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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 86, NO. 14, 32 PAGES  
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## Possible threats made at BoE meeting

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — A speaker during public comments at the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Monday, March 31, made what many interpreted as threats on the life of

Trustee Sean Cotton. “You don’t always have your life threatened here,” said Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News. “That was pretty disconcerting.” The incident occurred around the 2:30 mark of the meeting, the recording of which may be viewed at [gpschools.org/](https://gpschools.org/)

boe-meetings. The speaker introduced himself as Ian Seaman and a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods. He began by noting he and his partner, a GPPSS alumna, recently moved there and that he was jealous of Grosse Pointe while growing up in Utica.

He ended, wearing a blue and black backpack, saying, “Fortunate for you, I am no Luigi, but to some disgruntled teen with his or her father’s pistol or rifle, any of the other things you prefer in school other than rainbow flags, you might be a Brian Thompson.” His comments were

met with applause by many in the audience. The statement appeared to be a reference to Luigi Mangione, the man accused of shooting to death Brian Thompson, the former CEO of UnitedHealthcare, Dec. 4, 2024, in New York City. The Cotton family

founded Meridian Health Plans in 1997, growing it to be the largest Medicaid benefits provider in the state. It was purchased by WellCare Health Plans for \$2.5 billion in 2018. “Because of the Grosse Pointe News and the First Amendment, See *THREATS*, page 10A

## Woods mulling STR ordinance

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Say you don’t want short-term rentals without saying you don’t want short-term rentals. That is the gist of a short-term rental ordinance unanimously

approved by the city’s planning commission at its meeting Tuesday, March 25. It now goes to council for final approval. “The city administration believes that short-term rentals pose a threat to the supply of

See *STR*, page 3A



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Terry Ayrault and his daughter, Hannah Ayrault, answer questions about the Charlevoix streetscape.

## Charlevoix Sip rated a success

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Cheers to the Charlevoix pub crawl. The crawl, known officially as Sip, Stroll & Shape Charlevoix, was held one evening last week to gather the public’s ideas about renovating Charlevoix’s commercial streetscape. “I care about the street becoming more pedestrian-friendly and commercial spaces filling out into the street so people feel like the street’s alive,” architect and neighborhood resident Ellen Duff said. The event Tuesday evening, March 25, was held at O’Flaherty’s pub and The Charlevoix restaurant. Board members of the Tax Increment Finance Authority organized Sip to stimulate pub-

lic engagement about nearly \$4 million worth of streetscape renovations due to start next spring. “I love my neighborhood because I can walk to the grocery store and can walk my dog to the park,” said Duff at O’Flaherty’s. “I love that there are so many bars and restaurants. There is a lot of variety.” “I would love to see more retail spaces on Charlevoix and activity during daytime,” lifelong Park resident Erin Melville said at The Charlevoix. “Family-friendly is important. Something fun about the social district is seeing families taking their kids out and about. You want to go to a restaurant or bar atmosphere, but you want it family-friendly and welcoming in that way.” “When making decisions for our community, we need to

See *SIP*, page 2A



People voted on several options they’d like to see happen along Charlevoix.

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## City looks to shift foundation priorities

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — City officials previously noted enhancing philanthropy as a main goal for 2025, at which time Councilman Chris Walsh drew attention to his belief the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation is not leveraged to the same extent as foundations established in the other Pointes. The Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation, for example, last year installed pickleball courts for a price tag of \$262,000 and now is endeavoring to fundraise for a multi-million-dollar pool complex at Pier Park. “I have so much more

See *SHIFT*, page 8A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



**John Vitale**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission member more than 30 Years



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# Assistant manager heads for the Hills

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — When Assistant City Manager Warren Rothe was hired by the Park in April 2022, a curious sameness was reported about his background. Every city in which he grew up, attended college and worked as a municipal administrator were either located beside a lake or river. All of that continues with Rothe's new job as manager of the Oakland County Village of Beverly Hills and its water feature, the upper section of the Rouge River. There's also consistency in what people say about Rothe when he

leaves a place of employment. "I hate to see him go," the mayor of St. Clair said upon his departure for the Park. "He's a hard worker." Park Mayor Michele Hodges told Rothe almost the same thing last week: "We are so grateful for all that you have done for our Grosse Pointe Park during your time with us. You have played a major role in professionalizing our operations and moving us forward. You will be missed and I hope you will return to see the fruits of your labor as they begin to take shape." So did City Manager Nick Sizeland this week: "Warren did tremendous things for the city,



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

**Outgoing Park Assistant City Manager Warren Rothe addresses the city council last May about the city's six-year capital improvement plan.**

including updates to our zoning code, putting the code online, the streetscape project and assisting the city with union negotiations. I'm very happy for him. This

Hills council meeting, an agenda item authorized Rothe to sign city checks starting April 14. For his new job, he beat four finalists consisting of two city managers, an

assistant city manager and a police chief. Rothe's final big task for the Park was helping plan and conduct last week's Sip, Stroll & Shape Charlevoix public engagement session to solicit ideas about renovating Charlevoix's commercial streetscape. "What a high note for you to leave on, Warren," Hodges told him in an email she copied to members of the city council. "The energy was high, the attendance and participation was outstanding and everyone left feeling really good about our community and its future." Rothe also served as

See ROTHÉ, page 8A

# Park detective switches beat

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A detective is broadening his beat. Starting later this month, Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman goes worldwide. Pittman will multiply his patrol area 53,126,684 times, from the Park's 3.71 square miles to the 197.7 million square miles of the Earth's surface. The expansion comes with a switch in employers. He retired March 28 as the city's lead investigator and took a job at General Motors. "My title will be global security investigator," Pittman said. "I'm in the infancy of learning what I'll be doing." His new office is at the



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman retired March 28, as Grosse Pointe Park's lead investigator.**

GM Tech Center in Warren. "I think most of my work will be close by," he said. Pittman worked for the Park 17 years and, before that, Pontiac for a decade. He'll miss the fellow-

See BEAT, page 8A

# The Week Ahead

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

◆ U.S. Rep. Shri Thanedar hosts a town hall to discuss critical issues impacting metro Detroit communities, 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

**MONDAY, APRIL 7**

◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Facilities Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Election Commission meeting, 6 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7:15 p.m.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Tree Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.  
◆ City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission meeting, 7 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens' Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Bond Advisory Committee meeting, 6 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10**

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12**

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Egg Stroll, 10 a.m.  
◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m.

# STR:

Continued from page 1A

quality housing stock for Grosse Pointe Woods community members," begins a memo to the commission from Ashley Jankowski of McKenna Associates, the city's planning consultants. New language in the ordinance defines STRs as "the rental or subletting of any investor-owned or owner-occupied dwelling on a premises for a term of 29 days or less." It goes on, however, to say "all rental units must be occupied by the same tenant for a minimum of 30 days," and "all rental units must abide by the rental property provisions and code regulations provided in Article VII. – Exterior Building Maintenance of the City Code of Ordinances." "We've been having this conversation for several months and went through various iterations of what the ordinance should look like," Jankowski said. STRs generally are booked for long weekends as people visit the area for things like weddings, class reunions, family events or sightseeing. No one spoke in favor of or against the ordinance during the public hearing portion of the commission's meeting. It's difficult to know how many STRs are operating in the Woods currently. A search of

airbnb.com shows two houses that would fit the criteria of the new ordinance. One is a house on Ridgemont at a price of \$9,000 for 30 days, while the other is on Vernier at a cost of \$2,600 for 30 days. Vrbo.com lists a house on Aline for \$359 a night. Donna O'Keefe, a commission member and Realtor, said she is aware of two houses that rent out a single room, both for 30 days or longer. "We usually find out about them if there is a complaint from neighbors," City Manager

Frank Schulte said. "We've also had some owners come in and ask about registering them, but we don't accept them." If approved by council, the new ordinance will take effect Jan. 1, 2026. "There's a little amnesty built in for people who might have reservations the rest of the year," Schulte said. "That gives them time to wind down their operation."

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# Architecture as an art form

By Ted O’Neil  
Associate editor

Those who’ve been to any business along Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods over the past several decades may not realize John Vitale’s imprint is on it, in more ways than one.

As president of Stucky Vitale Architects, his firm has worked on numerous projects up and down Mack, including banks, restaurants and the city hall renovation. As a member of the city’s planning commission more than 30 years, he’s had a hand in shaping ordinances that define the look of the extensive business district.

“The commission has done quite a lot over the years that have contributed to the improvement of Mack,” he said. “We worked on what the business facades should look like, the type of lighting, the signage. And we also do regular reviews of the master plan.”

Another focus has been on crosswalks, he added, to make sure people have safe access to both sides of the avenue.

Vitale, 71, grew up on Marter in St. Clair Shores, right next door to the Woods. He attended St. Lucy Catholic School and

Austin Prep High School before earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture from Lawrence Technological University.

“I was always interested in art growing up, drawing, painting, sculpting,” he said. “I still am. I do sketches of the grandkids all the time.”

He spent a year studying art at Wayne State

ued to grow.”

Vitale married his wife, Mary Ann, in 1980, and built a house on Marter.

“I got my builder’s license during college,” he said. “My dad was a cabinet maker and built the house I grew up in, so we had that in common.”

The couple eventually built their current home in the Woods on Wedgewood.

*“Architecture in a way is an art of its own, being able to make a client’s vision a reality.”*

JOHN VITALE  
Grosse Pointe Woods

University before settling on architecture.

“Architecture in a way is an art of its own,” Vitale said, “being able to make a client’s vision a reality.”

After graduating from Lawrence Tech — where he was named a distinguished alumnus of the school’s College of Architecture and Design in 2017 — Vitale spent nine years at Giffels Webster.

“Eventually I wanted to start my own firm, but ended up joining George Stucky who had an office in Royal Oak,” he said. “I ended up taking over when he passed away and we’ve contin-

“That’s how I got involved with the planning commission,” he said. “I had to work a lot with the building department because we had an odd-shaped lot, and given my background, they encouraged me to apply.”

The Vitales have two daughters, Lisa and Nicole, and a son, Anthony. They also have five grandchildren between the two girls, all under the age of 5.

“We love spending time with them, but they’re a handful,” Vitale laughed.

In his spare time, Vitale likes to golf at Lochmoor Club, where



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, John and Mary Ann Vitale with their daughters, sons-in-law and son. Below, John and Mary Ann Vitale’s grandchildren, who he likes to sketch.

he is a past board president.

“Every year I tell myself I’m going to practice more, but never have the time,” he said.

He’s also “relearning” how to play the Fender guitar he’s owned since eighth grade.

“Back then, after the Beatles came out, everybody had a band,” he recalled. “My buddy’s family owned a funeral home near St. Lucy and we used to practice there every day after school because it had an organ.”

He and Mary Ann also like to travel, most recently going on a Mediterranean cruise



where they visited France, Italy and Spain.

Reflecting on his career, Vitale said he’s amazed by the advances in architecture.

“When I first started, everything was pencil on paper,” he said.

“Now, everything is 3-D computer models. You can walk a client through a building and show them exactly how it will look. I’m super happy with the career I chose. It’s been very rewarding.”

## Automated Breast Ultrasound (ABUS): A New Frontier in Breast Cancer Detection

By Michele Ramsdell, M.D.



In the realm of breast cancer screening, a significant advancement is making waves: Automated Breast Ultrasound (ABUS). This innovative technology is particularly beneficial for women with dense breast tissue, a condition that affects approximately 40% of women who undergo regular screening mammograms. Dense breast tissue not only increases the risk of breast cancer but also complicates the detection of some cancers through mammography, potentially delaying diagnosis and resulting in a later stage at diagnosis.

By law, mammography reports must state the patient’s breast density, ensuring that women are informed about their condition and can discuss further screening options with their healthcare providers.

ABUS is designed to address the limitations of mammography in detecting cancer in dense breast tissue. It is performed on asymptomatic women who have had a negative screening mammogram but possess dense breast tissue. Importantly, ABUS is not a substitute for mammography but rather a complementary tool that enhances the detection capabilities of traditional screening methods.

The procedure uses sound waves to create detailed images of the breast tissue. During the examination, a trained technologist applies lotion to the patient’s skin and uses a padded and curved transducer to capture the images while the patient lies on her back. The process is non-invasive and generally well-tolerated, although it is not recommended for individuals with pacemakers due to potential interference.

Once the images are obtained, a specially trained radiologist interprets them, looking for any signs of early-stage invasive breast cancer that may have been missed by mammography. The ability of ABUS to detect these cancers at an earlier stage can significantly improve patient outcomes, offering a crucial advantage in the fight against breast cancer.

While ABUS offers enhanced detection capabilities, it is important for patients to be aware of the slight increase in false positive examinations associated with the technology. A false positive occurs when the ABUS identifies an area of concern that, upon further evaluation with a targeted handheld ultrasound, turns out to be benign (not cancerous) or non-existent.

As breast cancer remains a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women, advancements in screening technologies like ABUS are vital. By improving the detection of early-stage invasive breast cancer in women with dense breast tissue, ABUS represents a significant step forward in the ongoing effort to reduce mortality rates and enhance patient outcomes.

Dr. Michele Ramsdell is the lead interpreting radiologist in breast imaging and intervention at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital’s Breast Care Center at 468 Cadieux Rd, Grosse Pointe. To schedule an appointment, call 313-473-6900 ext. 3.3-2998. Dr. Michele Ramsdell is the lead interpreting radiologist in breast imaging and intervention at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital’s Breast Care Center at 468 Cadieux Rd, Grosse Pointe. To schedule an appointment, call 313-473-6900 ext. 3.





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City of Grosse Pointe

Temper tantrum

Two juvenile girls became unruly when staff inside a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval refused to sell them cough syrup at 10 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, and an announcement was made stating minors need to be accompanied by adults in the store.

The two knocked over a magazine rack on their way out.

Suspended license

A 34-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving while license suspended at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 28, after being stopped at Mack and St. Clair for an improper plate.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Close to home

A white 2023 Jeep Wrangler was stolen from a Hendrie driveway between Saturday, March 22, and Friday, March 28.

The vehicle was broken into a month prior, at which time the key fob was stolen, but the owner said he had the Jeep rekeyed since.

Using a location service, officers located the Jeep parked about six houses down from where it was stolen.

Hibernating for the winter

A golf bag containing a full set of golf clubs was stolen from the trunk of a vehicle parked in the 200 block of Lewiston at some point over the winter. The owner left the vehicle covered with a tarp.

Intoxicated driver

For speeding 50 mph on Lakeshore and swerving in and out of lanes at 2:59 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, a 34-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over and found to be intoxicated.

A preliminary breath test showed her blood-alcohol content to be 0.192 percent, for which she was arrested.

Nice try

The attempted theft of a vehicle on Muir took place between 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Tuesday, March 25, and 6:30 a.m. the next morning.

The owner found the rear-door window smashed and the windshield wiper lever popped out in what likely was an unsuccessful attempt to pop the ignition.

Scam stopped just in time

Scammers texted an 86-year-old Farms woman Wednesday, March 26, telling her there were fraudulent charges to her PayPal account and that she needed to open a digital account to stop an \$8,500 charge from going through.

Employees at a local Chase Bank informed her it was a scam before she lost money.

All for nothing

The rear window of a vehicle parked on Lothrop was smashed between 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, and 10 a.m. the next morning.

The center console was left open, but nothing appeared to be missing.

Neighborhood watch

Though they fled and officers were unable to arrest two men seen trying car door handles in the 300 block of Belanger at 5:21 a.m. Friday, March 28, the suspects were pre-

vented from entering any vehicles.

Sloth speeds

A 52-year-old Sterling Heights man was pulled over for driving 18 mph down the middle of Kercheval at 2:29 a.m. Friday, March 28.

The man admitted to consuming two pints of alcohol that night and a preliminary breath test found his blood-alcohol content to be 0.37 percent.

He was arrested on a third offense of operating under the influence.

Theft notification

After receiving notifications that three of his credit cards were being used at a liquor store, a Royal Oak man discovered his car parked on Country Club Lane had been rummaged through. He said he accidentally left it unlocked.

Boo

A 53-year-old Detroit man, removed by police numerous times in the past, was reported for hiding in the bushes and scaring customers at a business in the 18000 block of Mack at 12:13 p.m. Saturday, March 29.

Officers found him lying on the ground between the building and bushes near the front entrance.

He was arrested for violating a trespass

order.

Drunken swerving

A 61-year-old Farms man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 1:44 a.m. Monday, March 31, after swerving and nearly striking the curb near Mack and Fisher.

A preliminary breath test found his blood-alcohol content was 0.32 percent.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Tools taken

Police don't know who broke into a locked work truck while it was parked in the 1100 block of Buckingham between 2 p.m. Friday, March 21, and 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 25.

Whoever did it took a tool bag, three Dewalt drills and a RIGID cutter.

Car stolen

An unknown car thief got away last week with a 2021 Kia Sportage.

The sports utility vehicle was stolen between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, while parked in the driveway of a house in the 1400 block of

Grayton.

Steals package

A home video security system recorded a man stealing a package from a porch in the 1400 block of Bedford at 4:20 p.m. Thursday, March 27.

The package contained smoke alarms, among other items, according to police.

Investigators described the suspect as a thin black man wearing a hooded fur jack over a white FILA T-shirt.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Unlocked vehicles

Two unlocked vehicles were rummaged through on Fordcroft around 6:45 a.m. Sunday March 23.

A pair of Persol sunglasses valued at \$100 was taken from one of them.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Not a coincidence

Infotainment systems were stolen from three Dodge Ram trucks last week.

The first occurred sometime overnight into Thursday, March 27, in the parking lot at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

The others occurred overnight into Saturday, March 29, in the 1200 block of Roslyn and the 100 block of Hampton.

A loaded handgun also was stolen from the truck on Roslyn.

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



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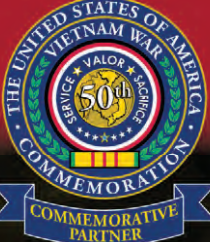


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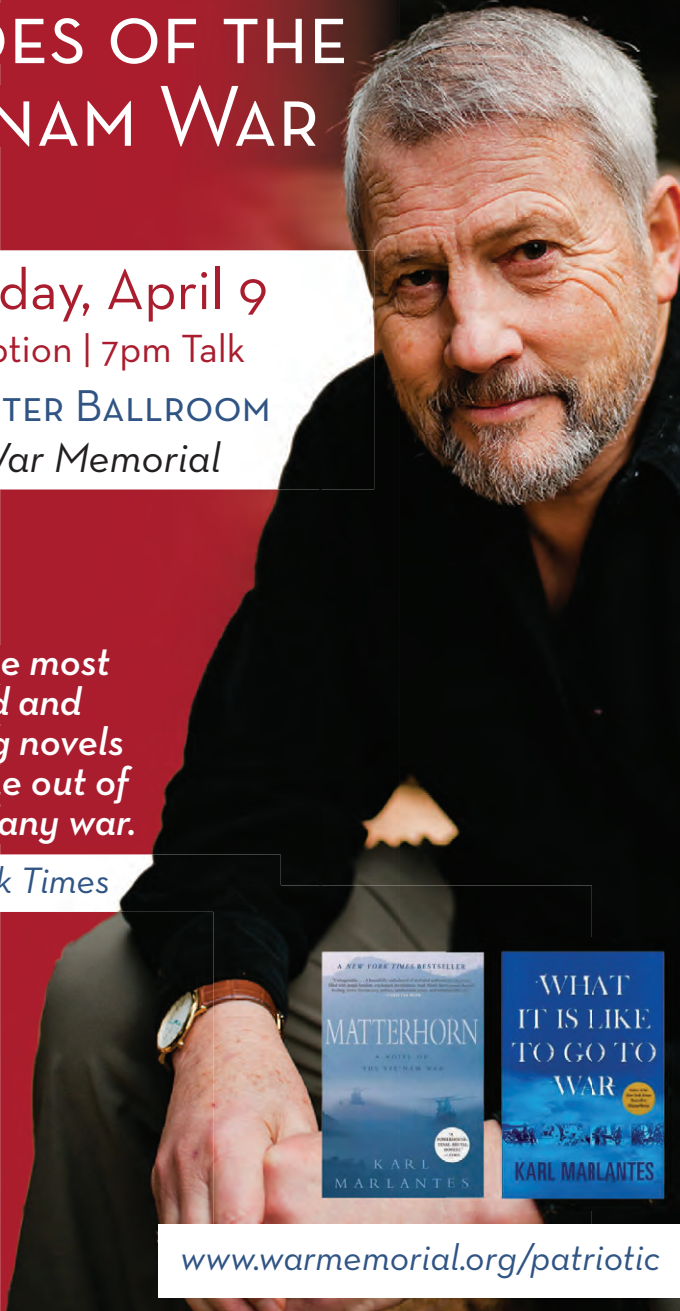
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Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC  
16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230  
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585  
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

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OUR VIEW

Time for some changes

Now that we are roughly a quarter of the way through this century, we think it is time to make some updates to the way things are done in the Grosse Pointes. Even if we have to pull you kicking and screaming along for the ride.

First, we should start with the obvious. Time to have just one Grosse Pointe. People already use the term to describe the collective five Pointes, so we might as well be one, big, happy family ... er, city.

We shall call it the City of Grosse Farkoodores, a Michigan Village.

The city council, for starters, can be made up of the five current mayors. They may not, however, be able to get much business done, since they all will be looking at each other, asking, “Do I hear a motion? Do I hear a motion?”

We are not suggesting this as a cost-saving measure and we certainly do not want to see anyone lose their jobs. It works out nicely because each of the five administrative positions — public safety directors, city managers, city clerks, etc. — gets one day a week to be in charge.

Speaking of public safety, our new city should give tickets to people attempting to file reports who either a) left their vehicle unlocked and items were stolen from within or b) left their vehicle unlocked WITH the keyfob inside and said vehicle was stolen. Fines from these tickets can be called a dunce tax.

And why not invite the TV show “Live PD” to film a few episodes here? Might drum up some tourism or new residents when the country sees how safe it is around here.

It also will be illegal to conduct a society or charity event that does not include a VIP and/or afterglow component.

As for parks, one city only needs one official park. We vote for Lake Front Park because the Woods for all these years has been the only city not to have a park within its actual boundaries. Plus, it has two cool waterslides.

The other parks would still be open to residents, but they can generate some income by charging admission to nonresidents.

Other new streams of revenue could be allowing pot shops and short-term rentals. Maybe in the same locations.

And for crying out loud, maybe our new city council can finally get the timing right of the traffic lights along the Mack and Jefferson/Lakeshore corridors. We understand these are county roads, but we can dream, right?

Now, about those schools. It seems the writing is on the wall when it comes to enrollment, so it might be time for the Grosse Pointe Public School System to revert back to one high school.

Grosse Pointe South High School can handle that. Green and blue would not be terrible school colors and the Norse Devil athletic teams could have a bit of pink piping on their uniforms for that real Grosse Pointe touch of flair.

Grosse Pointe North High School could become one big middle school. Afterall, it has a working pool. One of the current middle schools could still be a school (nudge, nudge, wink, wink) and the other two could be sold to developers and turned into affordable housing. Just think of the influx of young families with school-age children that the former 389 St. Clair will bring.

If the GPPSS board of education decides not to reopen the former Trombly Elementary School, then it should at least close each elementary school for one year on a rotating basis, just so everyone can



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure GP

There was a bit of excitement Monday afternoon when an injured Cooper's hawk, likely in its first year of life, flew into the municipal parking garage in the City. Those who gathered were careful to stay at least 20 feet away from it, which helped flush the raptor from underneath a parked car to the top of another car parked closer to the opening of the garage's second floor. After a few minutes, the hawk flew out to safety.

Cooper's hawks are wild birds with sharp beaks and talons and are dangerous to approach. They may be startled by loud noises. It is always best to call a wildlife rehabilitator if an injured bird is found.

This photo of the injured Cooper's hawk was safely taken from 20 feet away using the zoom feature on a cellphone.

enjoy what that is like. To paraphrase Oprah, “You get a closed school, you get a closed school.”

As for other changes, hear us out.

For the sake of clarity, should St. Paul on the Lake actually be called St. Paul on the Road Next to the Lake? Then there's Our Lady Star of the Sea. What sea? How about Our Lady Star of the Soccer Fields Nearby?

Should University Liggett School award degrees? It has the word university in its name. That sure would save those parents a lot of money on college tuition.

If you have not caught on yet, happy belated April Fools' Day!

There are several theories about how the day got its start, but no definitive answer. Some think it stemmed from one of the stories in Chaucer's “The Canterbury Tales,” written in 1392.

In “Nun's Priest's Tale,” a character is tricked by a fox, saying “Since March began, full thirty days and two,” meaning 32 days after March 1, which would be April 1.

Others suggest it originated in the Middle Ages, when many European cities celebrated New Year's Day on March 25. The week-long celebration ended April 1, and those who marked New Year's Day on Jan. 1 were made fun of.

One of the more famous hoaxes started in 1698, when people were tricked every year into going to the Tower of London to see “the lions washed.” It even included authentic looking tickets that told holders to enter at “the white gate.” The tower had long since gotten rid of its zoo and it does not have a white gate.

Customs surrounding the day can vary from country to county.

In Ireland, it was traditional to entrust the victim with an “important letter” and ask them to deliver it to a particular person. That person would read the letter, then ask the victim to deliver it to another person and so on. The letter read, “send the fool further.”

In the United Kingdom, it is customary to stop playing tricks on people at noon. Those who do so afterward are considered to be a fool.

The media also has been known to get involved. No joke!

The BBC in 1957 showed footage of what appeared to be Swiss farmers picking freshly grown spaghetti. The network was so inundated with requests from viewers as to where they could buy a spaghetti plant that it was forced to reveal the hoax the next day.

The Detroit News once ran an editorial warning people about the dangers of “fresh water sharks” invading the Great Lakes.

One of the more memorable was the Sports Illustrated issue of April 1, 1985, containing a cover story about an unusual baseball prospect named Sidd Finch. The first letters in each of the words to start the story spelled out “Happy April Fools' Day.”

Hopefully you had a chance to pull off some good ones on your family and friends Tuesday.

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.

Bond issue

To the Editor:

I live in the Grosse Pointe Public School System section of Harper Woods. I have for 24 years and have happily paid my high taxes. I'm not going to vote yes on any bond that is in support of opening Trombly school. It was closed for good reasons. Now it is in much worse shape after sitting empty for years. It is old, dark and run down. We will never have the large families that were once here. Eventually, Grosse Pointe may want to consider building a new school.

EILEEN ROSS  
Harper Woods

Supported and appreciated

To Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle:

Dear Dr. Tuttle,  
I'm saddened there is even a need to send this (letter). As '72 and '75 Grosse Pointe South grads, the parents of a '99 South grade and the grandparents of South and Pierce students, my husband and I, and our family, have been invested in our schools and community for decades. While Grosse Pointers have always welcomed new neighbors, some recent transplants would have you believe resident longevity means very little. We disagree. It demonstrates commitment and an understanding of the community that is earned over the years.

We are alarmed recent interactions and grandstanding by some trustees on the recent board majority may leave you with the impression your performance leaves something to be desired. On the contrary, in the years we've followed the GPPSS, you stand out as a seasoned and very capable leader of the highest caliber. Residents were enthusiastic at the strides you and the previous board made in its short two years, from balancing the budget, ratifying a new two-year teachers' contract, complete with raise, right-sizing administration post-COVID, staff recruitment and bringing the fund equity back to appropriate levels. We

See LETTERS, page 7A

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



I SAY By Renee Landuyt

Porch sitting — a lost art



A porch. Not just any porch, but a covered porch wide enough to sit on and read or rock when it's raining and not get wet. It doesn't have to be a wraparound porch, although those are amazing. It can be a porch that mostly goes the length of the front of the house. That works, too.

Porch sitting is a simple joy. It takes us back to slower days, when things weren't so ridiculous and stressful. Adulting is not always easy, but having a porch to relax on is a great place to sit or swing your cares away.

Did you watch "The Andy Griffith Show"? After supper, Andy, Aunt Bee, Opie and sometimes Barney would sit on the porch and just be together. Aunt Bee was always in her rocking chair and sometimes Andy would play his guitar and sing. That was always such a peaceful scene.

Having a porch is on my bucket list. I know, people think that is an

odd thing to have on a bucket list, but those lists are not only for destinations. The last house I owned had a small porch, so small that whoever was outside on the porch had to back up a bit when the front door opened. That shouldn't even be classified as a porch, if you ask me. More like a faux porch than a front porch.

Front porches are a family, friend and community gathering space. You could sit on your porch anytime of the day or night, greet your neighbor, gather with others or just watch the world, or your neighborhood, go by. When I was younger I remember walking down the street and waving to neighbors who were on their porch, just sitting or rocking or swinging, depending on the porch seating. The block I grew up on and the blocks on either side of us were filled with kids and we'd gather at a friend's house, where many of the neighborhood kids would sit on the porch, the porch railing and the porch steps. Their bikes were strewn all over the front lawn. I miss that.

A porch is such a great transitional space between the house and the front yard. People can

sit on the front porch without having to step all the way out into the world. It's a place for reflection, a place to contemplate life.

Think of all the things you can do on a front porch: listen to the birds, have tea or coffee, host happy hour, invite friends, make memories, sit alone and read a book, listen to music, listen to the rain fall, feel the cool breeze on a fall day, share a story, see a sunset or sunrise, watch the stars come out. The list is long.

This isn't to say a back porch is second place, because those can be amazing, too. My siblings have amazing backyard outdoor places to gather. But I think those are more of a patio. Still fun and worthy of a mention. I have spent many delightful days and nights hanging out on their patios. There's also balconies. Those are great, too.

But back to the front porch. Life is slower on the front porch, a place to unwind, entertain or just sit a spell, as they used to say. I feel peaceful just writing that and maybe you feel peaceful reading it.

People don't sit on their porches much anymore. I don't know why. When I get my own front porch, I'll be sitting there often.

Water billing rectified for multi-unit properties

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A single unit within the Notre Dame townhome development recently received a \$2,762.32 water bill for the quarter, prompting city administrators to take another look at their formula for multi-user meter charges.

"Effectively what happened is we had a large water line coming in to a single meter for these multi-units," City Manager Joe Valentine explained, "and as a result, each unit was being charged the rate for the size of the line feeding the meter, which was really not the intent and nobody does it that way."

To address the new multi-family units being built in the community — including apartments in the former school administration building at 389 St. Clair, as well as a potential development on St. Clair behind the CVS lot — council in mid-March amended the city's ordinance governing multi-user meter charges.

"This language will clarify that even though you have a larger line coming

into a meter, we're not charging based off that specific meter," Valentine said. "Each unit will be based off the line coming into that unit, which is more in line with how residential properties are charged."

The new language was drafted via a combined effort with the city's building inspector, public service director, city attorney and city manager.

Sec. 78-144 of the city's utility ordinance now states:

"Where two or more in-service family or business units are using one water meter, the minimum charges under section 78-142 and section 78-143 shall be multiplied by the number of in-service family or business units on the meter using the rate equal to the diameter of the water line(s) servicing those units individually."

City council approved the amendment 6-0, with Councilman Seth Krupp, M.D., absent.

— Laurel Kraus

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

are confident that with you as our superintendent, the school system can navigate the many issues it continues to face. We see you as someone able to

pivot from one to another, remaining focused and decision driven.

We trust in your ability to lead, Dr. Tuttle. Please know your efforts are strongly supported and very much appreciated.

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# Shores house burns

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — Public safety officers from three departments spent several hours battling a house fire on Sunningdale Friday, March 28.

“We got the alarm right before 9 a.m., then we got a 911 call from the DTE field tech,” Shores Public Safety Director Ken Werenski said. “The homeowners had smelled gas Thursday and again Friday morning, so they called DTE.”

No one was home at the time of the fire. Officers from Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Farms responded with mutual aid to the fire that started in a second-floor bedroom.



Officers from three public safety departments battle a house fire on Sunningdale Friday, March 28.

“Based on what we walked into, in my opinion, we responded appropriately and quickly,” Werenski added. “When we got there, there were flames already coming out of the roof.”

Officers were able to enter the house initially, then had to wait for DTE to turn off the gas line. “The ceiling actually melted down into the house, onto the beds,” Werenski said.



COURTESY PHOTOS

A recently installed fence surrounds a house on Sunningdale that caught fire Friday, March 28.

The fire was contained after about four hours as officers spent another four hours on scene doing cleanup and checking for hotspots.

“This is our first big house fire since 2019,” Werenski said. “We’ve had some careless cooks and a few barbecue grills get out of control, but otherwise we’ve been pretty lucky.”

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

—Ted O’Neil

## SHIFT:

Continued from page 1A

optimism for what the City of Grosse Pointe can do,” Walsh said in March, after city council was presented with a set of projects to recommend to the foundation that included the replacement of trash receptacles in The Village and mounted traffic speed signs. “That doesn’t mean that any of these aren’t impactful, but I think we could do a whole lot more.”

Walsh recently was appointed as council liaison to the city’s foundation, after previous liaison, Councilwoman Maureen Juip, was appointed to the newly created Active Adult Commission, which will administer the senior services millage to The

Helm.

Though the foundation is its own organization, city officials in recent years began the practice of making annual requests on priorities deemed of most importance to the city.

Also included on the list proposed to council in March was:

- ◆ repair of the clock tower over Kercheval;
- ◆ enhancing Christmas decorations and adding bike racks in The Village;
- ◆ satellite data speed tracking to help public safety patrol areas with the most need;
- ◆ Neff Park kayak, canoe and paddleboard improvements;
- ◆ three new frame tents for park special events;
- ◆ and replacing wood bleachers at Elworthy Field with metal bleachers.

ers.

The list did include one big-ticket item — constructing a community center with bathrooms at Elworthy Field for \$400,000.

“We need, in my opinion, the foundation to really gain traction,” Walsh said. “I believe we need to have projects that are impactful.”

“... I’m not disparaging (the current priorities), but I think we could try and shoot for bigger fish and try to make a greater impact for the city, in terms of what we could deliver to the citizens and residents.”

Walsh’s fellow city council members agreed to table the suggestions for foundation projects so those on a larger scale can be explored before the city’s wish list is presented to the foundation.

## BEAT:

Continued from page 3A

ship of law enforcement and, in recent years, heading the Park’s three-person detective division.

“Most of all I’m going to miss the people, the camaraderie, the teamwork,” Pittman said.

“That’s been the atmosphere since I came (to the detective bureau) three or four years ago,” Detective Paul Pionk said. “The goal for this office is to work as a team. We’re all in it together; strength in numbers.”

“Detective Sgt. Pittman has been a great leader for the department and

detective bureau,” Detective Ryan Willmer said. “The department will be a little less without him, but that happens when good people retire. He’s a great investigator and the city of Grosse Pointe Park benefited from it.”

“We’re fortunate to have had Jeremy,” Chief Jim Bostock said. “Every position he’s filled he has done his job to his utmost best.”

Pittman was the inaugural recipient this year of the department’s Supervisor of the Year award.

“The men and women I work with are the best,” Pittman said. “We share something that, if you haven’t done it, you just

don’t know. We all speak the same language. We all go through the same thing.”

“We have some good shoes to fill, but we’re looking at it as an opportunity for other people in the department to step up and grow,” Bostock said.

“There’s a promotion process that requires tests and interviews,” Pionk said. “The chief places whoever he wants in the position. We probably won’t know for a month or so.”

“We wish Jeremy nothing but the best,” Bostock said. “It’s bittersweet for him as well. But, at the end of the day, he’s done his time with the Park and is looking to the next chapter in his life.”

## ROTHE:

Continued from page 3A

director of the Tax Increment Finance Authority and secretary of the Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission.

Although there are no firm plans on how Rothe will be replaced, Sizeland said there won’t be a return to the city manager being spread thin by

also serving as assistant manager, commission secretary, TIFA director and more.

“Roles and responsibilities must be spread out,” Sizeland said. “Otherwise, things fall through the cracks. We want to keep improving continuously and make the lives of Grosse Pointe Park residents better. Having a professional assisting the city man-

ager only helps the city in the long run. It is a very important role.”

Candidates for the job must show Sizeland they have what it takes.

“They have to be the leader of the Park if I’m not here,” he said. “I look for someone in whom I have every confidence they can run Grosse Pointe Park.”

Rothe didn’t respond to interview requests.

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# Purchasing limit raised fivefold

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A 40-year-old municipal cap on administrative spending was increased recently to account for inflation and afford the city manager and department heads more latitude to act quickly.

The cap, set in 1985 at \$5,000, was quintupled during the March 10 city council meeting. The city manager now has authority to make individual purchases and outlays of up to \$25,000 without council approval.

Department heads, likewise, are now entrusted to enter into

agreements costing as much as \$10,000, double their \$5,000 limit from 1985.

City Manager Nick Sizeland introduced the request during a council meeting last September. “Make the case from the city manager and department heads more latitude to act quickly,” Sizeland said. “The way things are going, there may be cases where supplies or anything else are going to keep going up in price. Let’s say we go to \$15,000 or \$20,000. I feel we’re probably going to be back here in a year or two looking for authority to take that

threshold higher.”

He cited recent examples of routine purchases being delayed due to waiting for council approval: city hall concrete walkway repairs, public safety training ammunition, a traffic arrow board, parking meters, Windmill Pointe Park play space earthwork, watermain street repairs and more.

Higher limits come with written rules by which department heads must use approved contractors and situations requiring competitive bids.

“A department head can spend \$10,000 or less without the city manager correcting it?”

Councilman Tom Caulfield asked. “Does anyone have issue with that?”

“City departments under this policy would not be allowed to add a vendor,” Sizeland said. “They’d have to get approval from the city manager as well as talk with the finance director (about if) we need to refine the preferred vendor list.”

“This outlines a couple of processes an employee needs to go through to make purchases,” Finance Director Ginger Moriarty said. “There’s a clause, also, that says an employee can’t divide the purchases in order to game the threshold.

They’re also going to have to look into their budgets to determine whether we planned for an expenditure and, if not, bring it to city council for a budget amendment.”

The present value of \$5,000 from 1985 is \$15,122, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator at bls.gov. Present valuation shows that, even by doubling the department head threshold to \$10,000, managers have less current-value discretion with the increase than 40 years ago.

Wiener and everyone except Councilwoman Christine Gallagher sup-

ported the new limit.

“The city administration’s been hamstrung,” Wiener said. “This is professionalizing and streamlining the administration to do its job. It is long overdue.”

“There’s been ample time, from my perspective, where we’ve had multiple levels (city staff, attorney, council and others) to provide feedback,” Councilman Tim Kolar said. “I’m comfortable having this policy provide clear instructions to the manager (and) directors about what their authorities are and allowing them to do their jobs, duties and responsibilities.”

“I’m comfortable that it was properly researched,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “There are checks and balances.”

# Predator case heads downtown

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A preliminary hearing in municipal court last week ended with an accused sexual predator being returned to the Wayne County Jail.

Defendant Darren Joshua Bradford, 24, of Berkley, also was scheduled for arraignment in Wayne County Third Circuit Court Wednesday, April 2, on two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

He’s accused of the Feb. 5 alleged sexual assault of a 15-year-old Park girl in a car on Windmill Pointe Drive

near Berkshire.

Each count carries a prison sentence of up to 15 years.

During the Park prelim March 26, Judge Carl Jarboe denied a request by Bradford’s attorney for a lower bond.

“We were able to keep the bond at \$250,000 until at least his next court date,” Park Detective Paul Pionk said. “New facts popped up. There were more victims in Oakland County.”

Jarboe granted an assistant Wayne County prosecutor’s motion to clear the public from the courtroom during the Park girl’s testimony.

The day after the Park hearing, Oakland County Prosecutor Karen D. McDonald announced charges against Bradford for the same type of crime in Bloomfield Township.

“Bradford is alleged to have been known to provide vapes, marijuana and alcohol to high school students through Snapchat,” McDonald said in a news release. “He is alleged to have told a 15-year-old female victim he would not sell her vape products unless they had sex. Incidents of sexual contact between the defendant and victim are alleged to have occurred in her home in Bloomfield

Township and in the defendant’s car.”

Prior to the Park hearing, Bradford already was in jail on \$175,000 bond and being prosecuted for the same family of crimes in Berkley.

“He was a classic predator, a groomer, over the last three or four years,” Pionk said. “He uses a lot of tactics. He’s known throughout these communities. He gets hold of them through social media or they get hold of him for vapes, marijuana or whatever. He plays on that angle, befriends them and does nice things for them, drives them around and takes advantage of them.”

“The facts alleged in this case are every parent’s worst nightmare,” McDonald said. “This adult defendant appears to have preyed upon the vulnerabilities of a teenager to coerce sex from a

victim who wasn’t old enough and in a position to consent. Police believe there may be other victims. Anyone with information about other incidents should contact their local police.”

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# PRIDE OF THE POINTES

City of Grosse Pointe resident **Violet Whitmore**, a senior communication arts major at Grove City College, has been named to the Dean’s List with Distinction for the fall 2024 semester. She is a 2021 graduate of Veritas Scholars Academy.

**Alexandra Karolak** of Grosse Pointe Park was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2024 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Karolak is enrolled in the university’s College of Arts & Sciences.

**Dylan Miller** of Grosse Pointe Farms is one of more than 200 student-athletes at Lebanon Valley College who competed for the Flying Dutchmen during the winter 2024-25 sports season. Miller, a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in digital communications at The Valley. He was a member of the men’s ice hockey team.

**Abigail Pongratz** of Grosse Pointe Farms and **Claire Cameron** and **Jake Sands** of Grosse Pointe Woods were named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2024 semester at Saginaw Valley State University.

**Julianna Tague** of the City of Grosse Pointe, a communication disorders major, was named to the Dean’s List at Emerson College for the fall 2024 semester.

**Cameron E. Kaess** of Grosse Pointe Farms recently was elected to membership in the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi at College of Charleston.

University of Alabama junior **Rachel Rybicki** of Grosse Pointe Park was named to the 2025 Southeastern Conference Gymnastics Community Service Team.

# St. Paul to perform ‘Grease: School Version’

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Students of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School will perform “Grease: School Version,” at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 5, in the school gymnasium.

“We’re very excited,” said Jacqueline Knuth, music director. “The parents are energized and it’s brand new for the kids. We’re expecting a big turnout.”

Aside from Knuth, the production team includes Katie Bellanca as director and Samantha Rinaldi as choreographer.

“We do this every spring,” Knuth said. “It’s a great tradition. We usually do a Disney musical, but we decided to venture out a bit this year.”

According to reviews, the performance “retains the fun-loving spirit and immortal songs of the blockbuster show, but removes any profanity, lewd behavior and Rizzo’s pregnancy scare.”



COURTESY PHOTO

**St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School performs “Grease: School Version” at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 5.**

“The songs are altered and it’s definitely kid-friendly,” Knuth said. “There are little tweaks, but it’s nice and clean.”

The 90-minute performance contains popular songs from the movie, such as “Greased Lightnin,” “Summer Nights” and “We Go

Together.”

The main characters will be played by students in sixth through eighth grades, with the ensemble made up of fourth and fifth graders.

“We also have a junior ensemble, for kindergarteners through third grade,” Knuth said.

“They do a pre-show song and dance routine. We involve the whole school so that hopefully the younger students will aspire to stay involved as they get older.”

Tickets are \$10 and available at [cur8.com](http://cur8.com) or at the door.

—Ted O’Neil

# THREATS:

Continued from page 1A

because I represent our community on the school board, because I contributed money to politicians,” Cotton said the morning after the meeting, “everything he was angry about was me being an American.”

Cotton said he contacted the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department after the meeting, speaking to an officer who was at the meeting.

Few others at the board table spoke out afterward.

“It is unacceptable to make thinly veiled threats,” Trustee Clint Derringer said. “I’m sorry, Trustee Cotton, it happened to you.”

Board President Colleen Worden agreed.

“I, too, denounce any threats,” she said. “It’s not acceptable to come to that podium and make those kinds of threats.”

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said she was “taken aback.”

“That was completely scary and I’m shocked it’s not being addressed differently,” she said.

Tuttle has since said



PHOTOS BY TED O’NEIL

**Top, van parked in the driveway of Ian Seaman’s Grosse Pointe Woods home contained a message aimed at Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, as recently as last week. Above, Ian Seaman has been cited by the city of Grosse Pointe Woods for this collection of yard signs. Officials say the total square footage of the signs violate city ordinances.**

Seaman is banned from any district property.

Worden sent the Grosse Pointe News a further statement the morning after the meeting.

“References to weapons or violence in any context are completely unacceptable in our school community,” she said. “Had I fully understood the nature of these comments during the meeting, I would have intervened immediately. I believe that threats of violence, especially in a school setting, are reprehensible.

“I appreciate the quick response from the Grosse Pointe Farms Police who arrived shortly after the remarks were made,” she continued. “Our schools must remain spaces where all students, staff, board members and community members feel physically and emotionally safe.”

Seaman, who began his comments saying people should “look away from the national scene,” and asked for decorum, is scheduled to appear at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, in Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Court on a different matter.

He received a citation

last month from the Woods building department indicating a violation of the city’s sign ordinance. City Attorney Tim Tomlinson said the issue is not about the messages of the signs, but rather size limitations. The ordinance only allows a maximum of six square feet and signs can only remain up 30 days once a complaint is filed.

“He did take down some signs that depicted nude body parts,” Tomlinson said. “The issue was because it was at a school crosswalk.”

The signs are located at the corner of Kings Court East and Cook Road, close to both Monteith Elementary School and University Liggett School.

A van recently parked in the driveway of the home also had a message written on it, stating “Billionaire Sean Cotton, owner of GP News. Can say what he wants. Buy council & school board.”

A call to a cell phone number listed to an Ian Seaman living in the Pointes was met with a message from Verizon saying the number is no longer in service.

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2&7B AREA ACTIVITIES | 3-5B SENIOR LIVING | 6-7B OBITUARIES | 7B CHURCHES

Friendly faceoff  
Pucks for a Purpose benefits pair of charities

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Mutual of Omaha Mortgage and Saros Real Estate Services recently teamed up to support two charities and are offering the community a chance to get in on the action.

Hockey fans of all ages are invited to the first Pucks for a Purpose charity hockey game Saturday, April 12, at East Side Hockey Ice Arena, 4831 Canyon, Detroit.

Preceding the hockey game, organizers will offer a veterans and client appreciation afternoon Friday, April 11, at Saros, featuring a Cool Jacks ice cream truck. Realtors at the firm — including U.S. Marine Corps veterans Spencer Ray and Sam Genna — will be trained on the ins and outs of VA loans.

The following day, the puck drops on a hockey game spearheaded by Mutual of Omaha Mortgage Vice President of Mortgage Lending and Corporate Outreach Tony Gatliff and Danny DeKeyser, Realtor with Saros Real Estate and former Detroit Red Wings defenseman and current studio analyst.

“We just got together and were thinking about doing something good for our companies and the community,” said Gatliff, a Grosse Pointe Park resident.

“I’m part of probably 12 to 15 charity games each year through the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association,” said DeKeyser, a Grosse Pointe Shores resident. “We were interested in doing something on the Eastside; there’s not too many in this area.”

Proceeds benefit The Headstrong Project and the Jamie Daniels Foundation.

Jamie Daniels Foundation

The Jamie Daniels Foundation was established by Ken Daniels and Lisa Daniels-Goldman in memory of their late son, Jamie, who died from an overdose at age 23, while receiving treatment for substance use disorder.

“Despite the support of his family, Jamie’s life was tragically lost due to substandard care and the predatory practices that exist in the billion-dollar addiction and substance use recovery business,” according to the foundation website. “Today, we are driven to affect



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Mutual of Omaha Mortgage Vice President of Mortgage Lending and Corporate Outreach Tony Gatliff, left, and Danny DeKeyser, Realtor with Saros Real Estate and former Detroit Red Wings defenseman.

change, by providing hope and support to families of children, youth and young adults struggling with substance use disorder.”

“The Jamie Daniels Foundation was founded in 2018, by Jamie’s mom and dad,” said Chris Perry, executive director of the foundation. “... They started this foundation to help other families and children avoid what they went through.

“Tony Gatliff and his organization, Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, has been supportive of the Jamie Daniels Foundation for a number of years,” he added. “... We help kids, teens and young adults with substance abuse and recovery.”

As a nonprofit, every dollar counts, Perry said. “More importantly is the stigma,” he added. “Explaining the work we do with people we haven’t encountered before helps reduce the stigma. Stigma is a barrier to acknowledging the problem and seeking out support.”

Stigma reduction is just one of three goals of the foundation, which also focuses on prevention and recovery.

“We want to prevent children and teen use of substances to deal with anxiety or stress,” Perry said. “And we help those with a problem get into recovery, so they can better manager their life and fulfill their dreams.

“... Our focus is on chil-

dren, teens and young adults, so age 24 and younger,” he noted. “Ninety percent of people who struggle with substance use disorder started using that substance before age 18. That’s why we say addiction is a disease of adolescence. If we can prevent children from using, they’re less likely to develop a problem and the quicker we can help them.”

More information about the Jamie Daniels Foundation may be found at jamiedanielsfoundation.org.

The Headstrong Project

The second charity to benefit from the hockey game is The Headstrong Project, which is a program regularly supported by Mutual of Omaha Mortgage’s Patriot’s Charity Initiative.

“Every year, Mutual of Omaha Mortgage closes thousands of mortgage loans,” said Dave Romano, vice president of development and military affairs with Mutual of Omaha Mortgage. “From the income generated, we donate to the USO and military-focused organizations that are very impactful to our veteran communities. The program allows us to bring awareness to these great organizations and help to support their causes.

“... Tony wanted to help increase awareness in the Detroit area and

we felt we could help support The Headstrong Project from an event like this,” he continued. “Likewise, Tony is partnered with Saros Real Estate Services and together we are happy to support Jamie Daniels Foundation.”

Romano continued, “We created the Patriot’s Charity Initiative from our belief that one day a year is not enough to thank our veterans and active-duty service members for defending the freedoms we enjoy every single day. We know that the charities which we have partnered with will put our donations to effective use in the veteran and active-duty military communities.”

Since its inception in 2015, the Patriot’s Charity Initiative has donated more than \$4.5 million to charities like The Headstrong Project.

“The Headstrong Project is a veteran-founded nonprofit that provides barrier-free, confidential, stigma-free PTSD treatment to service members, veterans and family members connected to their care,” said Austin Stiffler, marketing director with The Headstrong Project. “Headstrong’s mission is to help clients ‘Triumph Over Trauma’ by providing best-in-class outpatient care delivered via an extensive network of military-connected clinicians carefully selected for each client based on their individual needs.

Headstrong covers the cost of 30 sessions per client, which equates to about a year of treatment.

“Since its inception, Headstrong has provided more than 218,000 mental health sessions to thousands of service members, veterans and military family members,” she continued.

“Headstrong currently offers in-person treatment in 17 states and is set to expand services into three additional states, including Michigan, later this year.”

More information about The Headstrong Project may be found at theheadstrongproject.org.

“The Headstrong Project’s mission to help our nation’s service members and veterans ‘Triumph Over Trauma’ wouldn’t be possible without events like Pucks for a Purpose and committed partners like Saros Real Estate and Mutual of Omaha Mortgage,” Stiffler said. “The funds raised through this event go directly towards providing no-cost mental health treatment for the brave men and women who served our country. Additionally, events like this help break the stigma surrounding mental health and show that asking for help is a sign of strength.

“We’re looking forward to joining the Grosse Pointe commu-

nity to rally behind two important causes while witnessing an epic showdown on the ice,” she added.

Taking the ice

Doors at ESH open at 6:30 p.m. Ice time was donated by the East Side Youth Sports Foundation. Ken Daniels will drop the puck at 7:30 p.m.

“Representatives from all the charities and companies will be there, too,” Gatliff said. “Ken Daniels will do the puck drop and Danny is playing and probably other Red Wings alumni.”

“It seems like most of the players are excited to get out and play,” DeKeyser said, “and support two great causes.”

The event also features concessions and a silent auction. Auction items include a hockey stick bench — created by Gatliff’s father, Tony Gatliff Sr., of Great Lakes Woodworking — as well as Detroit Tigers and Red Wings tickets, Red Wings autographed memorabilia and other items.

Bids are accepted online in advance of the game.

“It will be an exciting hockey game that will help to bring the community together to support two great organizations,” Romano said. “Both organizations are very dedicated to the community and we feel it will be a lot of fun cheering on the teams and at the same time raising money to support two great foundations.”

Added Perry, “It’s going to be exciting. We’re going to meet new people who haven’t been introduced to the foundation. And hockey is always a fun sport.

“We’re thankful to Tony Gatliff and the Mutual of Omaha Mortgage team for sponsoring this. It’s an expression of their devotion to the community.”

Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or online.

For more information, to purchase tickets or bid on an auction item, scan the QR code or visit e.givesmart.com/events/HYE/.



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# Vietnam veteran, bestselling author to speak at The War Memorial

Hailed as one of the most powerful voices in war literature, bestselling author and decorated Vietnam veteran Karl Marlantes brings unparalleled depth to the realities of combat and its lasting effects on the human spirit.

On Wednesday, April 9, The War Memorial presents “An Evening with Karl Marlantes: Echoes of the Vietnam War,” the latest event in its Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program Series.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a VIP reception. A moderated conversation with an audience Q&A follows at 7 p.m. in the Alger Center ballroom. Victoria Stewart, assistant director of the Wayne State University Humanities Center, will moderate. The evening concludes with a photo opportunity with Marlantes at 8 p.m.

“I’m a good storyteller with all kinds of stories,” Marlantes said in speaking with the nonprofit organization in March. “I’m someone who was there at the time and has some perspective. This event is open to the audience and I’ll stay there as long as there are questions.”

The 80-year-old vet-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Author Karl Marlantes will speak at The War Memorial at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9.**

eran will share his insights on war, service and storytelling, including his 2009 novel “Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War.” This book is set in Vietnam in 1969 and draws from Marlantes’ experiences. A Yale graduate and Rhodes Scholar, Marlantes served as a Marine in Vietnam, earning the Navy Cross, Bronze Star and other honors. His celebrated novel “Matterhorn” was

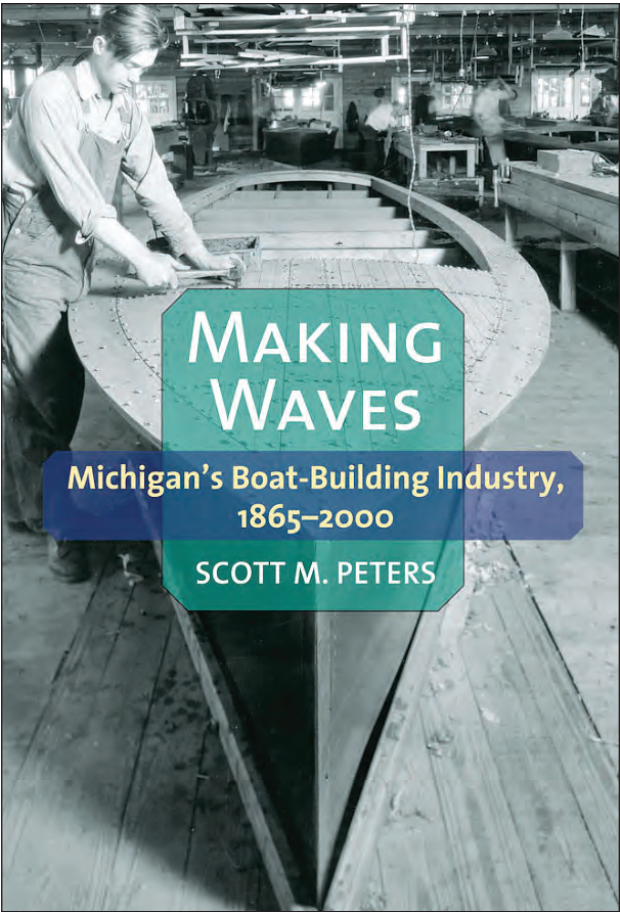
hailed by The New York Times as “one of the most profound and devastating novels ever to come out of Vietnam — or any war.” His other works include “Deep River,” exploring Finnish immigrants in the Pacific Northwest, and his latest release, “Cold Victory,” which examines Finland’s political climate after World War II.

The VIP reception includes an opportunity to meet and speak with

Marlantes while enjoying a complimentary beverage and gourmet hors d’œuvres. For the photo opportunity, pictures of individuals and groups with Marlantes will be taken with one’s own camera or mobile phone, facilitated by The War Memorial’s professional staff. Copies of Marlantes’ works will be available for purchase.

Premium tickets are \$55, general admission tickets are \$30 and student tickets are \$15. Discounts are available for veteran and active military. To purchase tickets, visit [warmemorial.org/eventcalendar11/karl-marlantes](http://warmemorial.org/eventcalendar11/karl-marlantes).

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts a yearlong series of events and programs to honor the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families. Events will include a pair of military history exhibits and a documentary film screening with expert-led discussions, art exhibits and educational lectures that explore the war’s social and psychological impact and conclude with Veterans Day breakfast featuring a keynote address by Medal of Honor Recipient James McCloughan.



## ‘Making Waves’ lecture looks at Michigan’s boat-building industry

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society presents its next Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods.

“Making Waves: Michigan’s Boat Building Industry, 1865-2000” will be discussed.

Michigan may be known as the automobile capital of the world, but it also boasts a similarly rich heritage in the development of boat building. By the late 19th century, Michigan had emerged as the industry hub, drawing together

the most talented designers, builders and engine makers to produce some of the fastest and most innovative boats ever created.

Author Scott Peters, using photos from his book of the same title, will explore the intriguing story of the industry that evolved in Michigan, but changed boating around the world.

The lecture is free and the public is welcome.

Those unable to attend may view the lecture online on the GPHS YouTube channel, where past lectures also may be found.

## AREA ACTIVITIES

### 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.

## ‘A People of Influence: Michigan’s Anishnaabek’ lecture scheduled April 10

The Odawa, Ojibway and Potawatomi peoples have called Michigan home for thousands of years. Their vibrant communities continue to thrive today.

Ford House hosts a presentation that delves into the deep history and enduring stories of the Anishnaabek through the perspective of Eric Hemenway, Anishnaabek historian.

He will present “A People of Influence: Michigan’s Anishnaabek” at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

With more than 20 years of experience, Hemenway brings a

wealth of knowledge and insight from his work with the National Park Service, state of Michigan, public schools and universities across the country. A dedicated advocate for Native American history, he also serves on the Michigan Historical Commission and as a trustee for the Michigan Historical Society.

His talk will illuminate the past and present of Michigan’s Indigenous communities, sharing stories that connect all to the land and its history.

Tickets are \$10 for Friends of Ford House, \$12 for the public.

Purchase tickets online at [tinyurl.com/ykdaf22h](http://tinyurl.com/ykdaf22h).

Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org) or RSVP to [maryjo@familycenterhelps.org](mailto: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.

### 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. Mondays.

◆ 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.

◆ 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.

◆ 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.

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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.

◆ CPR/First Aid Class, 6 to 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 8.

◆ Health for Her at The Helm, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. Bone health and osteoporosis will be discussed. This program is in partnership with The Family Center.

◆ Meet Your Representative with State Rep. Veronica Paiz, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 10.

◆ Field trip to Michigan Central Station, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16. Cost is \$45 for members, \$50 for guests.

### Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org).

◆ 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.

◆ Craft to Go, all day Monday, April 7, at all three branches.

◆ Meet Up & Make: DIY Magnetic Poetry, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ DREAM Lab Teens Only, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, offsite.

◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Friend’s Purse Sale and \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Saturday Drop-In Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

### GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32

See EVENTS, page 7B



# Cybercriminals want YOU!

## Stop the scammers in their tracks



By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Consumers can never let their guard down when it comes to identity theft. Personal information is much more accessible in an increasingly digital world. Consequently, instances of identity theft and consumer fraud continue to grow. Seniors are particularly at risk, as they may be unfamiliar with the types of scams circulating through populations.

The Identity Theft Research Center reported a record number of data compromises in the United States in 2021, up 68 percent over the past year. In the same year The Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Consumer Sentinel Network received more than 5.7 million reports of fraud and identity theft.

The FTC says identity theft is when someone uses your personal or financial information without your consent. Commonly stolen data includes addresses, credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security numbers, or medical insurance numbers.

Though thieves can gather information by intercepting it through digital channels or simply by stealing mail or going through trash, many times people inadvertently share personal information with scammers themselves. It's important to be on the lookout for anyone seeking information from anyone that you did not request to interact with.



Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington urges the public to be aware that the most effective way to stop scammers in their tracks is to be educated on how to protect yourself. It pays to be skeptical and know what not to do if approached by a scammer – or encounter any situation that doesn't seem to be on the level. In just a few seconds of time a scammer can change your life or cause red tape and heartache for years.

"We have to trust our intuition," Washington said, "If it doesn't seem right, it's probably not right."

Here's a look at a few common scams.

### Phone scams

Phone scams may involve telemarketers trying to sell you something in exchange for personal information given over the phone, as well as people impersonating government agencies or credit card companies. "Please confirm account information" or "We'll need your financial information to process" are some of the phrases these scams utilize. Never give out personal information over the phone unless you've confirmed the individual you're speaking to is legitimate. Phone scammers can be pushy, so don't worry about manners if you are feeling forced. Simply hang up!

### Text links

The Pew Research Center says 81 percent of adult mobile phone users use text messages regularly. Scammers utilize text messages to try to gain information too. The text often includes a link to a site that will request personal information. Do not respond to such texts and avoid clicking on the links. If you are texted a link from a known source, it's still a good idea not to click the link provided, but reach out in a new browser with a trusted web address.

### Phishing emails

Phishing emails look like they are coming from legitimate sources, but they often contain malware that can infiltrate computers and other devices to steal identity data. Again, do not click these links but go to a browser and enter a trusted url.

### Medicare card verification

Seniors are now being called, emailed or even visited in person by scammers claiming to represent Medicare. Perpetrators of this scam offer new services or new chipped Medicare cards in exchange for verification of Medicare identification numbers. Medicare numbers should be carefully guarded and seniors should keep in mind it's highly unlikely Medicare representatives will contact them in this way. Work with a trusted Medicare advisor and they can handle any updates to your Medicare coverage.

### Data breaches

It's a fact of life that breaches are on the increase and just about everyone has been affected by one. Many major companies are being breached. By the time it's discovered that data was stolen, your personal

information, which usually includes credit card numbers, email addresses and home addresses, has been circulating for some time. While it's impossible for private citizens to prevent this type of data breach, a credit monitoring service can alert consumers if their information shows up where it seemingly doesn't belong. Many companies that experience breaches offer free credit monitoring for a period of time, or you can sign up for these services on your own.



### QR (Quick Response) codes

Thieves are taking advantage of using shady QR codes more often these days. It's easy to get someone to quickly scan a code they think is authentic — only to find out later that it linked to a false web site designed to collect their private information for nefarious purposes.

One senior was dining out recently when the waiter asked if she would give him a Google review. He produced a business card with a QR code on it, then grabbed her smartphone and scanned the code himself! He didn't return to the table for about 30 minutes. Later she received an alert that someone had tried to log in to her Google account during the same time frame the waiter was absent, but luckily Google had blocked it.

Scammers will use false familiarity to keep you off guard or make you feel embarrassed not to trust them. Don't fall for it. Never allow a stranger or someone you don't know well to handle your smartphone and never scan a code that you aren't sure comes from a trusted source.

Unfortunately scammers are here to stay as the downside of modern tech convenience. It will be an ever-present threat into the future and consumers must exercise due diligence to protect their personal information.

Protect yourself and your data. Staying one step ahead of the bad guys is the only way to enjoy peace of mind as you enjoy the benefits of technology.

## If you have been victimized by scammers, here's what you can do

If you have been impacted by scammers there are things you must do to protect yourself. Firstly, don't panic. Think through what happened and what information you think the crooks may have gained access to.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has some tips on what to do if you have fallen prey to a scam. Does a scammer have remote access to your computer? If so, update your computer's security software, run a scan and delete anything it identifies as a problem.

Then take steps to protect your personal information wherever it looks like information may have been breached.

Also check your credit card, bank and other financial accounts for unauthorized charges or changes. If you see any, report them to the company or institution. Then go to IdentityTheft.gov to see what steps you should take.

Did a scammer take control of your cell phone number and account? In this case contact your service provider to take back

control of your phone number. Once you do, change your account password and any others you may have stored on your phone.

If you have paid a scammer money via a credit card or debit card you must contact the company or bank that issued the card. Tell them it was a fraudulent charge. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.

If a scammer has made an unauthorized transfer from your bank account — contact your bank and tell them it was an unauthorized

debit or withdrawal. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.

Did you pay a scammer with a gift card? To fix this problem, contact the company that issued the gift card. Tell them it was used in a scam and ask them to refund your money. Keep the gift card itself and the gift card receipt.

If you gave a scammer your Social Security number, go to identitytheft.gov to see what steps to take, including how to monitor your credit.

If you gave your username and password, create a new, strong password. If you use the same password anywhere else, change it there, too.

Always report the scam to the FTC. When you report a scam, the FTC can use the information to build cases against scammers, spot trends, educate the public and share data about what is happening in your community. If you experienced a scam — or even spotted one, report it to the FTC at reportfraud.ftc.gov.





# Find new friends at The Helm

## New club combats isolation, loneliness

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Through its newest offering, The Helm at the Boll Life Center is giving older adults the chance to build bonds with people who have common interests.

“We all know as we age, we tend to lose social connections,” said Krista Siddall, The Helm executive director. “We don’t have kids around anymore, so we don’t have kids’ activities to go to. Or we’re empty nesters or our family moved away or we experience the death of a spouse. It gets harder to make new friends or have that support network. But a support network is critical to living longer and having better health outcomes.”

At the recommendation of one of its mem-

bers, The Helm has formed the Friendship Club, which meets 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month, beginning April 10. Members of The Helm and guests are welcome.

“Anyone can come,” Siddall said. “We hope people come who would like to meet someone new and make friends and find someone to do something with — riding bikes or going out for lunch or forming a walking club or even going to the movies.”

Siddall said she’s heard from several The Helm members who no longer participate in their favorite pastimes because their spouse has died.

“If we can help facilitate finding new friends to do things with, it’s a benefit for everyone involved,” she said.

“... The surgeon general has stated that social isolation is an epidemic,” Siddall added. “We see it predominantly in the elderly population, just because we lose so many social outlets as we age. If we increase those social outlets and help support them by offering programs they can take advantage of, we’ll help individuals and the community as a whole become healthier.”

The benefits are many, she noted.

“Yes, it’s super fun and social, but from my side, from the data side, from the healthy outcome side, we see reduced loneliness, reduced depression and anxiety, improved mental health,” Siddall said.

On the physical side, she added, being engaged socially helps manage

chronic conditions, leads to better checkups and encourages healthy habits.

“As older adults engage with each other, they feel needed,” Siddall said. “They feel a sense of belonging and have purpose. There’s less stress, too, and better immune function and resilience.”

Siddall said she hopes participants take owner-

ship of the group; The Helm will provide guidance as needed, but won’t overstep or impede on the club.

“It’s up to them what it will look like,” she said. “We’re just getting them together to get to know one another and try to help facilitate pairing people that have common interests. ... It’s a new option for people who like to meet new people and don’t have partners to do things with.”

Those who check out the group and find fun things to do together also are invited to partake in

the many classes and programs offered at The Helm.

“I’m thankful we have a group to do this,” Siddall said. “It’s fun when we see new research coming out and can do creative and innovative programs that are supported by the community. We create new programs based on what the community wants and we’ve heard from people this is what they want. We thought summer would be a good time to get it going.”

For more information, visit [helmlife.org](http://helmlife.org) or call (313) 882-9600.

## The Helm hosts April offerings

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, is brimming with life as spring begins to bloom.

Among them is a new exercise class and the return of a longstanding favorite.

The new addition to The Helm roster of ongoing exercise classes is Stretch & Relax, which uses low-impact movements to increase flexibility, core strength and balance. There will be a focus on breathing through stretches to pro-

mote relaxation, mindfulness and improved mental health.

The class meets 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursdays, beginning April 3. Cost is \$7 per class for members and \$10 for guests.

Back this quarter is A Matter of Balance, an award-winning program that emphasizes practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. Falls are not inevitable with aging. Increasing strength and balance and

understanding how falls happen and what can be done to control them, helps minimize and avoid them.

This class takes place 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, through April 24. It is free to members and guests.

**Health for Her**

The series Health for Her at The Helm continues with its next presentation 6 to 7:30 p.m.

See HELM, page 5B

Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe Garden Society

(20th C. Edition)

The John S. Newberry estate, “Lake Terrace,” formerly located at 99 Lake Shore in Grosse Pointe Farms, was once graced by magnificent gardens. Renowned for their formal design and lush plantings, historical records and images reveal features like pergola gardens and meticulously arranged floral displays. Edith Stanton (Mrs. John S.) Newberry Jr., a passionate gardener and contributing member of the Michigan Garden Club, cultivated the gardens as a place of exceptional beauty.

Left: Potted dahlia in the “Four Seasons” garden, 1936

Middle: Clipping from *The Detroit News* of Edith Stanton Newberry and Earl D. Burke in her garden, following a meeting of the Michigan Horticultural Society, c. 1935.

Right: Stereoscopic view of the Newberry formal garden, c. 1920.

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to delve deeper into the past.

Grosse Pointe Historical Society

The hub for history in the Grosse Pointes

375 Kercheval Ave.

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

[development@gphistorical.org](mailto:development@gphistorical.org)

(313) 884-7010

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has thousands of resources about the history of the Pointes and adjacent communities. Visit our web site at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to find out more.

Scan the blue code for information on research requests and donations.

Do you like history? Would you like to volunteer? Scan to learn more!

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# 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.

**Peter J. Kernan III**

Peter J. Kernan III, 72, of South Bend, Ind., passed away Saturday, March 22, 2025.

Peter was born Dec. 9, 1952, in Detroit, to Peter J. Kernan Jr. and Ann (nee Schaefer) Kernan. He graduated from Grosse Pointe University School (now University Liggett School) and was a National Merit Scholar. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame, as did his father and grandfather.

Peter loved rock and roll and loved to travel. He began his music career by promoting concerts while still in high school for acts including Bob Seger, MC5, Ted Nugent, Amboy Dukes and Mitch Ryder. He continued promoting concerts at Notre Dame. For many years he published an entertainment newspaper, The River City Review, and owned a chain of record stores called River City Records.

He started a concert company, Pacific Coast Concerts, while living in Malibu, Calif. He traveled the world and worked with many musicians, including Willie Nelson, Styx, The Rolling Stones, Chicago, Steely Dan, Ringo Starr, Aerosmith and more.

Left to cherish his memories are his siblings, Mary K. Mankowski (Vic) of Okemos, Christopher Kernan (Pam) of Sarasota, Fla., Gilbert Kernan (Kim) of Rowayton, Conn., and Genevieve Lyon (Frank) of Traverse City; cherished nieces and nephews, Peter Kernan (Caroline), Michelle Newman (Brandon), Gregory Mankowski (Regan), Avery Kernan, James Lyon (Connor), Katherine Lyon (Nathan) and Kevin Lyon; great-nieces and great-nephews, Hazel and Tom Kernan and Carter, Mack and Kennedy Newman; and his aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services occurred at Kaniewski Funeral Home in South Bend, Ind. He was entombed at St. Joseph Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the University of Notre Dame Family Memorial Scholarship, 1100 Grace Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556, bit.ly/4c4bpZo.

Pete lived a great life and will be missed by all who knew him. His family

thanks “Uncle Bear” for all the postcards he sent during his travels.

**Dorothy Marietta Charlotte Cusmano**

Dorothy Marietta Charlotte (nee DeProfio) Cusmano, 84, passed away Saturday, March 29, 2025, in Rochester Hills, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and educator.

Born Sept. 6, 1940, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, she was raised in Detroit by her loving parents, Dorothy and Walter DeProfio, who predeceased her. After graduating from St. David High School in Detroit, she earned a degree in education from Wayne State University. Dorothy had a natural comfort and happiness while surrounded by kids. She dedicated her early career to teaching in the Detroit Public Schools system. Later, she paused her teaching career to raise her family before returning to the classroom. She spent more than 20 years as a devoted and highly respected teacher at Law Elementary School in Detroit, leaving a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues.

Dorothy is survived by her husband of 60 years, Samuel Cusmano. Together they built a beautiful family and created a home filled with liveliness and laughter. Her children, Sam Cusmano, Jason Cusmano (Pam), Charlotte Zanolli, Geneva Yeager (Charles) and David Cusmano, were her absolute greatest joy. She cherished her role as a grandmother to five grandchildren, Matthew, Sam, Michael, Alexa and Dylan. Dorothy also is survived by her much loved and supportive sisters, Yolanda Turner (Charles) and Edie DeProfio.

Dorothy was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Park and lived there from 1978 to 2021. She embraced life’s simple pleasures, from gardening and crossword puzzles to walking, playing the piano, reading and watching movies. A talented cook, she loved preparing meals for family and friends and creating cherished memories around the dinner

table. Her incredible strength and determination were constants in her life. She never gave up on anything or anyone.

Dorothy’s life was defined by love, dedication and resilience. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. The love she shared and the example she set will remain forever in the hearts of her family, friends and former students.

A gathering to celebrate Dorothy’s life will take place this summer. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her honor to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, P.O. Box 414238, Boston, MA 02241, themmrff.org/?campaign=470475.

**Douglas Paul Schmitz**

Douglas Paul Schmitz, 84, passed away Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

Doug was born in Flint and grew up on an 80-acre farm in Davison. As he grew up, he loved working on the farm in the summer and helping his father, Peter J. Schmitz, and mother, Elsie (nee Venne) Schmitz.

Doug attended Holy Redeemer Catholic School in Detroit, where he played football, basketball and had a special love for baseball. After high school, Doug worked as often as he could on the assembly line at General Motors to put himself through college at Eastern Michigan University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting.

Doug met his wife, Judy Curtis, at Eastern. They got married after graduation and Doug took a job at a Chevrolet Manufacturing in the accounting department. He also began teaching evening business classes at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) part-time. Doug loved to teach.

Doug and Judy had two children, Tim and Kelly. While the kids were young, Doug was transferred by Chevrolet to the Warren Tech Center in the finance department, where he held various positions.

Doug and Judy amicably divorced and continued to raise their children.



Peter J. Kernan III

Doug loved to watch their high school sports games, and he and Tim played golf together.

Doug married Susan Keller in 1987. Their son, Brian, was born in 1989. Doug came to know Jesus, and he and Brian professed their faith with a baptism in 1997. Doug and his family’s lives were forever changed. They worshiped and served in their new church, Crosspointe Christian Church (formerly Grosse Pointe Baptist Church).

Doug loved watching his grandsons, Brett and Derek, play soccer, and they all played golf together when their schedules permitted. Doug and Sue had fun babysitting Kelly’s daughters, Ally and Gianna. Grandpa enjoyed playing paper dolls with his adorable granddaughters. They set up BRIO trains often. Doug was a serious Lionel train man with an impressive layout in a large room in his basement.

Before Doug completed 36 years with GM, he enjoyed the assignment of controller of the large Pontiac Metal Fabrications facility. He accepted an early retirement buyout in 1999. He began his new journey in retirement. He played golf with Sue and all of his boys. He also enjoyed his train layout, building many bridges and buildings himself.

Doug gave much of his time to his church. He served on the search committee for a new pastor from 2002 to 2003. He was the deacon of property for almost six years and worked tirelessly on big projects, such as building renovations, establishing electronic signs and the first fire alarm system and more. Doug loved reading his Bible and learning about his almighty God. Outside of church, he facilitated Bible studies in his home and attended Bible Study Fellowship men’s evening class with his sons, Brian and Tim, and grandsons, Brett and Derek, for several years.

Doug loved being a grandpa. The last six years of his life brought added joy to his heart with the blessing of his two youngest grandchildren, Lydia and Nathan. The little ones attend daytime Bible Study Fellowship with Grandma Sue. It was Doug’s heart’s desire for all of his family and loved ones to know and love Jesus.

Doug is survived by his wife, Sue; son, Tim (Amal) and their sons, Brett (Katie) and Derek (Miya); daughter, Kelly Vesprini (Dino) and their daughters, Ally and Gianna; and son, Brian (Lisa) and their children, Lydia, 5, and Nathan, 2.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 7, at Crosspointe Christian Church, 21336 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, with visitation to begin at 9:30 a.m. A luncheon will follow with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.



Dorothy M. Cusmano



Amy Hartmann Taylor

**Amy Hartmann Taylor**

Amy Hartmann Taylor, 64, a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe, passed away Thursday, March 27, 2025. Her life was marked by compassion, humility, public service and advocacy for others.

After graduating from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1978, Amy attended the University of Michigan and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Following graduation from U of M in 1982, she moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Amy returned to Detroit and attended Wayne State University Law School, where she was a member of the Wayne Law Review. Upon graduating in 1986, Amy spent nine years as an assistant United States attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. During that time, she received the Director’s Award for Superior Performance. As co-founder of the nonprofit organization Michigan Children’s Law Center, Amy advocated relentlessly for the safety and well-being of children in Oakland and Wayne counties. In 2008, Amy left the public sector and began work in estate planning and trust administration, which culminated in her co-founding the estate and trust planning firm Hartmann & Nihem, PLLC, in 2018.

Amy’s dedication to the community was extensive, including serving on the Legal/Financial Network of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, being a member and vice-chairman of the City of Grosse Pointe Downtown Development Authority and serving as a board member of The Family Center.

Amy is survived by her loving husband, Chick Taylor; son, Charlie; mother-in-law, Sue; and sister-in-law, Sara (Cheryl). Amy was predeceased by her mother, Elaine Hartmann; father, Joseph Hartmann; and stepsisters, Lesa and Nina.

Amy was a devoted wife, mother and daughter-in-law. She loved what she did and went above and beyond to help anyone she knew in need. Amy, along with her heartwarming smile, will be profoundly missed by her family, friends and clients.

A gathering will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12, until an 11 a.m. service at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe



Douglas Paul Schmitz



Robert Neil Brown

Farms.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the American Glaucoma Society, 655 Beach, San Francisco, CA 94109, or secure.americanglaucomasociety.net/ags/Donations.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

**Robert Neil Brown**

Robert Neil Brown, 80, passed away Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Robert was born May 23, 1944, in St. Joseph, Mich. He formerly resided in Washington, D.C., and Syracuse, N.Y., where he practiced law. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1966, and attended University of Michigan Law School, earning a Juris Doctor degree in 1969. He also attended George Washington University Law School and earned a Master of Laws degree in 1971.

Robert was a law professor at University of Detroit Mercy, teaching constitutional law, administrative law and elder law. He was an active member of Christ Church Detroit, serving on its capital campaign, finance and outreach committees. He was a Lay Eucharistic Minister and served on the vestry. Bob was a trustee of the Episcopal Diocese of Detroit, board member of the Salvation Army of Detroit and a member of the Country Club of Detroit.

Robert enjoyed traveling, golfing, hiking, sailing, contemporary art, reading and supporting Belle Isle. He supported the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Detroit Institute of Arts. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor, could pratfall at will and was always kind.

Robert was predeceased by his parents; daughter, Alexa Jane Brown; and sister, Elizabeth Work. He is survived by his wife, Claire Pilliod Brown; and five nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at Christ Church Detroit, 960 E. Jefferson, Detroit, with a private reception to follow. He will be interred at Christ Church Detroit.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

See OBITS, page 7B

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# GP Soroptimists award more than \$11,000

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe, or SIGP, is a global volunteer organization whose mission is to provide women and girls with access to the education and training needed to achieve economic empowerment.

Wednesday, March 12, SIGP hosted its annual awards dinner at Fishbone’s Rhythm Kitchen & Café in St. Clair Shores.

The Virginia Wagner Educational Award honors the effort of a woman attending a college or university to earn a bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree. Judging is based on effort toward education, scholarship, extracurricular activities and financial need.

This year’s Virginia Wagner Educational Award was presented to LaMia Garth. She graduated from Cass Technical High School last June with a 4.0 grade-point average. She enrolled in Virginia State University last fall and is majoring in psychology. Garth said her goal is to specialize in trauma-informed care for teenagers and young adults who have experienced significant loss or hardship as a result of substance abuse.

Next, SIGP presented the Ruby Award, which honors a woman who, while volunteering or working for a nonprofit organization that provides services to women and/or girls,



COURTESY PHOTOS

Rosanne Plasky, Ruby Award winner.

makes an extraordinary difference in improving the lives of those they serve.

This year’s Ruby Award was presented to Rosanne Plasky, in honor of the Mercy Education Project in southwest Detroit. A nonprofit organization, MEP was established in 1992 and began as a tutoring and summer program serving just over a dozen economically disadvantaged girls. Today, MEP serves hundreds of girls and women by offering a variety of programs to meet their basic educational needs. Plasky joined MEP in 2015 and plans to use the award to help cover the costs of transporting the women

to GED testing sites.

Finally, Live Your Dream Awards, which are specific to the Soroptimist International of the Americas, were presented. This unique award assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families. Recipients must be working toward a college or technical degree and demonstrate financial need. This year SIGP presented LYD awards to Tyechia Stevens, Cerita Cholette and Charlene Okwu.

SIGP also demonstrates its commitment to helping women and girls reach their educational goals in other ways. Each year, SIGP funds up to five young women attending high school in Grosse Pointe to attend preparatory classes for the ACT/SAT tests used for college admission.

In addition, SIGP annually sponsors up to five young women to attend the St. Anne’s Secondary School in Ghana, Africa.

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that accepts donations throughout the year. Meetings occur the second Wednesday of each month. To attend, email [grossepointe.soropist@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointe.soropist@gmail.com). For more information, visit [grossepointe.soroptimist.org/](http://grossepointe.soroptimist.org/). Members need not live in Grosse Pointe.



From left, SIGP President Bette Lepouttre, Virginia Wagner Educational Award winner LaMia Garth, and SIGP Virginia Wagner Educational Award Chairwoman Carolyn Barth.



From left, SIGP President Bette Lepouttre; Live Your Dream Award winners Tyechia Stevens, Cerita Cholette and Charlene Okwu; and SIGP Secretary Mary Bryk.

## Questers learn history of World War II landing ships

By Kathleen Conway  
Guest Writer

Grosse Pointe resident and licensed Great Lakes captain Patrick McKee recently entertained members of the Pettipointe Chapter of the Questers with a lively and informative presentation on his personal involvement, along with hundreds of volunteers, in the restoration of the World War II USS LST 393, which took part in the D-Day Landings on Omaha Beach. McKee is a board member and representative from the USS LST 393 Veterans Museum in Muskegon.

LST 393 — LST stands for Landing Ship, Tank — is one of only two surviving LSTs from a fleet of 1,051 used during World War II to transport tanks, jeeps, armaments and personnel to beachhead battlefields across the Atlantic to the European Theater and Pacific Theater. LST 393 carried 28 Sherman tanks along with jeeps, soldiers and equipment to Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. In all, LST 393 made 75 voyages to foreign shores, including 30 to Normandy. It won battle stars for its service in the occupation of Sicily, the invasion of Salerno and the D-Day invasion.

McKee is vice president of Sand Products Corp., a firm founded more than 100 years ago by his grandfather, Max McKee. Sand Products purchased LST 393 after the war and used it to transport new automobiles to dealerships across Lake Michigan from Muskegon to Milwaukee. The auto ferry business continued until 1973, when the boat was placed in long-term lay-up at the company’s dock in Muskegon. There it sat more than 25 years until 2000, when a Muskegon museum group went to work and made some progress toward restoration, along with the help of the Michigan LST Association.



Betsy Berg-Jachman congratulates Patrick McKee after his presentation on World War II Landing Ship, Tank 393.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHLEEN CONWAY

After several years of effort, the volunteer groups returned LST 393 to its wartime configuration by painting it to look like it did during WWII and replacing the deck guns and bow ramp doors, which had not moved since they were welded shut in the late 1940s.

Today, the ship has been restored to near its original glory with the addition of thousands of artifacts, as well as the restoration of more areas of the ship. It serves as a veterans’ museum community center and important attraction in the Muskegon area. The ship is open to the public for tours and hosts a major D-Day anniversary com-

memoration and salute to veterans each June.

Questers is an international organization founded in 1944, to

encourage the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks. The Pettipointe Chapter began in Grosse Pointe in 1966.



Above, LST 393 unloading a Sherman tank on a European beachhead battlefield in 1944. Below, the restored LST 393 is now a veterans museum in Muskegon.



## Rotary notes

The Grosse Pointe Rotary Club celebrated March as Women’s History Month by gathering its female members for a photo.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Grosse Pointe Rotary Club recently heard from Heidi Pfannes, president of the Albert Khan Foundation. She spoke to club members about Khan’s work to create Detroit’s skyline. On April 17, the foundation will host an event, inviting the public to see some of Khan’s more than 10,000 drawings from the vault. A handful of Rotarians plan to attend.

## Moross Greenway spring cleanup is April 12

The Moross Greenway Project is in search of volunteers for its annual spring cleanup event, which takes place 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12.

Those interested are asked to gather next to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 21150 Moross, at Edgefield. Parking is available at the church.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves and dress for the weather, as the work will be done rain or shine. Rubber boots are recommended, as the islands often are wet this time of year.

Water, trash bags and traffic safety vests will be provided.

Volunteers will focus on two main tasks:

◆ Trash collection on the large islands in the center of Moross.

◆ Garden bed cleanup, using a method of cutting plant material into small pieces and leaving it in the beds to nourish the soil. Volunteers are asked to bring hedge trimmers — especially battery-operated trimmers — and/or pruning shears if they are interested in garden cleanup.

Moross Greenway board members will be on hand, working alongside volunteers and able to answer any questions.

For more information, visit [morossgreenway.org](http://morossgreenway.org).



# LIFE & LEISURE



2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 6C & 7C COMICS

## Edsel Ford’s powerboating pastime

### GPAA lecture is April 6

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Mike Kroll was minding his own business as a docent at the Michigan Flight Museum at Willow Run when he stumbled across some little-known information about Edsel Ford’s short-lived run at powerboat racing.

“I was digging around, looking at Edsel,” Kroll said, noting he tried to further research his findings, but “there was nothing out there. This story has been sitting for 100 years.”

Kroll did some digging of his own and will share his findings during the season’s final Your Old Mansion lecture, presented by the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Ford was named president of the company in 1919. His powerboat racing era lasted from 1920 to 1924, during a time when the company was experiencing exponential growth as the Model T penetrated the

market, Kroll said.

“He never went to college; he was absorbed into the plant out of high school,” said Kroll, a former fire investigator with a degree in library science. “So he takes over the company in its heyday. He’s in his late 20s and into his 30s and the company is making buckets of money. He was a sportsman; he enjoyed fishing and ice boating. Then he got into powerboat racing.”

Following World War I, with the growing popularity of boat racing on the Detroit River, Ford contemplated putting leftover airplane engines to a different use.

“Edsel decides to modify airplane engines and ended up holding a world speed record for two years,” Kroll said.

During his racing career, from 1920-24, Ford raced six boats and three different engine types. He entered 12 races and won three times. He drove eight heats in six races and drove two wins.

During the five-year span, his speed improved 75.4 percent, from 35 to 61.4 mph, and horsepower improved 175 percent, from 200 to 550 hp.

Though Ford used a powerboat to commute from his home on Lake St. Clair to the office at the Rouge Plant in Dearborn, his racing days were numbered.

By 1924, he turned his attention to aviation, Kroll said, and more specifically to the Ford Trimotor, nicknamed the Tin Goose.

Kroll said he hopes attendees get insight into Ford’s character through the lecture, which he called “a retirement project.”

“I hope it provides some insight into Edsel’s character,” Kroll said. “Powerboat racing is a hard-cut business. His reputation amongst his powerboat racing crew ... he always knew



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE KROLL

For five years, Edsel Ford raced powerboats on the Detroit River.

where he was going. They said he was the kind of guy who wouldn’t ask you to do something he wouldn’t do himself.”

Kroll said his lecture is open to anyone interested in learning about this little-known piece of history.

“It’s not only about the story,” he said, “but it’s a story that hasn’t been told in the field in 100 years. This is a story for everybody.”

“... I hope they’re pleasantly surprised,” he added. “Of all the research I’ve done,

there’s never been one negative thing said about him. He was a guy with a silver spoon that didn’t waste it. He’s characterized as a person who’s been camouflaged by his creations. He was an artist and a businessman. ... The powerboat story is the entertainment; the lessons learned — the character of the man — is the message.”

Tickets for the lecture are \$30 for GPAA members, \$35 for nonmembers, and available online at [grossepointeartcenter.org](http://grossepointeartcenter.org).



Edsel Ford modified airplane engines leftover after World War I for use in powerboats.

### ASK JEFF AND DEBRA

## Why should I quit?

**Q:** I feel like people are ganging up on me — even my family and friends. Everybody tells me I need to go to treatment. They tell me I’m out of control. But I still have a good job and my kids still love me (even though they live with my ex). I’m not lying in the gutter. The truth is, vodka is my best friend. It’s not judgy, it’s reliable and it’s legal. I just wish everybody would get off my back.

**A:** Aren’t you lucky? You’ve lost your marriage and custody of your kids. Your friends and family are turning up the heat. But, as luck would have it, your best pal can be found at the corner store.

We suspect “disgusted” means more than just disgusted with the people around you. We think, when you look in the mirror in the morning, disgusted is what you feel.

Think back a few years. Could you ever imagine yourself in this situation? Didn’t you look down on people who drank their way out of a good marriage? Didn’t you have choice words for people who lost custody of their kids? You didn’t plan it this way, did you? No one does.

No one volunteers to be an alcoholic. No one puts addiction on their bucket list. It’s not something a person can anticipate or avoid. It happens before our eyes, but we don’t see it. Alcoholism robs us of our most precious gifts, but we don’t realize it.

You’re in good company. Millions around the world have been in your shoes, from the penthouse to the outhouse. The AA people say this disease is “cunning, baffling and powerful,” and they’re right. We want to believe we’re in control, even as our world is falling apart.

You mentioned your friends giving you grief. Are they all non-drinkers? Of course not. We would bet they all drank with you at one time or another. But each one of them can probably tell you why your drinking has become a nightmare, with specific examples. When your drinking buddies say you have a problem, it’s shocking, isn’t it? What’s the

world coming to?

One thing you said wasn’t quite right: that alcohol is reliable. True, you can count on the vodka early on, but as years pass, you need to drink more and more to get the same effect. You build up a tolerance — one of the early signs of a drinking problem. If you don’t cut back then, you’re on a slippery slope. We suspect your tolerance increased again and again over the years. Today, alcohol probably isn’t all that reliable. We suspect you’re probably having to use other things, too.

But you are lucky. You’ve still got friends and family who care (even if they’re annoying you). You still have a job and you still have enough heart to value the love of your kids. Now all you have to do is quit pretending. If you can quit pretending, you can probably quit drinking.

Why? Because the first step in recovery is accepting the truth. After you accept that you’re an alcoholic, then you can probably accept the fact you need help. After that, you quit trying to run the show and let someone guide you. Just follow the directions you get from people who have been there — and back.

You’re lucky because your life is a mess and people still love you. Lucky you! Accept the help they’re offering. What do you have to lose? In our experience, if you put as much effort into recovery as you have into drinking, you’ll make it with room to spare. Every day, morning, noon and night, there are people attending meetings and finding relief from their alcoholism. The talk, they laugh and they find their way into a new destiny. You’ll do the same, if you give yourself a chance. Just take the first step. You’ll find a chair in the meeting with your name on it: Lucky.

*Jeff and Debra Jay help families resolve addiction problems. They live in Grosse Pointe Farms and have been working the recovery field more than 30 years. Learn more about their work and their books at [lovefirst.net](http://lovefirst.net).*

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# No pooping; this is my yard, not your dog’s toilet

**Dear Gabby:** A neighbor keeps letting their dog do its business on my lawn without cleaning up. I don’t want to be the grumpy neighbor, but it’s getting out of hand. Help! — Shocked in the Shores

**Dear Shocked:** Nobody likes stepping in surprise “gifts.” A polite chat might do the trick, but if that doesn’t work, a friendly sign like “Please

scoop the poop — our shoes thank you!” could send the message without confrontation. If the problem continues, a neighborhood pet waste station might be a good community solution.

*We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to [advice@grossepointenews.com](mailto:advice@grossepointenews.com).*



# I have an old flame I can’t put out

**DEAR ANNIE:** I’m writing in response to “Grieving and Not Prepared for a Confrontation” whose husband died before he could recoup a sum of money he lent to his brother; now, she needs that money and is looking to collect. Your wishy-washy advice to this widow on how to approach her brother-in-law Simon was like advising her to take a water pistol to a gunfight! This ungrateful brother already “exploded” and made his position clear. “Grieving and Not Prepared” needs to teach this ingrate a lesson, hire

a lawyer and subpoena the sister to verify there was indeed a loan that he admitted he would not pay back! This irresponsible jerk should face the music. — Enough Is Enough  
**DEAR ENOUGH:** You’re right that Simon needs to be held accountable for his actions -- or lack thereof. Seeking the advice of a lawyer is a surefire way to determine what options “Grieving and Not Prepared” has in her situation. When it comes to people like Simon who are set in their ways and don’t play by the rules, the only

hope for getting them to listen is taking action.  
**DEAR ANNIE:** I am a happily married middle-aged woman. In high school, I had a relationship that continued off and on for a few years until he cheated on me and we finally went our separate ways. About 15 years ago, he bumped into my sister, and we got back in touch via email. It was cordial, and we mainly shared information about our spouses and children. One day, he called my office, and when I asked him why he was calling, he said he wanted to know if there was “any-

thing left.” I told him that there wasn’t and that I had married my soul mate. He accepted that, and we went back to annual Christmas cards and emails of family updates. About eight years ago, I started to feel like I didn’t want to continue communicating (he’d sent an email that made me uncomfortable), so I stopped responding to his emails (he sends one every year on my birthday). A few weeks ago, I got a card at my office saying he remembered that in college, I had a new down coat that was stolen from his apartment and that he was planning on sending



## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

me a new one. I recycled the card and thought nothing more about it. Last week, an expensive down coat arrived at my office with a note saying it was a replacement for the one I lost 47 years ago. I returned the coat. I’m baffled. I’m not sure if I should email him and ask him to stop communicating with me or continue to not respond. I thought that my eight years of silence would show him that I wasn’t interested in communicating with him, but now I wonder if it just created a space for him to fill the silence with what he wants to believe. What should I do? Thanks for any advice. — Stumped

**DEAR STUMPED:** While most people would indeed interpret silence as disinterest, your ex clearly needs a more straightforward message. Send him one last email with any and everything you have left to say. Explain how uncomfortable you feel, and though that likely wasn’t his intention, you don’t wish to communicate with him anymore in any capacity. Block him on all communication platforms. If he continues reaching out or contacting you through your work, reach out to your local police department for guidance on how to proceed. Your safety and security are chief concerns in this situation

**DEAR ANNIE:** A few years ago, my husband — always kind, patient and gentle throughout our nearly 40-year marriage — began behaving in ways that shocked me. He became verbally cruel, aggressive, and would erupt in sudden fits of rage over seemingly nothing. It escalated to the point where he threw a plastic water bottle at me and threatened to hit me — something entirely out of character. I took it seriously, had him arrested and pushed for a medical evaluation when he refused to seek help on his own.

To everyone’s surprise, tests revealed he had suffered a small stroke -- specifically in the part of the brain that governs personality and emotional regulation. He had none of the typical symptoms like slurred speech or loss of motor skills, only this frightening and drastic personality change. With treatment and medication, he’s improved significantly, and while some anger still surfaces, we understand the root cause now. I often read letters from people whose spouses are struggling with unexplained behavioral changes later in life, and I wonder: How many of these cases could be due to a silent medical issue such as a stroke or neurological condition? When a longtime partner suddenly changes in disturbing or aggressive ways, how can a spouse distinguish between emotional issues, mental illness and an underlying medical condition such as a stroke? What steps should one take to get help, and how do you balance love and safety during such a crisis? — Still Together After 40 Years.  
**DEAR STILL TOGETHER:** Thank you for bringing more awareness into the possibilities of personality changes later in life. Taking your husband’s threat seriously and insisting on a medical evaluation saved your marriage. Many people don’t realize that strokes or neurological issues can cause sudden, drastic changes in personality without the classic physical symptoms. Your experience is a vital reminder that behavioral changes, especially sudden aggression or confusion, can have medical causes. I hope your letter brings awareness and hope to others in similar situations.  
*Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).*  
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# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



If there’s one thing I could do every single week for the rest of my life, it would be this: the head spa treatment at Chez Lou Lou Salon.

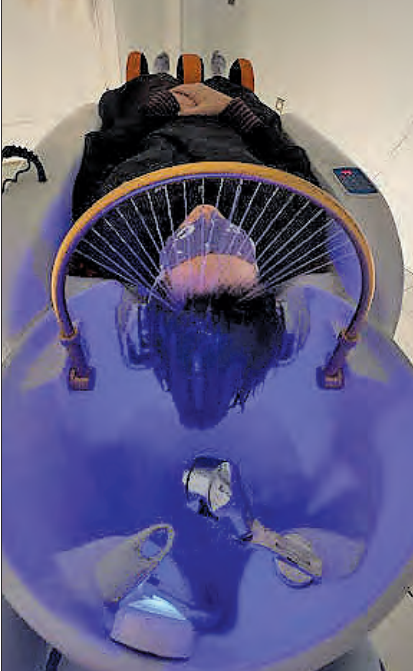
I walked into the salon expecting a relaxing experience, but had no idea just how deeply restorative it would be.

From the moment I arrived, the entire team made me feel like I was about to embark on the most luxurious journey. The receptionist greeted me warmly and handed me a glass of water while Misty, the esthetician performing the service, welcomed me into the private head spa room. The stylists at Chez Lou Lou are truly special, kind, warm and professional, setting the perfect

tone for an indulgent experience.

I’ll admit I thought this treatment was going to be done by a machine — maybe some high-tech scalp massager or futuristic automated system, something straight out of a sci-fi movie. When I realized Misty herself would be performing the service, I was even more thrilled. There’s something about an actual person doing the treatment that makes all the difference. And let me tell you, Misty has a gift.

The experience begins with you getting settled into an automated massage table that uses gentle pressure points to relax your arms, legs and back. Honestly, that alone would have been



enough to make my day. But then, the real magic starts.

Misty turns down the lights and begins a combination of scalp treatments, deep cleansing and hydrating therapies. She incorporates different types of massage techniques, tools and luxurious products designed to nourish the hair and scalp. I lost track of time as she worked her magic, melting away any stress I had carried in with me. Her touch is precise and soothing, lulling me into a near-sleep state multi-

ple times.

By the time I walked out, I was in an absolute trance, like I had just come back from a week-long vacation. My hair felt cleaner and healthier, my soul felt lighter and my mind was clearer than it had been in ages.

If I could recommend one gift to get for a stressed-out mom, hard-working coworker, best friend, sister or, honestly, anyone in your life, it would be this. The head spa treatment at Chez Lou Lou isn’t just a luxury; it’s a necessity.

And while I’d love to get this done every week, well, budgets exist and my bank account has other opinions. But let me tell you, this is one indul-

gence that is 100 percent worth the money. If relaxation had a price tag, this would be it.

This treatment gets an obvious 5 out of 5 alligators. If you try it, give us a shout and let us know how you liked it. We are sure you’ll be extremely impressed.

*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



# Tender beef stew with veggies

By Olivia Monette  
*Special Writer*

With our ever hungry household of six we are always on the hunt for recipes that are straight forward, flavorful, hearty and full of good-for-you veggies and protein.

The ingredients came together in the pot rather quickly and was a big hit with everyone. There were multiple takers for seconds, and I’ll definitely be keeping this one on my list of go-to recipes in the future.

I chose to serve it alongside mashed potatoes (store bought to make it simple!) and dinner rolls, but that’s optional.

This stew is sure to satisfy everyone at the table and is also fabulous as leftovers. This is

one you could easily multiply for feeding an even bigger crowd as well. Enjoy!

**Ingredients:**

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp butter
- 2 pounds beef stew meat (chuck roast), cut into cubes
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 oz tomato paste
- 4 cups beef broth or stock
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

- 2 tsp dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 large carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 parsnips, peeled and chopped
- 1 cup frozen peas

**Directions:**

Heat the olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Generously season the beef stew meat with salt and pepper. Brown the meat on all sides, about five minutes, then remove from the pot and set aside.

In the same pot, add the chopped onion, carrots, parsnips, garlic and butter and cook until the onions are softened, about three minutes.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA MONETTE

Add in the tomato paste and cook until color deepens to a deep red brick color. About five minutes.

Return the beef to the pot, then add the beef broth, Worcestershire sauce,

thyme and bay leaf. Bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat to low and cover. Let it simmer for 1 hour, or until the beef is tender.

Stir in the frozen peas and cook for an addi-

tional five minutes to heat through.

Remove the bay leaves, then serve the stew hot with your choice of sides.

*Recipe adapted from The Pioneer Woman.*

# How much do you know?

Sitting down at a decent (non-fast food) restaurant with an actual wine list can often be a pitfall for people who like wine but don’t know an awful lot about it.

Not every restaurant has a knowledgeable sommelier or even a wine-savvy server, leaving guests confused by a wine list that looks more like hieroglyphics.

And with prices as high as they have been recently, the decision isn’t inconsequential. It can be costly and may lead diners to a choice that isn’t very tasty.

Without guidance from the staff, guests may get befuddled. In this short space, it’s not possible to cover many details. But there are some basics to apply.

First things first: When you order a bottle of wine and it arrives at the table, the wait staff will show you the label. Make certain it conforms with what’s on the wine list.

This is crucial. In some cases, the list shows a particular vintage. See if the label is the same. In most cases, the best wine should be young. Today, for example, reasonably priced chardonnays

from 2023 are preferable to one from, say, 2020.

However, more expensive chardonnays might be better from an older vintage.

Equally as importantly, the bottle brought to your table should be opened in front of you. If the cork is already out of the bottle, immedi-

ately reject the wine. It doesn’t happen often, but I’ve heard of restaurants reusing fancy bottles (with image labels) that they’ve refilled with cheaper wine.

One indication of higher quality wine is that it has a limited geographical designation. Wines with a “California” designation can be



COURTESY PHOTO

**A sommelier is a waiter in a restaurant who has charge of wines and their service.**

fine. But designations such as Sonoma County, Mendocino County or Santa Barbara County are usually better.

The best wines to go with dinner usually have moderate alcohol levels. About 13 percent is ideal, but chances are you won’t find anything below 14 percent. If the restaurant isn’t busy, pick three wines that might appeal to you and ask the staff to bring the one with the lowest alcohol level.

If you’re seeking a lower-alcohol, slightly sweet wine (they go great with Thai food), ask the staff if they have German riesling. Often, they are at 10 percent alcohol or less.

White and rose wines

tend to be the best when chilled, but not frozen. Chardonnays and sauvignon blancs are good cool, but generally, you get more flavor from a wine if it is not kept in the ice bucket forever.

Exceptions to this are riesling, gewurztraminer and other aromatic white wines.

In general, grape varieties that are not as popular are usually the best values. If a chardonnay and a pinot blanc are equally priced, often the latter will be the better value.

Young red wines are best decanted, to give them some air. (Decanting higher-alcohol reds also helps to remove a bit of alcohol.) However, many restaurants are not set up to do this.

If you are shopping at a retail store, do not hesitate to use your cellphone as a research assistant. An app called Wine Searcher may validate retail prices and explain the wine a bit.

**Wine of the Week:**  
2023 Whitehaven Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand (\$18) — The attractive tropical fruit aroma has a hint of lime zest and white



gooseberry. There is ample acidity to balance out a trace of sweetness. Made specifically for the United States market, it is often discounted to about \$15.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BROCK MEDIA, ARCADE PICTURES, BBC FILM AND MBK PRODUCTIONS  
Actress Saoirse Ronan as Rona in the 2024 movie “The Outrun,” written by Amy Liptrot, Nora Fingscheidt and Daisy Lewis and directed by Nora Fingscheidt.

MOVIE REVIEW  
“The Outrun”  
2024 - Rated R  
1 hr 58 min  
★★★★★

In my opinion, Saoirse Ronan is one of the finest actors to come along in quite a while. Perhaps it’s partially due to the fact that she’s so selective about the roles she takes on. Over the last decade or so, she’s has made a number of memorable films including “Brooklyn,” “Atonement,” “Ammonite,” and “On Chesil Beach.” It should come as no surprise that she was nominated for four Oscars by the time she was in her mid twenties. I think this film just might be her finest performance to date.

“The Outrun” is the story of a young woman struggling with alcoholism and the healing power of nature and solitude. It’s based on the memoir by Amy Liptrot, who also penned the screenplay with director Nora Fingscheidt (“System Crasher,” “The Unforgivable”). The film

takes place mainly in the Orkney Islands off the northern coast of Scotland and in London. The opening scene is a gorgeous piece of filmmaking that seductively lures you into the story and simply won’t let go.

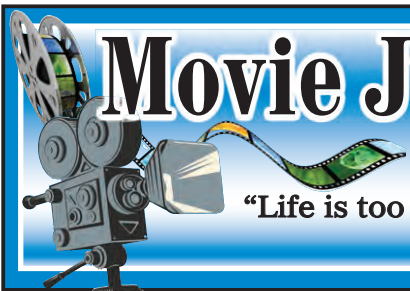
We see a young girl walking along a rugged shoreline and then the camera shifts to a haunting underwater sequence. While this is occurring, we hear the voice of Rona (Saoirse Ronan) telling us the story of the origins of selkies. According to Celtic legend, they’re the spirits of drowned sailors, transformed into seals, and how they sometimes come ashore at night, shed their skins and take human form. It’s important to keep this bit of magic in mind when viewing this film as it parallels the life of Rona.

Our protagonist grew up on the remote island of Papa Westray (or Papay). Interestingly, this is the first movie to be shot on the ruggedly beautiful island. She’s lured to London to pursue a graduate degree when her life



Movie Poster.

soon begins to unravel. Rona morphs into a party animal and becomes a raving alcoholic. She spends a good deal of time in pubs and her binges start to take their



# Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

toll. Some of the time she’s just a happy drunk, living large and enjoying herself, dancing and hanging with friends. But often she spins out of control and becomes a violent, falling-down-drunk that simply can’t control herself.

Rona has a devoted

devout Christian and the two of them are often at loggerheads. Her father Andrew (Stephen Dillane) lives nearby on his sheep farm and she helps him out with chores. Andrew suffers from bipolar disorder and it’s implied that this may be partially responsible for Rona’s alcoholism.

Anxious to get away from the London scene, Rona takes a job with a wildlife organization, which entails looking for an elusive bird called a corncrake. It’s a migratory bird that used to be common on the Orkney Archipelago, but is now rarely spotted. Her job is to travel the countryside in search of the bird. This is a welcome opportunity for her as it provides ample time for self-reflection and healing by immersing herself in nature.

There’s a scene near the end of the movie that I found extremely moving. Rona is walking along the rocky coastline as the waves crash against the shore. We hear powerful symphonic music building towards a crescendo as she flails her arms, as if conducting the elements. She throws her whole body into her performance and we realize at this moment that she’s finally in control of her destiny. It’s such an exhilarating sequence, I was close to tears watching it. And it’s a scene I keep thinking about. (Actually, I’ve rewatched it several times and it has the same affect on me every time).

If you’re looking for a masterpiece of a film, don’t miss this one. I



highly recommend it. Warning: This film includes scenes with strobe lights, which can be potentially dangerous to people with health conditions associated with photosensitivity. Currently streaming on Netflix. And to rent on Apple TV, Fandango, Amazon, and other steaming services.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

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

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



## Kid Scoop

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Rona with her father (Stephen Dillane).



Rona (Ronan) with boyfriend Daynin (Paapa Essiedu).



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# Weekly Challenge

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

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3/27 Solution

## Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping or important decisions from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. EDT today (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Gemini into Cancer.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 3, 2025: You're sociable, charismatic and you have strong views. You can be persuasive and inspiring. This is a year of learning and teaching. Give yourself time to reflect. You might renew your spiritual beliefs. Explore philosophies that give you a better understanding of the true meaning of your life.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Communications with others are challenging today. In addition to which, you might be worried. Worry is such a debilitating thing that robs you of your energy and distracts you of your concentration. And the irony is it has no reward. Worry is a habit that accomplishes nothing. Tonight: Hunker down.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) TYou don't like it when you have problems with money or angst about your possessions and the things that you own. When this happens, it's a drag and a major distraction for you. The good thing to know is that these worries today are temporary and fleeting. Quite literally, they're gone by tomorrow. Tonight: Chatty discussions..

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) This might be a discouraging day for you because relations with bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs and the police are not good. People in power will not cooperate. Instead, they'll say, Tonight: Check your money.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Avoid arguments about controversial matters related to religion, politics and racial issues. This is a poor day to tackle these topics. Likewise, your efforts to make travel plans will be met with challenges. Fortunately, later in the day, after the Moon moves to your sign, things will improve. Tonight: You win!

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Financial discussions and anything related to taxes, shared property, inheritances and debt will be challenging and discouraging today. This is a fact. Therefore, postpone these activities and discussions for another day if you can. After all, timing is everything. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a challenging day. Interactions with groups as well as friends might be aggressive, even competitive. On top of that, discussions with partners, spouses and close friends are difficult. Fear not. This is a challenging day. Tomorrow is a lovely one. Tonight: Friendships.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You like harmonious surroundings, and you like to keep the peace. Today this will be challenging. However, be smart and avoid controversial subjects. Don't get involved in work-related arguments. Coast through the Moon Alert, after which you'll be high-viz. Tonight: You're admired.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is a poor day for romantic discussions. Likewise, it's a challenging day for parents to deal with their kids. Interactions related to the entertainment world, the arts and the hospital-ity industry will also be difficult. Keep your head down and your powder dry. Tonight: Explore!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're an optimist who thinks positively. However, even optimists can have challenging days. Today is one of them. Family discussions will disappoint. Interactions with spouses, partners and close friends will be difficult. Get out in nature. Tomorrow is a great day. Tonight: Check your finances.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a challenging day for everyone; however, more than most, you are psychologically built to handle challenge with grace and style. Capricorns aren't sissies. When the going gets tough, you tough it out. Keep a low profile. Avoid arguments. Tonight: Cooperate.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a poor day for important financial discussions. Likewise, it's a poor day for major purchases. For starters, all things financial are squeezed, as it were. And secondly, there's a Moon Alert today, which discourages spending money for anything other than food and gas. Sit tight. Tonight: Work.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Today the Moon is at odds with Mercury, Venus and Saturn in your sign. (This does not bode well for discussions with anyone.) Accept your fate and sail through this day with small expectations. Check the Moon Alert. By evening, all is well. Tonight: Socialize!

**BORN TODAY** Actor Eddie Murphy (1961), actor Matthew Goode (1978), actress Cobie Smulders (1982).

## Contract Bridge

### WHEN THE IRON IS HOT

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Dble  
Opening lead — three of spades.

The opening lead plays a vital role in many hands. Just how big a difference it can make is illustrated by this extraordinary case from a rubber bridge game where West was Alvin Roth, one of the great players of all time. His double of three notrump was bold as well as imaginative, but it would have failed dismally had he chosen the wrong opening lead.

For example, if he had led a diamond, as many players in his place would have done, South would have scored the first 10 tricks. Similarly, had Roth led a heart or a club, South would have taken the first nine tricks. But Roth led a spade, and South was a dead duck. In desperation, he played dummy's queen, which lost to the king and, oddly enough, simultaneously squeezed South. He was looking at nine cold tricks, but with the opponents on lead, he was in bad shape. Reluctant to part with a winner, he discarded a diamond. East thereupon returned a diamond to West's jack.

Roth now made the excellent play of the jack of spades followed by a low spade. He wanted to make sure that East would return a diamond when he took the ace of spades. Roth was afraid that, if he led the four instead of the jack, East might suddenly get nervous and return a spade to assure defeat of the contract.

East did return a diamond, and the defense wound up scoring four spades and five diamonds to inflict a 900-point (1,100 today) defeat! All of which can be attributed to a well-judged double and — lest we forget — a well-judged opening lead.

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by Steve Becker

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Stainberg April 3, 2025

|                                                                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                                                       | <b>DOWN</b>                           |
| 1 Supervisor                                                                        | 1 Email stealthily                    |
| 5 Deicing supply                                                                    | 2 "Didn't expect to see you here"     |
| 9 Entered quickly                                                                   | 3 Tailor's line of work?              |
| 14 Holmgren on the Thunder                                                          | 4 Barbershop quartet toppers          |
| 15 Diva's solo                                                                      | 5 Holder of spider eggs               |
| 16 Expensive seating section, often                                                 | 6 Sculpture and others                |
| 17 Short literary profile                                                           | 7 Claim on a residence                |
| 20 Apple desktop                                                                    | 8 "Educated" memoirist                |
| 21 Crackle and Pop's partner                                                        | 9 Jackie's brother-in-law, familiarly |
| 22 Secrecy doc                                                                      |                                       |
| 23 "As it _____" (Harry Styles hit)                                                 |                                       |
| 25 No more than                                                                     |                                       |
| 27 Underwater attraction?                                                           |                                       |
| 33 Org. with Magic and Wizards                                                      |                                       |
| 36 Vicinity                                                                         |                                       |
| 37 Truck's contents                                                                 |                                       |
| 38 Without a cloud in the sky                                                       |                                       |
| 40 Gaye and Terrell recordings, e.g.                                                |                                       |
| 42 Undecided, on schedule: Abbr.                                                    |                                       |
| 43 Ultimate approval                                                                |                                       |
| 44 "Hamilton" actress                                                               |                                       |
| 45 Renee _____ Goldsberry Abound (with)                                             |                                       |
| 47 Mysterious loch                                                                  |                                       |
| 48 For sure, in slang                                                               |                                       |
| 49 Train track support                                                              |                                       |
| 52 Mosque leader                                                                    |                                       |
| 54 "Thx" counterpart                                                                |                                       |
| 55 "Green" prefix                                                                   |                                       |
| 56 "_____ Lisa"                                                                     |                                       |
| 60 "_____ mater                                                                     |                                       |
| 63 What Sherlock Holmes may do ... and a hint to the ends of 17-, 27- and 49-Across |                                       |
| 67 Televised                                                                        |                                       |
| 68 Offerings at Lids                                                                |                                       |
| 69 "The lady _____ protest too much"                                                |                                       |
| 70 Buds, say                                                                        |                                       |
| 71 Effortless feeling                                                               |                                       |
| 72 Customizable crafts site                                                         |                                       |
| 10 "Why _____ you ready yet?!"                                                      |                                       |
| 11 Still going                                                                      |                                       |
| 12 Peruvian of yore                                                                 |                                       |
| 13 To the _____ degree                                                              |                                       |
| 18 Purple berry                                                                     |                                       |
| 19 Cowboy boot attachment                                                           |                                       |
| 24 Comedy show filmed at 30 Rock                                                    |                                       |
| 26 Bench press targets, familiarly                                                  |                                       |
| 27 Lost color                                                                       |                                       |
| 28 Fist-pumper's cry                                                                |                                       |
| 29 "Whatever, go ahead"                                                             |                                       |
| 30 Mobster John                                                                     |                                       |
| 31 Record company                                                                   |                                       |
| 32 Milk source                                                                      |                                       |
| 34 Singers with deep voices                                                         |                                       |
| 35 Cropped up                                                                       |                                       |
| 39 Electoral rout                                                                   |                                       |
| 41 Blood fluids                                                                     |                                       |
| 46 Janitorial implement                                                             |                                       |

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

3/27 Solution

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|    |    |    |   |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 |  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |   |  | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |   |  | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
|    | 20 |    |   |  |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |   |  | 23 |    | 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 |    |    |   |  |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |
| 70 |    |    |   |  |    |    | 71 |    |    |    |    | 72 |    |    |





# THURSDAY COMICS



Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



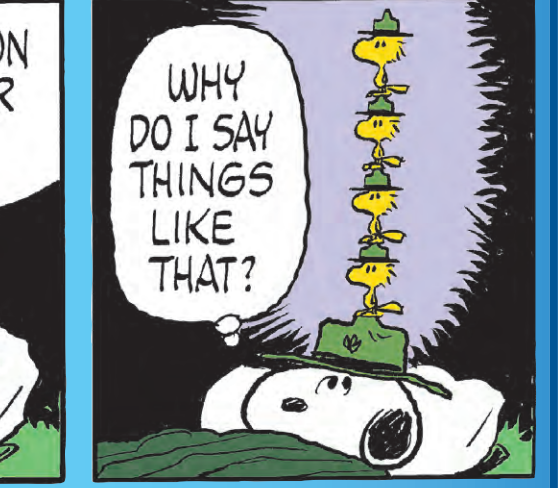
GOOD NIGHT, MEN!  
SLEEP TIGHT...



CALL ME IF YOU  
HAVE ANY TROUBLE  
DURING THE NIGHT



LIKE MAYBE A PYTHON  
CRAWLING INTO YOUR  
SLEEPING BAG!



WHY  
DO I SAY  
THINGS  
LIKE  
THAT?

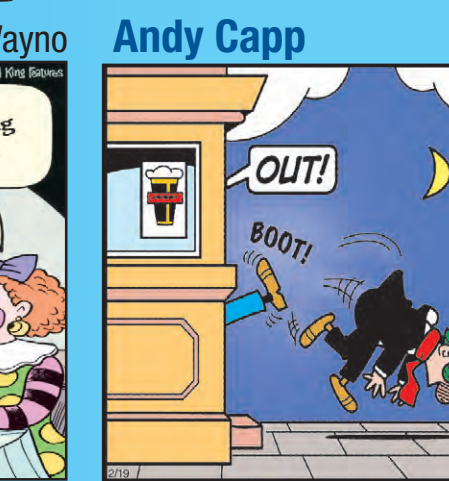
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



He's playing  
our song!

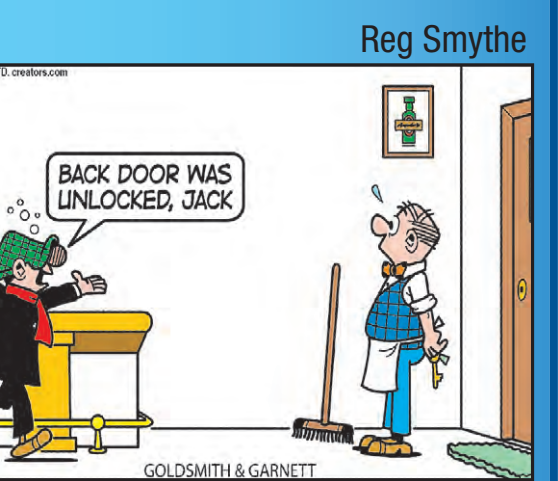
Andy Capp



OUT!  
BOOT!



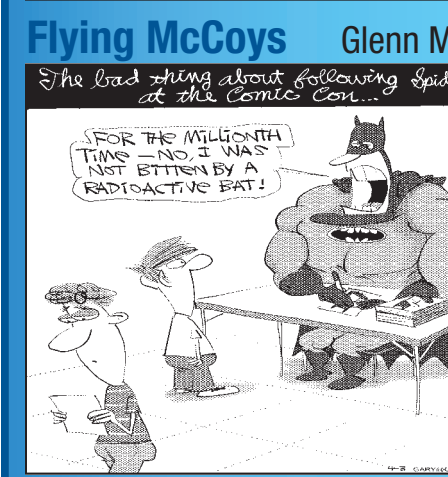
WHAT A PEST. I'LL  
BE GLAD TO LOCK  
UP AND HAVE A  
BREAK FROM HIM



BACK DOOR WAS  
UNLOCKED, JACK

Flying McCoys

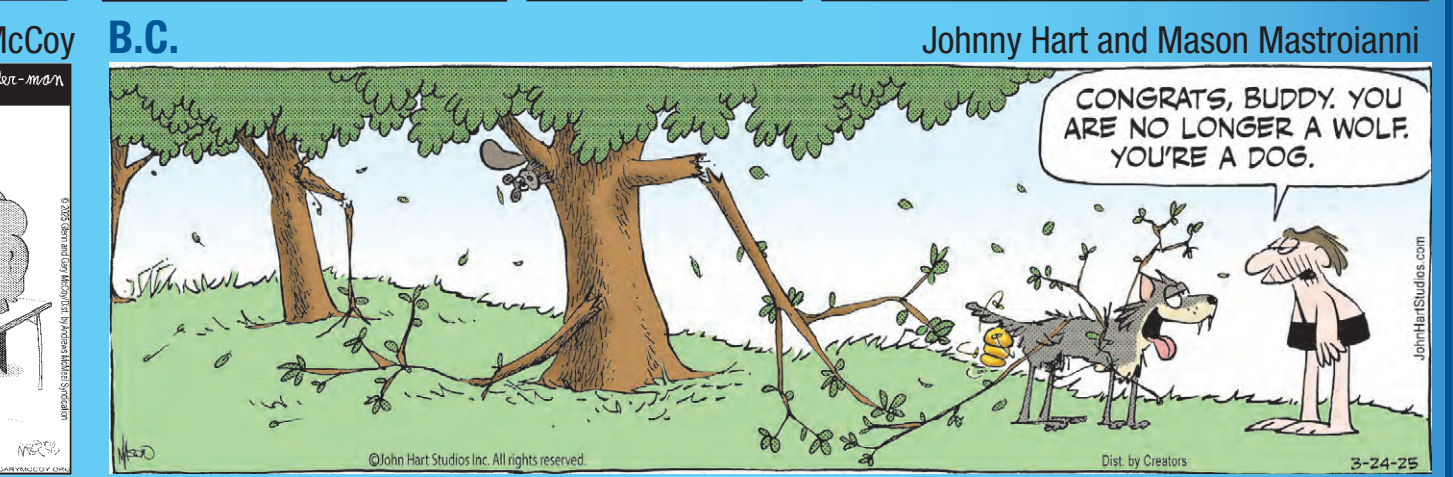
Glenn McCoy



The bad thing about following Spider-man  
at the Comic Con...

FOR THE MILLIONTH  
TIME - NO, I WAS  
NOT BITTEN BY A  
RADIOACTIVE BAT!

B.C.

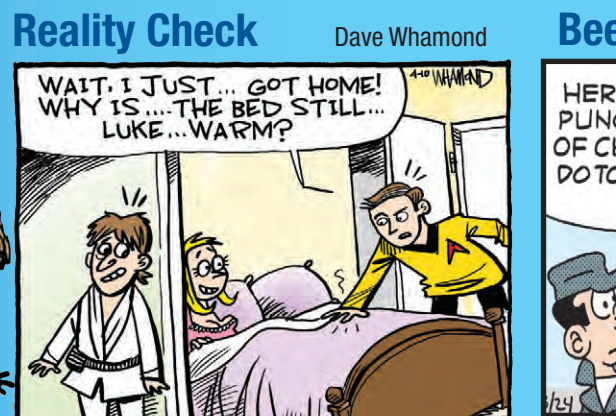


CONGRATS, BUDDY. YOU  
ARE NO LONGER A WOLF.  
YOU'RE A DOG.

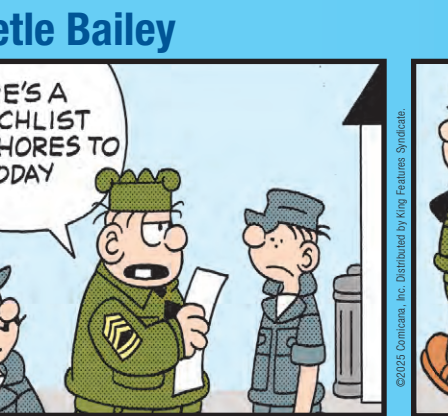


WAIT, I JUST... GOT HOME!  
WHY IS... THE BED STILL...  
LUKE... WARM?

Beetle Bailey



HERE'S A  
PUNCHLIST  
OF CHORES TO  
DO TODAY



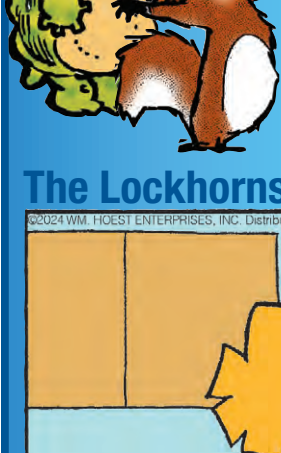
HE EXPECTS  
YOU TO DO  
ALL OF THAT  
?



YES, OR  
I'LL GET  
PUNCHED

Reality Check

Dave Whamond



WAIT, I JUST... GOT HOME!  
WHY IS... THE BED STILL...  
LUKE... WARM?

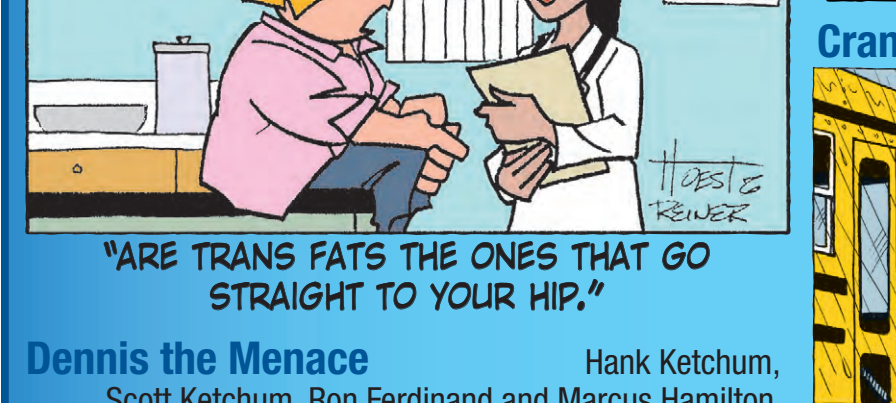
Mother Goose and Grim



AFTER SHE DISCOVERED THE EMPTY BOTTLE  
OF PROZAC, SNOW WHITE NOTICED THAT  
ALL THE DWARFS WERE HAPPY.

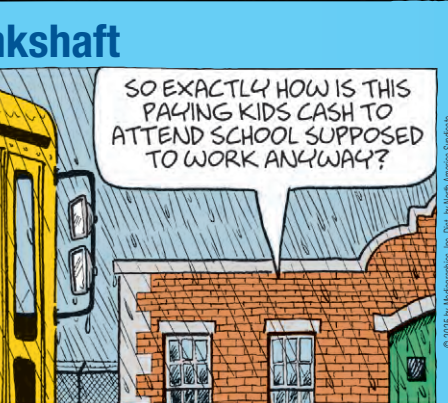
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

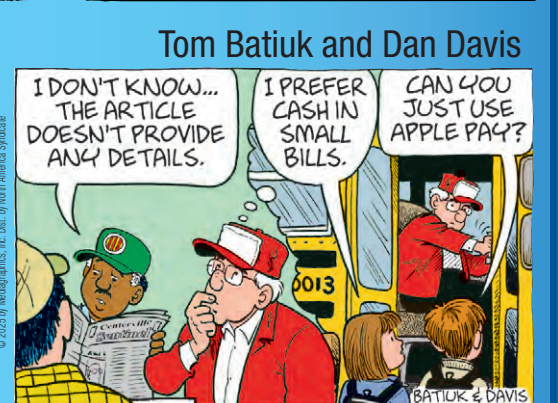


"ARE TRANS FATS THE ONES THAT GO  
STRAIGHT TO YOUR HIP."

Crankshaft



SO EXACTLY HOW IS THIS  
PAYING KIDS CASH TO  
ATTEND SCHOOL SUPPOSED  
TO WORK ANYWAY?



I DON'T KNOW...  
THE ARTICLE  
DOESN'T PROVIDE  
ANY DETAILS.



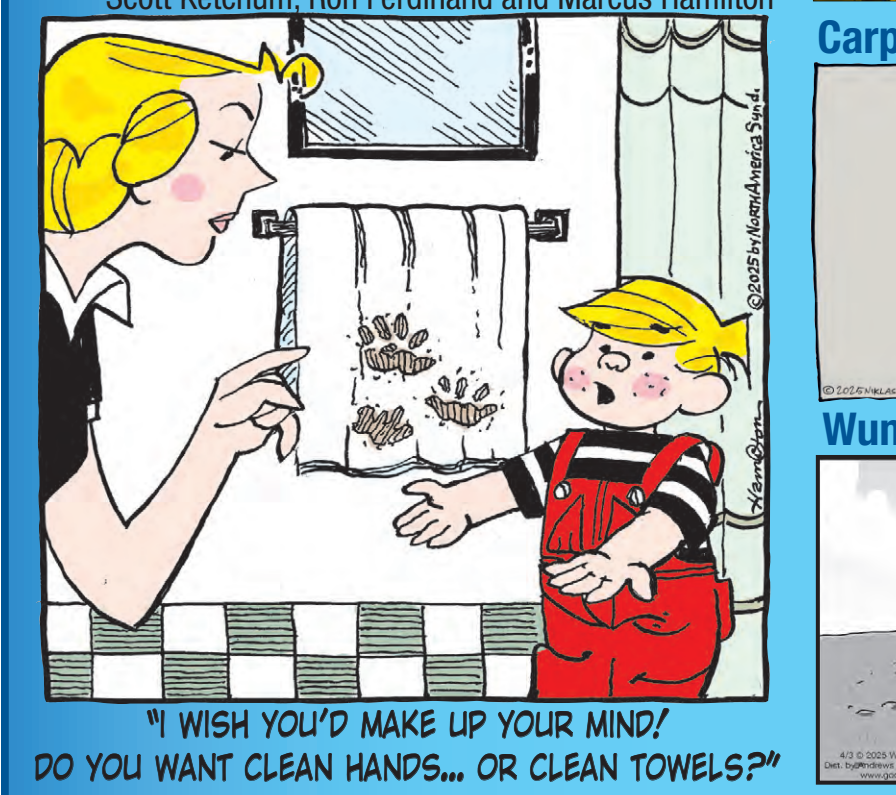
I PREFER  
CASH IN  
SMALL  
BILLS.



CAN YOU  
JUST USE  
APPLE PAY?

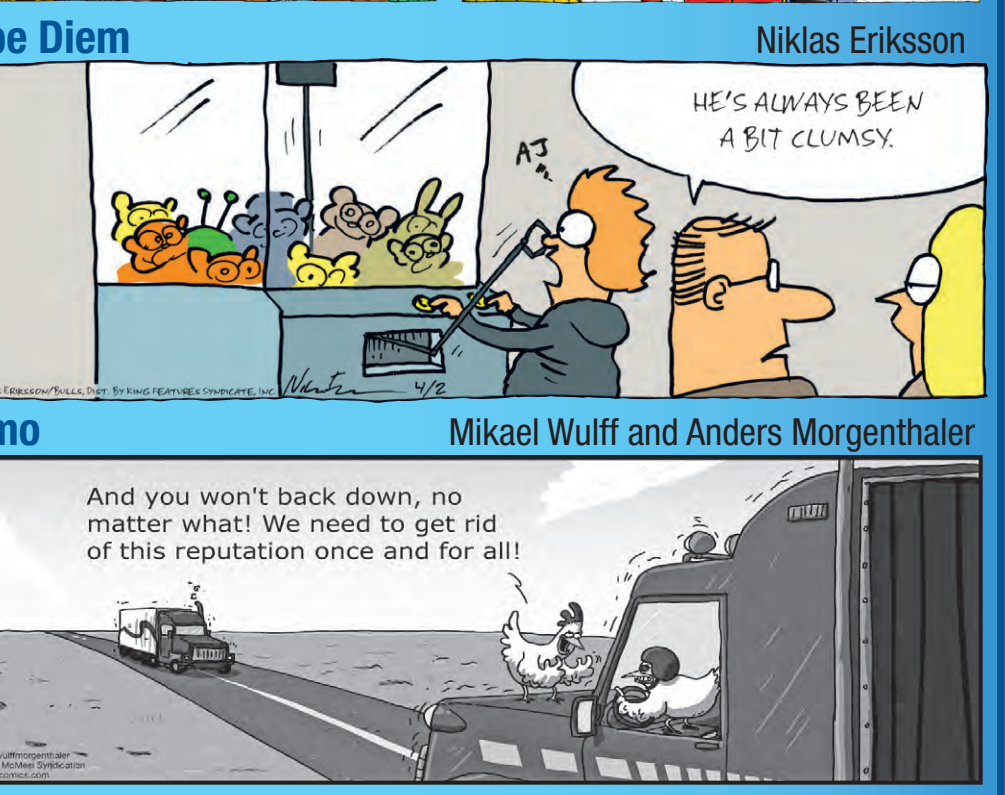
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum,  
Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



"I WISH YOU'D MAKE UP YOUR MIND!  
DO YOU WANT CLEAN HANDS... OR CLEAN TOWELS?"

Carpe Diem



HE'S ALWAYS BEEN  
A BIT CLUMSY.

Wumo



And you won't back down, no  
matter what! We need to get rid  
of this reputation once and for all!



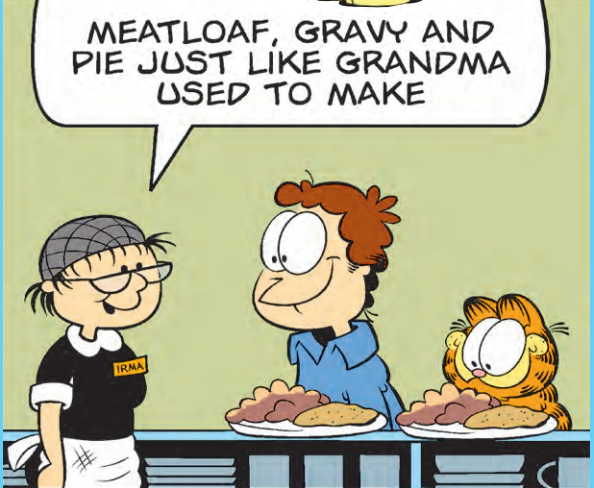
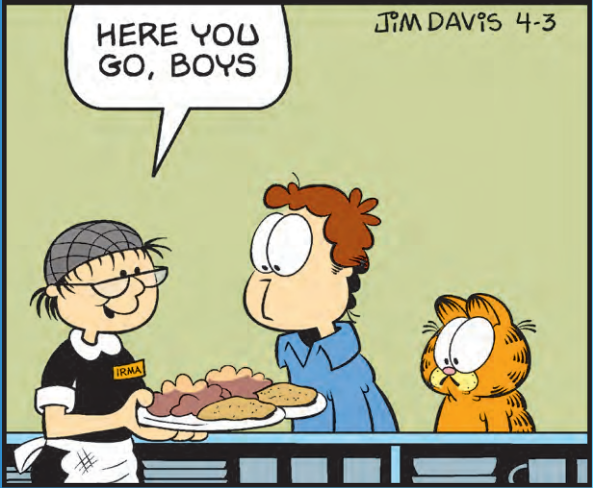


# THURSDAY COMICS



Garfield

Jim Davis

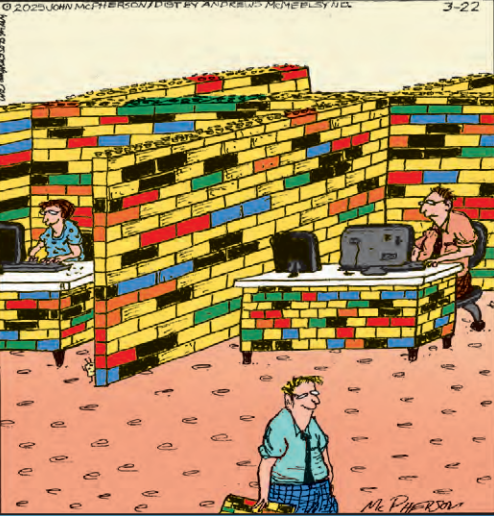


Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

Close To Home

John McPherson



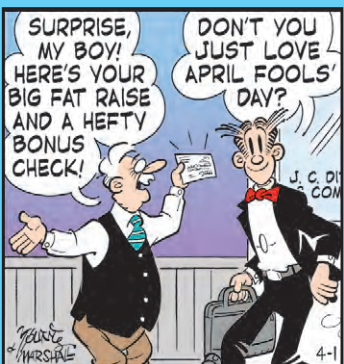
Wizard of Id

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



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

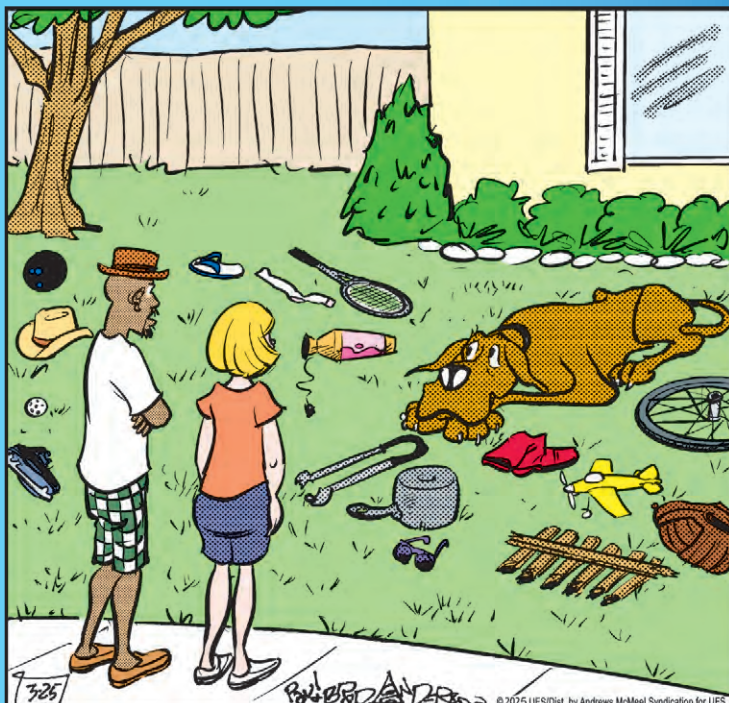
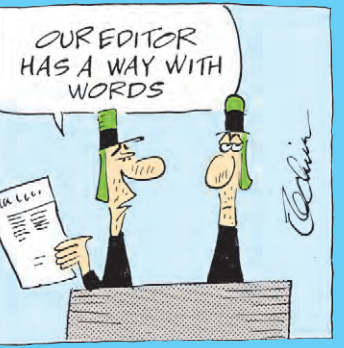
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

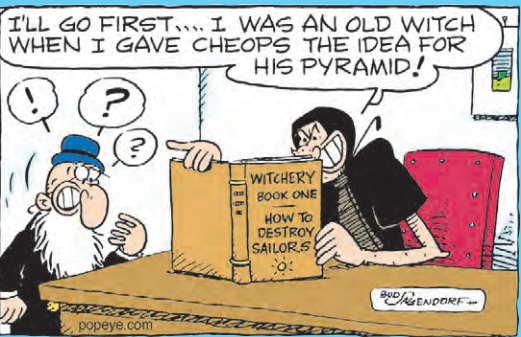


Popeye

Bud Sagendorf

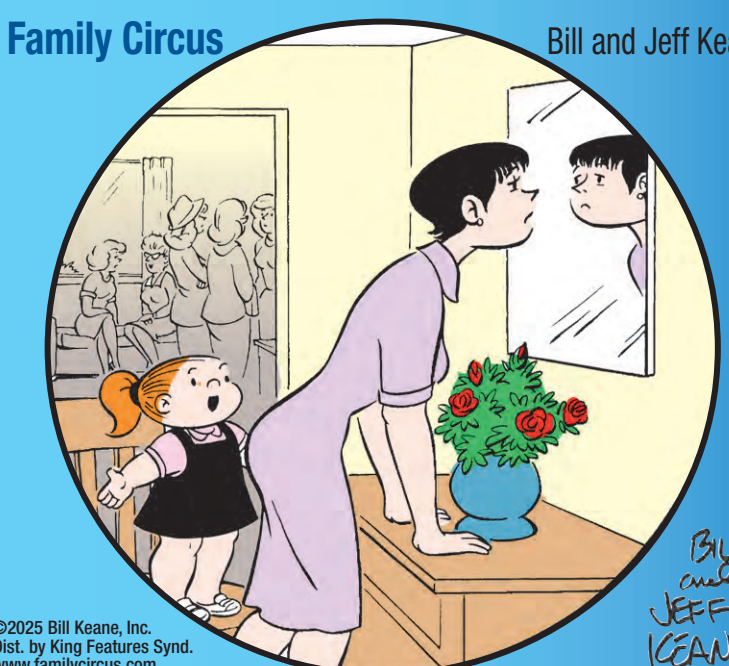
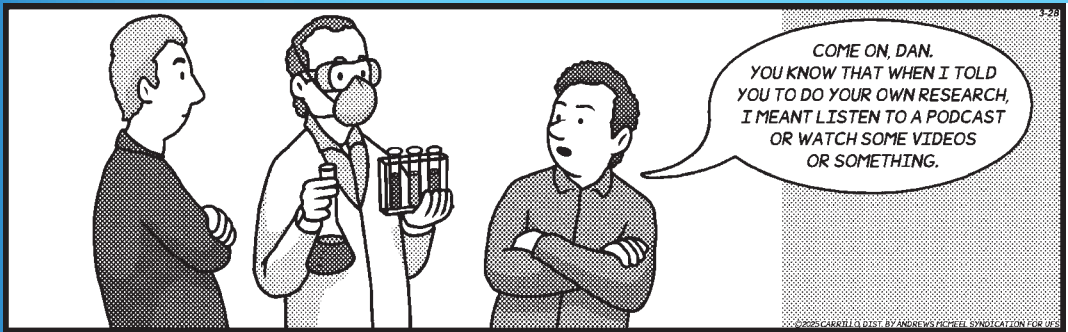
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



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"Mommy! I like it when somebody says I look older."





# Kid Scoop

.com

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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# Earth is My Happy Place!

Earth is a planet full of **natural resources** – things that come from nature, like trees, water, air, rocks, and animals that people can use to help them live and make things they need.

These natural resources are kind of like Mother Earth's free gifts!

If people waste these gifts, then these natural resources are lost.

Standards Link: Science: Living things need water, air and resources from the land.



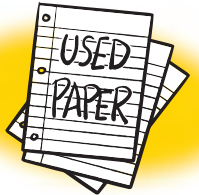
**Kid Scoop Together**

## Amazing Recyclables!

When you recycle, your used items get turned into new products.

Fill in the missing vowels in each word listed below to discover some of the things these items can be made into after recycling.

### binder paper



n\_pk\_ns  
b\_\_ks  
sk\_tchb\_\_ks  
n\_wsp\_per

### aluminum cans



b\_s\_b\_ll b\_t  
a\_to p\_rts  
an\_th\_r c\_n  
appl\_\_nc\_s

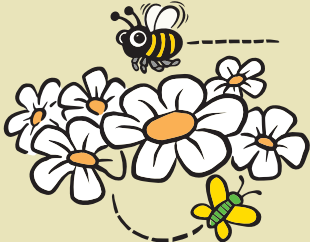
### plastic containers



sl\_\_ping b\_gs  
ski\_j\_ck\_ts  
c\_rp\_t  
t\_ys

## What do you love about the Earth?

Look at the pictures of the natural resources Earth provides for us. Put a heart around each of the natural resources that you especially love. Under each one, write a sentence about how you will care for, conserve and appreciate this resource.



I love this because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



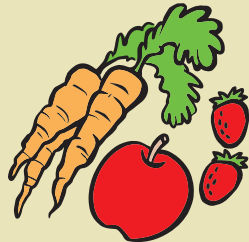
I love this because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



I love this because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



I love this because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Beware!**  
Taking too many natural resources from the planet means we could run out of them!

Do the math to find out what the different natural resources on this page provide people.

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 + 7 = <u>15</u> SOME CANDLES | 7 + 2 = <u>9</u> WINDOWS         |
| 4 + 6 = <u>10</u> PAPER        | 8 + 8 = <u>16</u> GASOLINE       |
| 7 + 6 = <u>13</u> PLASTICS     | 7 + 7 = <u>14</u> COMPUTER CHIPS |
| 8 + 4 = <u>12</u> CARDBOARD    | 6 + 2 = <u>8</u> MACHINERY       |
| 6 + 5 = <u>11</u> GLASS        | 9 + 9 = <u>18</u> POTS & PANS    |
| 9 + 8 = <u>17</u> WOOD         | 4 + 3 = <u>7</u> WIRE            |



METAL ORES  
WIRE

7 = \_\_\_\_\_  
8 = \_\_\_\_\_  
18 = \_\_\_\_\_



TREES

12 = \_\_\_\_\_  
17 = \_\_\_\_\_  
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9 = \_\_\_\_\_  
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OIL  
13 = PLASTICS  
16 = \_\_\_\_\_  
15 = \_\_\_\_\_

With some friends, pick up litter on your school playground. It's a great way to help the environment!

## Fun Facts

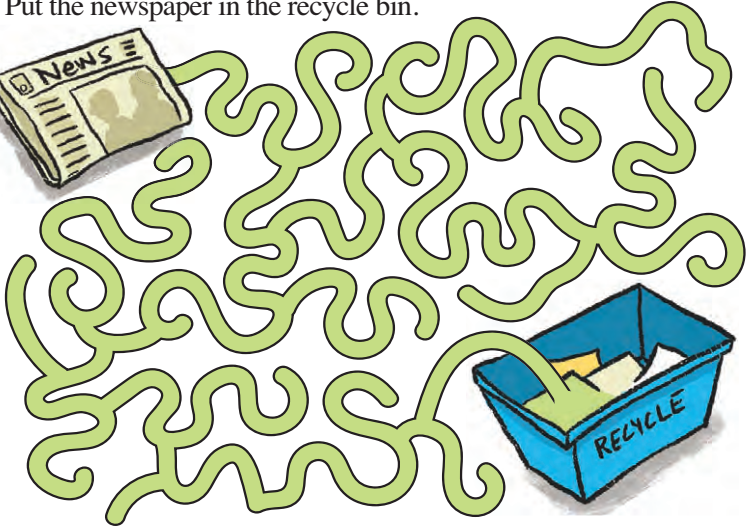
Look through today's newspaper for five facts. List the facts and circle any you think are fun to know. Whether or not the fact is fun or not would be your opinion.

Standards Link: Science: Identify natural resources. Language: Sort words in alphabetical order.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

# Recycle After Reading

Put the newspaper in the recycle bin.



## Double Double Word Search

AIR  
CONSERVE  
EARTH  
GIFTS  
HAPPY  
HEART  
LOVE  
METAL  
NATURAL  
OIL  
ROCKS  
RUN  
SAND  
TREES  
WOOD

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

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

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

# Company List

Look through the newspaper and make a list of companies in your area. How do natural resources help each of these companies?

Standards Link: Science: Identify resources in your community.



## What's the best way to make a tree laugh?

ANSWER: Tell it a corn-y joke!

## Write On!

# Love for Planet Earth

Finish this story:  
*I love the planet Earth because . . .*

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIN DILODOVICO AND JAY RICCI

## Baseball teams spring into action

Last week, the varsity baseball teams from Grosse Pointe South, above, and University Liggett School, top, took the opportunity to prepare for the upcoming season and have some fun in the sun during a spring break trip to Florida. The Blue Devils and Knights spent the week training and competing in exhibition games hosted by IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla. Both teams returned to Michigan this week to begin the regular season. Liggett opened the season after press time Tuesday, April 1, at home against Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard. South also started the season Tuesday, April 1, when the team hosted Fraser.

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# Jarvi steps into role as one of North softball’s top pitching arms

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe North varsity softball is a team that wants to pride itself on pitching and defense. Senior Elliott Jarvi is one of the players at the heart of that pride. During her years with the Norsemen, Jarvi has become part of the core expected to lead the team to success this spring and she is glad to be doing so alongside some of her best friends.

Jarvi is entering the 2025 season with expectations to be one of North’s go-to pitchers toeing the rubber. One of the most demanding positions on the entire diamond, Jarvi fell in love with pitching quickly after she began playing softball nearly a decade ago and has become more and more comfortable at the position with each game.

“The minute I was able to pitch in Little League, I took the opportunity to learn how to pitch,” she said. “... Normally, when I walk onto the mound, I know the girls behind me will always back me up. I’ve been playing

Grosse Pointe News



**Elliott Jarvi**

School: Grosse Pointe North  
Sport: Softball

Sponsored by Expert Heating & Cooling

with all the girls behind me for quite a few years. I go into it with a positive mindset.”

Last season, Jarvi helped North win a district championship with her arm, pitching in the district final. She hopes she can do the same this spring and more, as the Norsemen look to return to and build upon the success of the 2023 season, Jarvi’s sophomore year, when the team reached the state quar-

terfinals in Division 1.

Jarvi and a few of her fellow seniors on this year’s North team were part of that 2023 squad. The chemistry she has with her teammates, both new ones and teammates with whom she has played softball for many years, is something in which Jarvi takes pride. She also sees it as one of the keys to another strong season for herself and the entire team on the diamond.

“We’re all very talented and I think our roster is really stacked,” Jarvi said. “I’ve played softball with a lot of these girls and couldn’t do it without them, so I think we’re set up for a pretty successful season.”

**Epic Elliott**

- Pitched in 20 games for North softball in 2024, including district championship win
- Three-year varsity player with North softball
- Committed to play college softball at University of Olivet

While Jarvi is proud of what her teammates can do in the field behind her while she’s pitching, she also wants to help out both the team and herself when it comes to providing run support on offense. Jarvi has known her skills at the plate could use some improvement and it was the main focus of her offseason in the buildup to her senior year with North.

Jarvi has been working with her coaches since the high school season ended last year to help herself become a more confident hitter. She hopes everything she has put in will result in her moving up in the lineup and helping support her team on more than just defense.

“I’ve really improved on my hitting because my travel coach is also my hitting coach,” she said. “I’m excited to see where I can be in the lineup this season and how that translates to the field and I’m also always working on pitching.”

While she hopes to keep improving in any way she can on the field, her attitude and effort off the field as well is something that North’s coaches feel has become



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Jarvi winds up to deliver a pitch for the Norsemen during last season’s Division 1 district championship game against Lakeview.

invaluable.

“Elliott brings a spark to the team every day,” North varsity softball head coach Ron Smith said. “Her personality is special, she is free-spirited and full of life. She showed everyone last year that she has the determination and drive to put the team on her shoulders and do what needs to be done. (She is) a great player that every coach would love to have.”

Regardless of what this season holds for Jarvi and the Norsemen, she knows she wants to savor every moment in green and gold with her teammates. She is also focused on continuing to grow and enhance her skills as she prepares for the next phase of her collegiate softball career.

Earlier this year, Jarvi signed her letter of intent to play NCAA Division III softball at

See *ATHLETE*, page 6D

Athlete Of The Week Proudly Sponsored By:



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2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

Girls Tennis

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls tennis is hitting the court feeling excited for what success might come this spring. The Blue Devils return a good amount of players who had a big impact on last year’s team, which won the regional championship, while also adding a freshman who joins the team with high expectations.

That freshman is Dalina Kokoshi, who is going to take the team’s No. 1 singles spot this season. Senior Olivia Kowal will play at the No. 2 singles spot with her younger sister, sophomore Charlotte Kowal, at No. 3 singles, while senior Maddy Youngblood will be at No. 4 singles.

The Blue Devils also are looking for strong contributions in doubles play. Leading the way will be the No. 1 doubles pair of Taylor Lewis and Kailtyn Strong, who was an All-State player last season.

Overall, South is hoping to end this year once again at the top of the region and make a run for the Division 2 state title. What the Blue Devils hope carry them to those goals is the team’s experience on the court, even with a freshman taking over such a large role in the top singles spot.

“(Kokoshi) has more match experience than maybe the rest of the team combined, so that doesn’t hurt us,” South girls tennis coach Mark Sobieralski said. “We have three of our other four singles players back, so we’ve got a lot of depth and experience. ... Division 2 is really tough. We took seventh in the state last year and it’s going to be tough to move up even.”

South begins the season Saturday, April 5, by hosting a quad match at the Elworthy Field tennis courts at 8 a.m.



PHOTO BY ELIZA HIX

Grosse Pointe South girls tennis celebrates its 2024 regional championship victory, a milestone it hopes to repeat in 2025.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

This spring’s University Liggett School varsity girls tennis team is all about youth. The Knights enter the season without any seniors on the roster, being led by a few juniors and sophomores with a large incoming class of freshmen joining the team.

The Knights have some talented players returning from last year’s lineup, with Audrey DiDio and Nina Shanidze being looked upon to help lead the way. The team also expects freshman Sonya Jayakar to step in and have an impact right out of the gate.

Liggett will be challenged in its Catholic League schedule this year and in some strong non-league matchups throughout the spring. The team knows there may be some growing pains it has to endure with such a young roster, but the coaches are confident the unity and chemistry the girls already are displaying in practices ahead of the season will help everyone remember that winning is only part of the game.

“One thing that I’ve been impressed with is the team spirit and unity,” Liggett girls tennis head coach Jeff Collins said. “Tennis is basically an individual sport, but it’s unique because you get the chance to play for a team and the team comes first. They’re very supportive of each other and cheer on each other and that positive spirit is going to make this season really enjoyable.”

The Knights start the season Friday, April 4, hosting St. Catherine of Siena at 4:30 p.m.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

The Grosse Pointe North varsity girls tennis team is approaching the 2025 season as a time to get its youthful roster ready for the future. While the Norsemen do have a few experienced players returning this spring ready to make an impact on the court, the team has a large group of new players joining the program for the first time.

Some of the experienced players back for another year include sophomore Laila Aslam, who is expected to take the No. 1 singles spot this season after being an individual regional champion last spring. Also expected to take on major roles are fellow sophomores Aakansha Nagori and Emma Dombrowski.

Sophomores, juniors and some freshmen make up the bulk of the roster this year for North, who again will compete in the MAC Red Division. The large amount of youth on this year’s team might take time to develop into the talented players the coaches believe they can be, but North hopes some success this year will be a good sign for years to come.

“We’re super excited about the team this year,” said North girls tennis coach John VanAlst. “We’re a very young team and we’re very excited for that. We have 15 players rostered this year and only five are returners from last year’s squad.”

North begins the season on the road this Saturday, April 5, with a quad match at Mason High School against Mason, Allegan and Parma Western.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
NOTICE  
AUCTION OF  
IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on **APRIL 16, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, East Pointe, MI, 48021 The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2003 JEEP LIBERTY .....1J4GL48K93W615712

2013 CHRYSLER TWN &CO .....2C4RC1G4DR815567

2022 PRATT TRAILER .....1P9UT1723NN343469

1999 CHEVY TAHOE .....1GNEK13R8XJ340525

2008 FORD FUSION .....3FAHP08ZXR237033

2012 CHEVY MALIBU .....1G1ZC5EU5CF380681

2020 MITSUBISHI OUTLAND ..JA4AD2A33LZ046851

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2012 FORD ESCAPE.....1FMCU9E70CKA70405

2016 GMC TERRAIN.....2GKFLVE32G6122799

2012 CADILLAC SRX .....3GYFNFE30CS614734

2005 CHEVY TRAILBLZR .....1GNDT13S752227796

2002 HONDA ODYSSEY .....5FNRL186X2B020693

2006 SATURN ION.....1G8AJ55X6Z112637

2003 FORD TAURUS .....1FAFP56S93G115094

1995 GMC YUKON .....3GKEK18KXSG501945

2003 PONTIAC MONTANA.....1GMDX03E83D175822

1999 PONTIAC MONTANA.....1GMDX03E6XD10392

2007 SATURN ION .....1G8AZ55F67Z205147

1993 MERCURY MARQUIS .....2MELM75W5PX642392

1997 CHEVY LUMINA.....2G1WL52M9V1131303

1995 FORD THUNDERBIRD ....1FALP62WXSH193278

1997 CHEVY LUMINA.....2G1WL52M1V1187218

1995 CHEVY IMPALA.....1G1BL52P2SR146737

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The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Lt. Thomas Teatsorth  
Traffic Safety Section  
POSTED: March 31, 2025  
PUBLISHED: April 3, 2025

A copy of this notice can be viewed on [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org) under Public Notices.

Liggett junior Audrey DiDio returns a shot in a match last season against Regina.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON PROPOSED  
2025 SINGLE LOT ASSESSMENT ROLL

The City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230, 313-885-5800, will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025 on the proposed 2025 City Single Lot Assessment Roll. Copies of the Single Lot Assessment Roll will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the City Hall Building (17147 Maumee) beginning April 18, 2025.

GPN: 4/3/25

Christopher Hardenbrook,  
City Clerk

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a rezoning of 20160 Mack Avenue (Parcel ID 400090010001000) from RO-1 Restricted Office to C Commercial to redevelop the site for commercial uses.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk’s Office, up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk’s Office at 313-343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at [www.gpwwmi.us](http://www.gpwwmi.us). For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at 313-343-2426 or e-mail [building@gpwwmi.us](mailto:building@gpwwmi.us).

G.P.N.:04/03/25

Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City  
795 Lake Shore Road  
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236  
313-881-6565  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m., on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025** before the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council sitting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, Council Chambers at 795 Lake Shore Rd.

The petitioner at **671 Lake Shore Rd.** is requesting the following:  
Approval of a Lot Division

The Petitioner at **50 Moorland** is requesting the following:  
A variance request for a pool in the side-yard setback

The Petitioner at **505 Lake Shore Rd.** is requesting the following:  
A variance request for a pool in the easement

At the **March 25, 2025** Planning Commission meeting, the Commission recommended to approve the petitioners’ requests.

Plans of the proposed projects are available for your viewing at the Office of the City Clerk, 795 Lake Shore Road, during normal business hours Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Bruce Nichols,  
City Clerk

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 4/3/25



# 2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

## Girls Lacrosse

### GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls lacrosse team is hitting the field for a new season with plenty of experience back for another year with the Blue Devils. While the team has a few standout freshmen and sophomores, experienced juniors anchor this year's team with some senior leadership as well.

This year's captains, who also are expected to be some of the team's top performers, include juniors Lyla Hampton and Elizabeth Petz, along with seniors Soleil Rodriguez and Scout Webber. Those four make up part of the core of this Blue Devils team and have been playing at the varsity level together for a while. The bond they have formed over past seasons should be one of the team's biggest strengths going into this spring.

"They all get along really well and I think that bodes well for our team chemistry," South girls lacrosse coach Shaun Hampton said. "... They'll play as a team out on the field and if they play as a team out on the field, then they'll have some success. Our biggest strength is that camaraderie and the relationships the girls have with each other."

Strong chemistry will play a major factor as the Blue Devils try to navigate the MAC and a challenging non-league schedule. The team already faced one of its toughest opponents of the year, Detroit Country Day, in the season opener before spring break March 20, with South losing 17-4. This season, South also takes on crosstown foe University Liggett, as well as Northville and Troy as part of its schedule.

The Blue Devils may not quite be sure where they will be in a couple of months when the season is coming to an end, but they hope to be deep in the postseason. To get there, the coaches want the players to focus on taking everything in stride.

"One game at a time and one day at a time," Hampton said. "My goal for the girls is for them to get 1 percent better every single day and put the work in to see if we can go do something special."

South returned from spring break to face Troy after press time Wednesday, April 2. The Blue Devils are in action again on the road Monday, April 7, traveling to Troy Athens.

Scout Webber

PHOTO BY  
MIKE ADZIMA



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Angelina Vasilos, pictured in a game last spring against Grosse Pointe South, is one of North girls lacrosse's returning senior leaders for the 2025 season.

### City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MONDAY APRIL 21, 2025, 7:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 110 of 2006 the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, as amended, and the Grosse Pointe City Code, that the Grosse Pointe Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing as noticed above at 7:00 pm at the Grosse Pointe Council Chambers at 17145 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI. The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing considering the following items(s), in brief:

1. Consideration of the request of Michael Aubrey regarding the property located at 17449 E. Jefferson Avenue (Parcel No. 37-005-05-0029-001) for a variance from Section Sec. 90-237. Permitted Uses of the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinances, which stipulates that office uses are not permitted in the R-1B Single Family Residential District. The applicant is proposing to use the existing two-story commercial building for office use.

The property is located in the R-1B, Single Family Residential District Zoning Classification. Standards for variance consideration are contained in Section 90-101 of the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinances.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on April 21, 2025. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to [city@grossepointecity.org](mailto:city@grossepointecity.org). If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,  
City Clerk

### UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

After reaching double-digit wins last season, the University Liggett School varsity girls lacrosse team is ready to hit the field this spring to build on that success. The Knights have much of last year's lineup returning this spring and believe they have the right mix of talent and chemistry to collect plenty of wins.

The core of this year's team is comprised of seniors and juniors, almost all of whom have played significant roles on the team for years, even since they were freshmen. Liggett's coaches are confident this experienced group understands the program's culture and each other well enough to carry the Knights far this spring.

"I think our biggest overall strength is our athleticism and team chemistry," Liggett girls lacrosse coach Amanda Amine said. "This group of girls is tight-knit and really wants to build off of last year's success this season. They're hardworking and push each other to be better each day."

Juniors and seniors are expected to make significant contributions on offense this year. Seniors Aliya Abraham and Fiona Sierens, along with juniors Olivia Marcero, Avery Welsh and Madeline Hexter, are among the prominent names to watch. The Knights also anticipate freshman Antonia Randazzo making an immediate impact. On defense, Liggett will be supported by senior Sophia Secco, junior Reese Macek and sophomore Morgan Johnson.

This group of Knights will have their work cut out for them this season. Liggett once again will have to fight its way through a tough Catholic League schedule to win a league title. The Knights also have set themselves up with some challenging non-league games against teams like Birmingham and crosstown foes Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South.

"Our team goal this year is to win the CHSL Championship and our biggest competition is Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard, who has won this championship multiple years in a row," Amine said. "Liggett's lacrosse program has continued to improve over the past few years and I wanted to make our non-league schedule more competitive this year to reflect that."

Liggett opened the season after press time Wednesday, April 2, with a game on the road against Regina. The team takes the field again Monday, April 7, hosting St. Catherine at 4:30 p.m.

### GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Grosse Pointe North varsity girls lacrosse has another season ahead where it looks to continue building the program's reputation. This spring, the Norsemen will be led by a group of veterans who are back for another year to lead the team to new heights while also mentoring the next generation of Norsemen.

Among that group of returning veterans are senior Josie Cueter, fresh off of being named 2025 Miss Hockey for her achievements on the ice with North varsity girls hockey this winter, along with fellow seniors Angelina Vasilos and Piper Marshall. Senior goalie Brooke Thomas also is expected to play a key role in giving strength and stability to the Norsemen in the net.

North will battle its way through the MAC and other non-league challenges throughout the spring. The Norsemen know that while they may not always end up in the win column this season, the goal is to continue building the program and doing so by embracing the spirit of teamwork.

"We're definitely still trying to build up," North girls lacrosse coach Emily Turnbull said. "... We try to get out there and have fun and make the most of it. ... We aim to have a good time and have good sportsmanship and that's really the biggest thing for them. And they have a really good team chemistry in terms of that."

North opened the season Tuesday, April 1, after press time, with a road game at Eisenhower. The Norsemen take the field at home Thursday, April 3, against Lakeview at 5:30 p.m.

### City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

#### NOTICE OF LAST DAY FOR FILING NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR CITY OFFICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the City Charter and the Michigan Election Law of 1964, as amended, Tuesday, April 22, 2025 is the last day for filing Nominating Petitions for the following City Offices:

- One (1) MAYOR
- Three (3) COUNCILMEMBERS
- One (1) MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Petitions will be received by the City Clerk until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

DERRICK KOZICKI  
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/CITY CLERK

### Grosse Pointe News



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Grosse Pointe News



# 2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

## Boys Golf

### GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys golf team is coming into this season with two main goals in mind: growth and development.

The Blue Devils have some experienced golfers joining the roster again this year, but are seeing this season as a chance for everyone to grow and improve throughout the spring, to put the team in position to contend for both a league title and at regionals.

“This is going to be a year of development,” South boys golf coach Bobby Mitchell said. “... We’re going with a roster that is almost 75 percent new. It’s very important for our players to begin to develop what high school golf is all about right now. We’re going to be putting them in situations where the lights have never been on them before and we want them to be able to understand. By the end of the year, when it comes time for regionals, we want to be in a position to make a run at states, but most of all, this is a year that’s heavily about experience.”

Expected to lead the way for South are sophomore captains Charlie Thomas and Ben Bieri. While there is plenty of youth in this year’s team, the Blue Devils still have some senior leaders, including Wyatt Hepner, Luca Parlangei and Lucas Bower, who will be looking to post low scores as well. Freshman Marty Wayman also has raised eyebrows on the team going into the season and is expected to make strong contributions on the scorecard right away.

South begins the season with a rivalry match against Grosse Pointe North Thursday, April 10, at Gowanie Golf Club.



### GROSSE POINTE NORTH

As the new spring season begins, things are going to look pretty different on the course for the Grosse Pointe North varsity boys golf team this season. The Norsemen had seven seniors from last year’s team graduate and only have a couple of seniors on this year’s team, so there are going to be plenty of new faces trying to make their mark on the course.

One of the very few senior leaders on this year’s team is Colin Smith, who is entering his fourth season of varsity golf with North. Smith will be expected to lead both on and off the course and could be the Norsemen’s best chance at having a presence at the state finals to end the spring.

“I expect him to do well this year and qualify for a state spot,” North boys golf coach James Hansiger said. “Every year, he’s improved and I see that again this year.”

While the Norsemen see Smith as one golfer whose name could consistently be toward the top of the leaderboard, there are plenty more they are looking to make an impact. Sophomores Paul Howe, Charlie Mueller and Tyler Collins are all expected to make big improvements heading into the season. Former lacrosse player turned golfer Evan Michalski also is being looked at as a strong contender.

North hopes those leaders can post good scores and finish high on the leaderboard in some of its biggest matches of the season. Those include two meetings with rival Grosse Pointe South on April 10 and May 1, and matchups throughout the season against the rest of the MAC Red Division as the Norsemen seek a league title.

North begins the season Wednesday, April 9, with a match against Detroit Cass Tech at Lochmoor Club.

### UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

University Liggett School varsity boys golf comes into the 2025 season with what it believes might be the deepest team the school has had in quite some time. The Knights have 15 players on this year’s roster, with a mix of returning standouts and new golfers ready to make an impact right away.

Leading the way for Liggett this year is the pair of senior captains made up of Charlie Cooksey and Steve McMahon. Both are expected to consistently be near the top of the leaderboard for the Knights throughout the spring with the host of experience they bring to the table.

The Knights also hope that other talented players such as Charlie Laethem and Blake Shock can also consistently post low scores. Nikko Cooksey, Peter Laethem, Cameron Stapleton and Jackson Miller are some of the younger additions to the team this year that Liggett hopes will begin developing into the next generation of talented Knights golfers.

The Knights begin the season Saturday, April 5, with a match against Ann Arbor Greenhills at Washtenaw Golf Club.



COURTESY PHOTO

Liggett boys golf captains Charlie Cooksey, left, and Steve McMahon.

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# 2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

## Track & Field

### GROSSE POINTE SOUTH GIRLS

A new track and field season has arrived for the Blue Devils as Grosse Pointe South varsity girls track and field is bringing one of its biggest teams in program history into this spring. The Blue Devils have more than 80 athletes on the roster, including 25 freshmen, and are confident in their depth across all events throughout the season.

One of the biggest positives South feels like it has going into the season is the strength of its returning athletes. The Blue Devils have eight of their top 10 scorers returning from last year’s team, giving them a sense of experience and confidence heading into the new campaign.

“This experience is providing the perfect example of hard work and enthusiasm for our new team members,” South girls track and field head coach Steve Zaranek said. “Team support, across the board, has been superb.”

Two of the top scorers from last year returning to the track for South this season are juniors Morgan Duff and Evie Wodsisz. Seniors Sarah Koval and Chloe Caulfield are expected to lead the Blue Devils in the distance races after both had strong cross-country seasons in the fall. Also back this year is two-time state finalist in discus Olivia Barba. Seniors Adelina Parikh and Ella Hugh will lead the team in hurdle races and the team’s top sprinters should be fellow seniors Molly Reynolds and Jamison Diamond.

With the new season ready to begin, South is looking to compete for championships in the MAC White Division and at regionals on the road to the state finals. While the team’s depth and returning talent could be enough to get there, everyone within the Blue Devils knows it will take a full team effort to achieve.

“Our team thrives on mutual support,” Zaranek said. “It is always our No. 1 objective. With it, the girls excel. Without it, performances are meaningless. Our team is so good at this vital aspect of being great teammates.”

South’s season starts Thursday, April 3, when the team hosts a tri-meet with Warren Mott and Bloomfield Hills.



### GROSSE POINTE NORTH BOYS

With over 80 athletes on the team this year, Grosse Pointe North varsity boys track and field is hopeful that plenty of depth can also lead to plenty of good results as the new spring season begins. The Norsemen have their sights set on winning the MAC White Division championship, finishing near the top of the region and having a strong presence at the state finals, and the enthusiasm is already building.

“Practices have been going well this year,” North boys track and field coach Eric Eplin said ahead of the start of the season. “We have a large team this year with just over 80 athletes. A lot of new athletes who bring a lot of energy and life to the team.”

Leading the way this year are some of the team’s captains including Martez Jones, Phil Prost, Paul Stephens, Sam Parish, Jack Ryan and Malcom Ridgeway. The Norsemen are hopeful to get top finishes at big meets like the MAC White Championship, the Woodhaven Warrior Invitational and of course the regional championship meet when the season comes to an end.

North’s season kicked off Tuesday, April 1, after press time with a meet against South Lake. The Norsemen race at home Monday, April 7, hosting Stevenson at 4 p.m.

### GROSSE POINTE NORTH GIRLS

Things may look a bit different for Grosse Pointe North varsity track and field this spring. The Norsemen graduated several seniors from last year’s team and are coming into the new season with several new athletes, some of whom are upperclassmen transitioning to track and field for the first time. While there are always uncertainties when it comes to having a roster with less experience, the Norsemen are hopeful they can unlock some hidden talent within this year’s squad.

While there are plenty of new faces on this year’s North team, there is still a solid core of returning athletes who are expected to step up and lead. Among them are senior captains Mimi Trupiano and Dene McCall, who are going to play major roles, especially in the relays and some sprint races. Juniors Lilliana Ivanaj, Nia Ruiz, Avery Boutell and Cassidy Finley all have been named captains as well.

Ivanaj will be looked to for high scores in the long jump and high jump. Ruiz is the team’s top returning thrower, while Boutell and Finley are expected to make big contributions in mid-distance events and relays. Other notable names to watch include senior Ashlei Anatalio, junior Quinn Notebaert and sophomores Adirana Pearson, Kayli Johnson and Maliyah Jones.

The Norsemen hope the combination of new and returning talent can lead to success in the MAC White and at regionals. The most important thing, in the team’s eyes, is improving day by day and helping set up the program for continued success in the future.

“We would, of course, like to score as high as possible in the White Division both in terms of dual meet record and finishing place at the division meet,” North girls track and field coach Diane Montgomery said. “Obviously, we’d like to qualify as many as possible to the state finals this year. With so many new faces, I’d like to just make sure they all have a successful and fun season.”

North started the season after press time Tuesday, April 1, with a meet against South Lake. The Norsemen host Eisenhower at home on Monday, April 7.



### GROSSE POINTE SOUTH BOYS

The varsity boys track and field team from Grosse Pointe South is ready to hit the ground running this season.

Last season, the Blue Devils sent three athletes to the state finals and the team is looking forward to building on that and sending even more to states this spring, while also having its eyes on winning titles in the division and region.

“I’m blessed to coach a sport that allows everyone to compete, so there are so many eager young men ready to get to it,” South boys track and field coach Mark Sonnenberg said. “The boys that have decided to join us have brought fresh enthusiasm, perhaps some of the best I have seen.”

South does have a strong core of returning athletes from last season, including senior captain distance runner Jack Martin. Tethyan McKenzie, Eddie Shall and Onction Zape all look to be poised for strong seasons as well. Jaiden Spratt is expected to lead in the long jump and high jump as well as the sprint relays. Conrad Squitieri is another name to watch, as he looks to compete for the state title in the discus.

The Blue Devils will compete in the MAC White Division this season. They hope to make their first season in the division count by winning a league championship and know that every dual meet will be important; however, perhaps the biggest event on the schedule for South this season is one it is hosting.

On May 3, both the boys and girls track and field teams at South will host the first Wandering Wizard Invitational. The meet is being held in

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honor of longtime South track and field coach Mike Novak, who passed away last year after a battle with pancreatic cancer. The day will begin with a one-mile walk as a fundraiser for the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, followed by a standard track and field invitational.

The Blue Devils begin the season Thursday, April 3, hosting a tri-meet with Waterford Mott and University Liggett School.

### ATHLETE:

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the University of Olivet. She will be the first to admit she was unsure if college softball was in her future until recently, but is excited for the opportunities ahead of her, to continue her success after graduation from North.

“At first, last season, if you had asked me, I would have said I’m not playing (college) softball,” she said. “I decided to continue reaching out to coaches. ... I visited Olivet’s campus and really did love it and I really loved the coach. She’s really amazing and is young and was a pitcher before, so it really helped me find my love again for the sport and come back and want to do it for another four years.”