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# Grosse Pointe News

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## School board may have broken state law

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education may have violated the Michigan Open Meetings Act when it met Wednesday, Aug. 13, to conduct Superintendent Andrea Tuttle's mid-year review.

The agenda for the meeting, which was removed from the district's website by Friday, Aug. 15, originally read as follows:

- ◆ Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance/roll call
- ◆ Approval of the agenda
- ◆ Motion to enter into closed session for the purpose of the superintendent's evaluation

- ◆ Motion to return to open session
- ◆ Public comments
- ◆ Adjournment

Before it was approved, the agenda was amended to place public comments in the third slot.

When the board returned to open session, Tuttle posed this question to Rod Green, a consultant

with the Michigan Association of School Boards: "As a superintendent, do I have a choice whether this meeting should have been in closed session or open session, because I wasn't given that option."

According to the OMA, public bodies may meet in closed session under narrow circumstances,

including things like discussed labor negotiations, the purchase of real estate or pending litigation.

The law also says a closed session is allowable, "To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public offi-

cer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing."

An individual requesting a closed hearing may rescind the request at any time, in which case the matter at issue must be considered after the

See LAW, page 9A

## Pool hours cut

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The elimination of morning hours for open swimming at Windmill Pointe Park signaled an unwanted curtailment of summertime fun for recreation proponents.

Ending morning hours for open swimming at the municipal pool is an unnecessary reaction to a

late-summer lifeguard shortage that should have been foreseen, according to members of the recreation commission and its city council liaison.

"What can we do to think out of the box to get ourselves enough staff to keep the pool open?" Mike Bannon, vice chairman of the commission, asked Parks and Recreation Director Chad Craig during a meeting Aug. 13.

Earlier in the month, Craig announced limited pool operations. No longer would it be open during mornings except for early lap swimming, 5:30 to 7 a.m. In partial compensation, hours were extended during evenings.

"There's more swimmers in the evening," Craig said. "It's a more die-hard group in the morning."

"So the hours shift is trying to keep the pool open when it's used most heavily?" Commission Chairman Michael Hindelang asked.

"Absolutely," Craig said.

The main problem is a lack of lifeguards. Although the city began summer with a wealth of guards mainly of high school and college age, ranks petered out as the academic year approached.

Students ditched work to fulfill obligations Craig felt it would be unreasonable or unwise to try to curtail.

"I don't want to say, 'No, you can't do this; we need you to work,' and they say they're not com-

See POOL, page 2A



A draft rendering of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation proposal to replace the baby pool at Windmill Pointe Park sans fountain.

## Baby pool rendering gets good review

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Plans for a new baby pool at Windmill Pointe Park are in their infancy.

"We are looking for the blessing of this commission to move forward with this project," Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation, told members of the recreation commission this month.

Being discussed was a rendering of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation's proposed new 12-inch-deep pool. The scope of work includes removing the current pool's central fountain ornament, the mechanical components and plumbing of which are costly for the city to maintain.

"(Construction) could take two or three phases depending on the total funds raised by the foun-

ation," Craig said.

The project is exceptional not only for the foundation's continued philanthropy, but also because the organization's members are replacing something they provided in the first place. Both the pool and fountain were foundation projects in 2008.

Craig and the recreation commissioners during their meeting Aug. 13 acknowledged the pro-

posed structure's simplicity and improved sightline due to eliminating the fountain.

"You don't have blind spots with the new pool," Commissioner Roger Basse said.

"The pool will be resurfaced, receive new coping around the perimeter, three additional 'funbrellas' will be added and the fountain will be replaced

See REVIEW, page 3A

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## GPPSS hires new CFO

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — After months of searching, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education approved hiring a new chief financial officer at its meeting Monday, Aug. 11.

The board voted unanimously to hire Andrea Agrusa, currently listed as the business manager in

Fraser Public Schools.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said it took about two weeks to convince Agrusa to take the job.

"We had to seek her out," Tuttle said. "We didn't have any applicants that met the criteria we were hoping for."

Tuttle said Sara Delgado, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, played a part, as Delgado previously was curricu-

lum director in Fraser.

Tuttle also said Agrusa has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Michigan State University and earned CFO certification in 2011 from the Michigan School Business Officials.

"She has extensive public school finance experience with over 20 years in K-12 public school settings, managing all key functions of the business office and overseeing the food service department,

See CFO, page 9A

**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



**Gabe Loper**  
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# Big finale for KA6

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — This Saturday's Kercheval After 6 street fair is expected to be the highest attended of the series.

"This tends to be the most popular of the Kercheval After 6s," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation, organizer of three Kercheval After 6 parties per summer. "I'm always excited about this one. It's a great way to finish off summer."

Saturday's event, 6 to 10 p.m. Aug. 23, on Kercheval between Wayburn and Beaconsfield, caps the season.

"I'm hoping this is the grand finale of summer," Craig said. "It's close to the start of the school

year. We got a couple great bands. They're going to be doing the Festool festival. I'm geeked for the rides this time."

## Carnival rides

Scheduled rides are Momentum Drop Tower and Frog Hopper, located at opposite ends of the four-block venue.

"Momentum Drop Tower is for the thrill seeker that goes up high and comes down fast," Craig said. "Frog Hopper is a mini-version of that. Six to eight kids can sit on a smaller ride that gives them the same feel as their parents and older siblings on the Momentum Drop at the opposite end of the event."

## Live music

Music groups also

bookend the site.

The Randy Brock Group performs on the Red Crown Stage at Beaconsfield. Brock is from St. Clair Shores. His band has opened for Journey, Ted Nugent, Eddie Money and more, according to its website, [therandybrockgroup.com](http://therandybrockgroup.com).

Funky Diesel plays live rock 'n' roll on the Zealous Root Stage near Maryland.

"Look out you rock'n rollers. The Diesel is back and ready for an evening of funky fun fabulous grooves," according to the band's posting on [allevents.in](http://allevents.in).

"Putting rides and bands at each end gets everyone moving up and down Kercheval seeing businesses they didn't realize were open," Craig said.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Park welcomes all ages to its final Kercheval After 6 event.

## Activities

◆ The dunk tank benefits the Grosse Pointe South High School dance team.

◆ Performing at 7 p.m. on the Red Crown Stage is the Mack Avenue Dance Center.

◆ The Festool Craft

Competition, noon to 8 p.m., in which teams of craftsmen compete for up to \$7,000 worth of Festool power tools by building an assigned project, is in front of Poins Hardware Group at the corner of Maryland.

◆ Little Builders work-

shop, 5 to 7 p.m. at Poins Hardware. Children build, decorate and race pinewood derby cars with tools and guidance by presenters from the hardware store.

◆ Hump Day Hot Dogs

See KA6, page 4A

# Woodworker build-off 2 to 6 p.m.

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — With a bull neck and biceps the size of yule logs, Brian Sedgeley, the head judge in this weekend's first-ever local woodworking build-off competition, is built like a block of concrete that anchors channel buoys to the bottom of rivers.

He also shaves his balding head. Naturally, Sedgeley's friends call him Curly.

"I've known him for years and he's a great guy," said Jeff Covey, regional sales manager

for Festool, maker of power tools.

Sedgeley has been a tool and application trainer at Festool for nearly 20 years.

This Saturday, Aug. 23, he'll judge Poins Hardware Group's inaugural Festool Craft Competition, noon to 8 p.m., as part of the final Kercheval After 6 street fair of summer.

"It's a timed, competitive event," Covey said.

"There's going to be 12 craftsmen on six teams," said Waref Hawasli, owner of Poins Hardware Group and premier sponsor of this

year's series of Kercheval After 6s.

Contestants posted a \$250 entry fee per team and are presented a task to complete within a time limit while viewers watch.

Possible tasks consist of building a custom wooden bench or chair, toolbox, birdhouse "with a twist," folding table, coat rack or step stool.

"They're aware it's going to be one of those items," Hawasli said. "We also might throw them a curve and have them pick out of a hat one of three tasks so they're not building the

same thing."

Competition starts at 2 p.m. under tents in front of the store on Kercheval at Maryland.

"They have a four-hour clock," Hawasli said. "From 2 to 6 p.m., they'll build. From 6 to 6:30 p.m., we'll deliberate and announce the winner."

Prizes are between \$7,000 and \$1,000 in Festool equipment.

"I believe some pretty skilled craftsmen put up money to compete," Covey said.

While competition takes place, Festool representatives put on demonstrations.

"This is 100 percent the brainchild of Waref

Hawasli," Covey said. "Even having the Festool Boutique (in the hardware store) was his baby. No one had done that before. As things unfolded, he wanted to do this build-off. We are also treating this as a customer experience event for Festool. That gives it special attention from our marketing team. I've got a bunch of Festool tools and demonstrations for anybody who wants to come by and see what we have."

Sedgeley has an interest following as the face of Festool.

Thousands of internet viewers have gotten to know him through online

tutorials and training videos.

"We work usually with social media influencers, woodworkers who are crafted individuals and have a following of 150,000 people or more," Covey said.

When Sedgeley talks, people listen. They have little choice. His voice booms and his Maine accent pierces: "lobstah," "pahk the cah" and the like.

"We're probably going to donate what the guys build to a local community initiative or potentially give them away during Kercheval After 6," Hawasli said. "We are giving craftsmen the ability to take them home, too."

son."

Pay isn't the issue. "We are competitive with the other Grosse Pointes, but from the standard across the country, we're probably a little low," Craig said.

He said it's a matter of being short about 50 cents per hour.

"I don't want residents to think it's the norm that we are going to continue to cut things back," Craig said. "We're going to do everything in our power to get back to those hours and give our residents the ample time they deserve."

Councilman Tom Caulfield, liaison to the commission, brought up the issue with City Manager Nick Sizeland during the Aug. 13 council meeting.

"I understand most of our lifeguards are teenagers and most are going back to school," Caulfield said. "We need a plan from the parks director and yourself (Sizeland), as far as what we can do instead of eliminating hours. I would like to see something come out of the administration for that."

## POOL:

Continued from page 1A

ing back because they want flexible (schedules)," he said.

"(For) all of us who have had staff to manage and talked people into working on Christmas and all kinds of things,

this is part of the management process," Commissioner Howard Bouton countered.

"Staffing challenges aren't going to get better," Commissioner Paul Spratt added.

## More time off

Craig cited a staffing shortage due to life-

guards engaging in fall school sports when he posted a notice Aug. 4, implementing reduced pool hours through the end of the summer season.

"Due to the staff's availability, even if we get a few more lifeguards, I'm not sure that will change entirely," Craig said. "That might allow us to give some staff members another rest day rather than working a significant number of days and getting one rest day. We might bring two or three more lifeguards that will allow current staff members to have two rest days closer together."

"I'm surprised this is a surprise," Bouton said.

"These guys are asked when they (interview for the job) when they're leaving, right? In our last (commission) meeting, we had no idea this was coming. Now, we have residents calling us — calling me, anyway — mad about it."

"Any item that limits residents' access to the most important thing we provide needs to go right to the top of the list," Spratt said.

"We're going to try to see if we can extend morning lap swim and get those who like 7 to 9 a.m. more swim time during that period," Craig said. "And also try to see if we can find a couple days throughout the week to change or extend hours. Right

now, the challenge is we don't have staff."

"What can we do proactively to reverse things?" Bannon asked. "This is not a good strategy to just trade pool hours. Do we have outreach? Are we taking our youth swim teams and paying for them to get lifeguard certification?"

"We are going to start the recruiting process earlier," Craig said. "The beginning of the year is when we're going to start to hammer that so we can have interviews conducted by February and have staff in place earlier in the season. Getting more college-age lifeguards will allow us to open earlier in mornings and the sea-



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# Rewarding work

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK**  
— Employees got the job

done during the first city picnic in years. Staff members from all departments located in various parts of the city

convened Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 13, for barbecue and lawn games at the Tompkins Community Center,



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Among attendees of the Grosse Pointe Park employee appreciation picnic Wednesday, Aug. 13, are, clockwise from left, Lauren Hurt, treasury department; Jaime Ferszt, municipal court administrator; Linnae Bellaver, municipal court warrant and civil clerk; Diane MacConnachie, finance department; Kelly Poirier, water billing and assistant to the public works director; Dalya Benyamen, finance department and member of the Wayne State accounting curriculum dean's list; and Marta Aguilera, 35-year administrator of the public safety department.

Windmill Pointe Park. "It's about camaraderie," said Kelly Poirier, of the water billing department and assistant to the public works director. "People who don't necessarily see or speak with each other on a daily basis can interact. This builds cohesiveness as a city. We work hard, but you want to have good times as well."

Many attendees wore oversized hats and novelty sunglasses issued at the door. "There's nothing more important than team culture," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "If you don't have a strong team, you don't get results. The team with heart, spirit and professionalism gets stuff done."

City hall was closed during the event, which didn't cost the city out-of-pocket expenses. "This is all through sponsorships," said Nick Sizeland, city manager, about the fried chicken, soft drinks, golf simulator, yard pong, axe throwing and more.

"We sent letters to our

See WORK, page 5A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fireworks light up the night sky over Lake St. Clair during a past End of Summer Bash.

## End of Summer Bash set for end of August

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The end of summer vacation may be here, but the Farms isn't letting go of summer without one final hurrah.

The annual End of Summer Bash takes place at Pier Park all day Saturday, Aug. 30, and will encompass the familiar festivities residents have come to know and love.

"This event is packed full of activities for everyone in the family," Parks and Recreation Director Chris Galatis noted via email. "Whether it's the fishing rodeo in the a.m., the adult pickleball tour-

nament or the live entertainment, there is something for everyone." The event this year will feature live music from two new bands: American Ages Band takes the stage from 3 to 5:30 p.m., with Persuasion Band following up from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

In addition to the Pier Park concession stand and Wares The Smoke barbecue food truck, the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club sponsors the beverage tent with drinks from Dragonmead Brewery from noon to 9 p.m.

See BASH, page 4A

## MSU to build memorial to victims of 2023 shootings

The Michigan State University Board of Trustees at its meeting Friday, Aug. 15, voted to approve a memorial honoring the victims of the February 2023 incident that left three dead, including two Grosse Pointe Public School System alumni.

Dubbed the "Feb. 13 Permanent Memorial," the project is expected to cost \$3.2 million. It



RENDERING COURTESY OF MSU

See MSU, page 5A

## REVIEW:

Continued from page 1A

with water sensory features," Craig said.

"Sensory features" in this case is industry-speak for doodads that spray or dump buckets of water.

A draft rendering of the completed facility showcases columns of pipes from which water squirts, drops and splashes. The main feature is a 6-foot-tall light-house that sprays water from the top.

"Some of the water features might come a fiscal

year or two down the road depending on (how much funds foundation members) raise," Craig said. "We've had discussions with city administration that there might be one or two features we budget as well."

The manufacturer of the features, Rain Drop Fountain of Ashland, Ohio, reportedly assured Craig that none of the features present visual obstructions. Nor are they things upon which children can normally climb and, fate being what it is, fall off into shallow water and hurt themselves.

"Everything they design is too wide to wrap around and climb up or too skinny and narrow to climb on comfortably," Craig said. "That was a discussion I had with the company to discourage that."

He said he also consulted a sampling of residents about the design.

"I had a discussion with about 15 families," Craig said. "They were in favor of it. They had concerns about things being climbed on."

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## The Week Ahead

### TUESDAY, AUG. 26

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, AUG. 28

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

### SATURDAY, AUG. 30

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms End of Summer Bash, all day at Pier Park. For Farms residents and up to two guests per park pass.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon at Kercheval and Lakepointe.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# Former Norseman making his mark in media

By Mike Adzima  
Staff Writer

As he enters his senior year at Wayne State University, Gabe Loper's passion and excitement for journalism is rooted at home in Grosse Pointe and in his time at Grosse Pointe North High School. From growing up watching local news practically every day to becoming involved in student journalism, Loper already has been building quite the resume by taking advantage of any opportunities that come along.

Loper, who graduated from North in 2022, quickly gained an interest in news and sports reporting just from watching the local news at home on a daily basis. He began his journey into the field at North wanting to be a writer. However, once he had the chance to explore the world of broadcasting, he quickly became a natural.

"When I decided I wanted to do journalism when I was a sophomore in high school, I wanted to do print journalism," Loper said. "What turned things around was in my senior year when I took the broadcast production class. ... I always had teachers and stuff coming up to me after being on the Norsemen News and telling me I had a good broadcast voice."

Now Loper may be found on the airwaves in many different places. He has worked with WJR as a commentator for high school football broadcasts and also has been a regular feature both on the air and behind the scenes with the show "Open Mic by SportsCaster," which airs Wednesdays on WJR.

On "Open Mic," Loper



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, Grosse Pointe North alumnus and current Wayne State University senior Gabe Loper, left, with McLaren Racing CEO Zak Brown during the Detroit Grand Prix. Right, Loper on the air during the WJR and SportsCaster show, "Open Mic."

works alongside FanDuel Sports Network's Johnny Kane, who has become one of his many local media mentors. Another major figure in Loper's journalism journey has been former WXYZ-TV Channel 7 sports reporter Justin Rose, who helped open the door to many opportunities for Loper, such as the chance to get on the air at WJR.

"The No. 1 guy for me has been Justin Rose, the former sports anchor at WXYZ," Loper said. "I always watched him and his sports segment and had seen his work often. ... He did a story at Grosse Pointe North on one of

our track athletes and he interviewed some of his teammates, including myself. ... That was cool because I got to do an interview and be on TV with this person that I see on the news all the time. ... He's the one who has helped get me set up with a bunch of broadcasting stuff."

Wayne State journalism program director Elizabeth Stoycheff, Ph.D., also played a key role in helping Loper explore the world of media. Loper credits Stoycheff, one of his biggest mentors in the classroom, with helping him find one of his favorite experiences yet — working as an intern at this year's Indycar



Detroit Grand Prix.

"My first love has always been motorsports," Loper said. "... Being in the paddock for the Detroit Grand Prix was one of the coolest experiences. ... I mentioned wanting to do something in the field of motorsports at the beginning of the semester and (Stoycheff) reached out to me and told me there's an internship opportunity with the Grand Prix. ... It was more public relations-related stuff and promotions and a lot of marketing. ... It was really cool being behind the scenes and up close

and personal with not only the cars, but the people running the teams."

The experience in public relations could prove especially valuable to Loper as he plans to finish his senior year with degrees in both PR and journalism. Loper knows being behind the scenes rather than on the air may open up new doors to new skills and opportunities.

He is eager to take whatever chances come his way to gain experience. That is how many in the media field have gotten their big break before and Loper hopes

it could be the same for him. His focus before the beginning of the semester is to finish his studies strong and stay open to whatever experiences could be next.

"When I'm done, I want to have open doors," he said. "I don't want there to be a very narrow doorway that I have to hit right on the head to get through. I know that it's going to be a steady climb and some days will be easy and some days will be hard to move up. ... As the next 365 days progress, I think I just want to present myself as available to whatever opportunities arise."

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## BASH:

Continued from page 3A

The main draw of the event, the fireworks show, is scheduled to begin at dusk, around 9 p.m. The approximately 23-minute display is set off from a barge on Lake St. Clair and costs the city \$32,500 to pull off.

"We're going for small shells, so 6-inch is the biggest shell, but we're get-

ting a substantial amount of more shells," Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Derrick Kozicki said in June, when city council approved the expense. "It's less of the giant shells going off, but it's nonstop, so it's a little different than the previous year."

The full schedule of activities at End of Summer Bash is as follows:

- ◆ 8 a.m. check in for fishing rodeo
- ◆ 9 to 10:30 a.m. fishing rodeo
- ◆ 10 a.m. adult pickleball tournament presented by the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation
- ◆ noon to 3 p.m. face painting, bounce houses, rock climbing wall
- ◆ 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. magic shows
- ◆ 3 to 6 p.m. cornhole tournament
- ◆ dusk fireworks

— Laurel Kraus

## Grosse Pointe News

USPS 230-400

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## KA6:

Continued from page 2A

— free hot dogs 5 to 6 p.m. from Pointe Hardware.

### Sponsors

Diamond sponsor of all KA6s this year was Pointe Hardware Group.

"We're looking forward to continuing to be a sponsor for years to come," said Waref Hawasli, store owner. "Chad and the city do a phenomenal job for that event. You can see how much effort they put into it. The last two in June and July went off really smoothly. Tons of people. Very, very busy. A wonderful community event. We're going to be introducing Little Scoops, which is my daughter's ice cream stand."

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## City of Grosse Pointe

## Two down

The second of three suspects — a 19-year-old Detroit woman — in a late-July theft from a Village clothing store was identified and arrested at her home last week.

As the third suspect still is being sought, the investigation is ongoing.

## Red means stop

After driving through a red light at Mack and Rivard at 10:50 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, a 29-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for intoxication.

## Wine thief

A box of wine and other items were stolen from a business in the 17000 block of Mack at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16.

The suspect — a 5-foot, 3-inch, 180-pound black woman — left in a black Charger and is known to the store as a past retail fraud suspect.

— Laurel Kraus

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

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Breadcrumbs

Winthrop homeowners discovered their unlocked car was broken into overnight when their neighbor's son showed up the next morning to return credit cards and a driver's license he found strewn across his driveway.

The theft occurred between 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, and 10 a.m. the next morning.

Still missing are two expensive pairs of sunglasses and \$10 in coins.

## MSU:

Continued from page 3A

will be located at an existing fountain at the school's Old Horticulture Gardens and include benches and vegetation.

"The permanent memorial will serve as a lasting place of reflection to memorialize, honor and remember those we lost and those

## WORK:

Continued from page 3A

contractors," said City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler, picnic organizer. "The response was amazing. We ended up getting enough money for a picnic and we believe we'll be able to do a Christmas party with that money as well."

Sponsors consisted of municipal vendors and contractors: Bradford Glass, Bluewater Environmental, Cowles Environmental, DeLude Construction, DSE, McGraw Morris law firm, Neighborhood Masonry Specialists, engineering consultants OHM Advisors, Super Construction, Brosnan Builders and the auditing firm of Yeo & Yeo.

"We do a lot of work

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

## Snoozing

A 43-year-old Detroit man was reported for being asleep behind the wheel at Lakeshore and Cherryhurst at 1:51 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12.

After failing field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test result of 0.15 percent, the man was arrested for his third offense of operating while intoxicated.

## Bikes stolen

Two bikes were stolen from an unlocked shed in the 400 block of Moross between 2:25 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, and 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12.

## Hit &amp; run

The driver of a white Buick Enclave fled the scene after shifting into another lane on Mack and hitting the front portion of a truck at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12.

The driver of the truck described the suspect as an older white woman who had a small white dog on her lap.

## Bad choice

A 40-year-old Woods man decided to run a solid red light on Chalfonte at Moross directly in front of a lieutenant at 10:41 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13.

He received citations for driving with a suspended license and an improper plate.

## Unlocked

Thefts occurred from three unlocked vehicles — one of them a Jeep with no doors on it — during the early morning hours of Thursday, Aug. 14.

affected by the February 13, 2023, tragedy," the university said.

A gunman the night of Feb. 13, 2023, shot eight people on campus before killing himself. Arielle Anderson, a 2021 graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School, and Brian Fraser, a 2021 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, were among three students who died of their injuries.

in Grosse Pointe Park," said Nichole Shier, owner of Neighborhood Masonry Specialists. "I have a passion for restoration of historical homes. There are a lot of really beautiful homes in the Park; all the stonework and beautiful things they have here."

"It is my understanding that an employee picnic hadn't happened in the Park for many years," Sizeland said. "Hats off to Bridgette. She planned this working with the finance department, setting up donations and all the generous sponsors."

"You can see this team is functioning well together and building relationships and spirit," Hodges said. "That bodes well for the future of Grosse Pointe Park."

The first two occurred from a driveway in the 100 block of Moran, where two Jeeps were rummaged through but nothing of significance was taken.

Nor was anything of significant value taken from the vehicle parked in the 100 block of Merriweather, where the owner watched surveillance footage of a white man riding a blue mountain bike going through her vehicle.

## Drunken

A 74-year-old Shores man was read his rights for driving drunk to an ATM on Moross at 11:22 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14.

A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol content to be 0.183 percent.

## Locked

Approximately \$10 in cash was stolen from a vehicle in the 100 block of Beaupre between 11 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, and Thursday, Aug. 14.

The vehicle has a feature that ensures it automatically locks after two minutes when the vehicle is not in use.

## House fire

A small house fire on Windemere Place at 1:57 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15, was contained to a couple square feet of burnt wood floor in a single room.

The home was unoccupied and under renovation.

## Fearmongering

A 31-year-old Detroit man was arrested for chasing a woman from the bus stop at Mack and Moross while screaming

he would shoot her at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15.

The woman told officers she did not know the man.

## Cocaine

A 26-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for cocaine possession at 6:16 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, after the vehicle in which she was a passenger was pulled over at Mack and Moross for an expired plate.

— Laurel Kraus

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Contractors nailed

An unknown thief or team of perpetrators targeted two contractors last week, stealing power tools from their work vehicles.

Between 3:10 and 3:25 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, in the 1000 block of Audubon, \$3,500 worth of tools and equipment were stolen from an open trailer parked in the roadway.

"(The victim) went in a backyard for a few minutes, came back and found tools missing," according to police.

Gone were multiple Dewalt tools, impact hammers, drills, a framing gun, saws and batteries.

Also reported that day, but occurring sometime after 3 p.m. the day before, someone took a 14-inch Stihl concrete saw from the bed of a pickup truck parked near Beaconsfield and Mack.

The saw is valued at \$1,600.

## Speeders

Driving 52 mph in a 30-mph zone is no way to sneak through town.

It makes as much sense as the guy who stored his life savings in a mattress.

Why not put it in a strong box? a banker asked him.

Because my feet would hang over the edge, he said.

A patrolman pulled over the speeding motorist, a 22-year-old woman of unspecified residence, on Mack Avenue near Alter Road at 10:27 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16.

Police arrested her for violating a suspended operator's license, speeding and lacking proof of auto insurance.

An hour later at the same intersection, police stopped another motorist for nearly identical reasons.

A patrolman arrested a 30-year-old man of unspecified residence for speeding 48 mph and lacking proof of insurance.

## Failed theft

While one patrolman was arresting an unlicensed speeder on Mack at 11:28 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, above, a fellow officer was taking the report of an attempted

car theft in the 1100 block of Maryland.

Sometime after 11 p.m. the night before, someone broke out the rear window of a 2011 Hyundai Sonata parked on the block and damaged the steering column in a failed effort to drive off with it.

— 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.

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Not cool

A homeowner in the 2100 block of Roslyn believes contractors doing work inside the home stole a refrigerator worth \$1,500 some time overnight into Thursday, Aug. 14.

— Ted O'Neil

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



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# POINTES OF VIEW

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

## Grosse Pointe News

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### OUR VIEW

## Hurry up and wait

That is the position the Grosse Pointe Public School System and every other public school district in the state finds itself in as the Michigan Legislature continues to play games with the state's 2025-26 fiscal year budget.

Observers of the GPPSS Board of Education — both casual and intense — know its meetings can be fraught with acrimony and strife. Now, just imagine that multiplied by a little more than 21. While there are seven board members, there are 148 legislators, including 110 Representatives and 38 Senators.

They are at an impasse thus far regarding the new fiscal year budget, which for the state begins Oct. 1. The Michigan Constitution requires a balanced budget be in place by that date.

On that note, the next time you hear a Michigan governor running for reelection (which at this point will not happen until 2030 at the earliest) tout as an accomplishment that they “balanced the budget four years in a row!” just keep in mind that they had no choice but to. The state Constitution requires it. It is not as if they jumped into a phone booth — anyone born after 2000, ask a parent — threw on a cape and miraculously saved the day.

Reminds us of an old joke: All politicians should serve two terms. One in office and one in prison.

But back to the budget.

The process is difficult for school districts and municipalities alike because their fiscal years run July 1 to June 30. Cities, counties, townships and even villages have to craft their budgets without knowing exactly how much they might get in revenue sharing, road funding and other grants.

For public schools, it means not knowing the foundation allowance — commonly called per-pupil funding — they will get for the coming school year.

GPPSS Superintendent Andrea Tuttle has said numerous times it makes crafting a new budget a guessing game. The same is true of enrollment numbers. The state uses what is called a “blended count” to determine how many full-time equivalent students attend a particular school district. It is weighted using 90 percent of the fall count day, the first Wednesday in October, and 10 percent of the previous spring count day, the second Wednesday in February.

Typically, Michigan's governor introduces his or her proposed budget first. The House and Senate then propose their separate budgets, then they all gather in the corner of the Capitol and pitch pennies to see who wins.

This year, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer proposed increasing the per-pupil allowance by \$398, which districts then plugged into their 2025-26 fiscal year budgets. But that does not mean that will be the final number. It could actually end up being \$0.

Last year, Whitmer proposed a \$241 increase in the foundation allowance. School districts ran with it, only to be tripped from behind by Lansing. It was the first time in a decade the foundation allowance did not increase.

To be fair, however, the legislature did offset that somewhat by decreasing the amount of pay-



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Pure Grosse Pointe

There may be found a peace that passes all understanding while peering out from the front steps of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. The cool blue water and artful clouds, accented by rows of bright flowers flanked by stone columns, creates a stunning vision on a sunny day.

roll districts had to contribute to the school employee retirement fund and by increasing what are called categorical grants, money that goes to specific functions such as literacy or special education.

Usually, the House and Senate approve general appropriation budgets for specific functions, such as education, by July 1. In fact, state law requires they do so. Guess what? They have yet to do so.

Pretty nifty trick, huh? Creating a law you can break and making sure there are no penalties for breaking it. Talk about the fox guarding the hen house.

Making things more difficult is the fact the Senate is under Democratic control and the House Republican control. Each is blaming the other of playing politics, bowing to special interests and grandstanding. Perhaps they should read “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten.” Or be given detention.

One uncertainty the process is causing, although it is not much of an issue here in the Pointes, is where the money will come from to pay for the “free” breakfasts and lunches for students. Think about that level of gaslighting for a minute. Using tax-payer dollars to pay for something and calling it “free!” That is like when George Carlin said if you read a self-help book, it is not self help.

Some school districts, such as Okemos outside of Lansing, have announced they will start charging for meals to start the new school year. The Michigan Department of Education is recommending districts not do that through Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year, when the tax-payer dollars paying for the meals run out.

Whitmer's overall budget is \$83.5 billion. The Senate's budget came in at \$84.6 billion. The House did pass a school aid budget of \$21.9 billion, including a \$417 bump in per-pupil funding, but has yet to pass a full budget.

It is time for the House and Senate to work together and get a new state budget in place as soon as possible, particularly as it pertains to school funding. That is particularly important to GPPSS so the district can continue to build on the success of the 2024-25 fiscal year budget, which ended with a \$5.4 million surplus.

Call Sen. Kevin Hertel at (517) 373-7315 and Rep. Veronica Paiz at (517) 373-0857 and tell them to get this accomplished.

## LETTERS

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

### Just the facts

#### To the Editor:

A community newspaper that takes pride in winning awards for reporting should not try to create a scandal where there is none; should not try to rile people up.

The facts are that a couple lived in house A and claimed a Principal Residence Exemption for it. In the process of buying house B, they claimed a PRE for this house. So during the period of time that they own the two houses, they claimed PRE for both. Both houses are presumptively to be used as primary residences, the state will receive its same amount of taxes. Who owns what share of which taxes will theoretically be divided up at closing of sale with the purchase of house A.

The only obvious problem is that they had not rescinded the PRE on house A before claiming it on house B. This hardly seems like a situation that calls for the huge article that you ran in last week's paper.

BARBARA J. TERANES  
Grosse Pointe Woods

### Frustrated driver

#### To the Editor:

Since moving to Grosse Pointe Farms three years ago, I have been frustrated by the stretch of Moross Road from Mack Avenue to Chalfonte Avenue. As far as I can tell, east of Mack Avenue, the road should be a one-lane road on either side; however, many people seem to treat this as a two-lane road.

I would recommend that we either treat it as a one-lane road or properly mark the lanes in this segment, perhaps with a turn lane onto Chalfonte Avenue. To do otherwise will remain frustrating and potentially dangerous.

CORBIN CLEARY  
Grosse Pointe Farms

### Why the locks?

#### To the Editor:

Why are the gates to the Grosse Pointe South football field/track locked on the weekend? Many families, kids and weekend athletes would love to use this space without having to hop the fence or walk around the school building and enter via the gate by the football concession stand.

During the week, the gate near St. Paul

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### GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

August 21 - 27



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
83° 63°	84° 64°	86° 61°	78° 56°	75° 55°	75° 54°	71° 71°
Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Chance T-Storms	Clear
0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 6:45 am SUNSET 8:25 pm	SUNRISE 6:46 am SUNSET 8:23 pm	SUNRISE 6:47 am SUNSET 8:22 pm	SUNRISE 6:48 am SUNSET 8:20 pm	SUNRISE 6:49 am SUNSET 8:18 pm	SUNRISE 6:50 am SUNSET 8:17 pm	SUNRISE 6:52 am SUNSET 8:15 pm

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



# I figured it out

Not a lot to "I Say" about.

One thing did come up, however. Nothing important, but somewhat interesting to me.

It answered a question I've had about myself for years.

You see, I'm pretty good at maintaining a normal expression while looking at someone and thinking, "Oh, shut up." It's more like, "OOH, shaddUPP."

Where did that come from, I've wondered once in a while.

A likely answer presented itself to me recently while watching a favorite movie from childhood, "The Absent-Minded Professor."

The movie, a Disney production, is about Medfield College of Technology Professor Ned Brainard's explosive creation of flubber, or flying rubber. Flubber has a net gain of energy as it bounces, always building in height and velocity in the fashion of perpetual motion.

Brainard's patient fiancé, Betsy, always forgives him for forgetting to attend their wedding ceremony. His absent mindedness is an important element of the chemistry professor's charm.

She, meanwhile — and this leads to answering the shut up question — is pursued by Professor Brainard's rival, overbearing English professor Shelby Ashton of nasty Rutland College. Rutland reportedly pays its basketball players more than its English professors. Ashton says that's not true. He says he makes more than a player.

Ashton is a perpetual motion machine in his own right. He's constantly spouting a never-ending string of pompous quotes of Shakespeare and others. All, admittedly, are within context. But Ashton speaks, it seems, mainly for others to hear him do so, not to converse.

Close to the end of the movie, Betsy has had it with Ashton to an even greater degree than she realizes her commitment to Professor

Brainard. "OOH, shaddUPP," she tells Shelby midway through another quotation.

I think that's where I got it.

Which reminds me of the best thing about wearing a face mask during the COVID, from China, pandemic.

It was cowardly, sure, but kind of fun to be able to mouth and mutter insults at people without my lips being read or voice heard.

Earning my wrath in particular were slow people clogging grocery store aisles. Slow people at checkout counters. Slow people at bottle returns. Slow people exiting stores and stopping in the doorway.

I'd mumble from behind the protection of my mask for people to get out of my way at the grocery store.

It turned out that the mask I wore provided no protection against COVID and had no bearing on protecting my health.

But, the cover it offered my insults wound up making me a better person, though, because after a while I didn't want to be some-

one scowling from under a mask telling people to get out of the way. It's not gentlemanly.

"It is almost a definition of a gentleman to say that he is one who never inflicts pain," Cardinal John Henry Newman wrote in the essay, "The Gentleman," contained in my seventh-grade reader.

In that same volume appeared Newman's essay, "The Educated Man."

In it, Newman explains the role of a university.

"A university does not promise a generation of Artistotles," the essay reads.

"It is the education which gives a man a clear conscious view of his own opinions and ... teaches him to see things as they are, to get right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophistical and to discard what is irrelevant."

Newman's definition presents the probability of him having the habit of maintaining a normal expression while looking at someone and thinking, "OOH, shaddUPP."



Junior Mayor John "Tripp" Studstill III and Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak Monday, Aug. 18.

PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

## City's junior mayor takes an active role

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — About two months into his role as the City's first-ever junior mayor, John "Tripp" Studstill III has been busy.

On the cusp of 12 years old, he represented the City during the multi-community Juneteenth event in Harper Woods, introduced Mainstream Drive at the final Music on the Plaza this summer, took part in last week's ribbon-cutting

ceremony for new Village business Pointelle, made himself available for future volunteer opportunities while attending a recent Main Street Grosse Pointe board meeting and, Monday night, gave a formal introduction to city council.

"So far being a junior mayor was really fun and I've had an amazing time," Studstill said, addressing the crowd. "Everybody here has been amazing help, sup-

See ROLE, page 8A

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1950

75 years ago this week

**PARENTS SPLIT IN SCHOOL FIGHT:** The lively ruckus that has been raised by parents of Grade 1 and Grade 2 school children in the Mason and Vernier schools has been settled but not with the wholehearted cooperation of the parents with the School Board. The issue was against having half-day sessions for the children in these grades during the coming school year.

**NEW GROUP FORMED TO TACKLE PROBLEM PLAGUING GP CITY:** Grosse Pointe City has recently set up what might be called a Parking-Traffic Authority which is to make a scientific study of the problem within its own limits and as it relates to the whole Grosse Pointe community and its surrounding area. Named on this committee or authority at the present time are John L. Kenower, Clarence A. Blessed, Chief of Police Tom Trombly and City Clerk Norbert P. Neff.

**CONTRACTS LET FOR SCHOOL ON COOK RD.:** The bids for the Cook Road school, hereafter to be known as the John Monteith School, were opened at the meeting of the Board of Education on Aug. 9, and contracts were for-

mally awarded at a special meeting Aug. 11. The contract for the general construction was awarded to the O. W. Burke Company at \$1,074,000.

### 1975

50 years ago this week

**SCHOOLS SCORE BIG WIN:** The State Board of Education voted to deny the proposed transfer of a portion of the Grosse Pointe school district to the Harper Woods school district. The transfer would have involved 1,119 students who live in that portion of the Grosse Pointe school district which is located in Harper Woods. This includes students from Poupard Elementary, Parcels Middle and North High schools and about \$1 million of annual tax revenues.

**BIG DEBT DISCHARGED BY SEMTA:** SEMTA (Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority) honored its commitment on Aug. 14, to repay the five Pointe communities and St. Clair Shores for their 1971 assistance in the purchase of the Lake Shore Bus Lines, now the SEMTA Lake Shore Division. The receipt of Federal assistance funds earlier this month enabled SEMTA to pay

off the \$78,000 obligation.

**PLAN TO CHANGE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE:** Construction will soon begin on the Fisher Road entrance to South High School according to a plan that calls for a gradual slope from the building to the sidewalk, eliminating the existing steps, creating a more direct pedestrian traffic pattern on the grounds, a circular planting area for trees, fencing along the parking area and planting of shrubs. Students will be able to enter the building from three directions which, as present wear indicates, are popular choices by students.

### 2000

25 years ago this week

**BOARD NAMES MAIRE PRINCIPAL:** Maire Elementary School will begin the new school year with a new principal. Kathleen Satut comes to Maire from the Eton Academy in Birmingham where she was the director of the lower school for six years.

**THE DEATH OF EASTLAND CENTER HAS BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED:** Rumors are running deep in the community about the fate of the Eastland Center Mall: It's going to

close, Hudson's is leaving, Blue Cross is buying the property, it will be turned into apartments, condos, a nursing home or, believe it or not, a yacht club "It is all untrue. None of that is going to happen," says Eastland Center general manager Rita Similides-Nelson emphatically.

**FARMS COUNCIL DELAYS DECISION ON PROPOSED HILL CONSTRUCTION:** Developer Richard E. Russell was ready Monday night to present a plan that would bring a new building to the Hill shopping district in Grosse Pointe Farms. But the Farms council decided to delay hearing his proposition until everyone who wanted to comment on the proposal could attend the hearing. It is the latest delay in a series that began in February 1999.

### 2015

10 years ago this week

**VILLAGE MARKET TO EXPAND:** At Village

Food Market on Mack Avenue, where the slogan on the voicemail system is, "The fun is in the browsing," the pickings are going to be greater come spring. Owner Mark Garmo plans a major expansion into neighboring property. The forthcoming 11,000-square-foot market, which is more than 50 percent larger than the present building, is designed with greater room for customers at the butcher counter, shelf space for a wider selection of products and work area for two chefs.

**CENTRAL LIBRARY**

**REDESIGN ON THE HORIZON:** The Grosse Pointe Library's Central Branch has waited eight long years to see some changes. In 2007, the library began working with an architect for a redesign that involved 40,000 square feet and \$24 million. "Then the economy tanked and we gave up on the redesign," said Vickey Bloom, executive director. But times have changed and library administration decided to form a committee to discuss how they could change the look of the library without it costing an arm and a leg.

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

and Fisher is unlocked, but Saturday and Sunday the field/track is not readily accessible. I've spoken to a variety of people that don't understand why a resource encouraging fitness and family

time is not encouraged by the school system.

When I brought this issue to the school, I was told the field is locked to deter vandalism. That hardly seems an adequate reason due to low fences by the library and parking lot and by the softball field. If mischief makers want to destroy

something, they will find a way.

In the meantime, open the gates and allow joggers, soccer players, weekend warriors and families to enjoy spending time outside before the snow and cold weather drives us inside.

DAVID STEVENSON  
Grosse Pointe Farms

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# Engineers in lead to write P&R master plan

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The front-running bidder to draft the parks and recreation master plan leads the way in every category except price.

OHM Advisors, a consulting firm already providing engineering services to the Park, submitted the third lowest among seven bidders to provide the city its first, five-year vision for the growth and development of recreation department facilities and program offerings.

Overall bids ranged from \$14,600 to \$95,575. OHM submitted \$30,000.

“If they come in too low, there’s a reason they’re

coming in too low,” said Chad Craig, recreation director. “If they come in too high, it might not be something they care much about.”

Only three of the seven total bidders rated positive points on the city’s evaluation scale.

OHM’s technical perspective impressed members of the recreation commission during an Aug. 13 meeting at which they voted unanimously to recommend the city council retain the firm.

“I was pleasantly surprised to see OHM on here,” Commissioner Howard Bouton said of the list of bidders. “We’ll probably get better work because they do so much work with the city.”

“What caught me is (OHM’s inclusion of) an asset inventory and assessment with life cycle condition analysis,” Craig said.

“I will be recommending OHM to city council for the recreation master plan,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “The city administration reviewed the proposals. While the other firms are qualified and good, OHM has the expertise of Grosse Pointe Park. They have the most comprehensive proposal.”

The Park’s purpose in seeking a recreation master plan is oriented toward managing the department’s assets, unlike many communities, according to Sizeland.

“What I was looking

for, and OHM was the only one that wrote it this way, was more of an asset management plan,” Sizeland said. “Most communities are writing recreation master plans to qualify for Department of Natural Resources grants. We are not eligible for DNR grants, so, most often, a community will get the plan and let it sit on the shelf until they need compliance with the DNR. We, on the other hand, have to use it as a tool to understand what we have in our assets and what the community wants.”

Drafting the plan should take almost eight months, according to Craig.

“I believe we’ll look to

start in October or November,” he said.

“There’s been a lot of energy from commissioners chomping at the bit on how we can start the process,” Recreation Chairman Michael Hindelang said. “Once we get them in the room, we’ll be able to start quickly.”

Craig said OHM will help guide the production timeline.

“They’re going to find things we’re looking for: extended park hours and things like that,” he said. “They’re going to go through their surveys and look over our parks and say we can add lighting, these facilities are this old, we can figure out what in the next five years we

need to address. That’s really why I want to go with OHM.”

Hindelang said commissioners may have to increase the frequency of meetings, currently scheduled bimonthly, to handle the additional work.

“There are going to be at least two town hall-type meetings where residents will be able to attend discussions about the master plan,” Craig said.

OHM representatives will attend the public meetings and assist with online outreach in the form of a survey.

“I feel confident we’ll get the kind of master plan that we want by choosing this firm,” Craig said.

## More water work, more cost

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A nearly \$2.1 million change order was approved this month for water main installation.

The change accounts for additional work at established prices for water main construction already approved but not yet concluded in the commercial district of lower Charlevoix, plus a three-block portion of Beaconsfield between Jefferson and Essex.

“Both were budgeted for and we are keeping the same contractor,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “It is a change order to the original contract for Beaconsfield done last year. Final project quantities and costs have been established following plan approval from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and

Energy and Wayne County.”

A breakdown of final costs is \$560,940 for Charlevoix and \$1,494,264.46 on Beaconsfield for a total of \$2,055,204.46.

“This is expanding on an item you saw back in April (when) we brought the general idea to the council for consideration,” Patrick Droze, principle of OHM Consultants, the city’s engineering consultants, told city council Aug. 11. “That was around the same time we brought the design proposal to the council.”

In the meantime, preparations included more design plans and getting permits in place.

“There were several items that were not in the original bid that are part of the change order,” Droze said. “This includes both south

Jefferson and a section on Charlevoix which cover areas that will be reconstructed next year as part of the streetscape project, including a water main and different sizes of water services that we’ll be inspecting on that project.”

The contractor’s terms were extended a year at original rates to allow for extra work to be completed, he said.

“Because it’s an extension, it is all budgeted,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

A new completion date was set for the end of this year, Dec. 31.

Installation of the Charlevoix main is intended for completion prior to beginning a \$4 million streetscape improvement project next summer.

Members of city council approved the change order unanimously.

— Brad Lindberg

## Woods resident appointed to state commission

By Ted O’Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Nicholas Symonette, a former Grosse Pointe Public School System employee, has been appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan School Safety and Mental Health Commission.

“The purpose is to bring together experts to recommend policies that will improve school safety and mental health support,” he said. “And not just security issues, but a holistic approach so all Michigan students have a safe and secure learning environment.”

Symonette, who spent eight years with GPPSS, is the new assistant principal at Vernor Elementary-Middle School in Detroit.

“I’ve done some work with ending gun violence and other school safety issues,” Symonette said. “I hope to bring that teacher’s voice to the conversation.”

Symonette started in GPPSS as a fifth-grade teacher at Monteith Elementary School in 2017. When fifth grade was transitioned to the middle schools, he moved to Parcels

Middle School, where he has been an academic coordinator and academic/behavioral coach the last four years.

“I think I bring a lot of things to the table as an academic/behavioral coach,” he said. “Things like a trauma-informed approach to discipline, youth resilience and teaching executive functioning.”

Symonette was nominated by state Sen. Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores.

“As our students face greater challenges than ever before, we must make a concerted effort to invest in and look after students’ safety and mental well-being,” Hertel said in a statement. “For two decades, Nicholas Symonette has been doing this critical work — giving kids the tangible skills they need to grow, learn and deal with whatever life throws their way.”

Symonette’s wife, Nafesah, was appointed by Whitmer in 2023 to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. They have a son, Nick, going into fourth grade at Mason Elementary School and a daughter, Nadyah, going into sixth grade at Parcels.

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 11, 2025

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

**ROLL CALL:** All Councilpersons were present except for Councilmember Costantino

#### MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held July 14, 2025 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Board of Review meeting held on July 22, 2025.
- 2) to Receive and File the 2024 Audit/Financial Report as submitted by the City’s Auditors, Yeo & Yeo and also receive and file their management report.
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 133000 through 133183 in the amount of \$1,131,352.40 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$23,442.00 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks and also for lawn cuttings at various residential homes that were not in compliance with the Ordinance. (3) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$29,728.87 for professional services during the month of July 2025 for the following projects: Eastland Redev, #180-244; 2025 Misc. Concrete Rep. #180-363; 2025 Joint Crack/Seal, #180-366; TAP Sidewalk Pgm. #180-349; Roscommon Pocket Park, #180-329; Miss Dig, #180-255; Temp Water Operator, #180-303; 2025 San.Temp Water Operator, #180-303; 2025 San. Sewer Cleaning, #180-365; 2025 San. Sewer FCIPP, #180-364; 2025 Storm Sewer Rep. #180-362; 2025 Sanitary Sewer Lining, #180-379; Water and Sewer Emerg Repair, #180-379; Harper GLWA Water Main Repl., #180-368; DWRP Lead Water Svc. Repl., #180-331; HWHS Football Field Clubhouse, #180-327; Harper VanAntwerp Dev, #180-313. (4) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,703.33 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of August 2025. (5) . approve payment to Oakland County in the amount of \$6,571.50 for fees relative to the CLEMIS computer system utilized by the Police Department. (6) approve payment to BS&A Software in the amount of \$13,628.00 for the annual service and support fees for the software that provides us our accounts payable, cash receipting, general ledger, utility billing, receivables, payroll and time sheet systems. (7) approve the request to purchase protective turnout gear for a fire fighter and a police officer from MacQueen in the amount of \$9,141.44. (8) approve payment to Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society (GPAAS) in the amount \$6,608.00 for the month of July 2025 as our contract with them expired on June 30, 2025. (9) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$23,190.50 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of July, for IT support services for all departments, the cabling cleanup project in City Hall and the Police Department and for the purchase of miscellaneous cables. (10) approve payment to SafeBuilt, Inc. in the amount of \$75,001.30 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of July 2025. (11) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$43,600.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (12) approve payment in the amount of \$16,300.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with a water main break, a hydrant repair and several stop box repairs.
- 2) to confirm the City Manager’s appointment of Kimberly Keogh as the City Treasurer, Maria Nawrocki, as the Finance Director, Cedric Robinson as the Deputy Finance Director and Margo Jackson as the Water Billing Manager and further to approve the individual employment contracts.
- 3) to approve the Special License application in the amount of \$50.00 to provide for the sale of liquor at the 2025 Blues in the Woods festival to be held on August 23, 2025 and further to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the application on behalf of the City.
- 4) to approve the attached Termination and Release of Easement in consideration of one dollar by NP Eastland Commerce Center Industrial, LLC of Kansas City, MO and further, to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the City.
- 5) to authorize the City Manager to accept the 2025 First Right of Refusal on one (1) residential tax foreclosed property in an amount not to exceed \$8,909.50 and further to authorize him to sign any necessary documents pertaining to the sale.
- 6) to approve the purchase of a Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck from Serra Chevrolet in the amount of \$33,834.00 for use in the fire department with the funds coming from the City’s Opioid Fund.
- 7) to accept the bid submitted by Bob Gray of Robbtronix to purchase the replacement equipment for the sound system upgrade in the City Council Chambers in an amount not to exceed \$15,250.00.
- 8) to accept the proposal submitted by Park Residential and Commercial Services in the amount of \$54,049.00 for the repairs needed to the City-owned building at 20010 Kelly Road and further that competitive bidding be waived in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 9) to accept the low bid submitted by Hartwell Cement Company of Oak Park, Michigan in the amount of \$142,262.50 for the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program.
- 10) to introduce and place for first reading an Ordinance to Regulate Virtual Currency Machines in the City of Harper Woods, and further to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 11) to approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of \$356,018.00 for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Drain from April to June 2025 and \$358,313.50 for the operation and maintenance from July to September 2025 for a total of \$714,331.50.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

## ROLE:

Continued from page 7A

port, just great people. And I’m really grateful for that, so thank you.”

His duties as junior mayor for the year are far from over.

He’ll volunteer alongside Village stakeholders during the Main Street Mini Masters miniature golf fundraiser in The Village Saturday, Sept. 20, and will march alongside junior mayors in the Park, Woods and Harper Woods during the annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

“You can look for Tripp around town and be sure to say hi,” City Manager Joe Valentine said.

Studstill goes by Tripp, short for triple, because he’s a 3rd, the preteen explained to an amused crowd in council chambers.

“When I was born, my mom always wanted to name me Angus,” he said. “Me personally right now, I do not like that name. And luckily, my dad was here to step up.”

He was selected from among other applicants, ages 10 to 13, as part of the junior mayor program intended to introduce youth into government and provide civic engagement.

“Tripp stood out as an individual who really had passion for the community and wanted to learn and get engaged in his government,” Valentine said. “He’s a very dynamic individual. We’re fortunate to have him in this capacity.”

Studstill celebrates his 12th birthday next week. “I love sports, I love video games and I really love my friends and family,” he told council.

# GPPSS paraprofessionals getting raises, bonuses

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTE** — Grosse Pointe Public School System paraprofessionals who work in certain special needs classrooms will get a raise, while others in both special and general education will get a bonus.

The Grosse Pointe Educational Paraprofessional Association recently approved a Letter of Understanding amending its contract with the district to allow for the move. The GPPSS Board of Education approved it at its meeting Monday, Aug. 11.

"I'm excited to put this forward to help our employees," said Moussa Hamka, assistant superintendent for human

resources. "This will continue to make the district more attractive and help us recruit and retain highly qualified paraprofessionals to support our students."

The LoU calls for paraprofessionals who work in autism spectrum disorder and moderate cognitive impaired classrooms to receive a raise of \$5 an hour. Other paraprofessionals will get a \$2,000 retention bonus.

The GPEPA in May rejected an LoU intended just for ASD and MoCI paraprofessionals.

"We believe that all paraprofessionals serving students with disabilities — regardless of the classroom setting — should be valued and treated as equals," Kim Manikas, president of the union, said at the time.

"Paraprofessionals working with children with disabilities in mainstream classrooms play a critical role in keeping students on track with their schoolwork, helping with adaptive learning needs and ensuring their students are given the same educational and social opportunities as other students in the class."

Money for the ASD and MoCI raises will come from Act 18 dollars dispersed by Wayne RESA, the county's intermediate school district. The money comes from Public Act 18 of 1954, which established special education in Michigan and is passed from the state through Wayne RESA to some 33 districts in the county.

"The district values our paraprofessionals and the work they

do every day to support a healthy learning environment for our students," Hamka said in May. "GPPSS remains committed to negotiating an agreement that is fair and fiscally responsible and we appreciate the union's partnership as we work through this process."

The \$2,000 bonuses will come from the district's general fund.

The Grosse Pointe Education Association and GPPSS signed an agreement in January that uses Act 18 dollars to give teachers in ASD and MoCI classrooms \$10,000 bonuses for both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. Further, those who provide support services in those classrooms, such as occupational therapists and speech therapists, receive an additional

\$4,000 each school year.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle told the board 25 people attended the district's paraprofessional hiring open house two weeks ago.

"We hired 10 people and we're still vetting some others," she said. "I'd consider that to be a huge success."

Lillie Loder, the district's executive director of student services, said before the open house GPPSS has 130 paraprofessionals currently and is looking for 30 more in both general and special education.

Paraprofessionals must have an associate's degree or higher or pass an aptitude test at [parapro.ets.org](http://parapro.ets.org). There is additional pay for credits beyond an associate's degree.

## More questions over BoE trustee's tax documents

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTE** — After reviewing additional public records via Freedom of Information Act requests, the Grosse Pointe News has learned there also may be an issue regarding tax forms related to a third home previously owned by Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Trustee Valarie St. John and her wife.

When the couple purchased a home in Grosse Pointe Park seven years ago, they filed a Primary Residence Exemption

dated Oct. 29, 2018.

On it, they:

◆ marked "yes" to the question, "Have you or your spouse claimed a principal residence exemption for another Michigan principal residence?";

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

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

At the time, they owned a house in St. Clair Shores that was listed for sale Dec. 7, 2018, and also had a PRE. They did not file to

fully rescind the PRE on the house until Aug. 19, 2019, the date on which it sold. That document was signed only by St. John's wife.

Both signed a request for a conditional rescission in St. Clair Shores Dec. 11, 2018, which was approved, exempting them from the South Lake Schools' operating millage for the 2019 tax year.

Under Michigan law, other than in a few specific circumstances, homeowners can hold one PRE at a time, 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.

In filing a PRE for a new home in Grosse Pointe Woods Feb. 25, 2025, the couple also marked "yes" to the same questions as

listed. They did not officially rescind the PRE on their house in the Park until July 31, 2025, after being questioned by the Grosse Pointe News.

Park City Manager Nick Sizeland said the issue regarding the PRE there has been referred to the office of Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

"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."

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, the PRE on the house in the Park should have been rescinded by May 26, that being 90 days after Feb. 25.

This does not appear to be a matter of taxes owed or paid for two reasons.

As stated, the couple received a conditional rescission in St. Clair Shores and the Park and Woods collect school millage money on their winter tax bills.

The house in the Park was listed for sale July 19, 2025, and was marked "pending" as of press time.

The PRE form does state, however, "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."

## LAW:

Continued from page 1A

rescission in open sessions.

"Under Michigan's Open Meetings Act all meetings of a public body shall be open to the public except for limited and specific circumstances, such as to consider a periodic personnel evaluation, and then only if the named

officer or employee requests the closed session," said Erin Malone, deputy general counsel for the Michigan Press Association. "Courts have clarified that the Legislature's intent is that the officer, rather than the public body, controls whether a meeting will be open or closed in this particular scenario."

Green added that he has conducted around 500

such reviews for MASH and could not recall one that was in open session.

"That's true," Green replied to Tuttle's comment. "She could have requested it to be an open session. We could have made sure we gave her that option. It's a little thing."

"No, it's a big thing," Tuttle responded.

Board President Colleen Worden asked Tuttle why

she didn't say anything when the board voted to go into closed session.

"I'm not a board member," Tuttle said.

Worden added she hadn't talked to Tuttle "in like six weeks."

Worden also asked Tuttle if she had any other comments.

"I asked a question, I received an answer," she said. "I have nothing further."

## CFO:

Continued from page 1A

with deep expertise in multimillion-dollar budget oversight, long-range forecasting and state and federal compliance," Tuttle added.

While in Fraser, Agrusa implemented a deficit elimination plan and grew and maintained the district's fund equity to 15 percent.

"She has a proven

track record of millage and bond success," Tuttle noted, "assisting in the successful passage of non-homestead millage renewals and sinking fund millages, as well as the issuance and refinancing of bonds."

GPPSS is asking voters in November to renew the current improvement bond for 20 years at \$120 million.

"I'm very honored to be your next CFO," Agrusa told the board. "Over the

past month I've spent a lot of time learning the district. What really stuck out to me is that it's a top-notch district with an amazing administrative team. I'm excited to get to work."

The board last month voted to increase the salary band for the position to between \$145,000 and \$180,000. Tuttle previously asked for a range of between \$180,000 and \$200,000, due to the lack of applicants.

Agrusa will start at \$180,000, according to Moussa Hamka, assistant superintendent of human resources.

The previous band for the role, also known as the assistant superintendent of finance and business operations, was \$133,777 to \$164,440.

The district began using a consultant in January to oversee business operations and did hire a new CFO in March who left after a month.

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**STRENGTH AND CLARITY, WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST**

# Chez LouLou selected for state grant funding

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Among 63 small businesses across Michigan that were awarded \$1.49 million in grant funding at the end of July, Chez LouLou Salon in The Village was selected to receive \$22,600 to support technical assistance for service expansion, as well as staff training, general marketing and technology upgrades to promote new offerings and improve client engagement.

The funds come through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Match on Main program, intended to create resiliency and strengthen downtowns in Michigan Main Street communities.

"The Main Street program is about more than events and beautification — it's about investing in the people and businesses that make our downtown vibrant," said Cindy Willcock, execu-

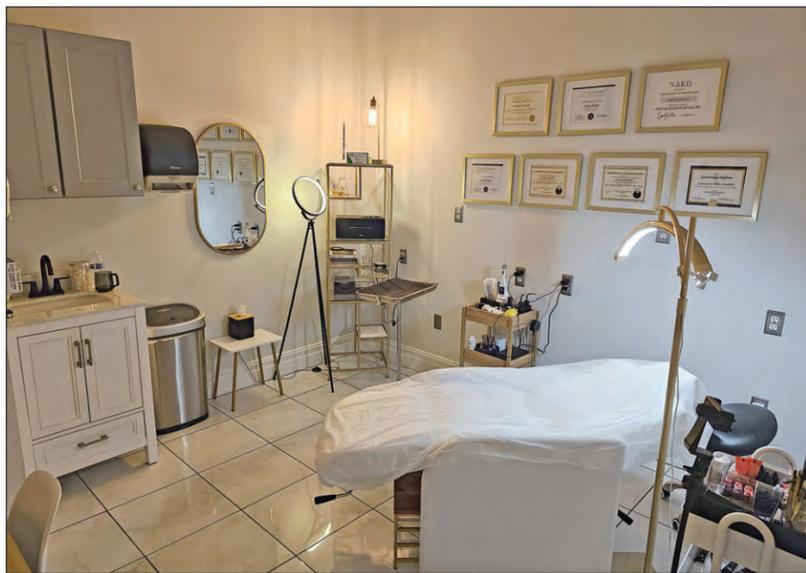


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Permanent makeup specialist Lindsay Trudell offers specialized services such as paramedical tattooing, scar camouflage and microfeathering in the salon's treatment room.**

tive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe, in a release. "Chez LouLou is a perfect example of what's possible when local entrepreneurs are empowered to grow in place."

The funds specifically

will enable Chez LouLou, which has been in business 13 years, to expand its private skincare and haircare line, Manon, to include a blend of herbal Eastern and Western medicines, as well as expand its Japanese

scalp massage service with upgraded equipment.

The Japanese scalp massage provides stress relief, exfoliates the skin of buildup from products, balances hormones and improves hair growth

and sleep quality.

"I noticed that there is a need for scalp health and skincare, especially with anti-aging, preventative and restorative things you can do for your hair and your skin," said Brigitte Rist, owner of Chez LouLou. "So I decided to write the grant (application) based on that, to ask for an upgrade for equipment, so we could also pursue advanced techniques in those things."

The grant also will support the salon's other specialized services, such as paramedical tattooing including 3D areola tattooing for breast cancer patients who have had a full mastectomy; scar camouflage for self-harm, acne and injury scarring; and microfeathering, where hair is feathered into areas of hair loss.

"We're thrilled and grateful to receive this support," Rist said. "We've worked hard to create a welcoming space for clients and a great

environment for our team and this grant will help us take the next step. I love being part of The Village and am grateful for the support Main Street Grosse Pointe has provided us."

Since The Village entered the Michigan Main Street Program five years ago, Chez LouLou is the first business to receive a Match on Main grant.

In March 2024, The Village as a whole received a \$25,000 place-making grant through the MEDC.

"This is exactly the kind of outcome we envisioned when we became a Michigan Main Street community," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said in a release. "The Village is a place where small businesses don't just operate, they can thrive. It's a walkable, historic district filled with local charm, strong community pride and entrepreneurs who care deeply about their neighbors and their work."

## Dermatologist specializing in skin cancer surgery coming to Village

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — When Decker Dermatology & Mohs Surgery in The Village begins seeing patients Sept. 22 — scheduling opens Sept. 2 — Shores resident Dr. Morgan Decker will fill a community need, as the only Mohs micrographic surgeon in the Grosse Pointes.



DECKER DERMATOLOGY  
& MOHS SURGERY

"It's a specific technique that's used to treat skin cancers that are located on more cosmetically sensitive areas — usually the face, neck, hands, feet, where there's not a lot of extra skin," said Decker, who

spent the last year as a fellow of micrographic surgery and dermatologic oncology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. "It's a very precise surgery where you cut pretty close to where you clini-

cally can see the skin cancer and the tissue is actually processed in real time in a lab that will now be at our new location."

By examining the tissue under a microscope in real time, the Mohs technique allows the surgeon to precisely remove affected areas until normal, cancer-free tissue is reached. It also preserves as much healthy skin as possible for optimal cosmetic outcomes and includes aesthetic reconstruction of the affected area.

"I spent the year doing that at Rush and now we're thrilled to move back to the community and open this practice," said Decker, who grew up in the Shores and graduated from University Liggett School. "There are some general dermatologists in town, but we're hoping to be more of a referral source to do a lot of these skin cancer treatments and surgeries."

The practice, located at 16835 Kercheval, also will offer general dermatology services such as treatment for acne, eczema, rosacea, psoriasis and warts.

Additional niche dermatologic procedures will include blepharoplasty, which is removing excess redundant skin on the eyelids; excisions of keloids (raised scars), lipomas (benign fatty tumors) and cysts; nail biopsies for patients who have something suspicious growing under the nail bed; fractionally ablative resurfacing, which is a laser procedure to stimulate new collagen production and is used for skin cancer prevention, anti-aging and reducing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles; and scar revisions.

In the near future, only because the device currently is backordered, Decker also will offer hair transplantation.

Rounding out the practice is cosmetic dermatology such as Botox fillers and laser treatments for background redness, as well as a compact shop selling a small selection of retail products such as

### Inside 16835 Kercheval

The two-story building at 16835 Kercheval has been vacant for nearly a decade and was last occupied by Merrill Lynch in 2017. "We're very excited about the building too," Decker noted. "The building itself is just so cool."

Its history dates back to 1956, when it originally was constructed as a single-story building.

A second-story was added in the 1970s as part of a redesign that turned the space into a patchwork of the remnants of historic area estates.

The large executive office on the second floor contains black walnut panels from the Essex Road residency of James Thayer McMillan of the Great Lakes Shipping family; stained glass windows located on the first and second floors, made in 1879, were originally from a conservancy in an English country house; and the slate roof was taken from the Elizabethan style mansion of Richard Weber, an heir to J.L. Hudson.

Perhaps the interior's greatest claim to fame are the first-floor chandeliers and hand-carved English oak paneling from the 1600s taken from the former Stonehurst estate on Lakeshore. "It was in this very grand library and when they ultimately tore down the estate to subdivide the property, they actually kept this wood and installed it in the building," Decker said. "It's very grand and very historic and we've kept the original wood and just kind of modernized around it."

sunscreen, skincare products and scar treatments.

"I do see pediatric patients too," Decker noted. "I'm not a specific pediatric dermatologist, but I saw a lot of kids during all of my training, so I'm happy to see children and adolescents."

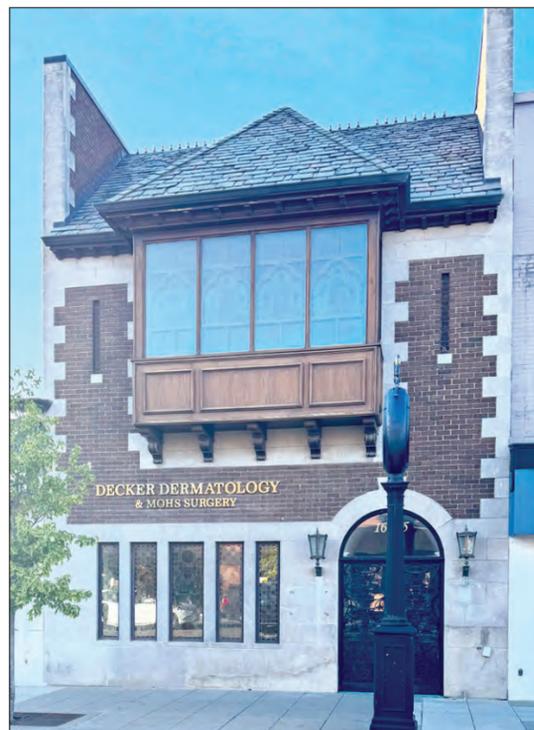
Decker has a doctorate of medicine degree from Wayne State University's School of Medicine. She and her husband share

two children, the youngest born in late July.

Hours at Decker Dermatology & Mohs Surgery are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Find more information at DeckerDermatology.com.

Prior to the self-scheduling feature going live later in September, patients may book an appointment by calling (313) 777-7546.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Decker Dermatology & Mohs Surgery opens Sept. 22, at 16835 Kercheval, which has been vacant eight years.**

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# FEATURES



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2-3B OBITUARIES | 3B CHURCHES | 4B AREA ACTIVITIES

## End of an era

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The Foley family has lived in their Merriweather home more than 50 years and have always taken pride in the towering maple in their backyard.

“It’s been here the whole time,” said Megan Hulswit, who grew up in the house. “It’s just this massive, beautiful tree. It was a showstopper. My dad was very proud of it.”

Homeowner Bob Foley believes it’s the tallest tree in Grosse Pointe Farms.

“He always refers back to a story from when DTE came to trim the tree years ago,” Hulswit added. “They swore it was the tallest tree in the Farms. ... It’s hard to know if that’s 100 percent true, but he was so proud to know his tree was such an exceptional size. I think that’s what it meant most to him — its size — and he felt happy and proud knowing the tree was special.”

That changed in recent weeks.

“Recently, the tree started to show the signs of its age and started dropping large branches,” Hulswit said.

“There have been a couple incidents where large branches fell off,” next-door neighbor Mike Oliver said, noting the last occurrence broke some of his patio furniture. “We’ve got a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old and another on the way so, for safety reasons, we decided to fig-



A member of the Amezola crew leans against a portion of the tree, the diameter of which measured more than six feet.

ure out the shape the tree was in.”

The Foley family first considered having it trimmed, but learned they’d likely have to take down the whole tree within a year or two. Due to its age, health and proximity to both houses, “We all agreed to move forward,” Hulswit said.

Oliver promptly became involved, helping Foley, 91, by consulting tree-removal companies.

“Even though it was on Bob’s side, I decided to do the neighborly thing and stepped in, did the legwork and got some quotes,” he said.

Oliver consulted several arborists, “and every single one of them said this thing needs to come down,” he said.

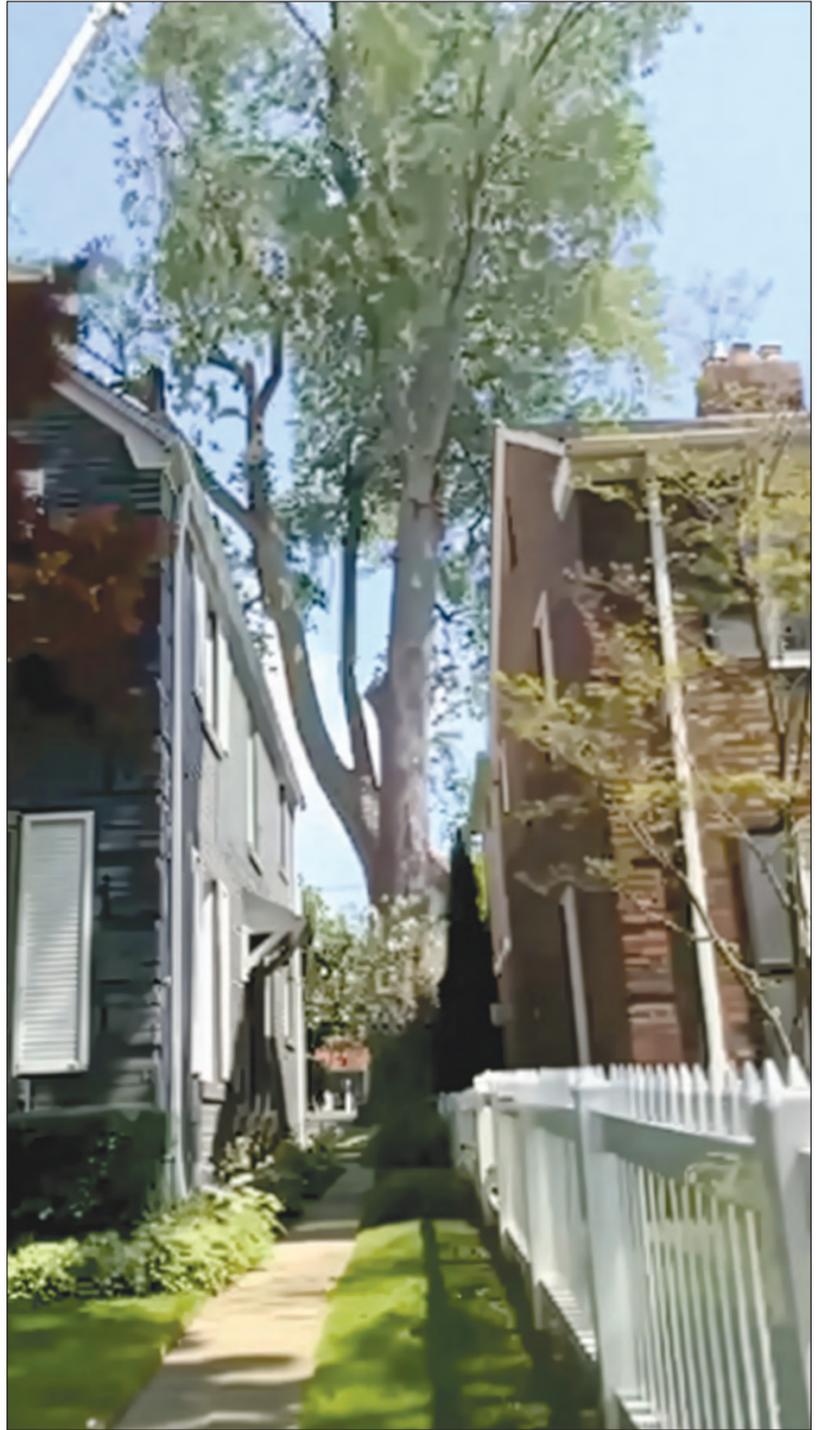
“It’s at risk of falling if there’s a storm. ... They said at best, it would be five years before the tree does totally die.”

“They all concurred the tree was not healthy and, due to the close proximity of both homes, should be removed,” Hulswit added. “Mike was amazing at assisting and gathering all this information and we all decided that Amezola Tree Service was the company to use for our project.”

The owner of Amezola estimated the tree’s height around 120 feet, while a member of the crew said it was closer to 160 feet. Hulswit measured its diameter at 73 inches.

The Amezola crew also estimated the tree’s age around 90 years old.

The two-day project “was not without stress, but the company handled every one of our concerns with ease,”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEGAN HULSWIT

A video still of the tree as workers prepare to remove it from the yard.

Hulswit said. “They were able to accommodate our request to preserve smaller trees on the property even though it meant a much more complicated and labor-intensive solution. We are so grateful for the care

and attention they gave to this project.

“The end result was that the massive tree was removed successfully without any mishaps,” she continued, “which, in my opinion, was a miracle.”

“And the Amezola guys were great,” Oliver added. “The whole crew was friendly and made it an enjoyable experience. They were waving at our kids when they were up in the tree. The neighbors came out with their kids. It became an impromptu block party.”

Once the removal service grinds out the rest of the stump, Hulswit said next steps include replacing the white fence in the backyard.

“When my dad built the fence, it was wooden and the tree broke the wooden fence,” she said. “We used to prop the fence up against it. Then he got the vinyl fence and the tree was already so large, they built the fence around it. The plan is to fix the lawn and fill in the garden along the fence.”

While proud of the

tree, Foley said it was no longer providing sufficient shade for his yard. He also noted his concern for the Oliver family, who have lived there since 2021.

“It being gone allows my neighbor to have a usual yard for the children,” Foley said. “It also clears my yard for easy cutting.”

“Bob’s a fantastic neighbor,” Oliver said. “He’s been there forever; he’s kind of the king of the block.”

“... One of the main attractions to living in Grosse Pointe is our trees,” he added. “I grew up in Grosse Pointe, but if you travel out of state, you know there are so many areas that don’t have trees and landscaping like we do. We take it for granted. There’s so much history here. We loved that tree. It was pretty unique to have something that big in the lot. ... It was beautiful to look at and I miss having it here, but when you go five for five on companies telling you it needs to come down, it felt necessary to do at that point.”



Left, Megan Hulswit stands on the stump before it was ground out. Above, the tree’s diameter measured 73 inches.

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## 2B | OBITUARIES

# 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.

## Donald Lewis Law

Donald Lewis Law, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed away Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, after more than five years courageously facing primary progressive aphasia.

Born April 12, 1946, in Detroit, to Albert and Verneta Law, Don grew up in Grosse Pointe with his two older brothers, David and Dick. He graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1964, and was especially proud to be part of the eight-man boat that won the Middleweight Junior National Rowing Championship as a teen.

Don attended the University of Michigan, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and met the love of his life, Carol Baker. The two married in 1968, and their first child, Kristi, was born in 1971, just in time for Don's graduation from the University of Michigan School of Law.

Following law school, Don served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps for three years. While stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., their second child, Eric, was born in 1974. When his military service concluded, Don and Carol chose to move their young family to the Pacific Northwest, drawn to the beauty of a place where mountains meet the sea.

Don's first position in Washington was with the State Attorney General's Office in Olympia, a city that quickly captured his heart and soul. Here, Don and Carol welcomed two more sons, Robert and Stephen. Don later helped establish a private law practice, finding particular fulfillment in defending the local government entities.

A proud civic leader, Don devoted countless hours to organizations he loved, including Kiwanis Club of Olympia, Behavioral Health Resources and the Olympia Symphony. He also was a founding father of both the Olympia Area Rowing Club and Olympia Arts and Heritage Alliance.

Throughout his life, Don remained active and adventurous, enjoying hiking, biking, scuba diving and skiing. His deep love for family, community, dogs and the outdoors was matched only by his gregariousness, humor and dedication to service.

Don is survived and deeply missed by his four children, Kristi (Peter), Eric (Maria), Robert (Whitney) and Stephen; grandchildren, Owen, Lucy, Dafna, Bear, Marco, Sylvie and Rafe; brother, Dick; and dear dog, Rufus. He was predeceased by his parents; his wife, Carol; and brother, David.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Olympia Arts and Heritage Alliance — [olyaha.org](http://olyaha.org) — in memory of Don, whose Michigan Wolverine spirit lives on.

## William "Bill" I. Brown Jr.

William "Bill" I. Brown Jr., 86, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Bill was born May 29, 1939, in Philadelphia, to William I. Brown Sr. and Alice Brown, both now deceased. He is survived by his wife, Paula; sons, William I. Brown III (Megan) and Christopher Brown (Amy); sister, Linda Sampson (Ed); and grandchildren, Amanda Brown, Andrew Brown (Rachel), Madeleine Brown and Riley Brown.

Bill attended Michigan State University and worked as a decorated sales leader at Nabisco for 33 years. He loved spending time with family, especially at Glen Lake and on Florida vacations, harkening back to his childhood spent on the shores of Ocean City, N.J. He had a passion for coaching youth baseball and cheering on his beloved Detroit Tigers.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Michigan, [hom.org/donate/](http://hom.org/donate/).

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

## Lynne Spilos Mogk

Lynne Spilos Mogk, 86, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, surrounded by her loved ones. She was a resident of Grosse Pointe Shores.

Lynne was born in Ironwood, to Bernard and Sallie Larson. She attended the University of Michigan and Michigan State University for her undergraduate degree and received a master's degree from Wayne State University. She dedicated more than 40 years to teaching and spent the majority of her career at Parcels and Brownell middle schools in Grosse Pointe, where she taught home economics and touched the lives of countless students.

Lynne found joy in life's simple pleasures. She loved tending her beautiful gardens, feeding and watching birds and weaving baskets by hand. She took great delight in hosting friends and family, whether at home or the cottage on Bear Lake, both of which were places filled with warmth, laughter and lasting memories. Lynne also had a deep passion for travel and a curiosity for exploring the world, embracing each new experience with enthusiasm.

Above all, Lynne treasured her role as a grandmother. She was her grandchildren's biggest fan, always cheering them on, from their preschool trike-a-thon to their college hockey games. Whether she was baking homemade treats

for their teams or offering encouragement from the sidelines, Lynne showed up with love and unwavering support. Her deep devotion to family and generous heart left a lasting imprint on all who knew her and she will be profoundly missed.

She is survived by her daughters, Suzy Spilos Murphy (Sean) and Sally Spilos Link (David); cherished granddaughters, Molly, Clare and Erin Murphy, and Katherine "Katie" and Lauren Link; and brother, Tom Larson (Claudia). She was predeceased by her husband, William "Bill" Mogk; former husband, James "Nick" Spilos; parents, Bernard and Sallie; and brother, Bill Larson.

Per Lynne's wishes, a funeral service will not be held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Heart to Heart Hospice Foundation, [htohhfoundation.org/donation/](http://htohhfoundation.org/donation/).

## Aileen Graff

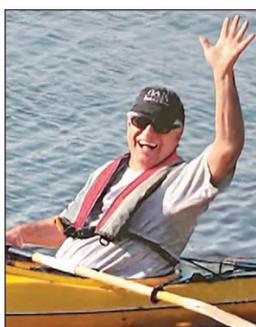
Aileen Agness (nee Grekowicz) Graff, 93, passed away Friday, Aug. 15, 2025. She was a dear wife, mother, nana and friend.

Aileen was born Jan. 23, 1932, on a farm in Harbor Beach. She was the 10th of 11 children. She is survived by her youngest sister, Georgene (Joel Gorzen); and her beloved sister-in-law and cherished friend, Betty (nee Grekowicz) Siemen.

Aileen graduated from Providence Nursing School in 1955, and worked in a variety of capacities as a loving nurse for more than 20 years. She married Richard Graff in 1957, and became the best wife and mother to six children, Mark (Cathy), Karen (Michael), Diane (Tom), David (Cidney), John and Julie (David). Richard predeceased her Aug. 7, 2007. She also was the beloved Nana to her 14 grandchildren, Kelsea (Mark), Andrea, David, Danny, Matthew, Christopher, Meghan, Allison, Claire, Melissa, Caroline, Suzanne, Tricia (Chad) and Grace; and two great-grandchildren, Elizabeth and Henry.

Aileen spent many years taking care of her dearest husband, Richard, volunteering her time visiting residents in nursing care facilities, helping young students with their reading skills and feeding people at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Her ability to listen and love without judgment was one of her greatest gifts. She enjoyed spending time assisting others, praying her daily Rosary and reading mysteries, but most of all, she loved spending time with her family. Her kindness, patience and giving spirit will be missed by all who knew her. Her family sends love, prayers and blessings to their dear mom, nana and friend.

A memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. The family will



Donald Lewis Law



William L. Brown Jr.



Lynne Spilos Mogk



Aileen Graff



Mary Lou Conti



Alice L. Ellison

receive guests starting at 10 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207, [cskdetroit.org/more-than-about-food/](http://cskdetroit.org/more-than-about-food/); or Special Kids Inc., 1241 Blairmoor Ct., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, [bit.ly/47wbx3u](http://bit.ly/47wbx3u).

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

## Mary Lou Conti

Mary Lou (nee Turrin) Conti, 85, passed away Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025, after a brief illness she faced with characteristic grace, quiet strength and a deeply held faith and belief in eternal salvation.

Mary Lou was the beloved wife of the late John Amedeo Conti, who predeceased her in 2020. She also was the dear sister of the late James Turrin; cherished mother of Amanda Conti-Duhaime (Jonathan Clark), Andrew Conti (Amy) and Alana Conti; loving grandmother of Henry Duhaime, John Clark, Joseph and Anika Conti and Luca and Matteo Marciano; and a treasured friend to many.

Mary Lou was born in Detroit to Italian immigrants Louis and Emma Turrin. She enjoyed a humble but memorable childhood in the ethnically diverse neighborhood of Highland Park and later Madison Heights. From a very young age, Mary Lou was relied upon by her parents to bridge the divides of culture and language. She graduated from Mercy High School, a school she selected on her own to attend, and with the encouragement of her dentist brother, James, became a licensed dental hygienist via the University of Detroit-Mercy.

While some questioned her decision to accept the courtship of a newly arrived Italian immigrant electrician, who on their first date appeared "in a borrowed truck, a coat with holes and not two pennies to rub together," Mary Lou saw something in John Amedeo that others did not.

They were married in 1964, and built a modest home in Southfield, where they raised three children and welcomed both of their mothers to live with them. It was in the basement of that same home, where Mary Lou handled bookkeeping and John estimated jobs, that Conti Electric Co., a small electrical contracting business, was

established. This mom-and-pop venture grew into one of Michigan's largest multi-trade, multinational corporations, known today as Conti Corp., in Sterling Heights.

With some reluctance, in 1994, Mary Lou moved with John from Southfield to a lakeside home in Grosse Pointe Farms, where they shared many sunrises over their favorite tea and cookies, and where Mary Lou formed many new and cherished friendships. In their 64 years of marriage, she and John were blessed to enjoy homes on Harsens Island, as well as in Florida and Italy.

Whether during the many turbulent times in the business, or amidst the joys and challenges of managing the household, Mary Lou — a deeply kind, loving, principled and faith-filled woman — was the glue, the heart and the conscience of the Conti family.

She was beloved by friends and family alike for her warmth and wisdom, for finding and celebrating the best in others and for making complete strangers feel like long-time friends. Amongst her greatest joys were the times spent with her beloved children and grandchildren, as well as in visits, chats and laughter with dear friends. Mary Lou had a gift for conversation and raised the common practice of phone calls — in English or Italian — into an extended art form. Well into her 85th year, Mary Lou could be seen tooling around downtown Grosse Pointe in her tiny but distinct Fiat 500 Gucci Edition and took no small delight in a good CVS coupon or a bargain find at her favorite T.J. Maxx.

While Mary Lou will be deeply missed, hers was a life well and fully lived. She leaves a legacy of love, thoughtfulness, kindness and unwavering support. Until her last day, she remained steadfast in her commitment to glorify God, and it was her prayer that her family do likewise and love one another and keep family close.

Mary Lou passed away peacefully and fearlessly, in the full confidence and joy of the promise of everlasting life in Jesus Christ her Lord.

Mary Lou will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 29, until the 10 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A private entombment will be held at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

In lieu of flowers,

memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, [bit.ly/3XuSSi0](http://bit.ly/3XuSSi0); or a charity of the giver's choice.

The family expresses sincere gratitude to the caregiving team of Temrowski Eldercare and the exceptional doctors, nurses and staff at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

Share memories with Mary Lou's family in the online guestbook at [wujekcalcaterra.com](http://wujekcalcaterra.com).

## Alice L. Ellison

Alice L. Ellison (nee Pollex), 93, of St. Clair, passed away peacefully Monday, Aug. 11, 2025, surrounded by her family.

She was born April 18, 1932, to Erwin and Evelyn Pollex, both now deceased. She was a 1950 graduate of St. Clair High School. She attended Valparaiso University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education. Alice married James Ellison on June 22, 1958. He predeceased her in 2007.

Alice was a lifelong pianist. She learned to play as a child, a childhood hobby that eventually turned into a career. Through hard work and dedication, Alice was offered professional opportunities that led to her becoming an instructor in the Detroit area for more than 50 years. Starting in 1963, she performed for many years in a piano duet with her partner, Laurie Lindemulder, a dear friend. She proudly served as the president of Tuesday Musicale of Detroit from 1991-92.

Alice is survived by her sons, Daniel Ellison (Carissa) and James Ellison (Karen Weinstein); grandchildren, Alistair and Evan Weinstein Ellison and Joseph Wiebusch (Macie); and brother, Carl Pollex.

She was predeceased by her sister, Harriet Albert.

Graveside services were held Aug. 16, in Hillside Cemetery, St. Clair.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, [tuesdaymusicaleofdetroit.org](http://tuesdaymusicaleofdetroit.org); Humane Society of St. Clair County, [humansocietys-nap.com](http://humansocietys-nap.com); or Hospice of Michigan, [hom.org](http://hom.org).

To leave a message of comfort, visit [youngcolonial.com](http://youngcolonial.com).

See OBITS, page 3B

## OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

## Charles James Stickford

Former City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms resident Charles James Stickford, 90, died of complications from leukemia in hospice at the University of North Carolina Hospital in Hillsborough on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025.

Known to his family and friends as Jim, Mr. Stickford was born Oct. 13, 1934, in St. Louis. He attended St. Louis University Jesuit High School and graduated from St. Louis University with a degree in history. After graduation, he served in the United States Marine Corps, where he learned how to type on typewriters with no letters on the keys. Known as a "Remington Raider," he considered himself a lifelong Marine.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Mr. Stickford took a job in the St. Louis Police Department's press office. He later left that position to begin his career as a reporter for the United Press International (UPI) wire service where he covered the auto industry and eventually headed its Lansing bureau. Jim left UPI to take a public relations position with the Goodyear Tire Co., before finally taking a public relations job for the Plymouth division of the Chrysler Corp., where he worked from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s.

During his time at Chrysler, Mr. Stickford worked with notable stock car racers including Richard Petty, whose team was sponsored by Plymouth, for many years. He eventually moved from public relations to advertising and marketing, where he helped develop Chrysler's "Mitsubishi, it's all the Japanese you need to know" campaign.

Upon his retirement from Chrysler, Mr. Stickford took a job selling magazine advertising for Peterson Publications and Meredith Corp.

Jim married the love of his life, Barbara, in August 1961, in St. Louis. They reared a family of five children. While Jim wore many hats in his life, his favorite was being a devoted father, grandfather and great-

grandfather.

As an adult, Jim embraced numerous activities including golf, tennis, skiing, skeet shooting and photography. Playing tennis was a special passion and he was able to win several Pewter Cups. His proudest achievement, however, was winning the Governors Club member-guest golf tournament with his son John, in 2012 — even his hole-in-one in 2010 didn't cause as much excitement.

Jim and Barbara retired to the Governors Club in Chapel Hill, N.C., where they joined and were very active in the St. Thomas More Catholic Church parish. He also continued to use his journalism skills by writing and editing the Governors Club newsletter and as a "Tar Heel" temp for multiple departments at the University of North Carolina.

Jim maintained his love for photography, documenting his around-the-world travels with his wife Barbara, as well as becoming the family, church and community photographer — always using the newest Nikon digital camera. If he wasn't golfing, he was glued to his computer, editing his photos to perfection and sharing them with all.

Jim will be best remembered by Governors Club residents for his five-times-daily walks with his goldendoodles, Kate and Billie.

Mr. Stickford is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara; five children, Ann, Elizabeth Pandy (Jim), James, John (Sasha) and Catherine; three grandchildren, John Pandy (Ashley), Kate Pandy and Gavin Stickford; and one great-grandchild, Cora Pandy.

A funeral Mass was held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 18, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Chapel Hill, N.C. Mr. Stickford's ashes will be interred Saturday, Sept. 27, in the St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church Columbarium in Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to St. Thomas More Catholic Church Outreach Program (Financial Assistance), 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, [secure.myvanco.com/YGJD/campaign/CYGMR](mailto:secure.myvanco.com/YGJD/campaign/CYGMR).

## Alliance Française to embark on new season of programming

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The Alliance Française de Grosse Pointe celebrated Bastille Day in July with a *magnifique fête* at Bayview Yacht Club. Nearly 150 guests attended the *soirée*, which featured perfect weather, a live French *chanteuse*, great food and fun door prizes.

"We've been doing this for many years and we're hoping to continue," said Amal Elhosni, president of the club, which is for anyone interested in learning about French and Francophone culture.

"August is the month for our membership drive," she added. "The season is Sept. 1 to Aug. 31. We've had a great response so far and we're hoping for more."

To encourage membership and remind members of the club's accomplishments, Alliance Française de Grosse Pointe hosts its season opener Sunday, Aug. 24.

"It's open to members — renewing members and new members — and friends who are curious about our event and our organization," Elhosni said. "A founding member has offered her beautiful estate on the lake for our opening reception."

Those interested may learn more and buy tickets at [afdegrossepointe.org/](http://afdegrossepointe.org/).

"Then we'll be kicking off our new season," Elhosni added, noting the start of French classes at Assumption Cultural Center, beginning Monday, Sept. 15.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAL ELHOSNI

From left, Julie Brewster, Thomas Jones II, Dr. Ann McReynolds, Dr. Rudolph Menchl and Alliance Française de Grosse Pointe President Amal Elhosni were among attendees of the Bastille Day celebration.

Several levels are available, from beginners to experienced French speakers. Early-bird pricing is available until Saturday, Aug. 30.

While students of these classes must be members of Alliance Française, the group offers several activities that are open to anyone. Among them is its Ciné Club, or film club, which next meets 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, to watch "L'été Dernier," or "Last Summer." Its new season begins with a yet-to-be-announced film at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. Both films will be shown at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch, 20680 Mack.

"Traditionally, we watch at film and have a discussion afterward with a moderator,"

Elhosni said. "It is open to anyone. The movies are French or Francophone, but they do have English subtitles. And the discussion is in English."

Catering to people interested in practicing the French language, the Alliance offers a conversation group that meets monthly at Village Grille.

"The conversation group is for French speakers, though not necessarily at a high level," Elhosni said. "Native speakers help others in a convivial atmosphere."

The group, founded in 1970, is adding other programming to the coming year's schedule, including a recent Slow Flow Yoga en Français session at Detroit Abloom.

"We hope it's popular, so we can do similar events," she noted. "We like to have fun with different interests while practicing French as well."

However, she added, speaking French is not required at every event. Anyone interested in the French culture is encouraged to learn more.

To make that process easier, Alliance Française de Grosse Pointe will have a table at the "Join or Die" Joiner Fair, which takes place Wednesday, Oct. 1, at The War Memorial. Following a discussion with "Join or Die" filmmaker Rebecca

Davis, several clubs and organizations will host information tables to provide options for those looking to get involved or volunteer.

"We wanted to be a part of that because we're part of the community, but also because it's an important message," Elhosni said. "Everyone should be a part of something that makes them look forward to waking up every day. There are plenty of clubs around, but we bring something different, something new."

One event that sets Alliance Française apart is Beaujolais Nouveau Day, the third Thursday in November. Under French law, the new wine is released at 12:01 a.m., just weeks after the wine's grapes have been harvested. Parties are held throughout the country to celebrate the first wine of the season and the Grosse Pointe club is among the revelers.

"We do a big celebration," Elhosni said. "There's French music, the wine. It's a fun evening. For people not aware of this tradition and culture, they find it amusing."

Another recurring event is its Christmas celebration, Fête de Noël, which takes place in early December at the

See SEASON, page 4B

## Christ Church Choir returns from London residency at St. Paul's Cathedral

The Christ Church Grosse Pointe Choir recently returned from an extraordinary musical residency at the historic St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England, where they performed daily services in one of the world's most iconic wor-

ship spaces. This rare honor highlights the choir's musical excellence and longstanding tradition of training young voices for inspiring musical and spiritual experiences.

During the week-long residency, the CCGP

Choir sang in services attended by hundreds of worshippers and visitors from across the globe. They also explored London's rich cultural history, with visits to the Tower of London, Greenwich and the British Museum. They enjoyed a spectacular view of the city from the London Eye as well.

"The experience demonstrated the power of music to connect people and inspire them beyond the walls of our own community," said Scott Hanoian, director of music at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. "The cathedral staff invited us to return and we were humbled to be appreciated for

not only our musical talent but the kindness we showed each other and those around us."

The Christ Church Grosse Pointe Choir, one of only a few remaining parish choirs in the U.S. structured in the tradi-

tional English cathedral model, is welcoming new choristers. Parents of boys and girls ages 8 to 10, regardless of prior musical training, are encouraged to explore how the choir can open doors to musical educa-

tion, personal growth, lifelong friendships and international travel. Contact Jackson Merrill, assistant director of music, at [jmerrill@christchurchgp.org](mailto:jmerrill@christchurchgp.org) to learn more about the program.



# Worship Service

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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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4B | FEATURES

SEASON:

Continued from page 3B

Tompkins Center. “For those who’d like to join us, we do French caroling,” Elhosni said. “We have the words (printed out). It’s a fun event and it includes the dessert, Bûche de Noël.”

Elhosni said the club encourages high school students to attend functions and hosts an awards program for students studying the French language.

“We ask French teachers to give us the names of their high-performing students who are the most enthusiastic,” she said, noting students from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools, as well as University Liggett School are invited. “Every year we award them with certificates and prizes at The War Memorial, in a ceremony with them, their parents and their teachers, in early May.”

Elhosni, a native French speaker and retired French teacher — she taught 14 years at The Grosse Pointe Academy — has been a member of Alliance



Enjoying the Bastille Day celebration are, from left, Cédric Ballarin, honorary French consul in Detroit; Franck Lavergne; and Bertrand Rakoto, president of the French American Chamber of Commerce, Michigan.

Française since 1995.

“It opens up so much to a person when you are aware of what’s outside of your immediate environment,” she said. “... The language is not by itself in a bubble; there’s the component of culture.”

Learning about the culture and language of another country opens new horizons, she added.

“One language can open you up to another,” she said. “There are over 50 countries that speak French as a first, second or third language. If you learn French, you could potentially communicate in 50 other countries.

That’s tremendous.”

Membership fees range from \$25 for high school and university students to \$75 for a family membership.

“We are all volunteers; there is no paid staff,” Elhosni said. “We do it because we want to. We’re all enthusiastic about planning events, putting things together and promoting our chapter.”

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

“Our website is constantly updated,” she added, “so you can see where and when everything is happening.”

From left, Pascale Forrester, Cathie Schneider, Julie Brewster Steve Schneider, Mark Brewster and Scott Forrester were among attendees of the Bastille Day celebration



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAL ELHOSNI

‘Blues in the Woods’ festival returns Aug. 23

The city of Harper Woods has announced the return of “Blues in the Woods,” the city’s signature blues festival and grand finale to a summer of free concerts and movie nights. “Blues in the Woods” begins at 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at Johnston Park, 20221 Beaconsfield, and includes live music, local art, food and family-friendly fun.

Two Detroit music powerhouses — Thornetta Davis, the city’s undisputed “Queen of Blues,” and the electric Tino Gross & The Dumpster Machine — will headline the celebration.

The opening act will be the audience’s choice from the city’s Family Concert Series, selected by community vote earlier this summer.

In addition to live blues performances from Thornetta Davis, Tino Gross & The Dumpster Machine and the Family

Concert Series winner, other festival highlights include:

◆ Visual Artist Village featuring local artists displaying and selling handmade creations,

◆ Food vendors with savory and sweet treats and

◆ Kids’ Play Zone with a rock-climbing wall and family activities.

“Blues in the Woods is more than a concert — it’s a soulful celebration of Harper Woods’ creative energy and community pride,” Mayor Valerie Kindle said. “This festival is where summer memories are made.”

The city currently is accepting inquiries from vendors of handmade goods, as well as food trucks/stands. Those interested in participating should email [ihayes@harperwoods.net](mailto:ihayes@harperwoods.net) for more details.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will screen for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic conditions during a community event Thursday, Aug. 21, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. Package pricing begins at \$159, but consultants are available to create customize packages for individuals. Call (877) 237-1287 or visit [lifeline-screening.com](http://lifeline-screening.com) to register.

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:

◆ 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.

◆ Premier World Discovery presents “Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta and Santa Fe” and “Christmas Season in Victoria and Vancouver,” noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26.

◆ Tai Chi for Beginners, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 26 to Dec. 9, with instructor Elaine Frost.

◆ Drawing for Seniors, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 2 to Dec. 9, with instructor Elizabeth Russano.

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](http://warmemorial.org)

◆ 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.

◆ History Stroll Through the Pointes, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27. Transportation between locations is not provided.

◆ SummerFest Concert: Motown Museum presents Drey Skonie & the Klouds, 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27.

SummerFest

Lecture: Motown Meets the Movement with Chris Hemler, 6 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27.

◆ Open Mic Night, 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, for singers, poets, musicians, storytellers and more. General admission is \$5.

Ford House

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

◆ Nonprofit Mixer, 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21.

◆ Storytime: “Iggy Peck, Architect,” 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2.

◆ Design Through the Decades guided tour, 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 2 to 30.

For tickets and information, visit [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org).

Library

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

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

◆ Portrait Drawing for Adults and Teens with Jamar Lockhart, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ You Kill Me: True Crime Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during August. To sign up for the following, visit [mutualadoration.com](http://mutualadoration.com):

◆ Succulent Planter Workshop: Cast Concrete Fairy Gardens, 2:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23. Cost is \$65.

◆ Two-day Sewing Workshop: Intro to Garments-Box Tops, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, and Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$175.

◆ Two-day Upholstery Workshop: Dining Chair Seat Cushions, 2:30 to

5:30 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 23 and 30. Cost is \$100.

◆ Fibers Workshop: Pom Pom Garland, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$60.

◆ Ceramics Workshop: Hanging Bird Bath, 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$125.

◆ Drop-in Workshop: Resin Jewelry, anytime between 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$25 per piece.

◆ POST Script PS: Open Mic, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27.

◆ Coffee Tasting Workshop: Cupping & Brewing Basics, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30. Cost is \$50.

Cadieux Cafe

Planet D Nonet performs its final date with longtime drummer Sean Perlmutter at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. Cover is \$10; reservations are recommended. Email [info@cadieuxcafe.com](mailto:info@cadieuxcafe.com).

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit [grossepointeartists.org](http://grossepointeartists.org).

◆ Behind the Brushstrokes: The stories and techniques of Henri Gervex, with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 4 to 18.

◆ Explorations in Abstraction with Valerie Allen, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21.

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.

**GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY**

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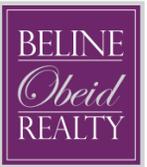
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COURTESY PHOTOS

Children are invited to hear stories and engage in a variety of activities during Ford House's Story Festival.

## Ford House's Story Festival is Sept. 6

This September, Ford House invites families to experience a magical morning where stories leap off the page and into real life. Story Festival returns 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, for young book lovers in pre-K through early elementary school.

Set on the lakeside estate of Eleanor and Edsel Ford in Grosse Pointe Shores, the festival features nationally acclaimed performers, award-winning authors and hands-on activities hosted by community partners, all designed to spark imagination and bring stories to life.

"Reading with children opens doors to entire worlds — worlds full of new ideas, different perspectives and boundless imagination," said Jason Duke, Ford House's director of education. "At Story Festival, we're not only celebrating books themselves, but also the joy of being read to, the connection that happens between

storyteller and listener and the way stories nurture empathy and passion. We want children to see characters they love come to life and to discover new ones that inspire them to dream, create and care about the world around them."

From the moment they arrive, families will be immersed in a world of creativity and discovery. Children can join Grosse Pointe Public Library for a reading of "The Color Monster" and make expressive collages based on their feelings, or visit Built to Thrive and E.C.H.O. to turn mistakes into art with Beautiful Oops! magnets before meeting new friends from E.C.H.O.

At Literacy for Kids Inc., award-winning author, illustrator and muralist Katie Yamasaki will guide kids in designing mini murals as part of a collaborative cityscape, inspired by her books, "Mural Island" and "Everything Naomi



There's plenty of entertainment in store during Ford House's Story Festival.

Loved." The St. Clair Shores Public Library will share "Nature is an Artist," followed by sensory play and an outdoor-themed craft. The War Memorial will bring "Pete the Cat — Crayons Rock!" to life with coloring stations, character drawings and custom crayon keep-sakes.

The 1000 Hours Outside program will inspire young artists to become "Anywhere Artists," creating art from the world around them. Time to Make Art will spark imagination and self-expression with a hands-on project and at 11:45 a.m., beloved musician and author Jim Gill will lead a high-energy sing-along and play-along concert filled with musical games and one of his books.

Families also can stop by The Shop at Ford House to browse story-themed treasures and children's books before heading home.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for ages 3 to 17. The event is recommended primarily for children ages 7 and younger. Advance tickets are encouraged and may be purchased at [ford-house.org/events/story-festival](http://ford-house.org/events/story-festival).

The festival takes place rain or shine, with activities spread across Ford House's lakeside grounds or inside in case of rain. Strollers and wagons are welcome and all activity supplies are provided. Each activity can take as

long or as little as each child decides, with shaded rest areas located throughout the property.

A quiet space inside the Visitor Center will be open for children or adults with sensory processing needs; guests may ask any staff member for assistance in locating it. "Education, engagement and fun have always been at the heart of Ford House's mission," said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. "Eleanor Ford believed deeply in the value of curiosity, creativity and cultural enrichment for all generations. Story Festival is a joyful expression of those val-

ues — connecting children and families through the power of stories, encouraging empathy and inspiring a lifelong love of learning. Every book read, every character met, every moment of shared wonder reflects our commitment to providing experiences that both honor the Ford family's legacy and enrich our community."

Families are encouraged to extend their visit with a self-paced tour of the first floor of the main residence, included with admission and available until 1 p.m.



Story Festival returns 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, for young book lovers in pre-K through early elementary school.



**FORD HOUSE**  
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*Join us for September fun at Ford House*



**STORY FESTIVAL**  
*Saturday, September 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.*  
A family-friendly day with performances by beloved children's musician, Jim Gill, plus Grosse Pointe Public Library, The War Memorial, live storytelling, and activities celebrating imagination, and creativity.



**DAVE HAMILTON BAND**  
*Friday, September 12 at 7 p.m.*  
Dance under the stars to electrifying Motown sounds, with classic hits and original tunes that honor the legendary Motown era.



**HARVEST DAY**  
*Saturday, September 27 from noon to 5 p.m.*  
A fall celebration with local vendors, seasonal treats, pony rides, a petting zoo, and family fun in a scenic lakeside setting.



Don't miss these September events — Scan for tickets!  
Ford House is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and National Historic Landmark

LEARN MORE

# GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

## Positive motivation for your teenager

**Dear Gabby:** How do I motivate my high schooler without becoming a dictator? — Frazzled in the Farms

**Dear Frazzled:** Ah, the eternal struggle of wanting your teen to succeed without becoming the overbearing parent they tell their friends about. The key is to shift from drill sergeant to coach.

Try sitting down once a week — maybe Sunday evening, with some snacks

— and doing a casual check-in about what's coming up: tests, homework, sports, social stuff. Let them take the lead and keep it low pressure.

Encourage them to set their own goals and talk about what they need to get there, whether that's help from a tutor or just a quieter space to focus.

And when they do put in the effort, even if the result isn't perfect, acknowledge it. That

kind of positive reinforcement goes much further than another lecture about potential.

You're not alone in this one and you're definitely not crazy. Just a parent who cares a whole lot.

— Gabby

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



## Trust, space and sisterly grace

**DEAR ANNIE:** My fiancé, "Mark," and I have been together for four years and are set to get married next spring. We live together in a small house we bought last fall. For the most part, things are good. But lately, something's been bothering me.

Mark has a weekly "guys' night" every Thursday with his two best friends from college. It used to be every other week, but now it's weekly, and sometimes even more often. I've asked if I could come by to say a quick hello or drop something off, and he always says not to — it's their "tradition."

Last Thursday, I found a receipt in the laundry from a wine bar downtown. He told me they were at Jake's house playing cards. When I asked about the receipt, he brushed it off and said they stopped there first, which he "forgot" to mention.

I haven't seen anything else suspicious, but it's starting to feel like I'm being excluded on purpose. Am I overreacting, or should I trust my gut? — Future Mrs. or Fool?

**DEAR FUTURE MRS. OR FOOL:** These don't scream red flags — maybe orange — but it's smart to trust your instincts. Mark

is allowed time with his friends, but it shouldn't come at the cost of your peace of mind. If you haven't already, you need to tell him how this is affecting you.

Keep your tone curious, not accusatory. Try something like, "I felt a little left out after Thursday night. I know it's your guys' time, but I've been feeling uneasy and just wanted to talk about it." That kind of approach invites honesty without putting him on the defensive.

This doesn't have to be about spying or catching him in a lie; it's about feeling connected. A good partner won't dismiss

that. And who knows? A little nudge might even open the door to a better understanding of what guys' night is all about.

**DEAR ANNIE:** My sister, "Laura," recently moved back to town after her divorce and has been staying with me and my husband "just for a month" while she looks for a new apartment. That was in April. It's now August, and she's made no effort to move out.

She's sweet with our kids and helps out here and there, but she also leaves dishes in the sink, uses my clothes without asking and has basically turned our guest room into her full-time space. Last week, I overheard her on the phone telling someone she's "staying with family indefinitely."

My husband is starting to lose patience, and honestly, so am I. But every time I try to bring up a timeline for her leaving, she gets teary and says she's "trying" and just needs more time. I want to be supportive — she went through a rough breakup — but I'm starting to feel like she's taking advantage of our kindness.

How do I set a boundary without sounding cold? I love my sister, but I also want my home (and my closet) back. — Overdue Houseguest?

**DEAR OVERDUE:** Sounds like your sister is lonely, heartbroken and, yes, taking advantage of your generosity. You can be supportive without letting her steamroll your life and your home. If you don't speak up, you'll only grow more resentful — which will be tougher on everybody.

Have a calm conversation with her. Be honest, not harsh. Try something like, "I know this has been a tough season for you, and I'm glad we've been able to help. But we need our space back, and I'd like us to figure out a move-out plan together."

Being clear doesn't make you unkind. It makes you a grown-up with a family and a home to protect.

**DEAR ANNIE:** My husband, "Mark," and I have been married for six years. For the most part, things are good between us, but there's one recurring issue I can't get past.



### Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

Mark's ex-wife, "Tina," is still very involved in his life — not in a co-parenting way, since they don't even have kids, but socially. She calls him every few weeks or so, invites him to group outings and has even dropped by his office "just to say hi."

Mark says they've remained friends and that there's nothing inappropriate going on. I want to believe him, but it makes me uncomfortable. I've told him how I feel, and he says he understands, but nothing has changed. He claims cutting her off would be "unnecessary drama" and that I'm overreacting.

I'm not trying to be controlling, but I honestly just can't seem to let it go. It really bothers me, and I can't help but spiral into thinking they still have feelings for each other. I wouldn't keep that level of contact with any of my exes, and I don't think it's unreasonable to expect the same. I'm not sure how to move forward without sounding jealous or insecure.

Am I being too rigid or is this a red flag? — Second Place

**DEAR SECOND PLACE:** It's one thing to be friendly with an ex, but spending time together — especially *alone* together — on a regular basis is a lot. You're not controlling or insecure for wanting it to stop.

Mark seems too concerned about starting "drama" with Tina and not concerned enough about the drama it's causing for you — and that needs to change. Let him know how seriously you're taking this. If his boundaries with Tina still don't change, you might be better off finding someone who puts your feelings first.

**DEAR ANNIE:** My younger sister, "Rachel," recently moved back in with our parents after quitting her job and breaking up with her fiancé. She's 27. I'm 32, and I live nearby with my husband and two kids. Ever since she moved back, my mom has been constantly calling me to complain about Rachel — how she sleeps in, doesn't help around the house and still hasn't started looking for work.

When I try to talk to Rachel about it, she shuts down or makes a joke out of everything. I've suggested therapy or even just a part-time job to get her out of the house, but she brushes it off. I feel stuck in the middle. Mom vents to me like I can fix it, and Rachel acts like I'm judging her when I try to help.

I don't want to cut them off, but I'm drained and tired of the drama. How do I support both of them without becoming their referee? — Stuck in the Middle

**DEAR STUCK IN THE MIDDLE:** Sounds like Rachel is going through a tough time and taking full advantage of having generous parents who live nearby. She is going to need to get it together at some point, which probably feels daunting after enduring so much change.

It's OK to step back. Tell your mom that while you understand her frustration, you can't be her sounding board for Rachel. Tell Rachel you're there for her but she needs to figure out a plan.

Being supportive doesn't mean playing referee. It means having boundaries so you don't burn out.

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

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# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



If you're like me, you've been bombarded with the latest trend in skincare: beef tallow. It's almost too gross to imagine rendered beef fat being a good idea to slather all over your skin, but because we like to stay up on the trends ... we had to try it.

Upon the advice of a friend, I opted for the \$31 Hearth and Homestead brand that pledges to use local farmers who practice regenerative agriculture (their cows rotationally graze all year long, never eating anything but grass).

Using beef fat is not new. It's a very old-school method of moisturizing. In fact, it dates back to ancient civilizations where Egyptians and Babylonians used it for balms and ointments. It since has been used to moisturize, protect and heal skin. Tallow is supposedly rich in vitamins like A, D, E, B1 and K, as well as fatty acids that help moisturize and soften.

When the package arrived, I was almost ner-



vous to smell it. One whiff of off-putting animal or meat smell and I imme-

diately would have thrown it away. To my pleasant surprise, this tallow smelled like the orange vanilla scent I ordered. Phew!

The first time I used it, I put it on my face post-shower. It is most certainly emollient and has good coverage. A little goes a long way.

It definitely gives your skin a shiny look, which is subtle and pretty much non-existent if you put makeup on top of it. After many days of using

it, I would say it's a good product. I have no complaints — other than I always do hope I'll look 10 years younger by using one of these potions, but sadly it never happens.

All-in-all, it's a natural product and doesn't have any micas, dyes or artificial ingredients. That's always a plus, even if slathering animal fat on your face isn't your jam. I would say it lives up to its promise of moisturizing and nourishing the skin. The price is higher, but I do like that I know what's in it — even if it's sort of a gross

concept.

I'll give this 4 out of 5 alligators and report back if I suddenly look like a teenager after more weeks of usage. You can find it on Amazon.

*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.*



## Mombeau's questions

### Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

What is Mombeau's Table? It's a question I get asked often. This is followed with, are you a chef and where do you come up with your recipes? I thought I would take some space today to answer these for you.

Mombeau's Table is a place for me, a regular Grosse Pointe mom of five with a passion for cooking and writing, to share what my family is eating right now. No, I'm not a chef. But I sure think about food a lot. Not necessarily eating it but more about the joy of preparing it.

Recipes have endless possibilities. I think about what combinations taste good and what's in season and available. These thoughts mainly come to me at four in the morning when I should be sleeping. Most of the recipes are mine. They are based on foods that are seasonal, approachable and most importantly appealing to my family.

Those that aren't mine are chosen because they are smart and are perfect just as they are.

Today I have chosen a recipe from Michael Simon. It's seasonal

because it features tomatoes and corn. And, it's smart because it is very tasty with few ingredients.

This is an incredible side dish that pairs perfectly with any grilled meat. You start by cutting kernels off of sweet corn and charring them in a pan with lots of chili-lime seasoning and jalapeno. Trader Joe's is my favorite brand. Then it's freshened up with fresh lime juice, scallions and cilantro. It's creamed with a touch of decadence from creme fraiche.

The corn is then served over salted heirloom tomato slices and served warm or at room temperature. It's really a perfect garden fresh side that everyone loved. I was able to make this while my steak was grilling as the cooking time is short.

It's a lively, slightly spicy dish that my kids devoured, though some refused to eat the heirloom slices. I really enjoyed the break from just eating an ear of corn.

After my family was done eating, there wasn't a kernel left on the plate. Enjoy!

Cheers, Mombeau

#### Chili-Lime Creamed Corn over Heirloom Tomatoes

- 4 ears, sweet corn
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 1 minced jalapeno, seeds removed
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp chili lime seasoning
- Juice and zest of a lime
- ½ cup creme fraiche
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 2 chopped scallions
- 3 heirloom tomatoes, sliced ¼ inch thick
- Course sea salt and pepper to taste

Start by cutting the kernels off the cob. In a large skillet, heat one tablespoon of olive oil on medium-high heat.

Add the corn and spread into an even layer. Cook the kernels, undisturbed, until the kernels begin to char.

This takes about two to three minutes. Stir, then

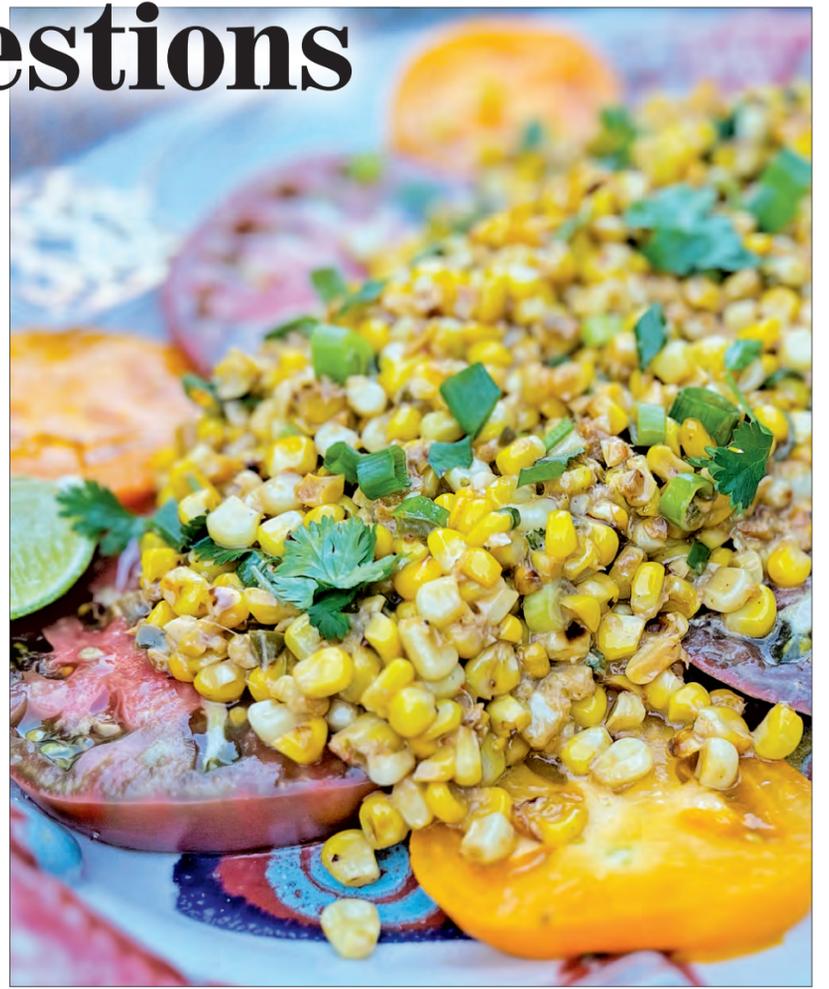


PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

add the minced garlic and jalapeno. Season with the chili lime seasoning and a pinch of salt and pepper.

Turn the heat off the stove and stir in the creme fraiche, lime juice and zest. Next, add in

the chopped cilantro and scallions, reserving some for garnish. Mix to combine.

Assemble the tomato slices on a platter and sprinkle with course salt. Drizzle over the remain-

ing 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Mound the creamed corn mixture over the top.

Garnish with extra chopped cilantro and scallions. Serve warm or at room temperature.

## Lower alcohol wines

The day was hot and aiming to get hotter, and I didn't have any of the wines that I normally would have on that kind of day.

So, I went shopping and bought a bottle of Vinho Verde from Portugal. It wasn't expensive (\$11) and it was exactly what I wanted. It was relatively dry and it had about 11 percent alcohol.

One reason I bought this wine was that the alcohol was lower than just about any similar white wine in the store. Most of the California wines were closer to 14 percent alcohol or even higher. I prefer wines with less alcohol.

I'm not alone. Over the last two years, Americans seem to be seeking lower-alcohol or zero-alcohol products. That includes not only wine, but many alternative beverages such as hard cider and hard seltzer (5 percent to 7 percent alcohol) and non-alcoholic beers, a category that is growing rapidly in number.

There are also several wines on the market that have no alcohol, but generally, they are not particularly successful in

replicating the true wine experience. It is extremely difficult to capture wine flavors without any alcohol.

Trincher Family Wines of Napa has long made an inexpensive zero-alcohol wine called Fre and has now come out with a line of wines called Luminara — three premium alcohol-removed wines that are more refined. They are a chardonnay, a cabernet and a red wine blend (\$20 each).

They were made using a sophisticated machine called a Spinning Cone. Although the wines are successful, they do not approach the quality of wines with 12 percent or 13 percent alcohol in terms of quality.

They are also expensive to produce because the Spinning Cone is a costly machine. It is not affordable for most smaller wineries.

Consumer demand for lighter beverages both here and abroad has led many wineries to work with research institutions to seek methods for growing grapes that will produce naturally lower alcohols and therefore bet-

ter alternatives to existing wines.

Some of the techniques being investigated include earlier harvesting of traditional grapes at lower sugar levels, which will produce less alcohol, and selecting strains of yeast to ferment grape juice that do so with less alcohol.

One research project that seems to be bearing fruit is conducted at the Bragato Research Institute in Blenheim, New Zealand.

Several of the research projects I've heard about include making wines from new grape varieties that naturally produce lower sugars and thus can result in wines with much lower alcohol levels. Such wines may be satisfying to wine lovers who demand more authenticity than they now get in zero-alcohol products.

Consumers can participate in this process in an extremely simple manner. When you get a wine that seems satisfying, but the alcohol is higher than you prefer, just add a little water to your glass.

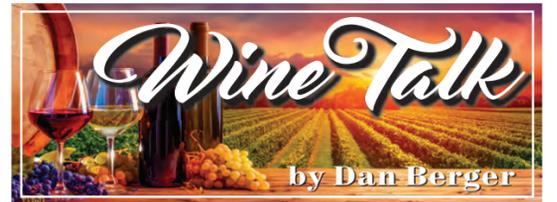
High-alcohol wines (14.8 percent or more) are usually produced by harvesting the grapes later

than would be appropriate for making a more balanced wine. To help balance the flavors, add a tablespoon of cool spring water. This reduces the alcohol percentage and can make a wine that's equally enjoyable and may be more flavorful.

A final suggestion: Use spring water or purified water. Tap water occasionally has chlorine that may change the wine's aromatics.

#### Wine of the Week:

2023 Bonny Doon Le Cigare Volant, Central Coast (\$16) — This is one of the finest red wine val-



by Dan Berger

ues I have tasted in years. The wine was created decades ago by genius winemaker Randall Graham, who remains affiliated with the project. This version features 69 percent grenache, and that grape produces a remarkable aroma that is very similar to raspberries. The wine is light and fragrant and has

very little tannin. Served slightly chilled, it works with almost any food. It is occasionally discounted below \$15.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAYMONS TERM, FIVE BY EIGHT PRODUCTIONS AND PURPLE INTUITION.

Left, Barbie Ferreira as Lily Trevino and John Leguizamo as Bob Trevino in the 2024 movie "Bob Trevino Likes It," written and directed by Tracie Laymon.

# Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"

online, Jeanie warns him to watch out for catfishing. But he admits he's merely discovered another soul looking for companionship.

Things move to the next level when Lily asks him for help with a leaking toilet. He comes to her rescue and, since he's a contractor, easily fixes the problem. He not only makes the repair, but she's shocked when he buys numerous tools for her at the hardware store. Her cheapskate dad would have made her reimburse him every penny he spent. This is the start of a beautiful friendship. I was worried it would turn into an awkward romance, but Ms. Laymon kept it real.

The relationship blossoms into a pure and natural friendship. Lily finally finds the father she never had. She's so sincere and kind and can't help giving of herself. It's expressed by her voice, facial expressions and body language. If you met her in person, you'd be the first one in line to give her a big ol' hug and help her in any way you could. And Bob begins to come out of his shell as well. The two actors have an easy, relaxed manner about themselves and

you can feel the mutual camaraderie.

There's a memorable and telling scene near the beginning of the film. A desperate Lily makes an appointment to see a therapist. The young woman (Ashlyn Moore) is new to counseling and is relatively inexperienced. After Lily pours out her heart with her life story, we cut to a close-up of the therapist in tears. Her story was that sad. It's revealing that Lily ends up comforting her instead of the other way around.

"Bob Trevino Likes It" could have been another predictable Hollywood story of a desperate young woman looking for comfort, with a knight in shining armor coming to her rescue. Luckily, it's not that at all. It's a gentle, perfectly paced film where two individuals heal each other by the simple act of companionship. After all, isn't that one of the main reasons we're all here?

If you're in the mood for a special kind of storytelling I can almost guarantee will require having some tissues handy, don't miss this amazing movie. It's rare to find a film this touching. Once again, I'm really disappointed that it isn't better known. I think once you see it, you'll be telling everyone else they need to put it in their queues.

Currently streaming on



Hulu and to rent on a number of services, including Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, Amazon and Plex.

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](mailto:dominmark@yahoo.com).

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](http://moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).

MOVIE REVIEW  
"Bob Trevino Likes It"  
2024 - Rated PG-13  
1 hr 41 min  
★★★★★

You'll laugh. You'll cry. And yes, you'll even cry some more. But you definitely won't come away from this movie unchanged. It's one of those heart-warming indie films that's absolutely perfect in every way. The fact it's based on a true story makes it even more meaningful.

"Bob Trevino Likes It" is a semi-autobiographical story from first-time director Tracie Laymon. What an impressive rookie outing it is. It's an emotionally charged dram-com that deals with the healing power of human interaction. It's aided by an incredible cast that includes Barbie Ferreira ("Nope," "Euphoria"), French Stewart ("3rd Rock from the Sun") and John Leguizamo ("Moulin Rouge") in a career-defining performance. He's known for his characterization of the regular Joe and does it to perfection here.

Lily Trevino (Ferreira) is a lonely girl in her mid-20s living in a small town. She's a live-in caretaker

for Daphne (Lauren "Lolo" Spencer), a sharp, quick-witted girl with muscular dystrophy. Lily's lack of friends is further exacerbated when she breaks up with her boyfriend. In times like this, it would be nice to have the support of a parent. Well, Lily's mother walked out on the family when she was a little girl. And her dad, Bob, is an egomaniacal, narcissistic, tightwad who barely gives her the time of day. He's played so convincingly by French Stewart, you almost want to throw something at the screen whenever he appears. He's that aggravating. As a father, I kept asking myself, how could a parent treat their child this cruelly?

One evening, Bob arranges to take Lily to dinner to meet a woman he's met online. He honestly thinks she could be "the one." Well, Lily confuses the woman with someone else her father was interested in and the occasion turns into an unmitigated disaster, with the date storming out of the restaurant. This leads to a shouting match between father and daughter and results in her father making it clear

he wants nothing to do with her ever again. He's so furious he refuses to answer her repeated phone calls and virtually cuts her out of his life.

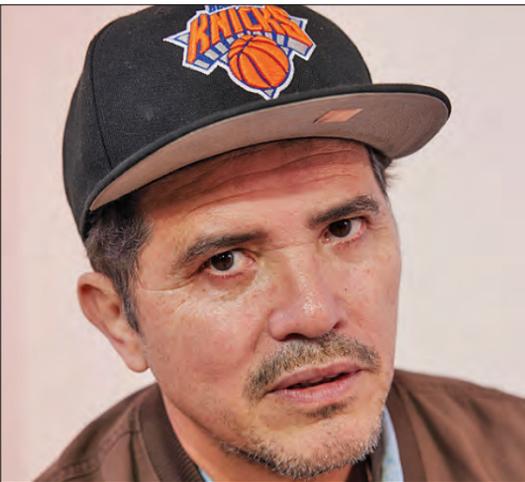
This proves to be a blessing in disguise. While searching the internet for her father, Lily comes across someone named Bob Trevino on Facebook, but the profile doesn't include a photo. She reaches out to this mystery person and is surprised to get a response. As luck would have it, it turns out to be another Bob, played by Leguizamo. Only this Bob is an unpretentious sort, who's a sweet, caring individual. He's happily married to Jeanie (Rachel Bay Jones) and they turn out to be an interesting couple.

They both have an air of sadness about them, due to their losing a child at a young age. Jeanie deals with the loss through competitive scrapbooking and Bob deals with it, well, not dealing with it.

When Bob informs his wife he's met a girl



Showing Bob her prize-winning scrapbooking.



John Leguizamo as Bob Trevino.



Lily meets with her therapist.



Lily confronts her dad.



Bob and Lily at the animal shelter.



Lily chilling.

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A FILM BY TRACIE LAYMON

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# BOB TREVINO LIKES IT

"BARBIE FERREIRA PROVES SHE'S THE NEXT BREAKOUT STAR" - INDIEWIRE

"A CAREER-CAPPING PERFORMANCE BY JOHN LEGUIZAMO" - ROGEREBERT.COM

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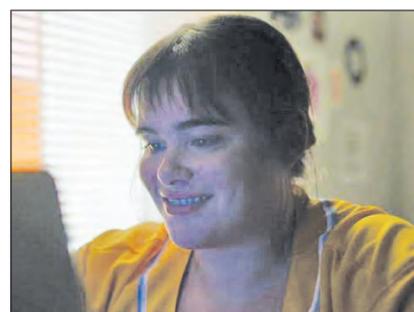
Movie Poster.



Lily's dad Bob (French Stewart).



John Leguizamo as Bob Trevino.



Lily surfing the net.

# Weekly Challenge

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

8/21 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆  
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## Contract Bridge

MORE THAN JUST A GUESS

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass  
1NT Pass 3♦ Pass  
3♥ Pass 4♥  
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

To guess right consistently is the mark of a fine player, but most of the good guesses you hear about are based much more on logic than on a so-called sixth sense. Consider this case where South must guess right at the critical point to make his four-heart contract.

West leads the jack of diamonds, won by declarer with the king. There is no good reason to postpone drawing trump, so South leads the heart

ten, taken by West with the king. West returns the ten of diamonds, won by the queen, and South leads another trump to West's ace.

West continues with still another diamond, the six, and South is confronted with the problem of whether to play dummy's ace or eight. If he plays the ace, he goes down; if he plays the eight, he makes the contract.

Actually, the right play is not really a guess. Declarer must play the eight, not because he can be sure that West started with the J-10-9-6 rather than the J-10-6, but because the eight play guarantees the contract, while the ace play jeopardizes it.

What can happen if the eight loses to the nine? Certainly nothing bad, since declarer is then assured of taking the rest of the tricks, discarding his two club losers on the ace of diamonds and queen of spades after extracting the last trump. And if East ruffs the eight, as in the actual deal, South still has the two club discards.

But if South puts up the ace instead of playing the eight, he courts disaster if East ruffs the ace. Declarer then cannot avoid losing a club trick later and so goes down one. You could say that playing the eight is a good guess, but it would be more accurate to call it a highly educated guess.

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by Steve Becker

## Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** Avoid shopping (except for food or gas) or big decisions after 2 p.m. EDT today (11 a.m. PDT). The Moon is in LEO.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, August 21, 2025:

You're innovative, pragmatic, imaginative and resourceful. You value your independence. This is a slower-paced, more laid-back year. It's OK to rest. Take time to rejuvenate yourself. Focus on business and personal partners who are kind, helpful and have your back. Concentrate on your needs.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

If you're a parent, you might need to talk about or to your kids today. Perhaps you want feedback or you need to vent. You might need to discuss a romantic relationship. You need to communicate to someone today and express your feelings openly. Tonight: Have fun.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

Family discussions have been taking place, and today you feel the need to talk to someone about what's going on at home. This also might relate to your job. Issues that have been on the back burner have come to your attention, and you have to speak up. Tonight: Relax.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

You have a busy schedule right now. However, today you want to express your ideas to others. You're ready to take the initiative and tell someone. You might defend your ideas or your stance about something. If so, you'll have no trouble doing this. Tonight: Discussions.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

Money issues are on your mind today. Perhaps for some the issues are related more to your possessions or something that you own. Whatever the case, you have strong opinions about what it is and you intend to speak up, especially with family members. Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today the Moon and Mercury are both lined up in your sign, which means that you'll be influenced by your moods today. You'll definitely welcome an opportunity to talk about your feelings. In fact, you might feel overwhelmed by something. Tonight: You're strong.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You'll be successful if you do any kind of research today because you have the intellectual and emotional frame of mind to dig for facts and discover new things. You'll relish taking the initiative and finding something obscure but informative. "The game, Mrs. Hudson, is on!" Tonight: Solitude.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

A discussion with a friend or a member of a group will be full of candor and genuine feelings today, because you feel the need to speak up and talk about something. You might even surprise yourself about how willing you are to discuss what concerns you. Tonight: Be friendly.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

No doubt you're aware that you're high-viz today, to the extent that some people know personal details about your private life. Perhaps this is why you will be more vocal when talking to parents, bosses or authority figures, sharing your ideas as well as complaints. Tonight: Show respect.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is an excellent day to study and learn something new. You have lots of mental energy, plus you're curious. You also might speak up about legal or medical matters that concern you. Issues related to publishing or higher education might be important to you. Tonight: Learn and discover.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You'll be successful discussing issues related to shared property, taxes, debt or inheritances because you're willing to speak your mind. Furthermore, you have strong feelings about these issues. You're not casual about money. And certainly, you're not casual about your future security. Tonight: Check your finances.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You might attract someone to you today who wants to tell you their concerns about something. Likewise, you might want to share your views about politics, religion or travel plans. Everyone has their opinion about something today. Yada, yada, yada. Tonight: Cooperate.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

Work-related issues concern you today, and you intend to speak up about them. This is something that needs to be addressed; furthermore, you have strong feelings about them. Meanwhile, this is a pleasant day to socialize with friendly types. Tonight: Get better organized.

**BORN TODAY**  
Olympic sprinter Usain Bolt (1986), basketball player Wilt Chamberlain (1936), actress Carrie-Anne Moss (1967).

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 21, 2025

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>   | <b>DOWN</b>                |
| 1 Hayfork feature   | 1 Fizzling sound           |
| 6 Get ready, briefly  | 2 Regulation               |
| 10 "Yeah, right!"   | 3 Metal sources            |
| 14 Owllike '90s toy   | 4 Suns and Heat, e.g.      |
| 15 Spot for an icicle   | 5 Spot to do reps and sets |
| 16 Lady who calls her fans "Little Monsters"  | 6 Suffer ruin              |
| 17 Spot for vintage finds (In this answer, note the first three letters + the last two) | 7 Gardener's tool          |
| 19 Strongly suggest   | 8 Prior night              |
| 20 Try out  | 9 Slithery housemate       |
| 21 Thanksgiving dessert   |                            |
| 22 Wild guesses   |                            |
| 24 Has some 21-Across, say  |                            |
| 26 Ridiculous   |                            |
| 27 "Moby-Dick" captain  |                            |
| 29 Hosts a festivity (... first three letters + the last two)                           |                            |
| 33 Studies desperately  |                            |
| 34 What a comedian talks into   |                            |
| 35 Post : after :: ___ : before   |                            |
| 36 Coop group   |                            |
| 37 Most populous city in Idaho  |                            |
| 39 "Before you know it"   |                            |
| 40 The word "clue," for this clue   |                            |
| 41 Napkin holders?  |                            |
| 42 Perfect grade  |                            |
| 43 Tinker Bell's trail (... first two letters + the last two)                           |                            |
| 46 Word in low-calorie sodas' names   |                            |
| 47 Small fruit pastries   |                            |
| 48 Tower-shaped chess piece   |                            |
| 50 Land of K-pop  |                            |
| 51 Pulled off   |                            |
| 52 Notable periods  |                            |
| 56 Donate   |                            |
| 57 Rejects someone on Tinder (... first three letters + the last two)                   |                            |
| 60 Is in debt   |                            |
| 61 Hard- or soft-shelled food   |                            |
| 62 Film director  |                            |
| 63 Gossip material  |                            |
| 64 Observed closely   |                            |
| 65 Fabulous fabulist  |                            |
| 10 Spiny-crested reptile  |                            |
| 11 Rotating sign outside a hair salon   |                            |
| 12 "Sunny-side up" breakfast staples  |                            |
| 13 Bo (fitness system)  |                            |
| 18 Well-suited  |                            |
| 23 Gift-wrapping need   |                            |
| 25 Crunch targets   |                            |
| 26 Egyptian fertility deity   |                            |
| 27 Sports venue   |                            |
| 28 "I'll take that!"  |                            |
| 30 Not quite right  |                            |
| 31 Salmon relative  |                            |
| 32 Cravings   |                            |
| 33 Gourmet cook   |                            |
| 37 What something tacky is in   |                            |
| 38 Major musical work   |                            |
| 39 "Do the Right Thing" director  |                            |
| 41 Harp's ancestor  |                            |
| 42 Ruckus   |                            |
| 44 Least common   |                            |
| 45 Support for a YouTuber?  |                            |
| 49 Praiseworthy poem  |                            |
| 50 Fuzzy fruit with a gold variety  |                            |
| 51 Board game cubes   |                            |
| 53 Scarlet and maroon   |                            |
| 54 Classic Diana Ross hairdo  |                            |
| 55 Come to a standstill   |                            |
| 56 Thor or Horus  |                            |
| 58 Method   |                            |
| 59 Mud bath venue   |                            |

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

8/14 Solution  
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### Quick Tips by Guilherme Gilioli

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14						15				16			
17					18				19				
20					21			22	23				
			24	25			26						
	27	28				29	30				31	32	
33							34				35		
36						37	38				39		
40				41					42				
43				44				45	46				
		47						48	49				
	50							51		52	53	54	55
56						57	58			59			
60						61				62			
63						64				65			



# THURSDAY COMICS



Peanuts

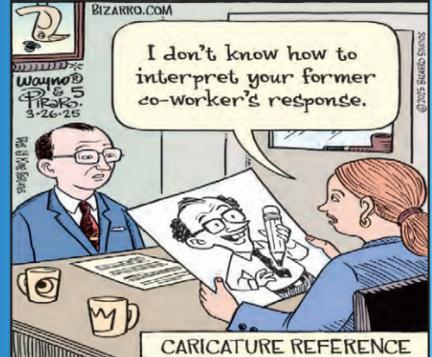
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

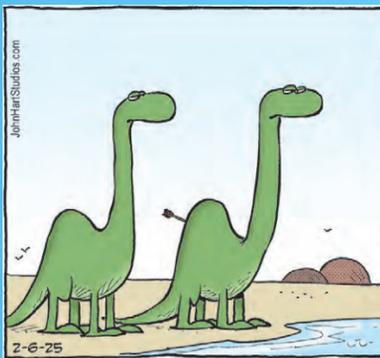
Reg Smythe



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

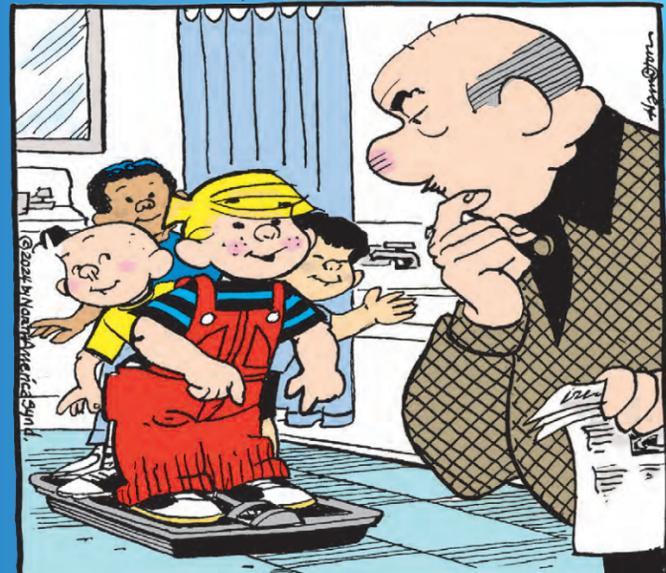
Mike Peters



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

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Carpe Diem

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Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



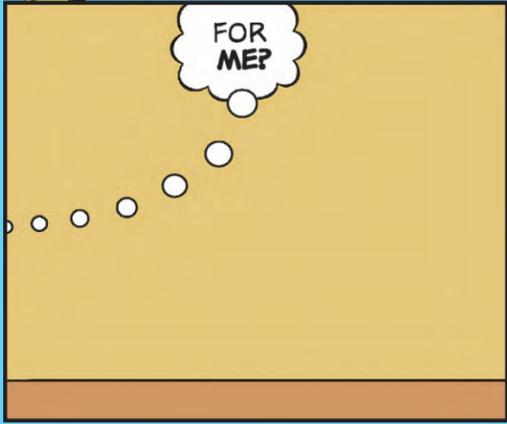
# THURSDAY COMICS



Garfield



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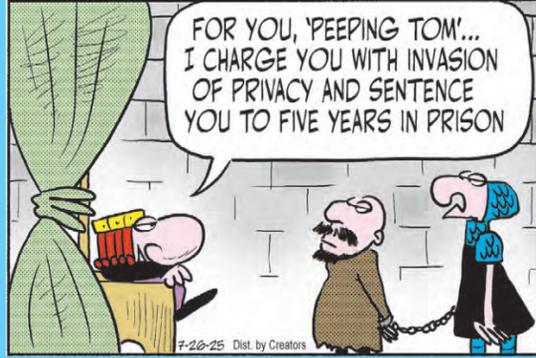
Hagar The Horrible (Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

Close To Home John McPherson



Wizard of Id Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni

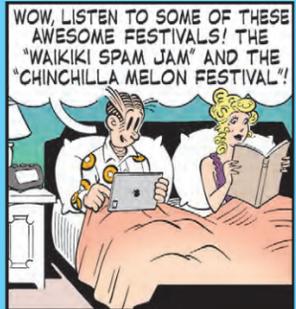


Ziggy Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young

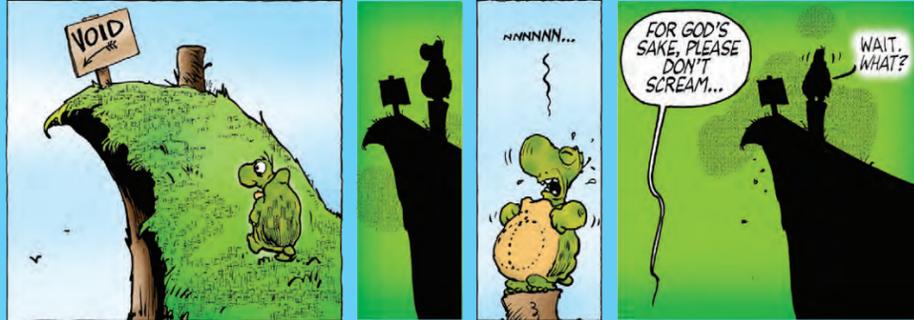


Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

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Popeye

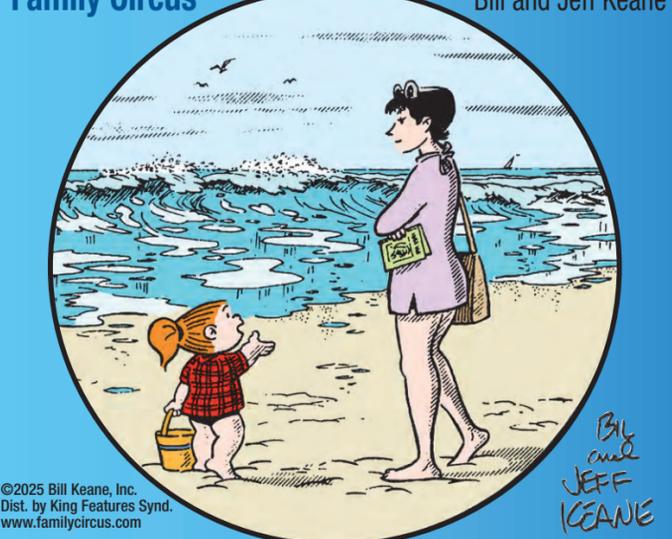
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# SPORTS



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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

## South field hockey eyes big season with talent, tradition and team goals

By Meg Kelly  
Editorial Intern

With a strong core of returning talent and a summer full of preparation, Grosse Pointe South's field hockey team is entering fall with high expectations and even higher energy.

"Our program philosophy is built around the GROW model," head coach Jessie Rouleau said. "It's all about setting shared goals and creating a player-led culture rooted in accountability and team unity."

This fall, South returns the majority of its starting varsity lineup, including standout goalkeeper Harriet Kowalski. The junior, who earned second team All-State and was last season's defensive MVP, is expected to anchor a defense led by senior Charlie Harr.

On the attack, fans can expect a scoring spark

from senior standouts Andee Baker and Evie Wodzisz, as well as sophomore Wells Webber, as the three return as last year's leading goal scorers. Midfield will be locked down by senior Stella Fry, while junior forward Hannah Agnone brings additional depth up front.

South's younger talent is equally promising. Freshman Therese Carron, who competed in the 2025 AAU Junior Olympics, joins sophomore contributors Karissa Jelinski, Mia Rouleau and Webber as rising underclassmen who already have varsity experience.

Summer workouts and scrimmages were well attended and Rouleau noted visible growth in several athletes.

"We should be very competitive this year at both levels," Rouleau said.

Leadership will emerge organically, with players voting on captains after the season begins.

"We want everyone to have the opportunity to earn that role as we build team chemistry," Rouleau said. "I'm expecting them to work hard to win while also having fun. It's a great combination. They will also leave a lasting impression on the classes below them through their love for our team traditions."

South's toughest challenges will include hosting title contender Dexter, who it faced after press time Tuesday, Aug. 19, and rivalry games against Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett. As always, the annual "Stick it to Cancer" game against North Oct. 7, and charity car wash remain meaningful highlights for the team.



COURTESY PHOTO

South senior Andee Baker, pictured in a game against Marian last season, is expected to be one of the leaders of the Blue Devils' attack this fall.

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

## Strength comes in pairs for Liggett boys tennis

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School boys' varsity tennis team enters every season with high expectations and as a contender for the Division 4 state title. The same can be said for this fall, as the Knights feel like they have the depth and talent to once again add trophies to their collection at the end of the season.

Leading the Knights this season are senior captains Landen Maltby, Griffin Marchal and Nico Cooksey. All three are doubles players — and that is where the Knights feel their biggest strength lies this season. Cooksey and Marchal will be the No. 1 doubles team with Maltby and partner Charlie Laethem at No. 2 doubles, but Liggett knows the talent in its top doubles pairs is strong enough that any combination will be strong on the court.

"I knew we were going to have depth," Liggett boys tennis coach Mark Sobieralski said. "There's not a big drop off. I feel like I have two No. 1 doubles teams. ... Everyone is solid."

As for singles, junior Tise Courtright and sophomore Yurii Polyni are expected to be in the top spots. With depth in all areas, everyone will have



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK SOBIERALSKI

University Liggett boys tennis celebrates on the court after sweeping a quad match at Portland last Saturday, Aug. 16. The Knights defeated Portland, Paw Paw and Whitehall all by scores of 8-0.

to contribute as the team once again faces a challenging schedule throughout the fall.

Liggett enters the season ranked second in Division 4 by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association and

will have to face several teams ranked in both Division 4 and higher.

The Knights will take on Catholic League foes such as Brother Rice, Detroit Catholic Central and Ann Arbor Greenhills, all of them ranked teams in

their respective divisions. Also on the schedule for Liggett are pre-season Division 1 ranked teams Troy Athens and Stoney Creek.

"It's our Liggett tradition to play as tough a schedule as possible so

that by the time we get to the state tournament, you're battle-tested," Sobieralski said.

The Knights were victorious in their first matches of the season Saturday, Aug. 16, traveling to Portland for a quad match.

Liggett defeated Portland, Paw Paw and Whitehall all by scores of 8-0. The team takes the court at home Thursday, Aug. 21, in a quad match against Grosse Pointe South, Stoney Creek and Frankel Jewish Academy.



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## 2D | SPORTS

## 2025 Fall Sports Previews ▶▶

## Cross Country

## Depth, leadership drive South girls cross country into new season

By Meg Kelly  
Editorial Intern

With the loss of its top four runners to graduation, Grosse Pointe South girls cross country enters the 2025 season facing a challenge, but its head coach, Stephen Zaranek, believes the program is built to meet.

“Our goals remain constant from year to year,” Zaranek said. “We want everyone to enjoy the experience and be the best possible teammates. That includes full support for one another. Mutual respect, regardless of ability level, is paramount.”

South returns nine runners who broke the 23-minute mark last season, including veterans Paige Garbo, Calisse



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South girls cross country enters 2025 with high expectations and a strong group of returning varsity runners.

Budek, Morgan Costello, Korsak, Abby Macey, Vivi Ostrowski, Rylee Piornack, Erin Morgan Mannino and Combined with a strong

incoming group, Zaranek sees promise in the team's depth.

“This does provide a great opportunity for a very large group to step up and fill that void,” he said.

Leading the charge are five senior captains, Leila Oskui, Mannino, Abby Macey, Ostrowski and Chloe Slawson, who have helped shape a culture rooted in unity and positivity.

“Our team culture, from season to season, is incredible,” Zaranek said. “It is all based on mutual support and solid camaraderie. We successfully blend all four grades into one, incredibly positive team.”

Summer training saw high participation, with athletes logging miles, core work and strength

training under captain leadership. Many also are carrying momentum from the spring track season.

Coming off undefeated seasons in both cross country and track, the team will aim to repeat those results by focusing on MAC competitions, large invitationals and the state regional.

“Our team depth is always at the core of our success,” Zaranek said. “We do expect the depth factor to once again power our team.”

South opened the season at the Lamplighter Invitational in Livonia last Friday, Aug. 15. The Blue Devils race again Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Clawson City Park in the Clawson Popsicle Invitational.

## Youthful South boys XC team ready to build foundation for future

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys cross-country team enters the 2025 season going through a youth movement. The Blue Devils are approaching the year with a roster that includes only a handful of seniors, with younger athletes making up the majority of the team. While there might be some growing pains as the team makes adjustments, the Blue Devils also are excited for what potential might arise throughout the year.

“We’re going to be very young,” South boys cross-country coach Mark Sonnenberg said. “... We have a lot of kids who committed to the summer and were will-

ing to put in the time. There’s an unknown ceiling and I like the idea that we’re going to have a season where there aren’t many expectations and whatever happens happens.”

Some of the young runners leading the way this season will be sophomores Grayson Wodzisz and Everett Wood. Also expected to have an impact is incoming freshman Oscar Resnick.

The Blue Devils will need leadership from wherever they can get it as they try to navigate through the MAC White Division and other challenging meets this fall. The program knows it may need to measure expectations this season, but is more than willing to focus on development and the future. If this

team can create leaders who are ready to return in the years to come and be pillars of the program, then this season still can be a success.

“We need to make sure that we’re building the leaders of the future,” Sonnenberg said. “I’m an educator and I love cross country and track, and I love getting these kids to become the best version of themselves. Sports have always been one of the best vehicles for getting these kids to be great young men and that’s what we’re ultimately about. Success comes with them buying into that.”

South opens the season Tuesday, Aug. 26, at the Clawson Popsicle Invitational at Clawson City Park.

## North girls XC enters new division with renewed energy

By Meg Kelly  
Editorial Intern

With a fresh move to MHSAA Division 2 and a strong group of senior leaders, the Grosse Pointe North girls cross-country team is heading into the 2025 season focused on growth, commitment and fun.

“Primarily, we are seeking to have a fun, positive, encouraging team environment that leads to the girls being challenged and improving as runners and people,” head coach Alan Parish said. “We have the goal of qualifying one or two individuals, if not the full team, to states.”

Helping lead the charge are three senior captains, Avery Boutell, Quinn Notebaert and Isabella Valdez, each entering their fourth year on the team.

“They have been doing a great job of leading summer runs and are an extension of the coaching staff,” Parish said. “We couldn’t do it without them.”

The team’s inclusive culture remains a central part of the program’s identity.

“The primary attributes of the North cross-country culture are fun, positivity and inclusiveness,” Parish said. “However, headed into this season, we are putting new emphasis on commitment and dedication.”

That shift started over the summer, with daily captain-led practices at 8 a.m. in local parks.

“The core of our team heads into official practice with a great base,” Parish said.

While the team graduated 10 seniors, including the top three runners,

returners like sophomore Maylin Parish and senior Boutell are expected to step up.

“Avery and Maylin both had terrific track seasons in the spring and they continued that momentum with a dedication to consistent summer training,” Parish said.

Key meets this fall include a nighttime opener in Bay City Friday, Aug. 22, the Wayne County championship at Willow Metropark and a Division 2 regional at Columbus County Park.

While performance goals still are in place, the team’s main benchmark for success is cultural.

“The biggest way we will chart our team improvement is through attendance and commitment.”

## North boys cross country alum looks to continue program tradition

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Following the recent retirements of longtime head coach Diane Montgomery and assistant coach Joe Ciaravino, the 2025 fall season marks the beginning of a new era for Grosse Pointe North boys cross country. Taking over the reins this fall is new head coach Jim Fisher, a former Norseman who aims to build on the legacy built by the coaches before him and by himself as a runner years ago.

Fisher was part of North’s first boys cross-country state championship team in 1973. He went on to run at Central Michigan University and has remained an avid runner throughout his life, most recently coaching at Crescent Academy International in Canton. Now, he returns to his former program with an appreciation for the standard that has been set in years past.

“I am honored to follow in the footsteps of outstanding cross-country coaches at North

over the years, most recently Diane Montgomery and Joe Ciaravino,” Fisher said. “I have a deep appreciation for the longstanding cross-country tradition in place here. My goal is to continue that tradition while striving to elevate the program to new heights.”

Joining Fisher’s staff are assistant coaches Robbie Fisher and John Lapere, both of whom are former North runners as well. They inherit a Norsemen squad with its share of seasoned veterans who

should be ready to lead both on and off the course right away this fall.

While North’s top runner from last year, Caleb Kosel, graduated, six of the team’s top seven runners from last year’s regional meet are back on the roster this season. That group includes seniors Neil Orlovski and Paul Stephens, fellow senior Jack Bugeja, junior Russell Wagner and sophomores Dylan Phillips and Jack Bartkovicz. Stephens and fellow senior Sam Parish are set to serve as

this season’s team captains.

The Norsemen will be looking for that veteran leadership, along with some up-and-coming runners like sophomore Will Henze, to guide the team through a challenging fall schedule. North begins the season Saturday, Aug. 23, in Webberville at the Happy Acres Invitational and will compete in the MAC Red Jamboree relatively early in the season Sept. 3, along with the MAC Red Championships at Dakota Sept. 24.



PHOTO BY MELISSA SPAIN

Paul Stephens

# 2025 Fall Sports Previews

## Volleyball

# North volleyball looks for veterans to lead way in 2025

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

There is no shortage of experience in the Grosse Pointe North varsity volleyball lineup this year. The Norsemen have nine players coming back from last year's varsity team, making this a group of seasoned and skilled players to build a strong foundation this fall.

The most unique thing about this group of returning players is the range of grade levels

included. North has seniors, juniors and sophomores all with varsity experience from prior seasons who will be on the court this fall.

They'll be joined by a few incoming freshmen who could have an impact at the varsity level right away.

"This diverse mix ensures strength across all positions, fosters internal competition and builds a strong future pipeline," North volleyball



coach Chelsea Brozo said. Some of the leaders who stand out in this veteran group are  
PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA  
Leah Burney

senior outside hitters Leah Burney and Tiara Mahone, along with senior setter Eva Borowski. Junior middle Rose Parker could have another strong year of growth, while sophomore setter Madison Jewell could be one of the team's most promising young athletes.

With all of the experience North brings to the court this year, they also have experience in big matches. The Norsemen were district champions

last season and surely have their sights set on reaching that mark and more again this fall. The team also is looking to move up in the MAC White Division after finishing in the middle of the standings in 2024.

Every team has their sights set on goals like that and every team also knows things have to be taken one match at a time. The approach is no different for North this year, along with knowing that continuing to grow as a team is

the most important and the wins will follow.

"Success is competing with heart, integrity and respect, no matter if you are on or off the court," Brozo said. "You'll always represent a better version of yourself, your team, school and community. No matter what age, we lead by example."

North begins the new season this Saturday, Aug. 23, hosting an invitational including visiting teams Berkley and Yale.

# South volleyball all about grit in 2025

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The word "gritty" gets thrown around a lot in sports these days, especially in Michigan thanks to the Detroit Lions. However, it is one of the main words Grosse Pointe South volleyball hopes defines this season's team.

The Blue Devils return a group of nine experienced varsity players from last year's roster who all can be key fixtures in the lineup. From the seniors on down, what the team already is showing in pre-season practices is the willingness to fight for every point.

"Watching them compete, I think they just have a competitive mindset that you can really



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Sophomore Anna Groustra, left, is one of nine returning varsity players from last season for South volleyball.

see on the court," South volleyball coach Janeil DiVita said. "... You want to go after everything and keep the ball off the

floor. This group has that grit and drive."

At the core of this year's experienced group for South are four

seniors, including 2024 first-team All-State outside hitter Gabby DiVita, who will be one of the team's key leaders, along

with fellow seniors Sydney Hoffman, Alex Lupo and setter Lucy Edwards. Junior Charlotte Kowal and sophomore Anna Groustra could also step into major roles this fall.

They are among what South sees as part of a cohesive group on this year's team. Everyone will be looked on to help the Blue Devils maintain the standard of success that has been set in recent years, with winning the district championship becoming the norm for the program.

South hopes to continue that standard while competing in the always-tough MAC Red Division another season. There always are goals for every team in terms of benchmark wins, but the Blue Devils know the key

to reaching that mark is by following through on the team's goals for development and improvement every day.

"There are goals that we're trying to accomplish from an outcomes standpoint, but what we're really looking at is how we get there," DiVita said. "It's about continuing to build a culture in our gym and living out what we're saying that we're going to do on a daily basis. Developmentally, I think they see the potential this group has and there are so many of them who are coachable and want to get better."

The Blue Devils take the court for the first time this season Thursday, Aug. 28, heading on the road to face Clarkston.

# Knights volleyball looks to reach new heights under new coach

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Winning district championships each of the past three seasons, University Liggett School varsity volleyball has had its share of recent success. However, the program feels it can reach even higher as it enters the 2025 season with a new head coach and a revamped lineup.

Taking over the helm of the Knights this fall is Jillian Twardowski. A Liggett alumna and former volleyball player, Twardowski is taking the reins of a program that has played a major role in her life. She served as the JV coach at Liggett in recent years and has seen the potential of the program when there is a collective vision.

"The culture on the teams at Liggett is very strong and it makes people feel welcome," Twardowski said. "I would consider Liggett volleyball to be a program and I'll be working very closely with the JV

coach, so being able to give back to something that helped me grow as a student is really exciting to be able to create that for other girls."

Twardowski's team will have a mix of experience. There may not be many seniors on the roster, but there are some veteran leaders the Knights know will play a major role on and off the court. Those include seniors Reese Macek and Collette Peabody, as well as junior Mychala Penn.

Also showing potential to step into major roles are a few players whom Twardowski mentored

at the JV level last year. Lea Abdul-Noor, Norah Nordin, Sonya Jayakar and Maeve Tobin could all have an impact from day one at the varsity level.

There is a mix of age and experience on this year's Liggett team and they will be faced with some challenges in the Catholic League schedule. However, coach Twardowski sees this as a team that has already bonded pretty well, with players who will be willing to fight for each other in every game and practice.

"They get along very well and support each

other very well," Twardowski said. "... They work together and have a lot of camaraderie. ... They also have a

history of doing pretty well with the offense and this year are looking to bring some new things to the table there."

The Knights start the new season Thursday, Aug. 21, with a game on the road at Parkway Christian.

## City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, meeting as the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 through 125.3702 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will consider multiple variances at 2086 Ridgemont Avenue in order for the lot to be buildable, to construct a single-family home. Variances are requested for the following:

- A variance from the minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet (Sec. 50-3.1E) to 4,060 square feet.
- A variance from the minimum lot width of 50 feet (Sec. 50-3.1E) to a lot width of 35 feet.
- A variance from the minimum side yard total of 15 feet (total of two) (Sec. 50-3.1E), to side yards totaling 13 feet (total of two).
- A variance from the minimum side yard for corner lots of 15 feet (Sec. 50-3.8.A(3)), to a side yard for a corner lot totaling 8 feet.
- A variance from the minimum size of dwellings provision, which does not permit the erection of dwellings on lots with a width of less than 40 feet (Sec. 50-3.4), to erect a dwelling on a lot with a width of 35 feet.

The ZBA hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 8th, 2025, at 7:00pm, at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236). The application is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office between 8:30am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office (cityclerk@gpwm.us), up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at (313) 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwm.us.

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at (313) 343-2426 or e-mail: building@gpwm.us.

Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

## City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will be considering the following proposed Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment (Rezoning) of 20160 Mack Avenue from RO-1 (Restricted Office District) to C (Commercial Business) for a second reading and final adoption at its meeting scheduled for September 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers/Court Room of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center.

The proposed rezoning is available for public inspection at the Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend

Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

G.P.N.:08/21/25

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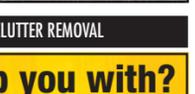


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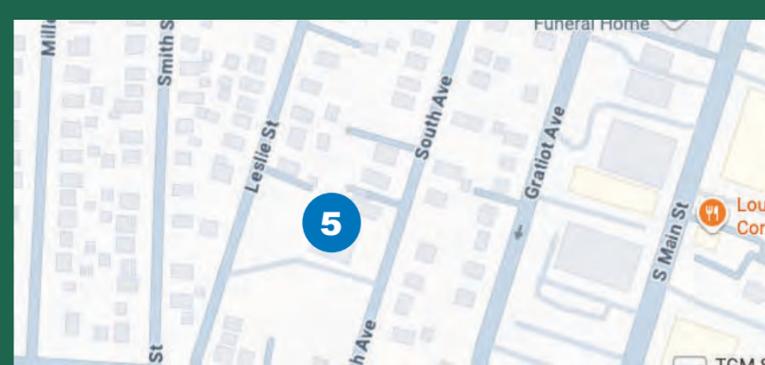
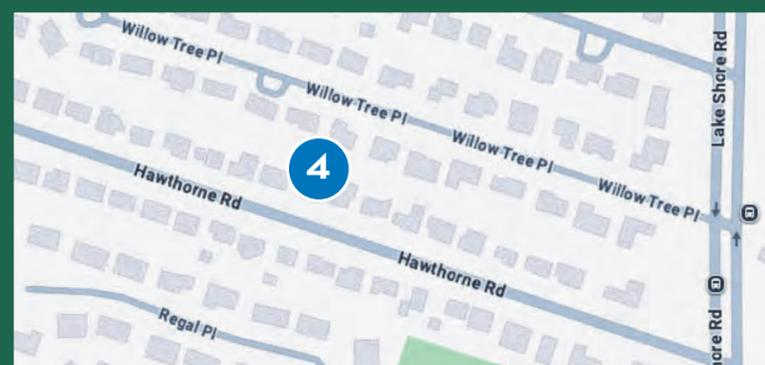
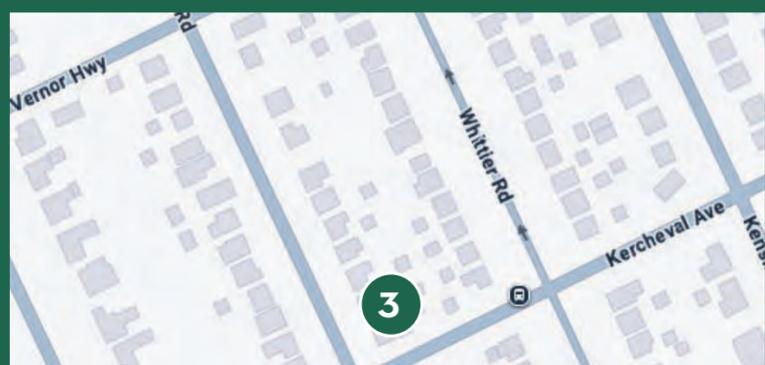
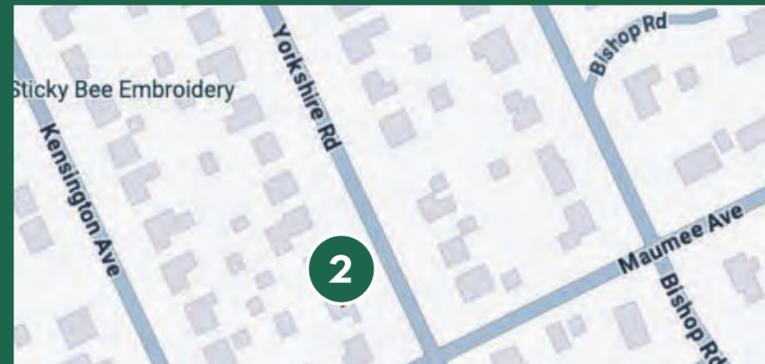
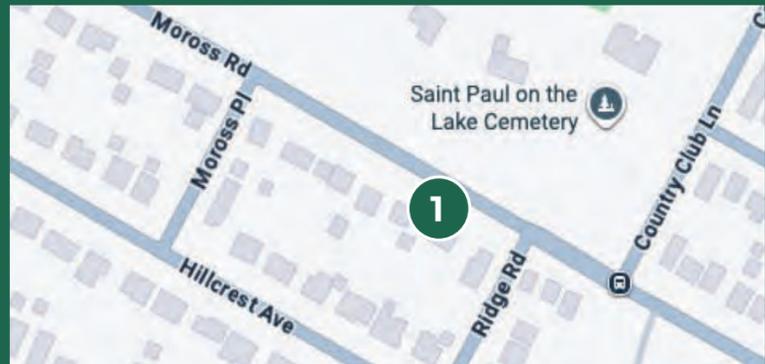
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**THIS WEEK**

1. 245 Moross Rd., GPF
2. 1035 Yorkshire Rd., GPP
3. 1200 Audubon Rd., GPP
4. 48 Hawthorne Rd., GPS
5. 146 South Ave., Mt. Clemens

○ = YARD SALE    ● = ESTATE SALE

See Classifieds for more details

# 2025 Fall Sports Previews ▶▶

## Field Hockey

### ULS field hockey eyes Catholic League title, deep playoff run

By Meg Kelly  
Editorial Intern

University Liggett School's field hockey team has its sights set high for the 2025 season, with goals of winning the Catholic League championship and making a deep run in the MHSAA playoffs.

"I always strive to make sure that all players in our program, regardless of skill level or experience, continue to develop to the best of their abilities while having fun together as a team," head coach Amanda Amine said.

This year's leadership group includes seniors Olivia Marcero, Madeline Hexter and Avery Welsh, along with juniors Maisy Huebner and Ally Orlick. With eight seniors on the roster, the team's tone is set by its veteran presence.

"We have an extremely positive team culture and the girls really care about one another, which I'm hoping will translate to plenty of success for us this season," Amine said.

Off-season training was boosted by the team's many multi-sport athletes who still made



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

University Liggett field hockey celebrates after winning the 2024 Catholic League championship, a title the team hopes to defend successfully in 2025.

time for field hockey and conditioning work. That commitment reflects their excitement for the season ahead.

Marcero, a first-team All State and All Catholic League selection last season, will return as a

key playmaker. Orlick also earned second-team All State honors as a sophomore and is poised for a strong junior year. In goal, Hexter and Huebner are expected to anchor the defense.

Sophomore Kate Ricci

is a newcomer to watch with the potential to make an immediate impact for the Knights.

Liggett will face a demanding schedule this fall, which is something the team embraces.

"Facing a high level of

competition will only make us stronger and more prepared for the playoffs," Amine said.

Liggett hosted Novi after press time Tuesday, Aug. 19. The team heads on the road to face Chelsea Friday, Aug. 22.

# North field hockey focused on fun, growth in rebuilding season

By Meg Kelly  
Editorial Intern

For Grosse Pointe North field hockey, this fall is about building for the future while keeping the game fun.

"Our goal is to have fun and win some games," head coach Brenna Marsin said. "A lot of our girls are trying

a new sport for the first time and I want to give them a place to have fun after school."

The Norsemen return senior leaders Charlotte Truss and Gabby Galati, along with junior goalie Kinley Arioli, who provide stability and experience to a young roster. Marsin said the team culture has been espe-

cially encouraging.

"Our team is very supportive of one another and want to see each other improve," Marsin said. "Since there are a lot of new players on our team this year, I see a lot of leadership from our returning girls."

Off-season preparation included a well-attended summer camp

that introduced many middle school athletes to the sport, helping spark interest in the program before high school.

This fall, juniors and sophomores already are making their mark. Marsin highlighted Layla Adams and Aamiyah Norwood as newcomers to watch.

"They are both hard-working and already have a great grasp on the game," Marsin said. With the program in a rebuilding phase, challenges remain.

"A lot of the girls on our team have never picked up a stick until tryouts," Marsin said. "But the effort and support they're showing

each other makes me really excited for where we're headed."

The Norsemen are entering the season focused on growth, team chemistry and building a foundation for years to come. The team starts the season on the road Thursday, Aug. 21, against Bloomfield Hills.

## Boys Tennis

### North boys tennis looks to build around young talent

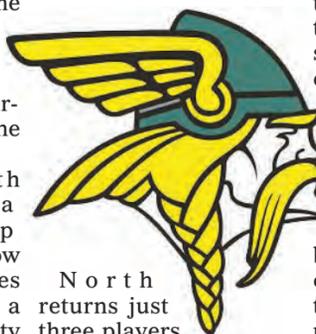
By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Last fall was a banner season for Grosse Pointe North varsity boys tennis, with some of the biggest achievements for the program in some time. The Norsemen won the MAC Red Division, finished second at the regional tournament and reached the Division 2 state finals.

However, North achieved that with a roster largely made up of seniors who have now graduated. That leaves the Norsemen with a lineup that looks pretty different from last year as the team enters the 2025 season, but they still believe the talent they have on the court can be developed enough to lead the program to success in the future.

"We definitely ended last year on a high," North boys tennis coach John VanAlst said. "Unfortunately, age sort of gets the best of us and we graduated many players. We have a lot of

new, young, hungry, athletic tennis players who are on the team. ... I'm excited with the talent we have and the possibilities for the future of the program."



North returns just three players from last year's varsity roster. One of the players who will be in a major role this season is sophomore Ajay Sarnaik, who moves up to the No. 1 singles spot after being the team's No. 4 singles player last season. Also returning to the varsity lineup are seniors Stephen Listman and Emerson Hilliker, who can provide a valuable dose of veteran leadership to this mostly young

Norseman team.

The Norsemen know retaining the MAC Red Division title this season might be a lofty goal with such a rebuilt lineup. The matchups on the schedule may be tough and there may be some difficult losses to endure, but North has its sights set more on the future. Wins and losses will come and go, but the biggest focus for the Norsemen right now is building a competitive culture to have the team's young athletes poised for bigger things.

"The key to a rebuild is the building part," VanAlst said. "We're building experiences with our players. We're building pride and professionalism in our program. Be competitive and compete. Winning is a learned behavior, not a given."

North begins the season hosting a quad match Thursday, Aug. 21, against St. Clair, Lakeview and Grosse Ile.

## Blue Devils boys tennis sets expectations high

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

After a third-place finish at regionals and an appearance at the Division 2 state finals in 2024, the Grosse Pointe South varsity boys tennis team is ready to build on that foundation this fall. The Blue Devils bring back a strong group of returning players — having lost just one senior from last year's team — all of whom are ready to compete.

"We're bringing back a c k

almost an entire roster of veterans," South boys tennis coach Brian Kean said. "This is a deep, battle-tested squad that knows exactly what it takes to compete at a high level. The experience across the lineup gives us consistency, leadership and the ability to handle the big moments."

Anchoring the lineup for South at the No. 1 singles position once again is senior Matthew Holowinski. Another key singles player from whom

the Blue Devils are expecting big things is junior Matthew Bartoszewicz.

They are just some of the athletes South expects to help lead the program to the top of Division 2 this season. One of the biggest tests to see if they can do it comes early in the season Saturday, Aug. 23. The Blue Devils travel to Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central for a tournament featuring stiff competition like defending Division 2 state

champion Forest Hills Northern and Midland Dow, which also finished in the top five in the state last season.

"It's loaded with teams where every match will be against championship-caliber competition," Kean said. "We see this as our chance to set the tone for the rest of the season — measuring ourselves against the very best and proving that we can compete."

South also once again will battle its way through

the MAC Red Division, which it hopes to reclaim after rival Grosse Pointe North took the division crown last year. The two teams face off head-to-head at North Monday, Sept. 15.

The MAC Red matches, along with other challenging tournaments throughout the season, will help the Blue Devils gauge their standing by the time regionals arrive in mid-October. South tennis always tries to maintain high expectations for itself and this year is no different. The Blue Devils want to take the division and the region and work their way to a top-10 finish in the state. They believe the experience and talent of the roster will allow them to do just that.

"This veteran group knows what it takes to get there and we're ready to embrace the grind, compete in every match and make this one of our most successful seasons," Kean said.

South began the season Monday Aug. 18, beating Utica and Grosse Ile in a quad match that also included Brother Rice. The team takes the court again Thursday, Aug. 21, taking on both University Liggett School and Stoney Creek.



COURTESY PHOTO