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Opposition to rezoning continues

By Ted O'Neil
 Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — As they have for the past several council meetings, dozens of residents spoke out during a public hearing Monday, Aug. 18, about rezoning 20160 Mack.

The property, currently a vacant medical office, sits on the east side of Mack between South Renaud and Oxford, with a rear parking lot that spans between both side streets.

Entrepreneur Justin Buccellato is asking the city to rezone the property from office to commercial and wants to build three connected retail sites. He previously referred to the building there now as, “unsalvageable.”

The first hearing on the matter, May 19, lasted more than two hours and saw 31 people speak against the plan. Council



RENDERING COURTESY OF STUCKY VITALE ARCHITECTS

The proposed new building at 20160 Mack that would house up to three commercial businesses.

at that time voted to return the matter to the planning commission, which originally approved it in April.

Neighbors speaking against the rezoning said

their main concerns are related to health and safety. That includes increased traffic, parking congestion, crime, storm-water runoff, the possibility of a chain restaurant

locating there and an influx of rodents if any type of restaurant moves in.

Buccellato said he does not yet know what type of tenants would occupy

the space.

“It could be fitness, retail, a veterinarian,” he told council in May. “We’ve got the financing approved.”

He added, however, he

would not complete the purchase without the zoning change.

City Administrator Frank Schulte said Buccellato agreed to several site plan changes after residents in the area met with the architect and city officials.

That included reducing the footprint of the proposed building by 2,000 square feet, building a higher wall along the back of the parking lot to reduce noise, adding more landscaping, adding more windows, putting different lighting in the parking lot so it would not spill into the neighborhood and allowing the city to put up signs making it illegal to exit the parking lot onto South Renaud or Oxford.

“The developer also paid for a traffic study, which our contractor confirmed,” Schulte said. “There would be no substantial impact on traffic.”

See REZONE, page 3A

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Leveling water rates

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Hefty hardwood molding and thick plaster walls aren’t the only things making Park houses stout.

Add to that oversized water meters — water meters so big a registered municipal advisor hasn’t encountered them among his firm’s 150 clients throughout the state.

“We have never run into this before,” said Andy Campbell, of Bendzinski Municipal Advisors, retained to advise Park officials on water rates. “It was a learning experience for us.”

Jumbo meters were cited this week as throwing off Campbell’s calculations for an across-the-board increase in Park water and sewer rates.

Part of the formula

charged customers on usage, both coming and going. Use more drinking water, get charged more. Use more water, get charged more for sewage.

Members of the city council two months ago, June 9, used Campbell’s calculations when approving a 23 percent water-sewer rate increase. Proponents said proceeds were needed to meet higher costs to buy drinking water from the city’s supplier, fund capital improvements to the water-sewer system and beef up the system’s financial reserves.

None of that ever got going. Some residents wound up walloped by water bills more than twice as great as they’d received before. City officials reacted by advising residents to stop paying

See RATES, page 2A

Week Ahead 3A
 Opinion 6A
 Schools 9A
 Features 1B
 Obituaries 2B
 Sports 1D
 Classified ads 2D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Drop-off area being constructed on St. Clair

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — As reconstruction of St. Clair continues, city administrators are taking the opportunity to identify additional areas of improvement that can be looped into the project.

A \$10,000 add-on, approved by city council last week, is the creation of a Village drop-off zone.

“Currently what happens is you’ll have people that will come off of Kercheval and then park on St. Clair right in the plaza area and they’ll either unload or drop off,” City Manager Joe Valentine said. “Anybody turning right immediately has to stop for somebody who’s parked there or avert by going into oncoming traffic to go around. Definitely not a safe condition, but there’s no alternative.”

The solution is the creation of a short-term



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

The cut-in on St. Clair alongside the parking structure will serve as a short-term drop-off parking space for senior transportation to Trader Joe’s, armored vehicles collecting transactions and contractors unloading parts.

drop-off parking space to be used for senior transportation to Trader Joe’s, armored vehicles collecting transactions and contractors unloading parts.

Slightly larger than one car length and able to fit a short bus, it will be cut into the green space adjacent to St. Clair and the

parking garage and directly across from the CVS lot driveway.

“Having an area where vehicles can pull off and unload, there is a need for this in The Village, particularly for some of those resident drop-offs

See DROP-OFF, page 3A

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Locals eke out Festool win

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Rick Courson began his woodworking career as a 4-year-old with his dad's drill.

"He made smiley faces in our Mutschler kitchen cabinets," said his father, Rick Courson Sr., of Grosse Pointe Park.

"They were there to the day we moved out," said the son.

The younger Courson grew up to become a finish carpenter and custom cabinet maker. He partnered with his father to win the inaugural Festool Craft Competition, produced by Pointe Hardware Group during Kercheval After 6, Saturday, Aug. 23.

The Ricks, as they called their team, beat six rivals to win \$7,000

worth of Festool products.

"I taught him the bare minimum and he took it from there," the elder Courson said.

His son said the key to learning woodworking is not being afraid to fail.

"That's how you learn," he said. "You make mistakes. You throw things out, start over again and keep going."

Teams weren't told until the start of the 4 ½-hour competitive build-off that each was to make a fireside chair and table from scratch.

"Not even my team knew what they were going to build, except that they were going to build one of six items," Pointe Hardware owner Wafef Hawasli said. "It was very much on the fly."

"This is a tough situa-

tion," said Brian Sedgeley, Festool trainer and internet personality. "I run build-offs and give people a day and a half. When I heard the guidelines for this one, I thought, 'Oh, I don't know if I could do it.'"

Competitors included Brent Revello, an industrial arts teacher for Grosse Pointe Public Schools. He built a table using strictly hand tools.

"He's a craftsman who believes in building everything by hand," Hawasli said. "It was fun to watch him. He's training our youth to continue to be in the trades. Please, families out there, teach your kids how to use their hands. Use your hands and brain. This guy is a testament to that."

Hawasli and Sedgeley judged each team on

craftsmanship, creativity, functionality, time management and the marketability of the items they built.

"This is a business, at the end of the day," Hawasli said. "The business side is critical. This is very challenging work to do. You don't just learn it overnight. The reason you're paying what you're paying is this is something these guys have been doing for 15 or 20 years, generationally handed down from a parent or picked up on their own and learned day-to-day. They invest in a lot of equipment."

The second-place team, Bois Noyer (French for walnut wood), consisted of independent contractor David Shettler and his 14-year-old son. They

See WIN, page 4A



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Rick Courson and Rick Courson, the father-and-son woodworking team known as The Ricks, scratch-built a fireside chair and table that won first place in the inaugural Festool Craft Competition produced by Pointe Hardware Group during the Aug. 23 Kercheval After 6.



COURTESY PHOTO

New Grosse Pointe Shores Clerk Courtney Smith and retiring Clerk Bruce Nichols.

Shores appoints new clerk

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Deputy Clerk Courtney Smith was appointed as the new city clerk at council's meeting Tuesday, Aug. 19.

The vote was 6-0, with Councilman Donn Schroder absent.

Smith replaces Bruce Nichols, who is retiring after 14 years in the role. Nichols, a private practice attorney, did so on a volunteer basis.

"The qualifications

have changed over the years to be a city clerk," City Manager Steve Poloni said. "That is especially true with changes in election law. It's pretty impractical to have a volunteer in that position now."

Poloni added the other Pointes all have a clerk on staff, as do most cities in Michigan he's aware of.

Nichols, whose final meeting was last week, said he endorsed Smith.

"I've worked with her and she's a very good

choice," he told council.

Smith joined the Shores in February 2024, as deputy clerk, also overseeing the building department and marina operations. She spent eight years prior to joining the Shores as deputy city clerk and city accountant in Grosse Pointe Park.

"I started off volunteering there with ballot preparation and testing for elections," she said. "That really piqued my interest and helped me get in the door. My expe-

rience made for an easy transition."

The Park native and 2007 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate is certified through the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

"We received a letter from the state Bureau of Elections with a list of classes a clerk has to complete within six months of being appointed," Poloni said. "It's pretty intensive and Courtney already meets

See CLERK, page 5A

RATES:

Continued from page 1A

their water bills while things were corrected.

"This body made a decision to increase water rates by 23 percent based on a number of assumptions that later proved incorrect, or not what our understanding was," Mayor Michele Hodges said during a special council meeting Aug. 25.

Officials concluded the meeting by rescinding

the faulty rate formula but reapplying the 23 percent increase uniformly to everyone, big user, little user.

"So, what we're talking about now is to rework and go back to the old rates and apply 23 percent across the board; all residents, all homeowners will be getting the same increase," Councilman Max Wiener said.

City Manager Nick Sizeland said new rates translate into the average:

◆ single-family user receiving a bimonthly bill of \$262.01, an increase from \$212.91 prior to the increase; and

◆ multi-unit customer being billed \$367.81 bimonthly, an increase from \$298.93 before the change.

Unless this new methodology also proves faulty, no one, even property owners with a big meter, should face an increase beyond 23 percent.

Surprise-size meters

The problem with the rejected system was off-beat meters.

"One of things we missed is meter sizes," Campbell said. "They are not what the expectation was in the rate structure changeover."

He and his team are used to formulating rates for communities with meters one inch or less in

diameter.

"Primarily, 1½-inch meters (in the Park) is one of the main issues," Campbell said.

Sizeland explained the problem. He said rates for customers with meters measuring 1½ inches or greater were charged rates beyond the 23 percent increase. Rates increased incrementally for meters beyond 1-inch diameter. Some houses in the Park have 3-inch meters.

"The Park supplies water to buildings based upon pressurized water passed through the supply line," Sizeland said. "Inch-and-a-half meters were largely installed between 1948 and 1983. They used bigger meters because of galvanized metal. There was corrosion that could happen."

"There also are single-family homes in the 2- and 3-inch category," Campbell said. "I don't know why that is. Three-inch meters are for car washes; heavy, heavy use. That's a huge line. There are a lot of single-family homes that have these huge lines. These (larger) meters were seeing a much higher multiplier on the fixed charge

than expectations because, based on other rate studies we performed, those meters were multifamily and commercial meters."

Capital improvements

The rate increase is forecast to generate \$1.3 million additional revenue per year for total annual water-sewer revenue of \$7.1 million.

Funds will be used to replace old water mains, which, being upwards of 100 years old, are nearly worn out, brittle and ready to snap, according to Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

"We are dealing with a legacy of major infrastructure work that needs to be done," he said.

Another change to be made concerns water meters. They're not only too big in many cases, almost all are so old they run slow, shorting the city on billing accurately for water usage. Sizeland put the loss at 20 percent.

"Eighty percent of our water meters are out of date," Wiener said. "The first thing this (rate) increase is going into is changing those water

meters. Most likely we'll start rolling out new water meters in the first quarter of next year. Then we'll have real data going into 2027 budgeting. Then, we can start actually reworking rates."

Charging people accurately for water usage guarantees some people's consumption bill will go up.

"Maybe some residents are going to pay more, but they're going to be paying for what they use," Wiener said. "If someone is using water, they should be paying for it."

Councilman Marty McMillan, who is by far the most avuncular officeholder in the city, mocked Councilwoman Christine Gallagher's opposition to replacing the Park's cast iron mains because, she said, portions of a Greek town of antiquity still get by with clay plumbing.

Wiener also brushed off Gallagher's claim that an engineering assessment of the water-sewer system found nothing critically in need of upgrade.

"I don't believe you understand how to read that report," Wiener said.

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Musicians headline inaugural GP PorchFest

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Organizers doubled their initial goal to secure six porches for what they intend to be the City's first annual Grosse Pointe PorchFest from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6.

"It's really just meant to be a celebration for all ages of people in the neighborhoods," said Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, who championed the event after being approached with the idea last year by resident Gretchen White. "We have wonderful walkable neighborhoods with great front porches and we want to celebrate that and foster a sense of



PHOTO BY GEORGE "BUZZ" YOUNG

The porch at 547 Washington will host The Six Shooters at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, as part of Grosse Pointe PorchFest.



community and camaraderie."

Spread throughout the city on a dozen porches, 13 local musicians each will play a 45-minute set with genres

including rock, country, folk and Americana blues.

Attendees can stroll from yard to yard toting lawn chairs or may simply drop in for the acts in their neighborhood.

"We want it to be organic and to flow and

to have people step outside on a Saturday afternoon and say, 'Oh, I'll roam down there, see my neighbors, listen to some music and then roam back.'" Tomkowiak described. "... We have very modest goals for this first time through."

The performance schedule is as follows:

◆ noon at 515 Fisher — The Bungalows

◆ 12:30 p.m. at 533 St. Clair — Jack Gorham

◆ 1 p.m. at 547 Washington — The Six Shooters

◆ 1:30 p.m. at 849 Notre Dame — ARCH entertainment

◆ 2 p.m. at 760 Lakeland — Frank Szymanski's Franklin Sane Synth Pop Duo

◆ 2:30 p.m. at 539 University — Ben Allemon

◆ 3 p.m. at 533 St. Clair — The Neighbors

◆ 3:30 p.m. at 843 Nef — Nolan Eszes; and at 736 Notre Dame — MUDHOUNDS

◆ 4 p.m. at 856 Loraine — Mezz; and at 548 St. Clair — Poor Player

◆ 4:30 p.m. at 733 St. Clair — Indie Guinn

◆ 5 p.m. at 438 St. Clair — Robert Kolinski

The performance schedule is subject to

change. Attendees may follow GP PorchFest on Facebook for updates and a performance map.

"We decided to start small and set ourselves up to grow as we move forward," said Dr. Seth Krupp, councilman and member of the GP PorchFest Committee, in a release. "We were very excited to get 12 community members to volunteer their porches and hope to double that again next year."

The GP PorchFest Committee includes White and Tomkowiak, co-chairs; Krupp, porch procurement; Bill Kalmar, music coordinator; George "Buzz" Young, promotion; Grosse Pointe Main Street Director Cindy Willcock, administrative support; and James VanFleteren, logo design. Funding for the 2025 event was provided by the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation.

Farms residents nix lazy river, removal of splash pad

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — If feedback from a packed room at the Pier Park community building last week was any indication, proposed designs for the multi-million-dollar pool complex likely no longer will include a lazy river.

The Farms Parks and Harbor Committee Tuesday, Aug. 19, hosted the community meeting to introduce initial plans and gather public input on the proposed new aquatic facility.

"Really, I think the hallmark of the park and the area that's been the least touched has been the whole aquatic area," City Manager Shane Reeside said at the start of the meeting. "The pool was built in the mid-1960s at the same time as the bathhouse and, except for a little facelift that we did at the bathhouse in



RENDERING COURTESY OF METZ GRISSIM METZ ANDRIESE ASSOCIATES

The proposed site plan includes a recreation pool, separate competition pool, lazy river, expanded tot pool and a splash deck pathway leading into the pool house.

the mid-'90s, that core infrastructure is essentially the same.

"About 25 years ago, we did upgrade the tot pool and added a splash pad, (but) that was 25 years ago and frankly there are currently issues with those facilities."

Highlights of the most recent proposed designs

include:

◆ an eight-lane, 25-meter competition pool with two diving boards off to one corner, deeper water for the starting blocks so swimmers can dive in, which they can't do now, and an expanded area for spectators;

◆ a separate recreation

pool including three swim lanes, zero-depth entry, ADA accessibility and an attached mini lazy river;

◆ a tot pool with water features that is one-and-a-half-times the size of the current one;

◆ an upgraded bathhouse with improved ventilation and family changing areas;

◆ and a splash deck pathway leading up to the bathhouse instead of the current splash pad.

The overwhelming majority of residents who spoke during an hour-plus public comment portion agreed the aquatic area revamp is a welcome and appreciated effort, but enthusiastically fought against removal of the splash pad and what was called the unnecessary addition of a lazy river.

Disapproval for the latter encompassed the difficulty of lifeguarding a moving current, disinter-

est in the feature itself and preference for using the space it would take for more sought-after fea-

tures such as additional swim lanes in the recreation space it would take for more sought-after fea-

See SPLASH, page 8A

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, SEPT. 1

◆ Labor Day

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Community Bridge Walk, 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 2

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Doggie Days of Summer swim, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods rescheduled Community Tree Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 4

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Tax Increment Finance Authority meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon at Kercheval and Lakepointe.

DROP-OFF:

Continued from page 1A

for Trader Joe's," Valentine said. "But without parking on the streets to unload, there's really no more safe way for that to happen.

"The opportunity pres-

ents itself, because the road is under construction now and this is an amendment or a contract modification for the project."

City council approved the \$10,741 cost from its major street fund Monday, Aug. 18.

To further prevent

parking in the street on St. Clair, the city also is piloting two dedicated spaces in the CVS lot for DoorDash drivers who are quickly picking up orders from Village restaurants.

"As this project is going on, we're looking at various aspects of where

amenities could be improved," Valentine said. "So, not only does the drop-off area come to mind, but also some drop-off areas in Lot 4 (CVS lot) that we're piloting during construction and then we'll evaluate and see how it goes from there."

REZONE:

Continued from page 1A

"The city also offered mediation to come to some type of conclusion," Schulte added, "but they (homeowners in the area) didn't want that."

Residents also have objected because John Vitale, of Stucky Vitale Architects, is a longtime member of the planning commission. He abstained from voting on the matter both times.

The commission in July voted to uphold its recommendation for the rezoning. A second reading of the zoning ordinance change is planned for the council meeting Sept. 8.

Per city ordinance, because more than 20 percent of property own-

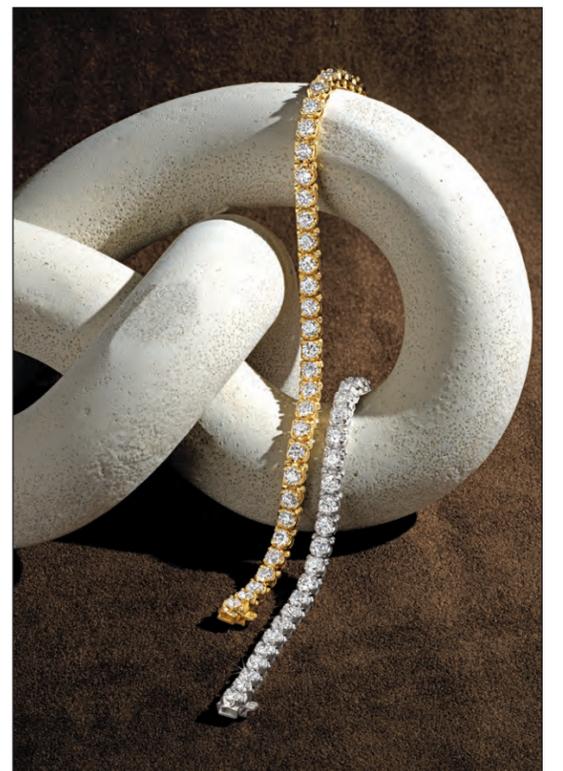
ers within 100 feet of the site signed a petition objecting to the change, council will need a super majority of five votes,

rather than a simple majority of four votes, to approve the change.

Homeowners leading the opposition to the

rezoning say they have collected some 600 signatures from residents in the general area against the plan.

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Marine veteran, champion sailor, steward of Detroit's sailing legacy

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

For longtime sailor, retired U.S. Marine and National Fleet Services founder and CEO Tim LaRiviere, life is about momentum — staying in motion, setting a course and pushing forward. From scrubbing boats at Crescent Sail Yacht Club to cultivating championship crews aboard internationally crafted sailboats, LaRiviere's journey has been nothing short of inspirational.

"There's no better time than going through the finish line," the City of Grosse Pointe resident said. "I actually grew up in Harper Woods. I started in the working world at the age of 22, bought my first Firestone store and also, at the same time, I ended up buying the boat that I scrubbed — and then the sailing career took off from there."

LaRiviere has been racing nearly 50 years and spent time serving the country in the U.S. Marine Corps, to which



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, Tim LaRiviere and his crew after placing first in the Mackinac race in Class B. Right, LaRiviere, left, after winning the Mackinac race this year.



he credits his leadership skills.

"I spent a brief time in the Marine Corps, which was a wonderful experience for me," he said. "I wouldn't be the person I am without having been in the Marine Corps."

His reason for joining the military was clear and essential to his higher education.

"I remember in high school thinking I really didn't have any avenue

to pay for college, so I thought I would just go into the Marine Corps," LaRiviere said. "Then I bought my first Firestone store when I was 22, and I've been in automotive ever since."

LaRiviere has grown National Fleet Services into a national leader.

"We started National Fleet in 1995," he said. "We had a partner from Australia who brought his product to us and it was my job to get that product into Ford. Now we're the largest Ford upfitter in the country."

While building his business career, sailing remained a constant passion at the forefront of his life.

"The whole time (I was) spending as much time on the water as I could and racing consistently for almost 50 years," LaRiviere said.

He served as commodore of the Detroit Yacht Club in 1989, and

Bayview Yacht Club in 2008. Bayview, however, holds a special place in his heart.

"Bayview, everything that she stands for, is our home," he said. "It's a club that is enriched with one mission: sailing."

This year, LaRiviere's crew won their class in the Port Huron to Mackinac Race and placed second in the Chicago to Mackinac Race, both aboard a brand new Italia 14.98. Their preparation for the season began long before race day, from scrubbing boats to planning to assembling the best crew.

"We had the best boat, the best a and the best sails, which is a winning combination," LaRiviere said.

Even with the right gear, the key to success is the right people and being able to trust those who are aboard the boat. "You can have the best

owner and the best boat in the fleet and if you don't have the right crew, you won't win," LaRiviere said.

His sailing life is filled with standout moments, including a dominant performance two years prior.

"In the Chicago race, we were the first boat to finish by almost nine hours," he said. "We won first overall, first to finish and first in class, all three."

Though he's proud of his results, his fondest memories are rooted in family being on the island every year.

His ties to the sailing world don't stop at the finish line either. LaRiviere also is a passionate supporter of charitable causes like St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and race sponsorships.

Even with all he's

accomplished, LaRiviere isn't ready to step away.

"I am planning to race again next season," he said. "With a little more discipline in my life and getting my body back in shape, I'll continue to do this until I'm not breathing."

Next up? A brand-new challenge: the Newport to Bermuda Race, which will be the first time he's sailed the course, so it will check off the next item on his racing bucket list.

Despite the time, effort and logistics it takes to compete at this level, LaRiviere wouldn't have it any other way. It's clear from everything he's built, on and off the water, that sailing is not just a sport. It's a way of life.

"Preparation builds confidence," he said. "And confidence makes the race fun."



LaRiviere and his crew racing.

WIN:

Continued from page 2A

missed winning by one point, but qualified for \$2,000 worth of Festool products.

"When this (competition) was conceptualized, the top thing we were hoping for was the father-son component," Hawasli said. "To watch this team was inspiring and exciting."

In third was Mike Moran, a self-taught woodworker from

Clarkston with 45 years of experience. He goes by the name Dr. Peppermill and won \$1,000 worth of Festool products.

"He is a professional peppermill maker," Hawasli said.

"This was a really tough decision," Sedgeley said. "Every team's done a wonderful job. They're making it happen."

"We hope to do this every year," Hawasli said. "It's been inspiring for me. It turned out a

lot better than I anticipated."

Woodworking isn't as far out of reach of the average person as the average person may think.

"The trick is learning from your mistakes," competitor Jeremy Payton said.

He was partnered with David Kien, of Rahm and Kien Building in Detroit.

"I've got 40 years in it and am still learning," Kien said.

"It's the school of

hard knocks," Payton said. "The only way to get better at it is to mess up and, hopefully, next time you don't mess up."

"Anybody can do it," Sedgeley said. "I teach people that it's a journey. You don't have to start with expensive stuff. You'll work into expensive stuff, but you can start with more traditional joinery and learn. I suggest taking a class. Nowadays, those classes are online. On YouTube, they're free."

Dunked for a cause

GROSSE POINTE PARK — When the Blue Devils football team launches its home season 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, with a presumptive thrashing of Renaissance High, the Grosse Pointe South Dance Team will have the blue and golds' backs by revving the crowd from the sideline.

Dancers raised funds for their squad by volunteering as targets in the dunk tank during last Saturday's third and final Kercheval After 6 street fair of summer in Grosse Pointe Park.

"I like creating a fun atmosphere at football games and the pep assembly and having a fun team to dance with," said captain Natalie Vassel, class of '26, shown submerging with a splash.

"As a community, the dance team at South brings us a lot of joy," said another captain, Audrey McLean, class of '27.

"It gets the crowd going," said Emma Padden, class of '26, captain. "It's another way to hype up the crowd."

It requires hours of practice for the

15-member team to perform in unison such moves as triple piroettes, aerials, kip-ups and head springs.

"Working together as a team helps us be our best versions for the crowd," McLean said. "They feed off that energy back and forth."

It has become tradition during Kercheval After 6s that the dunk tank be a fundraiser.

"There's nothing better than seeing the community come together and share an experience as incredible as this," Mayor Michele Hodges said of the fairs. "I'm proud to have it here in Grosse Pointe Park and I know the community is welcome."

—Brad Lindberg

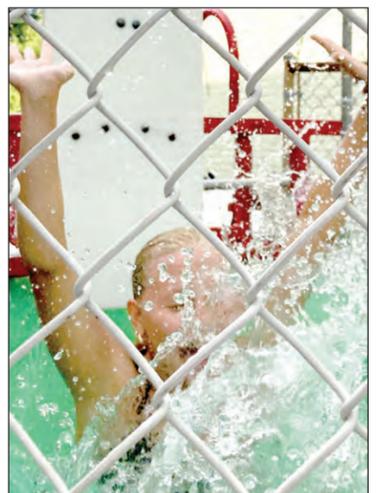


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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE.
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PHONE: (313) 882-6900

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Detroit, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$49.50 per year via mail in the Metro area, \$70 outside.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 16980 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The deadline for news copy is 3 p.m. Monday.

Advertising proof deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Outside the lines

Swerving between lanes at Mack and Rivard clued in officers to a 45-year-old Madison Heights woman's drunken driving escape at 11:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

During her arrest, she also assaulted an officer.

Reputation proceeds

A 67-year-old Detroit man was caught on video stealing a Trek mountain bike from the 900 block of St. Clair at 11:50 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 24.

As the man is well known to the department, he was identified, located and arrested hours later.

No good deed

A nurse at a local hospital was struck across the face, knocking off his glasses, as he tried to help an irate patient get up at 4:45 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24.

The 45-year-old Detroit woman was reported for assault.

—Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Drinking & walking

After being spotted drinking from a Budweiser can while walking along a Mack sidewalk at 9:03 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, a 38-year-old Detroit man was arrested for disorderly conduct, obstructing police and having narcotic paraphernalia in his pocket.

Private park

After disregarding the Pier Park gate guard for the residents-only park at 11:41 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, a 30-year-old Flint woman failed field sobriety tests and was found to be intoxicated, for which she was

arrested.

Porch pirate

An Amazon package containing \$45 worth of children's wrapping paper and miscellaneous school supplies was stolen from a porch in the 100 block of Mapleton between noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Lights out

A 28-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was arrested for driving intoxicated after crashing into a light pole near Charlevoix and Stephens and causing it to fall partially into the road at 10:25 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

In a hurry

When she was pulled over at Mack and Moross for an expired license plate at 8:35 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, a 37-year-old Detroit woman was trying to get her daughter, who was in

active labor, to Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

The woman was cited for not having a license and the expired plate.

An officer gave the family a courtesy ride to the hospital.

—Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

A backpack, reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Nottingham, was found about two blocks away near the intersection of Kercheval and Lakepointe shortly before 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, according to police.

"Nothing was missing from it," police said.

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about this and other crime 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

Bad vision

A 36-year-old Detroit man is charged with first-degree retail fraud after stealing a pair of glasses worth \$1,100 from a store in the 19300 block of Mack around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20.

He was caught by officers running through the alley behind the business.

Smoking is bad

An unknown male stole a carton of ciga-

rettes worth \$123 from a gas station in the 20700 block of Mack around 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

Landscaper's loss

A backpack blower, hedge trimmer and pole pruner worth a combined \$2,400 were stolen from a landscaping truck in the 1700 block of Prestwick around 3:25 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23.

Larceny

Infotainment systems were stolen from Dodge Ram trucks in the 1900 block of Allard and the 1800 block of Prestwick overnight into Sunday, Aug. 24. The report did not indicate if either vehicle was unlocked.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Tide turning in flood suit

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — A lawsuit about storm and sewer water backing up into basements is no longer stalled in court.

A ruling by the Michigan Court of Appeals last week reversed a lower court's dismissal of the action, representing mid-course affirmation for around 3,000 households suffering water damage during a big thunderstorm during the summer of 2021.

"I feel, based on doing these for over 25 years, we will be able to obtain compensation for the residents," said David Dubin, attorney for the plaintiffs. "This is a beginning step. There's still a lot of work that has to occur before we get to that point, but I feel very positive as a result of this opinion."

Dubin said his discovery process, legalese for research, revealed the region's main electrical utility and at least one of its subcontractors crippled a critical pump station on Detroit's east side prior to the storm. Damage consisted of a severed unmarked power cable that forced the station to fend for the area at partial capacity.

"One of the contractors cut the cable three days in advance," Dubin said. "That contractor was under DTE Energy's

supervision and contract."

"We are going to decline comment," a DTE Energy spokeswoman said.

Dubin said operational records from the pump station — the Freud Sanitary facility south of Jefferson Avenue at Connor — indicate Great Lakes Water Authority employees reached out to DTE about the power interruption.

Freud has eight storm-water pumps capable of moving a combined 290 million gallons of water per day. The rate equals emptying 439 Olympic-sized swimming pools every 24 hours.

GLWA manages Freud station as part of a multi-county network of water and sewer infrastructure. The authority operates storm pumps and is contracted to provide wastewater services for the Grosse Pointes and 74 other communities in southeast Michigan.

"It appears that in the effort to repair the line, a defective wire was used," Dubin said. "That delayed the process even further so when the storm hit June 25, 2021, over half of that pump station's pumps weren't able to operate."

GLWA has since outfitted Freud with a triple-redundant power supply.

Dubin filed his class-action suit against DTE Energy, Miller Pipeline, Utility Resource Group

and TMCA.

The appeals court decision reversed a trial court's refusal to let the plaintiffs add DTE as a defendant.

"The trial court concluded DTE owed no duty to plaintiffs when the unforeseeable event was the cause of the damage," according to the appellate court's decision Thursday, Aug. 21.

By "event" and "unforeseeable," the court referred to defendants blaming flood damage on a 1,000-year storm — a storm with only a 0.1 percent statistical chance of happening in the area during any given year. Such a rarity represented an act of God that even a fully operational pump station couldn't be expected to handle, according to the defendants.

"It is not unforeseeable as a matter of law that failing to mark underground utilities could result in the damages that plaintiffs allege here," according to the appellate court's reversal. "There is no evidence that there was undue delay or that plaintiffs acted in bad faith by not first naming DTE Electric as a defendant."

"I'm very optimistic that, finally, the rule of law is being respected," Dubin said.

Infrastructure

Dubin rejected the defendants' act of God

argument as an excuse for not building adequate storm water and sewage infrastructure.

"Infrastructure is the forgotten stepchild that is ignored except when it fails miserably," Dubin said. "These problems should have been addressed many years in advance. We shouldn't be here. I wouldn't have a job if people had done their jobs correctly."

Grosse Pointe Park officials reacted to widespread flooding in their city by investing millions of dollars clearing sewer lines of silt and debris, installing new pipes and a storm relief valve.

"In the last three years, we've spent roughly \$6 million in flood mitigation alone," said Councilman Max Weiner, chairman of the infrastructure committee, during a water-sewer rate hearing Aug. 25.

By a 6-1 vote, the council increased rates 23 percent to fund, in large part, a newly drawn, multi-year water-sewer capital improvement plan.

"The thing that brought this to the fore was roughly \$80 million in

damage we had from the 2021 flood," Wiener said. "Of that \$6 million, \$3 million went to the extreme emergency relief valve. We have about \$1.3 million (for) sewer separation. We spent about \$1.7 million scoping and cleaning sewers. A lot of work's been done."

"Ignoring it, as many have done over the last few decades, is not going to solve our problems," Dubin said. "Blaming it on climate change and acts of God is just an excuse for not doing what's right."

Companion suit

In a separate but related action, attorney Paul Doherty, representing thousands of victims of the same storm, is waiting for the Court of Appeals to reverse his case's dismissal from Wayne County Circuit Court.

His appeal contends

defective design and improper operation of the storm water and sewer system caused thousands of basements in the Pointes, Detroit's east side and elsewhere to flood with backed-up runoff and sewage.

Defendants consist of the Great Lakes Water Authority, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, the city of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Park.

Doherty was unavailable to comment.

"We have been working together through the process," Dubin said. "They're hasn't been much work because the trial court prevented us from taking discovery. We worked together on the appeal and the response to all the municipalities' motions. I'm not sure as we move forward if we will solidify the relationship any more."

CLERK:

Continued from page 2A

all the requirements."

In her role overseeing the building department, Smith registers contractors; issues building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, roofing and fence permits; reviews fence and building permit applications for code compliance; arranges for plan reviews and schedules electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspections.

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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC
16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
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OUR VIEW

Three cheers for our parks

With summer winding down, we hope you got to enjoy plenty of fun times with family and friends over the past few months at your respective city's lakefront park. Or in the case of Grosse Pointe Park, two parks. Maybe it should be called Grosse Pointe Parks?

Each of the Pointes, along with their foundations and private donors, do a lot to upgrade, maintain and beautify those parks and for that we all are grateful. Here is a look at some recent projects and others that are in the works, as well as other offerings.

Grosse Pointe Woods: Last year saw a new pool liner installed, the two water slides refurbished and a splash pad unveiled at Lake Front Park. It also includes tennis and pickleball courts, mini golf, shuffleboard and bocce ball, plus picnic tables, barbecue grills and a walking/exercise path.

The activities building offers basketball, racquetball, air hockey, pingpong and billiards.

Inland, Ghesquiere Park has seen about \$675,000 in improvements, including a walking path, family restroom and upgrades to the baseball fields as the Woods-Shores Little League hosted the state 11U tournament last month.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation, along with Edmund T. AHEE Jewelers, the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe and Saucy's Pizza, donated money to build a disc golf course there as well.

Chene-Trombley Park received a facelift and the city built a dog park south of the front lawn at city hall for residents who did not want to load their four-legged friends in the car and drive to the dog park at Lake Front Park.

Grosse Pointe Farms: Fundraising by the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation is in its second year to construct a new pool complex (see story, page 3A). Plans call for a 25-meter pool for competitive swim with starting blocks, a separate leisure pool with three additional lanes for lap swim, a lazy river, a larger and relocated tot pool in the location of the current splash pad and the addition of an interactive fountain at the entrance to the bathhouse.

Kerby Field offers a great location for batting practice or pick-up soccer.

Grosse Pointe Shores: Just like its neighbor, the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation also is raising money for a new pool complex at Osius Park, (see story page 8A). The impetus for the project is a gift of \$1.2 million the city received in 2023 from the estate of a former resident. Carole Ann Williams passed away in May 2023 at age 84. She was a graduate of Grosse Pointe University School — now University Liggett School — and her father, Jack Williams, was Shores mayor from 1954 to 1964.

The gift came with the stipulation the money be spent on improvements to Osius Park.

The finished project will include an eight-lane, 8,000-square-foot pool with a lazy river and a zero-entry children's pool that includes elements similar to a splash pad and a new, two-story community center.

The foundation last year paid for a beach volleyball court at the park and upgrades to the bleachers at the baseball fields near Vernier Hill.

City of Grosse Pointe: The pool deck at Neff Park got a new concrete deck and the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation paid for a new kayak dock. Thanks to the generosity of Councilman David Fries, the clock tower there was fixed and the park has new little red wagons for toting items — and kids — from the parking lot to the pool and back.

The tennis and pickleball courts at Elworthy Field

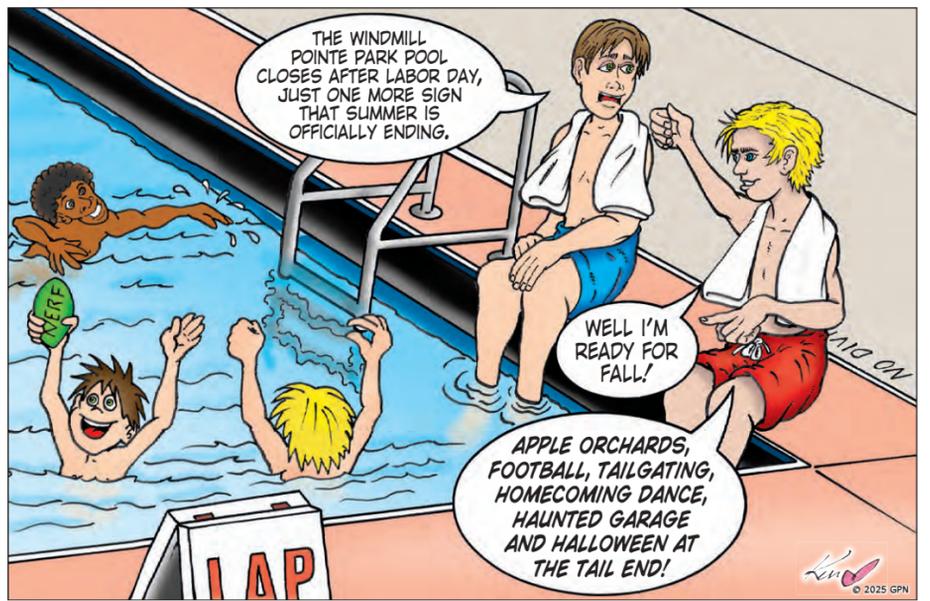


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

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.

Why rezoning is the path forward

To the Editor:

As elected members of the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, we have listened closely to the passionate voices on all sides of the rezoning debate. We understand the concerns of those who want to preserve the character of our city and we share the commitment to keeping our community safe and vibrant.

However, we believe the proposed rezoning offers us a unique opportunity to turn a decaying, underused property into a thriving space that benefits all residents. By rezoning to commercial, we can attract businesses that serve

our residents' needs, boost property values and preserve the unique feel of our community while adding more vibrant options for everyone.

Here are reasons to support commercial rezoning:

First, leaving the property as it is means allowing a dilapidated building to continue to deteriorate, lowering nearby property values and becoming a magnet for blight.

Second, a neglected property can pose safety risks and attract unwanted activity.

Third, keeping it as restricted office space limits the potential of our neighborhood and means missing out on new and improved amenities and opportunities.

Change can be challenging, but it can also be the key to a brighter future. Let us embrace this chance to revitalize a part of Mack Avenue while preserving the warmth and charm that makes our community special.

We encourage you to come to the city council meeting on Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. to voice your support for this rezoning.

Doing nothing fixes nothing. Leaving it as is will cost us dearly. Let us choose action with rezoning and take a real step toward building a better future for everyone.

ART BRYANT, ANGELA COLETTI BROWN
AND TODD MCCONAGHY
Grosse Pointe Woods City Council members

Opposed to rezoning: A new resident's perspective

To the Editor:

Preserving heritage and character of a community matters because they are a city's identity. It gives us a sense of place. Once lost, this identity cannot be regained. The current rezoning proposals along Mack in the Woods deeply concern me.

My husband and I moved to the Woods 18 months ago after three decades Downriver. We chose this community as a quieter, safer place to call home, drawn to the beautiful, tree-lined streets and variety of historic homes. After much searching, we found a wonderful home on Oxford Road, unaware of any planned changes along Mack Avenue.

I'd never attended a city council meeting. That changed when I found a flier on my door about a proposed commercial building nearby. Curious, I attended a council meeting and was awed by the passionate group of residents dedicated to preserving the heritage, safety and character of this community.

Change is inevitable, often necessary. But change for change's sake is not progress. Change must be thoughtful and balanced. What I've begun to see along Mack Avenue does not reflect that balance.

The Pointes are renowned for some of the strongest concentrations of Colonial Revival homes in Michigan. This architectural heritage is part of our city's identity. It's what makes our neighborhoods cohesive, charming. It is our "brand."

Sadly, the newer buildings don't reflect this tradition. Designed by the same architect, they're industrial limestone, metal-featured: cheap, boring, common — perhaps suitable elsewhere, certainly not representing our community's historic character. Instead of harmony, we're headed for a hodgepodge of fad.

Rezoning decisions must be approached with great care. Businesses must reflect the quality, tradition, character and serenity of our community.

We must preserve what makes us unique and attractive to young and old alike. Our architectural character is worth protecting and future development must respect that

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60%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 6:52 am SUNSET 8:14 pm	SUNRISE 6:53 am SUNSET 8:12 pm	SUNRISE 6:54 am SUNSET 8:10 pm	SUNRISE 6:56 am SUNSET 8:06 pm	SUNRISE 6:57 am SUNSET 8:05 pm	SUNRISE 6:58 am SUNSET 8:03 pm	SUNRISE 6:59 am SUNSET 8:02 pm

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Meg Kelly



Take the leap

And then something shifted. The fear gave way to freedom. For a few moments, it felt like I was flying.

But the scariest leaps in life don't always involve parachutes.

I started college in chemistry, convinced it was the practical path. But I wasn't excited and I knew deep down it wasn't what I wanted to do forever. My grandpa always told me to follow what you love. It echoed in my head the day I decided to switch to journalism. It was terrifying to admit I didn't have everything figured out, but it was also freeing. That leap landed me in a field where I get to write — to tell stories and connect with people in ways that matter — and has given way to a mass of opportunities for which I am forever grateful.

Another leap has been reaching out for interviews and asking for advice from those in a similar profession to what I aim for. At first, sending those emails made me nervous. Would they answer? Would they take me seriously? But each yes opened a new door. Each conversation taught me something I wouldn't have learned if I hadn't taken the risk to ask.

Not all leaps have been professional. Some have been personal and small, like baking. I've had my share of bread disasters, croissants that barely rose and cookies that burned on the bottom. But I've also had surprising successes that fill me and others with joy. Each try,

even the messy ones, reminded me that trying something new is worth it, no matter the outcome.

Internships have felt like leaps, too. This summer, working at the Grosse Pointe News has been its own kind of leap. I came in with my nerves on level 1 million, not knowing what stories I'd get to tell, not sure if I was ready for the pace of a newsroom so young. However, the staff here believed in me wholeheartedly and every assignment, from covering local sports to writing feature profiles, gave me a chance to grow, to listen and to learn from the people I met. I've collected stories this summer the way others might collect souvenirs, each one reminding me why I chose this path.

When the parachute opened over Charlevoix, everything slowed. The water sparkled, the shoreline curved into view and I felt weightless. I realized I would have missed all of it if I had stayed in the plane.

Life works the same way. The leap is always scary. But it's also the only way to find out where you'll land. And looking back on this summer, I'm grateful for every leap, big and small, that brought me here. Therefore, I say as my parting words: TAKE THE LEAP.

Do what you've always wanted to, try that new adventure you've been worried about trying, apply for the job and soak up all of the knowledge you get while you're there.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

legacy. If anything, 20160 Mack deserves preservation, not demolition.

HELEN TAYLOR
Grosse Pointe Woods

Time to step down

To the Editor:

It is with deep concern that I write to address the growing issue of Colleen Worden's leadership as president of the GP BoE. Her actions have made it abundantly clear she is clearly incompetent and unfit for the role and should resign — not only as president, but as a trustee.

The latest controversy surrounding President Worden began with her mishandling of the superintendent's evaluation. In doing so, it appears she has led the board into committing a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Instead of taking responsibility for the mistake, she deflected blame onto others during the meeting and, shockingly, doubled down afterward by posting misleading information online. Mrs. Worden seems to be deliberately misusing data to support

her narrative. By selectively editing and misrepresenting emails and calendar invites, she made it appear as though Superintendent Dr. Andrea Tuttle had acted inappropriately. This is a distortion of the truth and an unfair attack on the superintendent, who was unable to defend herself in the closed forum where Worden posted this misleading information.

Even more troubling is Mrs. Worden's own admission she has not spoken to the superintendent in over six weeks. How can anyone expect a board president to effectively lead and represent the interests of the district when she refuses to engage with the very person responsible for its day-to-day operations?

The administration has delivered real progress during the last year and throughout the summer. The common denominator for foul-ups has been Mrs. Worden. Colleen's personal grievances and poor decision-making have no place in a position of such responsibility. For the good of the district, it is time for her to step down and make room for leadership that can work collaboratively with the administration and put GPPSS students first.

CHERYL DENMAN
Grosse Pointe Park

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Shores moving ahead with pool plans

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — City council received an update about next steps for a new pool at Osius Park during its meeting Tuesday, Aug. 19.

“It will take 32 weeks to complete the engineering and architectural plans,” City Manager Steve Poloni said. “Then we’ll have to put it out for bids.”

A new pool and community center could cost close to \$11 million, according to initial plans discussed late last year.

The impetus for the project is a gift of \$1.2 million the city received in 2023 from the estate of a former resident. Carole Ann Williams passed away in May 2023 at age 84. She was a graduate of Grosse Pointe University School — now University Liggett School — and her father, Jack Williams, was Shores mayor from 1954 to 1964.

The gift came with the stipulation the money be spent on improvements to Osius Park. The current pool is 60 years old. A review of the pool 25 years ago said it needed to be replaced.

Poloni said Williams’ gift is invested and the interest will be used to pay for the next phase.

“We’ve got just shy of \$2 million with some other donations,” Poloni added. “We’ve also got commitments from some

people but no exact dollar amounts yet.”

The Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation is leading the fundraising efforts.

Preliminary plans discussed last year had five objectives:

- ◆ accommodate leisure and competitive activities,
- ◆ have a modern community center with a flexible layout,
- ◆ improve safety and accessibility in and around the pool,
- ◆ optimize staff functionality and safety and
- ◆ administer funds with a value-driven focus.

The finished project will include an eight-lane, 8,000-square-foot pool with a lazy river and a zero-entry children’s pool that includes elements similar to a splash pad. A new, two-story community center would include offices, equipment storage, restrooms, showers and a concession stand on the lower level, with a second floor that can seat 96 people and be reserved for events.

Poloni said the second floor would include a food warming area, refrigerator and freezer, but no stove.

A breakdown of the cost shows \$1.3 million for demolition, \$3.4 million for the pool and \$5.2 million for the community center for a total of almost \$10 million. A 10

See PLANS, page 9A



COURTESY PHOTO

Lakeshore fire

Public safety officers from Grosse Pointe Shores, Farms and Woods responded to a house fire in the 900 block of Lakeshore around 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24.

Shores Public Safety Director Ken Werenski said the homeowner was using some type of heat source to get rid of a hornet’s nest and a portion of the soffit caught fire.

“There was some fire behind one of the walls but it was a quick save,” Werenski said. “It easily could have gotten out of control if he hadn’t called us when he did.”

City’s \$21.6 million FEMA grant likely back on track

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City’s ability to secure the \$21.6 million sewer separation grant it already was all but guaranteed, is looking up after more recent changes to the eligibility criteria, turning the situation back in its favor.

The city has been engaged in what is essentially a gentleman’s agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, implying it would be approved for the funds once it got to the construction stage of the project.

“You have to go through phase one and then once you’re done

with phase one, you get your design drawings,” City Manager Joe Valentine explained previously. “Your design drawings then have to go back and be reviewed through FEMA and then you’re authorized to proceed with phase two (construction), so it’s just the structure of how the process works.

“They can obviously do whatever they want to do ... but the intent and our understanding of the program is once you’re started in the program, things will proceed.”

The City entered a legally-binding contract with FEMA for phase one design engineering in May, but in early July received word that changes to the eligibility

criteria for the program could put its approval for phase two, and the \$21.6 million, at risk.

To be considered a fundable project under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant program, the benefit cost analysis must reach a minimum threshold score of one.

Though the stormwater project initially scored well above at 1.67, July’s changes eliminated the social impact criteria, which held a high score in Grosse Pointe due to the project’s intention to alleviate basement and street flooding.

This sunk the city’s benefit cost analysis score to 0.67 — below the fundable level.

While city administra-

tors enlisted the help of the city’s representatives in Washington and waited to hear whether the project could be grandfathered in under the prior criteria, news came this month of more changes which should turn the tide.

On the social impact front, the component was added back into the eligibility criteria, just at a lesser amount than it initially was.

“More importantly, I think, is this change in the cost allocation for impact to properties and the cost per square foot that we’re allowed to use, which initially was \$100 a square foot, which was the FEMA standard,”

See FEMA, page 9A

SPLASH:

Continued from page 3A

ation pool or making room for a splash pad to be added back into the designs.

“The lazy river appears to be more of a novelty to me and something that’s kind of bright and shiny, but what’s the long-term viability of it?” one resident asked. “And what’s the expense to run it?”

The majority of attendees were equally unimpressed with the proposal’s answer to removing the splash pad from the aquatic area. They said the pathway with water features is essentially an aesthetic

entranceway to the bathhouse and lacks practical use.

“When you start to think about the actual user flow of these children, the water feature, that looks more pretty to me than anything else,” another resident said. “It doesn’t seem extremely functional. It seems like a nice little moment to walk into the pool.”

Parents and grandparents of small children in particular pleaded for the continuation of a splash pad adjoining the tot pool — allowing them to bring children still too young for the park’s smallest pool, while dually monitoring siblings of different ages in different areas

at one time — though the city said recorded use of the current splash pad has been down.

“It’s not always convenient if you’ve got one in the big pool, one in the little pool and then the splash pad’s outside,” one mom said.

What residents do appreciate are the expanded tot pool and the addition of the competition pool, which not only supports swim team culture in the Farms, but enables other residents to continue enjoying the recreational pool during team practices and meets.

“Currently the swim lanes are longer than regulation, so we have to actually subtract times



RENDERINGS COURTESY OF METZ GRISSIM METZ ANDRIESE ASSOCIATES

A mockup of the currently proposed plans for the pool deck.

from meet times when we have our swim meets,” Reeside noted of the planned improvement.

City administration estimates the current proposed plans will ring up at \$10 million to \$12 million.

“On a positive note, we have just paid off the community building (and) we made our last payment on the harbor expansion that was done over 20 years ago,” Reeside noted, “so basically we’ll be most likely trading old debt to new debt.”

An approximately eight-month construction timeline, which potentially could begin in March 2026, would have the pool area of Pier Park out of commission for the entirety of next year.

Preliminary remediation plans would see residents divided among the aquatic facilities at neighboring Pointes’ parks.

A plan also is in place for Pier Park lifeguards to

temporarily join the staff at neighboring community pools next season.

The other city managers and mayors seem amenable to the collaboration, Reeside reported.

“The Shores will likely be redoing their pool in a couple years and will probably want some reciprocal favors there,” he added. “As far as the swim team, Chris Galatis (parks director) and I met with school administration about a week and a half ago and received commitment that they would work with us for

the use of the natatorium at Grosse Pointe South High School.”

The parks and harbor committee now will incorporate the public feedback into the plans before they are officially presented to city council.

“We are listening,” Councilman and Parks and Harbor Committee Chairman John Gillooly assured attendees. “We’re going to take this information back, we’re going to share it with the pool committee and we’ll proceed. Again, this is not the final end.”



The splash deck pathway would replace the splash pad currently inside the aquatic area.

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Teacher gift card winners announced

Three Grosse Pointe Public School System teachers will be getting a combined \$800 in gift cards to start off the new school year.

Andrea Bolton of Pierce Middle School will get \$100 cards each to Savvy Chic, Small Favors, The Sugar Bar, Staples and Amazon. Courtney Kilman from Defer

and Ferry elementary schools and Molly Collins from Parcels Middle School will get \$50 cards each to Savvy Chic, Small Favors and Amazon.

Teachers were asked to submit their name, school or grade, subject, why they love teaching in Grosse Pointe and what they most are looking forward to this

year. “We received a lot of entries and it was so nice to hear from our teachers from all around the district — some new, some seasoned veterans, but all clearly put their heart and soul into their teaching,” Publisher Anne Gryzenia said. “We wish everyone a wonderful school year!”

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Lemonade and more

A lemonade stand took place Aug. 25, in the 1800 block of Hollywood in Grosse Pointe Woods, bringing something no other lemonade stand in Grosse Pointe has had before: goats. The silky fainter/nubian/lamancha goats came for a two-hour visit from the Gillis

farm in Ira Township. Erin Gillis lived in the Woods and graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School. She and her husband now live on 10 acres and have a hobby farm that includes 13 goats, four pigs, one sheep, a couple ducks, lots of chickens, a turkey,

two cats and seven dogs. Gillis and her three daughters held a lemonade stand at her mother's house where she grew up. They sold out of lemonade, though many curious guests stopped by to see the goats. Some drove by and did a double-take and children riding by on their bikes stopped to see the goats as well.



Olive Spencer reaches out to pet Ken. Her favorite animal is a goat, so when her parents heard there were goats visiting down the street, they had to bring her by so she could see one in person. “I think she’s in awe,” said her mother, Taylor.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Nora Gillis, holding a branch for Skipper to munch on, Erin Gillis, Margaret Gillis and Reagan Gillis, holding on to Ken. When they first got to Pat Gillis's house, Erin put the goats in the pen behind them, but it took all of three seconds for the goats to escape. Erin caught them and put leashes on them so they wouldn't wander off. This was their first time on leashes and they were not fans.



Erin Gillis and Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant pose with goats, Skipper and Ken.



Chris Fenton stopped by to see the goats and have some lemonade. “This is the best lemonade I’ve had today,” he said. Fenton was an administrator in the Grosse Pointe Public school system more than 37 years and served as interim superintendent for four months.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Welcome sign

Students may be dragging their feet as the new school year approaches, but the rock in front of Grosse Pointe South High School is ready to greet this year's freshman class.

FEMA:

Continued from page 8A

Valentine explained. “We now have the ability to modify that to our local area, which increases that amount pretty significantly.”

The city's engineers still are working to complete the new benefit cost analysis, but Valentine is confident the score will exceed the minimum threshold.

“We're very optimistic

that that will resolve any issues we have,” he said. “Once we get the latest cost analysis back, we'll

see where we're at, but in our latest conversations, we seem to be back on track.”

PLANS:

Continued from page 8A

percent contingency adds another \$1 million.

A one-story community center would cut around \$2.6 million from the cost, but the layout of the new pool would not allow for keeping the current clubhouse.

The timeline for the project, when it starts, would include demolition in the fall, construction of the pool the following spring and construction of the community center that fall.

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Arthur Murray Dance Studio now open

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — After two decades as an instructor at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Royal Oak, Oz Ray-El decided it was time to spread his wings, or feet as the case may be.

“I saw there was a need for something like this on this side of town,” he said. “I had some students from this area, but not everyone wants to travel to Royal Oak or the studio in Shelby Township.”

Ray-El opened his studio at 20507 Mack — formerly Rainy Day Art & Framing — earlier this month.

“We’ve had a great response,” he said. “We’re looking to create a great community.”

There’s also been a lot of interest from onlookers peering through the windows at the 2,000-square-foot dance floor, including customers on the patio at Little Tony’s next door.

“They get dinner and



COURTESY PHOTO

Couples enjoy the grand opening of the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in the Woods.

a show,” Ray-El laughed.

The Detroit native took up ballroom dancing as a student at Mumford High School and has danced competitively.

“It’s great exercise and the floor is floating, so it’s easy on the joints,” he noted.

The studio offers lessons for wedding, social and competitive dancing and the first lesson

is free.

“The first lesson lets people get a feel for what the studio is all about and what they’ll learn,” Ray-El said. “The wedding lessons are probably the most popular, but couples lessons in general can make for a great date night. It’s something they can learn together and grow into.”

Individual lessons are available as well.

“There are wives who come in whose husbands play golf and they’re looking for a hobby for themselves,” Ray-El said. “Retirees also enjoy coming in the afternoons and we offer group lessons.”

Evening time slots are divided into skill levels, including pre-bronze, silver and advanced bronze. Friday evenings feature a dance party from 8 to 9 p.m. for reg-

istered students.

“We have a range of packages available depending on the person,” Ray-El said. “It all depends on how much time and money they want to spend, but we can fit most budgets.”

Lessons are not recommended, according to Ray-El, for those younger than high school age.

“At that age they have the attention span they

need,” he noted. “Younger than that it can be hit or miss.”

As for high school students, lessons are available for homecoming and prom dances.

The studio is open 1 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 1 to 9 p.m. Fridays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Visit arthurmurraygrossepointe.com or call (313) 569-7775 for more information.

American House celebrates 10 years on The Hill

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A decade since a portion of Cottage Hospital was transformed into an independent living facility, American House Grosse Pointe celebrated its 10th anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and evening celebration Thursday, Aug. 21.

“We have residents who have been born here,” Executive Director Leslee Poegel said. “We have residents whose family members brought them into the world because they were doctors here. I have a resident who was a candy striper here.”

Thursday’s honor of cutting the 10-year anniversary ribbon was bestowed upon resident ambassador Audrey

Leverance, who helps welcome new residents to the community and is rumored to have the model living space among all her neighbors.

“I can’t tell you how wonderful it is,” Leverance said of living at American House Grosse Pointe. “I was familiar with assisted living in Florida, because my second husband died in assisted living and I had moved him around so many times. I would go in the morning and he wouldn’t be dressed. So when I moved in here, I was just so happy. Everyone is so nice and helpful. I can’t say enough about it.”

When groundbreaking on construction took place in December 2013, the concept of co-locating a senior housing facility alongside a medical facility was



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

American House Grosse Pointe celebrated its 10th anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 21. Pictured from left are Emily Love, clinical specialist; Tonya Hill, regional sales director; Todd Gable, regional vice president; Donna Joiner, housekeeper supervisor; Bill Joyce, culinary director; Kaitlyn Doran, life enrichment director; Audrey Leverenz, resident ambassador; Beth Konrad Wilberding, Farms mayor pro-tem; Leslee Poegel, executive director; Britney Mitchell, senior business manager; Christine Eugenio, community relations director; Shane Reeside, Farms city manager; and Alex German-Robin, chief operations officer.

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called not only a first, but an industry trendsetter.

“American House folks decided that Grosse Pointe needed some more living opportunities for our seniors, so they developed this side of the hospital to 84 apartments for seniors,” said Christine Eugenio, community relations director. “Each of the carve-outs of the apartments are unique and different because they used to be hospital rooms.”

Demand for the new housing option began flowing in as soon as the venture was announced.

“It meets a need,” former Farms Mayor James Farquhar said at the time. “It allows seniors to remain in the community.”

American House Grosse Pointe has been successful in part because of its location at the foot of The Hill, enabling residents to be within brief walking distance of shops and restaurants, such as Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe in

particular, where several are considered regulars.

Independence also is key. Residents are free to drive, come and go as they please and there is no such thing as visiting hours.

“You could come visit Mom at midnight if she’s still up,” Eugenio said.

Today, American House Grosse Pointe is nearly back to full capacity following the challenges brought by the pandemic. Senior leadership intends to keep the housing facility in the community another 10 years and beyond, Poegel said.

“We have the best of both worlds to have the lakefront straight ahead and to be the start of this whole Kercheval strip going down,” she continued. “The 10 years shows that we’re a standard that’s going to be here. We are definitely not going anywhere, just like the building isn’t going anywhere. We’re only improving it and making it last even longer.”

FEATURES



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Life's about the climb First-time author aims to inspire, lift others through difficult times

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

What it means to C.L.I.M.B.

- ◆ C – Choose Willingness. Start with the “yes.” Not perfection, not confidence, just the courage to begin.
- ◆ L – Leverage Momentum. Motion creates belief. Start small, stay moving and develop a rhythm that leads to your identity.
- ◆ I – Identify Lifters. You’re not meant to climb alone. Find your people, name your lifters and then become one.
- ◆ M – Move with Purpose. Drift is danger. Direction is everything. Move with intention that matches your values.
- ◆ B – Be the Lift. Don’t just reach the top — reach back. Your climb becomes someone else’s path.

Through his business, Sidle Entertainment, Scott Idle has performed on the world’s biggest stages — a Super Bowl, NBA All-Star game and World Series among them — as well as at sporting events featuring the Chicago Bulls, Los Angeles Chargers and other professional teams.

One might think his success on the drumline, as well as his other business ventures, makes him feel on top of the

world. But, he admits, he’s still climbing and he hopes others will climb with him.

Idle’s debut self-help book, “Lift Others as You Climb,” is not so

much a memoir as it is a field guide for life. More specifically, for overcoming life’s challenges and hardships. It’s a movement, he said; a call to action.

“I’ve performed all over the world in the biggest venues,” he said. “I never dreamed at 9, 10, 11, that all the tears on my drum pad would echo off the walls of



COURTESY PHOTOS

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Scott Idle hosts a book launch for his debut, “Lift Others as You Climb,” on Sept. 2.

Madison Square Garden.”

Success, he added, is fighting through the fall. Idle, who grew up in Owosso, lost his father suddenly the day before his 15th birthday. He’s been through divorce and other hardships, including the loss of his brother, Jeff, who took his own life.

“Lift Others as You Climb” officially will be released 15 years to the day his brother died.

“It took me 15 years to think about what to say to him,” said Idle, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident.

Through “Lift Others as You Climb,” Idle teaches readers how to climb through crises like addiction, divorce, death, job loss and other challenges. He takes readers through the three “adult sandboxes” — health, relationships and career — and the importance of aligning them. He asks readers to be truthful about where they stand in their lives, providing “grip checks” throughout the book that feature writing exercises and checklists meant to keep readers on target and honest as they climb through his Four Corners Matrix — stuck, starting, stalling and lifting.

He shares personal insights about business — he also served as CEO of his father’s company, Congress Collection, for 15 years and started a mobile pickleball service, Parking Lot Pickleball — as well as relationships with people who not only touched his life, but taught him invaluable lessons. It’s a tribute, he said, to people who lifted him when he couldn’t lift himself.

“I learned through faith we’re called to lift each other,” he said. “When I lift people, I find

they’ve lifted me more than when I’m lifting them.

“... Every chapter was written with someone who’s lifting their story,” he added. “My mission is to lift others as I climb. The true measurement of success is how many people you lift along the way.”

The book especially is meant for people facing resistance.

“Pain is life-changing for me and others,” he said. “If pain is a coin, its flip side is power.

“... This book makes the argument that there is a future,” he added. “The first two or three rungs you grab are painful; it feels like you’re grabbing thorns. But keep climbing. The fall didn’t define me, but thank God it’s refining me. I’m that much more able. Give me more, I’m going to climb higher.”

Idle said he wants his book to be considered art and to “cross over ages.” Each chapter begins with a frontispiece that is symbolic and thoughtful. Each image features a magnified drum kit with people climbing together through moments in life.

“This world is hard,” he said. “We don’t hold hands a lot. We come with crossed arms. If we could, for a minute, hug each other ... that door is ready to be kicked open.”

The book is for “anybody living,” Idle said. “Life is a ladder; the climb is life itself. It’s about choosing leverage, lifting with purpose. My target audience is people who’ve been through, are going through or are planning to go through life’s biggest challenges and don’t have a language yet. ... I wrote this with something in mind

See CLIMB, page 3B



Samples of the frontispieces used in “Lift Others as You Climb.”



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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.

Lisa Marie Hagermoser Sanetti, Ph.D., BCBA

Lisa Marie Hagermoser Sanetti, Ph.D., BCBA, 47, of Simsbury, Conn., passed away Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, from complications related to head and neck cancer. She faced her illness with extraordinary courage, grace and resilience. Lisa was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Born in Grosse Pointe Farms in 1978, to Dr. Herbert and Marilyn Hagermoser, Lisa attended St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School and Grosse Pointe South High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Boston College in 1999, followed by a master's degree in 2004, and doctorate degree in 2006, both in educational psychology, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Lisa joined the University of Connecticut in 2007, as a professor in the department of educational psychology with the Neag School of Education. She was a licensed psychologist, a board-certified behavior analyst and one of the foremost scholars in implementation science, educator well-being and school mental health. Her work reshaped the field of school psychology, influencing practice, research and policy across the country.

Over her career, Lisa published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, authored two foundational texts and was in the process of writing two additional books at the time of her passing. She was recognized in a 2017 study among the top 20 most prolific contributors to the five primary journals in school psychology. She was a sought-after national and international speaker, delivering more than 200 presentations, workshops and interviews to translate research into practice.

Lisa's research was supported by more than \$7 million in federal funding, enabling innovative projects that advanced the science and practice of school psychology and trained the next generation of professionals. Her excellence in scholarship earned her the American Psychological Association's Lightner Witmer Early Career Award and Thomas Oakland Mid-Career Award, and she was named a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. She also served as a member of the Society for the Study of School Psychology.

As an educator, Lisa was deeply committed to her students, providing high-quality instruction and mentorship. In 2015-16, she was named a University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow, one of the institution's highest honors for teaching. She also

contributed to the profession through service as an associate editor and reviewer for leading journals and as co-founder of the Sustain Collaborative and the NASP Dissemination and Implementation Practice and Science Interest Group.

Lisa's legacy will live on in the research she pioneered, the students and colleagues she mentored and the countless educators and children whose lives she touched.

While Lisa's remarkable professional achievements are vast, her children and family were her greatest joy. Above all, she was a devoted wife, loving mother and loyal friend. Lisa took immense pride in her family and found her deepest fulfillment in their accomplishments. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her generosity, determination, pragmatism, warmth and quick wit.

From a young age, Lisa had a passion for travel, with favorite journeys to Switzerland, Belize and Alaska, as well as a memorable semester abroad in London that allowed her to explore much of Europe. She also was a dedicated athlete and played volleyball and tennis in high school, rowed in college and later participated in numerous charity runs, including the 2009 Hartford Marathon.

Lisa found peace and happiness near the water — whether at the beach, boating or simply enjoying the shoreline — and equally treasured skiing with family and friends. She delighted in the beauty of autumn in New England and especially enjoyed hosting an annual Oktoberfest celebration.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Christopher Edward Hagermoser Sanetti; cherished children, Daniela Jane and Matthew Edward; brothers, Herbert H. Hagermoser of Lemont, Ill., and E. Scott Hagermoser (Julia) of Lancaster, Mass.; and sister, Carol Burke (Brian) of Grosse Pointe. She also is survived by her in-laws, Stephen and Carole Sanetti of Stratford, Conn.; and sister-in-law, Dana Kane (Geoffrey) of Weathersfield, Conn. Additionally, Lisa was the "cool" aunt to nine nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents.

Services were held at Vincent Funeral Home in Simsbury, Conn. A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in West Simsbury, Conn.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Head and Neck Cancers Treatment Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, 55 Fruit, Boston, MA 02114, donate.massgeneral.org/donate/cancer-center.

Share a memory at vincentfuneralhome.com.

Andrew "Andy" Scott Owens

Andrew "Andy" Scott Owens, 65, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025, following a sudden heart attack. Known for his smile and laugh, Andy will be greatly missed by many.

Andy was born July 3, 1960, in Elkhart, Ind., to Gordon and Margaret Owens. He graduated in 1979 from Elkhart Central High School, where he participated in tennis, diving, football and track. He held the school's pole vault record for decades.

Andy went on to attend the University of Cincinnati and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in sculpture in 1983. He then attended Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture in 1985.

After graduation, Andy moved to Chicago, where he met his wife, Lynn. They were married in 1989, and raised their two sons in Grosse Pointe Shores. Their eldest son, Andrew Julius "A.J.," was born in 1995, and their younger son, Alexander Gordon, was born in 1998.

Andy was a talented artist who built a career specializing in metal design and fabrication and bronze sculpture. He had multiple installations throughout the Detroit area, both public and private, as well as in many other states. His exceptional work often was featured in design magazines. He was known professionally as both a talented and competent artist. Designers, architects, suppliers and customers loved working with him.

Andy's athletic talents played a significant role in his life, mainly in the form of road cycling. He was a strong and talented rider who often pulled the group along from the lead position. An annual highlight was Andy's ride in the Michigan-based DALMAC Bicycle Tour. He and his biking friends would spend five days riding the roads of Michigan to return with tales of successful and not-so-successful days.

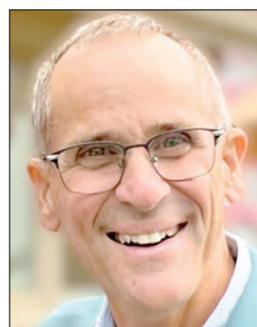
As Andy's life moved him to Port Charlotte, Fla., he added pickleball, golf and boating to his activities. Andy and Lynn loved spending time on local golf courses and boating the Intracoastal Waterway as a couple or with friends and family. They would boat to beaches and restaurants and never grew tired of seeing dolphins and manatees.

Andy loved spending time with his family and friends. There were family vacations, hikes, dinners and celebrations, each with their own special memories, too numerous to list.

Andy is survived by wife, Lynn (nee Horvath); sons, Andrew Julius and Alexander (Megan); brothers, Stephen (Tia) and Patrick (Carolyn); father-in-law, Louis



Dr. Lisa Marie Sanetti



Andrew Scott Owens



James Bieri

Horvath; brother-in-law, Louis Horvath (Karina); and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Michael; parents, Gordon and Margaret; and mother-in-law, Antoinette Horvath.

Visitation will occur 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, with memory sharing at 7 p.m. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 5, until a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Memorial donations may be made to the Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main, Elkhart, IN 46516; or the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort, Ste. 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

James "Jim" Bieri

James "Jim" Bieri, 76, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Jim was born July 31, 1948, in Saginaw, to Gottlieb and Marie Bieri. Jim grew up surrounded by faith, family and community. He attended St. Mary Catholic School, where his Catholic faith, shaped both at home and school, became a guiding light throughout his life.

Jim went on to study at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where fate brought him together with the love of his life, Jeanne. They met through mutual friends at a party and from that moment on their story unfolded. The two were married in 1972, and built a marriage of more than 50 years grounded in love, laughter and faith.

When Jim was accepted into Detroit College of Law, the couple relocated to Detroit, a city he came to adore. After graduating from law school, he started a few of his own businesses and eventually came to negotiate leasing contracts for luxury retail stores across the country. One of his accomplishments was securing the leasing contracts for the first 50 J.Crew stores in the U.S. Later in his career, he took great joy working with his son on many projects.

He embraced not only the city but also its vibrant culture and sports. He was a social butterfly, often spending time at the Detroit Athletic Club or Country Club of Detroit playing handball or bowling with his wife in the couples' league. Jim was well liked at both the DAC and CCD. He was a board director at the DAC and served on

many other committees at both clubs. He loved playing sports, but also loved watching sports, particularly the Detroit Lions, and was a long-time season ticket holder for the Detroit Red Wings.

Jim had a gift for living fully in the moment while also carrying deep wisdom. He was upbeat, generous and seldom quick to anger.

Of all his roles in life, the one Jim cherished most was being a grandfather. Devoted to his two grandchildren, he made it a weekly ritual to attend Wednesday Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church just to see his granddaughter. His quiet devotion and steady presence left an indelible mark on his family.

Jim's life was rich with love, faith and joy and his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Jim is survived by his dear wife, Jeanne; cherished son, Alex Bieri; and adored grandchildren, Benjamin and Grace.

Visitation occurred Monday, Aug. 25, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods. A memorial service took place Tuesday, Aug. 26, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Hundred Club of Detroit, P.O. Box 1018, Fenton, MI 48430; or the Detroit Athletic Club Athlete of the Year, dacaathleteoftheyear.com/sponsors/.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Margaret Lynne Cameron

Margaret "Marge" "Cookie" Lynne Cameron, 87, passed away Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025, at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital after a brief battle with leukemia.

Marge was a 49-year resident of Grosse Pointe Park, as well as a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Before arriving in Michigan with her young family, she resided in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Marge was born June 23, 1938, in Cleveland, to Russell and Marian Fike. She was raised in Euclid, Ohio. Her maternal great-grandmother bestowed on her the name "Cookie" as a baby and she was known by the nickname to family and Ohio friends until the end. The oldest of four children and a fiery redhead, she took "no guff," but never shied away from an opportunity to have fun. Growing up, Cookie was a classic "tomboy" and talented athlete. She never lost her enthusiasm for movement and proudly walked outside three miles a day until the last year of her life.



Margaret L. Cameron

She was the picture of resilience.

Gifted with a green thumb and the ability to grow most anything, Marge's gardens were immaculate and her houseplants awe-inspiring. A number of years ago, she was thrilled when the Detroit Botanical Gardens took possession of her robust coffee tree — grown entirely indoors and producing beans every year — and a massive gardenia, which bloomed every holiday season. She very much enjoyed her membership and the lifelong friends she made in the Windmill Pointe Garden Club.

Marge also was a phenomenal baker and cook. She had a file cabinet containing hundreds of recipes she saved through decades. She was a collector of cookbooks and many were first editions. Her cookies were renowned. She liked to spoil her family with the meals she made and hosted countless dinner parties throughout the decades. She was the consummate entertainer and grateful to be blessed with many cherished friends through the years. Many became like family to her.

Marge had an affinity for making people feel special. She never missed a birthday or milestone, lovingly writing a card to properly note the occasion. She was an avid reader, a feisty bridge player and a devastating crossword puzzle solver. She was a collector of Ironstone china, Shaker furniture, antiques and artwork bought on many trips to New England beginning in the early 1960s with her best friend and husband of 61 years, Richard "Dick" Cameron.

Motherhood came naturally to Marge. She wanted two sons and happily gave birth to two boys, eagerly supporting them in all their endeavors through life. She loved them unconditionally and deeply.

She was predeceased by her husband, Dick; and brothers, Dennis and Michael. She is survived by her son, David Cameron (Dr. Rachel Algenio), and grandsons, Ian Cameron and Neil Cameron of Portland, Ore.; son, Drew Cameron of St. Clair Shores; and sister, Laurie, of Rocky River, Ohio.

Per her wishes, there was no funeral service.

See OBITS, page 3B

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Mary Lou LeFevre

Mary Lou LeFevre, 92, passed away Monday, Aug. 25, 2025.

She was the beloved wife of the late Robert J. LeFevre; loving mother of Gregory (Mary), James (Lois), Thomas (Jennie), Michael (Suzie) and the late Susan Amine (Anthony); proud grandmother of Michael LeFevre, Matthew LeFevre (Carrie), Joseph LeFevre (Sara), Nicholas LeFevre (Jamie), Melissa Hollerbach (Adam), Emily LeFevre, Amanda Amine, Andrew Amine and Charlie Amine; great-grandmother of Madison, Robert, Charlotte, Lena, Francis, Sam, Caleb, Vincent, Logan, Clark, George, Eleanor and Morgan; dearest sister of Carolyn Wujek (the late Edward); sister-in-law of Marilyn Kopitzke (the late Paul); and dear aunt of Robert, John, Michael, Edward, Paul, Nancy, Denise and Julie.

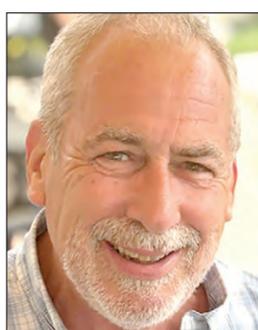
Mary Lou was a 1950 graduate of Dominican High School. She was a longtime member of the St. John Fontbonne Auxiliary, as well as the Pettipointe Questers and Quiddlers. Mary Lou loved her church and was a proud member of the Altar Society of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Mary Lou was a competitive card player and loved playing as much as she could with her many friends.

She never forgot a birthday, graduation, anniversary or other occasion, having sent thousands of cards to friends and family throughout the years. She touched so many lives and put a smile on everyone's face.

Visitation will occur at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, until a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. She will be privately entombed at Resurrection Cemetery.



Mary Lou LeFevre



George E. Daudlin Jr.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, cskdetroit.org/more-than-about-food.

Share memories with Mary Lou's family in the online guestbook at wujekcalcaterra.com.

George Edward Daudlin Jr.

George Edward Daudlin Jr., 68, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away at home Monday, Aug. 18, 2025.

George was born Sept. 21, 1956, in Detroit, to George Sr. and Violet Daudlin, both now deceased. A proud 1975 graduate of Austin Catholic Preparatory School in Detroit, George became a devoted account and sales manager at the family-owned Wolverine Oil and Supply, serving the Grosse Pointe municipalities for the past 30 years.

George was a lifeguard at Windmill Pointe Park in Grosse Pointe Park and an avid boater his entire life. His passion for sailing began at a young age on the family boat kept at the park and he first cut his teeth racing on crescent sailboats. He was a member of the Detroit Yacht Club from 1985 to 2002, and Bayview Yacht Club since 2002.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Pamela. He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Daudlin; partner in life, Newana Cesarone; step-children, Chad Cesarone (Lindsay), Scott Cesarone (Elena) and Megan Timmons (Trent);

step-grandchildren, Dorothea, Rosie, Dominic, Amelia, Jett, Victoria, Piper, Luca, Emma, Harper and Paige; sisters, Deborah Snella (Jim) and Mary Kay Gallagher (Dan); brothers, Kevin (Mary), Dan (Joy), Steve (Suzy) and Jeff (Rose); and 15 nieces and nephews.

George was a tough guy, but those who knew him knew he had the biggest heart. His love for his daughter, Jennifer, his life partner, Newana, and every animal he met was unmatched. He was the life of the party and unapologetically himself. He will truly be missed by many.

Visitation was held at Verheyden Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral Mass was held at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park. A luncheon was held at Bayview Yacht Club.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3XuSSi0; or the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 20542 Harper, Harper Woods, MI 48225, gpaas.org/donate.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Editor's note: The obituary for Mary Lou Conti, printed in the Aug. 21 edition, should have read funeral services already have taken place.

League of Women Voters conducting candidate forums

The League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe will conduct several candidate forums ahead of local community elections. Here is the schedule:

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9

City of Grosse Pointe Mayor and Council (combined forum)

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe

Invited candidates:

Mayor
Christopher Boettcher
Sheila Tomkowiak
Council
David Calcaterra
David T. Fries
Maureen Juip
Chris D. Walsh

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23

Grosse Pointe Park City Council

Pierce Middle School, 15430 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park

Invited candidates:

Thomas J. Caulfield
Patrick Gleason
Olga Merametdjan
Max Wiener

7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30

Harper Woods City Council

Wayne County Community College, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods

Invited candidates:

Teresa Foster
Sheila Hakim
Vivian M. Sawicki
Ivery Toussant Jr.

There will be no candidate forum for the Grosse Pointe Farms mayoral race, as only one candidate agreed to participate.

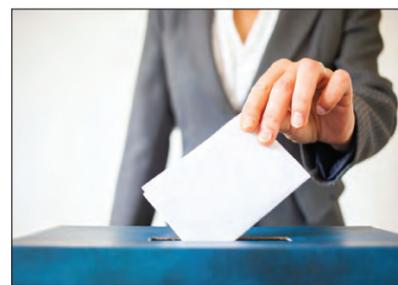
The public is encouraged to submit questions for the candidates. Due to time constraints, the league may prioritize or combine questions based on general interest and a goal of avoiding redundancy. The question submission form is available online at lwvgrossepointe.org.

Deadlines to submit questions are:

- ◆ Noon Monday, Sept. 8, for the Sept. 9 forum
- ◆ Noon Monday, Sept. 22, for the Sept. 23 forum
- ◆ Noon Monday Sept. 29, for the Sept. 30 forum

Non-partisan candidate forums are part of LWV history. Leagues around the country continue to hold debates and forums for local and state offices.

Voters also may find information about the candidates on the League of Women Voters non-partisan Voter Guide at VOTE411.org after Sept. 19.



Day of remembrance planned Sept. 13

An interfaith memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Assumption Grotto Cemetery, 13770 Gratiot, Detroit. The service will honor the memory of the

more than 60 million unborn victims of abortion during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Free secure parking and the cemetery are directly

behind the church. There will be light refreshments and fellowship afterward.

Call (313) 881-6793 or email beverly1016@aol.com.

GPCC fall session starts Sept. 9

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus is starting its fall session Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Rehearsals, which take place 7:30 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in the choir room at Grosse Pointe North High School, are led by music director Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi and accompanist Ron Pietrantoni.

The fall session runs until the chorus's holiday concert Sunday, Dec. 9, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

Registration fees are \$20 for ages 30 or younger and \$60 for all others. Registration is required by Tuesday, Sept. 1, by visiting grossepointecommunitychorus.org/registration.

Detroit Opera to host annual piano sale Sept. 5-7

Detroit Opera will host its annual piano sale at the Detroit Opera House Sept. 5, 6 and 7. Open to the public by appointment only, the event features more than 200 new and gently used pianos available for purchase.

Appointment may be made online at detroitoperapiano.org or by calling (248) 756-6589.

A wide range of grand, upright, digital, hybrid and Disklavier player pianos will be on display in the main lobby and on the main stage and sold at significant discounts. Top-quality brands include Yamaha, Bösendorfer, Clavinova, Baldwin, Schimmel, Estonia, vintage Steinway and more. Most pianos are less than a year old, come with a



new manufacturer warranty and are tuned. All pianos are sold at institutional prices not normally available in retail stores. Delivery and special financing will be offered.

All patrons who come to the sale may enter a drawing to win a free pair of tickets to one of Detroit Opera's season

productions: "Highways and Valleys," "The Handmaid's Tale" or "Apartment House 1776."

The piano sale takes place at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. More information — including directions and appointment options — is available at detroitoperapiano.org.

CLIMB:

Continued from page 1B

for every single person." Idle plans to write other books, including a "Lift" series.

"Everyone should write their own story," he said. "The next pages of my life are truly blank. I can write them how I want to. You never rebuild life to where it was before the fall occurs. What I've lost, I've gained in wisdom."

Idle is honoring his father and brother with a Sept. 2 book launch, "Lifting Legacies: Lift Others as You Climb."

In addition to the book signing and strolling dinner, the event includes drumline performances by The King Cobras, The Cavaliers and an alumni drumline featuring performers from across generations.

Tickets are \$30 and include a copy of the book.

For more information or to register, visit scottidle.com.

"I'm no guru. I'm still climbing. I'm still fail-

ing," Idle said. "I didn't write this book from the summit — I wrote it from the climb. And that climb includes the falls."



Worship Service

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www.christthekinggp.org

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

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

Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church

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4B | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

AREA ACTIVITIES

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

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

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9.

◆ 9/11 Service of Remembrance, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 11. Advanced registration is requested.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2, VFW Post 1146, 28404 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 8, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, Holy Innocents-St. Barnabas Parish, 26100 Ridgemont, Roseville.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, Recreation Authority of Roseville & Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.

Register at redcross.blood.org.

Library

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

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

◆ All branches closed Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1.

◆ Teen Leadership Council meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Home Food Preservation Series with Michigan State University, 4:30 to 5:30

p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several Coffee Tasting Workshop: Cupping & Brewing Basics, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30. Cost is \$50. Visit mutualadoration.com.

EIA

The Eastside Indivisible Alliance will host Sen. Kevin Hertel at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. Hertel will address important issues in the state of Michigan, followed by a brief Q&A. The public is welcome. Reserve a spot by emailing eialliancegp@gmail.com.

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:

◆ Drawing for Seniors,

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

◆ What Will Your Legacy Be?, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, with presenters Robert Lubera, Esq., and Jennifer Lohrer-Elstone, CPA.

◆ The movie "Join or Die" will be shown at noon Friday, Sept. 12. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

◆ The movie "The Golden Voice" will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

◆ Canasta, noon to 4 p.m. Mondays. Free for members, \$6 for guests.

◆ The Friendship Club, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month.

◆ Bridge Club, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Free for members, \$6 for guests.

◆ Walking Club, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

◆ Grief Work Support Group, 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, with psychotherapist Frank Wilberding.

Ford House

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

◆ 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.

◆ Story Festival, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6.

◆ Outdoor Summer Concert: The Dave Hamilton Band, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12. Ticket prices vary.

◆ New Friends of Ford House Orientation, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.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 grossepointeartistscenter.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.

◆ Behind the Brushstrokes: The stories and techniques of Vincent van Gogh, with

Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 25 to Oct. 9.

The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers a Community Yoga Pop-Up, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, for those who are constantly staring at a screen, with tension in the head, neck and shoulders. This pop-up class designed by Amy Koenig is for anyone looking for a way to stretch or destress, who wants to try a new form of exercise, experienced or not. Bring your own mat. To register, email MaryJo@FamilyCenterHelps.org.

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. Call (313) 642-2000.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit full lotusyoga.net.

BIRTH



William Liam Andre Mestdagh IV

William Liam Andre Mestdagh IV

Lauren and William Mestdagh of Grosse Pointe Farms welcomed a son, William Liam Andre Mestdagh IV, Monday, June 2, 2025.

Maternal grandparents are Wendy and Ed Schmidt of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Paternal grandparents are Cathy and William Mestdagh Jr., of Grosse Pointe Park.

Great-grandparents are William Mestdagh Sr. of Grosse Pointe Woods, Robert Gura of Clinton Township, Beverly Coats of Grosse Pointe Woods and Geraldine Schmidt of Shelby Township.

WEDDINGS

McMahon — Shaver

Margaret Kathleen McMahon and Jacob Richard Shaver were married May 24, 2025, at The Grosse Pointe Academy chapel, in a ceremony officiated by Msgr. Patrick Halfpenny. A reception followed at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Jennifer McMahon of Zionsville, Ind. The groom is the son of Douglas and Wendy Shaver of Richmond, Va.

The bride wore an A-line gown with a layered bodice and oversized bow cascading down the back, designed by AMSALE. She carried a bouquet designed by Jody Costello, featuring white peonies, garden roses, ranunculus and sweet pea, tied together with pieces from her grandmother's wedding gown.

The bride's sister, Madeline McMahon Shirar, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were her cousin, Caroline Claar, and her friends, Emma Baer, Madelyn Geske, Margaret Bobillo, Lilian Read, Kendall Henderson and Nicole Khalek. Nora Shaver served as the flower girl.

The bridesmaids wore light blue dresses in a mix of designs and patterns, each carrying long-stemmed white tulips — the bride's favorite flower.

The groom's brothers, Eric and Matthew Shaver, served as the best men. Groomsmen were the bride's brothers, Matthew and Peter McMahon, and the groom's friends, Alex Edwards, Evan Hitt, Zach Pokrywka and Tyler Brock.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Purdue University. She is a senior associate at JPMorgan in Dallas.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and business from the Virginia Military Institute. He is an account executive with Cisco



Margaret and Jacob Shaver

Systems in Dallas.

The couple honeymooned in Saint Lucia and live in Dallas.

Wittwer — Lees

Julie Wittwer and Hunter Lees were married Oct. 26, 2024, in Brentwood, Tenn., in a ceremony officiated by Matt Avery. The outdoor ceremony was followed by a reception at The Governors Club.

The bride is the daughter of David and Sally Wittwer of Grosse Pointe Park. The groom is the son of Harry and Robin Lees of Tennessee.

The bride's cousin, Katie Hall, served as matron of honor. Ivy Josi served as the flower girl.

The groom's brother, Jourdan Lees, served as best man. Aiden Lees and Luca Josi shared ring-bearer duties.

The bride is a graduate of DePauw University and Wayne State University School of Medicine, as well as the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital residency program. She is a pediatrician at Heritage Pediatrics in Nashville.

The groom is a graduate of Abilene Christian University. He currently is working toward a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at Lipscomb University, while working for an AI technology startup as head of account management.

The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica and live in Nashville.



Hunter and Julie Lees

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Former Pointer writes gun safety book for kids

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

Growing up in Detroit, Kenneth Head is well aware of the toll gun violence takes on a community.

"It really hits home," the former Park resident said. "Especially when innocent kids are involved."

Head said that is particularly true if a child has access to an unsecured weapon and accidentally shoots someone else or themselves, or if a child is shot as an innocent bystander.

"We have to lead the next generation in a positive direction," he said. "We have to educate them that guns are not toys because they see them in video games and pop culture all the time."

Head was working with a group called Michigan United, in conjunction with the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kenneth Head

Michigan State Police, educating people about Michigan's secure storage law, when he got the idea for the book.

The law, which took effect in February 2024, requires individuals to

keep unattended weapons unloaded and locked with a locking device or stored in a locked box or container if it is reasonably known that a minor is likely to be present on the premises.

"Gun Safety Handbook for Kids" is 30 pages and illustrated by Head, a graduate of the film and media studies program at Florida's Full Sail University.

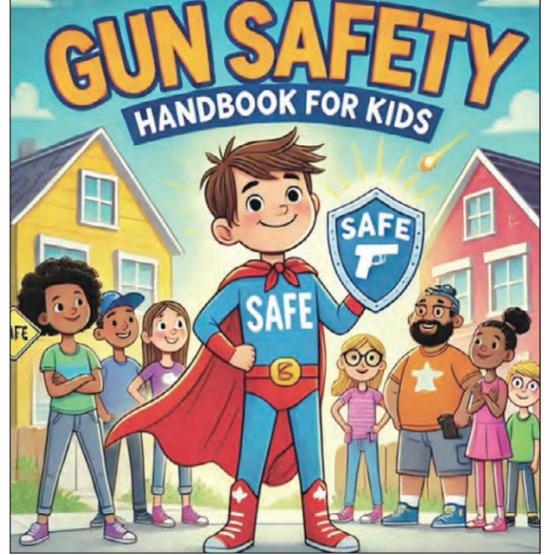
"It's a serious topic, but we wanted to make the book fun for kids to read," he said. "It's got things like cartoons and crossword puzzles."

Head said the book stresses themes such as:

- ◆ guns should only be handled by licensed adults and law enforcement,
- ◆ open up to a trusted adult if you feel peer pressure to touch a gun and
- ◆ if you see something, say something.

The book is targeted at children ages 5 to 10. A second book, for youths ages 11 to 17, is due out soon.

Head recently started his own organization, Safe Steps United, to fur-



ther promote his message.

"I give presentations at schools, community centers, youth groups," he said. "We're about teaching the value of life and the seriousness of death."

He added that he isn't promoting getting rid of

guns.

"This is all about educating," Head said. "We want kids to know not to touch guns. They might save their life or the life of someone else."

See safestepsunited.org for more information.

A little good goes a long way

Donors through Sept. 21 can score an iconic T-shirt design



The Red Cross and PEANUTS once again are joining forces to remind people a little good goes a long way. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of PEANUTS, those who come to give blood Aug. 29 to Sept. 21, will get an exclusive Red Cross x

PEANUTS mystery bag with one of four T-shirt designs, while they last. Each design is iconic and donors won't know which one they'll get until they open the bag. Additionally, there will be a number of golden tickets randomly hidden in the mystery bags

throughout the country. Donors who find a golden ticket when they open their bag will have the chance to redeem it through an online form for all four T-shirts. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Peanuts for details. Donors of all blood types, especially those

with types O positive and B negative blood, are urged to make an appointment to keep life-saving blood products ready for patients in need.

Routines are changing and schedules are filling up before fall, which could keep people from donating blood to help

save lives. In addition, the threat of severe weather and hurricanes remains strong in late summer.

Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, weather canceled approximately 1,500 blood drives across the country, causing more than 40,000 blood dona-

tions to go uncollected. Making and keeping donation appointments where it's safe to do so can help maintain a healthy blood supply.

Make a donation appointment by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

ASK THE EXPERTS By CNS Healthcare

Make mental health part of your routine

As students head back to school, it's important to remember that academic success is just one piece of the puzzle. Emotional well-being plays a vital role in how children learn, grow and connect. This season, we're encouraging families and communities to make mental health part of the back-to-school routine — because when kids feel supported, they're better equipped to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Here are a few simple ways to support the kids in your life as they head back to school:

◆ Talk early and often. Ask how they're feeling — not just about schoolwork, but about friendships, routines and how their body feels when they're anxious.

◆ Recognize signs of stress or anxiety — like trouble sleeping, irritability, avoiding school or physical complaints like headaches and stomachaches.

◆ Give kids tools to manage big feelings, such as taking deep breaths, journaling, drawing or taking short breaks to reset.

◆ Normalize asking for help.



Remind them it's OK to talk to a trusted adult when things feel overwhelming.

Mental health is a key part of overall well-being and small conversations at home can make a big impact. Let's all work together to help students feel supported, seen and empowered as they head into the new school year.

CNS Healthcare is a nonprofit Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic that provides essential services and support to those affected by mental illness, substance use, intellectual/developmental disabilities and emotional disorders. For more information, visit cnshealthcare.org.

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

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

Steering health back on the right track

Dear Gabby: How do I treat Sept. 1 like Jan. 1, and get my health and year back on track after a summer of indulgence? — Rebooting in the Park

Dear Rebooting: There's something about the return of school buses and pumpkin spice that makes September feel like a second shot at a fresh start. It's the perfect time to reboot your

health and routines without the pressure of New Year's resolutions.

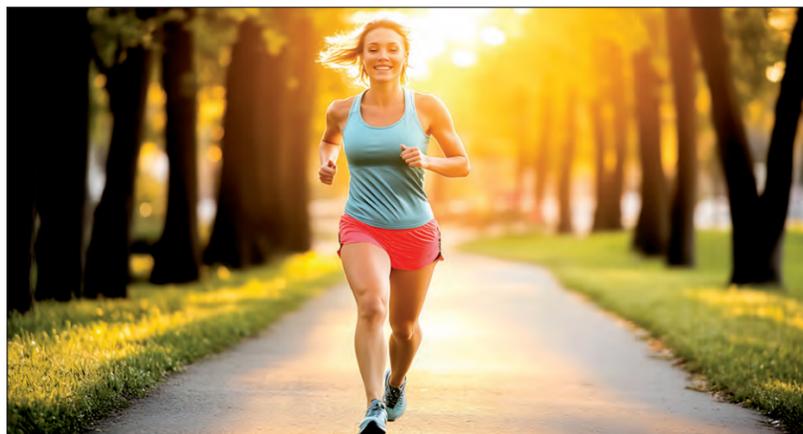
Start by building back a little structure into your days. That might mean early morning walks along Lakeshore, joining a fitness class at one of the many fitness studios around town or simply planning out your meals for the week to avoid the 5 p.m. what's-for-dinner panic.

If it helps, keep a little journal or tracker to hold yourself accountable.

You don't need a major overhaul, just small consistent moves in the right direction. It's amazing what a few healthy habits and a quiet house can do for your motivation.

— Gabby

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



Mom's dementia is affecting relationship with my brother

DEAR ANNIE: My brother and I are in our early 50s, and our mom has dementia. Our personal lives could not be more different. I have kids and have been married for 25 years. I returned to the workforce full time five years ago after having been a stay-at-home mom. My brother is a newlywed of three years, no kids, and works on big projects for his line of work. He also has had some gaps between projects.

My brother is adamant that our mom not live in a nursing home, so he

took her in about three months ago.

Prior to that, we shared caretaking in Mom's home for about nine months, but we knew we couldn't sustain it. We found ourselves leaving our spouses and children. Our work suffered, and we were exhausted. Now my brother has gotten overwhelmed and told me he is tired of doing more than me, which I acknowledge because she lives in his house.

His wife won't come out to greet me when I visit to get my mom every weekend, and my brother

will only communicate by text furiously -- if at all. He is physically exhausted and emotionally overwhelmed and seeing a doctor for anxiety and depression. He angrily confronts me (on text) and accuses me of being the cause of his anxiety, and then in front of our mom pretends he hasn't accused me of awful things. He won't meet with me and says he wants a mediator to work out what to do.

I have said I will not have her move in because I know I cannot handle it — emotionally

or logistically.

There is bad history between my mom and me, and while I have mostly put it aside to assist, I know I cannot handle her in my home. I did take her in (pre-dementia), and it took a toll on my well-being, and I felt unable to take care of my kids and myself ultimately.

I have to say no to taking on the care of my mom. How do I live without feeling terrible when my brother has called me evil and demands more of me than I have to give? — Good Mom, Wife, Friend, and

Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



Evil Daughter and Sister

DEAR GOOD MOM: Why did you sign your letter "Evil Daughter and Sister"? You are a wonderful daughter, trying the best you can. It sounds like you and your brother have differing opinions on what is in the best interest for your mother and her health. You both want what's best for her and need to get on the same team. Perhaps you should meet with a mediator, as your brother proposed, and if

you are dissatisfied with the meetings, you might seek a professional doctor who can best advise as to what would help your mother live the best life she possibly can. As for your brother blaming you for his depression and anxiety, that is unfortunate. He is clearly hurting and needs professional treatment.

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

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Vitamin packed blue spirulina at Rhythm & Blue Juice Co.

Every once in a while, I stumble across a spot I'm not truly familiar with. I know where it is, I know what they serve, but I've never actually tried it. This week's entry is one of those places.

One of the biggest social media trends right now is healthy eating — what we put into our bodies, "gut health." I've always been a conscious eater, but lately I've started paying closer attention for a few reasons. The idea of doing a cleanse to "restart" after all the summer fun made me think: It's time to visit our local source, Rhythm & Blue Juice Co.



COURTESY PHOTOS Rhythm & Blue Juice Co. storefront.

Rachael Schroder launched the business in 2019 after years in the industry.

"I've been in the health, wellness, hospitality and restaurant industry for 28 years," she said. She's done "everything from raw/vegan chef training, juice therapy/nutritional consulting and private events/catering."

After the pandemic, her small business was ready for its next step. Rhythm & Blue Juice Co. opened at 17864 Mack in Grosse Pointe, in a space that used to be a cabinetry showroom.

"We demoed the entire interior and built out the production kitchen and storefront from scratch," Rachael explained.

As for the name? She and her team wanted something that appealed to everyone, spanned cultures and unified people. What does that? Music — with rhythm.

"And the 'Blue' is because we love blue spirulina, which is packed with minerals and vitamins," she said. "We enhance so many of our products with it. Together it forms Rhythm & Blue (R&B) Juice."

Yes, I had to Google spirulina. And wow — was I unaware of its existence, let alone its insane amount of benefits.

At this point, it became a learning experience. I was invested. I wanted to know everything about these juices. The only thing I really knew was that they were cold pressed. But what is that exactly?

R&B sources fresh, local produce, prioritizing Michigan-grown ingredients whenever possible, from Eastern Market and area farms. Each batch goes through a two-step cold-press process: first, fruits and vegetables are



Green juice and active cleanses.

ground into a fine pulp, then pressed hydraulically to extract juice without heat — preserving nutrients, enzymes and flavor. After pressing, the juice is triple-strained, bottled and stored cold. It's never pasteurized, preserved or high-pressure processed.

Rachael explained that this method keeps all the good stuff intact, so our bodies actually benefit from every sip.

"It's as close to drinking the plant in its pure form as you can get," she said.

Even the leftover pulp doesn't go to waste. It's collected and taken to a community farm in Detroit, where it's turned into nutrient-rich compost.

"This closed-loop system reduces waste, enriches local soil and supports sustainable urban agriculture, bringing our mission full circle from seed to sip," Rachael said.



Starry Sky and Green Light smoothies.

R&B offers 25 varieties of juice and several seasonal blends. Each blend has a different purpose: detox, anti-inflammatory, energy boost — you name it. Their signature green juice, Rhythm, is a fan favorite, made with cucumber, celery, kale, cilantro, green apple, lemon, ginger and turmeric. Rave, their best-selling fruit-based

Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina



Smoothie bowls, clockwise from top left, Açai, Blue Velvet, Warrior and Pink Ribbon.



Protein balls, clockwise from top left, Dubai Chocolate, Cookie Dough, Coffee Cake, Monster and Birthday.

hot meals, salads with homemade dressings and immune-boosting wellness shots. And yes, they have coffee, tea and matcha, too.

The shop is on summer break while awaiting a new juicer, but Rachael suggests following along on Instagram (@rhythmandbluejuice) or Facebook (Rhythm + Blue Juice Co.) for

updates, hours and seasonal offerings.

I, for one, can't wait to pop in for an iced matcha, order my first cleanse and grab a smoothie bowl and a few protein balls come September. Honestly? I feel refreshed just writing this.

Fun Fact: Its signature green juice is The Rhythm, "because it keeps your body in rhythm." The more you know!

Stay tuned. Stay juiced!



Iced matcha.



Seasonal salads.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Recently while on the beach enjoying some time off, I found myself the target of my children's ridicule (again). OK, yes, I was wearing readers underneath my sunglasses, which I figured wasn't exactly cool. But what else was I to do? I decided then and there I had come up with a great invention. Unfortunately for me, a quick Google search and I discovered it's already well-established.

After the disappointment of my zillion-dollar invention being foiled wore off, I ordered a three-



pack of sunglasses that are readers. And let me say, they did not disappoint. Yes, I will have to carry multiple pairs of glasses in my beach bag, but that's OK — well worth it. Now I can look better and not have undue weight on the bridge of my nose at the pool or beach.

The design of the readers actually is the same as the regular readers I prefer from Amazon. They are a medium-sized, relatively cool-in-a-nerdy-way shape — they are referred to as "classic, retro style" and are comfortable to wear.

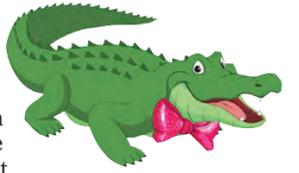
The colors that come in the set are black, brown tortoise and gray tortoise. At around \$15 for three pairs, it's a bargain. I will keep a pair in my beach bag, on the way out to my backyard and in my car.

When your eyes start to fail and reading becomes difficult, it's kind of depressing. But luckily it's also inexpensive to buy lots of pairs, so when you inevitably sit on a pair or they go the way of socks in the laundry, it's no big deal. Reading in the sunshine on a Grosse Pointe summer day is not

to be missed! These get 5 out of 5 alligators. You can find them on amazon.com at tinyurl.com/3xdp2vpz

We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com.

5 Out Of 5



End of summer berries

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Labor Day is a time for colorful summer foods and the celebration of the close of summer. The fall weather is slowly creeping in, giving us a glimpse of what's to come. Only to fool us with a late September heat. The summer produce will still be in abundance though so don't fret.

When I look back at my summer cooking, I think of peaches. For me it was about discovering the versatility of the peach. The flavor of a ripe peach can be enhanced with sweet additions but it was the savory additions that I played with the most. Grilled smokey peaches with brie and salty prosciutto, raw with tangy goat cheese, roasted with spices and honey served with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream are just a few of the ways we ate peaches this summer.

I added them to salads, hors d'oeuvres, paired them with fresh herbs and even as a simple side to grilled meats. These of course were all in addition to the purely cut wedges I would enjoy in the mornings.

The peach though could never compare with picking up freshly picked berries at the farmers market. Most

times we ate them right out of the container on the car ride home. The lucky one being those who got to carry the berries on their lap. I had a few ideas to make lemon blueberry crumble or strawberry cake but my family was happiest eating berries in their natural state, untouched. So, I thought I would close out my summer writing with a berry recipe.

This is an easy trifle that's layered with a fresh cream and lemon curd filling, store-bought pound cake and berries. Use your best judgment when choosing your berry combination. One of my kids isn't a fan of blueberries so I used less.

Decorate the top any way that makes you happy. And remember you are working with red, white and blue so you have the opportunity to make it as festive as you want. This is a great make ahead dessert that feeds about six people. So, you may need to double it for a crowd. Happy Labor Day everyone!

Cheers, Mombeau

Berry and Lemon Curd Trifle

1 oz package of cream cheese, softened

- ¾ cup lemon curd
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Zest of one lemon
- 1½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 2 tbsp powdered sugar
- 1 pint fresh blueberries, washed
- 2 pints fresh, sliced strawberries, washed
- 2 pints fresh raspberries, washed
- 2 10oz store-bought pound cakes

In the bowl of a standing mixer, add in the cream cheese, lemon curd zest and vanilla. Mix together until combined and smooth. Scrape the mixture out into a large bowl and set aside.

Rinse out the mixing bowl and add in the heavy cream and sugar. Beat until you have soft peaks. Fold the whipped cream into the lemon curd mixture.

To assemble the trifle, use either a trifle dish or wide bowl with a flat bottom. Crumble half of a pound cake into the bottom of your dish. Next add one quarter of the lemon curd mixture. Top



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

with one quarter of the berries. Repeat this process three more times,

ending with the lemon mixture and then fresh berries. Cover and let sit

in the fridge for an hour. Spoon onto small plates and enjoy!

Bargain wines

For reasons too numerous to delineate, sales of wine in the United States have come to a screeching halt, leading to a lot of reasonably priced wines.

One factor that exacerbates this situation is that wine is perishable and cannot remain on the shelf for very long before it deteriorates. Take rosé wines. Some are now getting to be a bit long in the tooth.

Although wine bargains are evident throughout the country, some consumers don't know what to look for to find the best values. Here are a few things to look for:

Chardonnay Alternatives: Chardonnay continues to be the best-selling white wine in the country, partly because it is richer and softer than many other whites. Though sauvignon blanc can often be equally engaging, some have aromas that aren't as broadly appealing.

But pinot blanc and

albarino both can be tasty and similar in texture. The latter is usually slightly softer and broadly appealing.

Albarino, often found in the import aisle (it mainly comes from Spain), has recently been made in California and it delivers a fascinating spicy aromatic that's not dissimilar from gewurztraminer.

"American" wines: This is a relatively new category of inexpensive wines that usually are blends of California wine with as much as 25 percent imported wine. Regulations permit wine from overseas to be blended with domestic wine. The result may be called "American." Since most of the imported wine in such blends comes here in bulk, it is inexpensive. Resulting blends can be tasty and often are excellent values.

Rosé: As previously mentioned, older pink

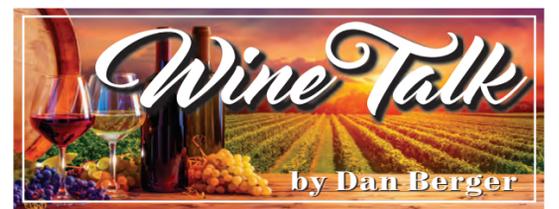
wines may not be fresh. It is best to buy them young. In recent weeks, I tried several rosés from 2022 at bargain prices. Most were tired. Several roses from 2023 are still fine.

Older reds: Many red wines can withstand some aging better than whites, so some older versions can still be fine. Since 2018 and 2019 were both good vintages, several of these wines (especially from Sonoma County) can be good values. My rule of thumb is to seek out reds with lower alcohol levels for better flavor and balance.

Rare Grapes: As with albarino (mentioned above), grapes that aren't quite as popular often represent good values because most people do not know what they are going to get. Experiment with grapes like gamay noir (elegant red), tannat (dark, dense red), picpoul (citrusy white), vermentino (spicy, vibrant white), petite verdot (dark, rich red), tempranillo (ripe, elegant red), barbera (medium weight, crisp red).

Wine of the Week:

2024 Bonny Doon Picpoul, Central Coast (\$17) — This widely available, delightfully fresh white wine has a hint of lime in the aroma, more citrus notes in the mid palate, and even though it is dry, it is still rather succulent. This wine is



intended to be consumed young, but I recently tasted two older vintages (2022 and 2023), and both wines were still in great shape.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM.

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4C | LIFE & LEISURE



Out for a day hike.



The whole gang ready to head out.



Nando (Carlos Sanson Jr.) and Murra (Shantae Barnes-Cowan).

The dramatic scenery.

Movie Junkie Mark
by Mark Domin
"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROADSHOW FILMS AND FREESTYLE DIGITAL MEDIA.

Shantae Barnes-Cowan as Murra in the 2022 movie "Sweet As," written by Jub Clerc and Steve Rodgers and directed by Jub Clerc.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Sweet As"
2022 - Not Rated
1 hr 27 min
★★★★★

This is a sweet coming of age film that tells the story of a young girl discovering herself and the beauty of the world around her. It's also a landmark film, because it's the first Australian film directed by an indigenous person. Jub Clerc directed and co-wrote it along with Steve Rodgers. "Sweet As" is a semi-biographical movie based on Clerc's participation in a photography camp when she was a teenager back in the 1980s. It proved to be a life-changing experience for her and ultimately led to her passion for the visual arts. This beautiful movie is an updated retelling of her fascinating story.

Murra, played by Shantae Barnes-Cowan ("The Redemption," "Wymwood Apocalypse"), is a young Aboriginal girl living with her single

mother Grace (Ngairé Pigram). One evening Murra comes home to a wild, drug- and alcohol-fueled party. Things start to get out of hand when one of Grace's friends chases after Murra and tries to break into her bedroom. She calls her uncle Ian (Mark Coles Smith), a policeman who breaks up the party and takes Murra home with him. She has a room at his house and it's clear by the way it's decorated, she's stayed here before. Ian does his best to look out for Murra. As an alternative to putting her in the Protective Services system, he signs Murra up for a photography camp. It's an innovative program that gets at-risk kids out into the country and introduces them to the world of photography. A handful of teens have been chosen to venture into the remote Pilbara region of Western Australia. It's a wild and visually stunning part of the country. At first, Murra is reluctant to join the group, but she resigns

herself to the fact that it beats the alternative. The group is clearly in safe hands. The driver and leader of the expedition is steadfast and no-nonsense Mitch ((Tasma Walton). Like Murra, she's also of Aboriginal descent. Nando (Carlos Sanson Jr.), a handsome, gentle Latin-American refugee is the photography expert, and he's just bubbling with enthusiasm at the opportunity to introduce these teens to photography and share his knowledge with them. Murra is introduced to the rest of the group. There's the other girl Kylie (Mikayla Levy) who's the free-spirited rebel of the pack. When the teens are forced to turn in their phones in exchange for a camera at the beginning of the trip, Kylie secretly hides a second phone so she can keep in constant contact with her much older and controlling boyfriend. Sean (Andrew Wallace) is an intelligent, quiet boy who's there because of his numerous suicide

attempts. Rounding out the group is Elvis (Pedrea Jackson), a super-friendly, likable sort who gets along with everyone. It isn't till much later in the film when we learn his tragic background.

As one would expect when throwing a bunch of disparate teens together, there's a bit of friction at first between the kids. The tension is particularly strong between Murra and Kylie — they're both headstrong and determined young women. Eventually they resolve their differences and become chums.

The adventure the group embarks on is truly eye-opening. They head into a desolate and stunning part of the country. It's a region held sacred by the indigenous people who have great respect for the land, its flora and fauna and especially its people. Nando teaches the teens the importance of really looking at the world and having the photographs they take speak from their hearts. A good deal of the story focuses on Murra and her interpretation of what she visualizes. Whenever she takes a photo, the frame freezes for a few seconds and the title she gives it appears on the screen. It's a clever device that works well to explain how she views her surroundings.

In addition to the excellent acting, a couple of other factors help contribute to making this such a powerful film. I especially enjoyed the soundtrack. It's a wide variety of indigenous

music which ranges from upbeat reggae style tunes, to quiet, thoughtful folk numbers. I doubt it's available to purchase, but I'd be the first in line to buy it if it was. Then there's the brilliant camerawork of cinematographer Katie Milwright. She not only uses close-ups of the kids to help convey what they're experiencing, she paints a beautiful cinematic portrait of the landscape. It's a part of the country that's unlike anything I've ever seen before. The rich, red ochre mountains almost look fake, they're that colorful. We're treated to one surprising scene after another.

This is one of those films where I can totally empathize with the main character. Sure, she's an Aboriginal teenage girl living with an alcoholic, drug abusing mother in Western Australia, participating in a photography camp. And I'm, well...just about the opposite. When I was a freshman in high school, I was a bit of a drifter and struggled to fit in. Then I took a photography class with an inspiring teacher who not only taught me how to take photos and use the darkroom, he changed the way I looked at the world. He almost single-handedly turned my life around. A little bit like Murra's story.

I can't recommend this movie highly enough. I'm not surprised it's received numerous awards at various film festivals including TIFF and the Berlin International Film Festival. It's one I think the whole family will enjoy.

Note to parents: The film is not rated but I'd probably rate it PG-13. There's a little bit of swearing and some underage drinking. But I think overall, the subject matter is appropriate for teens. Currently streaming for free on Hoopla with your library card. And to rent on Apple TV and Amazon.

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Currently streaming for free on Hoopla with your library card. And to rent on Apple TV and Amazon.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

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

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

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



Mitch played by Tasma Walton.



Sean (Andrew Wallace) and Murra (Shantae Barnes-Cowan).



Murra takes in the scenery.

THURSDAY COMICS

Peanuts

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BIG BROTHER?

© 1978 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

WELL, I FINALLY GOT UP NERVE TO CALL THAT LITTLE RED-HAIRED GIRL, BUT I DIALED MARCIE BY MISTAKE, AND GOT A DATE WITH PEPPERMINT PATTY...

8/30

I THINK YOU'RE TOO WISHY-WASHY, BIG BROTHER

www.stodgy.com

IT'S NOT A LOST ART!

© 2025 Charles M. Schulz

Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

You think this is a dump? The first-floor unit is even worse.

INFERIORITY DUPLEX

© 2025 Bizarro Studios. Bizarro.com. Wayno. 8-28-25. Dist. by King Features

Andy Capp Reg Smythe

ANOTHER SMALL GLASS OF NONALCOHOLIC SHANDY, PLEASE, BARMAN

GRRRR!

ANDY'S REALLY TAKEN AGAINST THAT FELLA AT THE END OF THE BAR

YEAH, HE DOESN'T LIKE AMATEURS DRINKING IN HIS PUB

GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

The day Sparky went bankrupt because of taxi fare

FOLLOW MY TAIL!

TAXI

© 2025 Glenn and Gary McCoy. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

B.C. Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

ROAR

WHADDAYA SAY WE RANDOMLY SAUNTER THIS WAY?

DEAL.

Dist. by Creators

Reality Check Dave Whamond

I figured out what the problem is... your eyes are just a line

FAR SIDED-NESS

*APOLOGES TO GARY LARSON!

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Beetle Bailey Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

DID YOU UPSET COOKIE?

HIS DINNER WAS DISGUSTING

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Mother Goose and Grim Mike Peters

THIS IS MY FAVORITE BEACH ACTIVITY, RALPH...

WATCHING THE 'HOT SAND SPRINT'

★&!!

YOU KNOW HOW SENSITIVE HE IS ABOUT CRITICISM

I'M THE ONE WITH THE UPSET STOMACH !!

MORT + GREG

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The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

RICE KRISPIES

"MUST YOU SNAP, CRACKLE AND POP?"

www.thelockhorns.com

Crankshaft Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

MAYBE THIS IS THE RESTROOM!

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

"YOU KNOW... YOU'RE A HARD ONE TO INTERRUPT!"

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Carpe Diem Niklas Eriksson

WAIT, WAIT - WHICH OF YOU SAID THAT??

WHAT? WHO SAID THAT?

ISN'T THE SOUND A BIT TINNY?

ANOTHER CHAOTIC ONLINE SESSION WITH THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE.

© 2025 Niklas Eriksson. Dist. by King Features

Wumo Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

We are LinkedIn Park! Are you ready to rock and network!?

The world's worst cover band

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THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

"DEAR ASK A DOG, DOGS BARK WHEN THREATENED. WHAT DO CATS DO?"

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I GOT THIS ONE

Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

WE LAWYER UP

JIM DAVIS 8-6

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

GOOD NEWS, HAGAR! MADAME ZELDA WAS ABLE TO SUMMON YOUR GRANDMOTHER!

8-28

THE BAD NEWS IS SHE INSISTS HER SECRET LUTFEFISK RECIPE IS STAYING A SECRET!

DANG!

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Close To Home John McPherson

8-22

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

THE WIFE HAS BEEN AFTER ME TO GET RID OF SOME OLD FURNITURE, SO THIS WORKED OUT

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

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Ziggy Tom Wilson

...ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THAT LI'L NERDY DUDE IN THE COMICS?

Blondie

DAISY'S NEW FLEA COLLAR REALLY SEEMS TO BE WORKING

8-28

THOSE MEAN OLD FLEAS ARE FINALLY LEAVING HER ALONE

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

HONESTLY... I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD A VOID.

THERE'S ALWAYS A VOID.

IF I'D KNOWN, I'D HAVE BEEN SCREAMING INTO IT EVERY DAY.

SCREAMING WHAT?

I SWEAR MY BREAKFAST TWINKIE HAD ALMOST NO POLYSORBATE 60!

YOU SHOULDN'T SCREAM INTO THE VOID... YOU SHOULD SCREAM AT RFK JR.

SAME DIFFERENCE.

Marmaduke Paul & Brad Anderson

8-22

Crock Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

TODAY WE'LL HAVE A CONTEST TO SEE WHO CAN SACK AND PLUNDER THE MOST

WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE IF ABDUL IS IN THE CONTEST

HE USED TO BE IN POLITICS

WHY NOT?

8-28

Popeye

IF OLIVE WEDS A KING IT MIGHT CHANGE HER!

GOLD AN' JEWELS WON'T CHANGE ME SWEETIE!

HERE SHE COMES!

AHOY, OLIVE!

SHE DIDN'T SEE US!

GULP! AN' SHE AIN'T EVEN MET HER KING YET!

F Minus Tony Carrillo

WHAT IF WE SPLIT THE MENTAL LOAD, WHERE YOU RUN OUR DAILY SCHEDULE AND FUTURE PLANS, AND I FOCUS ON WHICH SWEET MOVES TO USE IF SOME NINJAS SWARM US RIGHT NOW?

Family Circus Bill and Jeff Keane

"I'm havin' a catch with God. I throw the ball up and He throws it back."

© 2025 Bill Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

This activity from NASA explains how to use beads and string to make a model that shows the relative distances between the sun and planets in our solar system. For the full directions go to: jpl.nasa.gov/edu/resources/lesson-plan/solar-system-bead-activity

Start your scale model by cutting a 5.0 meter piece of string and tying the largest "sun" bead to one end using a double knot.

Using the distances in centimeters, measure the distance from the sun on the string to each planet.

Tie a colored bead in place for each planet using a double knot. *Note: The bead colors are rough approximations of the colors of the planets and the sun. However, you can use whatever color of beads you have handy.*

- Sun
0 cm
Yellow
- Mercury
4 cm
Solid Red
- Venus
7 cm
Cream
- Earth
10 cm
Clear Blue
- Mars
15 cm
Clear Red
- Jupiter
52 cm
Orange
- Saturn
96 cm
Clear Gold
- Uranus
192 cm
Dark Blue
- Neptune
300 cm
Light Blue

LEARNING IS OUT OF THIS WORLD WITH A NEWSPAPER

Can you save the spaceship *Kid Scoop Explorer*?

Look through the newspaper and find and cut out a number to glue to each star along the way to an unexplored, hospitable, and friendly planet. If the numbers add up to exactly 72, you have saved the captain, crew, and the *Explorer*!



MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN:

We've got trouble. Our ship, *Kid Scoop Explorer*, has only enough fuel to travel **72 hours**. This call for help has been sent out to newspapers on Earth. The crew and I are confident *Kid Scoop* readers will rescue us!



Captain's Challenge

Choose one page of the newspaper. On that page find and circle one of each of the letters that spell the word "constellation."

Connect the circled letters like a dot to dot.

Look at the design you have made. What could it be? Give your design a name.

Now do the same thing with each of your spelling and/or vocabulary words.

Standards Link: Spelling: Students spell grade-level sight words correctly.

Alphabet Constellations

Read the above message from the captain. Find each of the letters that spell the word "adventure." Connect the letters with lines. What does your design look like?

Emergency Landing

The *Kid Scoop Explorer* has landed on an unexplored planet. When you open the door of the spaceship, a strange creature greets you.

"Go away!" says the creature. At the same time, it gives you a big hug!

What is going on? As soon as you use the code to learn the name of the planet, you'll understand.

● = A	● = O
● = C	● = S
● = M	● = T
● = N	● = Y

Standards Link: Vocabulary & Concept Development: Students understand and explain antonyms.

Open and Shut

Launch yourself into the newspaper and find a word that means the opposite of each of these words:

- over
- cold
- weak
- off
- front
- in
- dark

Standards Link: Vocabulary & Concept Development: Students understand and explain antonyms.

Extra! Extra! Homonym Search

Homonyms are words that sound the same but mean different things. Look through the newspaper to find a homonym for each of the following words:

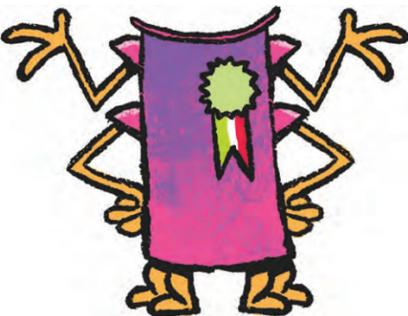
- SUN
- FOR
- KNEW
- TWO
- SAIL
- KNOT

Standards Link: Vocabulary & Concept Development: Students understand homonyms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Take Me to Your Leader!

Use pictures of people in the newspaper to find and cut out different parts of a person's face. Glue the parts here to create the face of the leader of the planet.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions. Visual Arts: Create collages using a variety of media.

Double Double Word Search

- CAPTAIN
- CODE
- CREATURE
- CREW
- DESIGN
- DOOR
- FUEL
- HELP
- HUG
- OPEN
- PLANET
- RESCUE
- SEARCH
- SPELL
- SUN

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

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

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: CONSTELLATION

The noun **constellation** means a group of stars that seem to form a pattern or picture.

The Big Dipper is the most famous **constellation**.

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Befor and After

Cut out a newspaper photo and glue it to a piece of paper. Under the photo, write a sentence telling what you think happened before the photo was taken. Then write a sentence telling what you think happened after the photo was taken.

How does a robot shave?

ANSWER: With a laser blade.

Write On!

Lift Off!

Imagine you will be traveling in space for a week. Find 10 things in the newspaper you'd like to take along with you.

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South field hockey starts strong, beats Dexter for first time ever

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

There are few better ways to start a new season than what Grosse Pointe South varsity field hockey has done. In their first season as an MHSAA-recognized sport, South field hockey kicked things off with a landmark win over one of the state's perennial powerhouses, defeating Dexter 1-0 Tuesday, Aug. 19.

Prior to last week, the Blue Devils had never beaten Dexter, who has made it to the state championship game in Division 2 each of the past three seasons and won the title twice. South finally was able to take down the Dreadnaughts last week in a close game that was decided by a long goal, scored by junior Hannah Agnone, with an assist from senior Evie Wodzisz.

"Earning a win in our season opener against a top program in the state set a new benchmark



South field hockey players and coaches wait anxiously on the bench during a close game against Dexter last Tuesday, Aug. 19. The Blue Devils won 1-0, beating the Dreadnaughts for the first time in program history.

for our program," South Jessie Rouleau said. group of athletes who sure for 60 minutes. I'm

field hockey coach "This is an incredible brought maximum pres- incredibly proud of their

effort."

The win would not have been possible without a strong defensive performance by the Blue Devils. Junior goalkeeper Harriet Kowalski made 14 saves to get the shutout for South.

South continued the momentum from its win over Dexter into its next game Thursday, Aug. 21, against Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard. The Blue Devils came away with a 4-1 win to start the season with back-to-back victories.

Wodzisz scored twice for South in the win over Gabriel Richard and also had an assist. The team's other goals were scored by senior Andee Baker and freshman Therese Carron.

South hosted Cranbrook after press time Tuesday, Aug. 26, and Plymouth-Canton Wednesday, Aug. 27. The Blue Devils take the field again Wednesday, Sept. 3, at home against Marian, starting at 7:30 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

North cross country hits ground running in opening meets of 2025



By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The boys and girls varsity cross-country teams from Grosse Pointe North laced up their running shoes and took to the course last week for some of the first races of the new season. The teams were focused on starting the season strong and the boys team did just that with a second-place finish at the Happy Acres Invitational Saturday, Aug. 23.

North's boys team made the trip to Webberville over the weekend for its first meet of the year and the journey was well worth it. The Norsemen finished second with 59 points, just behind champion Williamston with 52 points (lowest score wins). North's push for a top finish was helped by having five runners finish in the top 25 of the entire field.

Sophomore Dylan Phillips took fifth place overall, running the 5K course in a personal-best time of 17:34. Senior Paul Stephens crossed the finish line in 11th place with a time of 18:12. Teammates William Henze and Jack Bugeja were not far behind, finishing in 13th and 14th place, respectively. Freshmen Ben Dawson and Liam Murphy rounded out North's top seven runners in their debut race.

"It was a fine effort for our first race, especially since we were missing several runners," North boys cross-country coach Jim Fisher said. "Dylan showed a lot of fortitude, especially in the latter half of the race. Paul Stephens set the tone for the team by getting out quickly the first mile. I was very encouraged by the way Henze, Bugeja and Bartkowicz stayed fairly close together; this will help our team score in future races."

The boys team for North will race again Thursday, Aug. 28, in the Earlybird Invitational at Anchor Bay.

North's girls team traveled to Bay City Western for the Night Light Invitational Friday, Aug. 22. The Norsemen finished eighth overall as a team, with one runner making it into the top 25.

That runner was sophomore Maylin Parish, who crossed the finish line 23rd with a time of 22:10. Other top runners for North included senior Avery Boutell, who finished 61st, and sophomore Erin Doolittle in 74th place.

The North girls squad ran in the Tiger Cross Country Relays at Armada after press time Wednesday, Aug. 27. The Norsemen are set to race again Wednesday, Sept. 3, in the MAC Red Jamboree at Stoney Creek Metropark.

COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Jack Bugeja, right, and sophomore Jack Bartkowicz helped the Norsemen to a second-place finish at the Happy Acres Invitational in Webberville last Saturday, Aug. 23.

2D | SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Liggett girls golf celebrates historic first win for program

University Liggett School varsity girls golf earned its first victory in program history last Thursday, Aug. 21, and it came against a crosstown foe. The Knights defeated Grosse Pointe North by a narrow margin of one stroke, beating the Norsemen 259-260 in a match at Lochmoor Club. Freshman Olivia Robinson led Liggett with a score of 55 over nine holes, while sophomore Antonia Randazzo had the team's second-lowest score at 61. The Knights suffered a loss to Sacred Heart Monday, Aug. 25. The team hits the links again Tuesday, Sept. 9, taking on Regina at St. Clair Shores Golf Club.

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In observance of **LABOR DAY** the office is closed **Monday, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025** Grosse Pointe News Classified **DEADLINE** Tuesday 1PM **SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

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4D | SPORTS

Blue Devils boys tennis earns big early-season victories

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys tennis has wasted no time putting together some strong performances in its first few matches of 2025. The Blue Devils have picked up some impressive wins in early matches, including a couple of victories over the weekend in a quad meet that featured some of the state's top teams in Division 2.

The quad meet was hosted Saturday, Aug. 23, at Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central. South was thrown into the fire by facing some of the best Division 2 teams in the state for one of its first tournaments of the season, but the team stood up to the test. The Blue Devils were victorious over Forest Hills Central 7-2 and defeated defending Division 2 state champion Forest Hills Northern 6-3, while also fighting to a 4-4 draw against last year's Division 2 state runner-up Midland Dow.

Matthew Bartoszewicz earned singles victories against all three opponents, while Matthew Holowinski won his singles matches against Forest Hills Northern and Forest Hills Central.



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys tennis celebrates after securing some impressive early-season results during a quad match in Grand Rapids last Saturday, Aug. 23, including a 6-3 win over defending Division 2 state champion Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern.

Brendan Stafford also earned a couple of big victories in singles matches for the Blue Devils against Midland Dow and Forest Hills Central. Oscar DeLuca took home singles-match wins against Forest Hills Central and

Forest Hills Northern. In doubles play, Joseph Guthat and Matthew Hamilton earned a pair of wins against Forest Hills Northern and Forest Hills Central. The teams of Max Prather and Luke Brennan and

David Sutts and Nate Yeamans helped the Blue Devils earn the draw against Midland Dow with a couple of doubles-play victories. Davis Gryzenia and Weston Jerabek also earned doubles wins against Forest Hills

Central and Forest Hills Northern.

Earlier last week, South came away with three wins in a quad meet it hosted in the Pointes. The Blue Devils defeated Stoney Creek 5-3, University Liggett School 6-2 and Frankel

Jewish Academy 8-0.

South traveled to Novi for a tournament after press time Wednesday, Aug. 27. The team will be back on the court Wednesday, Sept. 3, hosting Romeo in its first MAC Red Division match of the season.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Squitieri earns All-American status

After finishing third in discus at the MHSAA Division 1 track and field state finals this spring, Grosse Pointe South class of 2025 graduate Conrad Squitieri continued his success into the summer. Squitieri was able to qualify for both the AAU Junior Olympics and USATF Junior National Olympics in late July. He would go on to finish eighth in the Men's 17-18 Division Discus at the USATF event in Savannah, Ga. and sixth in the Men's Discus 17-18 at the AAU Jr. Olympics in Houston, Texas. Squitieri's high finishes earned him All-American status at both events. He is now preparing to begin his freshman year studying kinesiology and biomedical engineering at the University of Utah.

Grosse Pointe News

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