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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Park residents: Don't pay water bills

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City officials gave themselves two weeks to figure out why current water bills are out of whack.

“Some people’s bills increased significantly while their consumption decreased,” said Councilman Brent

Dreaver, chairman of the public engagement committee. “We’re talking about people who have had increases over 100 percent based on this (new) rate structure.”

Council members scheduled a special meeting 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, during which the city manager has been directed to explain why the water department is

pumping out bills dwarfing a 23 percent rate increase that went into effect with the current billing cycle.

“What doesn’t make sense is 23 percent and some people got hit with a 150 percent increase,” Dreaver said. “There’s no amount of communication that’s going to communicate that into making any sort of

sense.”

Until the metaphysics are resolved, Mayor Michele Hodges this week presented water customers a short-term solution.

“For now, the guidance is they do not have to pay those bills until such time (as they) receive a new bill,” Hodges said.

Billing problems intercepted the council’s

plans during its Aug. 11 meeting to consider issuing \$6.5 million in bonds for water and sewer system improvements. Proceeds were to fund lining sewer pipes, replacing old water meters with new, more accurate ones and buying a sewer vacuum truck.

“This all came down an hour before this meeting,” Hodges said. “That

has exposed inconsistencies that need to be investigated, explained and better understood before we can proceed (with bonding). It could change what is in the capital improvement plan.”

“This body adopted an increase in water rates (June 9) based on (water) consumption,” said

See **BILLS**, page 2A

BoE trustee facing scrutiny over tax forms

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Several public records reviewed by the Grosse Pointe News via Freedom

of Information Act requests indicate there may be issues regarding tax forms on one or both houses Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Trustee Valarie St. John and her wife own pertaining to the GPPSS operating millage.

The matter has been referred to the Michigan Department of Treasury, according to one local official.

Under Michigan law, homeowners can file one Principal Residence Exemption, which exempts them from paying up to 18 mills of the local school operating millage. GPPSS levies 18 mills. A mill is \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in taxable value. The bulk of the tax is paid by owners of commercial and rental properties and owners of second homes.

The district’s operating millage was approved for five years by 72 percent of voters in August 2024. St. John was the lone “no” vote in May 2024 when the board voted to put the millage on the ballot. Here is what the documents contained.

- ◆ St. John and her wife purchased Home A in Grosse Pointe Park Oct. 29, 2018, and filed a PRE for it.

- ◆ They purchased Home B in Grosse Pointe Woods June 14, 2024.

- ◆ They filed a PRE for

See **TAX**, page 10A



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Celebrating 75

Grosse Pointe Woods hosted its second of three Music on the Lawn events Friday, July 25, during which Lynn Bryant and her husband, Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant, hit the dance floor. The evening included a few extra highlights in celebration of the city’s upcoming 75th anniversary. For more photos, see page 2A.

Woods getting K-9 officer

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The public safety department is getting a new K-9 officer after 10 years without one thanks to an offer from the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

City council unanimously approved an agreement with GPAAS at its meeting Monday, Aug. 4.

“There’s a lot of work to be done, but we’re excited,” Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. “This is good news for all of the Pointes and Harper Woods. A K-9 officer is a very useful tool.”

Corinne Martin, executive director of GPAAS, said her goal is to raise \$150,000.

“The cost of the dog and the training will be about \$15,000,” she said.

“Once we get rolling, the ongoing costs will be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.”

According to the agreement, GPAAS will pay for:

- ◆ the dog,
- ◆ ongoing training for the dog and handler,
- ◆ food,
- ◆ veterinary care,
- ◆ insurance and
- ◆ temporary boarding of the dog when necessary.

The city will be responsible for the salary and benefits of the handler.

“We’ve already had several officers express interest,” Kosanke said. “I asked them each to submit a letter, then they’ll go through an oral exam with a board of other handlers who will make a recommendation.”

The biggest expense, which GPAAS also will pay for, is a new patrol vehicle outfitted specifically for use with a K-9

See **K-9**, page 5A

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Pointer of INTEREST



See story, page 4A

Paige Loperfido

Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Founder, principal designer of
Decor & More Design Studio
on Fisher



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2A | NEWS



Lynn and Jerry Wiszowaty didn't want to miss the 75th anniversary Music on the Lawn celebration, so they could dance to the music of Mainstream Drive.

Music on the Lawn

"As we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Grosse Pointe Woods being a city in Michigan, we used one of our regular summer Music on the Lawn programs to celebrate the event with an expanded program featuring special kids games, free food and drinks for all and Mainstream Drive, a wonderful band to enjoy for the evening," Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art



Kayla Wenzell takes her turn during the limbo.

Bryant said. "In addition to other events leading up to the celebration on Dec. 11, the actual anniversary of Grosse Pointe Woods, we will have the opening of our 25-year-

old time capsule and the closing of a new capsule to be opened in 25 years. Got a suggestion to include in the new capsule? Let us know at city hall."

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Left, Eleanor Terry had her face painted like a cat. Right, 2-year-old Mila Meldrum was happy when Nick Wasielewski, the lead singer of Mainstream Drive, let her play his tambourine.

Rose Hiemstra danced all night long and had a blast twirling around and around.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Medical Technician Cidney Hogan gets an ice cream from Caleb Thompson to give to Elaine Gilbert.

Sweet gesture

Farms officer hosts ice cream social at American House GP

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A second annual ice cream social held for American House Grosse Pointe residents last Wednesday is only a taste of the community outreach efforts Farms Officer Charity Vanover has initiated throughout the past year.

"In October, we did a trunk-or-treat up on the terrace on the rooftop there," she said. "My kids and I went and we passed out candy.

"I've got a projector at home and I have a 15-foot-wide sheet screen," she added. "Maybe once a month or once every other month, I'll come in and I'll set up a movie for them. I'll bring the popcorn maker and we'll do a movie night."

Following the most recent showing — the original "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in June — Vanover set about planning a repeat of the event that kick-

started it all last August.

"I wanted to do something they don't normally do, so it would be a different type of experience," she said, "and I started trying to think of a nostalgic type of event that they might really enjoy. I thought of an ice cream social (because) those were things that I remember as a little kid."

Bringing in a rented ice cream truck, Shifty's Balloon Shenanigans, cornhole, a popcorn maker and the Farms fire engine, "I went the whole nine yards," Vanover said. "This is a way that I kind of honed in on American House as a way of letting them know that we're there for them just as much as any other resident in the city or citizen around."

Vanover's kids, Jordan, 11, and Victoria, 14, are by her side throughout each event, including last week's ice cream social, passing out popcorn and laughing alongside the seniors.

"I do have a softer spot

for the elderly," the officer said. "I lost my mom to dementia and I lost my dad very young. So my kids, obviously because of that, they don't have living grandparents and they also love when they get to interact with the older generation. It gives them that type of view that they don't really have at home."

In a growing partnership, American House covered half the cost of the ice cream truck rental, while the remainder was donated by Farms officers, several of whom also attended the ice cream social while off duty.

"It's really a wonderful thing that so many of our officers and even our fire specialists recognize the importance of giving back to the community and letting all of the residents, not just on emergency scenes, but everybody, know that we're always here and we're always willing to do anything we can to help out," Vanover said. "That's kind of how this whole thing got started and I don't look for it to end anytime soon."

Going forward, she's shooting for the ice

See SOCIAL, page 4A



Officer Charity Vanover with her daughters, Victoria and Jordan Nelson, take a break from handing out popcorn to pose for a photo together.

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BILLS:

Continued from page 1A

Councilman Tom Caulfield, chairman of the finance committee. "Now, we're looking at people getting bills depending on the size of

their water main that have gone up substantially because of the size, which was not brought to us for discussion."

"That's the clarity we need and how that might impact projects that were to be funded by those (bond) proceeds,"

Hodges said. "We've heard the concerns. We are researching them further. (Customers) will be re-billed based on that new information."

"Are we going to reassess what those rates are going to be?" asked Councilman Max Wiener,

head of the infrastructure committee. "The pace we were making capital improvements was predicated on this raise. Now, we're going to go back and change it if we have to and make adjustments that might alter the timeline."

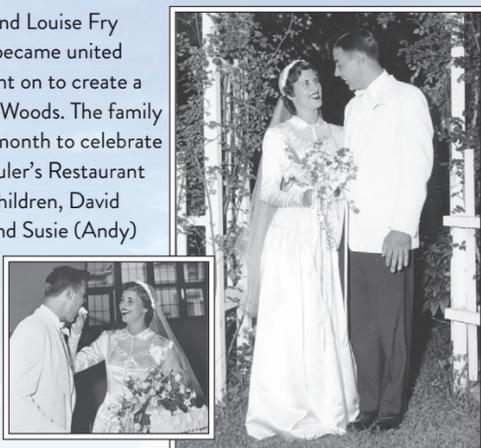
"This is an important issue," Caulfield said. "The question is whether people know if the bill is right or not. We have everybody questioning that some are correct, some aren't. We have to clean this out quick."

"The confusion's not over," Hodges said. "This is just the beginning of it. We have to artfully address that."

"I've been talking to people who are upset about their water bills," Dreaver said, "I'm glad we're going to pause and go back to the drawing board."

August 27, 1955 Dr. Gene and Louise Fry of Coldwater, Michigan became united in Marriage. Together they went on to create a loving family in Grosse Pointe Woods. The family will gather together later this month to celebrate their 70th Anniversary at Schuler's Restaurant in Marshall. Along with their children, David (Kelly), Michael (Elizabeth), and Susie (Andy) Gavagan, they are blessed with 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Happy Anniversary
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From left, Paul Pionk, promoted to detective sergeant; Chris Muklewicz, promoted to sergeant; and Kevin Remus, promoted to lieutenant, stand with Grosse Pointe Park Director of Public Safety Jim Bostock.



PHOTO BY
RENEE LANDUYT

Public safety makes promotions

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The public safety department stands taller with promotions this week of three officers, including one as head of the investigations team.

“Promotions aren’t just recognition of their success, but also of their ability to embody values of our department: integrity, service and leadership,” Chief Jim Bostock said.

“These promotions are about leadership and building trust in

the community,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “Our primary goal as government is to provide public safety. I’m expecting great things.”

“I’m expecting great things, too,” Bostock said. “This department is in great shape.”

Pionk

“There’s big shoes we’re expected to fill,” said Paul Pionk, promoted to detective sergeant and head of the detective bureau. “That’s my goal. I’m hoping and praying I can fulfill the high expectations my predecessors set the

bar at.”

Pionk, a criminal justice graduate of Michigan State University, has worked for the Park since 2003, and as a detective since 2021.

“Paul has one department citation, five department commendations along with two unit citations, a lifesaving award and a chief’s letter,” Bostock said. “He has additional specialized training in detective school, forensic interviewing, fire inspection and drug

See PROMOTE, page 10A

Old ambulance being sold

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city’s surplus ambulance is for sale.

Given the warhorse-vehicle’s years of service as a lifesaver, a proper fate would be rusting in a pasture.

Yet, economic realities of bringing a worn-out former first responder up to snuff dictate the glue factory as a more likely prospect.

Park public safety officials tried to find an honorable alternative.

“There was consideration to sell it to the Special Response Team (as) a personnel vehicle,” Chief Jim Bostock said.

SRT members found a better deal.

“They were able to locate a personnel vehicle,” Bostock said. “Updating our current ambulance would have cost much more than what they paid for.”

“The vehicle has not been in service since June of 2023, when ambulance services were contracted to MedStar,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Retaining the ambulance in the Park didn’t make sense for at least three reasons, including being counter to savings achieved by contracting

ambulance service to a third-party provider, MedStar.

“MedStar is a proven partner, a cost-effective one,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

One of the reasons the city switched to MedStar was to avoid buying a new ambulance for an estimated \$300,000.

“This (sale) is mitigating the need for that and also putting dollars back in the coffers,” Hodges said.

“It has not gone on runs,” Bostock said. “Therefore, in the eyes of (regulators), it’s not a fit ambulance.”

“Maintaining the vehicle is cost-prohibitive at this point,” Sizeland said.

He said the vehicle has low mileage and a good chassis.

“Selling the vehicle presents an opportunity to generate proceeds that can be allocated to capital improvement projects for public safety,” Sizeland said.

Park public safety officers still respond to medical runs, but no longer staff the ambulance.

“We are responding first. We are assessing and stabilizing, but handing off to a higher level of care,” Bostock said.

— Brad Lindberg

Water main work starts this week

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Two things have remained constant during the 249-year history of the United States: None of the nation’s 45 presidents has had his number retired, nor is there a water main under Charlevoix in the Park.

One of those constants gets turned around this week.

Construction crews are assigned to include lower Charlevoix among two water main projects this summer. Funding is from proceeds of an infrastructure millage Park voters approved a couple years ago.

Work on Charlevoix is in the three-block commercial district from Alter Road to Beaconsfield. Being installed is an 8-inch diameter main made of plastic composite that won’t corrode and, being flexible, resists breaking.

The second project is in a three-block section of Beaconsfield between Jefferson Avenue and Essex. A 6-inch cast iron main is being replaced by an 8-inch pipe, also plastic.

New valves, fire hydrants and meters in both locations will be swapped in place of existing ones.

“The goal is to have this done this year,” said Patrick Droze, project manager of OHM Consultants, the city’s consulting engineers.

Another aspect of both projects is replacing lead service lines — lines running from mains to residential and commercial structures. Lead line replacement complies with an unfunded statewide mandate prompted by improper purification of Flint drinking water during the latter 2010s.

Service interruptions

Water customers in work zones can expect temporary service interruptions.

On Beaconsfield, where the existing pipe is being replaced by what



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Consulting engineer Patrick Droze explains grounding water service lines inside structures during a public meeting at Grosse Pointe Park City Hall Aug. 5.

known as the pipe-bursting method, water may be shut off for an entire day.

“The goal (during pipe bursting) is to get water back by the end of the day,” Droze said.

A second shutoff happens when mains are linked by service lines to individual customers.

“On service installations, when you’re getting water to your house, you can anticipate four to six hours (of no service) depending on how it goes,” Droze said. “On those days, you’ll get a notice of when it’s going to happen. We’re going to give (residents) advance notice for all of that.”

Water service replacement involves “a little” excavation of lawns, Droze said. He said he can’t guarantee trees and

shrubs “won’t be impacted.”

He said, “The lawn will be restored. When work actually happens, we ask that someone at least 18 years old be at the home.”

Upon completion of work, it is typical for tap water to be cloudy. Customers are asked to flush their pipes by running water until it clears.

Grounding cost

Customers must pay to reground their new plastic service lines. Grounding provides electrical current a path to dissipate into the ground, a function accomplished previously by metal service pipes, but not by new plastic ones.

The cost to ground plastic service lines varies per property owner.

“It would be whatever

the electrician charges the homeowner,” Droze said. “It would not be part of the city project.”

Customers may choose to install a copper service line instead of a plastic pipe.

“If a resident opts to replace their service with copper and reconnect the electrical ground to the water service, the cost will be \$1,500 to the property owner,” Droze said.

Better flow

Unlike in Flint, water main upgrades and lead line replacement in the Park aren’t driven by poor quality water. The goal of city officials is to improve water flow and pressure, including to fire hydrants.

“A lot of these mains are close to or over 100 years old,” Droze said. “They’re cast iron. They’ve lived their service life.”

The insides of cast iron pipes eventually clog with tuberculation.

“That’s the buildup of iron deposits,” Droze said.

Tuberculation isn’t a health risk. The problem is clogged pipes and restricted water flow.

“You’ll get better flow after the project is complete,” Droze said.

Tom Jenny, Park public works director, said no more 6-inch lines are

See MAIN, page 10A

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, AUG. 18

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG. 19

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms Parks and Harbor Committee meeting, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 22

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Music on the Lawn, featuring The Good Stuff, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon at Kercheval and Lakepointe.
- ◆ After 6 on Kercheval, 6 to 10 p.m. on Kercheval, from Nottingham to Wayburn.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Designing a life of adventure, aesthetics and community

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Those who today know Paige Loperfido as the founder and principal designer of Decor & More Design Studio on Fisher next to the Grosse Pointe Theatre office may not guess, in a previous life, the award-winning interior designer spent a decade as a federal agent.

“I remember always wanting to be a detective and to this day, my favorite thing to watch is true crime,” said Loperfido, who moved from the Farms to the City seven months ago. “In fact, when I was in high school, we had to do career shadowing and I reached out to one of the precincts in Detroit and had them allow me to come for a ride-along. I loved it so much that I would religiously go on the weekends for ride-alongs all the time.”

Because her father, a retired Detroit firefighter, was not keen on the idea of her applying to be an officer in the city, she applied to a federal agency at 19 years old and was accepted following an intensive year-and-a-half hiring process. “Going to the academy, I was the only girl that graduated in my class,” Loperfido recalled. “I think there were 50 of us that started and probably 30-something graduated. I was the only girl and I was the youngest person



The Alger house green guest room is a recreation of the bedroom Loperfido designed for the Junior League of Detroit’s 2022 Designer Show House.

in my class, too, so it was a little bit intimidating, also moving across the country for the first time.”

The career took her to New Mexico, Texas and Washington State, where she met her husband through the agency, had their first child, discovered a knack for interior design while having their house built and made the life-changing decision to resign.

“After having our first child, I was overly homesick and just trying anything to get back,” said Loperfido, who grew up in St. Clair Shores. “There’s something about being home, especially when you have kids.”

As they made plans to return to the area,

Loperfido began dabbling in virtual interior design, picking up requests for help from friends, family and coworkers.

“I specifically remember driving with my husband to Seattle one day and some new app or software came out where you could make mood boards and I just did that the whole way down,” she said. “I was making a mood board for my mom’s house and for our house and I remember just sending them to people.”

Her first client was a local girl in Washington she connected with through a neighborhood Facebook group, who was in need of help with a kitchen renovation. Loperfido did the work

for free, gaining experience.

When the family moved to Grosse Pointe in 2018, she was drawn by a lawn sign while walking her dog to the Junior League of Detroit’s Designer Show House. Her husband, in 2022, would submit her application for participation without her knowledge.

Loperfido excelled with the bedroom she was assigned, so much so that she was hired by Fred and Veronica Alger to recreate the room in their Lakeshore home, in addition to handling design of the entire house.

The Alger project remains her business’ biggest project to date. She managed it solo for the year-and-a-half process, during which she hit her stride as a full-service interior designer.

“They were dream clients, because it wasn’t their main home, so the house was essentially empty and it was originally going to be designed to be a guest home, so basically full creative freedom,” Loperfido said. “... And then when we did the big reveal for them they actually decided to move to this house instead of the other house that they owned in Grosse Pointe, which was a huge compliment. It was a really nice surprise.”

Entirely self-taught and without any schooling or certifications, she took the leap to get a business license for Decor & More Design



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAT STEVENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Paige Loperfido, a self-taught interior designer and mom of three, is the founder and principal designer of Decor & More Design Studio on Fisher.

Studio in 2020, and opened the brick-and-mortar office at 319 Fisher in April 2024.

“Before that I was working out of my house with the three kids,” she said. “I would cram in any minute I could, but I would just be on the com-

Looking back, always running alongside her interest in law enforcement was a creative streak.

She once took her grandma’s old phone and covered it in patterns using dozens of different colors of nail polish.



Loperfido’s design of the Alger house wet bar recently won first place at the Detroit Design Awards.

puter all night when they went to bed getting stuff done.”

Today, Loperfido has three full-time employees, recently won first place at the Detroit Design Awards for her design of the Alger house wet bar and has received national recognition by becoming an Architectural Digest PRO featured designer.

“I’m sure my parents were thrilled, but it looked really cool,” she said.

Looking forward, she aims to get an expanded office space, “as we’re outgrowing this very rapidly,” she said of the Fisher location, as well as open a boutique-type showroom for clients and those seeking inspiration.

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Rick Gaines of Shifty’s Balloon Shenanigans makes a pink elephant for Clementine Rice.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

SOCIAL:

Continued from page 2A

cream social to remain an annual event at American House.

“I do plan to branch out,” she added. “The Helm is on my radar. I would like to get with them and do something similar. The sky is the limit really.”

Grosse Pointe Woods

Porch pirate

A delivery worth \$100 was stolen from a porch in the 1400 block of Brys between 1:45 and 4:20 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7.

Unlocked

A 2018 Dodge Charger was stolen from a driveway in the 2100 block of Anita sometime overnight into Friday, Aug. 8. The vehicle was unlocked with the key fob inside.

Drunken driving

A 32-year-old Warren woman was arrested for her third offense of operating under the influence of liquor around 5 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, after someone reported her vehicle stopped at the intersection of Lochmoor and Helen for 30 minutes.

Officers found her asleep at the wheel with a bottle of tequila and four bottles of wine.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Unlocked

Two unlocked vehicles in a Windward Place driveway were rummaged through between 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3, and 7:30 a.m. the next morning.

Stolen were seven gift cards worth \$250, approximately \$10 in change and a pair of black Ray-Ban Wayfarers

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

worth \$250.

Missing board

A resident's paddleboard and paddle, worth around \$1,700, were discovered missing from the Pier Park storage racks Sunday, Aug. 3.

The woman said staff at the park informed her that people often take things off racks that don't belong to them and use them on the water. She said the staff added they found four paddleboards left floating in the water a few days prior.

Check fraud

A fraudulent \$17,150 check with the memo stating it was for funeral expenses was attempted to be cashed from the account of a local Realtor at 2:37 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Unwelcome guest

A 40-year-old homeless man was taken to a wellness center after sleeping on a Lakeshore porch overnight into Wednesday, Aug. 6, and then walking down the street in his underwear.

Dog attack

An employee for a tree company was bitten several times in his left thigh by a Doberman while he was working in a Provencal backyard Wednesday, Aug. 6.

The owner provided officers with proof of vac-

ination and was instructed to quarantine his dogs to his property for 10 days.

Beef jerky

A 38-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for retail fraud after she began eating beef jerky inside a store on Mack at 11:26 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, despite her credit card being declined.

Adding insult to injury, the card was not in her name.

Missing cash

Six hundred dollars in cash was discovered stolen from the drawer of an 88-year-old woman at a local senior facility Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Unlicensed

The owner of a landscaping company was cited for allowing an unlicensed driver to drive after an unlicensed 32-year-old Detroit man was pulled over on Mack in the company vehicle at 3:27 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, and said the company was aware of his driving status.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Stolen items

A 67-year-old Detroit

man, who already had a warrant for trespassing at the location, was arrested at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, as he exited a store in the 16000 block of Kercheval with stolen items concealed on him.

Failed test drive

The 22-year-old Detroit man who stole a 2006 Honda TRX while claiming to take it for a test drive during a Facebook Marketplace meet up in early August was identified and arrested Thursday, Aug. 7.

He confessed to the crime, as well as to stealing a motorcycle in Detroit.

Welfare check

Officers were dispatched for a welfare check on a 28-year-old Harrison Township man in the area of Jefferson and Neff at 3:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7.

They found he had an active felony warrant out of St. Clair Shores, for which he was arrested.

Stolen GMC

A 2025 GMC Sierra was stolen from a driveway in the 600 block of University between 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8, and 8:30 a.m. the next morning.

When it was recovered a short time later on Wilfred Street in Detroit, \$2,000 in cash and fishing poles were missing

from the vehicle.

Suspended

A 24-year-old Clinton Township man was cited for driving with a suspended license at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, after being pulled over at Cadieux and Waterloo for making an improper turn.

Confessed

A 32-year-old Detroit woman turned herself in to detectives Monday, Aug. 11, for a retail theft from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval that took place in late July.

As she is one of three suspects, the investigation is ongoing.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Bike stolen

During the 24-hour period starting early afternoon Tuesday, Aug. 5, a white Batch mountain bike worth \$400 was stolen while parked unlocked in front of a garage in the 500 block of Pemberton.

Bike recovered

Park police entered Detroit Thursday, Aug. 7, to recover a bike stolen in

the suburb 10 months ago.

The owner reported seeing an older man riding the bike.

"Shortly after, the bicycle was located, confirmed as stolen and returned to (its) owner," according to police.

Park officers knew the suspect as a 55-year-old homeless person.

Jeeps stolen

Unknown perpetrators stole two Jeep Cherokees last week. Thefts were on separate nights in the same neighborhood.

The first, a 2025 black model, was taken curbside in the 1200 block of Devonshire overnight Friday, Aug. 8.

"Broken glass was observed on scene," according to police.

The second, manufactured in 2021, was taken from a driveway in the 1300 block of Bedford overnight Sunday, Aug. 10.

—Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

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

K-9:

Continued from page 1A

officer. That includes a "hot-and-pop" system that monitors the temperature inside the vehicle and automatically lowers its windows to equalize the internal temperature. It also allows the handler to release the dog from the vehicle via remote control.

Kosanke said a current patrol vehicle will be retrofitted for now before purchasing a new one.

"A base model Tahoe is \$54,000, plus another \$16,000 to upfit it with our regular equipment," he said. "A K-9 package will probably push that to around \$80,000."

The Woods had a K-9 officer for about a year around 2015.

"We still have the policies in place, so it's nothing new for us," Kosanke said.

GAAS funded a K-9

officer in Harper Woods from 2016 through March of this year, when Officer Kaiser was retired.

"There is still money left in that account that we could possibly shift over," Martin said, "unless Harper Woods indicates they'd like to continue with a new dog."

Once the K-9 and handler are paired, they'll begin training at a facility in Taylor.

"It's very rigorous," Martin said. "In fact, they never stop training. They'll go Monday

through Friday every week for the first month, then once a week after they get certified.

"They have to get certified every year," she added, "just as officers have to do with firearms."

Kosanke said the K-9 officer's skills will be valuable, but it also will be a good public relations tool.

"Everyone gravitates toward dogs," he said. "This will make the handler more approachable and help create a dialogue with our residents."



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**List Price
\$1,100,000**

Understanding Hospitalist Care — and a New Approach at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital

By Lisa Peleman, M.D.



Getting badly injured or becoming seriously ill is often painful and terrifying. Being admitted to a hospital should not add to that stress — for patients or their loved ones. Instead, hospitalization should offer comfort and clarity, with professionals guiding you through every step. At Corewell Health

Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, we're working to simplify that process and ensure patients feel supported and reassured from the moment they arrive.

In most hospitals today, patients are cared for by hospitalists — physicians who specialize in the care of people during hospitalization. These doctors typically manage patients in multiple hospitals while also coordinating care with community-based physicians. While this model is now common across the country, it can sometimes lead to delays or fragmented care simply because the physician is not always present.

Starting September 1st, we are implementing a new hospitalist program at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital aimed at improving continuity, responsiveness and communication. Instead of rounding across multiple hospitals, our hospitalists will be based entirely in-house at the Grosse Pointe hospital — a team of 14 physicians and 10 advanced practice providers available on-site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Here's what that means for patients: Every patient will be seen at least twice daily by their physician — in the morning and in the afternoon. And since your care team is in house 24/7, you'll be evaluated promptly when you need it. Loved ones will have more opportunities to ask questions, understand the care plan, and prepare for a safe discharge. Our team will work to coordinate with your primary care doctor, or help you establish care with a primary care physician if you don't have one — something we know is key to staying healthier long-term and to staying OUT of the hospital!

The goal of this change is not just to deliver more immediate care, but to create a better experience: one where patients feel informed, supported, and connected during what is often a vulnerable time. By reducing the barriers between patients, families, and providers, we're working to create a better healing process for everyone.

Dr. Lisa Peleman is the Medical Director of Hospitalists at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, 468 Cadieux Road in Grosse Pointe.



POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Get those backpacks ready

As families throughout town wind up summer vacations and turn their eyes to fall, students in the Grosse Pointe Public School System return to class in a little over two weeks.

Here are some things to keep in mind.

Teacher staffing: A teacher shortage continues both nationally and locally. With classes starting Tuesday, Sept. 2, GPPSS still has 10 vacant teaching positions, primarily in special education.

Overall, there could be good news on the horizon regarding a dearth of teachers. According to the Michigan Department of Education, although enrollment in teacher preparation programs dropped 59 percent between 2011-12 to 2016-17, it has since increased 71 percent.

The district also has about 30 open paraprofessional spots in both general and special education. As we reported last week, the district took the unique step of hosting a drop-in open house for people interested in those roles.

Back-to-school night: We're not sure if every parent who goes to a back-to-school night gets PTSD from sitting in a desk again while a teacher lectures "the class" about the year ahead, but we're not saying it either. Even though it can be a little overwhelming to soak up all of what's ahead for our students in the classroom (imagine how they feel after the first day of school!), it is really encouraging to see how many teachers create engaging presentations. The full schedule of BTS nights is available on the district calendar at gpschools.org/Page/2.

School supplies: In addition to our valiant attempts to keep Staples and Target in the black with our newly purchased school supplies, we remind you of an opportunity to pay it forward to your child's teachers. Throw in a gift card for them, if you are fortunate enough to be able to do a little more beyond school supplies. We all know they spend their own money on their classrooms, so this is a great way to show your family's gratitude toward them.

Be sure to see our Back to School special section in today's paper. We are asking GPPSS teachers to contact us via social media with their name, school, why they love teaching and what they are excited about for the coming year. One will be chosen at random to receive \$100 gift cards to Small Favors, Chocolate Bar Cafe, Savvy Chic, Amazon and Staples.

Homecoming: Speaking of something that makes our schools hum, it is such a fun time of year for students to dive into planning their school's homecoming activities for spirit week, the homecoming parade, game and dance. So much extra effort goes into the week and many teachers give a ton of extra, off-hours time in roles as class advisors beginning in early summer or by volunteering in some capacity to help launch the week's many events. Let's be sure to thank our high school staff when we see them in the halls or at a game, or maybe just send them a thank-you note. It's always nice to hear "job well done."

And more kudos go to our student leaders, who also put in major extra effort to plan and organize special and memorable homecomings for the student body. Don't forget all the parent volunteers, too. Working in the coat room at the dance isn't exactly the most glamorous task



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Life is simple. Just add water, blue sky, a calm wind and a sailboat and you have a perfect summer day in Grosse Pointe.

on a Saturday night, but it's heartening to see how many are willing to lend a hand, no matter the job being asked of them. Grosse Pointe North High School's homecoming parade and varsity football game are Friday, Sept. 26, with the dance taking place Saturday, Sept. 27. Grosse Pointe South High School's homecoming parade and game are Friday, Oct. 10. The dance is Saturday, Oct. 11. Be sure to mark your calendars.

Speaking of football, be sure to look for our special football section in the Aug. 28 edition. It will include schedules, rosters and preview stories for South, North and University Liggett School.

Drive with care: We are all in a hurry, because we are all busy and what we need to accomplish is important, no doubt. But our zeal of "my rush is more important than yours," particularly at pick-up and drop-off times, is up for debate. Rudeness and disrespect toward other drivers, who also are our neighbors may we remind you, is just bad form. Take a deep breath and, as Frank Costanza advised on "Seinfeld," say "serenity now" as you exhale. By the time you are out of breath, most likely the delay will have passed.

Teach your children well: A short-and-sweet talk with your children, and to yourself, about how we treat others can go a long way. Most of us have vivid memories of meenies and how they tried to crush our souls in school. So let's all do our part at home to stop it before it starts. Or at least be accountable and correct it when/if it does. School is challenging enough for most, without a mean-spirited environment added to the mix.

Cherish the changing season around town. Once the beach days are over and the long work and school weeks are over, it can be oh-so-easy to just veg out on the couch for the whole weekend. We recommend making a commitment to get out and about and experience something in our community. Head out to one of the high school football games and feel the nostalgia. Go for a walk to collect leaves with your littles. Take the infamous "porch pictures" of them in their "first day of school" outfits they've had picked out for a month. Browse one of the beautiful boutiques in town, try a new restaurant or meet a friend you haven't seen all summer for coffee and conversation.

It's unofficially almost fall. Let's make it everything it can be.

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.

Rebuild fractured trust

To the Editor:

Community governance is first and foremost about trust. As a 30-year resident of Grosse Pointe Woods living close to the proposed rezoning area, the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, mayor and planning commission have irrevocably broken this trust. With regard to the property at 20160 Mack Ave., they have not initiated any kind of community engagement process, but instead have chosen to ram this rezoning process through, despite extensive resident objections over the last five months. They do not seem to know or care about doing a traffic study, trash management plan or any kind of mitigation, despite the fact this property abuts residential yards and there is no alleyway. To be blunt, this rezoning seems to be more about profit for a few people, namely the architect who has a seat on the planning commission, rather than the needs of a community.

To be clear, rezoning could have involved a community process, engaging residents on what they want to see with Mack Avenue development, and working to fill in the extensive number of already vacant storefronts along the avenue. This could have built trust and a community vision for the future of Grosse Pointe Woods. The planning commission has instead broken that trust and prioritized tenuous potential profit over the needs of existing residents.

We don't need more cookie-cutter storefronts along Mack Avenue that will increase traffic, endanger pedestrians and disrupt the peaceful nature of our city. I urge the council, mayor and planning commission to reconsider this ill-advised, poorly planned rezoning process and to go back to the drawing board, involving residents and rebuilding this fractured trust.

MARY BETH NICHOLSON
 Grosse Pointe Woods

First impressions

To the Editor:

As a semi-retired resident of Grosse Pointe Woods with extra time for daily walks, it amazes me how terrible the landscaping of many (dare I say most) of the small businesses that line Mack Avenue look. Dead grass, no grass, overgrown grass, weeds (including massive clumps growing in the cracks of sidewalks), dead flowers, dead or dying bushes, etc., greet patrons whose only access to shops, restaurants and offices is through a door fac-

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

August 14 - 20



Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
83° 62°	86° 66°	91° 70°	89° 66°	82° 66°	84° 60°	83° 63°
Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Chance T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Clear
10%	0%	10%	30%	20%	20%	10%
SUNRISE 6:38 am SUNSET 8:37 pm	SUNRISE 6:39 am SUNSET 8:36 pm	SUNRISE 6:41 am SUNSET 8:35 pm	SUNRISE 6:42 am SUNSET 8:34 pm	SUNRISE 6:43 am SUNSET 8:32 pm	SUNRISE 6:44 am SUNSET 8:31 pm	SUNRISE 6:45 am SUNSET 8:29 pm

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Renee Landuyt



Random act of affirmations

I recently conducted an experiment. I've been thinking about doing this for a few months. I walked around different places, like a local park, The Hill, The Village, etc., and handed out 3-by-5 cards with either an affirmation or a positive saying on it. To random people. I also handed them out to workers in a store or market I was in.

One time I took our intern, Meg, with me and we walked around The Village. We spent about 45 minutes walking the blocks and handing out the handwritten cards. The reactions were great. If someone was walking by with a scrunched face

or maybe looking worried or thoughtful, the moment they were handed a card and they read it, their whole face changed. Smiles broke out. Faces lifted and they looked happier, brighter. It seemed, for a few people, a weight had been lifted.

I handed a card to a lady that read, "The world is a better place with you in it." She looked at me and smiled and got choked up. Which, of course, in turn choked me up. She thanked me a few times. Then we hugged. Sometimes the littlest thing can really make someone's day. Handing that card to her and witnessing how it changed her day really made my day as well.

Meg handed a card that said "You are loved" to a man walking his dog. When he read the card, he showed it to his dog and

said, "Look at this," and when the dog looked up at him, the man lowered the card to show him. That might have been my favorite reaction so far.

Once we were finished handing out the cards we had written for the day, I asked Meg how she felt about coming along to help me.

"Giving out positive affirmations to people really was heartwarming. Being able to give people a small amount of validation really can change someone's perception on their day. Some people say eyes are the gateway into the soul and seeing how their eyes lifted when they read the messages we gave out really solidified that for me. I truly believed we touched many hearts today, whether they showed it to us or not," was her response.

This fun experiment turned out to be a collection of many feel-good moments. For us and for the people who received a card.

We pass by so many people every day and we don't know their story or if they're struggling with something. Even if they're not, kindness always goes the extra mile. A smile or a hello can really touch someone's heart. Oftentimes I will say something positive to someone and I've always gotten a positive response in return. More feel-good moments. You can never have too many of those.

From then on I handed out cards by myself, wherever I was and, again, to random people. I did go to a couple stores where I knew the people and handed them a card and they loved it. One guy put the card in his pocket for

later as a reminder that he really is destined for greatness, as the card stated.

I love the look on someone's face when I give them a card. It's not something someone normally does and it's out of the blue, but people are always appreciative and sometimes surprised. A few people even looked a little confused as to why I gave them a card. Then when they read it and looked up, I smiled and said, "Have a good day!"

I especially liked it when they read the card, looked up at me and said, "I really needed this today."

A long time ago, before I worked at the paper, I was a secretary at a local arts high school. One day I wrote positive messages on small cards and handed them to students during change of class and the students loved it. School

can be tough for some and when they get a message that they are worthy or capable or strong, they drink in those words. Many people are thirsty for validation or to hear that they matter. It makes your day to tell someone something positive and to spread kindness and good in the world — and we can always use more of that.

I keep some handwritten 3-by-5 cards in my car now and a few cards in my bag so I can continue to randomly hand them out to people. This is something I most likely will do for a long time to come, because random acts of kindness and positive messages make everyone feel good.

Now, it's your turn. Go out into the world and make someone's day by spreading a positive message. I guarantee it will make your day as well.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

ing Mack. I would be embarrassed that the first impression of my establishment basically is "I really don't care" what we look like to you as our valued customer. It also reflects badly on the city itself. Take a couple of minutes once a week. Pull some weeds, plant some grass seed and water the lawn once in a while. It's not that hard.

MIKE KELLY
Grosse Pointe Woods

Re: 2025 GP Garden Tour

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center's 33rd annual Garden Tour was a success thanks to everyone involved.

This long-standing event helps support the Garden Center, a non-profit organization with the mission to promote education, beautification, horticulture and conservation in our community.

Publicity is such a major part of any event. Thanks to the Grosse Pointe News, Pointe Magazine, The War Memorial and many other organizations who supported our tour. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of the seven homeowners who opened their beautiful, unique gardens to the public.

The public safety departments in the Park, Farms, Shores and Woods worked through the tour to ensure the

safety of all.

Many others helped make this tour a success, including local businesses who sold tour tickets, as well as sponsors and donors who provided financial support. A big thanks to the artists, many from the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, Master Gardeners and docents, garden club members in clubs through the Grosse Pointes and greeters who worked in all the gardens.

For membership and other information on the Garden Center, call (313) 889-1647, email gpgardencenter@outlook.com or visit us at gpgardencenter.org. We are now in the process of selecting homes for the 2026 Garden Tour on June 19 and 20. If you or anyone you know is interested in being on a tour, please contact the Garden Center at (313) 889-1647.

KATHY BROWN AND
GINNY BROWN
Garden Tour Co-Chairs

Disappointed in Harper Woods

To the Editor:

I'm writing regarding all of the equipment, books, etc., left in Poupard. I live across the street so as they started demolition I could see inside and realize all the waste — stacks of chairs, desks, pianos, books and, most disturbing, flags left in flag poles.

I'm shocked that after the last auction that was held someone didn't

remove the flags properly.

Also, this is a community of giving and helping. Had my husband and I know there was stuff going to be thrown out, and I'm sure others as well, we would have happily picked some up and donated it. Why not make that an option? Such a waste.

EILEEN ROSS
Harper Woods

Many thanks

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for Mark Domin, your movie critic at the Grosse Pointe News. I truly look forward to reading his reviews each week and his contributions significantly enhance my enjoyment of your local newspaper.

What I particularly value about Mark's reviews is his consistent focus on family-oriented movies. It's wonderful to know that the films he covers are definitely free of violence and consistently offer a feel-good experience. This makes his column an invaluable resource for families and anyone seeking uplifting entertainment.

Furthermore, I greatly appreciate that Mark always provides a fair rating for each film. His dedication to informing readers about where movies can be found, often for free, is also incredibly helpful and a thoughtful service to the community.

In an age where so much content is consumed digitally, Mark's

Chipping schedule doubled

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Residents received the first installment this month of the city's new yard waste and small branch collection policy.

Waste and branch collection now is conducted the first full week and third week of each month for the rest of the pickup season through November. Collection had been only once per month, a cost-saving change from prior years when collections were four times monthly.

"City pickup service will collect branches ranging from one to four inches in diameter," according to a city notice. ("Priority Waste (the city's rubbish contractor) will

continue weekly yard waste collection on your designated trash day, accepting smaller sticks (under one inch), brush and grass."

The service includes grinding small branches into chips.

"We're happy to pick up chipping for residents," City Manager Nick Sizeland said. "But we ask residents if they have only one stick, please consider putting it in a brown bag or waiting to put it at the curb until they have a pile of sticks."

The first round of collections under the revised schedule was during the week of Aug. 4. The second round is next week starting Monday, Aug. 18.

City officials hope that twice-per-month pickups end dissatisfaction caused by limiting pickups to once per month.

"We work hard as a council to improve our efficiency and wise use of our resources," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

"We tried it with yard waste, where you would put yard waste out the first full week of the month and get it taken (away). It's not working."

"We knew it would be a challenge because going from four times per month to one is drastic," Sizeland said. "We've heard concerns from residents. So has public works."

"That's the biggest complaint I get," Hodges said. "So, we're going to fix this. We're going to increase the cadence of those pickups."

"We determined to meet in the middle and bring the service back an

See CHIPPING, page 10A

thoughtful and family-friendly approach to film criticism is a true highlight. It connects us, fosters local discussion and ensures that the magic of movies is celebrated right here in our town in a way that resonates with many.

Thank you for providing such a valuable and enjoyable section in the newspaper. I eagerly anticipate reading Mark's future reviews.

JOHNE.
TOMASZEWSKI
Watchung, N.J.

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South alums graduate from military academies

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Leadership. That's the recurring theme one hears talking with Isabella Gelle and Charles Rulison.

The 2021 Grosse Pointe South High School alumni recently graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and United States Naval Academy, respectively.

"I learned so much about leadership," Gelle said. "How to work with people to help them improve."

As a senior, Gelle was given the Redeye Award by her squadron, which goes to the leader the cadets see as the best mentor.

"It was a great honor," she said.

Rulison said he had plenty of opportunities to develop leadership skills.

"You're thrown into new experiences and you have to react quickly," he said. "Last summer I spent a month with the Marines doing different activities. It was a high-stress, quick-thinking environment."

Gelle originally was



Charlie Rulison, far right, on graduation day at the United States Naval Academy, with from left, his brother, Andrew Rulison, an ROTC cadet at the University of Tennessee and their parents, Robert and Tanya Rulison.

recruited to the academy as a swimmer. She broke the school record at South during her senior year in the 500-meter freestyle and finished fourth at the state meet that year. A shoulder injury, however, put her into a different type of pool.

"I swam for two years and played water polo for two years," she said. "Being a distance swimmer, I was training four to six hours a day. Water polo was two hours a day and you do more treading water than swimming. It actually helped

my shoulder."

Gelle also got to travel during her time in Colorado, with stops at USAF bases in Germany, France, Austria and Luxembourg.

"You learn a lot about global politics," she noted.

The second lieutenant gets to spend her first year of active duty close to home, being assigned as a recruiter stationed out of Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

"I'll be doing events all over Michigan recruiting for the academy, including in Grosse Pointe,"



COURTESY PHOTOS

Isabella Gelle on graduation day at the United States Air Force Academy.

she said. "We need the numbers."

After a year, she's headed to Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi to put to use her degree in behavioral science.

"I specialized in human factors," Gelle said. "That means studying systems to make them more efficient."

That will include cockpit interiors.

"That's to make it easier for pilots to push buttons," she said. "Most plane accidents happen because the pilot goes into panic mode and hits

the wrong button."

Rulison, commissioned as an ensign — the first officer rank in the Navy — is heading in a few weeks to Charleston, S.C., to learn how to operate a nuclear submarine.

"It's about 18 months of schooling before I'll be stationed on my first sub," he said. "I'm looking forward to it."

He also got to run plebe summer — a bootcamp-like training program for incoming freshmen — between his sophomore and junior

years.

"It was wild," he laughed. "In just a couple years you go from being yelled at by the upperclassmen to being the one doing the yelling."

Rulison, who majored in quantitative economics, said he enjoyed his time at the academy.

"It was about what I expected going in," he said. "I knew it wouldn't be easy and I'm happy about that because I definitely changed and grew throughout and met great friends."

Back-to-school without the diorama drama

Back-to-school used to mean parents helping cover the textbooks with brown paper bags and hunting for a glue stick or buying a poster board at 9 p.m. the night before a project was due. Unless you were creating a diorama, in which case you needed a shoebox. Good luck.

For today's families, that era is long gone, but the need for academic support hasn't changed. What has changed is

how we do it. Today's students face digital platforms, algorithmic grading and curriculum we barely recognize. Here's how we, as parents, can still show up without hunting for a shoebox or poster board.

Five things our parents did (that wouldn't help today)

- ◆ Quizzing us with flashcards. Rote memorization was king. Today, many tests value application over recall



Academic Pointers

by Glen Hipple

and flashcards don't teach problem-solving.

- ◆ Telling us to "ask the teacher." Sound advice, but now kids often need help crafting emails, logging in or knowing how to ask a question in the right location.

- ◆ Covering textbooks in brown paper bags. Most materials are digital or consumable. True textbooks are practically museum relics.

- ◆ Helping with homework by explaining it "your way." That often results in confusion when methods have shifted.

- ◆ Checking the backpack and agenda every night. Planners often are digital now and many schools use online platforms like Schoology,

Google Classroom or PowerSchool.

Five ways to better support today's students

- ◆ Log in with them. Sit down together and review the platforms your school uses. Understand where grades live, how feedback is given and how your child is expected to respond.

- ◆ Help them build a weekly academic routine. Kids appreciate routine. Teach them to check their digital planner, manage deadlines and set aside time before stress hits.

- ◆ Model curiosity, not just help. You don't need to know calculus. You just need to ask, "What's that about?" and show interest in what they're learning. Let them explain things to you.

- ◆ Coach self-advocacy skills. Instead of saying "ask the teacher," practice writing the email or planning the conversation. Teach them how to be respectful, specific and proactive.

- ◆ Support their workspace, not just their homework. Kids need a space where thinking can happen. Good lighting, reduced distractions and tech boundaries go further than buying sparkly supplies.

You don't need to master Common Core math or find the best AI apps to be a great academic parent. Your child needs consistency, inter-

est and encouragement. They need to know you believe in their capacity to grow and that you'll support their efforts, not just their outcomes.

Today's kids aren't learning the way we did, but that doesn't mean they need less from us. In fact, they need more. Not glue sticks or shoeboxes, but perspective, structure and support as they navigate an academic world that's faster, more complex and always changing.

Glen Hipple is a former GPPSS teacher. He currently is the academic director for Academic Excellence, a community resource dedicated to supporting and ending academic excellence in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Contact him at glen@pf-ae.org.



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PRIDE OF THE POINTES

City of Grosse Pointe resident William Shall, who is studying chemistry, and Grosse Pointe Woods resident Nicholas Muccioli, who is studying electrical engineering, were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester at Lawrence Technological University.

◆◆◆
Abby Blyth, Audrey Calcaterra, Oscar McWood and Lielyn Mercer of the City of Grosse Pointe; Elaina Calisi of Grosse Pointe Park; and Sean Clarke, Betsy Oliver and Lainey Rahm of Grosse Pointe Farms recently graduated from Miami University.



Lielyn Mercer



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Yuengling arrives in the Pointes

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Irish Coffee Bar was the place to be Monday, Aug. 11, for one of the first sips of Yuengling beer as it opened at 1 p.m., four hours earlier than usual for a weekday.

"When our distributor mentioned it, we jumped on it," owner Mike Kennedy said. "We definitely wanted to be part of the release."

Yuengling was founded in 1829 in Pottsville, Pa., and is the oldest brewery in America. It announced in June it would start selling its Yuengling Lager, Yuengling Black & Tan and Yuengling Flight (a light beer) on tap in select Michigan areas starting this month. Packaged beer will be available in September.

"People who didn't know it was only available in some states have been asking us for years if we had it," Kennedy said. "Then, when they announced it would start in August, people were calling every day since the beginning of the month."

Michigan becomes the 27th state to get the product. It was kicked off Monday in the Detroit, Ann Arbor and East Lansing areas. Michiganders previously could not order Yuengling for shipment, either, as federal law only allows alcohol products to be



Alyce Kennedy pours the first draft of a Yuengling Lager.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



From left, Jerry Van, John Ruedger, Greg Underwood, Robert Neil and Dan Holland toast to finally having Yuengling beer in Grosse Pointe at Irish Coffee.

shipped to states where there already is a physical presence.

Among those in line before the bar opened were Robert Neil, Greg Underwood and Dan Holland, all of whom are involved in various social media accounts with the

theme, "Bring Yuengling to Michigan."

"I first tried it in 2009 in South Carolina, when a bartender suggested it," Neil, of St. Clair Shores, said.

Holland, of Clinton Township, posted on Facebook Sunday, Aug.

10, that it felt like, "the night before Christmas."

Underwood, of Taylor, said he first tried it in Pennsylvania.

Neil said he also has toured the brewery.

"You can go down in the cavern where they used to age the beer," he said. "They have a tasting room down there."

And, reminiscent of the movie "Smokey and the Bandit," Neil said he has brought back several pickup truck loads of Yuengling from Ohio.

By 1:30 p.m. Monday, there were about two dozen people enjoying pints and pitchers of beer and Irish's \$5 Monday burger special.

"There was a lot of anticipation," Kennedy said. "We made sure to have plenty in stock."

Small Favors expands into Campus Shop space

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A portion of the interior wall connecting Small Favors to the former Campus Shop space has been removed in preparation for the gift gallery to significantly expand its offerings for the Pointes' youngest shoppers.

"Somewhere in between totally inspired and crazy is how this all came about," said Kasey Malley, who co-owns the shop with Betsy Enders. "So here we go."

Coinciding with Small Favors' 20-year anniversary this fall, the expansion featuring gifts for kids will open shortly after Labor Day, sharing the same store hours and only accessible from within the gift gallery.

Though the owners are crowdsourcing the wants and wishlists of local mothers to stock the shelves, patrons can expect birthday gifts, toys, games, crafts, puzzles, little girls' jewelry, light-up footballs and much more.

"It's going to be just like Small Favors is now, just enhanced," Enders said. "... Our Saturdays and Sundays are 90 percent people shopping with kids or for kids for birthday parties or baby showers or dance recitals. We didn't leave a lot of room originally for kids, even though we've always had kids' (goods)."

"We've known for a little bit that that area needed to grow. We just weren't sure how to make that happen."

When The Campus Shop closed in early July, it was an opportunity too good to pass up.

"We're sad that Adam (Steiner) isn't there anymore," Enders said. "He was a great neighbor, but we've been wishing that we could bring in more kids' stuff, so it just kind of worked out great for us."

"We shake our heads and think if you would have asked us six months ago, this was not part of our plan, but that's kind of the way it's always been," Malley added. "It's been very consistently organic and grows when it's meant to."

A short survey — found at surveymonkey.com/r/W7DWZ8P or via the QR code below — offers the opportunity for community members to share what they'd like to see incorporated in the new kids' space.

"We don't have little kids in our lives," Enders said. "We're between parenting and grandparenting. So we're asking for feedback and things you love. We've gotten a lot of responses, but we're anxious for some more as we're trying to fill the spot."

By incorporating its current kids' section into the new space, Small Favors also will have additional room in its main storefront for more inventory, such as expanding its Michigan section.

Hours at the gift gallery are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.



From left, Addie, Chace and Elizabeth Wakefield stopped by Irish Coffee on Monday, Aug. 11, for the release of Yuengling beer, the first time in Michigan.



Orthodontist office opens on The Hill

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Though their orthodontist office opened on The Hill just this week, Dr. Gregory Hummon and Dr. Thomas Gebeck Jr. are carrying on a legacy in the Pointes — that of Gebeck's father, Dr. Thomas Gebeck, who treated patients at Cadieux and Kercheval until he retired in 2014.

"He treated the majority of the Grosse Pointe population over those 45 years he was here and he treated their kids and he had some of their grandkids," Gebeck said, "so we'd like to continue that."

Dr. Hummon & Dr. Gebeck, Orthodontic Associates PC, saw its first patients Tuesday, at 114 Kercheval, which previously housed an OBGYN office and has been vacant since 2019. "We went down to the bricks," Gebeck said of the remodel, which features open concept patient stations, a brushing station for patients when they come in, an ADA-compliant bathroom and a focal point skylight in the center of

the space.

True to their past and the foundation of their practice, the interior design will incorporate the original 1969 name plates that once rested on the exterior of Thomas Gebeck Sr.'s practice.

"He was world renowned, a lecturer internationally and

nationally and this is the treatment philosophy that many around the world from Japan to Brazil to Italy sought out (along with) his insights and his skill," Hummon said. "And we're carrying that torch."

Said treatment philosophy is encapsulated in the phrase, "One patient at a time," and exemplified in how the doctors

bend brace wires to fit each patient rather than the one-size-fits-all approach many orthodontists take when placing braces.

"Every patient is dif-

See OPENS, page 10A

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10A | NEWS

OPENS:

Continued from page 9A

ferent, so everybody's face and smile should not be the same," Gebeck said. "Someone who's got a narrow face, shouldn't have a big, broad arch that's not balanced with them. So we're looking to really create balanced, nice faces."

Both doctors are part-time faculty at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry Department of Orthodontics, as well as teach annually at the Charles H. Tweed Foundation in Arizona.

"We give our best, based on current research and our past

teaching endeavors," Hummon said. "And we really strive to spend a lot of time making the families as comfortable as possible and delivering what we think is the best care for each individual patient."

The Hill office is the orthodontists' second location, in addition to a Birmingham location, which has operated since 1961, and was bought out by Hummon in 1993.

"Over time, we got so many patients from Grosse Pointe that would drive out there that it got to a point where we're seeing all these patients who are driving 40 minutes out and 40 minutes back on a good day," said

Gebeck, himself a Farms resident living two blocks from The Hill. "We finally decided to do this (and) my only wish is that I had done it sooner, but it just wasn't the right time."

To start, the Grosse Pointe location will see patients Tuesdays, Wednesdays and every other Friday. Days and hours will be increased as necessary.

The practice truly is a family affair, with Gebeck's sister, Katie Jordan, serving as its office manager.

Gebeck's wife, Deanna, is a hair stylist at Gold & Braid in Grosse Pointe Park.

"We pretty much specialized in the neck up," Gebeck joked.



Dr. Thomas Gebeck Jr., left, and Dr. Gregory Hummon hosted an open house for their office at 114 Kercheval, on The Hill, during the Grosse Pointe Art Fair.

PHOTO BY RENE LANDUYT

TAX:

Continued from page 1A

Home B Feb. 25, 2025. On the form, they marked "yes" to the question, "Have you or your spouse claimed a principal residence exemption for another Michigan principal residence?"

◆ They did not answer the following question, which asked for the address of that residence.

◆ They also marked "yes" to the question, "Have you rescinded that principal residence exemption?"

Both the Woods and the Park include school taxes on their winter tax bills.

The PRE also states, "I certify under penalty of perjury that I own and occupy as a principal residence on the date stated in Line 11 and that I have not claimed a substantially similar exemption/deduction/credit in property in another state, and that the information contained on this document is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

St. John and her wife both signed the form for Home B.

In a July 24, 2025, email to the Grosse

Pointe News regarding Home A, Park Assessor Peter Bierzynski wrote, "I have not received anything for this parcel. No property transfer or rescind form."

According to the MLS (multiple listing service) database, Home A was listed for sale July 19, 2025. It was listed as "pending" as of press time.

State law requires homeowners to rescind an exemption "not more than 90 days after exempted property is no longer used as a principal residence." Doing so allows the exemption to stay in place until Dec. 31

of the year it is filed. In this case, Home A should have been rescinded by May 26, that being 90 days after Feb. 25.

St. John did not directly answer questions posed by the Grosse Pointe News via email on Monday, July 7, and Tuesday, July 29.

A Facebook post by St. John Tuesday, July 29, indicates the couple did not adhere to the law.

"If the city doesn't think it counts as a PRE to live in a home while doing repairs with the intent to sell, they can charge me additional taxes when we close on the house," she said in

response to a question. "My understanding was that claiming two principal residences was acceptable for up to three years while waiting for one home to sell."

She later commented, "I just spoke to the city assessor and cleared it up. I guess the 'conditional rescission' is only if you expect the home to be on the market for over a year, and we should have filed a regular rescission of the PRE. But we won't owe any additional taxes because the overlap was less than a year. What a lot of trouble for nothing!"

Park City Manager

Nick Sizeland disagreed.

"We have forwarded this matter to the state for review on the advice of our city attorney and assessor," he said. "We thought it best to have a third party review it in the interest of absolute fairness, especially since it involves two communities."

Woods City Administrator Frank Schulte said he has contacted the city's assessor and the matter is "currently under investigation."

The Grosse Pointe News is awaiting the results of other FOIA requests.

MAIN:

Continued from page 3A

being installed in the city. Eight-inch diameter is the standard going forward.

He said putting a pipe on Charlevoix "will help water flow and pressure tremendously. It will

basically be a loop."

City Manager Nick Sizeland said water service along the nearly 1.5-mile route is fed through lateral pipes under side streets.

City officials commissioned a water quality reliability study that concluded adding a main on

Charlevoix would improve service in the neighborhood.

"The study projects that, just by adding that section of water main, it improves the laterals of Maryland, Lakepointe and Beaconsfield by having a dedicated main there," Sizeland said.

"It will provide better fire suppression, too," Droze said.

No long trenches

Construction in both work zones will be by methods less disruptive than digging block after block of open trenches.

"We won't be digging

up whole front yards," Droze said.

Access pits measuring roughly 6 feet wide by 30 feet long will be dug about every 300 feet, according to Katelyn Driscoll, project engineer with OHM.

Roads will remain open to traffic.

"We'll never close two intersections next to each other at the same time," Driscoll said.

Work was contracted to Bidigare Contractors.

The firm won a low-bid contract last year to install a larger water main on upper Beaconsfield closer to Mack Avenue

"It's a routine project for us," said Jordan Bidigare of the family-owned company. "We've been doing this a long time, so we anticipate minimizing disruptions to citizens. That's mostly what it's all about. It's all about minimizing disruption."

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CHIPPING:

Continued from page 7A

additional week," Sizeland said.

The city used to do chipping four times per month.

"We were sending out a team of two guys who were spending their entire day chipping the city," Sizeland said. "Last year at a city council

meeting, public works recommended going to once per month instead of four. They wanted to address street signs, painting fire hydrants and tree trimming."

The new schedule is:

- ◆ week of Aug. 18;
- ◆ weeks of Sept. 8 and 22;
- ◆ weeks of Oct. 6 and 20; and
- ◆ weeks of Nov. 3 and 17.

PROMOTE:

Continued from page 3A

identification and training."

Remus

Sgt. Kevin Remus was promoted to lieutenant.

"This represents more about the city of Grosse Pointe Park and the department of public safety than about myself," Remus said. "It's an honor to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant, but it's truly the people we work with that make the biggest difference around here. I'm happy to be in a position to help them."

Remus, hired in 2014, also is an MSU criminal justice graduate. He's a team leader on the Special Response Team and has been a firearms instructor, member of the youth service bureau and bike patrol.

"Kevin's received two lifesaving awards, two department citations and five department commendations along with a unit citation," Bostock said.

Muklewicz

PSO Christopher Muklewicz is the department's newest sergeant.

"It's an opportunity to use the skills I've gained over 25 years of law enforcement to help the

city and my fellow officers," Muklewicz said.

Prior to being hired by the Park in 2018, Muklewicz was a police officer in Detroit and Grosse Pointe Farms.

"We have a nice fusion here of officers from other departments as well as homegrown ones," he said. "Thankfully, there is a lot of opportunity for training and development."

Muklewicz went to Wayne State University. He is an evidence technician, drone pilot, salvage vehicle inspector, has been trained in social media investigation and is a graduate of the Detroit Police Department leadership training program.

"Chris received a life-saving award and department commendation in the Park," Bostock said.

Bostock said the department's future is bright.

"These three individuals earned their promotions through unwavering commitment, personal sacrifice and relentless dedication to serving our community," Bostock said. "These promotions strengthen our department and city. Kevin, Chris and Paul will continue to serve with distinction in their new roles in making our community safer and stronger."

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Up and running DAM open for business after flood damage repairs

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

“Absolutely energetic” are the words Detroit Artists Market Executive Director Miah J. Davis Gardner used to describe back-to-back events marking the reopening of the gallery space.

Both the sneak peek exhibition preview Friday, July 25, and the community open house Saturday, July 26, were well-attended and promising, Davis Gardner said.

“We’re back now, business as usual,” she added, noting operating hours of 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. “It’s been a pretty steady flow of traffic. I’m excited to say that so many people who have been floating in, the first thing out of their mouth is, ‘Oh my gosh, you guys are back open. I’ve been waiting.’”

Winter weather took a toll on the gallery after a burst pipe caused extensive flooding damage in February.

“We had to demolish about two-thirds of the gallery,” Davis Gardner said. “Water had come from a burst pipe on the second floor, so everything on our second floor and our office space was pretty much a total loss. Every office on the second floor had to be com-



From left, Marilyn Wheaton and Saunteel Jenkins visit with “Hot DAM!” juror Dr. Kelli Morgan and board member Monique Riley.

pletely gutted and rebuilt.”

Carpeting and flooring were pulled up and replaced, she added, and two-thirds of the drywall also was removed.

“Because we’re an art gallery, how we hang work so successfully is that all our walls are backed in plywood,” she said. “I was very thankful we didn’t have any significant damage to the plywood behind the drywall, because that probably would have added an extra three months to replace all those walls — to reframe and restructure. We were able to sanitize the wall backing, keep it moving, hang the

drywall and get us back up and running.

“... When folks come to visit, they’ll see the same layout of the gallery,” she added. “It was fully restored. However, we did make a few changes over the course of the construction. One of the biggest changes we made is that we’ve added a second gallery inside of the artists’ market. What was originally our Elements gift shop has been converted into our Featured Artist showcase.”

Davis Gardner said DAM’s Featured Artist Program, formerly known as Call for the Wall, evolved during the closure, from an opportunity for artists to show and sell their work to a yearlong educational program that teaches emerging artists the business of art, followed by an exhibition period.

“After artists move through a bimonthly educational curriculum, they will then begin having solo shows inside of the Featured Artist showcase,” she added. “We currently have a cohort of seven artists who are moving through the program. ... Beginning in January 2026, they will then begin showing their work.

“... The goal isn’t just to exhibit,” she added. “It’s to prepare artists for what comes next. This program is about building confidence, community and long-term progress.”

The Featured Artist Program and Elements gift shop spaces are flipping, Davis Gardner said, so the gift shop will be the first thing visitors see when they enter the gallery off Forest Avenue.

“We’re rebuilding the local artists’ Elements gift shop following the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAM

From left, Detroit Artists Market Executive Director Miah J. Davis Gardner, Assistant Director Kelly Farrell Simmons, Gallery Manager Hayla Hay and Gallery Assistant Amara Murphy.

closure of (current exhibition) Hot DAM!,” she said, noting the shop is one of the projects for which funding was earmarked. “We’re really excited to bring that back and rebuild it in a way that better showcases the work of local artists and centers it as soon as people come into the gallery.

“... That’s what we’ll be spending the month of September doing.”

“Hot DAM!” is the gallery’s annual all-media member showcase. This year’s exhibition features more than 40 artists in a

show juried by Dr. Kelli Morgan, founder, executive director and CEO of Black Artists Archive.

“She had a huge focus on work that really showcased the talents of Detroit,” Davis Gardner said, “work that had a lot of texture in it, a lot of layers. When visitors see the exhibition, they’ll immediately start seeing different textures, like wood, the use of sands. And there’s a piece that’s fully made of hair that’s absolutely amazing. It’s a dress an artist put together compiled purely

of hair.”

Though “Hot DAM!” is the first exhibition in the gallery since it reopened, it hasn’t been the only DAM exhibition during the six months the gallery was closed. Thanks to the support of various community partners, three exhibitions took place offsite in the interim.

“We were able to continue our full schedule of exhibitions without a single cancellation,” Davis Gardner said, noting

See DAM, page 2B



From left, Linda Rankin, Dan Grashuck and Jean Huson.



From left, Exhibition Committee Chair Leslie Graves and board member Monique Riley celebrate as Executive Director Miah J. Davis Gardner and board President Kat Baker cut the ribbon.



From left, “Hot DAM!” juror Dr. Kelli Morgan, DAM Executive Director Miah J. Davis Gardner and Assistant Director Kelly Farrell Simmons.

About ‘Hot DAM!’

The exhibition runs through Aug. 23, and explores the power of materiality in contemporary Detroit art — from scorching to slick, raw to soft — inviting viewers to feel rather than merely observe.

“These works are fraught with urgency, humor, heat and the ineffable poetry of lived experience,” said Dr. Kelli Morgan, who juried the show.

Participating artists include Susan Aaron-Taylor, William Bingham, Courtney Blackett, Gigi Boyd, Jules Briggs, Tsiuri Chachua, Chris Charron, Amelia Currier, Ashara Ekundayo, Jan Filarski, Jasmine Graham, Paulette Gutierrez, Talese Harris, Hailey Howe, Meighen Jackson, Tohru Kanayama, Dawnice Kerchaert, Josh Lewallen, Martien MacDonald, Megan Major, Valerie Mann, Jennifer Maples, William Matthews, Michael McNeil, Alice Moss, Michael Nagara, Robert O’Banner, Sebastian Perkins, Robert Perrish, Jason Phillips, Yvette Rock, Nancy Rodwan, Lawrence Sekulich, Reggie Singleton, Martine Skalski, Robin Speth, Claudia St. Peter, JeRon Strozier, Vasundhara Tolia, Trotter, Lindsay Tyler, Deborah Walters and Danielle Whitehead.

The Featured Artist is Jeff Schofield, a visual artist trained in sculpture and architecture, with degrees from Cranbrook Academy of Art and Columbia University. His large-scale environmental installations have been featured in public spaces across the U.S. and abroad, including Dubai, Minnesota, New York and Michigan. Schofield’s work has been exhibited internationally in cities like Abu Dhabi, Rome and Brussels, as well as in numerous solo and group shows throughout the Midwest and beyond.

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2B | FEATURES

Nonprofit Mixer is Aug. 21

Nearly 30 nonprofits to participate

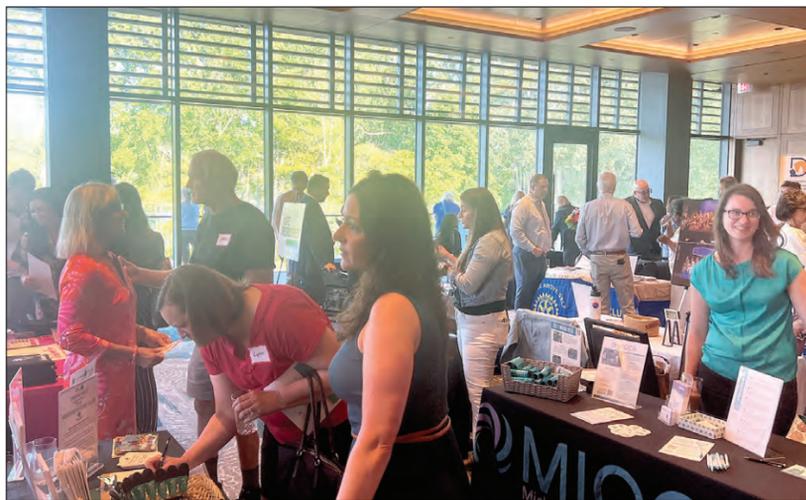
By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's third annual Business After Hours Nonprofit Mixer is a win-win.

The nearly 30 nonprofits — and counting — that will be on hand will be able to share about their causes, network with each other and build collaborative partnerships in ways they may never have considered.

Attendees — more than 100 turned out last year and the chamber hopes to draw even more this year — get to learn not only about the scope of work being carried out by the nonprofits, but also about volunteer opportunities they never knew existed.

Guests are invited to mix and mingle from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPCC

The Business After Hours Nonprofit Mixer continues to grow in attendance and features a variety of nonprofits sharing their missions and volunteer opportunities.

21, at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

"It's a way for people in the community to learn about different nonprofits, network and

see if there are any volunteer opportunities out there for them," said Abigail Turnbull, the chamber's membership and events coordinator. "For the organizations

that participate, it's a great way to meet each other in a casual setting."

Each nonprofit will host a table stocked with marketing materials and

handouts. Each nonprofit also will have a chance to introduce their organization to attendees.

"They'll announce their mission and what they do," said Jennifer Boettcher, chamber president. "That way, everyone is able to see who's there and not miss anyone."

"A lot of them are nonprofits we do work with, but a handful are newer nonprofits that are not as engrained in Grosse Pointe," Turnbull added. "This is a great way for them to get in front of residents. ... It brings a big variety of nonprofits to the public. There aren't a lot that are doing the same things. Some may touch on things that are similar, but this will highlight that there are a variety of ways to give back. We'll have a great mix of new and old favorites."

The Nonprofit Mixer is free and the public is welcome. The event includes a cash bar and complimentary snacks,

See MIXER, page 4B

Who'll be there

- 100 Women Grosse Pointe 313 Presents
- Alliance for Grosse Pointe Public Schools
- Angie's Toy Chest
- Eastside Indivisible Alliance
- Emcura Urgent Care
- Ford House
- Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit
- Green Living Science
- Grosse Pointe Theatre
- Grosse Pointe Library Foundation
- Grosse Pointe Power Squadron
- Gross Pointe Sunrise Rotary
- Henry Ford St. John Hospital School of Radiologic Technology
- Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan
- Motor City Mitten Mission
- Neighborhood Club
- Pelvic Sanctuary
- Pregnancy Aid Detroit
- Raise Hope Foster Dreams (Judson Center)
- Rotary of Grosse Pointe
- SCORE of Southeast Michigan
- Shorewood Kiwanis Club
- Sober Support Coalition
- Temrowski Eldercare
- The War Memorial
- Wayne County Community College District

AREA ACTIVITIES

Sunrise on Vernier

Sunrise on Vernier, 1850 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts a support group at 4:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call (313) 642-2000.

The Helm

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

◆ The film "Join or Die" will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14.

◆ Field Trip & Lunch, Detroit Institute of Arts, noon to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13. Cost is \$8 for members, \$12 for guests.

◆ Calligraphy for Beginners, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, with instructor Beth Johnson. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for guests.

◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, to Red Olive in St. Clair Shores. Cost for the bus ride is \$6 for members, \$8 for guests. All participants are responsible for the cost of their own lunches.

◆ New to Medicare, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21.

◆ The movie "The Book Thief" is shown at noon Friday, Aug. 22. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

◆ Sing Your Way to Health and Happiness, 2 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Aug.

25 to Dec. 8, with instructor Anita Green.

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

◆ Shakespeare on the Rocks: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14. General admission is \$15; VIP tickets are \$45.

◆ SummerFest Movie: Wicked Sing-A-Long, 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20.

◆ Candlelight Open Air Concert: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21. Tickets range from \$30 to \$63.

◆ Candlelight Open Air Concert: Tribute to Adele, 9:15 to 10:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21. Tickets range from \$30 to \$63.

Ford House

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

◆ Outdoor Summer Concert: Michigan Philharmonic "On Broadway," 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15. Seats are \$40 for Friends of Ford House, \$50 for the public; lawn tickets are \$20.

◆ History Stroll through the Pointes, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27. Each location will provide a brief tour and light

See EVENTS, page 4B



Richard Gibb takes in the artwork.

DAM:

Continued from page 1B

exhibitions hosted by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit Historical Society and College for Creative Studies.

DAM also launched two new professional development initiatives for artists: Arts & Culture Networking Nights, which provide opportunities for artists of all career stages to connect and build community with peers, industry professionals and potential collaborators; and Arts Industry Talks, a panel series designed to bring in thought leaders for lectures and panel discussions for relevant topics in the arts, including advocacy, economic development and career management.

"I want to thank everyone — the over 200 people who helped us during the beginning of this emergency," Davis Gardner added. "Their support was critical to helping us be able to execute all of these off-site programs and keep our operations going."

Also instrumental in getting DAM back up and running were financial contributions from individuals, foundations and partners that helped offset the project's price tag.

"It was \$200,000 in construction repairs and damages for an organization that has a half-million-dollar budget," she said. "We have insurance, but it still was a pretty penny we paid out of pocket."

Those interested in



contributing to the DAM general fund may donate online at [mightycause.com/donate/Detroit-](https://mightycause.com/donate/Detroit-Artists-Market)

Artists-Market

"We're excited to be back at home base," Davis Gardner said. "It

was so important for myself and my team to have our annual exhibition back at home."



Above, artist Josh Lewallen, center, speaks with attendees of the "Hot DAM!" opening. Left, one of the pieces on display. Below, the "Hot DAM!" sneak preview and public opening both were well attended.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAM



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Grosse Pointe News

BEST

of the

BEST

2024

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.

Patricia A. Heftler

Patricia A. Heftler, 79, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

Patricia was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe and spent many years working as a reservations manager in Sint Maarten.

Patricia received a master's degree in social work from Western Michigan University. She spent her career as a medical social worker and her personal life caring for people and their families when facing health challenges.

She was an active member of St. Lucy Catholic Church. She participated in the celebration of Mass as a lector and brought the Eucharist to shut-ins. She also helped host the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team and the parish food bank.

She was known among family and friends to be a superb maker of single-batch fruit jams. Those in her close circle were happy to receive a jar on birthdays and at Christmas.

Patricia was predeceased by her parents, Pierre and Margaret Heftler; and brother, Peter. She is survived by a multitude of friends and extended family members.

She will be deeply missed by those whose lives she touched with her kindness.

William Julius Champion III

William Julius Champion III — a devoted attorney, passionate sailor, generous volunteer, gifted performer and beloved husband, father, brother, uncle and friend — passed away Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, at age 71.

Born June 9, 1954, at Jennings Hospital in Detroit, to Catherine Wood Champion and William Julius Champion Jr., Bill was raised in Grosse Pointe. He attended Kerby Elementary and Brownell Junior High schools and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in January 1972. He used his final semester to embark on a solo trip through Europe — a formative journey that sparked his lifelong love of travel.

In fall 1972, Bill enrolled at the University of Michigan, earning a degree in anthropology in 1975. He received his Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston in 1978. Returning to Grosse Pointe, he began his legal career at Butzel Long, where he developed lasting friendships and a strong foundation in regulatory litigation. One of his early clients, Michigan Bell Telephone, remained a consistent presence throughout his career. As the telecommunications industry evolved, Bill served as chief legal counsel for Ameritech Advertising, spent 15 years at Dickinson Wright, PLLC, and later founded his own practice, William J. Champion, PLLC, continuing his work with

Locology Inc., formerly Local Search Association.

In 1984, Bill married Susan Chapman. Their son, Michael "Mickey," born in 1987, brought them immeasurable joy. Bill lovingly cared for Susan through her courageous battle with breast cancer until her passing in 2016.

Bill's life was defined not only by professional accomplishments, but by a deep commitment to service and community. He volunteered extensively, serving as president of Services for Older Citizens (now The Helm) and The Players Club and on the board of the Bayview Yacht Club Foundation. It was at The Helm where he found love again with Deb, who became his wife and dedicated partner. They married in late 2018, and began their life together with a honeymoon in South Africa, the first of many planned adventures.

In 2019, Bill suffered a sudden cardiac arrest, resulting in lower-body paralysis and some cognitive deficit. With grit, determination and Deb's unwavering support, he regained the ability to walk. Despite physical challenges, Bill remained intellectually sharp, full of humor and deeply connected to those he loved and the causes he championed.

A lifelong sailor, Bill was a proud member of both Bayview Yacht Club and Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, competing in countless regattas and Mackinac Races. He began competitive sailing at age 17. Later, he raced his Morgan 35, Courage, for a decade before crewing on Manitou, a Beneteau 36.7. He was known for his skill, leadership and camaraderie.

Bill also found creative fulfillment with The Players, a Detroit-based men's theatrical troupe, where he was a longtime member and past president. He was a gifted performer with a powerful voice — both spoken and sung — that left an impression on everyone who heard it. When he first sang to Deb, she knew he was her forever. His sharp intellect and sardonic wit were matched by an infectious laugh and a deep compassion for others.

Bill is survived by his wife, Deborah Thelen Champion, and his son, Michael Dwyer Champion; stepsons, Bradley Logan Abernathy (Ella) and Scott Abernathy Miller; siblings, Robert Wood Champion (Sarah Fisher Champion), Sara Stewart Champion, Catherine Wood Champion (Kevin Killebrew), Anne Champion Johnson and James Reed Champion (Chaya Grace Champion); many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends; and beloved cats, Puff, Rory and Puck. He was predeceased by his siblings, William Stewart Champion and Richard William Champion.

He will be remembered for his intellect, warmth, loyalty, musical spirit and ability to find humor in even life's hardest moments. His legacy is

one of courage, compassion and connection.

Bill's funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. A reception will follow at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Players, 3321 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48207; or Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Robert Marshall Testa

Robert Marshall Testa, 86, died peacefully Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

Robert was predeceased by his beloved wife of 57 years, Judith Kay; and his older brother, Louis. He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Ulbrich; son-in-law, Peter Ulbrich; son, Rob Testa; and sister, Marilyn Mudloff. He was affectionately called Papa by his favorite people in the world, his grandchildren, Jay, Chuck and Evie Ulbrich.

Robert was commonly called Bob, Bobby T and his personal favorite, Bossman. He was born Jan. 12, 1939, in Detroit. After graduating from Grosse Pointe High School, he dutifully served in the U.S. Army for five years and earned awards for merit and strength. He then worked with his father and brother in the family business and eventually became the sole owner of Testa Cement Co.

Bob took up golf later in life and it soon became his passion. He spent most of his free time playing golf all over Michigan and in Hilton Head, S.C. He won various tournaments and took home many trophies and medals through the years. Bob even made a hole-in-one in 1994. This became his claim to fame and he had no hesitation showcasing every award and certificate received due to this single accomplishment so it appeared he had made numerous holes-in-one throughout his golf career.

Bob had a self-deprecating sense of humor that put others at ease and was known for his friendly teasing and stories of years gone by. He loved to take out his family for big Italian dinners all over town and was especially happy when he could enjoy homemade Italian specialties prepared by Judy. He was keenly interested in sports, politics and world events and was well-versed in all arenas. When it came to his grandkids, he was a great listener, generous teacher and fierce protector. They adored him and have many special memories of time spent and laughter shared with him.

Many years ago, Bob asked his family to put "I did it my way" on his tombstone or to read the lyrics to Frank Sinatra's



Patricia A. Heftler



William J. Champion III



Robert Marshall Testa

famous hit at his funeral, which they did: "For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught. To say the things he truly feels and not the words of one who kneels. The record shows I took the blows and did it my way." Truer words were never spoken about Bob. He was one of a kind.

A private memorial service was held for Bob and Judy, who died four months prior to him.

Sally Mae Ziegler

Sally Mae Ziegler, 89, passed away suddenly Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025, at her beloved home of 65 years in Grosse Pointe Woods. Born May 14, 1936, in Grand Haven, Sally grew up in the Spring Lake and Grand Haven area. Her childhood was filled with family picnics on the shores of Lake Michigan, weekends with her extended family on their farm and early schooling in a one-room schoolhouse. She graduated from Grand Haven High School.

In an era when few young women attended college, Sally began working after graduation. One day while cruising along Lakeshore Drive enjoying Lake Michigan, she met a young man from Detroit named Hazen Ziegler. After a brief and joyful courtship, they were married in February 1955, beginning a 55-year marriage filled with love and adventure until Hazen's passing in 2010. Sally accompanied Hazen through his U.S. Army postings in Virginia and Newfoundland before they settled in Grosse Pointe Woods.

She worked for Beauty Counselors before starting her family, later serving in secretarial roles at University Liggett Middle School and eventually its main campus. Retiring at age 50, Sally embraced life to the fullest. She spent 36 cherished winters in Lake Worth, Fla., where she formed countless friendships and served as the enthusiastic leader of her condo association's social club. Though she didn't formally pursue becoming a nurse, Sally had a lifelong gift for caring for others. She lovingly supported her special needs son, Bruce, and cared for her husband in his later years, while always being there for her extended family and friends.

At home, Sally found joy in gatherings at the Clinton Township Senior Center, playing bocce, euchre, pinochle and bingo. She was a proud Detroit Tigers fan and devoted supporter of Michigan Wolverines football and the Detroit Lions; game days were sacred in her home. Sally will be remembered for her radiant smile, generosity of spirit and deep love for family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Kathy Ziegler-Bronikowski (Jeff Hartz); granddaughter,



Sally Mae Ziegler



Edward S. Evans III

Alyssa Bronikowski (Ben Levine); and sister, Judy Eidson. She was predeceased by her parents, Arthur and Grace (nee Potein) Wilbert; in-laws, Henry and Bertha (nee Balma) Ziegler; husband, Hazen; son, Bruce; son-in-law, Michael Bronikowski; brother-in-law, Lee Eidson; and sister, Nancy Kozubal Mast.

Visitation will occur 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, with the service beginning at noon, at First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit, 1444 Maryland, Grosse Pointe Park. Lunch will be provided following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donation may be made to First Christian Reformed Church — Landscaping Beautification, in honor of Sally Ziegler, and sent to the above address.

Edward Steptoe Evans III

Edward "Ned" Steptoe Evans III, of Grosse Pointe Farms and Ocean Ridge, Fla., devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, sportsman and business executive, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025.

Born May 12, 1939, in Detroit, to Edward S. Evans Jr. and Florence Allington Evans, Ned grew up in Grosse Pointe. He graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Conn., and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and operations engineering from the University of Michigan. There, he formed lifelong friendships, joined the Psi Upsilon fraternity, tended goal for the varsity hockey team and met the love of his life, Laura Ridder.

Ned is survived by Laura, his beloved wife of 64 years, and their four children and spouses: Jody and Jeff Reilly, Wendy and David Murphy, Laurie and John Bond and Ted and Doreen Evans. He was a proud grandfather to eight grandchildren: Laura and Jane Murphy; Johnny, Caroline (Lewers) and Leila Bond; and Teddy, Will and Robby Evans. He also is survived by his brother, John D. Evans, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Virginia Evans Carlin.

Ned's distinguished career spanned multiple industries, including technology, manufacturing, construction and environmental services, where he was recognized

for his leadership, strategic insight and ability to guide organizations through growth and transformation. He began at Evans Products, managing the introduction of a railcar cushion underframe, then moved to Emhart Corp. (later acquired by Black & Decker), a major automotive supplier. He went on to Ralph C. Wilson Industries, overseeing a construction company, a Tier 1 auto supplier and an oilfield services business, and concluded his professional journey at General Dynamics, a leading aerospace and defense company.

Beyond his professional achievements, Ned's life was defined by his warmth, humor and love for family and friends. His quick wit, bright smile and kind spirit lifted those around him. He found joy in fly fishing, chasing mahi and cheering for the Michigan Wolverines. A lover of the outdoors, music and family adventures, Ned especially cherished time spent around the piano, often leading spirited sing-alongs of "Roll Out the Barrel" while loved ones danced and sang along. A lifelong music enthusiast, he played upright bass in his college band and carried his love for melody through his life.

Ned also gave generously of his time and expertise, serving on corporate and nonprofit boards, including The Grosse Pointe Academy and Detroit Institute for Children. He was a member of the Country Club of Detroit and the Yondotega Club, as well as a former member of the Fontinalis Club in Vanderbilt and Club Limited. In Florida, he was a past president of the Ocean Club of Florida, as well as a member of The Little Club and The Society of the Four Arts.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Those wishing to honor Ned's memory may do so through contributions to the Parkinson's & Movement Disorders Discovery Fund at the University of Michigan, Michigan Medicine Development, 777 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ste. 650, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, or victors.us/nedevans.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

4B | CHURCHES

OBITS:

Continued from page 3B

Susan Satley Higbie

Susan Satley Higbie, beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025, surrounded by family in Grosse Pointe. She was a beacon of kindness, joy and resilience whose spirit touched all who knew her.

Born and raised in Michigan, Susan shared a beautiful life with her late husband, Laurence Bradley Higbie. Together, they embraced every chapter of their journey with adventure — making homes and memories from Grosse Pointe to Metamora, Stinson Beach, Calif., and Santa Fe, N.M.

A gifted watercolor artist, Susan brought her love of nature to life on canvas, often painting the birds she adored and the springtime flowers she loved looking at. Her backyard was a true sanctuary, carefully cultivated as a haven for birds, where she spent countless hours observing and photographing the wildlife she cherished.

Susan had a remarkable gift for making people feel special. She never missed a birthday or milestone, always finding time to write thoughtful notes filled with warmth and care. She was known as one of the nicest people one could meet — gracious, welcoming and always quick with a smile.

While living at Stinson Beach, Susan loved beachcombing for fossils and sand dollars hidden among the rocks, always finding treasures others wouldn't see. She had a knack for being the person to find money on the ground or the first to answer a crossword question. Susan loved a great book and a good game of bridge with friends, though her friends will tell you she didn't just play to socialize. She loved to win. Her family will tell you exactly how many holes-in-one she accomplished on the golf course. There were four.

After the passing of her husband, Susan returned to Grosse Pointe to be near her three beloved sisters. She continued to live a life filled with grace, creativity and the enduring love of her family.

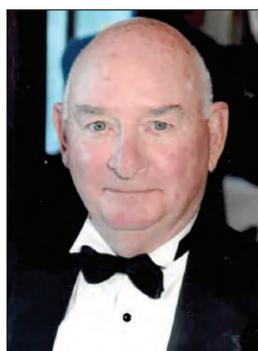
Susan is survived by her son, Laurence Bradley Higbie II, and his wife, Sheila; son, Bruce Butler Higbie, and his wife, Christiane; and son-in-law, Patrick Ray Norton. She was a devoted grandmother to Amanda Norton, Spencer Norton, Adria Green and Laurence Bradley Higbie



Susan Satley Higbie



Janet Marilyn Hooper



John Russell Fowler Jr.

III.

She was predeceased by her husband, Laurence Bradley Higbie, and her daughter, Kim Higbie Norton.

Susan's legacy of kindness, artistry and wit lives on in all who knew and loved her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Janet Marilyn Hooper

Janet Marilyn Hooper, of Harper Woods, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025. Born to John and Erma (nee Reid) Haas, Janet had a storybook childhood and was a devoted daughter and sister to her beloved sister, Suzanne (Lloyd Marks), and brother, Bob (Michelle Haas). Her favorite memories of living on Renaud Road involved dancing to records in the basement with her sister, frequent trips to the Woods park and spending time at her grandfather's farm. Janet loved telling people how blessed she was to attend both St. Paul Catholic School and her alma mater, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School.

Jan was an amazing mother to two children, Tricia (Andrew Kesteloot) and George Hooper, who cannot imagine life without her. Her grandchildren, Ashley (Ardian Camaj), Alyssa, Kate and Ben, were the loves of her life. Affectionately known as "Nana" or "Nan," she could always be found hosting sleepovers, attending dance recitals, playing Candyland or cheering from the football stands. Janet also enjoyed spending time with her many nieces and nephews and always loved having the cousins together. Her second round of "Grands" also brought her tremendous joy. Alyson, McKenna, Alexander, Wyatt and Aiden George loved spending time with their Nana because she was always warm, loving and kind. Afternoons were spent listening to or watching "The Sound of Music," "Baby Boom" or "The Polar Express." One of her favorite pastimes was watching classic movies with her granddaughter, Ashley. Whatever the activity, dancing around the living room almost always was included.

Much like her father, Janet had a steadfast work

ethic. While raising her two children, she worked for NBD (National Bank of Detroit, which eventually became Chase Bank) as a bank teller. Janet loved her customers and treated them like family. One of her proudest life accomplishments was being "out of balance" only 11 times during her 42-year career working at three different branches. She frequently joked with her family about having the strongest "counting arm on the drive-in window." After retirement, Janet enjoyed spending more time with family and volunteering in the school lunchroom and the Religious Education program. She never missed her Thursday hair appointment with Gerri and was a fixture on Mack Avenue driving around in her little red Honda.

Jan was a devout Catholic woman who often could be found praying a novena or attending Eucharistic Adoration. Throughout her life, it was her unwavering faith in God, frequent prayers to St. Jude and the love of her family that helped her persevere through many difficult times, almost always with a cheery smile on her face. She was a woman of limited means, but one so rich in generosity, kindness and personality. To know Janet was to love her and all who loved her were truly blessed. "A few of her favorite things" included family dinners, the color pink, George's delicious home cooking, drives along Lakeshore, winter snowstorms, a good watch, Coke in little glass bottles, lunches with Sue and Lloyd, trips to Chicago and Mackinac Island and her signature dish, Motts Apple Sauce.

Her family said, "While there are no words to express our grief at this time, our family takes comfort in knowing that Janet is now at peace and we look forward to being reunited one day in heaven. Janet taught us all how to be resilient, practice kindness, laugh at oneself, work hard and play often. You are forever in our hearts!"

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. She will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Guests are welcome to

wear a touch or tie of pink.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, tinyurl.com/und577w5, or Angela Hospice Care, angela.hospice.org/donate/.

John Russell Fowler Jr.

John Russell "Jack" Fowler Jr., 80, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, John — known to family and friends as Jack — grew up with the ocean in his spirit and a sense of adventure that never faded. He met his wife, Joyce, at Jackson High School and the two were high school sweethearts who shared 58 years of marriage filled with love and devotion.

A talented athlete, Jack was a collegiate wrestler at Otterbein College before later earning a law degree from Wayne State University Law School. In between his studies he proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, stationed in Korea, carrying out his duties with dedication and honor. The values of discipline, loyalty and perseverance stayed with him throughout his life.

Jack built a distinguished career as a tax and estate planning attorney, earning the respect of colleagues and clients alike, ultimately finishing his career as a partner at Stone, Biber, O'Toole, Fowler and Clarkson.

He had a lifelong love for the outdoors. Whether sailing on open water, teeing off on the golf course or skiing down snowy slopes, Jack embraced every season and challenge with enthusiasm. Friends and family knew him as a man who not only pursued his passions, but also shared them, bringing others along for the ride, the laughter and the memories.

Jack is survived by his beloved wife, Joyce; son, John R. Fowler III; daughter-in-law, Julie Fowler; cherished granddaughter, Hadley Fowler; brother, James B. Fowler (Betsy); sister-in-law, Ruth Ann Romain; and his nephew and nieces. He was predeceased by his father, John Russell Fowler, and mother, Dorthalene Fowler. His devotion to family was constant and his pride in them immeasurable.

Visitation will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, followed by a memorial service at 4 p.m. After the conclusion of the service, a reception will be held in his honor at Lochmoor Club, 1018 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Wounded Warrior Project, support.woundedwarriorproject.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brynn Cummings will perform during this weekend's GreekFest.

'AGT' ventriloquist to perform during GreekFest

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church recently announced that Brynn Cummings, a talented 14-year-old who has been enchanting audiences with her magic and ventriloquism since the age of 8, will perform at GreekFest, which opens Friday, Aug. 15, and runs through Sunday, Aug. 17.

Cummings competed on Season 18 of "America's Got Talent," where she placed in the top five on the live semi-final episode. She will perform at GreekFest's main stage at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, and 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17.

She joins a lineup of weekend-long live entertainment. Festival-goers also will enjoy authentic Greek food and culture, Greek dancing, marketplace shopping, church tours, an exhibit of "The History of Greektown," a kids' tent and games and much more. Visit assumptionfestival.com or call (586) 779-6111 for more details.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church is located at 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

refreshments. Transportation between locations is not provided.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Library

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

◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Family Movie Mondays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Comic Workshop, 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Summer Book Binge — Teen Book Club, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Crafternoons @ the Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Teen Laser Tag

Takeover, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 17017 12 Mile, Roseville.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers a Community Yoga Pop-Up, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19. To register, email MaryJo@FamilyCenterHelps.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Richard Martin, director of individual philanthropy at the Detroit Zoo, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

MIXER:

Continued from page 2B

courtesy of the chamber.

"It's a great event that brings everyone together," Boettcher said. "So many residents are not aware of the opportunities available. People love giving back and learning about different opportunities that are in line with where their heart strings are."

"And this is a chance for nonprofits to showcase themselves," she

added. "They've loved having the opportunity to gather amongst themselves and network and collaborate."

The Nonprofit Mixer is sponsored by 313 Presents, Eastside Indivisible Alliance, Emcura Urgent Care, Ford House, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary and Temrowski Eldercare.

Though it is free to attend, the chamber requests guests register for the event at grossepointechamber.com.

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SUNDAY
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9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
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WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

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Corewell Grosse Pointe receives nearly \$300,000 to benefit spiritual care program

Corewell Health Foundation Southeast Michigan held its second annual Grosse Pointe Gathering fundraiser to support the Grosse Pointe Spiritual Care Endowed Fund in Honor of Fr. Richard Bartoszek at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital. The fund supports the spiritual care program, which integrates the medical and spiritual needs of patients, families and caregivers, as well as enhances patient outcomes.

The July 24 event was hosted at the lakeside residence of Darrene and Bill Baer and raised nearly \$300,000 for the spiritual care

endowed fund.

"We would like to thank all of the individuals and sponsors who joined together to raise funds to support the spiritual care team and the important work they do on behalf of patients, families and caregivers," said Ryan Daly, president of Corewell Health Foundation Southeast Michigan. "We are grateful for the outpouring of community support received for this program, which is unique to our Grosse Pointe hospital, and we're grateful to Darrene and Bill Baer for allowing us to gather at their beautiful home."

Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, strolling dinner, outdoor activities and live entertainment on the lakefront.

The fundraising committee included Grosse Pointe community leaders Anne and Christopher Blake, Fr. Rich Bartoszek, Kirk and Michelle Haggarty, Julie and Matt Kornmeier, Mary Naz and Theresa and Anthony Selvaggio.

Host sponsors of the 2025 event included Darrene and Bill Baer, Mary Kay and Keith Crain, Mary Anne and Gene Gargaro, Susan and George Haggarty, Marcia and Ed Russell and Molly and Mark Valade.



Marlene Boll of Grosse Pointe Shores and Kristine Mestdagh of Grosse Pointe Farms.



Jenny Parke of Grosse Pointe Farms, Henrietta Fridholm of Grosse Pointe Park, Jana Brownell of Grosse Pointe Farms.



Darrene Baer of Grosse Pointe Shores with Gene Gargaro of Grosse Pointe Shores.



From left, Anthony and Theresa Selvaggio of Grosse Pointe Farms, with Darrene Baer of Grosse Pointe Shores and Sheri Testani and Tim Rohrschneider of Grosse Pointe Shores.

Three Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe physicians were honored for their many years of service during the Grosse Pointe Gathering: Dr. Sarine John (cardiologist), Dr. George Ghanem (cardiologist) and Dr. Jeanne Lewandowski (chief of pediatrics) stand with Dr. Jodie Rappe, vice president of medical affairs.



COURTESY PHOTOS

ASK THE EXPERTS By Page Heenan

Give it away

It's always a good time to be generous. You can start with something small. A compliment is always appreciated. You never know when your kind words will reach someone at just the right time. We can all use a boost.

Or go for something a bit bigger. Just this week, my neighbor made some blueberry muffins. She texted, asking me to meet her at the fence so she could pass some over. Someone else surprised me with a green juice at a yoga class I was teaching. It feels good to be on the receiving end of someone's kindness.

It's pretty easy to start with small gestures like a kind word, a check-in call to a friend, a handful of herbs from your garden — or do some fall cleaning and donate what someone else can use. My neighbor was collecting gently used shoes for an organization she works with and our block filled the back of her SUV with dozens of pairs. She was thrilled.

Of course, your generosity could entail something quite large, like a financial donation to a cause you care about or a regular commitment to volunteer your time. The positive impact on the recipient of your gifts usually is outsized compared to the cost to you. So if you think someone won't appreciate it or that it's not enough somehow, go ahead and do it anyway. Most often, it is more appreciated than you will ever know. The funny thing about giving is that it helps us, too. It's not only a mood booster, but knowing you've helped someone gives you a sense of living a more meaningful life. Generosity also has a subtle way of helping us

learn to let go of things. Good all around. This meditation is about giving away well-wishes. Send out as many as you can. The world needs them.

To listen to the meditation, visit familycenterhelps.org/give-it-away/

Page Heenan is a yoga and meditation teacher with more than 20 years of experience. She is the founder of Inner Space Studio, a wellness resource. For more information, visit innerspacestudio.substack.com/.

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



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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

How to keep birthdays joyful without burning out

Dear Gabby: My parents got divorced and now birthdays are a nightmare. I can't drag my family around to multiple parties and host more than one every year. Is there a good solution I'm not thinking of that could work for everyone?

— Tired in the Shores

Dear Tired: Divorced-family occasions can be emotionally exhausting and logistically overwhelming. Trying to please everyone often leads to burnout, resentment and events that feel

more like an obligation than a joyful celebration.

The first step is to recognize that you're allowed to set boundaries. Instead of attending or hosting multiple celebrations, consider alternating years, splitting the day or celebrating with some of the family on a different day altogether so you can have some breathing room (half birthday anyone?). These small shifts can preserve connection while protecting your well-being.

It's OK if not everyone loves the new plan right

away — clarity and kindness go a long way. Frame it honestly: "We want to enjoy the events without stretching ourselves too thin, so we're simplifying this year. Let's find a time that works for us all to connect meaningfully."

When you stop trying to do it all, you make space for the moments that actually matter.

— Gabby

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



Funerals and feeling forgotten

DEAR ANNIE: I've always prided myself on being a good friend. I'm the one who shows up at weddings, baby showers, birthday parties and even moving day. I donate to friends' fundraisers, send thoughtful messages, and make the effort to call, check in and extend invitations. In short, I've always been there when it mattered.

But three months ago, my mother passed away, and not a single one of my so-called friends showed up to her funeral. No cards. No flowers.

Not even a phone call. Even people from my church, who I thought would at least offer some words of comfort, were completely silent.

To say I'm heartbroken doesn't begin to cover it. I've never felt so abandoned, and in a moment when I truly needed support. I'm 61 years old and well aware that making new friends at this age isn't easy. Is this how friendship works now — so one-sided, so lacking in empathy?

Why is it that people no longer seem to value

compassion or basic human decency? — Feeling Forgotten

DEAR FEELING FORGOTTEN: First, let me say how deeply sorry I am for the loss of your mother. Grief is heavy enough without the added pain of feeling abandoned by those you once considered friends.

You have every right to feel hurt. Your expectations were not unreasonable. They were rooted in the kind of kindness and loyalty you have always shown

others. When that was not returned during your most vulnerable moment, it felt like a betrayal. That is not just disappointing. It is devastating.

Now, some of your friends may not have known what to say, or they may have assumed you wanted space. But silence in the face of grief is still silence. And sadly, we live in a time when many people have grown passive in their relationships, present for the parties, absent for the pain.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

Do not let their failure harden your heart. You deserve meaningful, mutual friendships, and while they may be harder to find at 61, they are not impossible. True friends are out there, often in unexpected places and stages of life.

You have given much of yourself over the years. Perhaps now is the time to turn that generosity

inward. Heal. Reflect. And when you are ready, consider opening yourself up to new circles of grief support groups, volunteering or classes — where kindness and connection still matter.

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

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Tudge's Pub to Z's Pub: a neighborhood transformation

If you've lived on the east side for more than 50 years, specifically in the St. Clair Shores and Grosse Pointe area, you likely can recall Tudge's Pub and the history of that block on Greater Mack. Tudge's was the true definition of a "neighborhood watering hole." That watering hole evolved into what is now called a "hole-in-the-wall bar." Tudge's was all that and then some, the "last call" go-to for Gen Xers. It was the "come as you are, drink all the things, sing (or scream) karaoke with strangers, leave your dignity on the sticky floor" kind of bar.

Those days are long gone. Now, it's time to shine a bright light on who transformed this location into what it is today: Lee Ann and Kevin Zmyslowski. The Grosse Pointe Woods residents, both raised on the east side, always wanted their own restaurant. It just came down to timing and the time had arrived.

Kevin, an Austin High School graduate and retired metal stamper, had been eyeing this location for some time. Lee Ann was extremely familiar with the industry and, with more than 25 years of local service experience, she had seen it all. These two were familiar faces to many once the word got out. No need to ask how they came up with the name, but on June 1, 2018, Z's Pub opened and so much changed.

Between 2018 and the pandemic, Z's went through a four-month shutdown for much-needed renovations.

"We added new HVAC



COURTESY PHOTOS
Z's Pub storefront.

units and a whole building generator, both now on the roof, a new parking lot, a walk-in cooler and freezer, a draft system and added televisions," Lee Ann said. "We also painted inside and out."

If you know this building and its layout, you might be thinking, "Where could this walk-in cooler and freezer be if there was never a functioning kitchen space?" Well, they added

an addition and eliminated two parking spaces to do so. My jaw dropped when I saw the cooler and freezer addition. The space was beautiful — crisp, clean and organized like none other. Brand-new flooring was added throughout the kitchen area and looked like it was done yesterday, not years ago.

Lee Ann is the elbow grease behind Z's. She prides herself on keeping a meticulously clean and organized establishment. Her day starts bright and early so when the doors open at 11 a.m., there isn't a speck of dust to be found. I even noticed how clean the more than 200 liquor bottles were behind the bar. Now that you know how clean it is, you'll notice it the next time you're sitting at their bar.

The renovations on the bar itself were shocking. The wood rail had decades worth of paint on it. They hand-scraped those

decades off to refinish it.

"It took five days to restore the beautiful wood bar rail," Lee Ann said.

They also put 10 outlets under the bar so you'll never have to leave in the middle of a good game, conversation or meal because your phone is about to die. They even keep some chargers behind the bar, so don't hesitate to ask. And ladies, we got purse hooks, too.

The bar area is adorned with nostalgic pieces from the original owners, as well as special personal gifts like vintage beer-labeled sconces and a vintage repurposed bourbon box that holds menus.

"The sconces were gifted to us from a wonderful regular patron and our son made the bourbon box for the menus," Lee Ann said.

Memorabilia and classic bar decor line the walls. I guarantee you every single thing hung will pass a white-glove test.

Z's offers a variety of eight draft beer handles, wines, a rotating list of IPAs and all the most popular seltzers. There's not a mixed drink their bartenders can't make. "Every hour is happy hour" seems to be their motto. Kevin and Lee Ann wanted to make sure they were entertaining both thirsty and hungry people. This was probably the most popular change to this location: a full bar menu.

They did not skimp on this either. Their grill may be small, but it's mighty and can produce more burgers, patty melts and chicken sandwiches than you would think in a very quick period of time. Even



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

with every seat filled, my personal family has never waited longer than 20 minutes to be served. They also didn't skimp with their vendors, choosing to use Grosse Pointe's own Fairway Packing for their beef, as well as US Foods and Vans Produce.

When asked what the favorite appetizers were, Lee Ann mentioned the gouda mac and cheese bites, hot pepper cheese balls and fried avocado bites. For main-menu favorites, some were obvious to me and some were a shock. Obviously, among the best are their Fairway burgers and wings, which come with a variety of 10 different sauces to choose from. But tuna melts, Philly cheesesteaks and their fried bologna sand-

wich also made the list.

One other item that may not be considered a "favorite" but I must mention are Z's chicken nuggets. All of the above must be served with what I and my circle consider the best fries ever. My mother would say the same of their onion rings. When I asked what the secret was, I was told there is none. However, I also was told that their fryer never goes more than 48 hours without being cleaned. What a difference that makes.

The pub is open seven days a week: noon to 10 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to midnight Tuesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

See FOOD, page 10C



Sandwiches, clockwise from top left, fried bologna, chicken club, patty melt with onion rings and reuben.



Burgers, clockwise from top left, classic, San Francisco, California and cowboy.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I kept seeing castor oil packs all over my TikTok “wellness” page and finally decided to try one, specifically for my stomach at night. Let me just say ... I was skeptical. I’ve seen every wellness trend come and go, but something about this one felt old-school and legit. Even my mom said she used to do it as a kid. Turns out, there’s a reason people swear by it.

If you’re not familiar, a castor oil pack is basically a soft wrap (mine has a stretchy Velcro band) to which you apply castor oil, then wear over your stomach, usually overnight. I



use mine three or four nights a week before bed and it’s now part of my wind-down routine, like skincare or turning on my white noise machine.

I bought an organic cold-pressed castor oil off Amazon and a reusable wrap. You drizzle the oil on the inner pad, lay it across your abdomen and strap it on. Sounds weird, I know, but it’s cozy.

I sleep in it and wake up with zero discomfort.

The biggest benefit I’ve noticed? Bloating and digestion. It’s not a miracle cure, but I seriously feel less puffy. Some people

use it for liver detox or hormone balancing and, while I can’t speak on the science, I can say I feel noticeably better when I’m consistent with it.

Bonus: The ritual of putting it on forces me to slow down at night, put down my phone and take a few deep breaths. It’s giving “clean girl healing” and I’m here for it.

The only downside? It’s not something I’d want to travel with, because the oil is thick and can stain — so don’t wear your favorite PJ set the nights you have this on. But for home use, it’s super manageable and easy to clean.

My final thoughts? It’s a solid 4.6 out of 5. It’s affordable, easy and genuinely helpful. If you’re into holistic self-care or looking for a nighttime habit that actually makes you feel better, I highly recommend giving the castor oil stomach pack a try.

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.



Grilled corn pizzas

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Some people are just happier standing over a grill on a summer night, drink in hand, manning dinner, while casually talking about their day with friends and family. I love pushing men off the grill and completely taking charge but am willing to sometimes give away a bit of control. I’ll just take on the prep work in the kitchen. That way, while the grilling happens, I can relax and wait for the food to come off. But no one is surprised to find me peering over the shoulder of the one who is grilling and interjecting with what they’re doing wrong.

Giving up complete control of the grill is just not in my nature. I think that’s why I love grilling pizzas. It’s better because it’s a two-person job. It’s also much easier as a two-person job. One person can run ingredients back and forth while the other can make sure not to burn the crust. The pizzas come out in waves and people can just nibble throughout the night.

This recipe is a goat cheese and bacon pizza featuring the season’s best and sweetest corn. It’s a flatbread, if you will, with a bunch of deli-

ciously paired ingredients. The crust is cooked until crisp then rubbed with garlic while it’s still warm to subtly impart its flavor. Then while the crust is still hot, it’s scattered with creamy goat cheese, charred corn, bacon and prosciutto.

I drizzled mine with lots of hot honey for sweet heat that pairs perfectly with the sour goat cheese and smoky bacon. If you don’t have hot honey, substitute with a pinch of chili flakes and drizzled clover honey.

Top it all off with freshly torn basil and you will be in heaven. Use your Blackstone if you have one. Then you can cook everything on one surface.

These flavors go so well together and are a nice alternative to your typical margherita or red-sauced cousin. Find your grilling partner, get outside and enjoy the last weeks of summer. These pizzas are a big hit for all.

Cheers, Mombeau

Corn, Goat Cheese and Bacon Pizza

1 large pkg pizza dough, room temperature

8 slices of cooked bacon, roughly chopped

4 slices prosciutto

2 ears of sweet corn

6-8 oz goat cheese, crumbled

1 garlic clove, peeled and halved

½ cup packed fresh basil

Hot honey or 1 tsp chili flakes and 4 tbsp honey

Olive oil

Preheat your grill or Blackstone to medium heat. Shuck the ears of corn and brush them with about a tablespoon of olive oil. Lay the corn on the grill and cook for about 15 minutes, turning every couple minutes to char each side.

While the corn is cooking, you can work on shaping the dough into two halves. Flour your work surface and shape into a ball. Begin to flatten with your finger, pushing out and rotating the dough as needed. Begin to pick the dough round up and stretch the edges. Let gravity do the



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

work. Use a rolling pin if you want. Just make sure you keep adding a bit of flour to prevent the dough from sticking.

The easiest result is a long, imperfect, oval shape. Do the same for the second piece of dough. Set aside on a large floured cutting board.

Remove the corn from the grill once it’s cooked and let it cool for a few minutes. Slice the kernels off the cob and lay on a cutting board or platter. Next to the corn, lay down the goat cheese crumbles, bacon, prosciutto slices, garlic halves and basil. This will serve as your

pizza building station.

Turn the grill up to medium-high heat. Brush the top of each dough with about 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Season with a pinch of salt sprinkled over the top. Lay each piece down on the grill, oiled side down. Once the dough is on the grill, brush the non-oiled, top side with more oil and sprinkle with salt. Cover and cook for about two minutes or until the dough is a bit bubbled and browned.

Flip the crust and cook for another two minutes or until it’s charred and cooked through. Remove

the crust from the grill and immediately rub the cut garlic clove all over the top of the crust. Evenly sprinkle over the crumbled goat cheese between the two crust. Then evenly scatter over the corn. Use a spoon to spread out the cheese if you want.

Next, add the bacon over the top along with torn pieces of prosciutto. Finish the pizza with a drizzle of hot honey, or a big pinch of chili flakes then regular honey. Top with ripped pieces of fresh basil. Cut into squares and enjoy as dinner or a cocktail hour snack!

Bubbly

Americans love bubbles. Just about anything with effervescence is more popular today than during any time I can recall. This includes everything from colas, seltzers and beer to high-quality Champagnes.

The most popular bubbly designation is the capitalized champagne, from the district of that name north of Paris. It is a cool region that produces superior bubblys made from pinot noir, chardonnay and the most widely planted grape in the region, pinot meunier.

Real French Champagne is expensive because it is so difficult to ripen grapes properly, so crops are typically small. It takes years to produce a quality champagne because the production regimen is protected by laws upheld by ethics as well as government inspections.

Most quality champagnes today retail for around \$50 to \$70 per bottle. The best are much more. The famed Dom Perignon sells for nearly

\$300 worldwide; the lowest U.S. price I found was \$160.

The quality of California sparkling wines, very few of which are of a champagne style, has been increasing in quality for the last two decades. Today, excellent domestic sparkling wines from dozens of producers may be found at roughly \$25 to \$30.

At that price, the wines are excellent, but most of the dedicated producers of French method bubblys also sell special products at champagne prices.

Considering the time and expense required to make these wines, most of these efforts should be considered bargains. The reason so many of them now exist is that the cost to make them has dropped.

Decades ago, wineries wanting to make quality sparkling wines had to invest in the expensive specialized equipment needed to make French-method bubblys. The equipment was so pricey that almost no winery could afford to try sparkling wines.

That changed in 2007 when two entrepreneurs

opened the first contract winery to make sparkling wines for clients. Named Rack and Riddle, it has some of the finest equipment in the world, allowing wineries to add sparkling wines to their portfolios inexpensively.

Today, Rack and Riddle has four wineries: Healdsburg, Alexander Valley, Geyserville and Lodi. It can produce French-technique (Methode Champenoise) sparkling wine. It can also accommodate wineries wishing to make lower-priced bubblys using a process called charmat.

So, dozens of wineries based in northern California have contracted with Rack and Riddle, which allows wineries to experiment.

Although most quality sparkling wines are produced from pinot noir and chardonnay, wineries that want to delve into experimental sparkling wines can do so with other varieties like grenache, pinot blanc, and even riesling.

California sparkling wines’ fame began in 1904 when French expatriate Paul Masson got international acclaim for

his sparkling wine made from grapes grown in Santa Clara.

Today, high-quality sparkling wines are now being produced by roughly three dozen California wineries. In some cases, the name Rack and Riddle appears on the back label as the producer.

Wine of the Week:

2022 Pedroncelli Blanc de Blanc, Dry Creek Valley (\$56) — This is the first bubbly produced by this historic north Dry Creek Valley winery, and



it is a stellar example of delicacy and precise flavor development. There is a beautiful citrusy aroma, and it has a trace of peach and even some brioche. There is a beautiful harmony of flavors. A terrific first effort!

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

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Get into the back-to-school beat and stay sharp with local looks

When August rolls around, the temps might still say summer, but the school year is right around the corner. Whether your student is counting down the days or clinging to their final moments of freedom, we've rounded up some fresh finds to help ease the transition — and maybe even spark a little excitement. From colorful pens and preppy planners to stylish lunchboxes and dorm-ready gear, our curated picks are equal parts fun and functional. Even better? You can shop most of them locally, so your student can get involved in the prep — and get excited for the year ahead.

Peruse stylish picks from Village Palm, Lululemon, Small Favors, Half Moon

Outfitters and Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy. The shops that you count on to keep life humming all year round are rising and shining with everything you need to make this school year a fantastic one.

And for studying at home, check out the creative solutions from Closet Connections. We are featuring some of their great ideas for designing the perfect study setup to make homework easier. Plus see some great storage designs for mudrooms and more.

It's going to be a great year, Grosse Pointe — and it all starts here. Have some fun getting ready and bring the whole family in on the adventure!

Little Lilly classic shift dress in bright delight multicolor pattern, left. A cool little shift for those first warm days returning to school. From Village Palm. Cat purse, below, from Amazon.



THIRSTY FOR STYLE

Stay cool and hydrated with this tropical-print Hydro Flask. Durable stainless steel and insulation keep drinks icy cold for hours. Ideal for school, sports practice or your next adventure. The cool palm leaf pattern adds a fun, natural vibe to school days. Grab one and stay hydrated. From Half Moon Outfitters.



PICTURE DAY

Everyone's waiting to see those annual first day of school pix! Capture the good memories with this colorful chalkboard sign, left. Reusable and customizable, it's perfect for jotting down your child's age, grade and what they want to be when they grow up. A fun way to kick off the school year and create keepsakes you'll treasure forever. From Amazon.

POPS OF COLOR



The key to success is planning. Add a splash of sophisticated color to your school year with this Lilly Pulitzer planner from Village Palm. Bursting with personality and organization features, it's perfect for keeping track of assignments, kids' activities and everything in between. Keeps everything in one handy spot. You want this!



Color Layers markers, left, unleash creativity! Vibrant tones are perfect for layering, outlining or coloring in those important details. A back-to-school staple for budding artists and doodlers alike. Great for art projects or adding classroom flair. From Small Favors.



Make your backpack pop with style with this Lilly Pulitzer keychain bag charm, above. With its bright print and durable design, it adds personality and functional flair that travels with you all school year long. From Village Palm.



SCHOOL TOOLS

Organize pens, pencils and highlighters in one pretty place with this vibrant Lilly Pulitzer pencil pouch, left. The tropical print and zip-top design make it a cheerful and practical addition to any backpack. So perfect for class, study sessions or just showing off your upbeat vibe. From Village Palm.



School supplies can be oh-so glam with this Lilly Pulitzer pen trio, left. Featuring bold colors, floral patterns and smooth ink flow, they're the perfect blend of form and function. Make note-taking or just doodling, a little more fun each day. From Village Palm.



Compact, sporty, and effortlessly cool, the Lululemon pencil pouch, above, is a must-have for students on the go. Whether you're heading to school, practice, or a weekend hangout, it keeps your essentials close and your look on point. From Lululemon.



LUNCH BUNCH

Wave bye-bye to messy lunches with this all-in-one Bentgo bento box. Designed with kid-friendly latches and leak-proof compartments, it keeps snacks and meals organized and fresh so your sammy never touches your veggies. Ideal for picky eaters and creative lunch packing. You'll wonder how you ever made lunches without it! From Amazon.



IN THE BAG

This Scout lunchbox, above, is as cute as it is functional! With its colorful striped design and roll-top closure, it keeps your food fresh while adding a jolt of fun to your back-to-school essentials. Lightweight, wipe-able and built for busy days, this is the lunchbox both kids and their parents will love. From Small Favors.

SPACE-SAVERS KEEPIN' IT NEAT!



Scout's premium quality lidded storage bins are a game changer for organizing small spaces like dorm rooms and study areas. Designed to control the clutter, these stackable lidded bins are pretty enough to keep out in the open – yes, really. So much cooler than a plastic bin, they're still strong enough to double as extra seating, a side table, or even a step stool.

Available in two sizes – medium and large, they're a favorite among professional organizers thanks to their sturdy construction and attractive designs. They even fold flat for easy transport, making them ideal for move in day. Find them at Small Favors.

Easy, healthy, quick school lunch ideas

As another school year gets into gear, moms everywhere are looking for inspiration for those mid-day meals or snacks. It's hard to combine easy with healthy — but there is a way. Here are several great menus that keep things interesting for the kiddos.

1. Turkey Pinwheels

- Whole wheat wrap with turkey, cheese and spinach (rolled and sliced into pinwheels)
- Apple slices
- Baby carrots
- Hummus or ranch dip

2. Mini Pancake + Egg Box

- Mini pancakes with cream cheese or nut-free butter

- Hard-boiled egg
- Strawberries
- Cucumber slices

Snacks:

3. DIY Yogurt Parfait

- Greek yogurt in one compartment
- Berries in another
- Low-sugar granola or seeds on the side to sprinkle
- Veggies of the day

4. Banana "Sushi" Wrap

- Tortilla spread with nut-free butter
- Banana rolled inside, sliced into rounds
- Add a few pretzels or string cheese on the side



1.



2.



3.



4.

PACK IT UP!



Everyday Backpack 21L

Lululemon backpacks are stylish, durable and ultra-functional. It's the only backpack made to move with you. Toss in your laptop, a book (or two) and so much more. Lots of pockets keep snacks, sunglasses, and chargers organized, while the padded straps spread the load. Choose your style and color at Lululemon.



Everywhere Backpack 22L

Not your average backpack. With an internal laptop sleeve and side water bottle pockets, this one ticks all the right boxes for school. With plenty of compartments, water-resistant fabric and a sleek design, it's the ultimate school-to-gym bag for students who love fashion and performance in one. From Lululemon.



New Crew Backpack 22L

Move through your day with an organized state of mind thanks to this backpack's dedicated compartments for your laptop, gear and water bottle or shake. Water-repellent fabric and adjustable padded straps are designed for all-day comfort. Exterior zippered pocket secures your valuables. Only at Lululemon.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL HOME STUDY HALL

Here comes the homework! Make it easier for your kids to focus on their studies at home with these incredible study and storage solutions from Closet Connections.

Every child and every home is unique, but more and more these days parents are looking for home solutions that keep

school supplies expertly organized and out of sight, so your home always looks pulled-together beautifully.

The Closet Connections team is up for every challenge. They'll ensure that individual wish list items are addressed and there is a perfect space designed for everything — for

the entire family. They can deliver a system that not only is practical, but modern and attractive, making this school year the smoothest ever. Easier studying and less stress for mom and dad while the kids use their time learning instead of straightening up their rooms.

Closet Connections is located at 20427 Mack Ave. in Grosse Pointe Woods. Call them at (313) 884-1818 or visit closetconnections.com.



This navy and oak tone desk, above, was specifically tailored to suit a client's individual preferences and needs. The student was able to choose his favorite colors and incorporate unique personal touches, making the space more inviting and motivating for study. Whether it's drawing, writing – or building LEGOs – having a specific spot inspires kids to engage in enriching activities, fostering their imagination, love of study and artistic skills.



The matching corner shelving unit, above, holds lots of personal items and books or study materials. Wrapping the unit around the corner gives it a cozy feel and makes the entire desk solution more inviting and usable. With Closet Connections, you can choose the configuration that works best for your interiors – and your kids!



This desk area, above, is equipped with handy storage solutions like drawers, shelves and cabinets to keep school supplies, books and art materials organized and easily accessible. Teaching children the importance of organization makes it easier for them to find what they need and build good habits into the future. The deep blue-gray and light oak look is modern and fresh, offering a space that kids can grow with.



A client was looking for a workspace to encourage their child to work independently. The goal for this desk area, above, was to minimize distractions, providing a quiet space for their child to concentrate on their homework, read and complete creative projects. With plenty of light and clean design, it's a welcoming space that children can call their own. It's an A+ solution!



A shared space, right, is a great idea for young children. It's an investment in their education and personal growth that can yield long-lasting benefits. In their own study area, kids can manage their assignments, establish study routines and develop time management skills without relying heavily on parental guidance. There's plenty of space



TEACHERS

YOU'RE THE APPLE OF OUR EYE!

To show our appreciation, we are offering a chance to **WIN** a \$500 gift card bundle

Educators — you're the apple of our eye! For all you are and all you do, we'd like to give you a chance to win in our "Apple of Our Eye" Grosse Pointe Teacher Appreciation Giveaway!

The Grosse Pointe News is celebrating our incredible teachers and an exciting new school year with a special giveaway!

We're helping local educators kick off the school year in style with a bundle of gift cards to treat themselves and their classrooms, ready for fall. We want to help the best teachers in the world start the year off strong!



To enter, Grosse Pointe teachers just need to email us at media@grossepointenews.com or DM us via Facebook or Instagram with your answers to the following:

- Your Name
- School
- Grade or subject you currently teach
- Why you love teaching in GP
- What you are most excited about this school year?



Let's shine a light on the amazing teachers who make our community so special. Winners will be featured in an upcoming issue! Know a great teacher who deserves this prize? Be sure to let them know!



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Don't miss out! You are all superstars and this is your chance to feel the love. Email or DM us today! For more information, call (313) 882-6900 or media@grossepointenews.com.



Grosse
Pointe
News





Make education an exciting game that every kid can win

Who says learning can't be fun? Kids will look forward to education when it seems like a game with these discovery picks from Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy. Bringing a few "toys" into the mix can show kids that expanding their minds can be a great time too.

From word and reading games to science, math and more, Whistle Stop has oodles of great educational toys to complement school classes and maybe even earn extra credit. Check out just a few of the great things they have to offer:

100 Great Words flashcards

Do you feel discombobulated by the plethora of supercilious gobbledygook? Fear not! eeBoo's 100 GREAT Words is packed with wild and interesting words to jazz up your daily lingo. Each flash card has a GREAT Word on the front and the definition with an example sentence on the back of the card. Your child will go from taciturn to a loquacious vocabulary virtuoso in no time. Ages 8+.

Tin Can Robot

Turn a metal can into this walking, wobbling, bog-eyed robot. It could be transformed to become a robotic monster, too. Contains a set of plastic mechanic body parts, toy motor with gear, 2 straws, 1 pair of moving eyes, screws, nuts and detailed instructions. User needs to recycle a soda drink can to complete the project. Ages 8+.

Ukloo Early Reader Treasure Hunt Game

Disguised as a treasure hunt, this multi-award winning children's literacy game gets kids physically active as they read clues and search to find a hidden surprise. Ages 4+.

Number Blocks Mathlink Cubes

Friendly Numberblocks from the hit TV series bring math learning to life. Children see how numbers really work as they build their own Numberblocks from One to Ten and master math skills. Ages 3+.



Get kids engaged in their own good dental health

Dental health should be a priority at any age and is especially important for children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more than half of children between the ages of six and eight have had a cavity in at least one of their primary teeth. Also, more than half of adolescents aged 12 to 19 have had a cavity in at least one permanent tooth. Cavities and other oral health conditions, such as periodontal diseases, are largely preventable with proper oral hygiene.

School time is a good time to check in on dental habits. Getting children to care for their teeth in the correct manner may require some reinforcement throughout the developmental years. However, there are ways to make dental care a more engaging activity for youngsters.

Flavored toothpastes and mouthwashes

Mint reigns supreme in oral health products as the dominant flavor, but not all children are enamored with that flavor. Most oral care products geared toward the younger set come in different flavors like bubble gum and berry. Kids can take active roles in their oral health by choosing the flavored products they prefer to use.



Electronic toothbrushes

Children may enjoy using electronic toothbrushes because they are easy to maneuver and can even seem like a toy. According to the Cleveland Clinic, electric toothbrushes generally are considered more effective at removing plaque and keeping teeth clean.

Make it a competition

Children love games and healthy competition between peers and siblings. Offer a prize (non-sugary, of course) to children who brush and floss daily for the required times. Extra points can be awarded for every dental wellness check that comes back with a glowing report.



Make regular visits to the dentist

One of the best things you can do is normalize going to the dentist's office. Find a dentist that specializes in children — they will know how to make the visits as stress-free as possible for kids. Building a positive relationship with a dentist will help kids develop lifelong dental hygiene. Engage children in lessons and choices about their dental care as is age-appropriate. Model good behavior and make regular appointments for the whole family.

Use plaque-disclosing tablets

Show children just where they may need to direct more brushing effort with plaque-disclosing tablets. These tablets use food-grade coloring in them, which sticks to areas with plaque accumulation. After chewing the tablets and the child smiles, he or she will see the spots where efforts need to be ramped up. This can be a fun lesson as children will likely enjoy seeing their teeth covered in the tablet color.



Practice on pets

Pets need clean teeth, too. Children may enjoy not only brushing their own teeth, but learning how to keep their companion animals' mouths healthy with brushing and care. There are several products and tools on the market especially for pets including toothbrushes!

Various strategies can increase the chances that kids will engage with good oral hygiene practices early on — and continue them. A beautiful, confident smile is a lifetime gift.

COOL FOR SCHOOL



Trending this school season

Pretty oversize Teleties flat clips hold hair in place while adding a dash of fashion. Solid colors and natural-looking shell tones are setting the style pace for girls. They look chic and pulled together while keeping hair from your face. From *Small Favors*.



Get your claws on these cute clips

These colorful claw clips are the perfect blend of style and practicality. Whether you're taming bedhead before the school bell rings or adding a cute pop to your outfit, these clips hold your hair with ease and flair. Great for on-the-go mornings! From *Small Favors*.

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FOR THOSE CHILLY DAYS AHEAD



Get ready with a warm, windproof, water-resistant Kids' Nano Puff® Brick Quilted Jacket. For warmth, movability and sustainability — it uses incredibly lightweight and highly compressible 60-g Prima-Loft Gold Insulation Eco 100 percent recycled polyester fill with P.U.R.E.™ (Produced Using Reduced Emissions) technology. It's wrapped in a NetPlus 100 percent recycled nylon ripstop shell that's made from recycled fishing nets to help reduce ocean plastic pollution. Looks great too. From **Half Moon Outfitters**.

Lacrosse has a winning place to learn



Lacrosse has experienced a significant surge in popularity among youth athletes in recent years, making it one of the fastest-growing team sports for children and teenagers in the United States. Youth lacrosse participation has grown by over 85 percent in the past decade. As of 2023, there were over 1.2 million lacrosse players in the US, with high school lacrosse alone having over 300,000 players nationwide. According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, lacrosse is the fastest-growing collegiate sport, too — and a growing sports scholarship vehicle for male and female students.

Grosse Pointers are fortunate to have a premier training facility in our own neighborhood. At 313 Lacrosse in Grosse Pointe Woods, they take lacrosse seriously. For over two decades, they've been training the

next generation of athletes.

The team is dedicated to providing each student a proven system — focusing on transformation versus instruction. Their coaches are a hand-selected group of lacrosse professionals, including current and former college and pro players and lifelong mentors who bring unmatched experience and integrity to the training they offer. Their official goal is to build character, confidence and college-ready athletes.

The original ideals of the native game of lacrosse are: Respect, purpose and community. These are the guiding principles at 313 Lacrosse.

313 Lacrosse is located at 21035 Mack Ave. For more information, call (313) 743-5150 or visit their website at 313lax.com.



School-ready checklist: Top 8 things to do

Before the school year begins, consider this helpful to-do list. Sometimes important steps get forgotten in the rush to get ready. Here are some reminders to check off a few of the things that matter most.

1. Physical exam

A quick check-up to ensure kids are ready to take on the year ahead with good health.

2. Dental checkup

Time for a sparkling dental cleaning, check up and a chance to make their smile ready for school photos. Set up your next appointment at check out so follow up appointments stay on track.

3. Eye exam

Make sure vision is sharp, they can see the board and they're ready for reading, writing and arithmetic class work too. Update glasses or contacts as necessary.

4. A new haircut

A fresh new hairstyle will give confidence and style — setting the stage for a great year.

5. Well-fitting, comfortable shoes

It's hard to focus on lessons if your toes are pinched! Encourage walking and fitness by ensuring your child has comfortable, appropriate shoes for the new school season ahead.

6. A mental/emotional check in

Normalize discussing feelings, stressors and problems without judgment — so that children are comfortable coming to you with any issues that arise throughout the year. Ensure there are no emotional fears or concerns that will prevent feeling positive at school — so they can focus on learning and making new friends.

7. A personal goal check in

Have a heart-to-heart convo about what's important to achieve this year. Set reasonable, achievable goals — no more than one to three goals, with only one that might be more difficult. Perhaps one is academic, one social (like being attentive to including others, for example) and one aspirational (such as trying a new skill.) Let your child drive the goals as much as possible and make it fun by devising a personal reward once a goal is realized. This should be a fun exercise that illustrates personal achievement, not a super-stressor.

8. Start the year with peace of mind

Getting these items scheduled and taken care of will help everyone feel ready to succeed, making the whole year run smoother — and healthier too.

What's happening at Grosse Pointe schools?

We cover it!

Grosse Pointe News

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(313) 343-5578

WAKEY, WAKEY

You can say goodbye to grumpy wakeups and start making mornings more fun with this adorable dinosaur alarm clock. Perfect for kids, it glows in different colors and features an easy to read digital display. It's a playful and practical way to help young students wake up with a smile and start their day on time. From **Amazon**.

Whistle Stop hobby & Toy

LITTLE RIDERS ROUNDUP

August 23rd, 11:00am-1:00pm
21714 Harper Ave, St. Clair Shores, MI, 48080
Whistle-Stop.com | 586-771-6770

WHERE TO SHOP:

313 Lacrosse
21035 Mack Ave.
Grosse Pointe Woods
(313) 743-5150
313lax.com

Half Moon Outfitters
17145 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe
(313) 498-5287
halfmoonoutfitters.com

Growing Smiles
22524 Greater Mack Ave.
St. Clair Shores
(586) 800-4769
growingsmiles.com

Small Favors
17112 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe
(313) 887-1774
shopsmallfavors.com

Lululemon
17101 Kercheval Ave.
(313) 484-2083
shoplululemon.com
IG: @lululemon

Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy
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St. Clair Shores
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whistle-stop.com

Village Palm
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10C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEVANTINE FILMS

Left, Karan Soni as Naveen Gavaskar and Jonathan Groff as Jay Kurundkar in the 2024 movie "A Nice Indian Boy," written by Eric Randall and Madhuri Shekar and directed by Roshan Sethi.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



MOVIE REVIEW
 "A Nice Indian Boy"
 2024 - Not Rated
 1 hr 36 min
 ★★★★★

"A Nice Indian Boy" is a heartfelt movie focused on a number of themes including family, acceptance, the ability to change and, above all, true love.

The film by director Roshan Sethi and writer Eric Randall was adapted from Madhuri Shekar's play. I've noticed that films based on plays often have a confining and almost claustrophobic feel to them. That's not the case here. The movie is full of action and set in numerous locations, which keeps the plot moving forward and engaging. It also helps that the cast is full of interesting characters.

Naveen (Karan Soni) is a young Indian-American doctor. He came out to his family years ago and his

parents each have their own way of dealing with it. His mother, Megha, is a real chatterbox. She's constantly chiming in on how she feels about it and making suggestions. She's played by Zarna Garg, who's a standup comedian in real life. If you get a chance, look her up on YouTube. You'll find several of her specials that are absolutely hilarious. This is her first feature movie role and she brings an abundance of energy to the part.

Naveen's father is Archit, played by Harish Patel, who's a major Bollywood star. Here he plays the quiet, understated dad. His way of dealing with his son, and life in general, is to be the silent observer. That's not to say he isn't supportive of his son; it's just that he'd rather cook the family meals, which is unusual in a traditional Indian household, than engage in a discussion.

Then there's the good sister, Arundhathi (Sunita Mani), the jewel in her parents' eyes. She's a hard working, successful woman who can do no wrong. While she isn't in an arranged marriage per se, her parents introduced her to her husband, so it's almost the same thing to them. Mom and Dad constantly remind their children they were the results of an arranged marriage and it worked out perfectly for them.

One day, the staff at the hospital where Naveen works is having their portraits taken. The photographer is the handsome Jay Kurundkar (Jonathan Groff). When he gets Naveen in his makeshift photo studio, the sparks immediately start flying. He takes extra time directing Naveen to get the perfect shot. He takes so much time, in fact, the staff urges him to get a move on it. A few days later, while Naveen is

praying at his temple, who shows up but Jay. It turns out Jay was adopted and raised by an older Indian couple and he was there to pray as well.

He jokes that he wasn't stalking Naveen and that gets the conversation rolling. As the old adage goes, opposites attract and that's certainly the case here. Naveen is a quiet, reserved to the point of boring individual, while Jay is super outgoing and dynamic. He even starts singing a tune from the famous romantic Bollywood movie "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge," familiarly known as DDLJ, much to the embarrassment of Naveen. It's just the beginning of a complex and wild ride to their relationship.

There is the expected and awkward scene when Naveen invites Jay home to meet his parents. Naturally, mom is pretty accepting and constantly trying to make sense of her son's relationship. Until this point, apparently, Naveen has never brought a boyfriend home and has kept his private life secret from his parents. The dinner table becomes a veritable powder-keg of emotions. And while Naveen's love life is just getting going, we learn how Arundhathi's mar-

riage is unravelling. The movie is just full of fun twists and turns.

I really enjoyed just about everything about this joyful rom-com. The acting was superb, the writing was spot on and the soundtrack was laced with an abundance of dynamic Bollywood tunes.

I thought it was interesting that the movie is bookended with big, blissful Indian weddings. At the first wedding, Naveen is constantly pestered about when he is going to get married. No one outside of his immediate family knows he is gay. The wedding at the end is an absolute riot of singing and dancing — much like your typical Bollywood movie. It's the perfect way to end a film like this.

Apparently I'm not alone in loving this film. IMDb gave it a 7.4 and Rotten Tomatoes rated it a whopping 96 percent.

Note to parents: The movie is about a gay relationship. While it is unrated, I'd probably give it an "R" rating due to one tastefully done sex scene.

It's currently streaming on Hulu and available to rent on Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, Amazon and other streaming services.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

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

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

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



Family dinner.



Arundhathi (Sunita Mani).



Parents Archit (Harish Patel) and Megha (Zarna Garg).



Naveen and Jay at the movies.



Naveen at the wedding.

FOOD

Continued from page 2C

The kitchen closes an hour prior to the pub closing, with the exception of Friday and Saturday, when it closes at midnight.

As someone who lives within walking distance and has been a patron at

ing, with the exception of Friday and Saturday, when it closes at midnight.

this location for more years than I'd like to admit, I'm appreciative of what Kevin and Lee Ann have turned this place into. I'm one of the many who have seen the before and after firsthand. When I walk through the doors now and see families enjoying dinner and groups of elderly friends laughing and having conversations over a great burger and adult beverages, these are faces that just weren't there in the past. And when you see other restaurant owners and employees enjoying themselves at someone else's establishment, you know it's got to be good. Excellent ownership and an amazing staff truly go a long way. Thank you, Zmyslowskis, for putting your heart and soul into this community gem that is Z's Pub. You've certainly

succeeded.

Keep up to date with Z's Pub on Facebook. And don't forget to pop in to watch all of our favorite Detroit teams on the televisions, plug in and play some tunes on the jukebox, or play Keno while you're at it.

A personal observation: Not so much a fact, but I saw a group of retired

ladies leaving the pub. When Lee Ann was recognized and greeted, one of the ladies voiced that it was her first time there and, in the sweetest voice,

she said, "I hope my friends bring me back here." If that doesn't melt the heart of any restaurant owner, I'm not sure what will. Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



Some drink options: Bloody Mary, Old-Fashioned, seltzers and beers.



Sliders.



Appetizers, clockwise from left, chicken nuggets, wings, French fries and fried avocados.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

8/14 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆
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Contract Bridge

A SHOW OF PRESTIDIGITATION

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q 10
♥ A Q 6
♦ J 10 3
♣ K 10 9 2

WEST

♠ 9 8 7 5 4
♥ 10 5 2
♦ K Q 6
♣ 7 3

EAST

♠ K J 6 2
♥ 9 8 7 4 3
♦ 4 2
♣ 6 5

SOUTH

♠ 3
♥ K J
♦ A 9 8 7 5
♣ A Q J 8 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣			

Opening lead — nine of spades.

The outcome of many contracts frequently hinges upon how the defenders' cards are divided. A bad break in a suit or the unfavorable location of a particular card can undo many a reasonable contract. Nevertheless, there are times when declarer can overcome an unlucky lie of the cards by skillful play. These are the hands that appeal most to students of the game.

Consider this deal where South is in six clubs. At first blush, the contract appears to depend on the location of

the two missing diamond honors. The obvious approach would seem to be to draw trump and take two diamond finesses through East, hoping he was dealt the king or queen, or both. (As can be seen, this line of play would unluckily fail.)

But, promising as this line of play is, it is not the right way to play the hand. Even though declarer is a 3-to-1 favorite to make the contract in this manner, he should not stake the outcome solely on the luck of the deal.

He can increase his chances substantially by attempting an elimination play to counter the possibility that West has both diamond honors. So, after winning the spade lead with the ace, he trumps a spade. Two rounds of trump are then drawn, ending in dummy.

At this point, having found the opposing clubs divided evenly, declarer can feel 100% certain of the contract. He ruffs the queen of spades and cashes the K-Q-A of hearts, discarding a diamond from his hand.

He now leads the jack of diamonds and lets it ride. West wins but has no safe return. Dummy's remaining four cards are two diamonds and two clubs, while South has three diamonds and one club. West must lead a diamond or hand declarer a ruff-and-discard, and either way, the slam is home.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping (except food and gas) or important decisions until 10 a.m. EDT today (7 a.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from ARIES into TAURUS.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, August 14, 2025:

You share your opinions and ideas because you're outgoing, strong-willed and motivated. This is a year of creating solid foundations in your life, both internally and externally. It's also time to take charge of your health. Stay grounded and levelheaded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Avoid disputes with friends, groups and your kids about financial matters, like who should pick up the tab. Nevertheless, communications can also be lighthearted and playful today, especially during social outings and conversations with partners. Tonight: Check your money.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
The Moon is in your sign today, which gives you a bit of extra good luck. However, you might find yourself at odds with authority figures — parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs and the police. Be aware of this. Nevertheless, family discussions, especially about repairs, will go well. Tonight: You win!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Minor arguments with siblings, relatives and neighbors might take place today. Possibly, the argument is all in your head because you feel you can't speak up. You have lots of ideas, and you might convince someone to agree with your way of thinking. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Today is a mixed bag: You might have a dispute with a friend or a member of a group about something you own. Or it might be a financial matter. Nevertheless, you're encouraged about a purchase for home or a money-making idea. Tonight: Friendships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
This is a busy day! You have much work to do, and there are demands being made on you. Ideally, it's best if you work alone. However, if working with others, you want their cooperation. In fact, power struggles with a partner or friend might arise. Tonight: You're high-viz.?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Aggressive discussions could accomplish a lot today. On the other hand, they could create power struggles and unhappy feelings between you and someone. Different and changing influences are at play today, which means you have to be flexible to get the best outcome you want. Tonight: Explore!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
If you're not distracted by disputes about shared property, shared costs or shared responsibilities, then you can get an enormous amount done today. You will convince others to help you. You're motivated and your words are like gold! Tonight: Check your finances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Be patient with parents, bosses and authority figures today to avoid clashes of ego that will benefit no one. Instead, focus on travel plans or issues related to publishing, the media or medical or legal matters. Discussions with bosses and authority figures will be lively! Tonight: Be cooperative.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Don't let money squabbles ruin your day, especially financial negotiations related to your job. Instead, focus on new ways to expand your world, or trying a new approach to how you deal with others, especially groups. You feel competitive today. Tonight: Get better organized.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Because you could be excited about having access to funds or materials, you might want to pitch some practical ideas to a parent or a boss. Meanwhile, increased responsibilities with kids or some resistance to your plans might throw a wrench in things. (Bummer.) Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Several influences are at play today. In one way, you might be discouraged with family discussions because they're combative and difficult. However, a partner or close friend might cheer you up with clever suggestions, possibly about future travel plans. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Today you might be excited about ideas related to work, your health or a pet. Whatever these ideas are, they will motivate you to jump into action and act quickly. You're enthused and you want results -- immediately! Be careful, because this could trigger opposition from others. Tonight: Lively discussions.

BORN TODAY
Actress Mila Kunis (1983), actress Halle Berry (1966), actor, comedian, writer Steve Martin (1945).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 14, 2025

ACROSS

- Animal shelter chorus
- Thick carpet or haircut
- "You wish!"
- (Get out of the fast lane!)
- Grow intellectually
- "hahaha"
- TALK AT THIS
- VOLUME
- "My name is _____ Montoya"
- Sharp flavor
- Coach on the slopes
- The stars in the Big Dipper, e.g.
- Green: Prefix
- Three: Prefix
- "Whip It" group
- One using a rod and reel
- Start of symptoms
- "Seeing red," "feeling blue" and "going green"
- Leave out "_____ or it didn't happen"
- Get dealt 9-8-7 in blackjack, say
- Professional in a red truck
- Spill it!
- To and _____
- Hot cider server
- Pleistocene and Eocene, for two
- Beethoven's "Moonlight"
- Pocket bread
- Best starting spot in auto racing ... or 19-, 28- or 40-Across?
- Free from wool
- Velociraptor, e.g., briefly
- Tibetan dumpling
- Praise for an achievement
- "Just messing with you!"
- Wilson of "Cars"
- "You said it, sister!"
- French noggin
- Lion's locks
- Deep void
- Stunk like the Dickens
- King of Spain since 2014
- Deadlock that may lead to a hung jury
- In the mail
- Small winning margin
- Quarrels (with)
- Italian dumplings
- Charlie Parker's sax type
- What a sassy person has
- Janis _____, angsty "Mean Girls" character
- Dense driving hazard
- It's double-checked by Santa
- Element in a bar sign
- _____ the line (didn't act up)
- Pharaoh honored at Abu Simbel
- App with reels, informally
- Pretend
- Insect bite sensation
- Part of a meaty rack
- Helix
- Sign- (farewells)
- Surrealist Joan _____ oxide (what makes Mars' soil red)
- "Full speed ahead!"
- Relatives of slipper sofas
- TV series installment
- South Asian bread
- She may go out to pick up litter
- Grillmaster's garment
- Perfect, as writing
- Predatory fish
- Where Ames is
- Sign of the future
- Quantity increased by removing its first letter
- Horn-heavy Jamaican genre
- Low, steady sound
- Laudatory poem

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	O	B	I	N	T	W	I	G	B	A	D		
I	N	A	N	E	R	O	B	O	T	R	I	O	
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8/7 Solution
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www.upuzzles.com

8/14 It's the End of the World as We Know It by Adrian Johnson

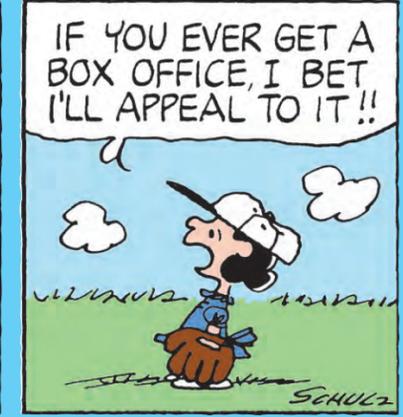
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THURSDAY COMICS



Peanuts

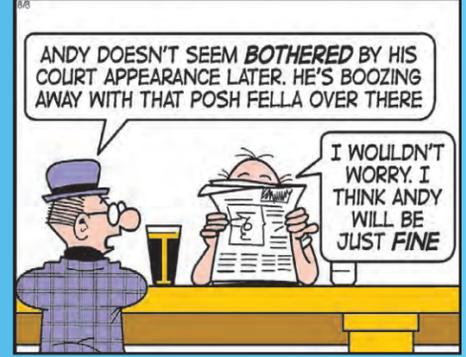
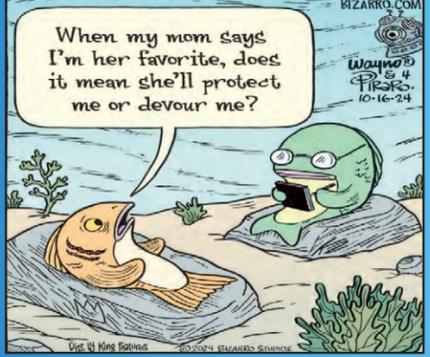
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

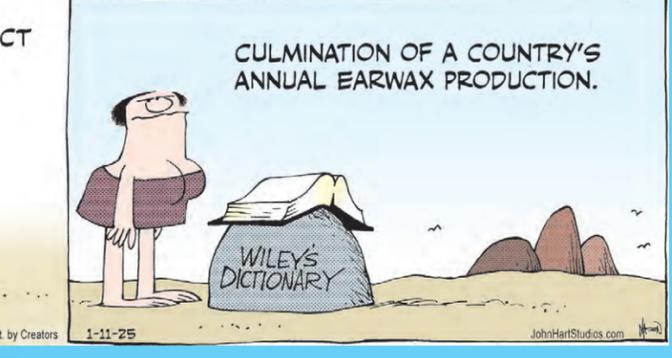
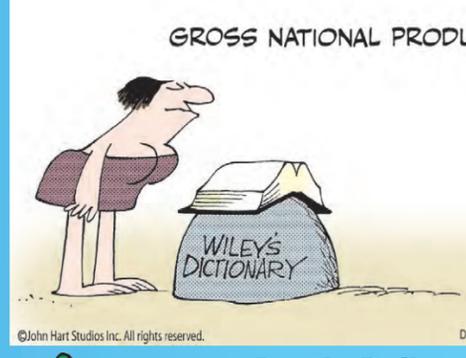
Reg Smythe



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

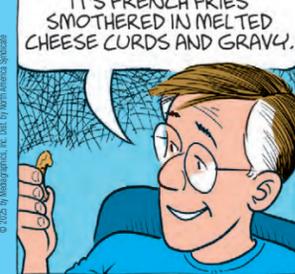
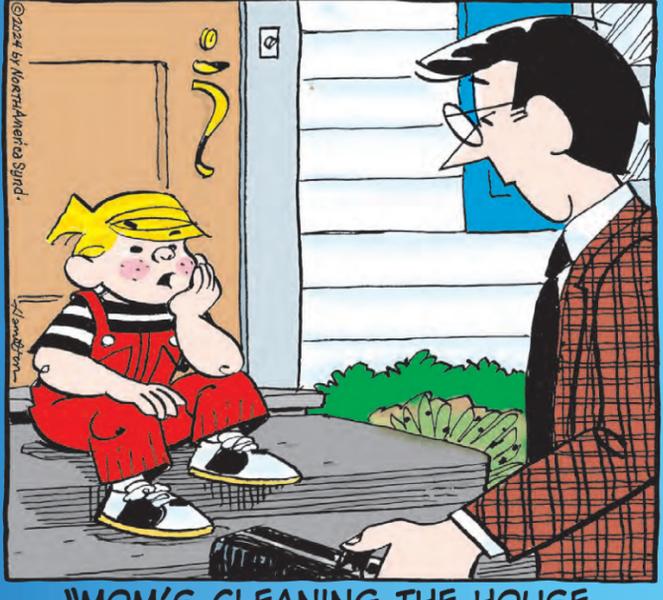
Mike Peters



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

WHY DON'T YOU EAT MICE?

I MIGHT CONSIDER IT...

IF THEY CAME IN NACHO CHEESE FLAVOR

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Hagar The Horrible (Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

HOW CAN YOU SIT THERE WHILE YOU SEE ME WORKING SO HARD DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU?!

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO REARRANGE THE FURNITURE?!

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Close To Home John McPherson

"He's very territorial."

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Wizard of Id Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni

YOU CAN PET HIM! HIS BARK IS WORSE THAN HIS BITE

BARK

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN BREEDING THEM WITH DRAGONS

EW

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Ziggy Tom Wilson

WELL, WHEN YOU WORK IN A NEWSPAPER COMIC STRIP PAPER CUTS ARE AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD!

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Blondie Chris and Dean Young

WOW! IT SAYS THIS WEEK SET A RECORD-BREAKING HEAT INDEX! REALLY?

THAT REMINDS ME... I'D BETTER MAKE SURE OF SOMETHING... WHAT'S THAT, DEAR?

THAT OUR ICE CREAM INDEX IS HIGHER!

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Marmaduke Paul & Brad Anderson

"This collar can tell us everywhere Marmaduke has been and take pictures of what he's done. But do we really want to know?"

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Over The Hedge Michael Fry and T. Lewis

I GET WHAT IT MEANS TO GO FORTH AND HAMMY, BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GO OUT AND R???

PSH! PSH! PSH! PSH!

I CAN DO THAT. YOU ARE THAT.

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Crock Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

I'M SURE THE CLERK MEANT TO SAY 'QUEEN SIZE' INSTEAD OF 'FAT'

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Popeye Bud Sagendorf

CONGRATULATIONS! I HEARD ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT!

SPLAT!

IT AIN'T ME ENGAGEMENT! IT IS OLIVE'S! SHE HAS HOOKED A ROYAL KING!

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F Minus Tony Carrilo

BEFORE WE GET STARTED, A QUICK FOLLOW-UP TO OUR LAST EPISODE: TURNS OUT NOTHING WE SAID WAS CORRECT AND NONE OF OUR ADVICE SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

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Family Circus Bill and Jeff Keane

"Mommy said greens are good for you, so I always get lime popsicles."

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Kid Scoop

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Follow That Dollar!

The other day, Aunt Mary gave Franco one dollar. Then she said:

If you can turn that dollar into \$10.00, I'll give you another dollar!

Franco's friends, Sara and Andrew, had some ideas on what he should do.

If you invest in lemons and sugar, you can sell lemonade!

5 lemons and sugar: expenses = \$1.00

22 cups of lemonade × 50¢ = \$11.00

expenses - \$1.00

PROFIT: \$10.00

KID SCOOP DICTIONARY

invest verb, to put something into use for the purpose of making money.

If you invest in sponges and soap, you can wash cars!

Sponge and soap: expenses = \$1.00

Wash 11 cars, \$1 per car = \$11.00

expenses - \$1.00

PROFIT: \$10.00

Draw your face!

What would YOU do if you had a dollar and had to turn it into \$10.00?

What I would invest in:

What I would do or make:

Price for my product or service: \$

Subtract expenses: - \$

MY PROFIT: \$

How Many Days?

Franco puts 50¢ into his piggy bank every day. How many days until he has \$6.00?

HINT: Use your multiplication tables to find the answer.



Coin Crack Up

Put the coins back together! Draw lines to connect the parts that match.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Candy Time

Franco is going to invest some of his profit into another business, put some of it into a savings bank and keep \$1 to buy candy.

If you were Franco, which candy would you buy with the dollar? Be sure to spend exactly one dollar.

Standards Link: Number Sense: Add, subtract, multiply and divide money amounts to solve problems.

Peanut Butter Cup 25¢

Candy Corn 30¢

Red Sizzler 5¢

Licorice Rope 10¢

Sour Drop 5¢

Chocolate Chewy Bar 75¢

Taffy Pop 45¢

Lollipop 40¢

Gummi Worm 35¢

Marshmallow Moon Rocks 65¢

Needs and Wants

Look through the newspaper to find examples of things people **NEED** to survive. Then find examples of things you **WANT** but don't need. Cut them out and glue them onto a poster showing *Needs and Wants*.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students understand basic economic concepts.

Dollars and Cents Challenge!

Work with a partner at home to complete the following dandy Dollars and Cents Challenges!

Name: _____

Name of Learning Buddy: _____

1. Look through the newspaper for five or more numbers that represent money. Cut these out and glue them on the box below in order from smallest to largest:

2. Give each letter of the alphabet a money value starting with A = 1¢, B = 2¢, C = 3¢. Continue until you get to Z, which equals 26¢. Using these letter values, add up the "value" of each word in the headlines on the front page of the newspaper.

Which word is the "most expensive?" Cut it out and glue it here:

Word Value: \$ _____

Which is the "least expensive?" Cut it out and glue it here:

Word Value: \$ _____

3. Look at the sports news. Find and circle ten or more numbers. Calculate the sum and the average of these numbers.

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Kid Scoop Puzzler

Memory Bank

Which bank has the most money?

Bank 1 (Piggy Bank): 95 pennies, 15 nickels, 3 dimes, 2 quarters

Bank 2 (Safe): 75 pennies, 2 nickels, 50 dimes, 2 quarters

Bank 3 (Turtle): 150 pennies, 12 nickels, 2 dimes, 1 quarter

Bank 4 (Boot): 50 pennies, 15 nickels, 10 dimes, 5 quarters

Standards Link: Number Sense: Identify and know the value of coins.

Double Double Word Search

- DIMES
- PROFIT
- MONEY
- EXPENSES
- SPONGES
- IDEAS
- QUARTERS
- LEMONADE
- NEEDS
- LICORICE
- INVEST
- COINS
- VERB
- DROP
- ROPE

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Business Map

Cut out the names and addresses of 10 businesses from today's newspaper. Locate and label those businesses on a community map. Discuss how the location of a business helps or hurts its ability to make money.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students demonstrate basic economic reasoning skills.

Where can you ALWAYS find money?

ANSWER: In the dictionary!

Write On!

Grow Money

How could you turn one dollar into ten dollars or more?



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SINE & MONAGHAN REALTY

2D-3D FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS | 4D-5D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

North ready to showcase athletic facilities upgrades

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Beginning with this fall's upcoming volleyball season, fans who make their way into the gym at Grosse Pointe North will notice some differences. While they take their seats on the brand-new bleachers, they also can check out the gym's new digital video board. These are just some of the upgrades made to North's athletic facilities ahead of the new school year.

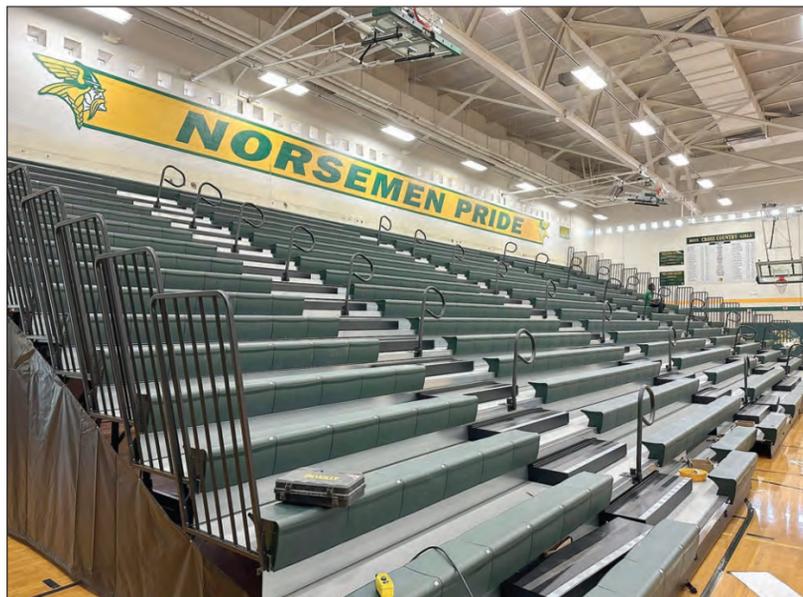
While upgrades have

been made to the gym, as well as the pool and the areas near the outdoor stadium, the gym's new video board will be a main attraction. Funding for the video board project was provided through a grant from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for STEAAM Support, with the idea that the video board's capabilities could extend beyond just sports.

"It's a multipurpose video board, so our gym instructors can use it and we'll hold meetings in there and district-level

activities," North Athletic Director Jim Ellis said. "It's more than just a scoreboard. ... GP STEAAM saw the benefits of it, not only for athletics, but for educational value. It gives our video production students the opportunity to make content for it to show during games and really enhance the experience."

The other major upgrade to the gym, along with a freshly waxed floor and some new paint, is the new bleachers. Gone are the old, wooden stands that



New bleachers have been installed in the Grosse Pointe North gym, replacing the gym's original wooden bleachers.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

Grosse Pointe North's gym now features a new digital video board, which was funded by a grant from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for STEAAM Support.

had been in the gym since the school first opened nearly 60 years ago.

The plan to build new bleachers in the gym had been in motion for years, even before Ellis took over as Athletic Director before last school year. The school hopes the new bleachers will be a welcome upgrade for fans' comfort and accessibility, with the original bleachers simply becoming too outdated.

"The bleachers were original to the gym, and they were getting very old and hard to maintain

because there were no parts to order anymore," Ellis said.

While the gym received plenty of updates, the Grosse Pointe North Athletic Booster Club was busy helping other areas receive some much-needed upgrades as well. New swimming blocks were installed at the pool, along with new digital timing systems. Outside the school, fresh paint and some other renovations were made to the team room by the outdoor stadium.

The upgrades to the gym and other areas are

going to be seen as a welcome sight to players, coaches and fans alike. Most importantly, the school hopes improvements like these will enhance its profile in sports and beyond, making "Norsemen Pride" even stronger.

"This is a nice piece of the puzzle that's going to get kids excited to play sports at North and be involved," Ellis said. "... It's going to bring more kids into the fold and, hopefully, it turns into more participation and getting more fans in the community to games."

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

Liggett boys soccer hopes depth, experience are keys to success

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Following the University Liggett School girls varsity soccer team's achievement in the spring, making it to the Division 4 state championship game, there still is some momentum permeating throughout the school when it comes to soccer. The boys varsity team is looking to continue that momentum into the fall with head coach David Dwaihy, who was at the helm of the girls team during its sensational spring.

"There's definitely that residual feeling of how exciting and special (spring) was as we head into the boys season," Dwaihy said. "I hope we can do both and have a really successful regular season, then get everyone healthy and peaking at the right time to make a bit of a run as well."

While Liggett's boys team had plenty to cheer about last fall, including a final record of 12-4-2, the Knights



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Junior forward Brady Ancona is one of several returning starters from last fall taking the field this season for University Liggett boys soccer.

hope to avenge a loss in the district championship game to Detroit Cristo Rey. Dwaihy believes there are actually two seasons, the regular season and the postseason, and that

playoff success can be a toss-up. However, there is a feeling of confidence throughout the program that the Knights have the experience and depth to go far.

"We're going to miss our five seniors from last year and have some holes to fill there," Dwaihy said. "I think we definitely have an experienced crew of seniors and juniors who know

how things work, and we'll rely on them for leadership and to welcome in the younger guys, but I think we also have a good amount of talent in our ninth and 10th grade classes, too."

Some of that valuable experience comes at one of the most valuable positions, with senior goalkeeper Ravi Hines returning to the net for Liggett this fall. Senior defenders Caden Martin and Zach Rabbani will be key pieces of the back line in front of Hines, along with junior defender Brendan Mitchell. Helping out on the offensive side of the ball will be experienced juniors like midfielder Ollie Cooley and forward Brady Ancona.

Dwaihy feels the issue might arise of the Knights having so much talent and only so many minutes on the field each game, which is not the worst problem to have. Regardless of who is on the field when, the Knights are focused on having a cohesive group with a collective, gritty mindset. It is what the

team believes worked best last year and is something that can be built upon for success as this fall's season begins.

"The thing that I feel really defined us last year was our togetherness," Dwaihy said. "The guys enjoyed playing with each other and pushing each other in practice. There was a good dynamic of the off-field stuff, resulting in some on-field success. ... The effort and energy were always at a maximum and I hope that can be our calling card as well. ... Being supportive of each other and being committed to every single game, no matter who we're playing, trying to out-work them and out-think them."

Liggett plays an exhibition game on the road against crosstown foe Grosse Pointe North at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14. The Knights officially begin the regular season at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, hosting Hillsdale Academy.

2025 Fall Sports Previews ▶▶

Girls Swim & Dive

North girls swim targets top-10 finish in new division

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

A drop in enrollment has moved the Grosse Pointe North girls swim and dive team from Division 2 to Division 3 this season, and head coach Chris Trepanowski sees an opportunity in the change.

"We are sizing up against top teams in the state for Division 3. The team goal is to be top-10 in the state. We were in that range last year in Division 2, so it should be doable for Division 3," Trepanowski said.

Leading the Norsemen are five senior captains: Cailey Hard, Kennedy Hasting, Liliana Ivanaj, Lauren Loper, and Ryan Verlinde. All bring great experience and personality to the team focused on good camaraderie and a welcoming environment. The squad benefits from a deep base of year round swim-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEG LEONARD

Ryan Verlinde, above, is one of five senior captains on this season's North varsity girls swim and dive team.

mers.

"The vast majority do summer swim through local parks. All of them kept themselves conditioned and were swimming up until two weeks

ago," Trepanowski said.

Key dates on the calendar include the rivalry meet against Grosse Pointe South, the county meet, where the Norsemen hope to qualify

more than the eight swimmers they sent last year, and the state finals.

"Our state meet is the end goal for our more advanced swimmers and to have our relays and

individuals make it," Trepanowski said.

Three of the team's captains, Hard, Hasting, and Ivanaj, swam at the state meet last year and expectations remain

high for their performances. Trepanowski also sees promise in the decent amount of freshmen this season.

"It will be interesting to see how the freshmen challenge upperclassmen to bring the whole team up and drop times across the board," Trepanowski said. "We have also always been a very good freestyle team but always want to dig into strokes to be more competitive across the board."

The biggest challenge will be maintaining the energy throughout the long fall season.

"Motivation ebbs and flows throughout the season," Trepanowski said. "(My job) as a coach is to keep the motivation strong throughout the entirety of the season."

North will take to the water for the first time this season Aug. 28 for a meet at Royal Oak.

Blue Devils girls swim sets sights on historic finish in 2025

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

After a runner-up finish at last year's Division 2 state meet, the Grosse Pointe South girls swim and dive team is diving into the 2025 season with a bold goal: win it all.

"The goal is always as high as it can get," head coach John Fodell said. "We're aiming to win the MAC, put a ton of girls on the All-State team and ultimately battle for a state championship. That's never been done before in South girls swim history."

While powerhouse Mercy High School will be the team to beat, South is returning nearly all of its top talent, including 10 All-

State swimmers. State champion Whitney Handwork (50 freestyle) leads a roster stacked with contenders and the medley relay also will return.

This fall's captains, Betsy Ropke, Heidi Bryan, Mischa Eng, Lorelei Carr, Lottie Gates and Handwork, bring both experience and energy to a team culture.

"It's so many swimmers' favorite season of the year," Fodell said.

Offseason training has been nonstop. Many South swimmers train year-round with club programs like the Gators and have traveled across the Midwest for top-tier meets in Wisconsin, Columbus, Ann Arbor and Holland.

The competition schedule is packed with key matchups. The team opens with a tough test against Division 1 powerhouse Ann Arbor Pioneer Aug. 20, then faces East Grand Rapids, ranked No. 1 in Division 3, in September. On Nov. 1, South will host defending D2 champion Mercy in what could be a state meet preview.

Fodell believes the team is positioned to take a major leap forward this year: more state qualifiers, more scorers and a real chance to rewrite the program's legacy.

"Beating Mercy would be incredible," Fodell said. "Even finishing second again would be the best result in program history."



PHOTO BY JESSICA BRYAN

Head coach John Fodell is looking to lead South varsity girls swim and dive to another podium finish in Division 2 this season.

Small but mighty — ULS girls swim looks for county and state success

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

With just four swimmers on the roster to start the season, University Liggett School's girls swim and dive team may be small in numbers, but head coach Colleen Beland says that their goals remain big.

"The main goal is just that they will go out and try to get whatever county and state cuts they can and have some fun," Beland said. "Not

try and win with our four but individually we have goals to hit and get Wayne county and state cuts."

The lone senior, Annabel Klaasen, returns for her fourth year on the team, and brings both experience and leadership skills.

"She has been swimming for years and is a four year Liggett swimmer," Beland said.

Despite not being able to practice together due to Liggett having no pool space, the group only

meets at competitions. However, the team's culture remains strong and welcoming.

"The girls all get along super well and cheer for each other, watch each other's races, and lift each other up before and after the races," Beland said. "Swimming is an individual sport but you need

that team around you."

Three of the four swimmers train year-round through club pro-

grams. Klaasen and Liliana Haladjian swim with Pointe Aquatics in the summer. Paige Moutard competes with USSC Swimming, and Greta Fidler, a bas-

ketball player by trade, brings a strong breaststroke from her time swimming for Detroit Yacht Club.

The Knights are aiming for the Wayne County meet on October 4th, with hopes of sending all four swimmers.

Moutard and Haladjian both competed at states last season and are expected to return. The team will celebrate senior night Oct. 9 against Lake Shore. Beland says the big-

gest challenges are the limited roster and lack of shared practice time, but she is confident in the individual skill and their ability to gel as a team this season.

"They really get how important it is to be a part of the team and what difference that makes in personal performance and will come together ready to gel and will aim to get another relay to state finals."

The Knights begin the season Sept. 9 in a meet at Grosse Pointe North.



2025 Fall Sports Previews ▶▶

Boys Soccer

Blue Devils boys soccer ready to go all-in on new culture

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Everything building up to this fall season for the Grosse Pointe South

varsity boys soccer team has been defined by change. A new head coach, a new division and a largely overhauled roster after graduating

more than a dozen seniors from last year's team have the Blue Devils ready to begin a new era in 2025.

Taking over the helm

of the Blue Devils this season is Joe Cada. Poker fans might know Cada from his 2009 World Series of Poker Main Event victory or his four WSOP Bracelet wins. He also has spent the past few years as a varsity assistant coach and JV head coach for South soccer, already establishing his own culture in the program with several players who are making the step up to South's varsity roster this fall.

"Culture is very important for me and accountability is very important," Cada said, "... showing up and giving maximum effort and just keeping a good culture to continue to learn and grow."

While his players know the expectations, Cada knows there are plenty of hurdles ahead for the Blue Devils to overcome in his first season. The team lost 13 seniors from last year and now must revamp the lineup with players who have some varsity experience but are going to be looked on to step into major roles.

Additionally, South is moving up to the MAC Red Division this fall after winning the MAC White Division in 2024. The MAC Red has not been kind to the team in recent years, as the Blue Devils finished last in the division in 2022 and 2023, while winning just one division game over those two years. Despite the adversity of playing in a more competitive division with a less experienced team, the Blue Devils are confident they will surprise some people with just how much fight they have.

"It's going to be a big challenge," Cada said. "We're going to have only three or four seniors starting, so we're going to have a relatively young varsity team. I've been with the boys for a month now with the captains' practices and I think we're going to be a very competitive team."

Among the few seniors who will step up to help lead the Blue Devils this fall are midfielders Camden Bartalino and Jonah Bukovec. Junior

forward Jacob Duso also is expected to play a big role, along with junior winger Hayden Drouillard.

There still might be growing pains and things to work out as the season gets into gear, but South feels confident the midfield is where its strength lies. The team's most experienced players are largely concentrated there and having that strong core with good team chemistry is what the Blue Devils think might be the key to a successful season.

"Our strength will be in the center of the midfield," Cada said. "... We're really gelling together well as a team. We don't have any personalities who clash. We had a three-night camp at Oakland and got to get the team chemistry down and the guys are buying into a new system that I'll be running."

South begins the season Friday, Aug. 15, on the road at Salem. The team's home-opener is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, against Warren Cousino.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Jonah Bukovec, pictured in a game against Fraser last season, is expected to be one of the key pieces in South's strong midfield this fall.

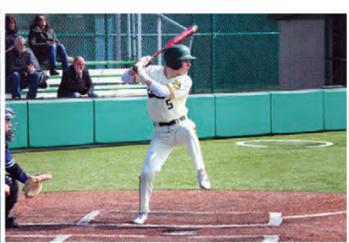
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North boys soccer returns experienced, cohesive group for 2025 campaign

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

In nearly a decade of coaching the varsity boys soccer team at Grosse Pointe North, head coach Brad VandeVorde is not sure he has ever entered a season with a team that already feels as cohesive as this fall's Norsemen squad. While a few key seniors from last year's team have graduated, North brings back a wealth of experience this fall.

The Norsemen have more than a dozen returning players from last year's varsity roster, many of whom were able to gain starting experience throughout 2024. These returning players already know the expectations set by their coaches and have had an entire offseason of growth, making them ready to come in and compete from day one. The only issue the Norsemen might face this season is the fact they have so many returning, experienced players and only so many starting spots.

"It makes it easier, but it makes it harder," VandeVorde said. "It's easier because the kids

know the standard and what we're trying to do this year and everything like that, so they're locked in. It's also kind of hard because ...

there's only so much room and you have kids trying hard to make it, but there's only so much room we can take."

Seniors like Jack Odell, Luke Leonard, Beckett Rathnaw and Alejandro Delgado make up just a few of the returning players who are going to be at the core of this year's North team. Also expected to play big roles are junior Vincenzo Bonasso and sophomore Lorenzo Dichio.

"We have a lot of peo-

ple who can take over a game," VandeVorde said. "... Anyone can just have breakouts and that's what we're really looking forward to is the chemistry these kids have. ... It's just putting the pieces together."

Chemistry is going to be key for the Norsemen this year. With the amount of skill and experience the team brings to the table, it believes it can compete in the MAC Blue Division and, it hopes, capture the district championship which has eluded it the past couple of years.

"They all played with each other last year," VandeVorde said. "... Everybody's back, so the experience and what's expected of them and the chemistry that they all have is what the biggest strengths are going to be this year."

North kicks off the 2025 season at home Friday, Aug. 15, taking on Center Line at 5:30 p.m.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Vincenzo Bonasso

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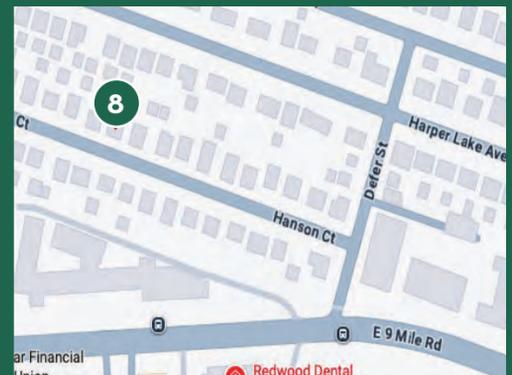
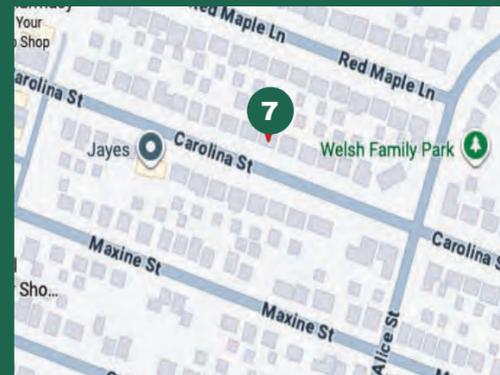
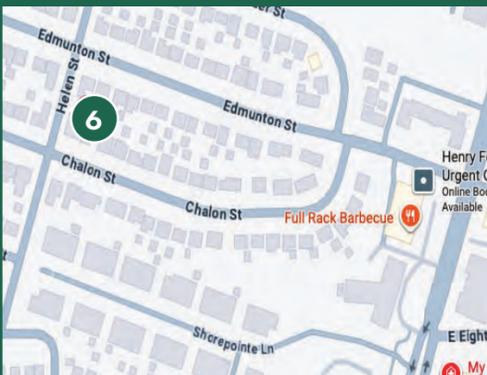
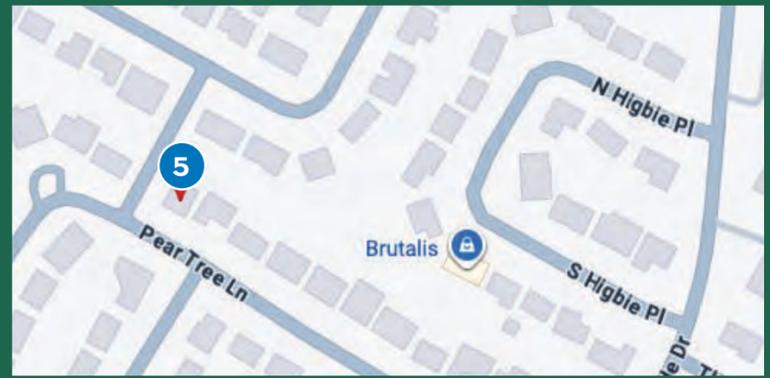
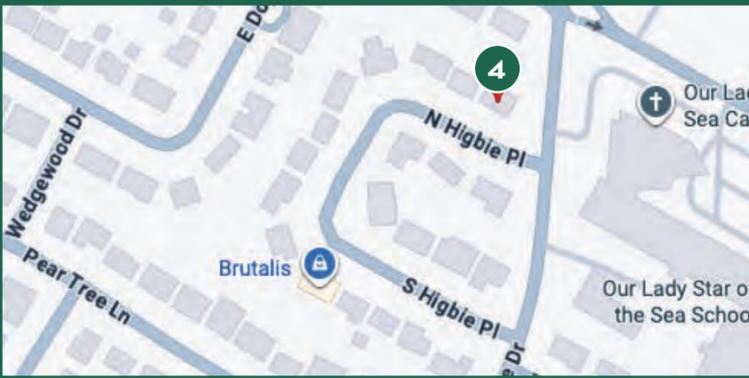
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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



- THIS WEEK**
1. 569 Neff, GPC
 2. 251 Lothrop, GPF
 3. 254 Lothrop, GPF

4. 602 Higbie Place, GPW
5. 738 Pear Tree, GPW
6. 21911 Chalon, SCS

7. 22425 Carolina, SCS
8. 22511 Hanson Ct., SCS

○ = YARD SALE ● = ESTATE SALE See Classifieds for more details

2025 Fall Sports Previews ▶▶

Girls Golf

Veteran-led South girls golf team returns focused in 2025

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

After a rebuilding year in 2024, the Grosse Pointe South girls golf team is swinging into the new season with renewed confidence and a clear target: the MAC Red title and a state tournament qualification.

“Our primary goals are to win the MAC Red and qualify the team for states,” South girls golf head coach Shaun Hampton said.

With five seniors and several juniors graduating last spring, the team now features a more balanced mix of returners and rising underclassmen ready to step up.

Leading the way is senior Lyla Hampton, a four-year varsity golfer who qualified for the state tournament as an individual last season.

“Lyla has been captain since her sophomore year,” Hampton said. “She’s matured a lot and is helping bring the team together.”

Other team captains officially will be voted on in the coming weeks, but several returning players, including Margaret Blake and Alissa Mourad, already have been putting in work this summer. Blake enters her fourth year with the team, Mourad her third, both bringing valuable experience to a group that saw rapid growth last season.

The team culture is shaping up positively, bolstered by existing relationships from other sports.

“A lot of the girls already know each other from lacrosse and hockey,” Hampton said. “It’s been a good carry-

over.”

While there’s no formal offseason training, several golfers practiced independently. The team opens play Monday, Aug. 18, at the Lady Falcon Invitational at Stony Creek Golf Course. It also faces a crucial matchup against Dakota Wednesday, Aug. 20, at Sycamore Hills Golf Club.

“Dakota is our toughest opponent,” Hampton said. “That’s going to be a great test early.”

Improvement already is evident in the returning players and with fewer powerhouse teams like Mercy in their regional this year, South sees a clearer path to states.

“We just want to get 1 percent better every day,” Hampton said. “That’s how we’ll be ready for the MAC Red tournament.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lyla Hampton enters her senior season this fall as a team captain once again for South girls golf.

Liggett prepares for inaugural girls golf season with coach Dave Robinson

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

In a historic first for University Liggett School, its fall athletics program now includes the inaugural girls golf team, led by TGA golf instructor Dave Robinson.

A Liggett grandfather and longtime coach, Robinson brings passion

and experience to his volunteer efforts.

“My granddaughter is a golf student at Liggett,” Robinson shared. “This is a volunteer role, but I’m thrilled to launch this team and create an excellent introductory experience.”

Robinson’s first goal—build a strong, welcoming foundation for everyone involved. Since

there’s no returning team, captains and leadership structures are yet to emerge.

“We haven’t had our first practice yet, so leadership roles will evolve naturally as the season starts,” Robinson said.

The team culture is fresh, with coaching, bonding and growth the focus. Robinson emphasizes fun and develop-

ment over immediate results.

“Golf is a lifelong game,” he said. “My challenge will be building team bonds so the girls support each other and enjoy the sport long term.”

The team’s schedule is robust. Liggett has lined up nine dual matches and invitationals and will compete in the

Catholic League tournament, a full calendar aimed at giving players diverse, competitive experience.

Compared to no program at all last fall, Liggett girls golf already is ahead. With a growing roster of capable freshmen and a few upperclassmen ready to step up, improvement is inevitable.

Robinson’s biggest anticipated hurdle? Coaching a high school team for the first time. Yet his goal goes beyond wins: foster bonds and inspire a lifelong love of golf.

Liggett girls golf will compete in its first-ever match against Grosse Pointe North Thursday, Aug. 21, at Lochmoor Club.

North girls golf aims for focus, leadership

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

With a strong senior class and an up-and-coming junior poised to lead the team in scoring, the Grosse Pointe North girls golf team is setting its sights on steady improvement this fall season.

The Norsemen return six seniors, with Daniela Pietrowsky, Paige Martin and Kate Kasuba serving as team captains.

“Catie Kaslatas is my up-and-coming junior who will be leading the team this year in terms of scoring,” head coach James Hansinger said.

To build a successful season, the Norsemen have been trying to cultivate a team culture of independence and self-discipline. This is a mix

he hopes will keep the group competitive while also maintaining a positive atmosphere.

“(The team culture is) fun, balance and self-responsibility to get better,” Hansinger said.

Offseason work saw players taking advantage of new resources placed at Grosse Pointe North.

“We got a new golf simulator at the school, so I had several girls in over the winter and quite a few summer programs and tournaments from the girls on their own,” Hansinger said.

North’s rivalry matches against Grosse Pointe South are circled on the calendar this year for Thursday, Sept. 4, and Wednesday, Sept. 10. Entering his second year with the team, Hansinger believes

familiarity will aid in driving progress.

“This is my second year with the girls so I think we all know each other better,” he said, “and I hope my expectation for them is better known now. I expect to get better and that starts with good practices.”

The first official day of practice kicks off this week, so roster surprises still may be in store.

“I am always excited to see what freshmen show up and I have heard I have two new transfer students coming into the district,” Hansinger said. “Time will tell how the team comes together.”

North tees off for the first time this season Tuesday, Aug. 19, against Dakota at Sycamore Hills.



COURTESY PHOTO

Zanshin karate kicks it at nationals

Four Grosse Pointers from Zanshin Karate Dojo competed at the AAU Karate National Championships in Florida in July. Savannah Johnson earned a silver medal in the in sparring in the girls 14-year-old division. Her brother, Gabriel Johnson, finished fourth in the 17-year-old junior black belt division for short weapons. Michael Farnsworth placed third in short weapons kobudo in the 13-year-old junior black belt division. Morley Frahm also represented the dojo by competing in weapons and kata.

Pictured above, from left — Michael Farnsworth, Morley Frahm, Savannah Johnson and Gabriel Johnson.