woods, New Baltimore and Hartland. You can reach them at (313) 884-3380 or (586) 716-1291.

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Grosse Pointe is where the magic happens

Cody Clark makes return trip April 2

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Magician Cody Clark, who drew a sizable crowd during his appearance last spring, was so encouraged by the Grosse Pointe community, he recently asked organizers if he could come back.

His 2024 show wrapped up a successful Purple in the Pointes, celebrated during the month of April and shining a light — literally, a purple light — on people with special needs.

“It’s to acknowledge there are people who have unique challenges,” organizer Patty Sunisloe said last spring, “to say, ‘We see you. We’re here for you.’”

Though there are no formal Purple in the Pointes plans this year — “We thought we’d lay low and see who takes the initiative to do it, then jump back on it next year,” Sunisloe said — she also wanted to host at least one event in April that

ties in with special needs.

“Then Cody called,” Sunisloe said.

Clark will perform his magic show and presentation at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, in the Lakeshore Room at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

The magician, who shares during his performances about the challenges he has faced and overcome as someone with autism, will present “A Different Way of Thinking.”

“He’ll talk about living life on the spectrum and how he’s achieved what he’s achieved — how he became a magician who travels the country,” Sunisloe said.

For those who missed Clark’s performance last year, his introduction to magic as an 11-year-old during a family vacation led him to develop a hobby, which developed into a passion and then into a successful business. He’s been perform-

ing magic 20 years and touring professionally the past decade, sharing his talent — and personal message — with audiences around the country.

Clark’s appearance is presented by Purple in the Pointes as well as Michael B’s Cafe, a non-profit coffeehouse and sweets shop that will employ young adults with special needs. Construction on Michael B’s is expected to start this summer.

Wayne County Community College District also is a sponsor.

“And Ford House was kind enough to donate the space,” said Alicia Carlisle, business owner and founder of Michael B’s Cafe. “They’re becoming a wonderful partner.”

“Anyone living on the spectrum or anyone who has someone in their life on the spectrum, they should want to be there,” Sunisloe said. “They will learn so much.

“He does a good Q&A

after the show, too,” she added. “Last year, people loved it. As they were leaving, people from the audience were coming up to Cody and interacting with him. They asked some really great questions.”

All are welcome to attend the free event. Seating is limited and registration is required at fordhouse.org. For more information, call (313) 884-4222.

“Check it out, because it’s amazing to see this young man who had a serious challenge of living with autism end up such a successful entrepreneur,” Sunisloe said. “He found his passion — magic — and turned it in to a business where he travels the country. He’s an inspiration to anyone struggling to overcome challenges.

“Anyone who has anyone in their life living on the spectrum will be so inspired and learn so much about real-life challenges people on the



COURTESY PHOTO

Cody Clark brings his one-of-a-kind magic show back to Ford House April 2.

spectrum face,” she added. “If you’re a parent with a kid on the spectrum, you will look and

say, ‘My child probably also is capable of figuring out their passion and purpose.’”

‘No Bad Days’ finds new audience

Mestdagh book launch is April 1

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

JT Mestdagh is no stranger to crowds. As a motivational speaker, he has relayed his message — of faith, resilience, optimism and overcoming challenges — to audiences of all ages.

The author and adventure enthusiast, who also hosts a podcast and runs the JT Mestdagh Foundation, has plenty of advice to share, largely stemming from his own experiences.

Diagnosed at birth with VATER Syndrome — a rare combination of several birth defects — and later with dyslexia and short-term memory loss, Mestdagh pushed past these roadblocks to achieve what many people told him he would never do. Through his books and speaking engagements, he offers encouraging words and support to others facing challenges.

Lately, he’s found himself in front of a younger crowd and decided to revamp his book, “No Bad Days: How to Find Joy in Any Circumstance,” to reach a different generation.

“I’ve been speaking to



COURTESY PHOTOS

Author, philanthropist and motivational speaker JT Mestdagh launches his latest book, geared toward teens, April 1 at Flyleaf in Grosse Pointe Farms.

younger audiences and I felt those younger audiences need to hear this message for their age group,” he said. “I talk to the younger generation throughout the new

younger audience.”

He created “No Bad Days: Turning Your Biggest Challenges into Your Greatest Opportunities,” by interviewing young people about their obstacles and how they overcame hardships in their lives, both medically and educationally, much like Mestdagh.

“It was a fun project,” he said. “It was enjoyable for me, interviewing everyone through Zoom and in person. It was meaningful to me and definitely something I loved doing, hearing their stories. You definitely can learn so much from other people’s journeys in life.”

The new book targets ages 13 to 19.

“I think it’s an age group that has been through a lot — with COVID, the pressures of social media, anxiety and depression,” he said. “One of the chapters is called ‘Green Time over Screen Time.’ It’s important to get out in nature. That’s the mechanism I use to escape the naysayers in life, to be in God’s country, to reflect and talk to God and enjoy the beauty he has surrounded us with.”

Mestdagh isn’t just talk; he practices what he preaches. Through the JT Mestdagh

Foundation, he’ll soon be on his way to Colorado to participate in the Benedict 100, a six-day skiing challenge April 12 to 18.

“I’ll be skiing 100 miles, from Aspen to Vail,” he said. “It’s a really cool adventure I’m doing with two other Grosse Pointers, John Herbert and Greg Nelson, and with Ladi Lattovsky from Denver.”

He hopes to raise \$100,000 to support his foundation, which stands on two pillars — medical and educational.

On the medical side, the foundation provides medical supplies to children and families in need who are facing colorectal illness. It also supports Ronald McDonald House Charities.

On the educational side, the foundation contributes to Beyond Basics, which uses certified Tatum Program-trained teachers and tutors to help children with dyslexia with literacy.

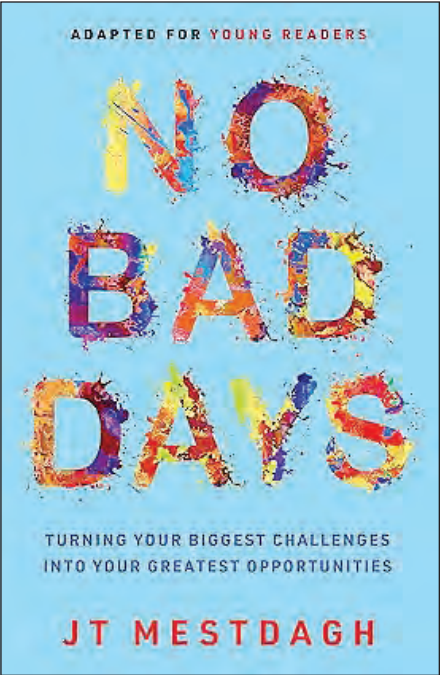
For more information or to donate to his Benedict 100

challenge, visit jtmestdaghfoundation.org.

Before he heads off to the slopes, Mestdagh will sign copies of his new book during a book launch from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, hosted at Flyleaf, 92 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

“I’ll be signing and selling books,” he said. “I’m excited. Flyleaf has been super generous in opening up their space for me.”

For more information about “No Bad Days: Turning Your Biggest Challenges into Your Greatest Opportunities” and Mestdagh’s other books, visit jtmestdagh.com or find him on Instagram @jt_mestdagh.



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SPRING FLINGS!

Party season begins in style

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

Spring is a season packed with celebrations, and if you’re looking to throw the perfect party, Party Adventure has you covered—literally. From Easter brunches and Mother’s Day gatherings to graduations and the Kentucky Derby, this go-to party supply store has an incredible selection of decorations, especially when it comes to balloons. Whether you’re planning an elegant soirée or a fun backyard bash, Party Adventure has everything you need to bring your vision to life.

From colorful decor to festive tableware, Party Adventure will ensure your gathering is a success. Their helpful staff is on hand to advise you on the latest ideas and products. With years of experience assisting the local community on celebrations of its most important milestones — they’re happy to share some of the best ideas with you. We’ve showcased a few concepts on these pages about how you can celebrate your upcoming events in style. Stop in at 234000 Greater Mack Ave. in St. Clair Shores to see their aisles and aisles of options for every type of party theme — or visit them online at partyadventureusa.com. Phone at (586) 776-9750 for more information.



Hop into bunny mode

Your Easter meal comes to life with pastel hues, bunny-themed table settings and spring decorations. Party Adventure has all the essentials to make your Easter gathering a hit, including adorable bunny-shaped favor bags, floral-themed plates and colorful table décor, shown at left. Their balloon selection is equally impressive, offering beautiful arrangements to complement any Easter brunch or egg hunt.

Horseplay: A winning good time

For those planning a Kentucky Derby watch party, Party Adventure has everything you need to set the scene. From themed tableware featuring jockey silks and horse racing graphics to gold horseshoe drink stirrers, above, your guests will feel like they're at Churchill Downs. Add in custom balloon arches in classic red, black and gold to complete the race-day atmosphere.

Fiesta-ready fun for friends and family

Turn your Cinco de Mayo gathering into a vibrant celebration with Party Adventure's festive decorations. They have everything you need to get the party started. Their bright, eye-catching decorations will transform any space into a fiesta.



Big achievements deserve big balloons

May-June graduation season is a time to kick it up a notch, and nothing says "wow factor" quite like oversized light-up marquee letters and balloon installations. Party Adventure offers personalized balloon arches in school colors, perfect for photo backdrops and making the graduate feel like a star.



Set a table as beautiful as mom herself

Mother's Day calls for a gorgeous, thoughtful setup. Party Adventure truly delivers with elegant floral centerpieces, balloon arrangements and delicate pastel tableware like the pretty tulip design paper goods (no dishwasher needed) shown at top left. Whether you're hosting brunch or an intimate dinner, mom will feel extra special with festive décor and dinnerware from Party Adventure. Mama deserves it!

Celebrate saying "yes" or "I do"

Spring blossoms with all things nuptial. Balloon displays, such as the one at left, have become centerpieces of décor for engagement parties, wedding showers, bachelorette parties, wedding celebrations and more. They are showstoppers and easily capture the themes and colors important to the look of the party. A Party Adventure consultant can work with you to create a masterpiece for your special day.



A perfect party for every age

No matter the number of candles on the cake, Party Adventure has the perfect balloon decorations, above and right, to bring birthday dreams to life. Whether it's a child's birthday with fun-themed balloons or an elegant milestone celebration with gold and metallic designs, they have endless options to make any birthday celebration memorable.



4B | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

Cadieux-Wagner Farmhouse offered for meetings, tours

During a recent meeting of the Fox Creek Questers, President Lynn Detweiler and guest speaker Pat Wilson brought soda bread sandwiches and salad. Irish music was played, accompanying camaraderie and intellectual stimulation.

“I pulled out all the good Lenox china, Waterford placemats and Waterford crystal to make for an old-fashioned ladies’ tea party,” said Leslie Wagner, who purchased the Cadieux Farmhouse in 2014, had it moved to 533 St. Clair in the City of Grosse Pointe and restored it before moving in 10 years ago. “Hosting the Fox Creek Questers for their March meeting at the Cadieux-Wagner Farmhouse was so lovely. ... I love sharing my home with the community.”

Wagner also has hosted the Michigan Opera Theater: “A hard-hat performance when we had just moved in and the house was still under construction,” she said. “We have an upcoming performance and fundraiser by them coming this spring.”

Wagner also regularly hosts U.S. State Department guests and



Leslie Wagner, owner of the Cadieux-Wagner Farmhouse, the second-oldest home in Grosse Pointe.

leaders from around the world through Global Ties Detroit, formerly the International Visitors Council. Their guests have included theater educators from Africa, journalists from Europe, business leaders from the Middle East and others. “It’s one of my favorite things to do,” Wagner added.

“We have hosted the French Heritage Society,

Pear Tree Questers, Grosse Pointe Historical Society past presidents and members of the Cadieux family whenever we can,” she added. “We are always open to more.”

Groups that would like to tour or host a meeting at the historic farmhouse — the second-oldest house in the Grosse Pointes — may email drleslieannwagner@gmail.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LESLIE WAGNER

The Fox Creek Questers recently held a meeting at the Cadieux-Wagner Farmhouse, which is available to host meetings and tours.

To join the Fox Creek Questers, email ljdetweiler@aol.com. “The Cadieux-Wagner

Farmhouse acts as the new official clubhouse of the Fox Creek Questers,” Wagner noted. “It was

always my plan to keep this home open to the public whenever possible.”



Insider’s look

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Aaron Phillips and Ted Smith of McCarthy & Smith during the club’s March 11 meeting at Ford House.

Phillips, project director for the recent Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch addition and remodel, provided an insider’s look into project details, including the one-of-a-kind terracotta sun and rain screen around the exterior, which enhances the cooling of the building and gives the building a modern look. A ceiling-mounted fire suppression system was added and approved by a state historic preservation expert, without altering key mid-century modern features.

The 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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

AREA ACTIVITIES

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

- ◆ Wise Guys Conversation Group, 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays.
- ◆ Pinochle Club, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Free for members, \$6 for guests.
- ◆ Texas Hold ’em Poker, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday. Free for members, \$6 for guests.
- ◆ Bocce League, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning June 3. Free for members, \$6 for guests.
- ◆ Mahjong Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Free for members, \$6 for guests.
- ◆ The Friendship Club, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.
- ◆ Ping-Pong Group, 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays. Free for members, \$3 for guests.
- ◆ Social Media for Mature Learners, 4 to 5 p.m. Fridays, through May 9, with instructor Janisse Green.
- ◆ Online Security Behaviors and Practices, noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, with presenter Jim Creighton.
- ◆ A Matter of Balance, 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 1 to 24.
- ◆ Restorative Yin Evening Yoga, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 3 and 17, and May 1, 15 and 29. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for guests.
- ◆ The movie “The Six Triple Eight” is shown at noon Friday, April 4. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.
- ◆ Spanish for

Beginners, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 8 to May 13, and 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, April 9 to May 14. Cost is \$35 for members, \$40 for guests.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Coffee with Collections, exclusive to Friends of Ford House members, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, March 27, April 24 and Dec. 4. Cost is \$25.
 - ◆ Storytime: “The Busy Tree,” 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in April.
 - ◆ Community Appreciation Day, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 5.
 - ◆ Rose Care 101, 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. Admission is \$10 for members, \$12 for the public.
 - ◆ Lecture: A People of Influence: Michigan’s Anishnaabek, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10. Admission is \$10 for members, \$12 for the public.
 - ◆ Drop-In Studio: Earth Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12.
- For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, March 28, Recreation Authority of Roseville & Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 13, St. Joan of Arc Catholic

See EVENTS, page 6B

BIRTH

Ann Marie Law

Jamie and Jacob Law of St. Clair Shores announce the arrival of their daughter, Ann Marie Law, who was born Jan. 23, 2025, weighing 1 pound, 15 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Gary and Marsha Baranek of Grosse Pointe Woods. Paternal grandparents are Vincent and Maureen Law of Canton.



Ann Marie Law

Village Grille *Grosse Pointe's Friendliest Family Restaurant!*
LUNCH • DINNER • SPORTS BAR • KIDS GAME ROOM
Our Private Banquet Room is the perfect place to host your event!
Call to Reserve for your Special Day!
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Jelly Bean Contest!!
Come in and see our very large shipment of NEW Herend Merchandise.
Guess the closest number of jelly beans in our jar and win a new Herend Bunny.
Drawing is April 19th
The League Shop
16847 Kercheval Avenue • Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
313-882-6880
www.theleagueshop.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.

Nell Evans Susalla

Nell Evans Susalla, 84, passed away Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, in Grosse Pointe Farms. Nell was born Feb. 25, 1940, in Grosse Pointe Farms. She was the middle daughter of James and Madelyn Evans, both deceased. She attended Richard Elementary School, Brownell Middle School and Grosse Pointe High School as part of its last graduating winter class.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 1962, and taught life skills and art for the Utica Community Schools district for more than 37 years. She also went on to earn a master's degree from Cambridge College.

Nell married her high school sweetheart, Paul G. Susalla, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. They were married for more than 42 years before he passed away.

Nell loved teaching her junior high students and was named Macomb County Teacher of the Year in 1989 by WDIV-TV. She was honored to meet American newspaper publisher Katharine Graham and be featured in Newsweek magazine with 11 other teachers. Nell also introduced boys cooking into the Utica Community Schools district. Nell's principal, Michael Murphy, once said Nell's presence with teenagers was well worth her salary and more than any book knowledge could teach.

Nell's Great Lakes loves included lake house "sonas" (loosely translated from Gaelic to mean "peaceful, tranquil and in tune with nature") in Mackinac Township, looking at the northern Michigan islands and the "Mighty Mac" bridge. She also loved working in her meadow garden, which was featured in her Pointer of Interest article at her home on Fisher Road, and volunteering at the Cheboygan Youth Center.

Nell leaves behind her sons, Scott Evans Susalla and David Girard Susalla (Harmony Joy); grandsons, Harold Riley Susalla and Stuart William Susalla; younger sister, Norma Evans Russotto (Frank); and many dearly loved nieces, nephews and friends. She was predeceased by her

parents; husband, Paul; and sister, Nancy Evans Anderson.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the giver's favorite youth organization.

Patricia Ann Bingham

Patricia "Pat" Ann Bingham, 91, passed away peacefully at home Tuesday, March 18, 2025, surrounded by her daughters.

Pat was born Jan. 15, 1934, in Detroit. She fell in love with and married the love of her life, John Bingham, after he returned from the Korean War in 1954. They shared 68 years of marriage until his passing in 2022.

Pat was a smart and determined woman. With five young children at home, Pat found the time, energy and strength to attend college and earn a nursing degree. Her career spanned 25 years of caring for patients until she retired from St. John Hospital (now Henry Ford St. John Hospital). She took a path not taken by many of her peers at the time.

Unbeknownst to Pat, her example instilled in her daughters the strength to follow their dreams and be true to themselves.

Travel was a wonderful part of the couple's life together. Pat usually was either telling stories about where they had gone or where they were going next. Their travels included trips to Hawaii, Ireland, Scotland, England, Italy, Greece, Alaska and Australia, to name a few. Pat and John spent 25 Michigan winters at their second home in Vero Beach, Fla.

Pat lived a fun and full life. She never missed a party and enjoyed hosting them even more. Whether it was her legendary 35 years of Christmas Eve parties, Thanksgivings, Super Bowls, Memorial Days or family birthday parties, Pat always loved to share her home with family and friends.

Pat is survived by her daughters, Diane

Druzinski (Gerald), Karen Bingham Brown, Patricia Perry (Edward), Colleen Vitale (Angelo) and Barbara Klochko (Peter). She also was loved by her 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, with two more on the way.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. She will lie in state beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The family is grateful for the exceptional care Pat received from K&K Eldercare Concierge and Hospice of Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Michigan, hom.org/donate.

Condolences may be shared at ahpeters.com.

Marilyn "Lynn" Peabody

Marilyn "Lynn" Peabody, 87, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 22, 2025, following a valiant battle with COPD and pneumonia. She will be remembered by all who knew her as a cherished and spirited soul.

Lynn was born May 12, 1937, in Detroit, to Frank and Ernestine Smode. She was a beacon of determination and intelligence and left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

Lynn's early years were spent in Detroit, where she attended East Commerce High School. Her academic prowess was evident early on as she graduated with top honors in 1954. She furthered her education at Wayne State University College of Pharmacy, where she continued to excel and graduated at the top of her class in 1958, earning the prestigious Lehn and Fink Gold Medal Award for the highest GPA of her class.

Following graduation, Lynn embarked on a distinguished career as a pharmacist. She met the love of her life, Bradley "Brad" Peabody, while working at Farms Drugstore in Grosse Pointe Farms. They were married in 1960, and started a family the next year, while Brad's work took them to Ohio, Pennsylvania, North



Nell Evans Susalla

Carolina and Virginia. After obtaining her pharmacist's license in each state to which they moved, Lynn continued to work as their family grew. After returning to Michigan, Lynn spent more than two decades serving the community at Henry Ford Cottage Hospital in Grosse Pointe Farms, where her compassion and expertise were greatly valued by colleagues and patients. Her commitment to health care extended beyond her job as she was actively involved in various associations within her field until her retirement in 2009.

Lynn's zest for life was not limited to her professional achievements. She loved gardening and found joy in the beauty and tranquility of her carefully tended plants. Cooking was another of her passions and she delighted in preparing meals for friends and family, often accompanied by a well-mixed cocktail or glass of fine wine. Lynn's intellectual curiosity was fed by her love of reading. She frequently would be found with a book in hand — as long as the lifelong Tigers fan wasn't cheering on her favorite team.

Bridge also was a favorite pastime; Lynn enjoyed the social interaction as much as the mental stimulation of the game. Her love for animals was profound; she once had aspired to become a veterinarian. This love translated into her support for animal causes, as well as her participation in walk-a-thons that benefitted both medical research and animal welfare. Her commitment to these causes remained steadfast, even after an accident in 2007 left her with a back injury that curtailed her active lifestyle.

Lynn's greatest loves were her family and friends. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Brad; her parents; and her siblings. She is survived by her children, Eric, Jennifer and Gregg; grandchildren, Molly and James; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and caregivers.

Lynn leaves behind a legacy of kindness, dedi-



Patricia Ann Bingham

cation and a relentless pursuit of excellence. She will be deeply missed by those she affected through her work, passions and unwavering spirit. Lynn's life was a testament to the power of perseverance, the importance of compassion and the enduring value of leaving the world a better place. Her memory will continue to inspire and resonate with all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Marilyn Heins, M.D.

Dr. Marilyn Heins, 94, died Monday, March 10, 2025. She was a pediatrician, parenting educator and author.

Born in 1930, in Boston, to botanical artist Esther Heins and electrical engineer Harold Heins, Marilyn graduated from Radcliffe College and received her medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She interned in pediatrics at The New York Hospital (now New York-Presbyterian) and completed a residency in pediatrics at Babies Hospital in New York.

She also was a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She served as director of pediatrics at Detroit Receiving Hospital and director of Project PRESCAD, a federally funded program to provide comprehensive health services for medically indigent children. She was the first woman to serve as associate, then vice dean at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, where she also was a professor of pediatrics. She also was the first woman to serve as a department head at Detroit Receiving Hospital and the first female associate dean at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Marilyn served as a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Medical Association, as the first female chair of the Group on Student Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges and on



Marilyn Peabody

the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Marilyn served on many university and community boards, belonged to many professional organizations and was active in community organizations focusing on children's health, education, parenting and women's issues. She was a member of the Veteran Feminists of America and a recipient of the YMCA of Tucson Women on the Move Award, Radcliffe College Alumnae Recognition Award and Arizona Medical Association President's Award, among others.

Her special interests in pediatrics included helping parents to parent and teaching health professionals how to help them parent. She published many papers, two parenting books and her website, ParentKidsRight.com, which was a popular resource for busy parents. She started to write a weekly parenting column for the Arizona Daily Star in 1989, and personally answered countless parenting questions for column and website readers. In her 80s, she began to shift the focus of these columns to aging and stressed that people must learn to parent themselves in that stage of life. She also was a popular lecturer who spoke to many groups of parents, grandparents, teachers and others who worked with children.

Marilyn was an avid supporter of the arts, especially opera and chamber music, and a voracious reader who once belonged to three book groups simultaneously. She traveled to more than 100 countries and visited all 50 states.

She was married to veterinarian Milton Lipson for 47 years until his death in 2007. She is survived by her companion of 12 years, Milton Francis; children, Dr. Rachel Glick (Gary) of Ann Arbor and Jonathan Lipson (Veronica) of Los Angeles; stepchildren, Ashley Lipson (Anna) of Los Angeles and Robert Lipson (Shirley) of Shreveport, La.; as well as six grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

GPPL celebrates 20 years of the Michigan e-library

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Michigan eLibrary Catalog, or MeLCat, and inter-library loan service.

For the past two decades, the service has grown from 12 member libraries to more than 435. MeLCat has amassed holdings of more than 34 million items.

Grosse Pointe Public Library has been a member of MeLCat since 2008.

"During our participation, our library has filled over 442,495 requests for patrons and we loaned 219,988 items to other libraries," said Jessica Keyser, library director.

"GPPL is among the top 25 libraries participating in the MeL catalog system."

"MeLCat provides a great resource to libraries of all sizes and enables libraries to share their resources to better serve their patrons," State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice said. "Its expansion over the years, both in libraries and resources, is a testament to its value to Michiganders across the state."

Available at mel.org/melcat, MeLCat is a marvel of interconnectivity. It serves more than 435 public, school, academic and

special libraries with various automation systems.

"Since 2005, MeLCat has filled more than 16 million requests, with an average request fill rate of 93 percent," State Librarian Randy Riley said. "MeLCat provides a wonderful collection of resources — books, audio, movies, music and more — to libraries and their patrons across the state."

The Midwest Collaborative for Library Services has been an important partner in MeLCat's development since 2005, continuing support and training for member libraries.

"Supporting the MeLCat infrastructure that helps hundreds of libraries borrow and lend over 1 million items per year to provide people in their communities the materials they need for learning, growth and recreation has been, and continues to be, a great privilege for the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services," said Scott Garrison, executive director of the organization. "We so appreciate the opportunity to serve the Library of Michigan and the hundreds of Michigan libraries that participate in MeLCat."

Midwest Collaborative

for Library Services and Library of Michigan staff work with MeLCat member libraries to ensure that requested library materials move around Michigan in a timely and efficient manner to those who need them.

The goal of the Michigan eLibrary is to provide equitable access to a comprehensive array of high-quality information resources for Michigan residents. Using MeLCat as a discovery tool fosters collaboration among libraries and other organizations to enhance knowledge-sharing and ensure resources, including spe-

cial, unique or historical materials, are available to all, regardless of geographic or economic barriers.

"The success of MeLCat is a testament to the enduring value and power of all types and sizes of libraries working together to build a service that benefits Michigan residents statewide," Riley said. "In honor of MeLCat's 20th anniversary, we are asking Michigan residents to share their MeLCat stories."

For more information about using MeLCat, call (313) 640-GPPL and ask for the Reference Desk.

6B | CHURCHES

EVENTS:

Continued from page 4B

Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 18, The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, April 18, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 24, Lakeview High School, 21100 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28301 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

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

◆ An Evening with Chef Joe Paxton, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 28. Tickets are \$98.

◆ Vietnam Veterans Day Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Free for veterans, \$25 for non-veterans.

◆ Winter Jazz Brunch featuring the Dave Bennett Band, 11 a.m. Sunday, March 30. VIP tickets are \$95. General admission tickets, which include brunch, are \$80. Concert-only tickets are \$35.

◆ YA Salsa Dance Party, 5:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 5. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 8.

◆ Evening with Karl Marlantes: Echoes of the Vietnam War, 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9. Tickets prices vary.

◆ Earth Day Explorers, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12. Cost is \$10 per child.

◆ Bunny Brunch, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 13. Ticket prices vary.

Library

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

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 29, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Make Comics Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 3, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Silent Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Berlin: History & Highlights of a Great City, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 4, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Letter Writing Afternoon, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Galactic Combat Class, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Wild Birds

Wild Birds Unlimited, 20381 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts the free program, “Woodpeckers of Michigan,” presented by Rosann Kovalcik, at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30. Guests will learn facts and details about the nine species of woodpeckers that call Michigan home. Space is limited; call (313) 881-1410 to reserve a seat.

Concert

Planet D Nonet, with special guest Camille Price, performs at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. Cover is \$10.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Rotarian Diane Strickler, founder of The Family Center, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted.

Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Thriving Through Your Divorce, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 3. Presented in collaboration with Thrive Advantage Group and Grosse Pointe Law Center, this workshop will help navigate attendees through the emotional and practical challenges of separation with clarity, confidence and support.

◆ Health for Her at The Helm, 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. The topic is osteoporosis.

◆ Community Book Discussion, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. In “Dopamine Nation,” Dr. Anna Lembke explores new scientific discoveries that explain why the relentless pursuit of pleasure leads to pain. Copies of the book are available at GPPL and the Harper Woods Public Library.

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.

◆ Graphite Pencil Basics with Saveria Giovinazzo, 10 a.m. to noon Fridays, April 4, 11 and 25, and May 2.

◆ Landscapes in the Style of Claude Monet with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, and Thursdays, April 24 and May 1.

◆ Introduction to Kirie, the Japanese art of Paper Cutting, with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

Adaptive yoga

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

Toastmasters

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

‘An Afternoon in England’ is April 6
Grosse Pointe Unitarian hosts afternoon concert

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club presents its next concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

The program includes two sonatas for violin and piano by English composers Percy Turnbull and Sir Henry Walford Davies. They will be performed by violinist Andrew Wu and pianist Joshua Marzan.

Wu has been featured in many chamber works in the series. Although this duo has performed together on numerous occasions, this concert marks Marzan’s first time performing with CMSC.

The concert also features flutist Dennis Carter performing “The

Pied Piper” for flute and piccolo by Gordon Jacob and Francis Poulenc’s Flute Sonata. Carter most recently appeared as part of the flute quartet that played on CMSC’s 25th celebration concert in June 2024. In April 2023, he joined CMSC to perform “Suite for Flute, Violin, Cello and Piano” by Richard Stoehr.

Each piece will be introduced by one of the musicians. This concert also will be followed by a reception with light refreshments.

Tickets cost \$30 at the door, \$25 in advance and \$10 for students. Purchase tickets online at tinyurl.com/mrxhh-mdk

For more information, visit scarabclub.org or call (248) 921-3193.



Andrew Wu



Joshua Marzan



Dennis Carter

Stefek’s Auctioneers celebrates record-breaking results at Feb. 26 ‘Marvels and Masterpieces’ auction

Stefek’s Auctioneers & Appraisers recently announced the outstanding results of its highly anticipated “Marvels and Masterpieces” auction Feb. 26. The event brought together art collectors, enthusiasts and bidders from around the world, resulting in remarkable sales across a diverse selection of fine art, antiques and collectibles.

Among the standout results of the evening were two historic cigar store Indians, attributed to celebrated 19th-century carvers, Julius Melchers and Thomas Brooks. Each commanding significant attention from bidders, the pieces exceeded expectations, underscoring the enduring appeal and craftsmanship of these iconic works.

◆ Lot 177: Attrib. Thomas Brooks, Carved Cigar Store Indian. Price realized: \$37,500

◆ Lot 178: Attrib Julius Melchers, Carved Wood Cigar Store Indian. Price realized: \$35,000.

Other exceptional highlights were Lot 153, an archaic Chinese patinated bronze bell, and Lot 152,



COURTESY PHOTO

Lot 177: Attrib. Thomas Brooks, Carved Cigar Store Indian. Price realized: \$37,500

an archaic Chinese gui bronze vessel, which both garnered considerable interest from collectors of Asian antiquities. The bell’s exquisite craftsmanship, historical significance and striking patina led to a lively bidding session, ultimately achieving a price well above its pre-auction estimate. This

rare artifact further exemplified the depth and breadth of the “Marvels and Masterpieces” collection. The price realized for the bell was \$35,000 and the vessel was \$11,875.

“We were honored to showcase such historically significant pieces in this auction,” said Lori Stefek, owner and principal auctioneer of Stefek’s. “The enthusiasm and competitive bidding we witnessed are a testament to the appreciation for fine craftsmanship and the stories these pieces carry.”

Other highlights of the auction included:

◆ Lot 176: The New Century Musical “Puck” Slot Machine. Price realized: \$21,250

◆ Lot 86: Christian White, “Sky Chief’s Box” Argillite Box. Price realized: \$13,750

◆ Lot 52: M.C. Illions, Carved Wood Carousel Horse. Price realized: \$6,875

For consignment inquiries, valuation requests or more information on upcoming auctions, visit stefeksauctions.com or call (313) 881-1800.

St. Paul offers Healing Prayer Service April 4

All are welcome to attend a healing prayer service Friday, April 4, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The prayer service is for anyone in need of healing of mind, body and spirit, and takes place immediately following a talk that begins at 7:30 p.m. by Pastor Jim Bilot about the last words of

Jesus Christ on the cross.

Earlier in the evening, all are welcome to a fish dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria, as well as Stations of the Cross from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the church.

For more information, contact Anne Graves at agraves@stpaulonthelake.org or (313) 885-8855, Ext. 144.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Mission trip

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Sunrise Past-President Wayne Manchester at Ford House Feb. 25. Manchester updated attendees on his recent short-term mission trip with a team from Grace Community Church to Buen Samaritano, Honduras. The team worked alongside the nonprofit, International Samaritan, to break the chains of generational poverty by providing holistic scholarships to students. Manchester detailed the progress seen in the past three years with student achievements, witnessing improved health as a result of a completed water project and the building of a new community center. For more information about International Samaritan, visit intsam.org.

Worship Service

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org

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

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

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church

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Detroit Zoo makes way for Haley

New polar bear joins two others in Arctic Ring of Life

The Detroit Zoo family just got a little bigger with the arrival of Haley, a 22-year-old polar bear.

Named after Halley’s Comet, Haley was born Nov. 15, 2002, and comes to Detroit from Memphis Zoo, where she had lived since she was 4 years old. Her move was recommended by experts from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to help ensure healthy, genetically diverse and sustainable polar bear populations in human care. Haley joins Nuka, a 20-year-old male, and Suka, a 12-year-old female, in her new home at the Detroit Zoo.

After settling in behind the scenes, Haley is ready to explore her public-facing habitat in the Arctic Ring of Life. One of the largest polar bear habitats in



Haley explore her new home.

“Haley is such a special and inquisitive bear,” said Mike Murray, vice president of life sciences for the Detroit Zoological Society. “We know Haley will be a terrific ambassador for her species, which faces threats from melting sea ice, climate change and pollution in the wild. We can’t wait for our guests to meet her.”

The zoo team is thrilled to welcome Haley and looks forward to sharing her journey with the community. While she adjusts, there may be times when she prefers to stay behind the scenes, but guests can visit her during regular zoo hours to see

her settle into her new surroundings. The zoo is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Monday, March 31. Starting Tuesday, April 1, the zoo will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ASK THE EXPERTS By The Family Center



25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES & ENRICHING LIVES

Spring is here ... but has it sprung?

Go on a “signs of spring” scavenger hunt to find out.

This is a fun family activity you can easily adapt for all ages and abilities. If little ones need hints, you can play “I Spy.”

You could invite relatives, friends or neighbors to join in your adventure, or you could spend some meditative time alone. You can create or download an actual scavenger hunt or keep it simple and just go out and observe. You also could choose to collect things on your walk and make a collage when you get home.

Here are some prompts to get you started on your hunt:

◆ Spring can be windy. Do you notice that the breeze feels warm as opposed to the chilly wind we experience in fall and winter?

◆ Does the air smell fresh? Is anyone mowing their lawn? Is anyone outside working in their yards?

◆ If it has just rained, can you smell the dampness? Do you see any

worms? Do you notice little streams of water running toward drains? Can you jump in some puddles? Are there any rainbows?

◆ Do you hear bird-song? Do you see any robins? What about birds building nests?

◆ Do you see any rabbits?

◆ Get up real close to trees and bushes. Can you see tiny buds starting to form or the last inch of the branches changing color?

◆ Can you find any flowers blooming already? White snow bells and blue scilla are coming up now. What about the leaves of daffodils, crocus and tulips starting to sprout up?

Take some time to disconnect from your phone, watch and earbuds and use all your senses to observe the changes going on around you. Being in nature has a long list of benefits. Listening to birdsong and observing animals in nature have been shown to reduce stress, improve mood and reduce attention fatigue. The scent of

wood and plants have calming effects and viewing nature reduces mental fatigue. A walk outdoors improves mood, self-esteem and relaxation and can reduce stress and lower cortisol levels. It also improves concentration, cognitive function and memory. Children who spend time walking outside have been proven to be able to concentrate longer in school and have better participation.

Good luck hunting for signs and enjoy your outdoor adventure.

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



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Gabby

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Blinded by the light

Dear Gabby: My neighbors have a motion-activated porch light that shines directly into my bedroom window at night. I don't want to cause tension, but I also need to sleep! How should I handle this? — Blinded in the City

Dear Blinded: Try the friendly approach first. A casual conversation with your neighbors can go a long way. Maybe they don't

even realize their light is causing you problems. If that doesn't work, blackout curtains might help, or you can suggest an easy fix like repositioning the light or using a lower-wattage bulb.

Good fences (and well-placed porch lights) make good neighbors!

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





Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

Feelings first

DEAR ANNIE: Some years ago, I went to a nearby office supply shop, where I saw a local couple looking around. The woman, a local musician, had Alzheimer's, but she seemed to recognize me, so we began a conversation. I don't recall what it was about, but it was the silliest, most illogical and the most fun conversation I've ever had with anyone. I just went along with whatever she said, never trying to force reality onto her and augmenting whatever her ideas were when I could. Meanwhile, her husband seemed to be mortified beyond embarrassment. I later left the shop, having purchased what I needed, and I felt so

happy at connecting with this woman, as ridiculous as the conversation had been.

I think it is not good to try to convince such people about what "now" is like. In a way, that is reminding them that they are not well; this will make them feel badly and feed their depression. It is better to greet them "where they are" and find a way to spread some cheer in that. — Going With the Flow

DEAR GOING WITH THE FLOW: As Maya Angelou famously said: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Thank you for your insightful story.

DEAR ANNIE: Nearly 13 years ago, my husband and I lost our 12-year-old son to a severe asthma attack. Since then, I have encountered numerous instances where I meet new people and am asked how many children we have. I have tried a couple of different ways to answer, but it always seems to be incredibly awkward either way.

On occasion, I have simply said that we have a daughter, but then I feel unbelievably guilty for not including my son. So, then I try telling them that I have two children but

one of them passed away, which usually makes the person feel bad for either not knowing or for having brought it up.

I don't want anyone to feel bad about asking, because he is part of me every day, whether someone asks or not, but I also don't want to exclude him because he is, after all, still my son. Can you help me construct an appropriate response that won't leave either me or the inquirer feeling guilty? — Seeking Tactful Reply

DEAR SEEKING TACTFUL REPLY: I am so sorry for your loss. You have absolutely nothing to feel guilty about. Answer anyone who asks you how many children you have in exactly the way that would make you feel most comfortable. If you don't want to tell the story of your son to someone, then don't, and if you do want to tell them, then tell them.

You have suffered enough, and you don't need to place anyone else's guilt or discomfort above your own feelings. That is their problem. The only thing to do is exactly what feels right for you and your family in that moment, and don't worry about what anyone else thinks or feels.

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

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Local restaurant owner's trifecta

Grosse Pointe: the land of small businesses. Most of those businesses are restaurants. As we've learned, sometimes the smallest ones feed the most mouths, showcase the biggest menus and have longevity in the communities in which they reside.

This is the life of Steve Zuccaro, owner of Lunchbox Deli, Burrito Mundo and Green Room Detroit.

Lunchbox Deli cobb salad.

Lunchbox Deli veggie burger.

Zuccaro's trifecta began with Lunchbox Deli. In 1993, Steve was a touring musician, with zero business or culinary background. "As I traveled around I

found that other towns and cities had cool little sandwich shops and I wanted to bring that to our area," he said.

This provided jobs during breaks in touring. He was able to rent space in local kitchens to make sandwiches and eventually the business grew to be successful enough to hire extra help and management. It wasn't until late fall 2000 when the deli earned its storefront, located at 17018 Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Park.

"Lunchbox was started simply because at that time there were very few options for what we do anywhere around," Zuccaro said.

With its massive menu, I honestly don't think there is another "sandwich shop" offering the variety this predominantly carry-out gem has. There are at least four options of sandwiches, per meat: chicken (13), turkey (10), beef (nine), pork (six) and salami (four). For vegetarians, there are nine options. There also are four tuna options and two plant-based sandwiches.

Then there's your choice of bread — 16 options — as well as nine cheese



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

options and 15 dressings. Salads? There are 10. And they're not small salads by any means. Anytime someone questions where to find a great cobb salad on GP Eats & Treats, Lunchbox always gets my tag. It's definitely my favorite in the area.

It offers pasta salad sides, quesadillas and mac 'n' cheese, too. I told you this menu was huge!

Call ahead or order online for pick up; delivery is available as well. Press "1" when calling to get the daily soups, because yes, they have those, too. The deli also comes highly recommended for all your catering needs, from office lunches to graduation parties and beyond.

Burrito Mundo build your own burrito bowl.

"Burrito Mundo was similar to Lunchbox in that I saw an opportunity to bring a burrito and taco shop to the area that I thought was kind of lacking," Zuccaro said.



Burrito Mundo build your own burrito bowl.

"Burrito Mundo was similar to Lunchbox in that I saw an opportunity to bring a burrito and taco shop to the area that I thought was kind of lacking," Zuccaro said.



Burrito Mundo maize burrito.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Steve. Working on the same block as Burrito Mundo since the doors opened has been a blessing and a curse. I could literally eat their chips and guacamole every single day. In a climate when the biggest food/restaurant complaint seems to be pricing, Burrito Mundo is the most bang for your buck of the freshest, made-to-order Mexican food.

"Our mission is simple: Bring the heart and soul of Mexico to your table," the

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



As someone who is perpetually cold, surviving the long Michigan winters and damp, chilly springs requires serious warmth. At the end of the day, when I climb into bed, I need a cozy retreat — and this electric, heated blanket has completely transformed my nighttime routine.

This blanket is everything I wanted and more. The waffle texture gives it a luxe feel and the white, fluffy underside is unbelievably soft. I purchased the king size and

placed it under my duvet, turning it on about 30 minutes before bed so I can crawl into the ultimate warmth. There’s nothing quite like getting into a bed that’s already toasty and this blanket makes that possible.

One of the standout features is the dual controllers, allowing both sides of the blanket to be controlled separately. If your partner runs hot while you’re freezing, no problem: Each person

can adjust their own side. The blanket offers six heat levels, ranging from “just a little warm” to “human-sized baked potato.” It also comes with an adjustable



timer from one to 10 hours, so it will automatically shut off, saving energy and preventing you from waking up in a personal sauna.

This blanket also is designed with safety in mind. It’s ETL certified and equipped with over-heat protection, meaning I can snuggle up without fear of spontaneously combusting. The heating wires are so thin you barely notice them, except for the delightful warmth they provide. Plus, the blanket is machine washable, so

you can keep it fresh with minimal effort. Just remove the controller before tossing it in the wash.

This blanket has genuinely changed the game for me. It’s not just about staying warm; it’s about making my bed feel like the coziest, most inviting place in the world. If you’re like me and can’t get through the colder months without extra heat, I highly recommend this heated blanket and I’m giving it 5 out of 5 alligators.

You can purchase this item by visiting the BlunIQUE store on Amazon.com.

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

Simple roasted whitefish

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Roasting cherry tomatoes is a simple task that requires little effort but yields incredibly flavorful results. I love making these and having them in the fridge so I can add them to almost everything I cook. The tomato flavor is deepend and intensified and the best part is they are delicious at any temperature.

This week, I’m roasting them with whitefish. The tomatoes make a light and flavorful sauce for the fish. You could use any type of mild fish for this dish. There are so few ingredients in this recipe so you want to

make sure that every one is of good quality.

Start by buying the best fish. We have a lot of options here in Grosse Pointe. And be on the lookout for Friday fish sales because of Lent. Yes, good fish costs more than a frozen tilapia fillet but the end result is worth it.

Use the reddest, ripest tomatoes you can find with good quality olive oil. Tomatoes aren’t technically in season yet but there are plenty or good ones to choose from. Plus the roasting process helps to sharpen their flavor.

A really wonderful

dinner is within your reach with only a few ingredients. Just make sure they are first rate.

Cheers, Mombeau

Whitefish with Roasted Tomatoes

2 pints cherry tomatoes

4 garlic cloves, smashed

3 tbsp olive oil

1.5 lbs white fish fillets

Juice of ½ lemon

½ cup torn fresh basil

Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat your oven to 425 degrees.

In a large baking dish, pour in 2 tbsp olive oil, washed cherry tomatoes, garlic cloves and a generous pinch of salt and pepper. Mix to combine.

Roast in the oven for 15 minutes and then pull out of the oven.

While the tomatoes roast, season the fish with salt and pepper and drizzle with remaining tablespoon of olive oil. Sprinkle the basil, reserving some for the end, over the roasted tomatoes and stir in the lemon juice to combine.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Place the fillets over the top and spoon some of the tomatoes on top of the fish, if you can. Put back into the oven and roast for

another 12 minutes.

Serve the fillets with the roasted tomatoes and their juices with fresh basil as a garnish.



Wine and cheese

The phrase “wine and cheese” suggests one of the world’s most enduring pairings, due in no small part to the amazing similarities between the two.

Not only do both emanate from mundane products (grapes and milk),

but both are elevated to the sublime by undergoing a similar process to achieve a higher status: fermentation.

Both are also living products with definite lifespans. The best of each display a youthful

vitality, a charming middle age and a slow progression to deterioration.

Then, there is the inescapable fact that wine goes so well with cheese — usually.

There are plenty of products called cheese, but many are bland, pasteurized blends. And there are plenty of simple wines, most of them sweet, that have none of the charms we seek in a dry table wine with soul.

Great wine and great cheese may cost more than the ordinary stuff, but there is a reason: Both call for large investments

to make small amounts of stellar products.

The best wines and cheeses must be handled with care. Look at storage temperature, for example. Take two bottles of fine wine and two packages of fine cheese and separate them into Set A and Set B. Leave Set A at room temperature for a few days and put Set B in cool storage.

Set A will deteriorate a lot faster.

Almost every cheese you see in a supermarket cold case is wrapped in an impervious plastic wrap. The aim is to keep air away from the prod-

uct. A few cheeses aren’t hurt too badly by this, but most fine cheeses will deteriorate faster in plastic wrap.

I once met a young cheese shop owner who told me she wrapped everything in plastic. Without it, she said, the cheeses might go bad.

I suggested that some cheeses do best in cheese-cloth. She was aghast. What if a cheese got a touch of mold on it? she asked. What if the pristine white brie began to turn brown? she asked.

I honestly had no answer since the ques-

tion was akin to, “What if an older cabernet had some sediment in it?” Would anyone with wine awareness toss it out? Sediment is an indication of quality.

These days, the best cheeses may be wrapped in special wraps, such as waxed paper, two-part breathable papers or parchment paper.

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 3C

website states. “With signature burritos and a menu that blends tradition and contemporary zest, each bite is a labor of love.”

The menu offers a variety of burritos, burrito bowls, tacos, quesadillas and salads. And, with the option to build your own burrito or bowl, the possibilities are endless. I am a creature of habit who has been building burrito bowls for years. Recently, I have changed my order up a bit to the Chicado soft tacos — an excellent decision.

The Burrito Mundo footprint came long before Chipotle and Qdoba were even a vision in the area. I can honestly say neither of those chain restaurants hold a flame to Zuccaro’s second successful endeavor,



Burrito Mundo chicado soft tacos.

which opened up in 2007, at 19459 Mack Ave. With a few tables at which to dine inside, the majority of the business is carryout and delivery also is an option. Don’t forget to grab a bag of tortilla chips and queso dip from the grab-and-go cooler on your way out.

And finally, No. 3. You learn something every day, they say, because being the salad lover I am, I had no idea this place existed. The Green Room is a literal salad bar located downtown in the historical Guardian Building. Zuccaro’s restaurant group took over that location in 2004, when they were located in the Ford building. Then in 2019, they moved it over to the Guardian.

“The Green Room was supposed to be our foray into downtown for Lunchbox,” Zuccaro said. “We soon realized that the salad bar concept worked just fine and kept that as is.”

This location is aimed toward providing excellent, healthy lunches to all of downtown’s weekday employees. This salad bar is quite extensive with everything you could possibly think of, including different

choices of lettuce. Choose your container of choice and create your lunch masterpiece. It also offers a rotating list of 12 soups that are posted on Instagram @greenroomdetroit. I’m hoping to check them out on one of my days off.

When I asked about the fresh ingredients, Zuccaro said, “We source our foods and supplies from a variety of different vendors. We use Hacienda, which is in southwest Detroit, and we use some small vendors working out of the Eastern Market.”

As for all of the bread, he added, “We use a local bakery called Russo Bakery.” Their sandwich breads



Green Room.



Green Room salad bar.

really are excellent.

Catering, available from all locations, can handle groups as large as 500 and as small as 10. All catering menus may be found on their individual websites.

We truly are lucky to have these restaurants in our neighborhood.

“I really do try to spend as much time at each, depending on circumstances such as catering or busier days,” Zuccaro said. “I just try to adjust on an as-needed basis.”

This man has personally been delivering my office’s Lunchbox Deli lunch orders for almost 10 solid years. Thank you, Steve. Much appreciated. You’re definitely doing something right.

Lunchbox Deli: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Find them on Instagram @lunchboxdeli, Facebook at Lunch Box Deli or online at lunchboxdeli.com

Burrito Mundo: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 8 p.m. Sunday. Find them on Instagram @burrito_mundo, Facebook at Burrito Mundo or online at burrito-mundo.com

Green Room Detroit: 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Find them on Instagram @greenroomdetroit, Facebook at Green Room Salad Bar or online at greenroomsalads.com.

Fun fact: “We pride ourselves on also taking many, many last-minute orders.” ... It’s me, hi! I’m that last minute order; it’s me! Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF EISEI GEKIJYO
Left, Kaoru Kobayashi as Watanabe Mitsuruh with his guide dog Quill in the 2004 movie “Quill: The Life of a Guide Dog,” directed by Yoichi Sai.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Quill: The Life of a Guide Dog”
2004 - Not Rated
1 hr 40 min
★★★★☆

I recently reviewed the film “Kedi,”—a fascinating documentary about the legendary street cats of Istanbul. I freely admitted I was a cat person. Looking back on it, I feel I should throw a bone to all the dog lovers out there. When I noticed this movie in my queue I decided to give it a shot, and what a pleasant surprise it turned out to be!

“Quill” is a Japanese movie by director Yoichi Sai and is an adaptation of the book “The Life of Quill, the Seeing-Eye Dog” by Akimoto Ryohei and Ishiguro Kengo. It’s a touching movie that focuses on the life of a yellow Labrador retriever I think the whole family will enjoy. I like the fact that it’s a live-action film presented in a no-nonsense manner. It skips the overdone animal speaking silliness and the even worse, CGI effects where the animal’s

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

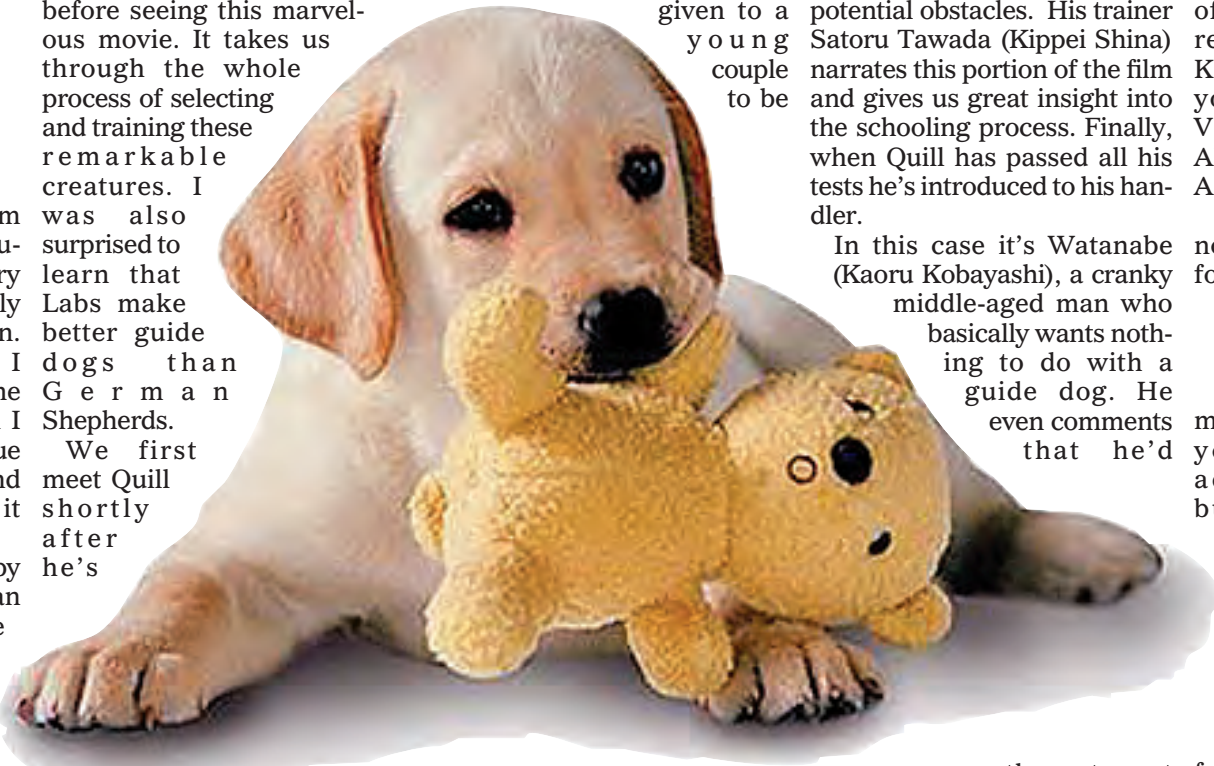


jaw moves when it speaks. It’s interesting to note that dogs have been used to help the blind for literally thousands of years. In fact, in the ruins of Pompeii, Italy, archeologists have discovered murals depicting dogs leading humans. I knew virtually nothing about guide dogs

before seeing this marvelous movie. It takes us through the whole process of selecting and training these remarkable creatures. I was also surprised to learn that Labs make better guide dogs than German Shepherds. We first meet Quill shortly after he’s

cut. Then there’s the selection process to determine which dog is the best candidate for leader dog school. The puppies are lined up and commanded to come. Four of the dogs immediately run to the trainer but one stays behind. Surprisingly, he’s the one selected because he shows a bit of caution — a key element in making a good guide dog.

Quill is then given to a young couple to be



born. He’s one of five puppies in the litter and was given the odd name because of an unusual birthmark on his side resembling a bird’s feather. The scenes of the puppies playing are just too

raised in a loving environment for a year. He couldn’t have found a better home. His life consists of going for long walks, playing with toys and being showered with kindness. So it’s an emotional scene when he’s taken from

rather stay at home than be pulled around by a dog. Well, that attitude doesn’t last long and the two become best friends in short order. He quickly realizes just how much freedom having a leader dog provides. The two become inseparable as they wander the streets. It’s great fun watching the couple navigate the city and Quill does a masterful job keeping Watanabe safe.

I should mention that the film is in Japanese with English subtitles. But the story is presented in such a way that even young children who aren’t of reading age yet will

have no problem understanding what’s happening. And it’s such a wonderful film, I think anyone will enjoy it. Even jaded cat people like me!

Luckily you have a bunch of viewing options. It’s currently streaming for free on Kanopy and Hoopla (with your library card), Prime Video, Plex and Freevee. Also to rent on Apple TV and Amazon.

Note to parents: The film is not rated but I think it’s fine for all ages.”

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.



Quill with his littermates.



Young Quill.



Stopping for a chat.



Quill in training.



Quill’s unusual marking.



Watanabe’s first time out with Quill.



Such patience.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

4			2					7
	2		9	8		1		4
		8		5	4		9	
				9			2	8
		7		4		9		
2	5			6				
	1		5	2		8		
9		2		1	8		4	
3					9			2

3/27 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

6	9	1	4	8	2	3	5	7
3	8	4	9	5	7	6	1	2
7	5	2	3	6	1	9	4	8
5	7	9	1	4	6	8	2	3
1	4	6	2	3	8	5	7	9
2	3	8	7	9	5	1	6	4
8	2	7	5	1	9	4	3	6
9	1	3	6	2	4	7	8	5
4	6	5	8	7	3	2	9	1

3/20 Solution

Contract Bridge

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

South dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8 6
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ J 10 5
♣ K 8 4 3

WEST

♠ K 7 2
♥ 9 3
♦ Q 9 8 4 2
♣ 9 6 5

EAST

♥ Q 10 9 5
♠ Q J 10 8
♦ 7
♣ J 10 7 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 4 3
♥ A K 7
♦ A K 6 3
♣ A Q

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead — four of diamonds.			

Three notrump looks so easy to make on today's deal — especially after an opening diamond lead — that the casual player might well ask "What's the problem?" Yet it contains a trap that would very likely ensnare many unsuspecting declarers.

After the diamond lead, South pauses briefly to count his winners and sees nine in plain view — one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and three clubs. Having made this determination, he puts up dummy's jack of diamonds, which holds, and cashes the A-Q of

clubs.

It is at this point that South begins to realize that his initial assessment of his prospects might have been premature. The difficulty lies in the fact that although dummy's king of clubs is the game-going trick, there is no way to reach dummy to collect it.

Try as he might, South will find himself fighting a losing battle. If, for example, he tries to get to dummy by leading his remaining low diamond toward the 10-5, West takes the queen, leaving South with the lone A-K opposite the 10.

The solution is not really difficult, provided declarer negotiates the first hurdle. Before he plays to the opening trick, he should note the blockage in the club suit and take immediate steps to resolve that problem.

This can be done easily by playing the five of diamonds from dummy rather than the jack or ten. East's seven is taken with the king, and the A-Q of clubs are cashed. South then leads a low diamond toward the J-10.

West can take his queen now or later, but the result is the same in either case. Nine tricks are assured, regardless of what the defenders do.

What the deal points up is that the natural impulse to play high from dummy at trick one must be curbed until the hand is examined as a whole. In other words, look before you leap!

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by Steve Becker



Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Pisces.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 27, 2025:

You have a steely determination that is hidden behind a casual, offhand personality. You are idealistic with socially aware values. Lucky you! This is a playful, fun-loving year where you can cut yourself some slack. Let your hair down and enjoy life. (But remember your goals.)

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

This is a curious day. A lot will be going on behind the scenes (and maybe in your own subconscious). Meanwhile, you're encountering old friends, ex-spouses and partners from the past. These feelings might be challenging to handle. Take a breath. Go carefully. Baby steps. Tonight: You're strong.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

This is a romantic day, and relations with others, even casual interactions, might have a flirtatious overtone. Don't be surprised if someone acts like they find you attractive. A platonic friendship could turn romantic! Meanwhile, you might want to help a friend in need today. Tonight: Be low-key.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You might not be aware that you're making a memorable impression on others today. Fear not -- it's a positive impression. However, it might also be a delicate even romantic impression. Tonight: Enjoy friends and groups.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Today you are drawn to different experiences and romantic scenarios, which is why you might be attracted to someone who is unusual or from another culture. You might want to travel somewhere that is exciting and full of exotic stimulation. Tonight: You look great!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today you feel sympathy for those who are in need. This is why you will do whatever you can to help them. You might donate to a charitable organization. You also might encourage others through fundraising efforts to help a good cause. Tonight: Explore and learn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This is a sweet, romantic day, which is why you feel softhearted and affectionate to a spouse, partner or close friend. It's the perfect time for a romantic lunch or fun getaway. It's obviously a great date day. These same feelings also might encourage you to help someone. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You'll enjoy working with co-workers today because everyone seems easier to get along with. Perhaps you're viewing them in a different light. You might be more sympathetic and understanding. You also might be attracted to someone. Possibly, someone is attracted to you. Tonight: Get rest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You are a passionate sign and today is ripe for romance. It's a great day for a date or a flirtation with someone you find attractive. In turn, you might be the recipient of flirtations from others. Meanwhile, it's also a lovely day to enjoy the arts, the theater and playful times with children. Tonight: Get organized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is an excellent day for a cozy, family discussion or a talk with a family member. People will be mutually sympathetic and willing to listen to each other's concerns and problems. Some of you will be keen to redecorate and make where you live look more appealing. Tonight: Socialize!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is a pleasant day for you. You will notice the beauty in your everyday surroundings. Likewise, you'll be more willing to see the point of view of others, even if you don't agree. This is because you're in a forgiving, conciliatory mood — happy to get along with everyone. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today you might be generous with your money and belongings, especially to those who have less or who need help. Ironically, you also might treat yourself to something gorgeous and luxurious, truly special. This is not surprising, because your appreciation of beauty is heightened. Tonight: Conversations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

A handful of planets in your sign combine to make you feel sympathetic, empathetic and sensitive to your surroundings as well as the people in your sphere. You will appreciate beauty wherever you see it. Likewise, feelings of sympathy will make you want to help those who have problems. Tonight: Check your money.

BORN TODAY
Actress Pauley Perrette (1969), actor Nathan Fillion (1971), actress Sophie Nélisse (2000).

Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson March 27, 2025

ACROSS

- Golfer Ernie
- Arabia
- "Therefore ..."
- "SNL" alum Carvey
- Photographer Adams
- Dig it!
- Romantic couple
- Platonic
- Sicilian volcano
- Parents, slangily
- Handy?
- Some spicy peppers
- Sushi wrapper
- Yoko who funded Central Park's Strawberry Fields memorial
- Parka feature
- EMT's skill
- How an actor should enter
- Day of Hollywood
- Colorful carp
- "Not interested"
- Sidewalks' edges
- Start of an idea
- Night before
- Muscles worked by Arnold
- presses, briefly
- "Young Sheldon" actress Annie

- JFK's location
- Home of the Munch Museum
- F-, for one
- Antacid brand
- Went head-to-head
- Some laundry machines, for short
- Ousting, as from office
- Electron's particle
- Still sleeping, say
- Actor's "What do I say now?"
- "Dibs!"
- "The Princess and the Frog" princess
- Poker payment
- Subtle summons
- Teakettle output
- "Dig in!"

DOWN

- Polishes, as an essay
- Woodworking tool
- Express contempt (Note this answer's last four letters + the first two of 35-Down)
- Turned something down (... last three letters + the first three of 39-Down)
- "As a result ..."

- Function
- Out of juice
- The Land of Lincoln (... last four letters + the first four of 46-Down)
- Those people's
- Extremely popular thing, slangily (... last two letters + the first two of 51-Down)
- Radius neighbor
- Close tightly
- Full of love
- Bowler's assignment
- Pantheon figures
- Lacking
- Globes
- It's left on a ship
- Lens holders
- Uncork, as a wine bottle
- Dark blue hue

- Some delivery procedures?
- Not sharp
- Foul places
- Venetian boat
- "... arigato, Mr. Roboto"
- Haiku or ode
- Gutter concern in winter
- Not satisfied, as expectations
- Giant concert venue
- Sheepish?
- Orange soda brand
- Group of ships
- Child's summer getaway
- Spunkmeyer muffins
- Bad mood
- Sweetie

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

3/20 Solution

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3/27

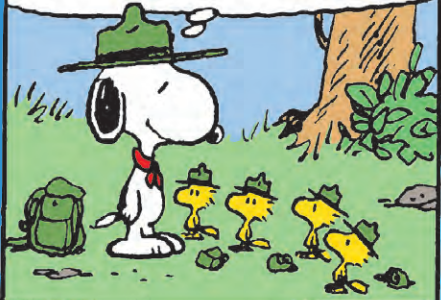
Split Up by Dylan Schiff

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16			
17					18					19			
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24						25		26					
			27			28	29			30	31	32	
33	34	35			36					37			
38				39						40			
41				42						43			
44				45				46					
		47	48			49	50			51	52	53	
54	55				56		57						
58					59		60			61			
62					63					64			
65					66						67		

THURSDAY COMICS

Peanuts Charles M. Schulz

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE FOR OUR EVENING MEAL...



I BROUGHT THE HOT DOGS...WOODSTOCK BROUGHT THE BUNS...



CONRAD BROUGHT THE MUSTARD...BILL BROUGHT THE CATSUP...



AND OLIVIER BROUGHT THE TV GUIDE!



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno **Andy Capp** Reg Smythe

Tonight's program will be selections from our new opera, "Thomas."



THE WHOM

DOUBLE TOP TO WIN



IT'S VERY RARE I GET THE CHANCE TO BEAT YOU, ANDY



WELL. GOOD LUCK THEN, OLD PAL... OH, YOU MISSED



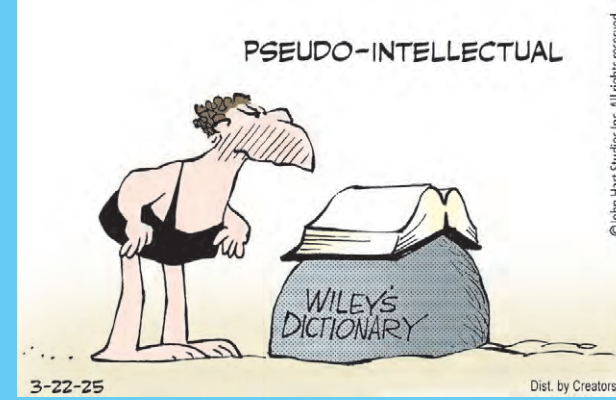
GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy **B.C.** Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? LOOK AT HOW HE WALKS UP ON THE PROPERTY...PUTS THINGS IN THAT CONTAINER, AND ACTS LIKE I'M NOT EVEN HERE...THIS RIVALRY MUST GO BACK...HECK, CENTURIES!

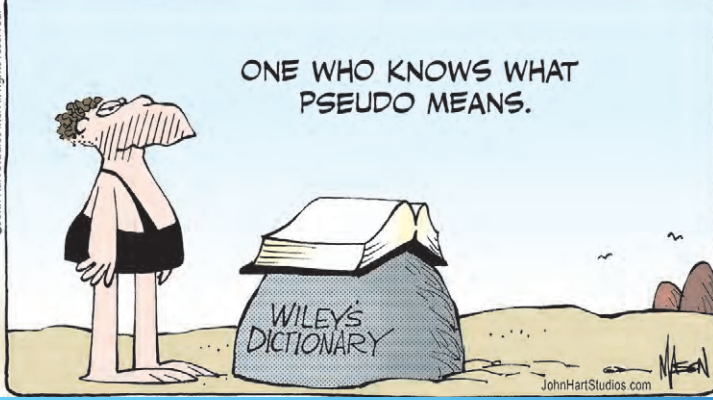


PSEUDO-INTELLECTUAL



WILEY'S DICTIONARY

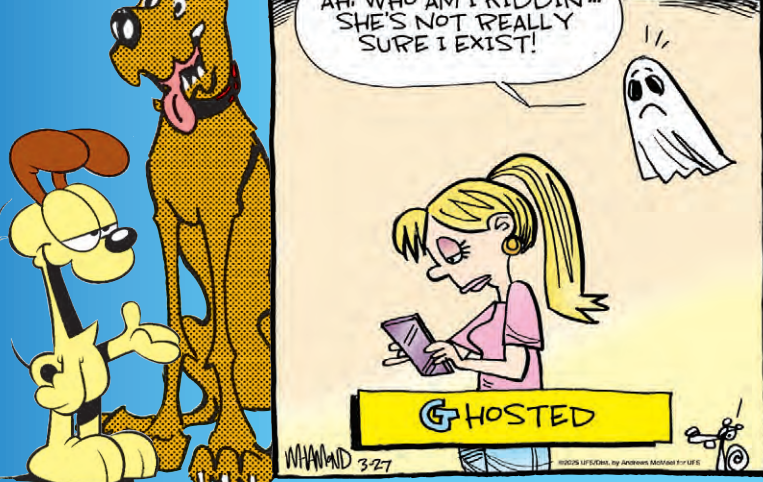
ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT PSEUDO MEANS.



JohnHartStudios.com

Reality Check Dave Whamond **Beetle Bailey** Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

AH, WHO AM I KIDDIN'... SHE'S NOT REALLY SURE I EXIST!



WHAMOND 3/27

I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR FRIENDS OVER FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY

THAT'S NICE, BUT COULD YOU DO IT NEXT WEEKEND?



12/6

WHY WAIT?

WE GET PAID ON FRIDAY AND I'LL GET BETTER GIFTS



GREG + MORT WALKER

Mother Goose and Grim Mike Peters

A RING OF SALT WILL PROTECT YOU FROM EVIL SPIRITS

OH?



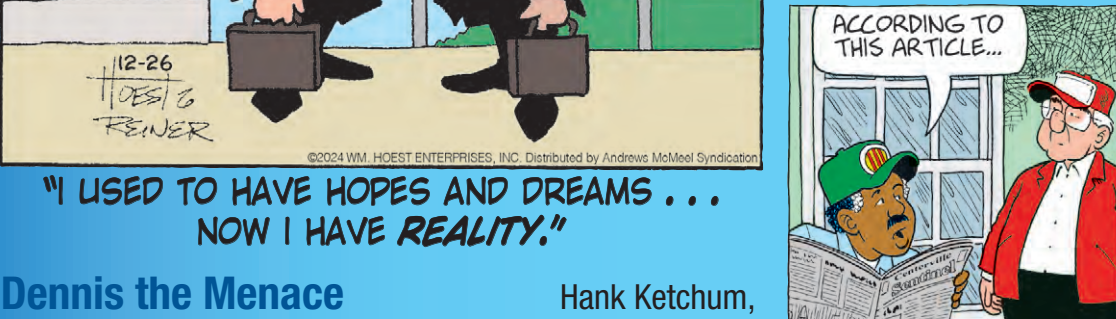
MIKE PETERS

ONE LARGE MARGARITA! PLEASE. EXTRA SALT ON THE RIM!!!



Crankshaft Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE...



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THE STATE WANTS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM THAT OFFERS STUDENTS CASH INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.



3-10

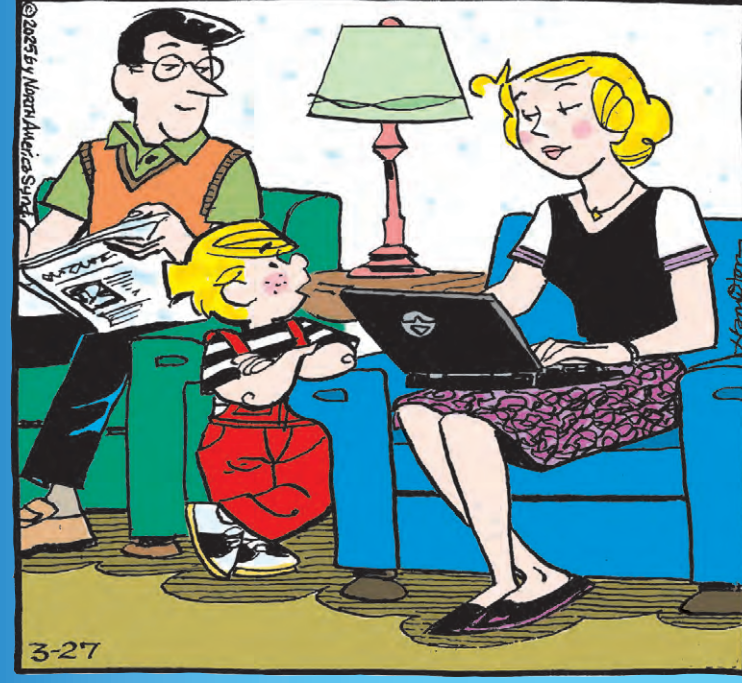
ANYTHING ABOUT EXTRA CASH FOR THE FOLKS WHO DRIVE THEM TO SCHOOL?



BATIUK & DAVIS

Dennis the Menace Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

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3-27

"I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO HAVE ON YOUR LAP."

Carpe Diem Niklas Eriksson

WE HAVE COME TO CHECK ON YOUR STRANGE FIXATION WITH THE IDEA OF PUTTING A PRIMITIVE CAT IN A BOX WITH A VIAL OF POISON ACTIVATED BY A DECAYING RADIOACTIVE SOURCE...



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Wumo Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

Stop! I'm not a stranger! I just shaved! Stop hitting me!



When kids see their dad without a beard for the first time

3/24 © 2024 Wulff/Morgenthaler Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication



THURSDAY COMICS





Garfield

Jim Davis

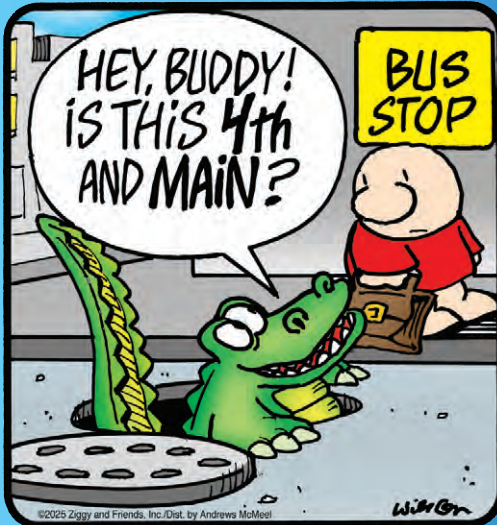


Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

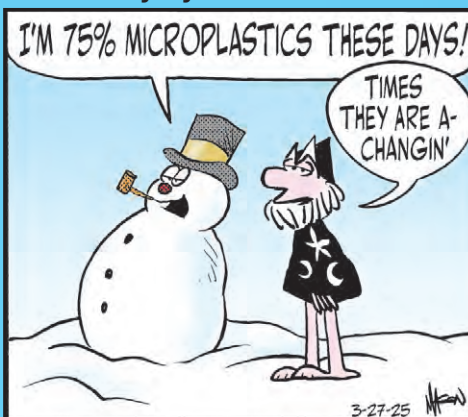
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



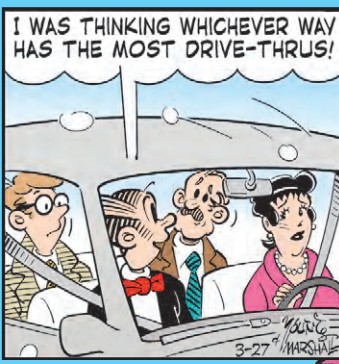
Close To Home

John McPherson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

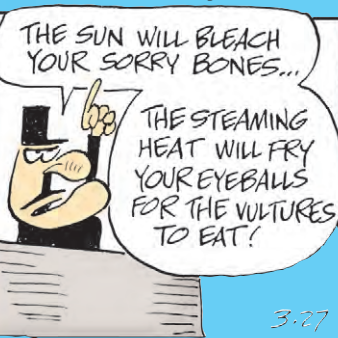
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



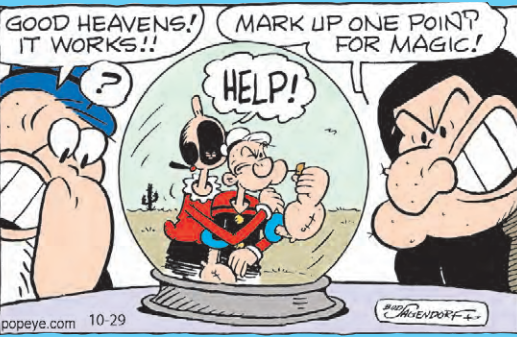
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane





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Kid Scoop Together

Cookie Combos

Work with a friend to draw a line to connect each pair of identical cookies. Can you find the one unique cookie?

Cooking Up Facts and Opinions



FACTS are pieces of information based upon things that can be measured, counted or seen by anyone.

OPINIONS describe how someone feels or thinks about a thing or event. They can vary from person to person.

How Much is a Glob?

Ask friends to tell you how big a glob is. Color one space for each person's answer to graph the results.

The size of a pea The size of a golf ball A few spoonfuls About a handful

5 + 5 = Teaspoon
4 + 8 = Tablespoon
2 + 2 = Cup
7 + 7 = ¼ cup
3 + 2 = Glob
9 + 6 = Smidgeon
5 + 6 = Dollop

8 + 8 = Quart
1 + 2 = Pinch
7 + 6 = Dash
1 + 1 = Gallon
3 + 4 = Morsel
8 + 2 = Ounce
3 + 6 = Tad

Cooking with a recipe that uses measurements everyone understands helps to recreate a food dish that tastes similar each time it is cooked.

Which of the following measurements are always the same factual amount? **Do the math.** Ones with even answers are **facts**. Odd answers are **opinions**.

Standards Link: Math: Identify standard measurements.



Standards Link: Science: Observation: Identify similarities & differences in common objects.

Food Truck Facts

Heroes on the Go is a popular sandwich food truck. Read what each customer is saying. Circle the statements that are **FACTS** in **GREEN**. Circle the **OPINIONS** in **RED**.



I think they make the very best sandwiches in the world!

They use organic veggies on all their sandwiches.

The *Heroes on the Go* truck stops at this spot every Tuesday and Thursday.

They make a great grilled cheese sandwich that you'll love!

The owner has another food truck named *Cool Wheels* that sells smoothies.

The chili and soups they make are even better than the sandwiches!

There's a *Heroes on the Go* buy one/get one coupon in the newspaper each week.

The turkey sandwiches are \$9.95 each.

The prices at this food truck are not bad at all!

Fun Facts

Look through today's newspaper for five facts. List the facts and circle any you think are fun to know. Whether or not the fact is fun would be your opinion.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Look at the picture of the ice cream sundae. Write one **FACT** and one **OPINION** about the picture.

FACT:



OPINION:

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use different genres to locate facts and opinions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: OPINION

The noun **opinion** means what one thinks or believes about something or somebody.

In my **opinion**, broccoli is the very best vegetable of them all.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Food Advertisements

Find one or more ads in the newspaper that advertise food or a restaurant or a business that sells food. Circle any facts in the ads in green. Circle any opinions in the ads in red. Are there more facts or opinions?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify facts and opinions.



What is a ghost's favorite treat?

ANSWER: Ghoul Scout cookies.

Write On! Classroom News

Write a paragraph telling about something that happened in your classroom.

Your Neighborhood

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SPORTS

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North’s Cueter named 2025 Miss Hockey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the varsity high school girls hockey season concluded, one player from the Pointes is now able to close the book on her high school hockey career with the state’s highest honor. Last week, the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League (MGHSHL) announced its 2025 Miss Hockey as Grosse Pointe North senior Josie Cueter.

“I hope that me winning Miss Hockey can show younger girls what’s possible to achieve in the sport,” Cueter said. “...Hockey has taught me that success doesn’t come easy; it takes a lot of work and love for the game. What’s pushed me to be

the best hockey player I can be is the Grosse Pointe girls hockey community; everyone’s so supportive and wants you to succeed, and me winning this award is a very strong example of that. Being named Miss Hockey is an incredible honor, but this isn’t just my award. It belongs to so many different people throughout my life who have always believed in me.”

The MGHSHL annually awards Miss Hockey to the top graduating female high school hockey player in the state, recognizing not only on-ice performance but also academics, leadership and community involvement.

“We are so proud of Josie,” North girls hockey head coach

Taylor Shaheen said. “She has worked incredibly hard over the past three seasons at North, leading our team in points all three years, helping us reach a Division 2 state championship game and even recruiting players this past season to ensure we could field a team. North is honored to be home to the 2025 Miss Hockey.”

Cueter is the first Norseman to receive the award since the program began in 1999. She is also the second consecutive athlete from the Pointes to earn the award, following former University Liggett School player Sofie Ancona, who was named Miss Hockey in 2024.

Cueter led the state in

See CUETER, page 6D



PHOTO BY ELLIOTT JARVI

Grosse Pointe North senior Josie Cueter was named 2025 Miss Hockey by the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League. Cueter led all players in the state in scoring for the 2024-25 season with 98 points, including 72 goals and 26 assists.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Beland makes Knights proud with two All-State times at swimming finals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Every athlete has goals they set for themselves knowing it might take years to achieve them. University Liggett School junior Brendan Beland set some for himself as soon as he began swimming in high school as a freshman, trying to set himself up for success in the exact moment he wanted.

Beland told himself that by the end of his junior season, he would achieve All-State status at the Division 3 boys swim and dive state finals. He did just that Saturday, March 15, by earning top-five finishes in two events to be named All-State in both.

“When I finally did it, I just felt so accomplished,” Beland said. “It was a goal I set for myself two years ago to reach at that exact state meet and it was finally time. The first race, the 200 freestyle, I knew I was All-State as soon as the race was finished. ... There were a lot of emotions, all of them happy. I got out and gave my mom a big hug. Then I focused

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE
OF THE WEEK

Brendan Beland

School: University Liggett
Sport: Swim and dive

Sponsored by Shana Sine Cameron
Sine & Monaghan Real Estate

cializes, so there was never a doubt in his mind he would someday be an All-State swimmer in those events.

“I always knew I wanted to be freestyle,” he said. “I started to develop a really good sprinting freestyle in my sophomore year last year. ... Butterfly began to come to me in about eighth grade when I realized that was my better stroke out of the other three. I kept working at the fly, because it quickly became my favorite stroke. The more I worked on it, the better I

became and the more I was developing.”

What makes Beland’s high school swimming experience unique and his All-State achievements even more impressive is the fact he is part of one of the smallest boys varsity swim teams in the state.

When he started as a freshman, Beland was part of a four-person team. He was the only swimmer for Liggett his sophomore year, making him the only one-person team in the state. This winter, he was joined by a single teammate, freshman Jacob Rabbani.

“It’s definitely a unique experience,” Beland said about being part of small teams. “Compared to my freshman year, at least I had a couple of people with me. My sophomore year, I had to really change my mental game. ... It’s mentally difficult just to be showing up to a meet by yourself and going up against teams of 40 people. I know that as a team, Liggett is never going to win, so that’s not the goal. ... It’s a different experience because it’s more of just individual goals and try-



COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett junior swimmer Brendan Beland holds his awards commemorating his two All-State finishes at the Division 3 boys swim and dive state finals earlier this month.

ing to hit times and make the Grosse Pointe cuts and get higher placements for myself.”

While swimming with Liggett, Beland is coached by his mother, Colleen Beland. He practices with his club team,

Beland on the Block

- Earned All-State honors with top-five finishes in 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle at Division 3 state finals
- Broke ULS school records in 50 & 100 freestyle this season

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2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

What do you get when you take hundreds of athletes from three local high schools, form more than 30 varsity teams and spread them across nine sports? You have the makings for one action-packed 2025 spring sports season in Grosse Pointe.

The GP News sports staff talked to the teams’ head coaches to get the inside scoop on what fans can expect from some of their favorite teams this season. This week, we have your pre-game prep for baseball and softball. Be on the lookout for more spring sports previews in the Grosse Pointe News in the coming weeks.

Experienced North softball team ready to attack new season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe North varsity softball is prepared to take the field for a new season filled with enthusiasm and aspirations to build on the program’s achievements the past few years. The Norsemen were district champions again last season and are only two years removed from 2023, when they claimed district and regional titles and advanced to the state quarterfinals.

This spring’s North team returns plenty of experienced players who helped the program achieve some of its recent success. With veteran leadership and a large group of returning players, the Norsemen feel confident they can earn more hardware to add to their trophy case.

“We’re excited about who we have and getting started,” North softball head coach Ron Smith said. “The fact that nine of our players are returning from last year gives

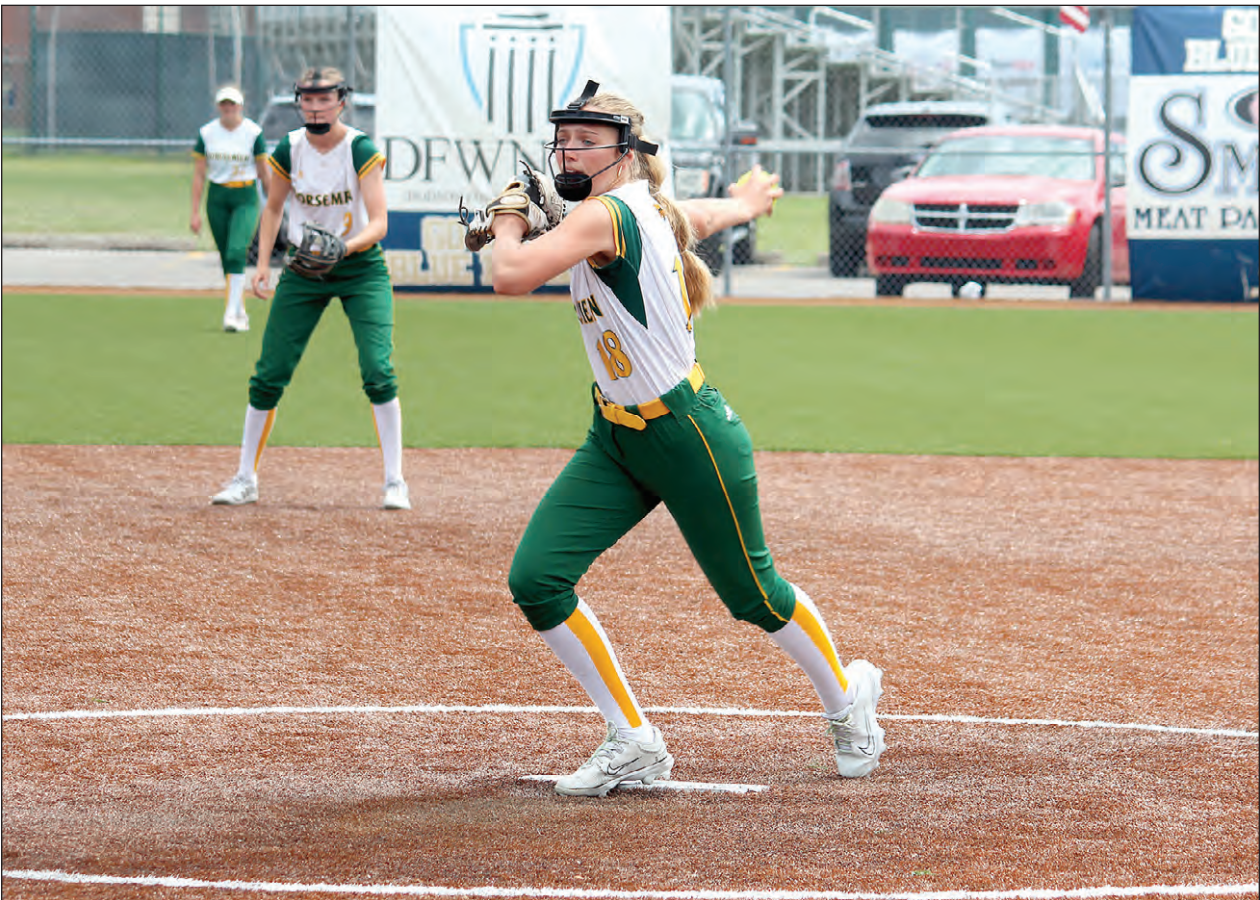


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior pitcher Elliott Jarvi is one of several players returning to North’s roster this season and is expected to be a leader of the team’s pitching rotation.

us a lot of experience on the table and I think four of the girls were on our 2023 team that went all the way to the quarterfinals.”

Those key returning Wakefield, Charlotte players include senior Julien and Isabella captains Addie Boedeker. Junior Eva

Borowski also is expected to play a major role both in the lineup and in the field on defense. When it comes to pitching, senior Elliott Jarvi and junior Kate Stemmler are going to be looked at as the top pieces in North’s rotation.

North believes pitching and defense will be the keys to winning through what should be a challenging spring schedule. The Norsemen once again are competing in the MAC Red Division and have non-league tests against teams like Algonac, Grosse Pointe South and Lake Orion.

“If you have a strength, it’s got to be your defense and pitching,” Smith said. “Hitting, let’s face it, that’s always a toss-up on any given day. I think we’ll be good in our hitting, but I think defensively and on the mound, we’re going to be pretty good.”

North opens the season Wednesday, April 2, at home against St. Clair with first pitch at 4:30 p.m.

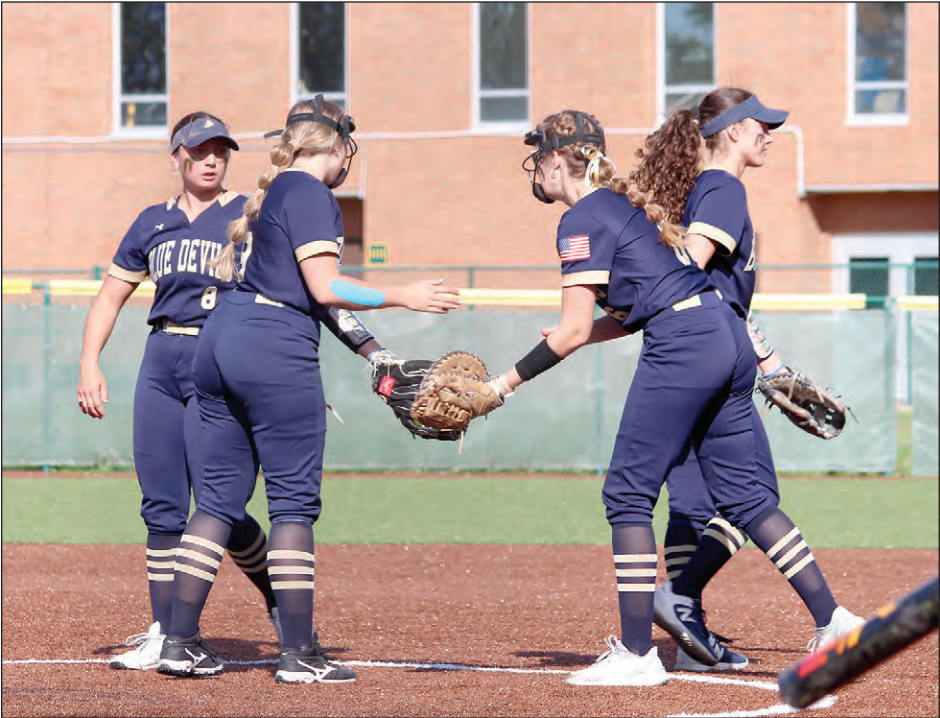


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Grosse Pointe South varsity softball begins the 2025 season April 1, with a home game against Hazel Park.

South softball looks to ‘embrace the grind’ this spring

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity softball team is prepared to hit the ground running this spring once the new season begins. The Blue Devils’ roster this year includes plenty of returning players for another year with the program, including about a dozen who were on the varsity roster last year.

With a strong core of upperclassmen leading the way, South has its sights set on competing for titles both in the MAC and in the playoffs at the end of the season.

The road to get there is going to be long, but the passion and commitment among the players throughout the offseason have their coaches confident they are ready to compete with anyone.

“Our kids have been working really hard,” South softball coach Bill Fleming said. “... They came into the season ready to go and are a really good bunch of kids. I think we’re really excited for this season.”

One of the biggest X-factors the Blue Devils feel they have this season comes in the form of senior catcher Luna Agosta. This will be her fourth season

starting at the catcher position and the Blue Devils believe she is among the best in the state behind home plate.

Also expected to make a major impact is junior outfielder and pitcher Viviana Ostrowski, who won all seven of her starts as a pitcher last season.

The Blue Devils hope to capture the top spot in the competitive MAC Blue Division this year and claim a district title and more once the post-season rolls around. The team is ready to embrace the hard work and commitment it is going to take to get there and has turned that into the driving force behind this upcoming season.

“We have a motto every season that the captains pick and this year it’s, ‘Embrace the grind,’” Fleming said. “They want to do all the extra work that’s required to be an upper-level team. ... I really like their attitude and how they approach practices and how they treat each other. From a team standpoint, we’re really solid.”

South’s season-opener is set for Tuesday, April 1, when the team hosts Hazel Park with first pitch scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

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Grosse Pointe News

PUBLIC NOTICE

EBI Project #045892-PR

Crown Castle is proposing to install a 43-foot telecommunications utility pole located within the public right of way located at the following site: 19660 BEACONSFIELD ST, HARPER WOODS, Wayne County, Michigan 48225 (42 26 16.3N / 82 56 7.9W). The facility is not expected to be FAA lighted. 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 EBI Consulting, Project #045892-PR, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (617) 715-1822.

GPN: 3/27/25

2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

Knights to lean on experience, pitching as baseball season begins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

At the end of last spring, the University Liggett School varsity baseball team was one win away from reaching the Division 2 state semifinals in East Lansing before suffering a season-ending loss to Trenton in the state quarterfinal. Liggett will compete in Division 3 this year, but still has the same goal of reaching East Lansing and the state final four when the calendar reaches June.

The Knights hope the level of experience on this year's team can help them get there. Liggett will have a large crop of players who were in the varsity lineup last season returning for another spring on the diamond. That experienced lineup already is showing the Knights' coaches they are ready to compete as



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior pitcher Jackson Fetter will be one of the top pieces in what Liggett expects to be a strong pitching staff heading into the 2025 season.

the season gets underway.

"We have a solid group of seniors and a solid group of juniors

and most of those juniors played (on varsity) with us last year," Liggett baseball head coach Jay Ricci said. "...

We have much more experience coming back this year. ... Our senior and junior classes are very strong

and we expect to go into the season and compete every day."

Perhaps the biggest strength of this year's team is its pitching staff. Mack Phillips, Jackson Fetter, Deagan Barr and Javion Gray are a few of the arms expected to shut down opponents from the mound throughout the spring.

The team also expects to have its share of impact players in other areas. Senior catcher Ben Wehrmann and senior first baseman and catcher Drew Johnson are both going to be looked at to make big contributions at the plate and in the field.

The Knights will have to navigate some tough tests on the diamond all season, both in the Catholic League and non-league games against teams like Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and Dakota. With the

talent the Knights know they have this year, their main focus is on the little things that eventually will lead to achieving the big picture.

"It all starts from the beginning because it's one day at a time," Ricci said. "... We just talk about how it's not even just one game at a time, but one play at a time. Don't take days off or weeks off and don't take plays off. We try to work on that and understand mentality is even more important at times than physicality. We focus on that aspect and getting over the failures and being a good teammate. If we can do all those things at a high level and have the talent physically, it'll all come together in the end."

The Knights have their opening day Tuesday, April 1, hosting a doubleheader against Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard.

New coach, young roster take over North baseball in 2025

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

In 2024, the Grosse Pointe North varsity baseball team made its second trip to East Lansing and the Division 1 state final four in three years. However, 2025 marks the beginning of a somewhat new era for the Norsemen on the diamond.

Taking over at the helm of the team is new head coach Phil Kozlowski. Kozlowski, a former four-year varsity player for North, has been with North's coaching staff the last few years as both a varsity assistant coach and head coach of the freshman team.

He takes over a North squad that has some returning key players from last year's team who are now stepping into senior leadership roles, but also a large junior class ready to make their mark at the varsity level.

"We have about 11 juniors on the roster, but we're definitely leaning on our seniors to lead the way on and off the field," Kozlowski said. "But the enthusi-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Charlie Rocho, pictured at bat during last year's Division 1 state semifinals, will serve as a senior captain of North baseball this season.

asm is definitely there from the younger players. We have some guys who have solidified their spots of where they're going to play, and then some spots where it's an open competition."

Senior Charlie Rocho already has been named team captain. He and senior Brandon Keyes

are going to be looked to for leadership throughout the season. Among the large junior class, standouts include Trevor Lipscomb, Max Praet and pitcher DJ Edwards, who Kozlowski already has

penciled into the top spot in North's pitching rotation going into the season.

That group will have to lead North through another challenging schedule this spring. The Norsemen will be

tested in the league as they play in the MAC

White Division, which now includes crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South. North also has filled its schedule with non-league challenges against teams like University Liggett, Detroit Edison, Chippewa Valley and more.

Kozlowski wants his team focused on taking everything day by day as the Norsemen go through the spring. There might be ups and downs along the way, but North wants to enjoy every moment this season and let the wins and everything else follow.

"I tell them not to get caught up with what's going to happen with their baseball future," Kozlowski said. "... I just want them to relax and enjoy their last year or two of high school baseball and enjoy doing it."

City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE - ORDINANCE NO. 467

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 467 amending Section 78-144 – Multiple Users on Single Meter, of the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances, establishing the billing procedure for where two or more families or business units are using one water meter. This Ordinance will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 467 is available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 3/27/25

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE
WEEDS, BRUSH AND GRASS

TO ALL OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS OF LAND
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that after May 1st of this year the provisions of Chapter 46, Vegetation, Article IV, Weeds, Brush and Grass will be enforced. This article requires the owner or occupant to cut, destroy or remove weeds, brush and grass that is six (6) inches high or more. In the case of noncompliance, the owner or occupant of the land shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the city in connection with such cutting or destruction plus a 30 percent administrative fee. If the charges are not paid within 30 days after billing, payment shall be deemed delinquent and shall be enforceable as a tax lien against the land.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of Article IV of Chapter 46 shall, in addition to the other obligations imposed thereby or by other applicable law, be responsible for a municipal civil infraction and subject to a civil fine.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 03/27/2025

City of **Grosse Pointe Park**, Michigan

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF REVISION AND AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 2 BY AMENDING SECTIONS 2-596 AND 2-597 TO REFERENCE THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK PURCHASING POLICY

On March 10, 2025 the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park (the "City Council") enacted a Ordinance to Amend the City Code, to become effective March 27th 2025, which Ordinance provides for the amendment of Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park (the "Code") by amending Sections 2-596 and 2-597 to reference the city of Grosse Pointe Park Purchasing Policy related to purchases or contracts of \$5,000.00 or less, and purchases or contracts over \$5,000.00, respectively. This Summary of the Ordinance is published pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws Section 117.3(k). True copies of the full text of the Ordinance and any law, regulations, code, or other material adopted in reference in such Ordinance are available for inspection or photocopy at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Grosse Pointe Park, 15115 East Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

Bridgette Bowdler,
City Clerk

GPN: 03-27-25

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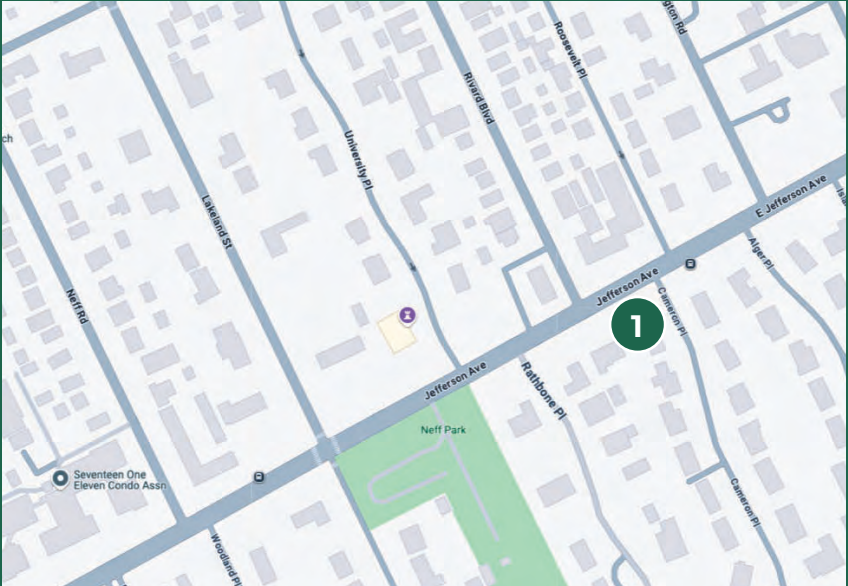
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Pointer earns gold at Special Olympics World Winter Games

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe once again was represented well on the international sporting stage, this time at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy. Grosse Pointe Farms native Christina Danieli, 32, was one of the athletes selected to compete for the United States among the best in the world and made her mark by earning two gold medals in alpine skiing.

Danieli earned her first gold medal in the Advanced Super G on Thursday, March 13. Later that week, Saturday, March 15, she earned her second gold in the Advanced Slalom final. In addition to her two gold medals, Danieli earned another top-10 finish by taking seventh in the Advanced Giant Slalom.

While her gold medals were earned in alpine skiing, the sport still is relatively new to Danieli. She grew up competing in other sports, namely swimming, in which she competed during high school with Grosse Pointe South. Training to become an alpine skier had its challenges and Danieli’s success was surprising — even to herself, at first — given the competition she was up against in Italy.

“You’re competing with some people who have the experience and have lived skiing since they were young,” Danieli said. “To me, I thought there was (a very slim chance) that the U.S. would win two gold medals when competing against another country that has that expertise.”

Danieli was able to become a champion thanks to her own skill and the encouragement

of those around her. Her training included trips to the western United States to practice skiing in conditions that were similar to what she would encounter in Italy.

Now that she is a two-time gold medalist, Danieli plans to continue to participate in other Special Olympics competitions. There might be more in store for Danieli’s career, but her achievements at this year’s World Winter Games — which take place every four years — are highlights she will remember forever. She knows it would not have been possible without the support of her coaches, friends and family.

“With all the people who believed in me and my coaches and all of the people, I knew that I could do it and I just had to face that fear and conquer the mountain,” Danieli said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cueter, left, with North girls hockey coach Taylor Shaheen who surprised her with the announcement of the Miss Hockey Award during a North varsity girls lacrosse practice last week.

CUETER:

Continued from page 1D

scoring this season with 98 points in 28 games, including 72 goals and 26 assists. She also served as North’s senior captain during the season. Throughout her three seasons of high

school hockey with the Norsemen, Cueter earned first-team All-State honors all three years.

“She is the complete package, and while we are so sad to see her graduate, we hope to have her back on the bench as a coach when her younger sister takes

the ice as a Norseman,” Shaheen said. “Josie, we are beyond grateful that you chose to be part of this high school hockey community. Your positivity, uplifting energy and calm presence on the ice will be deeply missed. It has been an honor to coach you.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Christina Danieli of Grosse Pointe Farms earned two gold medals in alpine skiing at the recent Special Olympics World Winter Games in Turin, Italy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Specializing in freestyle and butterfly, Beland set Liggett school records in the 50 and 100 freestyles this season.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

mers representing an

entire school can be challenging. Beland said he feels like it took awhile just to feel like he belongs among other

swimmers from other schools at competitions. This year, however, he feels like he finally believed in himself more and believed he really did deserve to be racing against the best competition from other, larger schools, and it is that mindset that helped drive him to achieve the goals he had set out for this winter.

“A phrase I was really repeating to myself the whole time was that this year I was a competitor; in past years I was just a participant,” Beland said. “I needed the competitive mindset of you’re going to race and get up and push yourself against the other best people in the state and you’re going to go out and get that goal.”

Keeping that competitive mindset is going to be Beland’s goal all throughout the high school offseason. He will continue to swim and train on his own and with the Gators throughout the spring and summer before he returns to represent the Knights as a senior next winter. Beland wants to continue pushing himself every chance he gets so he continues to believe he can be among the best swimmers in the state once again next year.

“It’s a pretty mentally draining sport,” he said. “I want to focus on pushing myself in those races and it all starts in practice, when we do stuff that’s at race pace. ... In the future, that’s how I’m going to be able to keep it moving throughout those races. The more that I push in practice, the better I’ll be able to push in a race.”

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