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# Grosse Pointe News

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Fisher, Kerby, others up for reconstruction

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Coming in lower than the engineer-projected \$3.1 million cost, the Farms is ready to reconstruct portions of seven streets this year at a price not to exceed \$2,988,243.11.

“We picked these roads based on their current condition and PASER (pavement surface evaluation and rating) ratings,” said Matt Baka, director of public services.

Up for construction are:

- ◆ Fisher from Grosse Pointe Boulevard to Lakeshore, of which the cost will be split with the City of Grosse Pointe;
- ◆ Moran from Grosse Pointe Boulevard to

Lakeshore;

- ◆ Merriweather from Charlevoix to Grosse Pointe Boulevard;
- ◆ Kerby from Kercheval to Grosse Pointe Boulevard, which runs in front of city hall and the public safety station;
- ◆ Carmel Lane;
- ◆ Christine Drive;
- ◆ and Muir from McMillan to Kercheval, where water main replacement work currently is ongoing.

“That was supposed to be done last year, but the water main got pushed off,” Baka noted, “so we were not going to do the roads until after the water main was done.”

City council last Monday awarded the bid

See **ROADS**, page 3A



COURTESY PHOTO

**Jim and Patricia Anderson pose after making a \$50 million gift to the Wayne State College of Engineering, which now bears their name.**

## Paying it forward ... and backward

**Pointers gift Wayne State \$50M**

By Ted O’Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — Jim Anderson says he owes everything in his life to Wayne State University.

“If I hadn’t gone there, I wouldn’t have started my business,” he explained. “If I hadn’t started my business, I wouldn’t have met my wife. And if I hadn’t met

her, I wouldn’t have the family I do.”

Anderson was a Ph.D. student in engineering at Wayne State in 1977 when he started his company, Urban Science, with \$1,000. Today, the data analytics company brings in more than \$200 million a year and employs more than 750 people in 20 offices around the world.

Anderson had earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in engineering at Wayne State and was working as an instructor at the school at the time.

Earlier this month, Anderson and his wife, Patricia, gave \$50 million to Wayne State’s College of Engineering, which is being renamed in their honor. It’s the largest gift in the school’s 157-year history.

“It was a pretty easy

sell on their part,” Anderson said. “I’m a grateful graduate.”

Anderson said he chose Wayne State because he could find a cheap apartment and job near campus.

“I had to work my way through school,” he recalled. “I didn’t have the money to go to a big school. Little did I know what was in front of me.”

See **FORWARD**, page 4A

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See **Section C**

## Fountain likely a goner

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — All eyes will be on the kiddie pool at Windmill Pointe Park if the water fountain at its center is removed this year.

“I think (the fountain) is symbolic of a wonderful idea that proved to be more of an impediment to seeing across the pool,” said Howard Bouton, chairman of the recreation commission’s Windmill Pointe Park subcommittee.

“Although it’s aesthetically pleasing, it presents a challenge,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

“Removing that would allow lifeguards to not have blind spots, but also for parents and grandparents to keep an eye on kids in the pool.”

Members of the Grosse

See **LIKELY**, page 2A

## Maire Green Team plants tulip tree

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The City’s Urban Forestry Commission and members of the Maire Elementary School Green Team partnered to plant a tulip tree at the corner of Notre Dame and Waterloo Thursday, April 17, in honor of Arbor Day.

Tulip trees are a favorite of swallowtail butterflies and can grow to 100 feet tall.

“Way back 300 years ago, they would cut these trees down and build ships’ masts out of them,” noted Rick Whitney, Urban Forestry Commission chairperson.

Maire Green Team stu-

See **TREE**, page 9A



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

**Urban Forestry Commissioner Elaine Bush preps Maire Green Team members on how to plant the tulip tree.**

**Pointer of INTEREST**

See **story**, page 4A



**Joe Ciaravino**

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# Rec Com seeks planner

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A master plan is a roadmap to the future, not a list of things in the glovebox.

The master plan being proposed for the Grosse Pointe Park Parks and Recreation Department is an aspirational document; an itinerary, not an inventory.

“The master plan is a very high-level document identifying what we have, what the community uses now, what we think the community would want to use going forward and coming up with broad guidance about how to accomplish what assets we have into that vision,” said Mike Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission. “It is not a line-by-line, asset-by-asset type of thing, (which) is more granular than we’d typically get into.”

“I understand,” Commissioner Christina Buchanan said. “It’s not the minutia.”

Commissioners this month asked the city manager and council to allocate funds for a consultant to guide preparation of the department’s inaugural master plan.

“We’re going to send out requests for proposals in June, as the new budget is adopted, and we’ll hopefully have a vendor selected in July,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

“Assuming council approves that, we’re

hoping to get a jump before July 1,” Hindelang said.

Matters for the plan to address involve utilization of swimming pools, playground space, amenities and activities.

“For example,” Hindelang said, “we’ve had the picnic shelter at Windmill Pointe Park kind of kicking around for a couple years now. Are there desires to have more gathering spaces in the park?”

### Public input

“Everybody wants everything,” Buchanan said of recreation options. “Everybody’s going to say ‘I want this, I want that.’ So it’s important to conduct a survey where you understand the insight of all that data.”

“The consultant will talk to us about methodology and how we approach this,” Hindelang said. “I suspect a survey to be part of it. I suspect the community engagement committee and city council to be part of it. I don’t want to tell you yes, no or maybe, because I just don’t know. That’s part of why we’re going to hire a consultant. We’re going to represent the community’s interests.”

City officials knew the request for a consultant was coming.

“City management has identified this as something they’d like us to work on because of the size and scope of the parks and recreation

department,” Hindelang said.

The department’s \$2,238,900 budget for the current fiscal year represents the second-largest slice of the city’s general fund. Public safety is the largest at just over \$8 million.

“In terms of the master plan itself, we are ultimately an advisory body,” Hindelang said of the commission. “If there are surveys or community engagement committee involvement, that could be run through either the community engagement committee or city management. Ultimately, we will probably be responsible for putting together a proposed master plan the city council could review, revise or send back to us to tweak and then city council will adopt.”

### Parallel process

Public comment was built into updating the city’s master plan a few years ago.

“A lot of community engagement (and) a lot of public input,” said Councilman Tom Caulfield, liaison to the commission.

“If we’re involved — not just the commission, but we as a community — in all of these steps, we’re going to wind up with a better document in the end,” Bouton said.

“We’ll learn about ourselves, as there may be some demographics that we get feedback from,” said Commissioner

See PLANNER, page 8A



Above, from left, Sophia Martinez, Erin Korsak and Sofia Tabaczynski work on decorating planters for their succulent plants during a plant therapy session Wednesday, March 19. Jennifer Vick, a Wellness Week adviser, checks out their progress. Right, Madeline Maks and Mariella Goodman show off their decorated planters.

PHOTOS BY  
RENEE LANDUYT



Alya Augspurger and Samantha Turner, Wellness Week leaders, stand with decorated planters next to a table that held the planting supplies needed for the project.

## LIKELY:

Continued from page 1A

Pointe Park Foundation, which donated the fountain and kiddie pool to the city in 2008, offered this year to renovate the pool and remove the fountain. In addition to blocking views, the fountain’s plumbing and

mechanical systems proved costly to maintain.

“The project, most likely (to) start in fall 2025, would include removal of the fountain and installation of three new water features, resurfacing and additional shade structures on the pool deck,” according to a summary

Craig presented to members of the recreation commission April 9.

Commissioners unanimously recommended the city council approve the foundation’s offer.

“We appreciate the foundation’s efforts,” Commission Chairman Mike Hindelang said.

“Donations will be made to the city, then

parks and recreation administration and city administration will make the decisions and take responsibility for the project,” Craig said.

Intentions are to keep the kiddie pool a kiddie pool.

“We don’t want to be too big or extravagant with water features that would be inviting to kids of older ages to cause mischief,” Craig said.

He foresees installing benign attractions, such as overhead buckets that automatically fill with water and spill onto anyone below.

A doomsday scenario would be water cannons.

“They’re fun at water parks, but I can see individuals getting angry that one kid just won’t stop spraying everyone,” Craig said.

He said he is comparison shopping among three or four vendors for features, availability and prices.

“That would be going to the next foundation meeting,” he told commissioners. “Once we have that information, I will pass that along to you.”

“Will there be an

opportunity for the sub-committee and residents to weigh in on what goes in there?” Bouton asked.

Craig proposed soliciting public comment by posting renderings of water feature options at the park.

“I’d be happy to discuss that with the foundation,” he said.

“The specifics of that project will be flushed out over the course of summer and, hopefully, renderings posted for the public to review,” Hindelang said. “Some sort of voting mechanism would be great. There are going to be options based on funding available.”

Discussions include what to do with the fountain.

“That kiddie pool fountain was beautiful,” Bouton said. “Will it be retained?”

“We are working on that right now,” Craig said. “The contractor can take it out in sections. It can be saved.”



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# Gearing up for playscape work

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Volunteers are converging on Patterson Park to continue sprucing up the old wooden playscape.

Members of the recreation commission are coordinating efforts this year, the second consecutive during which hundreds of members of the community are invited to follow through on their online petition to retain and restore the 34-year-old structure.

“We’re working to identify what we’d like done in terms of maintenance this year,” said Commissioner James Ceuninck, chairman of the playscape subcommittee.

He said he met recently with Parks and Recreation Director Chad Craig plus residents about setting an agenda. In the group’s sights are repairing and replacing chains, cleaning and sealing wood, replacing swing tops and repairing the tire feature, he said.

“We came up with two or three ideas I don’t think we individually would have come up with,” Craig said. “It was nice to have a group look it over. Now we have less head scratching trying to

come up with creative ways to solve some of those problems.”

“I appreciate the communication and defining more clearly how we can help,” Commissioner Howard Bouton said. “If we need volunteer help, it can fit into the glove you guys are already sewing rather than us deciding what we think should get done.”

Volunteerism is as much a part of the playscape as its wood and nails.

Hundreds of Park residents in 1991 volunteered to construct the playscape, saving the city thousands of dollars and setting a prideful standard of community involvement which is proving hard to live up to given how few people helped work on the playscape last summer.

A fundraiser to build the structure generated donations from children and local businesses of 720,000 pennies.

Endearing features of the structure consist of a pirate ship, dragon slide, rope bridge, tunnels, swings, playhouse, castle, moving floor and whatever a child’s imagination can conjure of such a structure.

“I think it’s going to be a great year at the Patterson playscape,” Bouton said.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Part of the Patterson Park playscape is more sure-footed due to volunteers replacing a set of floorboards recently. Three volunteers replaced eight boards. Work represented incremental but steady progress toward returning the entire 34-year-old structure to as good as new as soon as possible. “Smaller projects from our volunteer group in conjunction with the (Parks and Recreation) department’s maintenance efforts is the plan for the year,” said Howard Bouton, a member of the recreation commission. Bouton, Councilman Tom Caulfield and James Ceuninck, chairman of the commission’s playscape subcommittee, did the task Thursday, April 17. “This playscape has plenty of life and fun left in it,” Bouton said. “We are happy to help maintain it for another great year at Patterson Park.”**

# Ambulance beef lacks meat

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — People in the know can’t verify an elected official’s claim of a slow response by the city’s ambulance contractor.

Neither the Park public safety director, city manager nor ambulance contractor’s top administrator in Michigan are aware of nor have evidence indicating medics took the better part of an hour in January to arrive at the residence of a friend of Councilwoman Christine Gallagher.

“A friend of mine, at their house, they were having trouble breathing and they called EMS and they waited over 30 minutes,” Gallagher said at the April 14 city council meeting.

She spoke during a por-

tion of the meeting scheduled for Kolby Miller, CEO of MedStar Michigan, to report on the company’s fulfillment of its roughly 1½-year-old ambulance contract with the Park.

The fact that Miller nor anyone at city hall knew of Gallagher’s claim was unusual for at least two reasons:

- ◆ MedStar service complaints are supposed to be forwarded to the public safety director and city manager for investigation and redress, and
- ◆ a 30-minute response time is so outside the company’s statistical norm there’s no space to chart it on a graph documenting 12 months of ambulance runs.

Miller’s report covered 2024. It didn’t extend into January 2025, which is when Gallagher said her friend had trouble with

the company.

During 2024, according to Miller, the company responded to 488 calls for service and met its contractual obligation to respond on scene within an average 6 minutes, 15 seconds.

“There were no service or clinical complaints received in 2024,” Miller said. “Service complaints all come to me. If Jim (Bostock, Park public safety director) had a call about a 30-minute response time, I would have heard about it in the middle of the night.”

“I would think if it was a complaint, I would have heard about it,” Bostock said the next day.

He said he couldn’t substantiate Gallagher’s account.

“Last night was the first time I heard of that,” Bostock said.

“That was the first we heard of an incident in which there was a 30-minute response time,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “I nor Chief Bostock received any concerns from residents or any council member regarding this complaint. Had we received that complaint, we would have forwarded it to MedStar to understand further why the situation might have been. To our knowledge, we did not receive any concern about a January situation with a 30-minute response time.”

Gallagher’s record of unsubstantiated claims is lengthy.

She recently claimed the city budget was in deficit, her miscalculation being a failed and incomplete reading of the latest audit report.

Before that, she accused city officials of secretly

See BEEF, page 5A

# Woods crime up 20 percent

By Ted O’Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Crime increased 20.5 percent last year compared to 2023, with residents leaving vehicles unlocked playing a big part in that, according to the city’s 2024 annual public safety report.

That included the number of stolen vehicles jumping from 34 to 59, with 13 of them taken from the parking lot at Henry Ford St. John Hospital. Incidents of larceny, many involving vehicles, increased from 120 to 146.

“We still need help from residents when it comes to locking their vehicles and not leaving key fobs in their vehicles,” Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. “And if you do leave something in your vehicle, make sure it’s out of sight.”

Larcenies from vehicles included six weapons last year, with two so far in 2025.

Overall, crime rose from 511 in 2023 to 616 last year. That includes both index, which the FBI defines as the most serious, and non-index, or crimes that don’t involve violence.

Among index crimes, aggravated assault and burglary both increased, from four to nine and 11 to 16, respectively. Incidents

of criminal sexual conduct fell from eight to four and robberies fell from four to one.

The biggest non-index crime was fraud, including identity theft, which increased from 97 to 111. Retail fraud went from 13 to 22 and incidents of intimidation/stalking nearly doubled, from 15 to 29.

A high-point of 2024 was the installation of a new drug kiosk in the public safety lobby, lot at Henry Ford St. John Hospital. The state-of-the-art kiosk, the first of its kind in Michigan, uses activated charcoal to neutralize drugs that are dumped inside.

Its bladder has been replaced nine times and collected 297 pounds of pharmaceuticals, which Kosanke said is the equivalent of 135,000 pills.

“We really made a good dent,” he said. “The residents have been very good about turning in unused medications. It also prevents contamination of drinking water from pills being flushed into the sewer system.”

The department also will receive \$116,895 over 18 years as part of a \$725 million nationwide settlement with opioid manufacturers. Three people, including two sisters, died of

See CRIME, page 5A

# The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, APRIL 28**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council rescheduled meeting, 7 p.m.
  - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, sitting as the Finance Committee, 7:15 p.m.
- SATURDAY, MAY 3**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City-Wide Shred Day, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Windmill Pointe Park.

# ROADS:

Continued from page 1A

for the 2025 road rehabilitation program to Pro-Line Asphalt Paving Co., which was the second-lowest bidder for the project.

“What appeared to be the low bidder turned out that they had an unbalanced bid sheet,” Baka explained. “They did not have the proper number of crew days — basically, how many days it was going to take you. They said it would take them 35. Everybody else said 200, which is way more realistic.”

City administration during the discussion also addressed the condition of Lakeshore from Fisher to Warner Place, with Councilman John Gillooly labeling it as “absolutely outrageous,” as well as “not reasonably safe and convenient for public travel.”

Because that portion of road is eligible for federal funding, the city has applied for its repavement the last two years, City Manager Shane Reeside reported.

“We are on a list,” he said. “We are optimistic the funding will come

through next year. We were hoping this year it would be included when we did Fisher.

“That’s definitely a high-priority road for the city,” he added. “It’s in probably one of the poorest conditions of our roads in the city.”

The cost of the 2025 road rehabilitation program will be covered through the city’s street funds, which include tax revenue from its dedicated road millage. Residents renewed the millage for another five years last November.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Ciaravino reflects on love of coaching, teaching

By Mike Adzima  
Staff Writer

Whether in the classroom or on the course, Joe Ciaravino dedicated his career to shaping lives in both academics and athletics. With his long career of teaching and coaching in the Pointes coming to an end, all Ciaravino can do is reflect on how grateful he is for the experiences he had and the people he was able to help along the way. Ciaravino spent more than three decades as a math teacher at Parcels Middle School before retiring in January. Outside of teaching, he spent 25 combined seasons as an assistant cross-country and track

and field coach at Grosse Pointe North High School, coaching at his alma mater, where he was a cross-country state champion as a student in 1976. “I came from a legacy of excellence in cross-country at Grosse Pointe North,” Ciaravino said. “... When I went into teaching, I started teaching in the late 1980s. I thought that maybe I’d like to get into coaching, but I had a young family, so I realized it might not work because of the time demand. I waited and then eventually coached for 14 years. I was able to coach all four of my boys. ... Having the blessing of coaching all my sons

was great for me.” Ciaravino coached his final season in the fall with North’s varsity boys cross-country team. He first joined the coaching staff in 2010, then joined the track and field coaching staff in 2015. In 2017, he was named the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year, an award for which he was nominated by his longtime friend and fellow coach, Diane Montgomery.

Both Ciaravino and Montgomery shared many of the same philosophies when it came to coaching cross-country and track together. The biggest philosophy was to remain positive, which is something Ciaravino has always prided himself on.

“Both Coach Montgomery and I have always been positive when talking to athletes and talking about what they want to accomplish and encouraging them,” he said. “During the race, we’re out on the course cheering them on and coming up with positive words that will help them succeed.”

The positivity and motivation Ciaravino always talked about was just as important in the classroom as it was in coaching track and cross-country. He wanted his classroom to be a safe space for students to bring ideas and work together.

“It’s so important for them to realize that you’re going to provide guidance,” Ciaravino



COURTESY PHOTOS

Joe Ciaravino, right, with fellow current and former North cross country coaches Scott Cooper, middle, and Diane Montgomery.

said. “Having a sense of humor in coaching and the classroom is also important sometimes, so that students aren’t beating themselves up and keeping them from being too tough on themselves. Seeing them develop their intellectual skills and knowing that it was OK to be wrong or mistaken on an idea because that’s not a bad thing.” While he is no longer in the classroom teaching or on the sidelines

coaching, Ciaravino hopes his spirit of motivation and encouragement remains alive within the programs he loved for so long. Ciaravino became a master at motivation over the years, always wanting to help both athletes and students find the best within themselves. One of his favorite ways to do that was by using an example from his own days as a Norseman. “I would show them a

picture of my freshman year — we had a huge team back then — and say, ‘Look at these guys. Which of them do you think eventually became part of a state championship team?’” Ciaravino said. “... Seven of us were eventually state champions. It helped them see that excellence is within you if you choose to pursue it. It was important to give them vision because we tend to sell ourselves short.”



Ciaravino coached his final season with North cross country in the fall of 2024 after spending a combined 25 seasons with North’s cross country and track and field programs.

FORWARD:  
Continued from page 1A

Urban Science started while Anderson was working on the early-stage development of computer mapping. “As a lecturer, one of my roles was to visit other classes and give presentations about it,” he said. “One of those students ended up working for Cadillac and her job was to map where people in the Chicago area who owned luxury vehicles lived so they could decide where to place dealerships. “She asked her boss, ‘Well, why aren’t you using a computer for this?’” Anderson explained. “And his response was, ‘We tried and we asked three different companies to look at that and they all said the same thing: It cannot be done.’ And so she said, ‘Well, I know someone who can.’”

What originally took three weeks placing dots on a map by hand was first reduced to 12 hours using Anderson’s technology. That eventually got down to just seconds. “We put a lot of dots on maps over the years,” he said. “We’ve probably put more dots on maps than McDonald’s has sold hamburgers.” Anderson considers Urban Science among the first in the world of AI. “We didn’t improve the math, we improved the tools,” he said. “If you want to find the eight best locations for a dealership in metro Detroit, there are 81 million billion options. We can do that in seconds.” Along the way, Anderson was introduced to his wife by a colleague he was working with in Grand Blanc. “He told me his neighbor was single and I was

a footloose and fancy-free bachelor,” he laughed. “The rest is history.” The couple has been married 44 years and have four children and 10 grandchildren. They also have been involved in other philanthropic activities as well. In 2020, they donated \$5 million to Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe — now Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital — for the creation of a hybrid surgical suite. They also were integral in the creation of an entrepreneurial program for engineers at Wayne State. “I’m very humbled,” Anderson said. “First off, you can’t take it with you. And I want to make the world a better place because it has made my life better.”

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Grosse Pointe News

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Grosse Pointe Woods

Unlocked again

A resident in the 1800 block of Fleetwood reported his cell phone was stolen from his unlocked vehicle sometime the evening of Monday, April 21.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Swiped

A man’s wallet, containing \$430 and miscellaneous cards, was stolen when he momentarily left it on a service desk to retrieve his shopping cart inside a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15.

A follow up investigation led to the recovery of the wallet and all its contents. The suspect is described as a 35-year-old black man wearing glasses and a blue and white jacket.

Public urination

A 65-year-old Detroit man was arrested for disorderly conduct after urinating in a parking lot near an elementary school at 2 p.m. Friday, April 18.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Ran red

After running a red light on Mack at 9 p.m. Friday, April 18, a 23-year-old Detroit man was pulled over and cited for driving with a suspended license.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

House fire

No one was home when firefighters extinguished flames coming from the rear of a house in the 1400 block of Yorkshire Tuesday, April 15.

Officers fought the fire by entering the residence.

An investigator said the origin of the fire is undetermined.

Stolen vehicle

A locked 2025 Dodge Durango was stolen while parked in the driveway of a house in the 1300 block of Lakepointe between midnight Wednesday, April 16,

and 5 a.m. Thursday, April 17.

The ignition keys weren’t in the vehicle.

Drunken driving

A 29-year-old male motorist from Detroit was arrested for drunken driving near the intersection of Mack Avenue and Yorkshire at 4 a.m. Friday, April 18.

A patrol officer reported pulling him over for speeding and running a stop light.

“(The driver) had slurred speech and bloodshot eyes,” police said. “(He) failed field sobriety tests.”

Chased and caught

Officers from the Park and Detroit helped Eastpointe authorities capture three men in a stolen vehicle at 2 p.m. Friday, April 18, in the area of Mack Avenue and Marlborough on Detroit’s east side.

Park police had no further description of the suspects. The trio was turned over to Eastpointe officers.

Eastpointe police said the men crashed a stolen vehicle near the border

of the Park and Detroit. “Suspects entered another vehicle that crashed,” according to Park police. “Three suspects fled on foot and were arrested by Detroit (and) Park units.”

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Stolen Jeep

A black 2020 Jeep Grand Cherokee was stolen from the 200 block of Merriweather at 5:08 a.m. Thursday, April 17. Its window was smashed to gain entry.

That night, another vehicle on the same block was ransacked. Keys, an ID card, coin purse and coins were stolen from the car, which the owner could not recall locking.

Assault on officer

A 29-year-old Detroit man earned an aggravated felony assault on a police officer charge at 10:17 p.m. Friday, April

18, when he attempted to flee a traffic stop on Lakeshore.

The officer intended to pull over the man on an e-bike to inform him he was not easily visible to other drivers, as he was wearing all black clothing and the bike had only small vehicle lights placed low to the ground. However, upon encountering the officer, the suspect turned and began traveling the wrong way on Lakeshore.

The officer grabbed for him, at which point the suspect stepped off the bike and kicked it at the officer, causing him to fall and sustain a fracture to his arm.

The suspect then punched a responding officer in the chest and attempted to grab another in a headlock before being successfully detained.

Dead end

A vehicle was found stuck against a tree alongside a driveway, which commonly is mistaken as a cut-through, in the 400 block of Kercheval at 5:57 a.m. Saturday, April 19.

The 23-year-old Pontiac driver appeared intoxicated and a preliminary breath test found her blood-alcohol content to be 0.179 percent, for which she was arrested.

Grocery theft

An unknown amount of goods were placed in a backpack and stolen from a business in the 18000 block of Mack at 2:39 p.m. Sunday, April 20.

The suspect is described as an approximately 5-foot, 10-inch white man wearing a blue hoodie, dark pants and grey beanie.

Drunken speeding

A 41-year-old Taylor woman admitted to drinking because it was the anniversary of her dad’s death when she was pulled over for speeding 68 mph on Lakeshore at 12:54 p.m. Sunday, April 20.

A preliminary breath test found her blood-alcohol content to be 0.21 percent, for which she was arrested.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Rec budget requests

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Upcoming capital requests show why the Grosse Pointe Park Parks and Recreation Department is the second-largest expenditure in the city’s annual general fund budget.

Three repair projects for which Parks and Recreation Director Chad Craig will seek funding in the new fiscal year starting July 1 total \$320,000.

“Three items we’re going to be putting in for are a replacement projector for the Okulski Theatre, the heating and cooling unit for the gymnasium at Lavins Center and the pickleball courts at Patterson,” Craig told members of the recreation commission April 9.

“I presume you had a qualified technician check the projector and make sure it’s not repairable?” Commissioner Larry Haggart asked.

“Yes,” Craig said. “There are functional parts in the machine that could be used to repair the other (projector in the Schaap) theater. We are going to keep the unit. It was going to be too expensive to repair it, between \$50,000 and

\$70,000.”

He said he’s “fairly confident” his request will be approved.

Craig has more items on the improvement list. “One is eventual renovations to the Olympic pool, with starting blocks, diving boards, concrete repairs, the mechanicals for the pools themselves,” he said.

He intends to submit a funding request to the city council.

“That monstrosity of a pool is not cheap,” said Councilman Tom Caulfield, liaison to the commission and chairman of the council’s finance committee. “To replace it is going to be incredibly expensive.”

Another piece of equipment operating on relatively borrowed time is the Carol C. Schaap Theatre movie projector server. It costs \$70,000.

“At the end of this year, extended warranties will be up on the server,” Craig said. “We should get another four or five years out of it. We have parts from the other projector we can use if something fails for it.”

— Brad Lindberg

BEEF:

Continued from page 3A

rezoning single-family residential districts to promote multiple-family housing. The basis for her claim is unknown, although during a presentation by the city’s planning consultant she appeared to confuse the municipal zoning map with something else.

Gallagher’s allegation about MedStar contrasted with the resolution of an actual complaint about one of the company’s employees early in its con-

tract with the city.

“We had one piece of feedback early on — a couple months in — that one of our crew members was not terribly respectful with the interaction of public safety employees,” Miller said. “(The crew member) was decent with the family, but not like we like them to be and not respectful with public safety employees. We terminated the employee the next day.”

“I worked with that resident,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “They were very pleased with your response.”

CRIME:

Continued from page 3A

overdoses in the city in June 2023 after buying cocaine laced with fentanyl. A Harper Woods woman who is accused of selling the drugs was arrested by Woods officers and FBI agents last September.

Total ambulance runs by MedStar decreased from 1,385 in 2023 to 1,258 last

year. The number of runs requiring advanced life support fell 84 percent, from 695 to 106. Average emergency response time was four minutes, 34 seconds, with non-emergency runs averaging five minutes, 12 seconds.

The department overall responded to 9,497 calls for service in 2024, which is above the five-year average of 8,737.



**“IT’S SO COMFORTABLE TO COME HERE. IT’S SO EASY TO FIT IN.” — BILL**

MEET ME AT THE HELM

Bill and his wife, Karen, come to The Helm twice a week for Active Fit, as he says, “to keep my body moving.” He enjoys the exercise, conversation, instructor and camaraderie. For Bill, Active Fit at The Helm is like having another family.

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POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE WOODS  
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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Fabulous philanthropy

The story about Jim and Patricia Anderson (see page 1A) making a major donation to the Wayne State University College of Engineering got us thinking. How truly blessed are we to have so many generous people in the Pointes?

Calling himself a “grateful graduate,” Jim Anderson said the reason for the donation is because if he hadn’t attended Wayne State, he never would have started his business, which led to him meeting his wife and having the family he does. Very touching.

Many of you probably have heard the term “time, talent and treasure,” most likely from the pulpit. They are the three pillars of giving, meaning you can volunteer your time to a particular cause, leveraging a specific skill to benefit others or use your financial resources to fund initiatives.

In that regard, it would seem every single person in Grosse Pointe is a philanthropist. Our pages are filled every week with stories about volunteers who devote their time to everything from fundraisers to school activities to youth sports.

A recent example of talent was our profile of three Pointers who helped invent a seatbelt cushion to ease pain for women who have undergone surgery for breast cancer.

Treasure? How many boxes of Girl Scout cookies did you purchase recently? How many restaurants have you patronized on a specific school night? Then there are the myriad events, balls, galas, auctions and drives that raise money for everything under the sun.

Much of this charitable spirit can probably be traced back to Edsel and Eleanor Ford, who were big supporters of the arts, nature and family life. We still enjoy their gift today through their eponymous house, which hosts a plethora of activities, educational opportunities, concerts and more.

Benefitting causes from recreation to early childhood education to economic development and non-profits is the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. It supports not only southeastern Michigan but also western New York, where Wilson, a long-time Shores resident, was owner of the Buffalo Bills for more than five decades.

The Boll name — Marlene and the late John — certainly is recognizable. It can be found at The Helm, athletic facilities at Grosse Pointe South High School and University Liggett School and a YMCA in Detroit.

As Boll wrote in his 2021 autobiography, “A Wheelbarrow and a Shovel: The Story Behind America’s Most Unlikely Real Estate Empire,” putting his name on projects he donated to was not always top of mind. He noted that he often remained anonymous, but would agree to lend his name if he thought it would prompt other philanthropists to get involved.

Also at Liggett is the Manoogian Art Gallery, named for Richard and Jane Manoogian.

An art gallery of the same name will be housed at the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts in Grosse Pointe Park.

Residents of the Park also get to enjoy first-run movies at the Carol C. Schaap Theatre and the Okulski Family Theatre inside the Delores and Paul Lavins Activity Center.

The Cotton family — including Grosse Pointe News owner Sean Cotton — also has been involved with several charitable acts. A recent example is the Sheryl L. Cotton Pediatric Emergency Department at Henry Ford St. John Hospital. It was made possible by a sizable donation from her and her son, Jon Cotton.

The Van Elslander family also has been involved in



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

On Wednesday, April 16, in preparation for Earth Day April 22, the Grosse Pointe South Save the Lakes group painted the rock on the front lawn in an Earth theme, with a heart above the words “Mother Earth.” Pictured from left are Lucy Caulfield, Sarah Koval, Abby Macey, Amy Ezop, Chloe Caulfield and Lucy Tull.

GUEST VIEW By Lisa Abad-Brown

Rooted in togetherness

One of the most enduring, irrevocable divine truths — across traditions and supported by solid scientific research — is that we humans are made for togetherness. Just as a bee is

drawn to pollen and a flower turns toward the sun and soaks up rain, we are created for relationship.

All of creation is connected and intertwined in ways we can’t even see or understand. As part of this beautiful creation, we humans, like all other living things, need to live by the laws of nature in order to function and evolve properly. Just like you can’t feed a plant gasoline, put it in a dark room and expect it to thrive, so too author and atheist Jonathan Haidt in his book, “The Anxious Generation,” observes how the digital age is affecting our growth, harming how our brains and social lives develop.

He says, “We are connecting our young

people to everyone in the world and disconnecting them from the people around them,” and mourns our continued disregard for our innate design by observing, “People don’t get depressed when we face threats collectively; we get depressed when we feel isolated, lonely or useless.”

His research shows children need to “be raised within communities that offer a rich moral framework in order to develop a sense of place and meaning that enables them to thrive.” We are wired for friendship and collaboration, but our culture frustrates our efforts to establish these healthy social ties.

Dr. Margaret Wheatley frames the challenge this way. She suggests that our creator speaks to us in nature in which we observe that “lasting change never happens as a result of top down, strategic plans or from the command of any single individual. Rather, change happens with little, spontaneous and irregular actions that spring up simultaneously in many different areas; large-scale change comes through small unpredictable beginnings. If we could sit

See GUEST, page 7A

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should be typed and signed with the writer’s full name and local address, as well as a daytime telephone number for verification or questions. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters may be submitted via email to editor@grossepointenews.com or by filling out the letters form on our website, [grossepointenews.com](http://grossepointenews.com).

Forever grateful

To the Editor:

Easter is traditionally a time of reflection. I’m writing to you in regards to an incident that happened to me and my hero, Connor Hanigan of Grosse Pointe Park. We are coworkers at Allemon’s Landscape Center. In November, a group of us were putting away Christmas greenery. Mary and I were laughing and sharing a doughnut. All of a sudden, the doughnut stuck in my trachea. I could still breathe but not make a sound. Connor jumped in and started pounding me on the back, apologizing the whole time that he didn’t want to hurt me. Thankfully he was very persistent. The doughnut finally came out. This young man wants to be a fireman and I think he would be a good one. Very cool under pressure. My family and I will be forever grateful.

DELANE LOMBARDI  
Clinton Township

WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

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April 24 – 30

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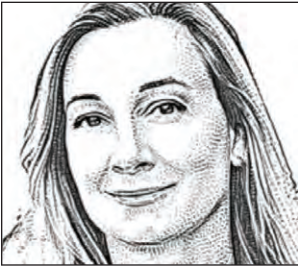
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Weather data courtesy of Channel 4, WDIV Detroit • ClickOnDetroit.com



I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



# Surrounded by selflessness

Just when you think the world is completely sideways and true kindness has gone the way of the dodo, the truly special people of our community step in to remind us that Grosse Pointe is truly a magical bubble we are incredibly lucky to call home.

If you have never cared for someone with dementia, you may not have experienced the chaos, sadness and immense ups and downs that come with it. But after an experience with a relative last week, it struck me just how many

people around here are truly selfless helpers.

Here in Grosse Pointe we have an off-duty nurse who picked up my aunt after a fall, comforted her and ultimately drove her to my house. We have cheerful and uplifting next-door neighbors and caregivers with patience I envy who bring so much joy by stopping to chat for a few minutes each day.

And we have a public safety department with compassionate crisis officers who are consummate professionals and calmly handle these situations every day.

You may be thinking, “So what? It’s their job” or “It’s the right thing to do.” But what you may not have considered is when

you are helping someone with dementia, you will likely not be met with a smile and a heartfelt thank you. You may get yelled at, accused of stealing from them or even worse. These people know they are helping to help and not for the accolades. When no one is looking and they won’t get much credit, they do it anyway.

Thank you to everyone in Grosse Pointe who goes out of their way to make life a little safer for the elderly. And a special thank you to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Officer Paul Reygaert for his assistance, advice and ability to provide a voice of reason in a stressful situation.

## YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1950  
75 years ago this week

**SCHOOL BOND SALE SETS NEW RECORD:** That big municipal bond buyers of the country look with high favor on the credit of the Grosse Pointe area was evidenced April 12, when the bids were opened for the \$3,185,000 school bond issues recently authorized by the voter for school construction. There were three bidders, Lehman Brothers of New York, the First of Michigan Corporation and Blythe and Company of Chicago.

1975  
50 years ago this week

**GPF OKAYS CLOSING OF LAKEVIEW:** The Farms Council has decided to close Lakeview Avenue between Mary and Carver streets for a period of one year to see if the banning of vehicular traf-

fic eliminates problems of partying youths, racing cars and excessive trash which have brought numerous complaints from area residents.

2000  
25 years ago this week

**CITY, VILLAGE TO FIGHT LITTER:** Village Association members and the City of Grosse Pointe Council discussed ways to reduce litter in The Village, a month after some on the council complained about how bad the problem was in the City’s shopping district. The plan Village Association President Michael Kramer presented to the council called for an awareness program to be instituted among Village businesses. Store operators would be made aware of the problem as well as what their responsibilities are.

**THE TIGERS’ NEW STADIUM — IT’S GRRRRREAT!** The stadium is dead; long live the stadium. Grosse Pointers should enjoy

Comerica Park, the new baseball stadium that will be home to the Detroit Tigers for many years. The stadium was built after the voters of Wayne County approved a ballot proposal that called for the joint financing of the new stadium between the county and the Ilitch family. Construction began three years ago. Seating capacity is 40,120. In addition to regular seating, the stadium has 102 luxury boxes that can be rented for \$125,000 a year and up.

2015  
10 years ago this week

**BILL MANDATES BODYCAMs:** Legislation regulating police body cameras is getting a second showing in the state House of Representatives. A bill introduced this session reprises one from last year. The main difference — and backers see this as a positive — is a conservative Republican from an Oakland County suburb introduced the original bill while the second feature is by a liberal Democrat from Detroit.

## GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

on a mountainside for many decades, we would see a tree here or there sprout up, and then more and more, until we had a forest.

“But we would be hard-pressed to find the blueprint. Our human behavior is part of this complex and delicate creation, but we have constructed unnatural mega-systems that don’t work. They are crumbling around us, and we are the casualties — stressed out, disconnected from each other, moving too fast.”

So, what are we to do?

Dr. Brian Flanagan suggests we take a play from the Christian tradition of the 13th century when clergy and the big monasteries in Europe were deeply corrupt; caught up in wealth and power; distracted from the humble way of life introduced by Jesus. A strong clamor for reform emerged among the people. Out of this conflict, small groups of people working together to live more like the early followers of Jesus began to emerge and the communities that embraced this kind of simple life of sharing and poverty — such as the Franciscans — exploded in size. St. Francis went from practicing with just a

few of his friends to having over 40,000 friars within about 60 years.

These little groups didn’t spend their time and energy directly confronting the institution, rather they found cracks in the older form of “doing church” that wasn’t working anymore and found creative ways to live authenticity in those cracks and to grow something new. Being deeply rooted in the Christian tradition made it possible for these little networks of people who shared a common vision of what was possible to innovate with integrity.

As anthropologist Margaret Mead famously observed: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

So, as we watch in awe as nature’s beauty bursts back to life around us this spring, perhaps we too can plant ourselves anew into the rich, nourishing soil of community and togetherness, that if lived with authenticity, help us to grow in health and hope.

Lisa Abad-Brown is associate for children, youth and family at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Visit [lisaabadbrown.com](http://lisaabadbrown.com) for more of her writings.

CONTEST!



# Kid Scoop

## What’s your FAVORITE PART?

Send us a photo of you with your completed favorite part of our weekly KID SCOOP section in the comics — and you’ll be entered to win a \$25 gift card to CHOCOLATE BAR CAFE in our monthly contest.

JUST EMAIL us at [media@grossepointenews.com](mailto:media@grossepointenews.com) with your photo, name, city and a brief reason why you like KID SCOOP. Your photo may be used in our next promotional ad. The deadline is FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025.

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# Lifeguard shortage

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city needs lifeguards.

Pre-season rosters are down all over, according to Parks and Recreation Director Chad Craig.

“It’s not only Grosse Pointe Park,” he said.

He wants to hire another 10 guards. A total of 15 new guards would get him fully stocked.

“I feel fairly confident we should have time to get there,” he said. “The last few years have been kind of a challenge.”

For more information about working for the park as a lifeguard, email Craig at craigc@grossepointepark.org or Recreation Specialist Steadman Tylor at taylor@grossepointepark.org.

## National shortage

The American Lifeguard Association attributed shortages in recent years to young people seeking career-building jobs. Then came COVID.

“Social distancing meant fewer training opportunities for new lifeguards and certification,” according to an article on the organization’s

website, americanlifeguardassociation.com. “The shortage has been an ongoing issue, with about a third of the country’s 390,000 public swimming pools remaining closed or opened sporadically last year due to the shortage.”

Experienced guards also are becoming a rarity.

“The biggest thing has become the number of years we can keep lifeguards,” Craig said. “It used to be four or five years. It’s gone down to a season or two before they move on to something else.”

Lifeguards can’t just show up, put on a bathing suit and go to work. They need to be certified by an approved provider, such as the American Red Cross.

The Farms lures lifeguards by paying up to \$15 per hour, reimbursing up to \$250 for certification class and doubling hourly pay for guards willing to stay on the job during the final two weeks of the season.

Starting pay for lifeguards in the City and Woods is \$13.50 and \$13, respectively.

— Brad Lindberg

# Flyleaf approved for on-street dining platform

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Joining a number of other establishments on The Hill, Flyleaf bookstore and bistro at 92 Kercheval was approved last Monday for an on-street dining platform to take up one metered parking space along Kercheval.

Rather than incorporate additional outdoor seating, the establishment intends to split the six sets of tables and chairs previously occupying its sidewalk patio between the patio and the soon-to-be-constructed temporary seasonal platform.

“In the past, we had that sidewalk area and we had six two-top (tables),” said Lani Martin, Flyleaf representative, “so we’re just planning to move three of those two-tops onto the platform to make a little bit more separation between the tables and just to make it look visually like, ‘Hey, we’re a bistro that’s open for dining.’”

City approval comes with a number of standard safety conditions.

To clearly separate the dining area and vehicular traffic, a minimum two-foot separation must be maintained between the platform and the Kercheval

travel lane, with an additional two-foot buffer from the adjacent parking spaces.

Wheel stops must be incorporated to distinguish the platform from active parking spaces, while bollards or other vertical elements are required to improve visibility and protect patrons from vehicular traffic.

To maintain walkability in the downtown district, there must be a minimum clear sidewalk width of five feet of unobstructed pedestrian access.

Similar to other on-street dining platform arrangements in the district, the city will charge Flyleaf \$240 per month to lease the parking space, compensating for revenue lost from the parking meter.

Other on-street dining options on The Hill include Luxe Bar and Grill, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Bronze Door and Cafe Nini.

Farms city council Monday, April 14, approved Flyleaf’s dining platform 5-0, with councilmen Neil Sroka and Lev Wood absent.

— Laurel Kraus

# PLANNER:

Continued from page 2A

Roger Basse, appointed to the board this year. “The parks are high-level now and wonderful, but we can look at improvement as an outline to go forward.”

went through four revisions,” Caulfield said. “What I assume is going to happen is whoever gets hired is going to do their initial assessment. They’ll probably come to this body along with the city administration asking, ‘What do you have, how does this work, what do you see, what do you

want?’ Then it will go to community engagement and compare that with other communities and what they’re doing. Here’s the goals the community asked for. Let’s work toward those.”

Buchanan speculated that the municipal park system is the second-most popular draw to liv-

ing in the Pointes, public schools being the first.

“There’s a huge budget,” Buchanan said. “We want to give people their maximum value out of the parks.”

Hindelang forecast the final document as the department’s vision for programs, asset utilization and investment for

the next 10 years.

“Like a strategic plan for a business,” he said. “The master plan is the guiding structure. The parks and recreation master plan will allow us to have that big-picture view documented.”

“I think it’s going to identify and help this commission prioritize

not only future needs but what should we be focused on, what is truly important to the community,” said Caulfield, chairman of the finance committee. “And what are our top items from a cost perspective we need to start capital improvement projects. It’s going to open a lot of stuff.”



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# South student excels at Quiz Bowl

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Grosse Pointe South High School senior Josh Koch finished seventh out of 251 students at the National Academic Quiz Tournaments' Individual Player National Championship Tournament held earlier this month in Chicago.

The top nine competitors advanced to the finals the second day of the competition.

"I was pretty happy because I barely missed it last year," Koch said.

Koch finished 13th last year and 32nd as a sophomore.

He was first in the current events category, second in social studies and fifth in geography.

"Those are my favorite subjects and that stuff just seems to stick in my

head," Koch said. "I read a lot of news, too. I like to read a lot in general."

Koch said he wrote down a lot of information while preparing for the tournament.

"That really helped when I came across a practice question I didn't know," he added.

Koch said he and his mom also like to watch "Jeopardy!" as another way to practice.

Peter Palen, a social studies teacher at South and coach of the quiz bowl team, said Koch has been captain the past three years.

"He is one of the best players in the country and it is truly a spectacle to watch him play," Palen said. "His ability to anticipate the direction of the pyramidal-style question is incredible. We have the annual faculty match on April 23 after school,

(which was after press time) and I think it is going to be hard to put together a teacher team that can take him on."

Koch also was the top individual performer for the second consecutive year at the NAQT state team tournament earlier this month. South finished second overall while Grosse Pointe North High School came in fourth.

Koch plans to attend the University of Michigan in the fall to study international relations.

"I'd eventually like to work for the state department," he said.

He also is a member of the Blue Devil swimming, cross country and track teams.

"I like to stay active," Koch said.

The quiz bowl teams from South and North

are preparing for the national team tournament in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend.

Jack McHenry and Jack Rabaut from North finished 58th and 88th, respectively, at the individual tournament in Chicago.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for individuals and teams of students, according to the National Academic Quiz Tournaments. Quiz bowl teams use buzzers and answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports and popular culture. Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Grosse Pointe South High School senior Josh Koch at the National Academic Quiz Tournaments' Individual Player National Championship Tournament earlier this month.**

# Trombly survey results in

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A recent survey by the Grosse Pointe Public School System showed 396 children birth to age 9 living in 227 houses in the catchment area of Trombly Elementary School.

Kelly Sullivan of Epic/MRA, a Lansing-based polling firm, presented the results at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Monday, April 14.

Chris Stanley, assistant superintendent for curriculum and technology, said the survey grew out of one the district developed late last year.

"It's important to have someone from the outside look at it and say, 'Here are the facts, here are our findings,'" Postcards were mailed to all 1,687 households in the Trombly catchment area, each with a unique code. The survey was open March 10 to

28.

"We had a handful of duplicate responses, but the answers were basically the same," Sullivan said. "That might have been the case where a head of household responded, then another head of household responded without knowing the other already had."

There were 438 total responses, but only 227 met the criteria.

"If they didn't have at least one child under the

age of 9 in the household, they were directed to a thank-you page and then to the GPPSS website," Sullivan said.

Based on data from Plante Moran, the survey estimated there would be 500 households that met the criteria, giving the survey a sampling error of plus or minus 4.9 points.

Of those 227 households, 48 percent said they had two children 9 or younger. Another 24 percent had one and 21 percent had three.

Some 64 percent of those children were below kindergarten age, while 51 percent of them attended a private preschool.

Among parents of children 4 and younger, 60 percent said they would

eventually send their children to Defer Elementary School if Trombly was not an option by then. Of those who said they would not, half said it was due to overcrowding issues.

Another 28 percent said they preferred private or parochial schools.

If Trombly were to reopen as a preschool, 86 percent of parents

See SURVEY, page 10A

# TREE:

Continued from page 1A

dents were shown how to tease the tree's roots — "Usually we don't like teasing, but in this case we do," said Elaine Bush, forestry commissioner — and provided shovels of dirt and gallons of water to the freshly planted

tree. Commissioners then showed students how to spread mulch to make the shape of a doughnut rather than a volcano to protect the tree's trunk.

"This tree is going to grow with you guys," Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak said, "so we're really glad you guys are doing this with us."

— Laurel Kraus



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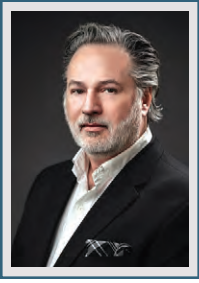
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# Liggett Knight raises \$532,000 for ULS programs

University Liggett School's annual auction, Liggett Knight, raised \$532,000 to support academic initiatives, building improvements, athletic equipment and more.

Held April 11, at The War Memorial, this year's event featured live, silent and fishbowl auctions, as well as a special paddle raise that generated a record-setting \$257,000 for The Institute for Innovation in STEM at ULS.

Cressie Boggs, ULS's director of development and alumni relations, extended heartfelt thanks to the 2025 Liggett Knight co-chairs, JJ Curis and Alicia Nicholson,

whose leadership and vision were instrumental in the event's success. She also expressed gratitude to the Liggett Knight committee and many dedicated volunteers whose energy and guidance made the evening possible.

"We also extend our appreciation to the generous bidders, donors and sponsors whose support enriched the Liggett Knight 2025 experience, making it an unforgettable night," Boggs said. "Thanks to their generosity — and the strength of our community — we continue to uphold our core values of excellence, empathy, integrity and respect."

Since its inception, Liggett Knight has raised more than \$5.6 million to benefit school initiatives. Popular live auction items included:

- ◆ an elegant 18-karat white gold diamond halo pendant from edmund t. AHEE Jewelers;
- ◆ a Detroit VIP sports extravaganza with tickets to Lions, Tigers, Pistons, Red Wings and University of Michigan games, donated by Danielly and Nicholas Noecker of the Class '85; and
- ◆ a private dinner party and overnight accommodations at ALEO, courtesy of JJ and Anthony Curis.

"We are truly grateful

for the incredible generosity and enthusiasm shown for this year's Liggett Knight," Boggs said. "The unwavering commitment of our community — through sponsorships, ticket purchases and item donations — ensures that we continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students. Our students' accomplishments are made possible by our community's support, which fuels our mission to inspire curiosity, confidence and a lifelong passion for learning."

ULS parents, faculty and staff contributed auction items for the event, which was hosted at The War Memorial for the first time in school history.

Liggett Knight is University Liggett School's premier fundraising event. Proceeds support technology upgrades, academic programming, facility enhancements, the arts, athletics and more.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ULS

From left, Liggett Knight co-chairs JJ Curis and Alicia Nicholson, with ULS alumnus JD Spina.



From left, Head of School Tom Sheppard, Jennifer Sheppard, Scott Reilly and Gretchen Knoell Higbie, president of the ULS Board of Trustees.

Top, from left, Randall Juip, Maureen Juip of the ULS Board of Trustees and Lauren and Bill Graca. Bottom, from left, Dr. Raz Haladjian, Carla Haladjian of the ULS Board of Trustees, ULS faculty member Lisa Cornell and ULS alumnus Chris Cornell.



## BoE commits to Trombly

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — After months of discussion, plus years of speculation, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education has committed to reopening the former Trombly Elementary School in some capacity after a 7-0 vote at its meeting Monday, April 14.

Trustee Clint Derringer made a motion to get the building up to code for future district use. Trustee Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, seconded the motion, which came after a presentation about the recent survey detailing how many children birth to age 9 live in the Trombly catchment area (see story, page A9).

Derringer said he expects the money to come from a renewal of the district's "safe and secure" bond, which is expected to be on the Nov. 4 ballot. If it passes, the district would receive \$120 million over 20 years.

"We also need to make sure that ballot language reflects that," Derringer said. "It's clear, cut and dried. We can do it tonight."

There previously was discussion about a formal resolution on the matter, which usually requires two readings, meaning it would not have been considered until late May.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said estimates show it will take at least \$6 million to accomplish the task.

"We can't open it for the 2025-26 school year, even if the bond passes," she said. "But if it's going to remain in our inventory, we need to maintain it. If it's not brought up to speed now, it may not happen."

Members of the district's Bond Advisory Committee at its meeting two weeks ago ranked Trombly last out of 17 projects. The committee's role is to recommend which of the most critical needs should be addressed using \$60 million of the bond proceeds.

That includes things like relocating the main office at Grosse Pointe South High School, renovating the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center at Grosse Pointe North High School, new classroom furniture and district-wide air conditioning.

"We're at a time when there's a great need for pre-K classrooms," Derringer said. "Demand is up and our capacity is down. We have a tremendous opportunity to make that building as efficient as possible."

The district has long discussed early childhood centers as a way to increase enrollment, the belief being that students who attend pre-K classes will remain in the district for K-12 offerings.

## SURVEY:

Continued from page 9A

with children too young for kindergarten said

they would send their children there. Among children ages 5 to 9 in the Trombly catchment area, 20 percent attend either a private or

parochial school or are homeschooled. Of those, 70 percent said they would choose Trombly if it reopened as an elementary school.

Of parents with children attending Defer, 71 percent said they would switch to Trombly.

"The survey shows these parents are largely in agreement in their desire to see Trombly reopen," Sullivan said.

Trustee Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, asked if the data could be extrapolated to the 500 households that were assumed to have children age 9 or younger.

"I think the next step is to find that number," he said. "We have the data we can apply to it."

Sullivan said that only would be possible if the district could find that exact number. Trustee Ginny Juip suggested the district work with Plante Moran and Trombly United — a group that formed to encourage participation in the survey and advocates for the school's reopening — to pinpoint that number.

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Josephine O'Reilly stars as Mary Lennox in Grosse Pointe Theatre's "The Secret Garden."

'The Secret Garden' closes GPT's 77th season

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

It's been a 30-year journey for Michael Gravame, director of Grosse Pointe Theatre's season-ending show, "The Secret Garden."

Gravame directed the play in Troy 30 years ago, shortly after the rights became available, and now brings it back to the stage at Parcells Middle School May 2 to 11.

"It's coming full circle," he said, noting one of the actors from that long-ago performance — Doug Clark — was cast as the male lead for the current show.

"This show has always held a special place in my heart," he added. "It's one of the most beautiful, haunting musicals ever written. It's based on the novel by Frances

Hodgson Burnett and is over 100 years old. So many young girls and moms have said they grew up reading this book. Some of the characters who are just mentioned in the book are expanded in the musical."

Set in the early 1900s, the story follows young Mary Lennox, who is sent to Yorkshire, England, to live with an uncle she's never met after her family dies from cholera. The uncle, Archie Craven, is grieving the loss of his wife, Lily, who died 10 years earlier.

Through unexpected friendships and the discovery of a long-forgotten garden, Mary sets in motion a journey of emotional and physical healing for herself and those around her.

"Thirty years ago, I was a young director," Gravame said. "You grow as a director; when you start, you might copy or mimic the original. I did come up with some creative ideas last time, but revisiting it, I have newer ideas for the show."

"It's about grief and how to cope and moving on," he continued. "I've experienced those things now that I'm older ... thus enabling me to see this show from a new perspective and with a deeper appreciation for its message of hope, love and renewal."

"... There's a reason this novel has resonated with audiences for over a century," he added. "It speaks to the child in all of us and reminds us that even in the darkest of places, something beautiful can grow."

The production includes the presence of spirits who haunt the mansion — an element unique to the musical version.

"Staging these ghostly characters was one of the biggest creative challenges," Gravame said. "But it allowed us to explore grief and memory in a really moving, theatrical way."

Nearly 70 hopefuls auditioned for "The Secret Garden," which attracted the best of the best among community theater singers.

"It's a classic musical that's not done very often," Gravame said. "It has not been reprised on Broadway since it originally opened in 1991. ... Because it's not done often, it attracted people

See GARDEN, page 8B

Mayors' Prayer Breakfast is May 1  
Keynote speaker to highlight the power of prayer

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Eric Backman has witnessed the power of prayer in his own life and the lives of others, and eagerly speaks about his own transformation — from an atheist on a quest to disprove Christianity to a faith-filled believer in Jesus Christ.

Backman will talk about his faith journey and the power of prayer at the Mayors' Prayer Breakfast, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, May 1, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

The event is sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

"I grew up in Grosse Pointe and didn't have much of a Christian upbringing," said Backman, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident. "My parents were wonderful. There was just no formal catechesis. At a certain point, I developed not an unbelief, but an irritation to those who do believe."

His irritation sprouted during childhood when his father was diagnosed with lung cancer. Though initially, treatment suc-

cessfully rid his body of the disease, it came back more severe and widespread.

"That's the first time I ever prayed," Backman said. "I prayed for my dad to be healed. He died two weeks later. That had an underlying impact to my animosity toward faith."

At Albion College, Backman refused invitations to attend Mass — including from the woman who now is his wife. Instead, he said, "it sparked an irritation that I'm going to prove this wrong."

He took classes, read spiritual classics and studied hard. He found more philosophical consistency than he anticipated. Post-college his education continued, through podcasts and speaking with local pastors about faith. He even took a course on Catholicism — all to disprove Christianity.

"I found more good answers to the questions I posed," he said. "I went from, 'I don't think this is true,' to 'maybe it could be true,' to 'I think it's true.' And that phase lasted a really long time."

Backman joined the Catholic Church but still struggled with doubt. A



COURTESY PHOTO

Eric Backman will share his journey from atheist to believer during the Mayors' Prayer Breakfast.

"Journey Through the Bible" course helped, but it wasn't until he attended a prayer workshop at Sacred Heart Seminar in 2017, when things started falling into place.

He witnessed the power of prayer, within himself and others.

"That was when it went

from the head to the heart for me," he said.

Backman will share during the breakfast about that power, as well as how the Lord brought him deeper into his faith.

"It helped me to release control of my life — letting go of the steering wheel," he said. "Anyone

who knows how I was knows that's not my MO, but it totally is now. The more I release my tight grip, maybe not everything will go well, but I will always have peace. How can I not like the plan if I know (God) is in charge? It has brought peace and joy to my family, my business, my clients."

A certified financial planner and founder of Backman Wealth Management on The Hill, Backman developed a faith-based investment platform that screens investments for alignment with biblical principles, helping clients steward their resources in a way that honors their values.

He also is an active member of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church; serves as vice president of vocations for Serra Club; is an advisor to the Catholic Foundation of Michigan; chairs the board of Chesterton Academy of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Clinton Township; is a national advisor to Regina Caeli Academy; and helped launch the residency program at Gianna House.

On a personal level, Backman and his wife,

Carrie, have four children — Michael, Anne, Helen and Mary Rose — and a fifth on the way.

"The Lord has given me a good story to share," he said. "It's not my time anymore; all of it's his, but I know it's good."

In addition to speaking about the power of prayer, Backman will lead attendees in prayer, "and see how the Lord impacts their hearts," he said. "My words can inspire, but he can change lives."

This year's Mayors' Prayer Breakfast is sponsored by Corewell Health, Sean and Nancy Cotton and The War Memorial.

Tickets are \$65 and may be purchased online at [grossepointechamber.com](http://grossepointechamber.com).

"This event is uplifting and beautiful," said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and event coordinator. "This will be my third prayer breakfast. Seeing all the people in the community with stories to share is so unique. People say it's their favorite event of the year. To be with people who are likeminded and touched by faith is very special."

For more information, call (313) 881-4722.



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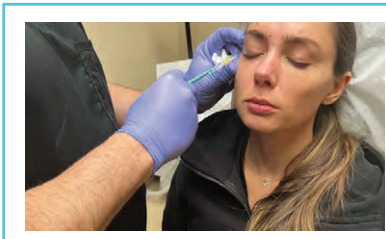
Dr. Richard Ferrara and Dr. Katherine Caretti, of Grosse Pointe Woods’ Skin & Laser Center, see many people come in during spring to check in on the status of their skin. As the Pointes head into a season of celebrations, from showers and weddings to graduations and vacations, photo opportunities will abound where you will want your skin to look its best.

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A customizable facial using a patented diamond-tip technology that exfoliates the skin and delivers a beautiful glow. This procedure is recommended as a series of three treatments with the last facial timed just two to three days before the big day.



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This is the first FDA treatment designed to grow fuller, longer lashes within 16 weeks with daily applications. Plan ahead accordingly so that your round of treatments ends just prior to your celebration.

If you are looking for something that is easy to use on your own at home, here are some of the best products for skin that you can apply yourself:

**SkinBetter Mystro**  
This adaptogen-based serum reduces redness as well as smooths out mottled pigmentation, dullness, and uneven skin texture. If you choose this product it is advised to start applying it regularly beginning 12 weeks prior to your event.

**SkinBetter Alpha Ret**  
These easy-to-use peel pads are an at-home treatment for dull, uneven skin tone and texture. Use weekly for best results.

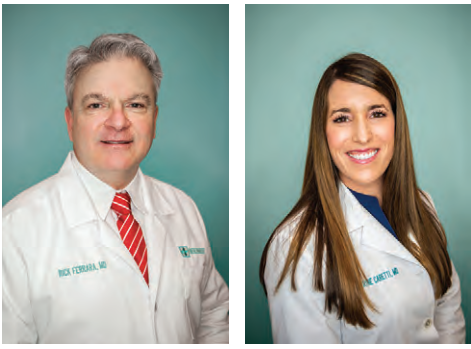


**Alastin ReSurface Skin Polish**  
Uncover instantly smoother, visibly glowing skin with dual-action exfoliation powered by volcanic minerals and glycolic acid to sweep away dead skin cells.

Whatever you are looking for to show off your best face for celebration season, Skin & Laser Center has the expertise and advice to give you a great glow.



The Skin & Laser Center is located at 20043 Mack Ave. For more information, contact them at (313) 884-5100 or online at [ferraderm.com](http://ferraderm.com).



Dr. Richard Ferrara Dr. Katherine Caretti

### MEET THE DOCTORS

The Skin & Laser Center of Grosse Pointe is the cosmetic aesthetic wing of Ferrara Dermatology. Their team of licensed aestheticians and board-certified physicians help support all aspects of skin care, including customizing a dynamic skin care regimen using products and services to enhance the look and feel of the skin. They offer a wide range of state of the art skin treatments.

They use the Visia Skin Analysis system to get a clear sense of each client’s skin health in order to create a personalized plan. The Skin & Laser Center team has advanced training with Allergan, Coolsculpting University, Lumenis, GentleMax Pro, Perfecta, Collagen PIN, SecretRF and Hydrafacial. All injections are performed by Dr. Ferrara and Dr. Caretti, which led to Allergan recognizing the center as one of the top 2 percent of injection providers nationwide.

Because the Skin & Laser Center of Grosse Pointe is a part of the full-service Ferrara Dermatology practice, they are able to address all your skin needs in one place. Ferrara Dermatology manages a wide range of medical and aesthetic dermatology services, from routine yearly skin examinations to the management of skin conditions such as acne, psoriasis and eczema. Ferrara Dermatology provides individualized, comprehensive services to help you maintain healthy skin throughout the stages and seasons



# ‘A Night at the Races’ benefits Second Mile Center

## May 3 event hosted at Copper Hop Brewing Co.

By Jody McVeigh  
*Editor*

Pastor Ruth Azar can relate to the young people she serves through the Second Mile Center of Detroit. Like many of them, she grew up experiencing domestic violence; she lost her father suddenly when she was 9; she belonged to a motorcycle gang; she is from an immigrant family.

“I was poor when I was young, but we didn’t take any handouts,” she said. “I can see why God might have chosen me. I can identify with them. I know how to survive.

“You have to have people who are willing to take a chance,” she added. “I’m so blessed. I didn’t believe in God for 30 years. I can relate to that, too.”

Azar is the founder and executive director of the Second Mile Center of Detroit, which has been serving the notorious 48205 ZIP code since 2007, teaching hope, faith and love to children and youth, while expanding its outreach to the broader community.

She introduces her charges to new experiences, from learning to milk cows to taking in a baseball game to visiting

the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Second Mile Center offers food and clothing as well, but its main focus is faith in God.

“The center has offered mostly children’s programs through the years,” Azar said. “We’re trying to teach children that they are accountable. They may not be to you or me, but they are accountable to God. I don’t want them to forget who they belong to. I call each one a child of God and that they are loved and they matter. That’s who they are to me and I don’t want them to forget that.

“We teach children to have God in their back corner and if they do their best, they can get out of every situation they want to,” she added. “And get educated — get a jump-start on their future. Graduate high school and go on to college; we help with that.”

The center does as much as it can for youth in the community, including feeding them and providing essential needs.

“We don’t hand out cash,” Azar said. “You work for me to earn money. There are no handouts.”

The center’s annual budget is \$150,000, “which is nothing for the amount we do,” Azar said. But it operates without grants or federal funding, “because we teach the word of God,” she added. “So we have to figure out ways to raise money.”

The center receives help — Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is one of the top three churches that support the non-profit — but more help is always needed.

To support its mission, Second Mile Center is hosting the second annual “A Night at the Races” fundraiser from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Copper Hop Brewing Co., 23401 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

The Kentucky Derby-themed event includes live race viewing, raffles, derby-themed games and prizes, as well as best hat and best dressed contests. Derby attire is encouraged.

“This will be a great event to raise needed operational funds,” Azar said, adding she hopes to bring in new annual donors as well. “Last year was such a success that our board knew immediately we had to do it again. Even though we started after the race, so many guests arrived in Derby-themed attire that we decided to lean fully into the theme this year. Now, we’re kicking off early so everyone can watch the race on the big screen and enjoy the excitement from start to finish.”

“Copper Hop is a great space,” added Alex Boles, a volunteer on the event committee. “They’ve always been gracious with the center in hosting events and with sponsorships. ... They understand what the program is and how it affects young people in the area.

Boles said he hopes the fundraiser reaches a broad audience and allows new faces to get to know the center and offer help.

“It’ll be nice to have new faces in the community come out,” he added. “If it’s to support Second Mile Center, great. If it’s just to go to Copper Hop and spend a couple extra dollars, great. They can donate to the center and rest assured it’s going to a great cause.”

Tickets for “A Night at the Races” are \$30 general admission, \$50 VIP. VIP tickets include two drinks and a commemorative Copper Hop glass.

“It should be a fun night and it’s supporting a local business,” Azar said.

To register, visit [shorter.at/aHWM3](https://shorter.at/aHWM3) or [secondmilecenter.org](https://secondmilecenter.org), scan the QR code or call (734) 730-1594.



## Second Mile Center on a mission from God

By Jody McVeigh  
*Editor*

When she first was called to open the Second Mile Center of Detroit — a place that offers after-school programs, summer activities, clothing, Bible studies, field trips and other opportunities to young people living in Detroit’s 48205 ZIP code — Ruth Azar didn’t feel equipped enough to answer the call.

She said as much to a fellow pastor, who assured her God would equip her.

Once convinced she could do it, she tried to set a time limit to her role.

“I told God I’d be here five years,” Azar said. “Here I still am. This was a call on me. I didn’t plan on doing it. He gave me orders; all I did was listen.”

Azar founded Second Mile Center in 2007, and has been a fixture in the community ever since. She ministers to young people and the broader community about God and faith, responsibility and accountability, respect and love. In return, the hundreds of boys and girls, young men and young women who have filtered through the center over the years call her “Mom” and look out for her.

She says it’s simply because she shows them love.

“Most of these kids don’t feel a sense of belonging,” Azar said. “I tell them, ‘The gangs are outside. The gang in here is a Jesus Christ gang.’ I make sure they understand how valuable they are. Do they make mistakes? Sure. But I’m going to be there for them a second time, a third time, a fourth time. I tell them, ‘Let’s just try to do better.’”

Azar and her team offer a variety of opportunities to young people who pass through the center’s doors.

Prior to COVID, there were 265 children registered at the center. Now, 100 young people participate in its offerings, which include everything from a Monday night community dinner and a food pantry to homework and job placement help.

“We get a lot of teaching moments,” Azar said. “We try to teach about God, but we help them with their homework and

anything that goes on in their life they need help with. We teach them games, too, and we teach them morals.”

“She’s a workhorse,” volunteer Alex Boles said. “She doesn’t have to do this, but chooses to do it on top of a demanding career. She never stops. That says something about her work ethic and what the kids mean to her.

“... Since 2007, this has always been the biggest part of her life,” he added. “I didn’t know she was an accountant until I had enough money to need her services. That speaks to the drive she has, her commitment to the community and to making things better.”

The center will host a Kentucky Derby-themed fundraiser May 3 (see story, above), in hopes of raising money to support the center’s operational expenses, but also to spread the word about the work the center does.

“Living (in Grosse Pointe) has amazing luxuries and opportunities,” Boles said. “It’s a nice place to live and we can take it for granted. Drive 10 minutes down the road and it’s a different area. They don’t have access to much, but that couple of hours (at the center) treats them to something new. ... These are children without a good influence in their life. At the center, we have life skills, personal skills and God to teach them.

“... It’s not their fault,” he added. “They come from damaged homes, from a high-crime area. Coming to the center, even if it’s just for an hour or two, is an escape from a place that’s super dark. That’s enough for (Azar) to continue to do what she does.”

Every day includes lessons about God and his love, Azar noted.

“That’s why we’re there,” she said. “We are hoping we change their lives as well. We try to help them, feed them. They don’t forget your kindness. ... You just have to be interested in them. It does change people’s lives.

“Everyone of us can make a difference in somebody’s life,” she added. “I’ve seen it over and over and over. ... Most kids just want to be

## Special project

The Grosse Pointe North Interact Club participated in a planning project Feb. 27.

**Planning is the process of reclaiming plastic shopping bags, which are hand-made into plastic yarn used to weave into waterproof beds and pillows for the homeless. North student volunteers, under the direction of Julie Nixon and Jill Davenport, converted strips of plastic bags, pre-cut by volunteers from North’s school staff and the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club.**

The North Interact club is sponsored by Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary, who mentor and guide Interactors as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills. Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12 to 18, to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of “Service Above Self.”

The community is encouraged by Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members to join the Tuesday morning breakfasts and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores. Email [dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com) for further details.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARISSA FORD

# ENGAGEMENT



Carolyn Gorski and Drew Keene

### Gorski—Keene

Dr. Robert and Lucy Gorski of Grosse Pointe Shores announce the engagement of their daughter, Carolyn Gorski, to Drew Keene, the son of Doug and Tammie Keene of Alanson.

Ms. Gorski, a 2002 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and bioethics from Michigan State University. She is a program director in health and education with Bloom Pediatrics.

Mr. Keene earned a bachelor’s degree in math and physics education from Central Michigan University. He is a director of operations in the technology industry.

A September 2026 wedding is planned.

See MISSION, page 4B

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Anthony Marcellini of Progressive Art Studio Collective, left, with Lakeshore Optimist President Steve Licari.

# Optimists learn about progressive art studio

Anthony Marcellini, founder and program manager for the Progressive Art Studio Collective, recently presented an overview of the organization to the Lakeshore Optimist Club. PASC was launched in January 2021, as the first and only progressive art and design studio and exhibition program in Wayne County dedicated to supporting artists with developmental disabilities and/or mental health differences to advance independent artistic practices and build individual career paths in the art and design fields. PASC runs three studios in Detroit, Southgate and Westland and works with over 190 artists with disabilities weekly. Artists work with a staff of peer practicing artists and curators who offer advice, expertise and encouragement to aid PACS artists in their artistic career paths. To learn more about the work of PASC, go to progressiveartstudiocollective.org. Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend, listen to speakers and see what the club is all about. See gpoptimists.com for details.

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# An evening of cards, games at The Helm

Members and guests are invited to The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, for a Cards & Games Party 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. The Helm will have board games and playing cards set out, but attendees are welcome to bring their own. There also will be lawn games — croquet and corn hole — and the bocce court will be open too. A jigsaw puzzle also will be available. Food and beverages will be provided. “The surgeon general cites social isolation as an epidemic, especially in the elder population when social circles become smaller and we lose social outlets,” said Krista Siddall, The Helm executive director. “The Helm is a welcoming place to spend some time, meet new friends and enjoy various activities.” Game night costs \$8 per member and \$12 for guests. Registration is required at helmlife.org or by calling (313) 882-9600.

## AREA ACTIVITIES

- The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:
  - ◆ Wise Guys Conversation Group, 9 to 10 a.m. 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.
  - ◆ The Friendship Club, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.
  - ◆ Ping-Pong Group, 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays. Free for members, \$3 for guests.
  - ◆ Social Media for Mature Learners, 4 to 5 p.m. Fridays, through May 9, with instructor Janisse Green.
  - ◆ The movie “Here” is shown at noon Friday, April 25. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.
  - ◆ Cards & Games Party, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. Cost is \$8 for members, \$12 for guests.
  - ◆ The Spice & Tea Exchange Grosse Pointe, 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 6. Learn the ins and outs of the new business in The Village with owner Sara Biery.
  - ◆ Out-to-Lunch Bunch, noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 8. The group will visit Golden Chopsticks. The bus ride costs \$6 for members, \$8 for guests. Those driving themselves should meet at the restaurant at 12:30 p.m.
  - ◆ The first four episodes of “Man on the Inside” will be shown at noon Friday, May 9. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.
- snacks.

◆ Premier World Discovery presents “Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta and Santa Fe” and “Christmas Season in Victoria and Vancouver,” from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 13. Learn about these upcoming trips, planned in October and December, respectively.

◆ The movie “Bank of Dave” will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

◆ The last four episodes of “Man on the Inside” will be shown at noon Friday, May 23. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.
- Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit grossepointelibrary.org.
  - ◆ Mongolian Falconry and Wildlife Conservation with Dr. Carl, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
  - ◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
  - ◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
  - ◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
  - ◆ Family Center Community Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
  - ◆ Getting to the Art of Things with Ashley Menth, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
  - ◆ Motor City Famous, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Star Wars Craft, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical Breakfast group meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, April 25, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Thomas Coyle speaks. Cost for breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:
  - ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28301 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.
  - ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, Holy Innocents Catholic Church, 26000 Ridgemont, Roseville.
  - ◆ 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1, Pier Park, 350 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.
  - ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, First English Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.
  - ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 15, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.
  - ◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, May 16, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.
  - ◆ 11 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, Richard Elementary School, 176 McKinley, Grosse Pointe Farms.
  - ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.Register at redcrossblood.org.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during March. To sign up for the following, visit See EVENTS, page 7B

MISSION: Continued from page 3B

accepted. Breaking down walls — that's what we're trying to do. There shouldn't be walls between us.”

Boles said he's watched young people come through the center over the years and has seen changes in many of them. “Speaking to the center in general, they come as people in need and leave as part of a family,” he said. “Years pass and some still come back, because it made such an impact.”

“I think we all need a mentor,” Azar added. “I tell them, ‘I'm your angel for a little while. I don't know for how long, but use me for the time you have me. I'm not always going to be there. That's why we have God.’”

“It's important for them to know I was there for them for that time,” she continued. “I wish I could do more. Whether you're from Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods or Detroit, there's one thing we all have in common — we all want love. They come to the people who love them.”

For more information about Second Mile Center, visit secondmilecenter.org.



# Sober Support helps recovery

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

“Tell that to the Marines” is a phrase FDR used early in World War II to warn the enemy not to doubt America’s resolve.

Early next month, a Marine veteran speaks at The War Memorial about winning another kind of fight.

“He went from being alcoholic to being in recovery,” said Jim Brosnan, co-founder of the Sober Support Coalition. “He has children, a wife and a home. He has a career. He’s rebuilt his life after it was overtaken by alcohol.”

The speaker, John T., will talk about how he probably couldn’t have done it without the coalition’s help.

The coalition is a non-profit organization Brosnan and fellow Grosse Pointer Brad Gregory founded in 2021, to get recovering substance abusers back on track and into the swing of things.

“John T. is a wonderful

young man who is supporting himself and his family, paying his taxes, just like any normal person,” Brosnan said. “But addicts and alcoholics need to get past the wreckage of their past before they can move on.”

The event, a fundraiser for the coalition, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a dedicated mission, is 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7. Admission is free.

“Donations are fully tax deductible,” Brosnan said. “We’ll have appetizers and non-alcoholic refreshments. The non-profit is putting this on with the hope we’ll receive donations to keep this growing.”

He and Gregory operate four sober living houses in which transition coordinators assist men reentering productive society absent reliance on alcohol or drugs. The organization is expanding with another house for women.

“It gives them hope,” Gregory said.

He considers Brosnan

a mentor.

“That’s what Jimmy did for me and, hopefully, what I do for other people,” Gregory said.

Transition coordinators, including Pointe resident Lori Egan Josephs, assist in operating the houses.

“I’m like a case manager for their clients,” Josephs said.

She’s a certified counselor in alcohol and drug dependency.

“I help clients with their basic needs, like trying to get them employed immediately so they can start having financial stability,” Joseph said. “I work with getting them jobs, doctor and dental appointments — the stuff they kind of ignored throughout their addiction. Also making sure they’re going to their 12-step meetings.”

A key to recovery is finding a 12-step, mutual-aid program, she said.

“It works,” Josephs said. “There’s a track record. It doesn’t have to be Alcoholics Anonymous, but a spiritual program with 12

steps is truly what helps most alcoholics the best. When they come in to us, they must attend five meetings per week minimum. They come in, get established in the 12-step community, get sponsored and work the steps. I start seeing self-esteem building because, now, they’re doing esteemable things.”

Clients range from the homeless to professionals.

“It doesn’t make much of a difference,” Josephs said.

“We needed to fill a gap with somebody who can help these guys,” Gregory said. “That’s how we started putting social workers in sober living houses and paying for it through private donations.”

“The nonprofit funds itself fully through private donations,” Brosnan said. “We haven’t taken any government money. Brad and I are volunteers. Donations go toward administrative, staff and mainly transitional coordinators that work with these men and

women.”

The mission is to help people who are in desperate need to help themselves.

“They’re trying to stay clean and sober,” Brosnan said. “They have enough to worry about with that. The idea behind this is we can help them with their other issues about that — medical, job placement, resume building, legal issues, family issues — anything they have to do to put their past behind them. That also can take the strain off society. Now they’re becoming functional members of society and making their own way.”

Brosnan, Gregory and Josephs know of which they speak. All can state down to the day how long they’ve been sober. The same with many others associated with the non-profit.

“We try to help who we can,” Josephs said.

Not everyone succeeds the first time.

“The good news is they’re trying,” Josephs said. “They’re still on the path to recovery. But, it’s that consistency, discipline and trust — you can’t give up even if you have a relapse. If they haven’t violated our rules, we bring them back. I’ve seen guys do much better the second time. It’s not a straight line.”

Stability born of steady employment also is critical.

“Discipline, consistency and stability are three things that are going to launch you into a new life,” Josephs said. “I always tell them, ‘This is transitional housing. I don’t want you here too long.’ I want them to have a life. ‘You don’t want to stay here too long because it can become a crutch.’”

For more information about the Sober Support Coalition or to donate, visit [sobersupportcoalition.org](http://sobersupportcoalition.org).

# A celebration of the ‘Mother Tree’ in art

“Branches & Twigs: Odes to the Mother Tree” is on display at the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church Arts Ministry Art Gallery through July 13. Works by 19 artists explore the powerful image of trees in watercolor, oil, acrylic, assemblage and photography.

The theme of the exhibition is inspired by the research of Dr. Suzanne Simard, summarized in her book, “Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest.” Simard’s decades

of research led her to conclude that at the center of a healthy forest is a Mother Tree, an old-growth matriarch that acts as a hub of nutrients shared by trees of different ages and species linked together by an underground fungal network.

In addition to the art, the gallery contains a prayer tree. Attendees are invited to write prayers or wishes on “leaves” to attach to a branch of the tree. At the end of the exhibition, all the prayers

and wishes will be gathered and burned during a brief ceremony in the Peace Garden at GPCC. The wishing tree was inspired by the Tanabata Celebration, which occurs every year in Japan around July 7, and was first celebrated in the year 755. In present-day Japan, people generally celebrate this day by writing wishes, sometimes in the form of poetry, on small, colorful pieces of paper and hanging them on bamboo.

A reception open to the

public takes place 7 to 9 p.m. Arbor Day, Friday, April 25. The reception includes live jazz performed by the Matthew Daher Trio and light refreshments.

Participating artists include Nobuko Yamasaki of Grosse Pointe Shores; Linda Boyle, Ruth Harvey, Kathryn Poremski, Kari Rasmussen and Cindy Sommerville of Grosse Pointe Park; Jackie Brooks, Nina Goebel, Carol LaChiusa, Kris Licata, Kathleen McNamee, Jackie Rybinski and Mary Stebbins Taitt of Grosse Pointe Farms; Lori Zurvalec of the City of Grosse Pointe; Deborah Maiale of Grosse Pointe Woods; Susan MacDonald of St. Clair Shores, Candace Law of Berkley; Laura Reed of Detroit; and Linda Allen of Shelby Township.

The gallery is located at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, and is open to the public Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, contact the church at (313) 884-3075 or [arts@gpcong.org](mailto:arts@gpcong.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

## True value

**Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Joseph Walker of DuMouchelles Gallery during the club’s March 25 meeting at Ford House.**

**A third-generation president and auctioneer, Walker shared with attendees the storied history of the Detroit art gallery and auction house, founded in 1927. He shared stories of art objects DuMouchelles has evaluated for customers, with one case in particular in which an item considered to be a household nicknack was found to be a priceless antiquity. DuMouchelles continues to be a family-run enterprise, curating premium fine art and antiques from across the country for nearly a century.**

**The community is encouraged by Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members to join their Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores. Email [dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com) for further details.**



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left are Linda Allen, Deborah Maiale, Mary Stebbins Taitt, Lori Zurvalec and Cindy Sommerville.

## Friends of Art & Flowers lecture April 28

The Friends of Art & Flowers auxiliary of the Detroit Institute of Arts will host its 25th annual Elizabeth Sites Kuhlman Lecture at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 28, in the Marvin and Betty Danto Lecture Hall at the DIA.

This year’s event features Daniel Santamaria, an internationally acclaimed floral designer and creative director at the Escola Disseny Floral i Paisatge de Barcelona, bringing his global perspective to Detroit’s cultural landscape.

Santamaria is known for his bold, imaginative

floral installations that merge European tradition with avant-garde techniques — an aesthetic rarely seen in the U.S. The Friends of Art & Flowers expects to draw artists, gardeners and design enthusiasts from across the region for his visit.

The Friends of Art & Flowers is a passionate group of museum members who share a deep love of both art and floral design. Its mission is to beautify the museum with fresh, seasonal floral arrangements throughout fall and spring.

The group also hosts two public lectures each year. The Betsy Campbell Lecture in the fall spotlights outdoor gardening and landscape design, while the Elizabeth Sites Kuhlman Lecture in the spring showcases world-class floral talent — with past speakers including Bart Hassam of Australia and Frédéric Dupré of France.

An optional lunch follows the lecture from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Cost is \$45 for the lecture only, \$90 for the lecture and lunch.

Reserve tickets online at [tinyurl.com/hndppnbs](http://tinyurl.com/hndppnbs).



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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.

### Anne LaFond

Anne LaFond, 75, of Grosse Pointe, passed away Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Anne was born Aug. 20, 1949, in Detroit, the beloved daughter of Wilfred P. and Elizabeth L. Whyte, both now deceased. She lived a life rooted in love, family and deep friendships.

Anne was the devoted wife of Peter C. LaFond. Together they built a beautiful life filled with laughter, warmth and unforgettable memories. She was the cherished mother of Kimberly L. Hursley (Scott) and Stephanie A. Lyons (Joseph), and the proud grandmother of Benjamin and Emma Lyons and Charlotte, William, Patrick and Michael Hursley.

She is survived by her loving siblings, David Whyte (Penny), Cathy Schaeffner (Kerry), Bill Whyte and Cynthia Kelly (Phil Chinnock). She was predeceased by her brother, Michael Whyte. Anne was a treasured daughter-in-law to Louise and Don LaFond, and a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews, including Hillary Rivard (David), Ashley Whyte, Tish Hastings, Carolyn Whyte (Kristy Revolt), Cici Kelly, Lisa Kelly, Peter Whyte, Jason LaFond, Don LaFond, Don Kelly (Laura) and Larry Kelly (Lorraine). Her grandnieces and grandnephews always brought a smile to her face, including Michael Rivard, Hadley Rivard, David Rivard, Mckayla Hastings, Kennedy Hastings, Kiley Hastings, Peyton Kelly, Cole Kelly,

Sheena Kelly, Brandon Kelly, Connor Kelly and Austin Kelly.

Anne was a warm and welcoming presence who loved to entertain and have a house packed with family and friends. She was always in the kitchen, greeting everyone who came through the door with a smile. A devoted wife, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother and friend, Anne's love knew no bounds. She was the catalyst for lasting family relationships, faithfully hosting Sunday night dinners every week, a tradition that brought generations together around her table.

Anne and her beloved husband, Pete, were blessed with a close group of lifelong friends. She was always up for lunch, a shopping trip or simply spending time with those who were close to her.

Her generous spirit extended beyond her family and friends. Anne volunteered with the Bon Secours Assistance League for more than 40 years, dedicating countless hours to helping others.

Anne enjoyed golfing with Peter and their friends in the summer. She loved spending the winters in Florida with Peter and her family and making the most of every sunny day. She also loved traveling the world with her brother, Mike, always returning home with thoughtful gifts and treasured memories to share.

Anne's warmth, generosity and love for life will be missed by all who knew her.

Visitation takes place 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May

8, at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. 11 Mile, Royal Oak. A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 9, at Holy Name Catholic Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham. She will lie in state starting at 9:30 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Anne's Mead Assisted Living, 16106 W. 12 Mile, Southfield, MI 48076, stannesmead.org/give-now.

Share a memory at sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

### Russell Paul Milne

Russell Paul Milne, 50, passed away Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

He was the beloved husband and high school sweetheart of Heidi, to whom he was married 26 years and with for 35 incredible years. He was the loving and devoted father of Elizabeth and Russell; cherished son of Russell G. and Patricia Milne; adored brother of Heidi Helfen (John), Patty Engebretson (Craig) and Thomas Milne (Meri); treasured son-in-law of Susan and the late Louis Kraetke; and brother-in-law of the late Louis Kraetke III and Jonathan Kraetke (Angela).

Russell was an adoring husband, loving father and wonderful son. Most days he could be found at Russ Milne Ford, where he often was orchestrating business and discussing the latest and greatest vehicles. Outside of work, he was an avid guitar enthusiast and enjoyed spending time on the water at Harsens Island. His witty sense of



Anne LaFond

humor and charming personality never failed to put a smile on the faces and laughter in the hearts of his loved ones, who will forever remember Rusty and the love he shared.

A funeral service took place Wednesday, April 16, at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc., in Shelby Township.

Memorial contributions are appreciated to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, lls.org/mi-in.

Share memories with the family in the online guestbook at wujekcalcaterra.com.

### Patricia Smith

Patricia Smith 92, passed away Sunday March 30, 2025. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother (Nannie), great-grandmother and friend.

She was born March 28, 1933, in Portsmouth, England, the daughter of William John Runnacles, a member of the British Royal Navy, and Elizabeth "Betty" Mahala Florence Runnacles.

Patricia survived World War II, including being bombed out of her home three times along with her two siblings, Myra (now deceased) and Toney (now deceased), and her mother, Elizabeth (now deceased).

Patricia started a singing career in England, fell in love and gave up her profession to marry the love of her life, an American serviceman stationed in Shaftesbury, England, Charles Smith, a member of the U.S. Air Force. Chuck and Pat were married Aug. 28, 1954, in Bournemouth, England.

Charles and Patricia shared 70 wonderful years of marriage together. They had three children and were privileged to live many places in the world, including Great Britain, France, Japan, Washington State, Michigan, Texas, California and Florida.

In Pat's younger years, she enjoyed playing golf.



Russell Paul Milne

The last 10 years, she enjoyed exercising at the YMCA with her beloved lady friends. She often talked about how she loved having lunch at Champs Rotisserie & Seafood with her friends.

Pat's grandchildren meant the world to her. She never lost her love and passion for music and singing and passed this passion on to her granddaughter, Myra. Her grandson, Justin, said she defined the meaning of love and helped him believe it can be found. Lindsay, her granddaughter, fondly remembers one of her favorite quotes, "Anything can be solved over a cup of tea, so let's have a cup of tea."

While she enjoyed working inside her home, at various times in her life she enjoyed working outside of the home. Patricia worked as an Avon distributor in Washington, a server at Howard Johnson in Texas, counter server for Verdonckt's Bakery, cashier at The Food Basket in Grosse Pointe Woods and data entry employee at Georgian Court of America.

Patricia was very fond of all the beautiful caregivers who helped her at Beachwood Manor Assisted Living in St. Clair Shores, her home during her last months of life. The staff offered her compassion, love and impeccable care.

Pat was a shining light and had a wonderful sense of humor. She was a very loving and compassionate woman, filled with empathy, and will be missed by all who knew her. Everyone loved her British accent and she kept it until the end.

Patricia is survived by her beloved husband, Charles L. Smith; daughter, Mary N. Lamphier (Mark S.); sons, Thomas J. Smith (Daniel Capoferi) and Charles L. Smith; cherished grandchildren, Justin Smith, Dr. Lindsay Smith (Anthony Stronati) and Myra Elizabeth-Anne Lamphier (Jeffrey Sears); and great-grandchildren, Emmy and Owen.



Patricia Smith



Marilyn A. Schneider

A memorial service to be determined at a later date.

Memorial contributions in memory of Patricia Smith may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, donorserVICES.alz.org, or Heart to Heart Hospice Foundation, 7240 Chase Oaks Blvd., Plano, Texas 75025.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

### Marilyn A. Schneider

Marilyn A. Schneider, 86, of Grosse Pointe Shores, died Saturday, March 29, 2025.

Marilyn is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Joseph; and her dearest children, Susan J. Schneider (Christian Lysholm), Jolynn A. Schneider, JB Schneider (Michele), Matthias John Schneider, Jill McKeown and Erin Beresniewicz. Marilyn was the cherished grandmother of Max, Anna, Konrad, Thalia, Mathias, Mallory, Roarke, Isabella, Andrew Bruno and Maddie Alice. She was predeceased by her daughter, Marilyn "Teri" Schneider (Sam P Copeland).

A memorial Mass will take place Thursday, May 8, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. The family will receive guests starting at 10 a.m. until the start of Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

See OBITS, page 7B

## Daniel Joseph Scallen and Alice Jane McKinnon Scallen

Daniel Scallen, 85, died of cardiac failure at Mission Hospital near his home in Brevard, N.C., Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020. The COVID-19 shutdown prevented his wife of 59 years, Alice Scallen, from holding a funeral.

After Dan's death, Alice relocated to Arden, N.C. She died of a stroke Sunday, March 13, 2025, at age 87, at nearby Solace Hospice.

Per their wishes, the family will hold a joint funeral for the couple at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 3, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Dan and Alice were both born in Detroit and grew up in Grosse Pointe Park. Dan was the eldest of three children born to Ed Scallen and Mary McCoy Scallen, both now deceased. Dan attended De La Salle Collegiate High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Michigan Technological University. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force for four years, fulfilling his ROTC requirement at a remote outpost in northeastern Iceland. He and Alice married Oct. 14, 1961, at St. Clare of Montefalco.



the North Carolina mountains, reading biographies about influential women, visiting with a close circle of friends and managing the household using the skills she had honed as an administrative professional. Dan and Alice lived in various Michigan locales, including Frankenmuth, Saginaw, Detroit and Plymouth,

before retiring to Brevard, N.C., in 1997.

Dan and Alice are survived by their son, James P. Scallen; daughter, Mary Elizabeth Scallen (Tom); daughter-in-law, Theresa Kohl Scallen (the late Tom); grandson, Daniel Kohl Scallen; sister, Mathilda McKinnon Kiernan (the late Michael); and brother, Thomas P. Scallen (Jan). They were predeceased by their son, Thomas D. Scallen; brother, Charles T. "Tim" McKinnon Jr.; brother, Michael Scallen; and brother-in-law, Michael Kiernan.

The couple's remains will be interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, 2502 N. Rocky Point Drive, Ste. 100, Tampa, FL 33607, bitly/3RQg6fQ; or The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, ssvpusa.org/donate/.

Alice enjoyed walking

## Marcia Anne Kuypers



Marcia Anne Kuypers went to be with her Lord on April 14, 2025. Prayers for perpetual light upon her and final peace in Christ.

Marcia was born on April 16, 1937, the daughter of Mark and Anne C. (Brunner) Loush. Marcia was raised in Grosse Pointe Woods. Marcia met the "True Love" of her life (in her words) William Theodore Kuypers. The two

were married on December 26, 1959. They had 60 God blessed years of marriage. Marcia and Bill lived their lifetime of marriage in Grosse Pointe Shores. They worshiped at St. Paul on the lake.

Marcia was a school teacher and then became a social worker for the state of Michigan. Marcia volunteered for many organizations. She also belonged to many women's clubs. Marcia and Bill belonged to the Nomads and traveled the world during their lifetime together. Marcia did so many wonderful acts of kindness in her lifetime. She loved to entertain and was a pro at that. She definitely gained her angel wings at her time of passing.

She is survived by nephew, Thomas (LuAnn) Johnstone of Houghton Lake; cousin,

Barbara Davis of Grosse Pointe Woods; along with many nieces and nephews.

Marcia is preceded in death by her husband, William Kuypers; parents, Mark and Anne Loush; her in-laws, Theodore and Agnes Kuypers; brother-in-law, Richard Kuypers; aunt, Mary Davis "Aunt Babe"; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Yvonne and Warren Daubenspeck; and her grandparents.

Marcia will be laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

Contributions in Marcia's honor can be made to St. Paul on the Lake in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.

Condolences can be shared with the family at www.sorensonlockwood.com.

Arrangements entrusted to Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.



OBITS:

Continued from page 6B

Patsy Ruth Setter

Patsy Ruth Setter, 95, of the City of Grosse Pointe, passed away peacefully at home Sunday, April 13, 2025.

A lifelong Grosse Pointe resident, Pat lived a full and independent life defined by her entrepreneurial spirit, radiant style and generosity. A true trailblazer, she carved out a space for herself as a successful businesswoman at a time when few women dared. Pat also was a proud member of the Sailing Singles social club, through which she cultivated lifelong friendships and embraced lake life with the same passion she brought to everything she did. Pat’s kindness extended beyond her circle of loved ones, as a supporter of the Crawford Armstrong Association.

Pat was predeceased by her son, Terry Chouinard; and sisters, Colleen Barry, Kay Schultz and Gail Bedell. She is survived by her son, Ric Chouinard (Therese); daughter, Shelle LeFever Gazso (Dennis); grandchildren, Ric II, Chris (Tia), Rene (Kami), T.C., Blake and Carrie (Andrew); great-grandchildren, Gabby, Elena, Brendan, Yves, Dee and Koralie; and her beloved grand-doggies, Mabel and Kai.

Doreen McPhail Kohr

Doreen McPhail Kohr, 92, passed away Saturday, April 12, 2025, in the loving presence of her family and devoted caregivers.

Doreen grew up in the Chicago area. She attended Michigan State University and was active with many roles within the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She was convinced to move to Grosse Pointe by her first beloved husband, Don “The Moose” McPhail.

Doreen began her life of service and advocacy while raising their two sons, Dean and Scott. She shuffled her boys to Boy Scouts, school, friends’ houses and sports games, in addition to her many avocations including Junior League of Detroit, Detroit PBS, Meals on Wheels, literacy classes and generally spiring causes that fought for inclusion, kindness and justice. As her boys grew, she rejoined the workforce in the world of public relations with firms that advocated for the city of Detroit, including The Grosse Pointe Academy, Detroit Renaissance Corp., and Anthony M. Franco Inc., where she not only loved her ability to contribute, but also cherished the lifelong friends she found there.

As her career blossomed, she came to marry the second of her husbands, Bill Kohr. She often mused she was not only lucky to marry one great man, but to actually have two great loves of her life. As she and Bill began to merge the families, she brought together Dean and Scott McPhail with Bill’s children, Bill and Julie Kohr, always creating a gracious, welcoming and fun-filled home where everyone was family, including everybody’s friends.

She became the beloved mother-in-law of Yuri McPhail (Dean), Gretchen



Patsy Ruth Setter

McPhail (Scott) and Lisa Kohr (Bill). She jumped headfirst into the role of very active and devoted grandmother to Bill and Lisa’s children, Will, Jamie and Jack Kohr; Scott’s daughter, Alex; great-granddaughters, La’a and Wai; and Dean and Yuri’s French bulldog, Moo.

After Bill’s death, she continued her love of life-long learning, attending classes all around the world, including at the University of Oxford and The Aspen Institute, and studying other cultures through her travels. If asked about her life, she would say she had so much more than one person deserved.

Doreen will be remembered by her friends and family as someone who always wanted to leave the world better than she found it. In all ways, she did so with joy.

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

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

Ralph Darwin Venen

Ralph passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, April 16, 2025, in Clyde Township.

Born July 12, 1961, in Detroit, to Ralph and Waldtraut Venen, Ralph was a brother to three sisters. He enjoyed a happy childhood living in Farmington, Cadillac and Otsego.

Ralph graduated from Otsego High School and attended Kalamazoo College, earning a bachelor’s degree in economics. While at Kalamazoo College, he was a member of the swim team and earned honors as a Division III All-American swimmer.

He enjoyed a long career at Ford Motor Co. While at Ford he earned an MBA from Wayne State University. After departing Ford, he worked for Stefanini, managing the Honda customer service department and overseeing its call center in the Philippines.

Ralph’s love of teaching called to him and he earned his master’s degree in education from Wayne State. Until his death he served as an adjunct professor at Macomb Community College, launching new students into the business world.

A gifted musician, Ralph enjoyed playing the piano. He had the gift of playing by ear; it was not uncommon for him to see an empty piano, sit down and start playing. He had a great sense of humor, wide smile and infectious laugh.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He is remembered as a kind, gentle man whose undying loyalty to his family and friends will live on.

Ralph is survived by his beloved daughter, Sara Venen of Chicago;



Doreen McPhail Kohr

mother-in-law, Alice Bakalis of Bloomfield Hills; sisters, Linda Cole of Rochester, Susan Bock (Kent) of Grosse Pointe Woods and Robin Boeling (Larry) of Oakland; aunt, Lenore Holsopple (Richard) of St. Marys, Pa.; niece and nephews, Eric Cole (Lauren), Carter Bock, Caroline Bock, Timothy Boeling and Aaron Boeling (Katelynn); great-nephew, Sutton Boeling; as well as his former wife and loving friend of 40 years, Renee Venen; and dear friends, Patrick Duggan and Tim Ryan.

He was predeceased by his parents; brother-in-law, Grant Cole; and beloved partner, Anne Morris.

A memorial gathering takes place Friday, April 25, from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. service at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

Memorials may be given to Michigan Humane Society, michiganhumane.org; or the Kalamazoo College Swimming Program, kzoo.edu/. Click “Giving to K Hornet Athletic Association.”

Dennis DeCoster

Dennis DeCoster, beloved son, brother, uncle, great-uncle and friend, passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully, Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at age 74.

Dennis was born March 16, 1950, in Detroit, to Oscar and Audrey DeCoster. He attended Gabriel Richard Elementary and Junior High schools and Osborn High School in Detroit, where he made friends that lasted his entire life.

He attended Lawrence Technological University and graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in fine arts. After graduation, Dennis began a 40-year career at General Motors as an interior designer, working initially in the corporate headquarters building on West Grand Boulevard. Over the years, Dennis became one of the most respected designers in the corporation, working with many senior executives on the design of their offices worldwide. He was known by his clients and colleagues not only for his design talent, but interpersonal skills and kindness as well.

Dennis lived a very full life pursuing numerous and diverse interests. He was passionate about design, art and architecture. He loved Detroit and his hometown of Grosse Pointe Farms and always looked for opportunities to express those feelings to others. Dennis’s love for design was expressed in his garden and frequent trips to Pewabic Pottery and Eastern Market. He was a creative and impeccable gardener, recognized many times by the Grosse Pointe Farms Beautification Advisory Commission, which ultimately awarded him with its distinguished Legacy Award. This lifetime



Ralph Darwin Venen



Dennis DeCoster

beautification award will now be known as the Dennis DeCoster Award.

Dennis was a passionate student and collector of Arts and Crafts Movement antiques and became well known across the country as both an expert and top collector. Over the years, Dennis acquired many rare and obscure pieces of fine art, decorative art and furniture, many of which were of museum quality.

Dennis was equally passionate about motorcycling. In his early years, he was a motocross fan and had numerous dirt bikes. He loved taking trips to East Tawas and Oscoda to ride with close friends. His interest later transitioned to café-style motorcycles. He spent many cherished hours with his father, “Ozzie,” designing and building a customized 1967 BMW café racer. His motorcycles were striking examples of his commitment to art and design coupled with his ability to accomplish whatever he set out to do.

Dennis will be missed deeply by his family, friends and colleagues. He was meticulous in every way and opinionated about pretty much everything. That is what endeared him to those closest to him. He was always kindhearted, dedicated and never afraid of expressing love and how important people were to him. He reached out to everyone passing to admire his home and garden and became a favorite stop for his canine friends, providing a scratch, treat and fresh water. In return he was loved by many and became an important part of their lives.

Dennis is survived by his sister, Patricia Maniaci; nephew, David Bokor (Lori); great-nieces, Kathleen and Hannah; great-nephew, Joshua; and those whose lives he touched. He hoped to be remembered for his passion for design, love of life and friends, and the legacy of kindness and goodness he instilled.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 4B

mutualadoration.com:

◆ Two-Day Ceramics Workshop: Mugs with Rachel Gervais, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 26 and May 3. Cost is \$120.

◆ Sewing Machine Essentials Workshop: Drawstring Bags, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Cost is \$75.

◆ Ceramics Drop-In Workshop: Paw Print Tiles, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 27. Cost is \$65.

◆ POST Script open mic, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 30. Hosted by Siena Hasset, this cabaret includes music, poetry, visual arts and other material.

Ford House

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

◆ Native Plant Pre-Sale, order online through Wednesday, May 14.

◆ Coffee with Collections, exclusive to Friends of Ford House members, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, April 24 and Dec. 4. Cost is \$25.

◆ Bird Walks, 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 26 and May 3, and Sunday, May 4; and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, and Thursday, May 8.

◆ Native Plant Talk, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26. Admission is \$10 for members, \$12 for the public.

◆ WeGP presents Stand Strong: Pathways to Support, Solidarity and Rights, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 30.

◆ Preservation Guided Tour, 1 and 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 5. Admission for Friends of Ford House is \$20.

◆ Storytime: “Flowers are Calling,” 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in May, for ages 7 and younger.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Tracey Webb, founder of the nonprofit, We Fixin’ to Fish, speaks. Email grossepointe.rotary@gmail.com.

GPA

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

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

◆ Intermediate Watercolor with Paula Fiebich, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, May 7 to 28.

◆ Abstract and Non-Representational Art Workshop with Marcia Hales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 23.

◆ Portraits in the Style of John Hoppner with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, May 29, June 5 and June 12.

◆ Intermediate Watercolor with Paula Fiebich, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, June 4, 11 and 18.

The War Memorial

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

◆ Vet-to-Vet, 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, May 1. Meet fellow veterans and chat over coffee and breakfast treats.

◆ Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra concert, 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for college students and free for K-12 students.

◆ Mother’s Day Modern Calligraphy for Beginners, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 9. Tickets are \$75.

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 13.

◆ An Evening of Red, White & Blue, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21. General admission is \$225.

Harper Woods Library

The Friends of the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, host a book sale 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Visitors may fill a tote bag for \$5.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenter-helps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenter-helps.org.

◆ Ninth annual Suicide Prevention Walk and Mental Health Fair, featuring more than 20 vendors, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26, at Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Evening Community Yoga, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. The class is free, but registration is required. Bring a mat and water.

◆ Morning Community Yoga, 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 30. The class is free, but registration is required. Bring a mat and water.

# Worship Service

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www.christthekinggp.org

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

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

**Solomon Spangler, Pastor**  
*Making New Disciples-  
Building Stronger Ones*

**Grosse Pointe Congregational Church**  
(United Church of Christ)

**Worship Sunday at 10:00 am**

**Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver**  
*An Open & Affirming Church*

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY





The cast of “Secret Garden.”

GARDEN:

Continued from page 1B

who love to sing. ... The voices in this show are some of the best in community theater.”

Among them is the show’s lead, 12-year-old University Liggett School student Josephine O’Reilly.

“She’s an old soul,” he said. “I say she’s a 40-year-old trapped in a kid body. She’s a rock star. She carries the show — the amount of lines and songs and emo-

tions she brings.” Gravame said the rapid pace of the show has been challenging, as is some of the music which features tight harmonies, but he is confident the talented cast and hard-working crew will deliver.

“It’s a beautiful story that everyone can relate to,” he said. “It’s about that unspoken grief you can’t get through, the love of a child that transforms people out of unimaginable grief. ... It shows what the power of the love of a child can

manifest in everyone.”

He noted the show isn’t all “doom and gloom.” He promised funny moments and funny characters as well.

“It’s a great time to see this show,” he added. “It’s about spring and rebirth and coming out of darkness into the light. We can always use an inspirational story.

“If you know the book, you will not be disappointed. If you do not know the book, you’re still going to love it. It has something for everyone.”

The details

What: Grosse Pointe Theatre presents “The Secret Garden”

When:

- 8 p.m. Friday, May 2
- 8 p.m. Saturday, May 3
- 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4
- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7
- 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8
- 8 p.m. Friday, May 9
- 8 p.m. Saturday, May 10
- 2 p.m. Sunday, May 11

Where: Parcels Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

Tickets: \$25 to \$35 for adults, or \$15 for students with code Student25, excluding Sunday performances. Purchase tickets online at gpt.org/secret or by calling (313) 881-4004.



Amy Parenteau as Lily and Doug Clark as Archie.



“The Secret Garden” will be performed May 2-11, at Parcels Middle School.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPT

Winners and Runners Up Of The Grosse Pointe News Coloring Contest Week 2



Winner 1 Charlotte Clor



Winner 2 Fischer Groz

Runners Up



Henry Picek



Rose Picek



Lena Picek



Molly & Lydia Peterson



# LIFE & LEISURE



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## Neighborhood Club to host first ‘Run the Bubble’ 5K

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Talks of hosting a community 5K have circulated the Neighborhood Club since before the pandemic, but soon the idea will come to fruition as the first “Run the Bubble” 5K is set to take place at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 18.

“It’s something we’ve always wanted to do,” Wellness Manager Becky Caulfield said. “For me, fitness is where I focus at the Neighborhood Club. And I’m a runner. We wanted to take fitness and community and bring them together. This is the perfect way.”

Between bubble machines and individuals blowing bubbles, “Run the Bubble” will stay true to its name throughout the run, which starts behind the Neighborhood Club on Waterloo, which turns into Vernor.

“From there, we’ll go down to Three Mile Drive to Kercheval to Red Crown, where we’ll turn around and head back,” Caulfield said. “The finish line is where we started in the back.”

Participants are welcome to sign up early online — early packet pickup takes place Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17 — or come to the



COURTESY PHOTO

Participants who sign up by May 2 receive a “Run the Bubble” T-shirt.

Neighborhood Club beginning at 7 a.m. to register the day of the event.

“Everybody who signs up before May 2 will get a T-shirt,” Caulfield noted.

Each participant also will receive a medal and the top runners in each age group will get a plaque.

“Afterward in the gym, we’ll have bagels and cookies and water,” she added. “And photos will be taken by John Martin of John Martin Photography.”

Official times also will

be posted.

Caulfield said all ages have signed up for the run, but many more are welcome.

“Whether you’re 4 or 74, it’s going to be fun for everybody,” she added. “You can walk or run. It’s going to be a good event and we hope to turn it into a yearly event every spring.”

“Besides supporting a community nonprofit, it’s a great way to enjoy a non-competitive, mood-boosting outside activity with other community members and feel a great sense of

accomplishment,” said Kara Hardenbrook, marketing and development director. “It doesn’t matter where someone is in their fitness journey, everyone is welcome.”

For those new to their fitness journeys, Hardenbrook developed a training plan, which is available on the Neighborhood Club website.

“If you’d love to be a part of it, but have never done a 5K, just go online,” Caulfield said.

The event is open to 200 participants.

“Strollers are welcome,” Hardenbrook said, “but we’re asking that pets and bikes stay at home.”

Those who aren’t up for running or walking the route are invited to step outside with their own bubbles to show their support.

“Anyone in the community is welcome,” Hardenbrook said. “We want the route full with people blowing bubbles.”

Proceeds from “Run the Bubble” will benefit programming at the Neighborhood Club.

“It will enhance our traditional programs, but also add new programs to make sure we have something for all ages and abilities,” Hardenbrook said.

There still is a need for volunteers, who will man each street corner to ensure runners’ safety — and blow bubbles. A VIP lounge will offer coffee and treats for those who assist. Volunteers also receive T-shirts.

“This is a one-of-a-kind, brand new event,” Hardenbrook said. “We’re excited to take it outside. And we deeply appreciate all of our sponsors and donors for their support of the ‘Run the Bubble’ 5K and the Neighborhood Club.”

Sponsors include: Platinum Presenting Sponsors: Chamberlain Hospitality, The Bricks Pizzeria, Brine Oyster House, LeRouge Boulangerie, Red Crown Cantina

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Companies For more information, to register or volunteer, visit neighborhoodclub.org or call (313) 885-4600.

“The Neighborhood Club has been here 114 years,” Caulfield said. “I still think there are people who don’t know what we have to offer. Whether you’re a member or not, come check us out, get involved, learn what we’re about.”



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Everyone who signs up for “Run the Bubble” receives a medal.

### ASK THE EXPERTS By Evan Vasilauskas

## Easy steps to a lower score

Early spring has finally arrived and as the sun touches the earth with sharper rays, we Michiganders start to emerge from winter storage. Our coats are swapped out for slightly thinner coats as blades of grass become slightly thicker. Flowers and wildlife soon will be in full bloom and with them emerges a unique creature on the hunt for eagles, birdies and alpha status in their respective packs. It is time for the rise of the Great Michigan Golfer.

Golfers are growing in numbers every year and as a card-carrying member of the cult, it is easy for me to see why. For those driven by the spirit for competition, the game is an unsolvable Rubik’s Cube where as soon as one side of your game becomes aligned, the other snaps out of order. But that great shot that one time will keep you coming back for life. For others, golf offers a chance to spend time in the sun sharing stories with loved ones. Those who can find the balance between the two are on their way to reaching golf enlightenment. However, two-thirds of all golfers are missing the full experience when they choose to ride in a cart.

Walking nine holes will add 5,000 to 6,000 steps or two to three miles to your daily count, which



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unlocks health benefits like weight loss, reduced cardiovascular disease risk, reduced stress, improved leg strength and endurance and increased stamina. Walk 18 holes or play multiple times a week and watch your overall health start to transform.

Being a healthier person will improve your performance and lower your scores, no doubt. But walking the course offers another competitive advantage — course management. While on foot you will gain a greater understanding of the hole’s layout, obstacles, elevation changes and wind conditions, allowing you to plan your shot and make smarter decisions. Absorbing the architecture of a course helps scores and brings a greater appreciation to the golfing experience.

Take in the natural beauty of the course and respect the ground you are on a little more by walking. Those social golfers who are here for a good time will learn that being on foot makes for better group chats as you walk from hole to

hole as a group of four rather than speeding off as twos.

This year make an effort to dust off that old push cart during your spring cleaning and splurge on a pair of good shoes because, oh yeah, you will be saving money too. Be sure to bring water and pack light.

Evan Vasilauskas, PT, DPT, OCS, is a TPI-certified physical therapist working with golfers who are looking to rehab a golf-related injury or looking to improve golf performance. Learn more at [peakperformancemi.com](http://peakperformancemi.com)

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org).



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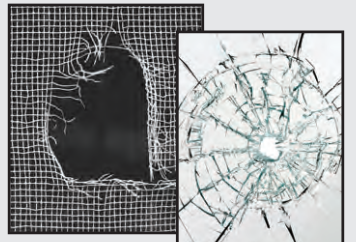
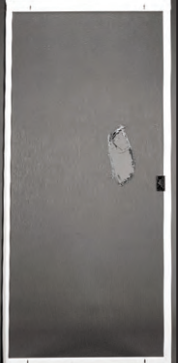
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Gabby



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# Graduation party that is affordable and memorable

**Dear Gabby:** I'm a high school senior and I really want to have a graduation party to celebrate with my friends and family. The problem is, my family is struggling financially and I don't want my parents to stress about this. I know they will try to make me happy, but it's not worth it to create more debt.

Do you have any suggestions for how I can still celebrate without spending a lot of money? — Budgeting in the City

**Dear Budgeting:** First of all, congratulations on

your upcoming graduation! It's completely understandable that you want to celebrate this special moment and the good news is that you don't need a big budget to make it memorable.

Consider hosting a DIY backyard party with simple decorations, music and fun games. If space is limited, one of our amazing parks is a fun and relaxed spot everyone will appreciate. Think about parties you have been to — chances are the more laidback, the more fun.

Another fantastic option is to combine cel-

ebrations with a friend or two who also are graduating. Splitting costs makes it more affordable for all families involved.

If a party isn't possible, you can still make the day special by organizing a group dinner at an inexpensive restaurant or simply spending time with your closest friends doing something meaningful, like a movie night or a fun outing.

Remember, graduation isn't about the size of the party — it's about celebrating your achievement with the people who care about you. No matter

how you choose to mark the occasion, it will be special because it's about you and your hard work. Do not worry about keeping up with the Joneses on this one. Your accomplishments are not defined by one night of custom cupcakes and a food truck.

Wishing you a joyful and memorable graduation!

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



# Is staying together for the kids the right choice

**DEAR ANNIE:** I'm at a crossroads in my marriage, and I don't know what to do. My husband and I barely talk anymore unless it's about the kids or logistics. There's no connection, no affection — just a quiet tension that lingers in the background of everything. We've tried counseling, and while it helped us communicate better for a while, nothing has really changed.

I've thought about divorce more times than I can count, but every time I get close to making a decision, I freeze — because our children are

so young. They're just 3 and 5 years old. They still crawl into our bed in the middle of the night, ask us to read bedtime stories together and light up when we're all in the same room. I don't want to take that away from them. I don't want to split their lives in two.

At the same time, I worry about what staying in an unhappy marriage is teaching them. They're too young to understand everything, but they can feel the tension. I see it in their faces when we argue. I wonder: Is it better to stay in a home where love is

missing or to create two separate homes filled with peace and honesty? I'm scared of making the wrong choice — for them and for myself. How do I know if I'm staying for the right reasons or simply out of fear? — Uncertain About What To Do

**DEAR UNCERTAIN:** Your letter speaks to something so many parents silently wrestle with: the fear of breaking up a home, even when the foundation is already cracked. I hear the love you have for your children, and I hear the pain

you're carrying. Let's start with this: You are not selfish or broken for questioning your marriage. You are human, and you are trying to make the best decision you can with a heart full of love and a mind full of worry.

Staying together only for the children may feel noble, but it can also be damaging — especially if your home becomes a place filled with silence, resentment or emotional distance.

Kids may not understand adult relationships, but they are incredibly intuitive. They notice when something's off. They absorb tension like sponges. And over time, they learn to see your dynamic as "normal."

That said, divorce is not a magic fix. It



## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

brings its own challenges and heartbreak. But in many cases, two calm, loving homes are better than one filled with quiet sadness.

You've already taken some strong first steps — counseling, self-reflection and thoughtful consideration of your children's well-being. You might consider a temporary separation or therapeutic support focused specifically on co-parenting and clarity. This doesn't have to be a rushed decision.

Give yourself permission to pause, not just stay stuck.

The right choice is the one where your children are raised in love, and where you aren't disappearing in the process.

Whatever you choose, know this: You are a good mother. And your children will thrive with your love and honesty — no matter what path you take.

*Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).*

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# The Nautical Mile, for tasty dining this summer

It's no secret we are blessed with a plethora of dining options in our neighborhood and surrounding areas. If there ever was a time to venture to the "other side of town," it would be now. Our neighboring restaurants and bars in St. Clair Shores, on the Nautical Mile, are in the midst of a two-year sewer construction project. With summer making its usual slow arrival, this is the busiest time of year for many of the establishments along this stretch of Jefferson. This project is going to affect their summer rush, so let's zig-zag across Jefferson to the hot spots along the "mile" for a quick reminder of places to dine this summer.

First up — and a personal favorite — is Fishbones Rhythm Kitchen, at the corner of Nine Mile and Jefferson. The Gatzaros family has poured much love into this location for more than 30 years. With a French Quarter vibe, they're serving up New Orleans-style recipes, as well as delicious seafood, steaks, pastas and, of course, sushi.

If I'm being honest, owner Nico Gatzaros is the reason I like sushi. This man made me taste it for the first time and I've never looked back. I recommend you get the sushi pizza. Thank me later — and thank you, Fishbones! They



COURTESY PHOTOS  
**Fishbones' sushi pizza.**

are now offering made-to-order sushi trays to go and party platters with six different sushi options. With 44 to 64 pieces, these are excellent for any gathering or party.

They also have a large banquet space for private events as well. "Rhythm" is in their name for a reason: live music. Tunes can be heard most weekends while dining. Patio season is here and this is one of the best.

Plus, they just updated their lunch menu, so definitely check it out. Gumbo ya-ya and a po' boy sandwich always sound good. Happy hour is 2:30 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends. They've got great specials.

Sitting kiddy corner across the street, is Leo's Coney Island, a hot spot for the breakfast hour. This particular location is tricky to access, so pack your patience — your coffee and eggs will still be there.

Nautical Deli is next in line. The soup/sandwich/

salad mecca of the Shores is open Monday through Saturday with extended hours to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. This fan favorite serves as the perfect place for a midday change of scenery while working from home. They've got a big variety from which to choose. It's always fresh and the service is excellent. Daily soups are posted online at [nauticaldeli.com](http://nauticaldeli.com), so don't forget to check them out. Their "Pick 2" is my go-to: half sandwich and small soup.

Lake views on the mile start at Zef's Dockside Bar & Kitchen located within Trader Tod's Marina. Arrive by land or sea and you are guaranteed a flavor-filled experience.

The Dockside burger is itself a conversation piece and the Greek salad just hits differently. Home to the first rooftop bar of the area, I personally cannot wait for



**Zef's Dockside burger.**

summer cocktails with friends under the stars. Brothers in business, Donny and Christopher Palushaj have done a superb job with this location.

Boat traffic is heavily welcomed at Hook, located in Emerald City Marina. For a finer dining experience and for seafood lovers, this is the place to be. Chef Bobby Nahra and his team have transformed this summer hot spot into something the area hasn't seen in years, if ever. With an open-kitchen concept, dining inside provides a visual

experience on its own.

Crab cakes at the bar? Yes please! While outside, you get a glimpse of beautiful boats coming and going and "island vibes" sitting at the tiki bar with music playing and conversations happening. It's a great date-night location, excellent happy hour and perfect for Mother's Day brunch too.

Back across the street, all in a row, are Waves, Golden Chopsticks and the newest



**Hook's crab cakes.**



## Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

addition, Johnny Blacks Lakehouse East. Waves has stood the test of time on this stretch. Since 1997, its island theme has carried itself. With a menu that is easy to please anyone and a Hawaiian salad people flock to, this Nautical Mile "chill and grill" has earned its keep.

Craving Chinese? It is impossible to pass up Golden Chopsticks. You can see that giant green peak from miles away. Open Tuesday through Sunday with all the Chinese classics on both the lunch and dinner menus, I can promise they haven't left out anything. It's a St. Clair Shores staple on the mile for sure.

Then there's the new kid on the block, Johnny. When it was announced that the Johnny Blacks group was expanding and heading to the Shores, the excitement was real. With multiple successful locations across Macomb County, there was no doubt Johnny Blacks Lakehouse East would be any different. They opened their doors at 24409 Jefferson, after months of renovating what was previously Dragon's Landing, weeks after construction

was in full swing. Shout out to their ownership and amazing staff for opening this new location under this much stress, because once you step inside, it's like the place has been there for years. With excellent service, food and atmosphere, it's perfect for every game day possible. The patio will be a fun one this summer, too. Welcome, Johnny Blacks. We're so glad you're here.

Back to more great marina restaurants, Watermark Bar & Grille is located at Jefferson Beach Marina. On a warm summer night, there could easily be more boats docked in their bay than cars in their lot. A spacious patio lines the entire marina restaurant cove, with sunset views, so your dining experience is sure to be memorable. Watermark is an excellent location for private events in the glass-windowed, ceiling-to-floor banquet room. There is always a view to be seen. They offer lunch and dinner menus with monthly specials as well, including Sunday brunch, Mother's Day brunch and a beautiful

See FOOD, page 3C



# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



## CRZ Yoga Men’s Performance Pants: The best-kept secret in athleisure?

Let’s be honest, most of us either shell out the money for the Lululemon fit and quality, or wish we could. It’s no secret they’ve had the special sauce for the best fit and longevity when it comes to athletic wear and, more recently, athleisure in general. But here’s the good news: There’s a new contender in town and it goes by the name of CRZ Yoga Men’s Performance Pants. It’s the budget-friendly doppelgänger we didn’t know we needed.

These pants don’t just rival Lululemon; they throw on their fastest running shoes and lap them in value. At about a third of the price, they offer the

same high-end feel, modern design and performance-grade construction. Think modern, sporty cut, but with just enough room to move (or lounge, or go to work or out to dinner). Oh, and they’re also wrinkle-resistant.

CRZ Yoga isn’t skimping on the details either. These pants come in a wide range of sizes and colors, so you’re not limited to “basic black” or “gym bro gray.” Feel like stepping out in navy, olive or even a crisp stone color? You can. They also offer high-end details like a zippered pocket to keep that phone or wallet from falling out. And go ahead and pick your three favorites, because you’ll

get them for the price of one Lululemon ABC pant (their most popular men’s pant style).

Let’s talk laundry — because no one wants high-maintenance pants. These wash and dry like a dream, holding their shape and softness even after multiple cycles. There’s no pilling, no shrinking, no fading. Just reliable, durable, performance-friendly pants that keep up with your life.

In short, the CRZ Yoga Men’s Performance Pants are the unicorn of men’s athleisure: stylish, practical, affordable and flattering. For those looking to save some serious cash

without sacrificing quality, these pants are a no-brainer.

Final verdict: 5 out of 5 alligators. You can’t beat cool, well-made and affordable. They can be found on Amazon at [tinyurl.com/2txef7yf](https://tinyurl.com/2txef7yf).

*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](mailto:media@grossepointenews.com).*



# Bright and fresh pesto

## Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Pistachios seem to be taking the internet by storm with the help of the viral Dubai chocolate bar.

It’s a brick of premium milk chocolate filled with a crunchy pistachio, tahini and kunafa cream. Kunafa is crispy, shredded phyllo pastry.

If you have seen one of the thousand Tik Tok videos out there, then you know the satisfying sound of the crunch when you take a bite.

The original bar is hard to acquire but there are several knock offs on the market. Maybe one day I’ll splurge and pay the \$50 to experience the trend.

For today, I’ll let pistachios inspire me in some other way. I wanted to take a savory approach to cooking with pistachios

and decided on making pistachio pesto. Pistachio pesto is rooted in Sicily where they created their variation of the traditional pesto which uses pine nuts. This pesto is full of flavor from capers, garlic, lemon and just a pinch of red chili flakes.

There is lots of freshness from fresh basil and mint. The mint is optional because not everyone prefers it but I highly recommend doing so.

This is a no-cook pasta sauce and the mint just energizes the entire dish. I added arugula at the end which gently wilts into the pasta. Rigatoni is a good choice because it captures the pesto but any small shape, like farfalle or orecchiette,

would work well too.

The fact that you can make this sauce while the pasta cooks makes it a perfect weeknight meal. My son even commented that the pasta was “bus-sin.” Of course I had to look up the definition. Bussin: when something is excellent, delicious, flavorsome or exceeds expectations. I’ll take the brain rot compliment!

Cheers, Mombeau

**Pistachio Pesto Pasta**

- 1 cup raw, shelled pistachios
- 1 cup packed basil leaves
- ½ cup packed mint leaves (optional)

- 1 tbsp capers
- Zest of 1 lemon
- Juice 1 lemon
- 4 smashed garlic cloves
- ½ tsp red chili flakes
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cups arugula
- 1 cup grated pecorino romano
- 1 lb rigatoni or small shape pasta

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil and add in your pasta. While the pasta cooks, add all ingredients, except for the olive oil, to the bowl of a food processor. Pulse together until it forms a



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

paste. Slowly drizzle in the olive oil while the processor is running to emulsify the pesto until smooth and creamy. Taste for seasoning.

Add the pesto to the bottom of a large bowl. When the pasta has been cooked al dente, save

about a cup of the pasta water and set aside.

Drain the pasta and add in the pasta, about half of the pasta water, arugula and the grated cheese. Toss everything together and add more pasta water if you think it needs to be thinned out.



# Exciting whites

With the arrival of warmer weather, dedicated wine lovers immediately begin searching for white wines they can use for patio-sipping or pairing with chips and dip or other casual moments.

Although the easiest choices are the most

common, such as chardonnay and sauvignon blanc, the world is filled with dozens of fascinating choices that provide far more excitement than the mundane. Most Americans just don’t know enough about these kinds of wines to take a chance.

Here is a random list of white wines that should provide far more interest than the ordinary:

- Pinot grigio from Alto Adige: Pinot grigio from Italy usually comes from the Veneto, where it can be very good. But far more distinctive are those from Alto Adige (ahl-toe ah-dee-jay), a colder region where the wine’s aromatics lean more toward spice.
- Chenin blanc: This well-known grape variety that flourishes in South Africa (where it is often called Steen) makes a beautiful, slightly sweet white wine. In recent years, it

is being made in a drier style. Look for Vouvray from the Loire Valley.

- Vermentino: An underrated Italian grape, it is slightly floral with a blossomy aroma. It is normally made dry, but some versions tend to be soft and very appealing when chilled.
- Arneis: Soft and relatively fragrant, arneis (ahr-nayce) comes mainly from northern Italy’s Piemonte and usually has a delicate fragrance and a slight bit of spice.
- Muscat: This is a sweeter white wine and the grape of the same name is the dominant component in

Italy’s Asti Spumante. It has a very floral/spicy aroma and is a normally quite sweet wine.

- White Rhone blends: This is a relatively new category of white wine that has long been produced in France using at least a dozen different relatively obscure white wine grapes to produce a somewhat rich and beguiling wine. It has recently become popular

with several California producers.

It is normally produced from grapes such as roussanne, marsanne and viognier.

*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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# FOOD

Continued from page 2C

recommend reservations for all brunching events at this family-friendly place.

Then there’s Mike’s on the Water, “where the East Coast meets the Eastside,” as they say. Located at Michigan Harbor Marina/ Colony Marine, it’s now open seven days a week, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Mike’s waterfront restaurant is one of the most popular on the mile.

If the sun is out, it’s a two-hour wait to get patio seating. With docking slips available, boaters literally can walk off their vessels

directly to dining. Boat traffic is very consistent here.

Known for their lobster rolls, Mike’s large menu also offers a variety of seafood dishes, entrees, sandwiches, salads and anything that you could possibly think of to enjoy outdoors. On cooler days, clam chowder is the answer. They, too, have a rooftop bar, but it’s a tad different. Mike’s rooftop has a food truck on it. Yes, you read that right — a functioning food truck on the roof.

Since opening in 2011, owner Mike LeFevre has done a stellar job of making fun additions to this now locally famous summer destination restaura-

rant. It sounds like there’s a new look for the 2025 seasons too.

Ending the stretch of the Nautical Mile with another oldie but goodie is Pegasus Taverna.

Located at the corner of Jefferson and 10 Mile, Pegasus has historically served authentic Greek dishes for years at this location. The dining room gives a vintage feeling of dining in Greece, while the all-seasons patio is light and spacious — and amazing in the summer. The saganaki flames start at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon on Sunday. Opa!

At the time of this printing, the Nautical Mile will

be in the middle of its Restaurant Week, April 21 to 27. Make sure to check out the Facebook page — The Nautical Mile SCS — to see who is offering what on their special menus for the week. A few mentioned also are offering Mother’s Day brunch too. Let’s support thy neighbor.

Fun Fact: There will be a trolley running from St. Clair Shores City Hall at 11 Mile and Jefferson during Restaurant Week, 7 to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Park there, hop on and head to your Nautical Mile destination(s). No need to stress out about construction or parking!

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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# New ideas for gifting mom with what she really wants

By Olivia Monette  
Special Writer

There is no one more powerful than a mom. But Mother’s Day isn’t just about celebrating the women who raised us—it’s about honoring all the caretakers, nurturers, and magic-makers in our lives. Whether it’s your sister who always shows up, your best friend who juggles everything with grace, your cousin who feels like a second mom, or any woman who brings love and warmth to the people around her, this is the perfect time to show them just how much they mean to you. Grosse Pointe News is here to help with our special Mother’s Day section, packed with the best local gift ideas and experiences to make this Mother’s Day truly special.

From indulgent self-care to thoughtful gifts, we’ve curated a guide featuring the best of Grosse Pointe. Treat a special woman in your life to a luxurious head spa treatment at Chez Lou Lou Salon or a glowing skin refresh with a laser treatment from Taylor Reese. Sweeten her day with Nothing Bundt Cakes or Chocolate Bar Café, or surprise her with timeless jewelry from Ahee. Looking for something stylish? Savvy Chic and Glitter & Scotch have gorgeous fashion

finds she’ll love. And as a special bonus, we’re hosting a fun Mother’s Day giveaway to treat one deserving mom (or honorary mom) to an incredible experience. Because let’s be honest—moms and all the women who do it all deserve to be celebrated in style.

**Bags from Glitter & Scotch**

Brighten up Mom’s beach days with the Shiraleah Rocca tote, the ultimate summer statement bag. This woven beauty features vibrant color-blocking in playful creamsicle shades, complete with fun fringe details for a touch of texture. Crafted with durable yet lightweight materials, it’s roomy enough for all your essentials—think towels, sunscreen, and even your favorite beach read. Finished with comfortable faux leather handles, the Rocca tote is your perfect plus-one for sunny escapes.

Say hello to your new seaside-inspired statement piece! The Coquille Minaudière is a chic, compact clutch featuring a delicate woven finish and topped with a gorgeous gold shell clasp. This bag brings coastal elegance straight to your wardrobe. With a removable gold chain strap, it’s perfect for both hands-free soirées or polished handheld moments.



*Top: Mom hits the beach with a colorful Shiraleah Rocca tote in Fire, a blend of warm-tones perfect for a day of sunshine and happiness. The side fringe adds even more personality!*

*Above: Navy-hued Shiraleah Coquille Minaudière clutch has a goldtone seashell clasp and open-loop chain for extra style.*



AHEE Jewelers

For a Mother’s Day gift that truly shines, consider honoring Mom with a timeless piece of jewelry from edmund t. AHEE Jewelers. Stunning 8.5mm cultured pearl and diamond earrings in 18K white gold are a classic and sophisticated choice — perfect for the mom who exudes elegance in everything she does.

If you’re looking for something with a bit of symbolism, the Roberto Coin Jasmine butterfly diamond pendant in 18K yellow gold makes a lovely gift, representing transformation, beauty, and grace — just like Mom.

Whether she prefers pearls or sparkling diamonds, these luxurious pieces will become family heirlooms she’ll cherish forever. Because let’s be honest, after everything moms do, don’t they deserve a little sparkle?



Roberto Coin Jasmine butterfly pendant, left.

Culuted pearl and diamond earrings, above.

Chez Lou Lou

Chez Lou Lou Salon in Grosse Pointe is now offering the ultimate relaxation experience with their spa head treatment. This luxurious service combines the soothing effects of a full-body massage with an invigorating head scrub and wash, all performed on a comfortable spa table. Available in 60- or 90-minute sessions, the treatment is designed to melt away stress, leaving you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. Perfect for anyone in need of some serious pampering, this indulgent experience makes an unforgettable gift for someone you love—or for yourself!

In honor of Mother’s Day, Grosse Pointe News is giving one deserving mom the chance to experience this incredible service for free. Nominate a hardworking, selfless, and deserving mom to win a 60-minute Head Spa treatment at Chez Lou Lou. To enter, tag a deserving mom in our Instagram Mother’s Day post or email media@grossepointenews.com and tell us why she needs this service!



Chez Lou Lou , above left, is the place to try an invigorating head treatment, above right. For the ultimate in feel-good moments, treat Mom and yourself to this unique experience.

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Nothing says “I appreciate you” quite like a luscious treat, and Nothing Bundt Cakes has the perfect options to make Mother’s Day extra special. Whether you’re hosting a Mother’s Day brunch or just want to surprise Mom with something delicious, these beautifully decorated bundt cakes and Bundtinis are a guaranteed hit. With their signature rich, moist cake and velvety frosting, these treats look as good as they taste.

Go for a show-stopping decorated bundt cake as the centerpiece of your celebration. Topped with adorable floral decorations and a heartfelt “Best Mom A’round” sign, these cakes are a sweet way to show Mom just how much she means to you. Or pick up an assortment of mini Bundtinis for a bite-sized taste of paradise. A little dessert therapy might be just what Mom needs to thank her for all the baking she has done over the years.



A delicious bundt cake, above, for Mom — from Nothing Bundt Cakes.



Treat your mom to yummy cupcakes, above, and other sweets from Chocolate Bar Cafe.

Chocolate Bar Cafe

If Mom has a sweet tooth, Chocolate Bar Café is the perfect place to find a delicious treat that will make her day extra special. From beautifully frosted cupcakes to decadent chocolates, this local favorite is known for its nostalgic charm and irresistible desserts. Whether you surprise her with a box of gourmet truffles, a perfectly swirled cupcake, or an old-fashioned milkshake, every bite feels like a little indulgence. Pair it with a heartfelt card, and you’ve got a simple yet thoughtful way to show Mom just how much she’s loved.



Animal print tote from Savvy Chic Boutique , below, is a winning gift.

Sapphire blue Gola sneakers, above, help moms make tracks around the Pointes.

Savvy Chic Boutique

Check out unique and versatile cotton totes in fun prints — with ample room to carry everything mom needs for the day.

A fresh aesthetic contemporary sneaker perfect for everyday wear. In sapphire blue with classic pink color blocking at the heel. Mom will love to sport these shoes all around the town.



Magic happens upstairs at Taylor Reese, above.

Taylor Reese

Taylor Reese, a standout beauty and wellness destination Grosse Pointers love, offers a variety of premium services for moms seeking top-tier beauty treatments. From advanced laser therapies to indulgent grooming and relaxation options, this spa is a go-to for a comprehensive beauty experience. Here’s some ideas for Mother’s Day gifting from their beauty bar offerings:

BBL HERO laser treatments

One of Taylor Reese’s most advanced offerings is the

BBL HERO laser, a cutting-edge treatment designed to target a variety of skin concerns. BBL, or BroadBand Light, uses intense pulsed light to address pigmentation issues, sun damage, age spots, and uneven skin tone. The HERO (High Energy Rapid Output) version takes this technology a step further by offering faster and more efficient treatments, covering larger areas of skin in less time. Clients love this laser for its ability to leave skin looking brighter, smoother, and more youthful with minimal downtime. It’s a versatile treatment that can be customized for different skin types and concerns, making it a popular choice for those looking to reverse signs of aging and sun exposure.

Moxi laser for skin renewal

Taylor Reese also offers the Moxi laser, another revolutionary treatment designed to rejuvenate the skin. The Moxi laser is a gentler, non-ablative laser that stimulates collagen production and improves overall skin texture and tone. It’s perfect for individuals looking to refresh their skin with minimal downtime. Moxi treatments are highly effective for addressing early signs of aging, fine lines, and uneven skin texture. The procedure is comfortable and can be tailored to different levels of intensity depending on the client’s skin needs, making it an excellent option for those seeking a refreshed glow with little recovery time.

Waxing services for smooth skin

For traditional hair removal, Taylor Reese provides a range of waxing services. From precise eyebrow shaping to full-body waxing, their skilled estheticians ensure smooth and irritation-free results using top-quality wax. These services are ideal for those looking for quick and effective hair removal in a comfortable setting.



Enhanced brows and lashes are “in” for Mom this year.

Brow and lash enhancements

Taylor Reese offers eyebrow and lash treatments for clients looking to enhance their natural beauty. Their eyebrow shaping and lamination services help create perfectly defined brows, while lash lifts and tints provide long-lasting volume and color for a dramatic, low-maintenance look.

Nail services for every occasion

Their nail services range from simple manicures and pedicures to more intricate designs. With high-quality products and expert technicians, clients can enjoy nails that look polished and healthy for any occasion.



Your mother will love a manicure in spring’s hottest colors — from Taylor Reese.

Massage and relaxation services

For clients seeking relaxation, Taylor Reese provides a variety of massage therapies, including deep tissue and Swedish massages. These treatments help relieve tension, promote relaxation, and offer a rejuvenating escape from daily stress.



Give Mom the gift of stress relief with a massage from the spa at Taylor Reese.

With its range of advanced laser treatments like the BBL HERO and Moxi lasers, along with a suite of beauty and wellness services, Taylor Reese continues to be a premier destination for self-care in Grosse Pointe.

**AHEE Jewelers** • 20139 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods • (313) 886-4600 • ahee.com • Instagram: @aheejewelers  
**Chez Lou Lou** • 16900 Kercheval Ave. • Grosse Pointe • (313) 647-0525 • chezloulousalon.com • Instagram: @chezloulousalon  
**Chocolate Bar Cafe** • 20737 Mack Ave. • Grosse Pointe Woods • (313) 881-2888 • chocolatebar-cafe.com • Instagram: @chocbarcafe  
**Glitter & Scotch** • 16906 Kercheval Ave. • Grosse Pointe • (313) 571-3607 • shopglitterandscotch.com • Instagram: @shopgliteandscotch  
**Nothing Bundt Cakes** • 17012 Kercheval Ave. • Grosse Pointe • (313) 435-0437 • nothingbundtcakes.com • Instagram: @nothingbundtcakes  
**Savvy Chic Boutique** • 16822 Kercheval Ave. • Grosse Pointe • (313) 466-3388 • savvychicgp.com • Instagram: @savvychicgp  
**Taylor Reese** • 84 Kercheval Ave. • Grosse Pointe Farms • (313) 571-3323 • taylorreeseshop • Instagram: @taylorreeseshop



6C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY HILL ARTS, CONTENT STUDIOS AND SCHURMANN FILMES  
Left, Jean Reno as João with DimDin from the movie “My Penguin Friend,” written by Kristen Lazarian and Paulina Lagudi Ulrich and directed by David Schurmann.

MOVIE REVIEW  
“My Penguin Friend”  
2024 - Rated PG  
1 hr 37 min  
★★★★☆

They sure don’t make movies like this any more. Or I should say, they rarely do. I just loved this family-friendly take on the classic film centered on the friendship between an animal and a human. It’s in the same vein as films like “Free Willy,” “Hachi: A Dog’s Tale” and one of my

all time favorites, “My Octopus Teacher.” “My Penguin Friend” is a touching, intelligent, well made film that will appeal to folks of any age. One simply can’t watch it without feeling moved. Director David Schurmann (“Little Secret,”) is a respected filmmaker, known for his documentaries and works of fiction. Here he teams up with writers Kristen Lazarian and Paulina Lagudi Ulrich to present

the remarkable true story of the exploits of a Patagonian Penguin and a Brazilian fisherman. He’s aided by the cinematographer Anthony Dod Mantle, who’s well known for his work with Danny Boyle (“Slumdog Millionaire,” “Yesterday,” “Trainspotting”). As the story begins we meet João (Pedro Urizzi) and his young son. It’s the boy’s birthday and he begs his dad to take him fishing. Against his better judg-



ment and in spite of a potential storm on the horizon, he relents and takes him out to sea. When the weather turns, his son is thrown overboard and drowns. It’s a devastating blow that throws João into a deep and long-lasting depression. An event it appears he may never recover from. Several years later João, now played by Jean Reno, is out at sea where he discovers a penguin in distress. The creature is coated with oil and is just barely clinging to life. João brings the penguin home, cleans him up and nurtures him back to health. You can tell right off that he has a sweet personality. João’s wife Maria (Adriana Barraza) isn’t totally comfortable taking a creature like a penguin into her home. While she’s skeptical at first, she eventually realizes what a special rela-

tionship it is and she warms up to the little fellow. She can also see the healing power the penguin has on her husband. The day comes when João feels he needs to return his new friend to the wild. He takes him out to a nearby island and sets him free, only to discover the penguin returning to his home a few hours later. Joao accepts the new reality and the two not only spend a good part of their days together, they’re a big hit with the local villagers. A young girl even gives him a name—DinDim. Eventually, the two pals are filmed and, thanks to the Internet, their story goes viral. They become an international sensation. Over a period of eight years, DinDim migrated along with a million other penguins to the southern tip of Argentina and returned to João every June — a distance of over 5,000 miles. Of course, the story has to have a slightly dark side to it. This is when a group of researchers find DinDim and decide to tag him and study him. They’re interested in doing research on what makes his behavior so unique. It’s the one part of the film I thought could have been left out. Not only was the side story an unnecessary distraction, the actors who play the scientists were stiff and hardly up to the same level as the movie’s leads. The cinematography in “My Penguin Friend” was incredible. It included quite a few scenes of DinDim (played by a number of penguins) frolicking in the ocean. And we’re treated to several shots from the penguin’s point of view, especially when he was getting into mischief! The score by Fernando Velazquez was absolutely gorgeous. It really added to the emotional side of the film. I’m a big fan of soundtracks, so I’ll be keeping an eye out



for this one. Hopefully it’s out on CD (remember those?). If you’re looking for a great family movie, I can’t recommend this one highly enough. It’s something everyone will love. I ask you, could there be a cuter creature on the planet? It might make you want to pay the Penguin House at the Detroit Zoo a visit. I should warn you however, it is a tearjerker, but in a good way. So be sure to have some tissues handy! Currently streaming on Hulu. And to rent on Apple TV, Amazon, Plex, and other services.

My rating system:

- ★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you’re embarrassed to admit you’ve seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.
- ★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.
- ★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren’t any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.
- ★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.
- ★★★★★ So good you’d actually go out and buy it!



Movie poster.

GROSSE POINTE THEATRE PRESENTS

**The SECRET GARDEN**  
the musical

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL A. GRAVAME

**PERFORMANCES**  
**May 2ND-4TH & May 7TH-11TH**

|                                              |                                             |                             |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday &amp; Thursday</b><br>7:30 p.m. | <b>Fridays &amp; Saturdays</b><br>8:00 p.m. | <b>Sundays</b><br>2:00 p.m. |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Performances will be held at:  
Parcells Middle School  
20600 Mack Ave. • GP Woods

Tickets \$25 to \$35 at [gpt.org/secret](http://gpt.org/secret)  
Or call 313-881-4004

Student tickets are  
**\$15 with code Student25**  
(not valid for Sunday performances)

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



DinDim at sea.



Strolling though the village.



The real João with DinDim.



# Weekly Challenge

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

4/24 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

4/17 Solution

## Contract Bridge

### THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

#### NORTH

♠ 10 9 4  
♥ Q 5 3  
♦ 9 4  
♣ A Q 8 6 3

#### WEST

♠ Q 8 6 3  
♥ K 9  
♦ K Q J 10 3  
♣ K 4

#### EAST

♠ J 7 5 2  
♥ J 8  
♦ A 8 6 2  
♣ J 10 7

#### SOUTH

♠ A K  
♥ A 10 7 6 4 2  
♦ 7 5  
♣ 9 5 2

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♥   | 2 ♦  | 2 ♥   | 3 ♦  |
| 3 ♥   | Pass | 4 ♥   |      |

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Every once in a while, declarer finds himself struggling in a seemingly hopeless contract. This situation might be caused by overbidding, misbidding or any number of other good — or bad — reasons.

Whatever the cause, declarer must nevertheless try to find a successful resolution to his predicament. A contract that appears impossible to make

can sometimes be brought home by applying just a little bit of extra effort.

Consider this deal where South is in four hearts. Looking at only the North-South cards, it seems declarer must lose two diamonds, at least one club and at least one trump. Yet, despite this prognosis, South can make the contract if he pays close attention to the task at hand.

West leads the king of diamonds and continues with the ten to East's ace. East shifts to a spade, won by South with the ace. Declarer sees that he must lose a trump trick regardless of how he approaches the suit, so he devotes all his thoughts to avoiding a club loser. This results in his adopting a line of play that — with some luck — will cause his seemingly inevitable club loser to vanish into thin air.

Declarer begins by finessing the queen of clubs at trick four, then leads a spade to his king and a club to dummy's ace. Next, he ruffs dummy's remaining spade.

The ace and another trump are now played, West winning with the king. Since West has no more clubs, he is forced to return a spade or a diamond, allowing declarer to ruff in dummy while he discards his remaining club, and the "impossible" game is home.

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by Steve Becker

## Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping or important decisions after 10:45 p.m. EDT today (7:45 p.m. PDT). The Moon is in PISCES.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 24, 2025:

You're a perfectionist and a humanitarian. You are kind, devoted and protective of loved ones. This year is the beginning of new adventures and major changes in your life. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities. Take action and define your goals. Prepare for leadership. Stay independent.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

Today you will act with restraint, caution and common sense. Many of you will choose to work alone or behind the scenes. You're assessing things and wondering about your next move. You're not afraid to speak up, but you're giving thought to what you will say. Tonight: Solitude.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

Today you will express loyalty and support for someone older — either a friend or a charitable organization that you like to support. Something unexpected might trigger your feelings of responsibility and obligation to others. After all, you care. Tonight: Responsibilities.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

Tread carefully when dealing with authority figures today, which means talking to parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs and even the police. Your dealings with them are not predictable. Something unexpected might occur. Fortunately, others will see you as conscientious and reliable. Tonight: Show respect.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

Sudden opportunities to travel might fall in your lap today. Conversely, travel plans might be interrupted. It's a crapshoot. Meanwhile, you will embrace traditional values when it comes to religious and political issues today. You believe the old ways are tried-and-true. Tonight: Tradition matters.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Tread carefully today, because unexpected news from bosses or authority figures might impact your financial scene. This could relate to shared responsibilities, shared property, inheritances or banking issues. Stay on top of things so you are not caught off guard. Tonight: Check your finances.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Therefore, be ready to compromise. Having said this, unexpected opportunities to travel or encounter someone from another culture might catch you off guard. Stay light on your feet so you can be flexible. Tonight: Be there for someone.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are best served today by paying attention to your responsibilities related to your job, your work and even your health. Play by the rules. Do what is expected of you. Nevertheless, cancellations, delays and broken equipment might dog your footsteps. Be resilient. Tonight: Honor your obligations.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your responsibilities to children and young people are important today, and you will respect these. Others know they can count on you. Pay attention, because this might be an accident-prone day for your kids. Avoid sports accidents. Tonight: Be sensible and responsible.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Small appliances might break down today or a minor breakage could occur -- something will interrupt your home routine. Perhaps someone unexpected will knock on the door. Nevertheless, you are aware of your responsibilities to care for someone older. And you will. Tonight: Secure your home.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Pay attention to everything you say and do, because this is a mildly accident-prone day for your sign. However, it's a good day to study and learn something new. Actually, someone older might have interesting news for you. Stay light on your feet. There's an unpredictable element in the air today. Tonight: Advice.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Keep your eyes open when it comes to your assets, money and possessions. Something unexpected could impact them today. For example, you might find money; you might lose money. Do what you can to protect what you own against theft or damage. On the upside, you might improve your job. Tonight: Check your belongings.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Uranus, as well as lining up with both Saturn and Venus. This is a mixed bag. In one way, things are sudden, changing and unpredictable. Yet, in another way, you will toe the line and stick with what is tried-and-true. (Better safe than sorry.) Tonight: You're reliable.

**BORN TODAY**  
Actor Jack Quaid (1992), singer, actress Barbra Streisand (1942), actress Shirley MacLaine (1934).

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Stainberg April 24, 2025

### ACROSS

- 1 Gather over time  
6 Motor oil brand  
9 -chic (fashion style)  
13 A beginner in people  
14 Great Plains state  
15 Six-sided state  
16 You can count on it!  
18 Ominous  
19 Queen in "Frozen"  
20 Volume booster  
21 Prayer beads  
23 "Family Guy" daughter  
25 Swiss skiing spot  
26 Essential skill in the Information Age  
35 Org. on a mouthwash bottle  
36 They may say "Take me to your leader"  
37 Tennis great Arthur  
38 Harold who directed some episodes of "The Office"  
40 Rapper Lil X  
41 Keyboard goofs  
42 Those people  
43 Lipton competitor  
45 out a living  
46 They're parallel to the x-axis
- 49 Unfavorable responses  
50 Chill (out)  
51 Like a glowing poker  
54 Polynesian staple  
56 Greek god whose name is an anagram of "rose"  
60 Storybook brute  
61 Bets everything  
64 Petri dish gel  
65 Eye part that may be brown  
66 Solemn song  
67 Shiba Inu meme  
68 The "L" in UNLV  
69 Stand in good \_\_\_\_
- DOWN**  
1 Poker table payment  
2 Breakfast or brunch  
3 Hole-making tools  
4 Sandwich sausage  
5 Dirty digs  
6 Put one foot forward  
7 Tip of a boot  
8 Rodents kept as companions  
9 It makes insects buzz off  
10 \_\_\_\_ cosa (another thing, in Spanish)  
11 Combed part of a doll  
12 "Good heavens!"

- 14 Measure of resistance  
17 Katey of "Married ... With Children"  
22 Flamenco shout  
24 JFK listings  
26 \_\_\_\_ Vader  
27 State known for potatoes  
28 Fan of "Free Fire" or "Mario Kart"  
29 Fancy napkin fabric  
30 Smallest amount  
31 App with camera effects, for short  
32 Colorado ski town  
33 Fail when it matters most  
34 Affirmative replies  
39 Words from another room  
41 "A \_\_\_\_ of Two Cities"

- 43 Air hole?  
44 Rock 'n' roll legend who named his private jet Lisa Marie  
47 Ape house's place  
48 "Good joke!"  
51 Paved way, say  
52 Toaster waffle brand  
53 Pull along  
54 Trident-shaped Greek letters  
55 Approves  
57 Like expensive Pokemon cards  
58 Gymnast Korbut  
59 Snow day toy  
62 Nest egg choice, briefly  
63 Driver's licenses, e.g.

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

4/17 Solution

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4/24

### Braces Oneself by Taylor Johnson

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | 73 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 74 |    |    |    |    |    |    |





# THURSDAY COMICS



Peanuts

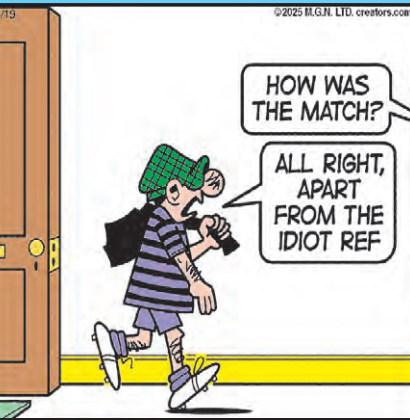
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

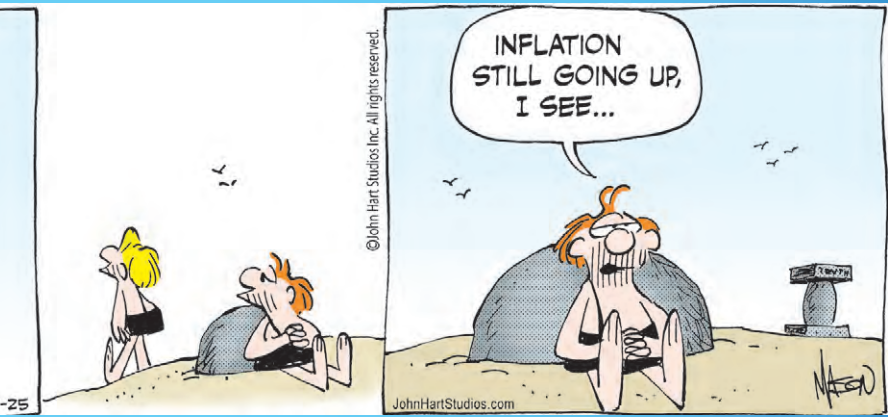
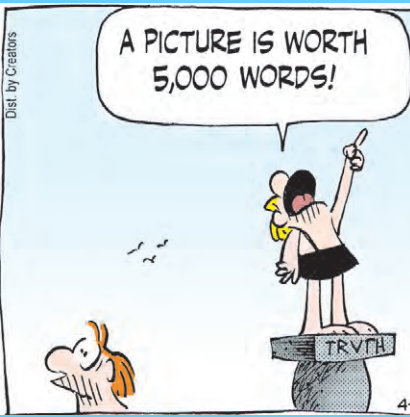
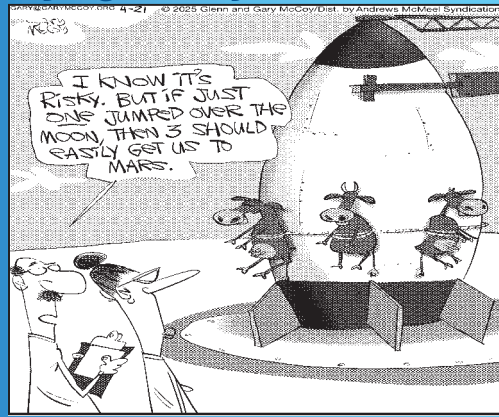
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

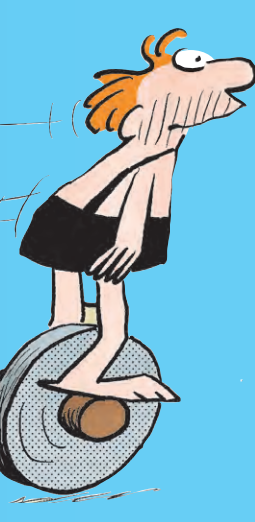
Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

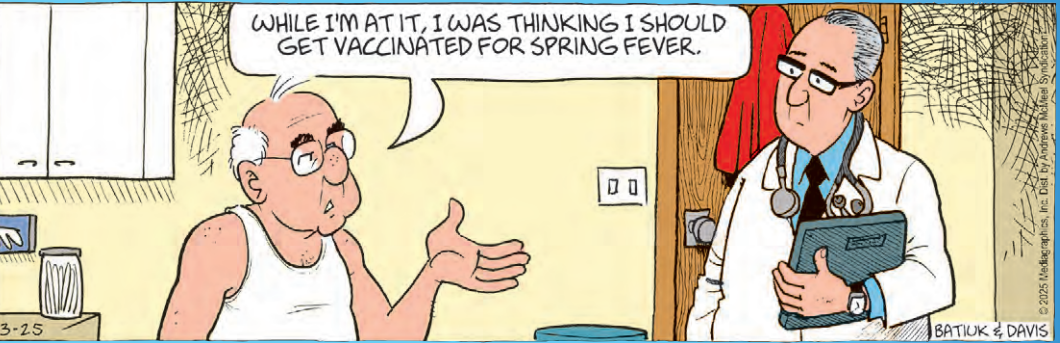
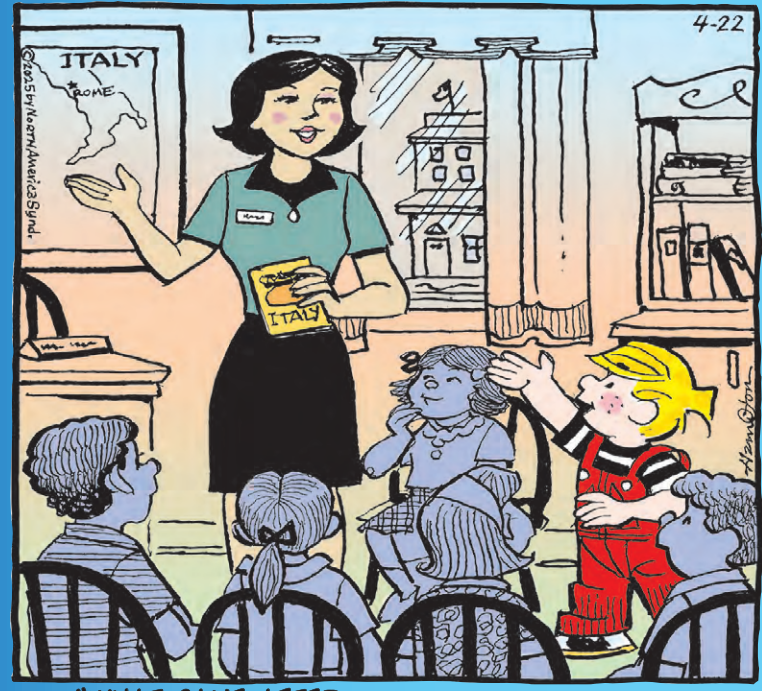
Mike Peters



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

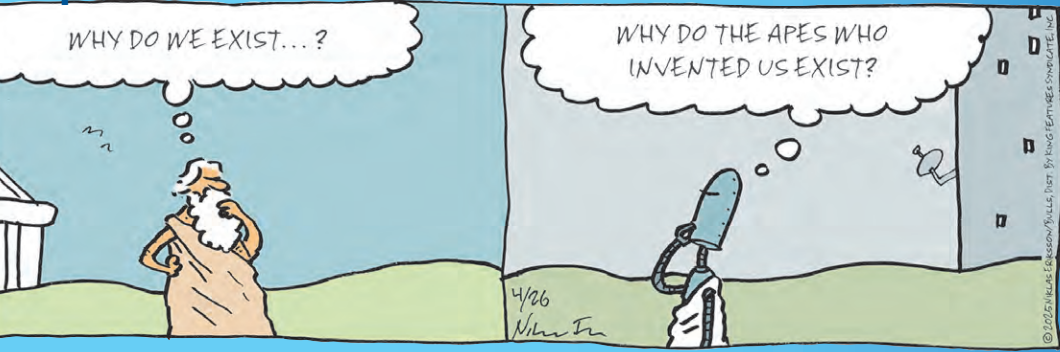
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler





THURSDAY COMICS



Garfield

Jim Davis

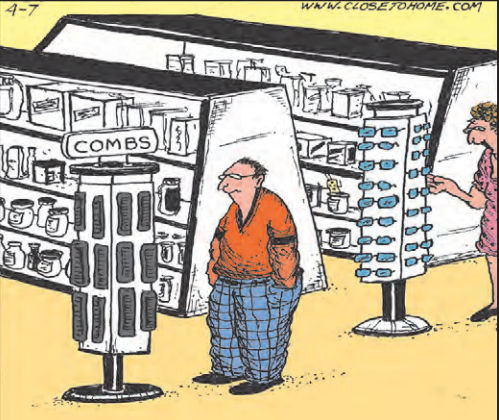


Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

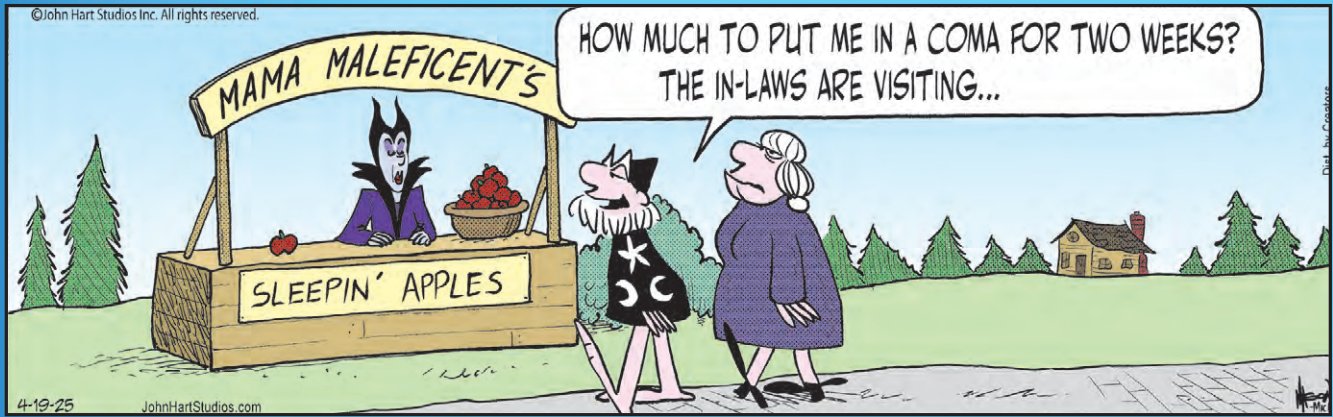
Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

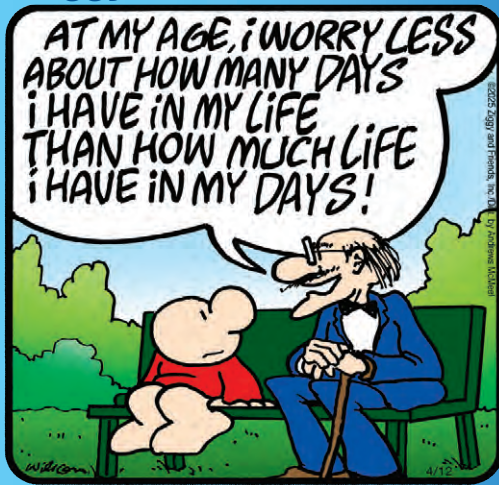
Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



"Mike, those are the combs. The reading glasses are over here."

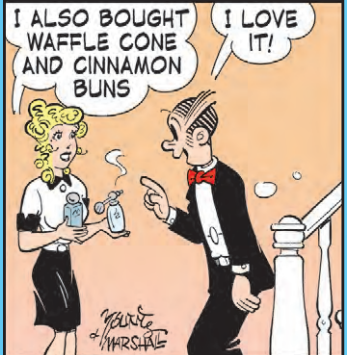
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



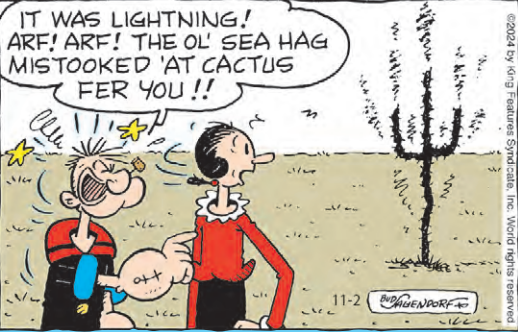
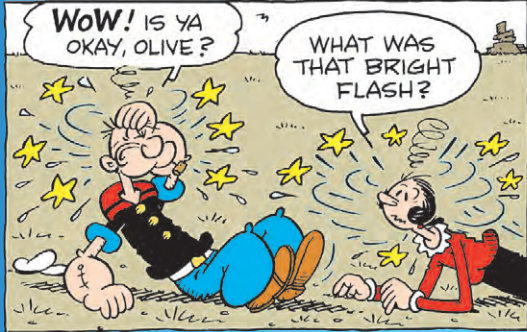
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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"Know who Noah's wife was? Joan of ark."





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# MAGNETS

According to a legend, a shepherd discovered magnets 4,000 years ago.

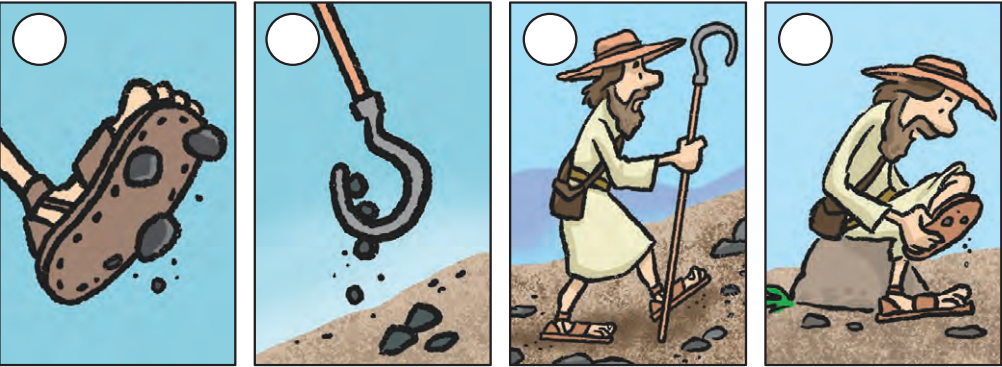
One day, the shepherd Magnes was walking in a region of Greece called Magnesia. He sat down and looked at his sandals.

He had metal nails in his sandals. The sandals kept sticking to the rocks where he was walking.

The metal end of the shepherd's hook also stuck to the rocks.

The rocks that stuck to metal were naturally occurring magnets called **lodestones**.

Read the legend. Then number the pictures in order.



## Is the legend true?

No one knows for sure. Some say the story took place in India instead of Greece. But finding rocks that could stick to sandals started some creative thinking and new inventions that have used magnets for thousands of years.

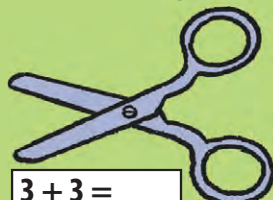
Standards Link: Reading: Recount stories including legends.

## Invisible Power: Magnetism

You can't see the force that pulls certain kinds of metal towards a magnet. But it is a force in nature, like gravity is a natural force, that we can't see.

**What do magnets attract?** Metals such as iron, nickel and cobalt are attracted to magnets. Other materials such as aluminum, glass, plastic and wood aren't attracted to magnets.

**Do the math to see which of these items are attracted to magnets. If the answer is an even number, that means it's magnetic.**



3 + 3 =



4 + 1 =



11 + 3 =



4 + 3 =



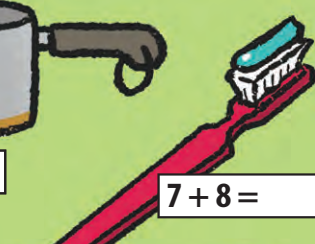
13 - 4 =



9 + 9 =



6 + 4 =



7 + 8 =



12 + 8 =

Standards Link: Science: Understand the interaction between magnets and magnetic materials.

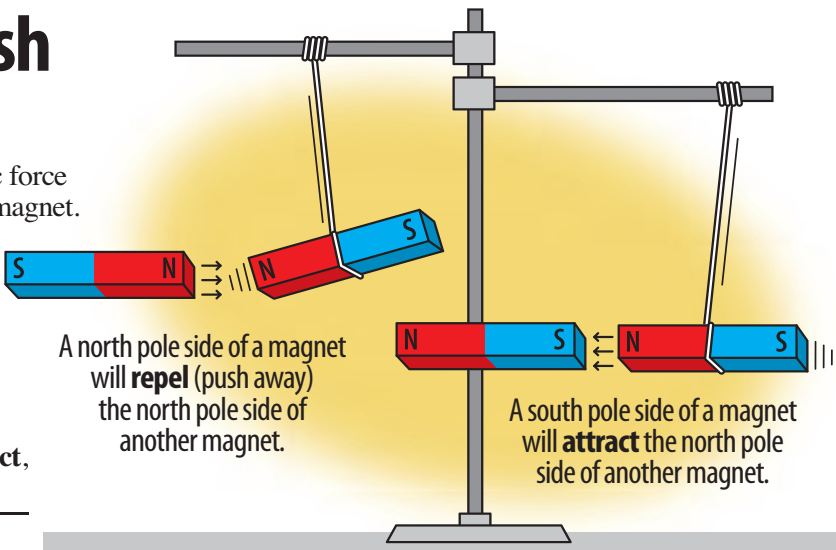
## Magnets Push and Pull

We usually think of magnetic force attracting objects towards a magnet.

But magnets can also **repel** or push away objects. This is because magnets have a **north pole** and **south pole**.

In short, opposite poles **attract**, and the same poles **repel**.

Standards Link: Math: Recognize even and odd numbers.



A north pole side of a magnet will **repel** (push away) the north pole side of another magnet.

A south pole side of a magnet will **attract** the north pole side of another magnet.

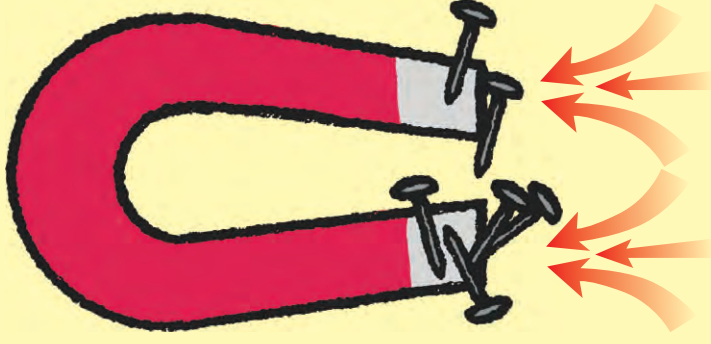
## Extra! Extra! Tell a Story

Select a photograph in the newspaper. What do you think happened **BEFORE** the photo was taken. What do you think happened **AFTER** the photograph was taken? Write a story about what is happening in the photograph and what happened before and after.

Standards Link: Writing: Write about imagined experiences or events.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

There is an invisible area around a magnet where its pulling force can be felt. Circle every other letter to find out what this area is called.



Q M D A T G B N Y E M T U I A C V F L I D E W L N D

M \_\_\_\_\_ D

Standards Link: Science: Understand magnetic forces and earth's magnetic field.

## Double Double Word Search

ATTRACT  
AWAY  
FORCE  
HOOK  
IRON  
METAL  
NATURE  
POLE  
PUSH  
REPEL  
STONES  
STORY  
STUCK  
WOOD  
YEARS

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

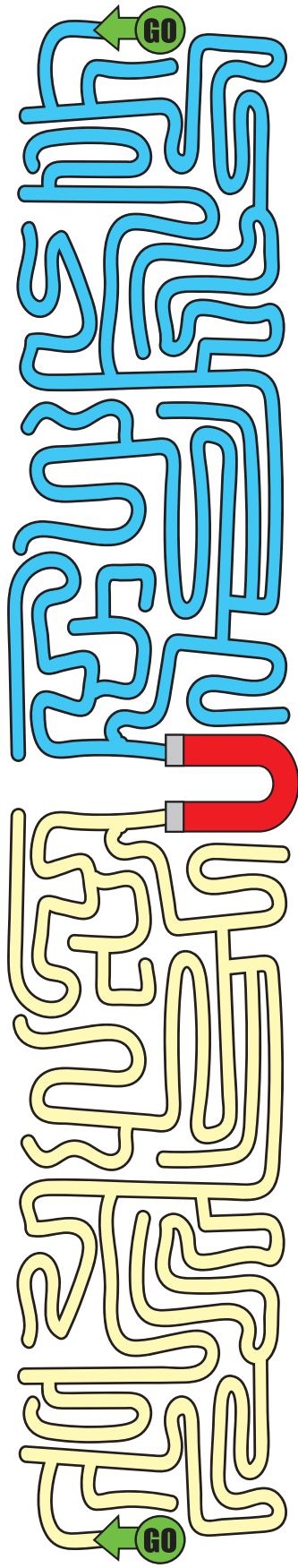
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | G | C | K | A | Y | I | R | V | O |
| Q | A | O | Z | U | P | R | T | R | W |
| B | O | W | N | J | K | O | L | E | H |
| H | O | Y | A | M | H | N | L | P | E |
| Y | L | R | T | H | S | U | P | E | C |
| E | D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

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

## Kid Scoop Together

### Magnet Maze

Race a family member to see who can get to the magnet first!



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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **REPEL**

The verb **repel** means to force back or push away.

My raincoat was able to **repel** water and keep my clothes dry.

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Five Fun Words

Look through the newspaper for five words that are new to you. Look up each word in a dictionary and write the definition of each. Can you draw a picture that also shows the meaning of each?

Standards Link: Language: Determine the meaning of words through reference materials.



## What did the car say to the magnet?

ANSWER: "Stick with me and I'll take you places!"

## Write On!

### Stuck!

What if one of your hands suddenly became a magnet. Tell about your life with a magnet hand.

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## North bests South in rivalry showdown on softball diamond

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Whether it is the regular season or postseason, there never seems to be a lack of excitement and unpredictability when the varsity softball teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South meet on the diamond. The crosstown rivals faced off in their only scheduled meeting of the regular season Monday, April 21, with the Blue Devils playing host. In a game that nearly came down to the wire, the Norsemen ended up victorious on their rival's home field, 5-2.

"I was very proud of the girls with the way they played and executed and continued to work to get to what they wanted, which was ultimately winning the game," North softball head coach Ron Smith said. "South played a great game. Defensively, they were making every play. It was the way a rivalry game was supposed to be."

South broke onto the scoreboard first in the



Carina Jensen crosses home plate in hopes of scoring, but the batter was out. North went on to win the game over South, 5-2 Monday, April 21.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

bottom of the third inning. Viviana Ostrowski put the first run on the board with an RBI double, then later came in to score the second run of the game after a single by Kate Kalmink

to make it 2-0 Blue Devils. The Norsemen answered back in the top of the fifth. It took one hit to tie the game, with senior Addie Wakefield bringing in two runs on a

single to even the scoreboard at 2-2. The game remained tied going into the seventh inning until another big hit for the Norsemen put them in front for the first time. Addison Moses

brought two runs across the plate with a single to make it 4-2 North. Freshman Emma Barr helped add another insurance run to the board with a sacrifice bunt to make it 5-2

Norsemen. North's pitching and defense held onto the lead in the end and the team walked away with the rivalry win. "The team really has gelled as a coach can only hope for," Smith said about his team's chemistry after the victory. "They are truly driving that togetherness and that commitment and, from a coaching perspective, all you can do is sit there and be proud that that's what you're getting." Barr also was the winning pitcher for North, pitching six innings and allowing two runs on four hits with three strikeouts. Moses got the save in the seventh inning with three strikeouts. Murphy Russell pitched five innings for South and allowed two runs on seven hits. Makenzie Waterson threw two innings for the Blue Devils and gave up three runs on three hits. The game was a much-needed win for the Norsemen after suffering a loss in their previous

See **SOFTBALL**, page 6D

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Domzalski off to hot start at the plate for Blue Devils baseball

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Baseball often can be defined as a game of slumps and hot streaks,

both for players and entire teams. Sometimes, one player's hot streak can lift an entire team. Right now, that might be the case for senior Henry

Domzalski and the Grosse Pointe South varsity baseball team. The Blue Devils are 13-1 so far this season and currently sit tied for first place in the MAC White Division, with league play just getting underway. One of the biggest contributors to South's strong start this season has been Domzalski, who has been on an absolute tear at the plate. However, part of why Domzalski has been performing so well is rooted in what he learned about himself and the game last season, when he felt he did not live up to his full potential. "Last year was kind of a disappointment for me," he said. "I struggled a bit, so I've spent a lot of

time in the (batting) cages this offseason, hitting and working on what I could fix to get myself to the position where I am now." Domzalski currently is hitting above .500 this season with nine doubles and 18 RBIs. He also has showcased tremendous speed on the basepaths with nine stolen bases. A streak of strong performances like Domzalski's may be attributed to luck, skill or a combination of both. What he has learned to reach this point focuses on managing the mental aspect of baseball, avoiding self-doubt and maintaining a carefree attitude toward whatever happens when he grips the bat. "Going up to the plate

without anything in your mind," Domzalski said. "Coach (Dan) Griesbaum Jr. has taught me a lot over the years and now that I'm on this hot streak, he's letting me figure it out myself. ... When you're hot, you just don't think about what you're doing. You just go up there and try to keep things going." "I think we just needed some time together over his junior season and the offseason to find an approach and the right mechanics that work for his skill set," Griesbaum added. "I think his hard work and his diligent approach to the drills we've talked about and the approach in the batter's box is finally paying

off and I'm really happy for him and, most importantly, happy for our team. As far as this hot streak goes, I must admit that I've actively stopped talking to him for now. Nothing I can do or say as a hitting coach right now will make him perform any better than he already is. This is one of the best stretches of hitting I've seen in our history and I don't want to get in his way right now."

See **ATHLETE**, page 2D



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Domzalski rounds third base and heads toward home plate in South's game against Utica last Wednesday, April 16.

**Hammerin' Henry**

- Recorded 18 RBIs and 9 doubles in 15 games with South baseball this season
- Had 5 hits and 7 RBIs, including a 2-run HR, against Utica on April 17

Grosse Pointe News



**Henry Domzalski**

School: Grosse Pointe South  
Sport: Baseball

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# South baseball stays hot, North and Liggett try to piece wins together

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

With the first month of the varsity baseball season nearly complete, teams are fully settled into the season as things heat up on the diamond. Last week was another action-packed one for the teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School as they continue to stack wins as the heart of the season arrives.

**Grosse Pointe South**  
The Blue Devils have been red hot so far and showed no signs of slowing down last week. South's achievements included a three-game series sweep against MAC White Division foe Utica and a sweep over Royal Oak in a weekend doubleheader.

South took the first game 10-1 over Utica in the MAC White series Monday, April 14. The teams met again Wednesday, April 16, with South hosting. Once again, the Blue Devils came away with the win, 6-2 over the Chieftains.

South dominated in the win. Charlie Michelotti was the winning pitcher after tossing six innings and allowing just two runs on four hits with six strikeouts. Dane Lezotte helped lead the way at the plate with three RBIs on two hits.

There was no shortage of offense in the final game of the series between South and Utica Thursday, April 17. The final score ended up looking more like a football game than a baseball game, but South finished the sweep of the Chieftains with a 22-14 victory.

The lead changed hands a few times in the high-scoring game. South jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, but ended up trailing 5-3 at the end of the first inning. South tied the game in the second inning and took back the lead 6-5 in the third inning, but once again, a big inning by Utica gave it the lead 9-5



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Henry Domzalski greets Lucas Ogden at home plate after both score runs in South's win over Utica last Wednesday, April 16.**

after three innings. However, South was able to tie things up and eventually take back the lead in the fifth inning, then never looked back on its way to victory.

Henry Domzalski continued his string of strong performances at the plate this season with seven RBIs on five hits in the win, including a two-run home run in the seventh inning. Lezotte also had another multi-RBI performance by driving in three more runs with his bat. James Michelotti also had three RBIs on three hits.

Moving into non-league play over the weekend, the Blue Devils hosted Royal Oak for a doubleheader Saturday, April 19. South improved to 13-1 for the year by sweeping both games of the doubleheader against the Ravens.

Game One last Saturday was a shutout win for South, 10-0 over Royal Oak. Helping propied the Blue Devils to the win was the performance of Griffin Szatkiewski on the mound. The senior pitched all six innings

and got the shutout win while allowing only three hits.

On offense, it was another game with multiple RBIs for both Domzalski and Lezotte, who brought in two runs each at the plate. Adam Czarnik had three RBIs for South as well in the win.

The Blue Devils picked up another victory in Game Two of the doubleheader by winning 5-1. Steven Zrimec had a pair of RBIs in the game and Jack Danielewicz was the winning pitcher, throwing three innings and striking out four batters with one earned run.

The momentum for the Blue Devils kept rolling into Monday, April 21, when they hosted St. Clair in the first matchup of another three-game MAC White series. Czarnik had a banner day with four RBIs on three hits. Szatkiewski and Drew Hess both had a pair of RBIs each as well. Danielewicz got another win on the mound, pitching all five innings of the blowout victory without allowing a hit and racking up nine

strikeouts.

South visited St. Clair after press time Wednesday, April 23. The Blue Devils come back home for the third game of the series against the Saints at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

**Grosse Pointe North**  
The Norsemen have been trying to piece together any success they can this season. Last week saw more tallies added to the loss column for North, but also a victory over the week-end as the team tries to get on course.

North began the week Wednesday, April 16, with the second game of a three-game series against Anchor Bay in the MAC White Division. The high-scoring game ended up being another loss for the Norsemen, with the Tars being victorious 17-11.

The Norsemen had a 5-1 lead after the first inning before the Tars eventually ended up 11-5 after three innings. A big fifth inning for North saw the team score six runs and tie the game at 11 apiece, but

Anchor Bay had a big inning of its own in the seventh, scoring six more runs to eventually pull away for the win.

Caleb Butler finished the game with four RBIs for North, all of which came on a grand slam in the fifth inning that helped tie the game at 11-11. Senior Charlie Rocho also finished the game with a pair of RBIs on two hits.

North and Anchor Bay played the final game of their three-game series Thursday, April 17. While the game was not as high-scoring as the one the day before, the result was another loss for the Norsemen as Anchor Bay won 4-2. Rocho and Brandon Keyes brought in the only two runs for North with their bats. Keyes also pitched the complete game, allowing just two earned runs on four hits over six innings.

The Norsemen got a break from MAC White play over the weekend when they hosted a doubleheader against Berkley. North ended up splitting the two games with the Bears, with North winning the first

game 8-6. Jacob Sahadi finished the game with three RBIs in the win. Deshawn Edwards and Rocho also had a pair of RBIs each for the Norsemen.

Game Two of last Saturday's doubleheader was won by Berkley 9-4. Jacob Jarackas and Lorenzo Dichio each had two RBIs, accounting for North's runs in the loss.

North began another three-game MAC White series Monday, April 21, hosting Utica. The Norsemen dropped the first game of the series 5-1 to the Chieftains. Senior Andrew MacGillis had the only RBI for North in the loss.

The Norsemen visited Utica for Game Two of the series after press time Wednesday, April 23. North hosts Utica for the final game of the series at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

**University Liggett**  
The Knights had a relatively quiet week last week with only a couple of games. They hosted Detroit Country Day Wednesday, April 16, in a doubleheader, where they ended up splitting the games with the Yellowjackets.

Country Day was victorious in Game One of the doubleheader, 12-5. Andrew Johnson and Ravi Hines each had RBIs for the Knights in the loss.

Liggett bounced back and won Game Two of the doubleheader 5-0. Johnson finished with a pair of RBIs in the win to close out his strong day. Jackson Fetter and Joey Harris combined for the shutout on the mound. Fetter was the winning pitcher and tossed four innings with six strikeouts and allowed just two hits. Harris closed out the last three innings without allowing any hits or runs while also tallying six strikeouts.

The Knights hosted Allen Park Tuesday, April 22, after press time. The team is in action again at home Saturday, April 26, hosting a doubleheader against U of D Jesuit starting at 11 a.m.

## ATHLETE: *Continued from page 1D*

His coaches and teammates all see how special Domzalski's performance so far this season has been. The way they have helped him throughout his career in both his best and worst games shows what South baseball is all about and how much chemistry Domzalski has with the teammates with whom he has shared the diamond for so long. Without that tight bond with his teammates, who knows if Domzalski would be where he is now.

"I played a lot of baseball with some of the guys on my team and some of them were sort of my rivals since they played for Farms-City Little League and I played for Grosse Pointe Park Little League," he said. "I

played against a lot of the Farms-City kids, so growing up, I knew them but didn't play with them. Then, going to South, we all played baseball against each other and knew how we were. When we got on the same team, we got to know each other better. ... You can see on the field that we know each other super well and trust each other's abilities in what we can do on the field together."

Domzalski and his teammates are firing on all cylinders together lately. The Blue Devils have had one of the best starts to the season of any team in the state and do not seem to show any signs of slowing down.

However, Domzalski and the rest of the Blue Devils know this is just the beginning. He, his teammates and his coaches still have a long way to go to ultimately

reach their goals for this season. Domzalski hopes he can remain playing at this extremely high level as long as possible, but knows that everything has to be taken one day at a time so he can share some of the best moments of his senior season with his teammates.

"All of the returning players from last year have our sights set on winning the district and winning the region and making it to the state championship," Domzalski said. "I think this is a super talented group. Our coaches let us know that and we have a lot of trust in them. They trust us to get that far. It's just about what we can do and what we can do in the offseason. We've had a really good start so far and I think this team is super talented and they push us every day to get us to where we want to be."

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Grosse Pointe News



# University Liggett hires new Director of Athletics

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

University Liggett School announced Wednesday, April 16, that Brian Anderson has been appointed as the school's new director of athletics. Anderson, who officially will start his new role July 1, currently serves as the athletic director at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester Hills.

"Beyond his professional experience, what impressed our community most was the person behind the resume," Liggett Head of School Tom Sheppard said in a statement about Anderson's hiring. "During his visit to campus, Brian's alignment with ULS's mission and core values was clear. He connected with stu-

dents, parents, faculty and staff, and was praised for his relational leadership style — building trust through approachability, diplomacy and authentic engagement."

Anderson, who attended the now-closed Lutheran High School East, has respected and admired Liggett since he competed against them as a student-athlete many years ago. That respect for the school and its athletic programs remained with him over the years and ended up drawing him to the opportunity. The fit, he said, eventually felt natural.

"When I met everybody at my interview, where I spent the better part of a day there, really, the people just drew me in," Anderson said. "I could tell that

they're passionate about all the right things and I really can't wait to work with them."

During Anderson's time at Stoney Creek, the Cougars won state championships in varsity girls soccer and competitive cheer. His roles before Stoney Creek included serving as district athletics director for Hamtramck Public Schools and assistant athletic director for L'Anse Creuse North High School. Anderson graduated from Central Michigan University with degrees in English and journalism. He also has a master's degree in sports management from the United States Sports Academy.

Anderson already has ideas of how he can hit the ground running once he officially begins

his new role with Liggett in July. Some of the biggest things he knows will be important right away will be building trust with the staff and reminding himself that sports are about having fun.

"Sometimes, you get lost in the business part of the job and the paperwork and you have to remind yourself just how much fun it is," Anderson said. "I get to be part of sports teams for a living, which is something I dreamed of doing since I was literally 14 years old. You have to make sure that you're active and go to games and go to practices and see the joy that the kids have that comes from that. The other main thing is that it's important to trust your people and also take care of your peo-



COURTESY PHOTO

**University Liggett School announced last week that Brian Anderson will be the school's new Director of Athletics beginning July 1.**

ple. I don't want to micromanage and want my coaches to have the freedom to build their own vision. ... You also have to lend a helping hand to make sure that they can do that."

# South track & field teams continue dual meet success

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South's boys and girls track and field teams kept their momentum in dual meets rolling last week. The Blue Devils faced Port Huron Northern Tuesday, April 15, and both teams ended up victorious to maintain their top spots in the MAC White Division standings.

The girls team dominated the previously unbeaten Huskies, winning 103-34. South's girls won 15 of 17 events during the day, including all four relays and all four field events.

"We continue to do well with our very balanced attack across all 17 events," South girls track and field head coach Steve Zaranek said. "Our girls continue to improve with major contributions coming from all four grades."

Senior Sarah Koval earned a couple of first-place wins by taking both the 800 and 1600. Evie Baer won the 100, while Morgan Duff won the 200 to give South victories in the sprint races. In the hurdles, Ciara Pongratz was victorious for South in the 100 hurdles while Adelina Parikh took first place in the 300 hurdles.

Olivia Barba continued her strong season by winning both the discus and shot put. Her senior teammate Catherine Pattie leaped to a win in the high jump. Junior Evie Wodzisz took first in the pole vault with an eight-foot jump and Duff won the long jump by leaping 15 feet, four



PHOTO BY GRACE GERESY

**Adelina Parkih won the 300 hurdles and was part of South's first-place 1600 relay team in a dual meet victory over Port Huron Northern.**

inches.

Jaimi Diamond, Ryan Wright, Molly Reynolds and Evie Baer teamed up to take first place in the 400 relay for the Blue Devils. Diamond and Baer then teamed up with Duff and Sabina Stackhouse to win the

800 relay.

South's boys team also earned the win 89-48 with strong performances. Zachary Wilson got a sprint victory for the Blue Devils by winning the 100. Jack Martin was victorious in the 800 and 1600 while Nathan Tyler took first in the 400. Tethyan McKenzie continued South's

success on the day in the distance races by taking first in the 3200.

Edmund Shall won both the 100 and 300 hurdles races. In the field, Liam O'Donoghue won the pole vault and Jaiden Spratt earned first

*'Our girls continue to improve with major contributions coming from all four grades.'*

STEVE ZARANEK, GP SOUTH GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD HEAD COACH

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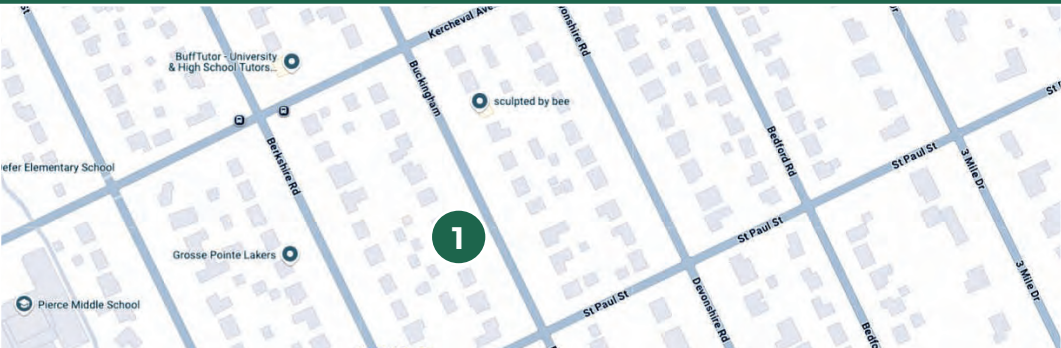
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6D | SPORTS

SOFTBALL:

Continued from page 1D

game against Utica last Thursday, April 17. North fell to the Chieftains 5-0, unable to get any runs across the board while tallying seven hits in the game.

North visited Anchor Bay after press time Tuesday, April 22. The Norsemen return home to host Romeo at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

South took the rivalry loss despite racking up plenty of wins in recent games. The Blue Devils won three games last week, including a narrow 5-4 win over Warren Woods Tower last Thursday,

April 17.

The Blue Devils played three games over the week-end last Saturday, April 19. The first was a dominant 11-1 win over Berkley, with three RBIs from Lucia Gabel and a strong pitching performance by Russell leading the way. South then went on to beat Woods-Tower yet again, this time 14-9 before ending Saturday with an 8-1 loss to Birmingham Seaholm.

The Blue Devils faced another crosstown foe after press time Tuesday, April 22, playing a doubleheader against University Liggett. South hosts New Haven at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

North’s Emma Barr reaches out to tag Maddie Agnone out on the basepath.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA



Knights earn narrow win over Ravens

University Liggett varsity boys lacrosse defeated Royal Oak 8-7 last Wednesday, April 16. Landen Maltby, above left, was one of the goal scorers in the Knights’ close win, while Nick Gould led the way with four goals. Above right, Brendan Beland from Liggett battles for a faceoff early in the game.



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COURTESY PHOTO

ESYSF Awards 2025  
McSorley Scholarship

The East Side Youth Sports Foundation (ESYSF) awarded the 2025 McSorley Scholarship during its Hockey Night in Detroit event on April 5. This year’s recipient was Grosse Pointe North senior Leanna Phillips. Phillips will be attending the University of Michigan after graduating from North this year and plans to study cellular and molecular biomedical science and engineering. The McSorley Scholarship is awarded each year by ESYSF in honor of Jack McSorley, a former Bulldogs hockey player. The scholarship is given to a graduating high school senior who was also previously part of the Bulldogs organization.