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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 86, NO. 37, 30 PAGES  
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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Ground broken at former Poupard school

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**HARPER WOODS** — After nearly three years and several delays, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held against a backdrop of heavy equipment and piles of rubble at the former Poupard Elementary School.

"This is a magnificent change in our community," Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle said. "It was a long time coming, but something we stuck to."

Kindle added there hasn't been a new subdivision built in the city in decades.

In what is being called Fraser Square, Robertson Brothers Homes and Renovare Development plan to build 48 duplexes and 23 townhomes.

It is named after Carol Fraser, who spent 34 years teaching first grade in the Grosse Pointe Public School System, including her last 20 at Poupard.

"We were living in Macomb County and I wanted a shorter commute, so I moved from Defer (Elementary School) to Poupard," she said. "I was closer to home, but it turned into so much more."

Fraser added that her husband once

asked her why she didn't want to teach at a school in the Pointes because he said it seemed easier.

"I told him I didn't get into teaching for it to be easy," Fraser said. "I went into it to make a difference."

Fraser said Poupard went beyond her expectations.

"Our mission was to teach the whole child," she said. "It was magical the way the community worked together."

GPPSS Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said it made sense to name the development after Fraser.

"Carol's legacy was one of nurturing, teaching and believing in every child," she said at the groundbreaking. "It is fitting that her name will grace a place where new families can plant roots and thrive."

Tuttle said Fraser Square represents hope, growth and partnership.

"It has the potential to bring new families into Harper Woods and with them new students into our schools," she added. "We are excited about the possibility of increased enrollment and we are deeply grateful that families continue to choose GPPSS for excellence in education."

See SCHOOL, page 9A



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES SHIFTAN

Sammy Shifan shares a smile with the man who saved his life, Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Officer Jesse Lafriniere.

## PSO/paramedic saves choking child

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The breakfast hour Monday, Aug. 25, went from routine to every-second-counts at the James Shifan household in the 1100 block of Grayton.

Following is a chronology told by people on scene and monitoring the action real-time over police radio and subsequent body camera video.

Mom and Dad tended chores. Their four young children, including 2-year-old twin Sammy, doodled around.

"The older kids were eating grapes," Shifan said. "The younger kids were eating yogurt. Fingers switched."

A grape stuck in Sammy's throat.

"My oldest daughter, in sixth grade, did beautifully because she got Mom and dialed the phone," Shifan said. "She

had taken CPR classes at The War Memorial for babysitting."

"I was listening to the run when it came out," said Jim Bostock, director of Park public safety. "Our dispatcher, Rachel Young

open when he stopped breathing," Shifan said.

"I was about where the schools are at Somerset when the call came in," Lafriniere said. "I did a U-turn on St. Paul, activated my lights and siren.

*'In a situation like this, every second counts.'*

JIM BOSTOCK  
Director, Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety

— she has experience with the Michigan State Police — did a fantastic job getting information needed to quickly dispatch officers from a caller who was very excited and in a stressful situation."

PSO Jesse Lafriniere, a licensed paramedic, was on patrol.

"I was driving west-bound on St. Paul," he said.

"Sammy's eyes were

I was probably a little more than a mile out."

"In a situation like this, every second counts," Bostock said. "Jesse was able to arrive formulating in his mind what to expect when he got there."

"At one point before Jesse arrived, the dispatcher said to try CPR," Shifan said. "Doing it on your 2½-year-old son is something you don't want

See SAVE, page 2A

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*Food Gossip*



Check out Nina Taormina's reviews of Grosse Pointe area foodie destinations

See Section C

## Go native this weekend

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The semi-annual native plant sale this weekend has more urgency than in past years.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, on the grounds of city hall on Jefferson between Maryland and Lakepointe.

The traditional purpose of the sale is for the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission to raise funds to buy native plants for municipal gardens. Fundraising this time is doubly important.

Commissioners must earn money to replace around 75 native plants a weeding contractor mistakenly pulled from a couple beds.

The gardens, on a traffic island and elsewhere near municipal headquarters and the public library, are supposed to

feature indigenous species and vegetation that provide habitat for pollinating insects. Butterflies are pollinators.

Overdone weeding happened twice this year to specimens that members of the commission planted themselves.

"We put them in," Commission Chairwoman Lisa Kyle said. "They rip them out."

"Milkweed had grown back from the first time," Commissioner Kelly Konieczki said.

"They removed 70 percent of what we had in the middle of the bed," Kyle said.

"They pulled out plants that were dormant," Konieczki said.

"We now have giant holes in the gardens," Kyle said.

Funds raised during the plant sale will be used to plug at least some openings.

See NATIVE, page 3A

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## Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



**Ashley Batt**

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms  
Started a foundation with her husband to honor two sons who passed away shortly after birth.



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2A | NEWS

SAVE:

Continued from page 1A

to be part of.”  
 “The daughter was out front waving me down,” Lafriniere said. “I asked where they were at. She said, ‘At the top of the stairs.’”

“He came through and went up a full set of stairs with one leap,” Shiftan said.

“I don’t know about that, but I covered the stairs pretty fast,” Lafriniere said. “I found the toddler unresponsive, not breathing and cyanotic.”

“I watched the body camera,” Bostock said. “Just watching it, you get that adrenalin of him running up the stairs and seeing the child lying on the floor and Jesse go to work.”

“All you could hear in my house at that time was my older son and daughter downstairs praying, my wife on the phone with the dispatcher,” Shiftan said. “My son was making no noise. He turned blue. The feeling comes that everything in your life has stopped.”

“I immediately picked up the child and gave a round of back blows,” Lafriniere said. “Then I did a round of chest thrusts followed by a second round of back blows.”

“This was all happening at the top of the stairs,” Shiftan said.



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

PSO Jesse Lafriniere, a licensed paramedic, prepares to go on patrol in Grosse Pointe Park.

“It was during the second round of back blows when I leveled the child that he started crying, which let me know the airway opened to some degree,” Lafriniere said.

“[Wife] Cindy was on with the dispatcher,” Shiftan said. “I think it was the dispatcher who said, ‘I just heard crying. Crying is good.’ That was the best cry I could hear.”

“His crying slowed to the point where I wasn’t sure if air was moving,” Lafriniere said. “I gave a few more back blows. He began crying vigorously. He called for his mom.”

“At that point, his dad had beaten him up by bouncing him off his shoulder and sticking his fingers down his throat,” Shiftan said. “He wanted no part of me.”

“Hearing him call for his mom was the best thing ever,” Lafriniere said. “Some (grape) pulp came out. I don’t know how well it was chewed. A child’s airway is very small. It can plug easily.”

“Within a blink of an eye, he was in the back of the EMS truck,” Shiftan said of the boy. “Neighbors at that point were all going to jump in and help.”

“From the time I got to the call and the time he was crying in my arms was, when I reviewed my bodycam footage, just about 2 minutes, 15 seconds total,” Lafriniere said. “During the time it happened, the adrenalin was going so much. Having the ability to do something and make a difference in that moment was an amazing feeling. Probably a half hour after, I went to the St. John pediatric unit. Unfortunately, I’d just missed him.”

The boy had been transferred to another part of the hospital.

“They were able to advise me that he was doing well at that time,” Lafriniere said.

“It took him a good 12 hours to get full breathing on his own back,” Shiftan said.

“The day after, I called the mom to see how Sammy was doing,” Bostock said. “He was just about to be released from the hospital. I was overly excited that he’s going to be OK. I told the mom that when any of us are asked why we want to be in public safety, 99 percent of the answers are going to be, ‘I want to help people.’ This is the best example of that. I couldn’t be prouder of Jesse, our dispatch and the way everything turned out.”

“The reality is we can think about how God graced us with such a miracle in Jesse,” Shiftan said.

Sammy returned home from hospital care the following afternoon.

“Now he runs around like mad,” Shiftan said. “He and his twin brother — it’s like nothing ever happened.”

“Mom brought him to the station last Sunday,” Lafriniere said. “I got to show him around on the fire trucks.”

“We live in a community where people, in uniform and without, all jump towards the greater good,” Shiftan said.

“I cannot and will not subscribe to that format,” Ricci said of his decision.

He previously attended LWV forums when running for mayor against Theros in 2017, and for contested races for city council, on which he has sat since 2013.

At those times, he said he found the questions posed to be “totally biased,” in that the opponent’s supporters would send in questions designed to make their favored candidate look good.

“When you see it on TV, the moderators have the questions and they ask what they want to know — not your buddy who sends in a sheet of paper,” Ricci said. “That’s how I perceived this thing to work and I wasn’t going to subject myself to that.”

“If they came up with a better system and there was nobody involved in the questions and the League of Women Voters could unbiasedly ask questions, that would be a different situation.”

Ricci further said his refusal to participate does not deny an opportunity for voters to become more informed about the candidates and he believes he is making himself accessible to voters in various other ways.

The councilman has held “Coffee with Joe” community chats with residents an average of every other month since joining council. He has another coming up from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, at Morning Glory to discuss the ongoing sewer separa-

tion project on Tonnancour.

“I’m really disappointed that my opponent has declined the invitation of the League of Women Voters to participate in a candidate forum,” Gillooly said. “I specifically asked that they do the forum with just myself. They said it’s not their policy.”

It is a statewide policy, Acton said, not to hold what is called “an empty chair debate,” where only one person gets to speak and the other person isn’t there.

“This is almost, to me, a decision that you should not vote for somebody who is unwilling and declines an invitation from a nonpartisan group who’s had a very extensive history of asking fair questions, of expecting fair answers,” Gillooly said.

Among the other contested races in the Pointes this election season, City of Grosse Pointe Councilman Dave Fries, running for re-election to a second term on council, also did not attend the LWV’s candidate forum Tuesday, due to prior plans that put him out of the country on the date.

“He immediately responded that he will be out of the country,” Acton said. “He just had prior travel plans. I feel bad about that because we can’t reschedule these things. There’s too many people involved.”

Fries is running alongside fellow incumbents Maureen Juip and Chris Walsh, as well as newcomer David Calcaterra.

Mayoral candidate declines candidate forum invitation

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — In an unexpected move, Grosse Pointe Farms mayoral candidate Joe Ricci declined to participate in the candidate forum put on each election season for contested races by the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe.

He is running against fellow councilman John Gillooly to replace current Mayor Louis Theros, who is stepping down from the position.

“There will be no candidate forum for the Grosse Pointe Farms mayoral race, as only one candidate agreed to participate,” the League of Women Voters noted among its schedule for the other upcoming Pointe candidate forums.

Susan Acton, vice president of voter services, cannot recall a time in recent history when a mayoral candidate in a contested election in the Pointes has declined to attend the forum.

Only once did a similar case occur among a contested city council election, when three of four candidates running in Grosse Pointe Shores declined to attend.

“It’s very rare to have anyone decline,” Acton said.

LWV candidate forums invite the public to submit questions for the candidates and note the league may prioritize or combine questions based on general interest and to avoid redundancy.

“I cannot and will not

subscribe to that format,” Ricci said of his decision.

He previously attended LWV forums when running for mayor against Theros in 2017, and for contested races for city council, on which he has sat since 2013.

At those times, he said he found the questions posed to be “totally biased,” in that the opponent’s supporters would send in questions designed to make their favored candidate look good.

“When you see it on TV, the moderators have the questions and they ask what they want to know — not your buddy who sends in a sheet of paper,” Ricci said. “That’s how I perceived this thing to work and I wasn’t going to subject myself to that.”

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tion project on Tonnancour.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sammy Shiftan tries out the driver’s seat with assistance from PSO Jesse Lafriniere.



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

“That is a good example of an alley garden that looks really nice,” said Jim Creighton, a member of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission. The garden is in the alley behind the Corewell Health building on the south side of Kercheval between Lakepointe and Beaconsfield. “It’s well kept up,” Creighton said. He and most others on the commission want to establish alley beautification awards as inducement for landowners to end alley blight.

Alley beautification discussed

By Brad Lindberg  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Plans are being made to use sugar instead of whips to spur alley beautification.

“Beautify it through positive reinforcement,” said Jim Creighton, a mayoral appointee to the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission since March.

He presented an idea during the group’s meeting Sept. 3, to expand annual property beautification awards to alleyways.

Creighton and other Park representatives are in league about seeking a once-and-for-all end to alley blight. Common infractions are debris, overgrown vegetation and misplaced trash and recycling containers.

The topic isn’t new. A couple years ago, Councilman Marty McMillan saw for himself it was impossible to drive a car through at least one section of the city’s residential alleys due to obstructions. Another concern is keeping ways clear for emergency vehicles, including the biggest of them all, fire trucks.

“I can tell you that the mayor is really excited about the idea,” said Councilman Brent Dreaver, liaison to the commission, during this month’s meeting.

“I am an advocate of this initiative for a number of reasons,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “It is important to recognize and celebrate residents who commit to making our community beautiful. Secondly, compliance

with city codes is critical and we must incentivize people to do so. This program accomplishes both of these things.”

“I’d love to have an alley award,” Commission Chairwoman Lisa Kyle said about implementing the idea.

“Not for this year,” Creighton advised. “We need to get criteria in place. We need to publicize it. We need a plan as opposed to knee-jerking something into place. I will make an action item and present it with criteria at a future meeting that we can discuss.”

“OK,” Kyle said. “We can plan for next year. I understand there’s a code enforcement component to it that we wouldn’t be involved in.”

“We had some alley

See ALLEY, page 5A

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# Mini golf outing returns to Kercheval

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Main Street Mini Masters is back for the second annual mini golf outing on Kercheval in the heart of downtown Saturday, Sept. 20.

“Where else can you sink a putt next to a boutique or line up your shot outside a coffee shop?” said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe, in a release. “It’s playful, it’s local and it’s exactly the kind of energy

that keeps The Village vibrant.”

Main Street Mini Masters features 18 holes of miniature golf — each hole sponsored by a local business — and is more or less played in a regular golf outing format.

Foursomes are encouraged to pre-register and will be sorted between a morning flight for families and an afternoon flight for adults.

An additional 19th hole will feature the Detroit Mechanix professional Ultimate Frisbee team inviting golfers to try their hand at throwing Frisbees into slats.

Participants also will receive swag bags, a hotdog lunch courtesy of Licavoli’s Cucina and the chance to enter to win prizes.

“What I love most about



COURTESY PHOTOS

Young golfers put their heads together to knock out the final putt during last year’s inaugural Main Street Mini Masters.

events like the Mini Masters is how they turn The Village into a shared experience,” said Anne Murphy, event chair and owner of Apple Blossom Baby. “It’s not just about shopping or playing a round of putt-putt — it’s about neighbors connecting, kids laughing and

businesses becoming part of the story. You can feel the community come alive and that kind of energy is priceless.”

Tickets for families are \$50 and include golf for four players, four lunch tickets for a hotdog, chips and pop from Licavoli’s, a family swag

bag and raffle tickets. Single tickets for additional members of a family group may be purchased for \$10 each.

Tickets for adult groups are \$100 and include golf for four adults, four lunch tickets, four Loop Social District drink tickets redeemable

for beer, wine or seltzer at participating establishments, individual swag bags and raffle tickets. Space is limited and tickets may be purchased online at [tinyurl.com/48w25njs](http://tinyurl.com/48w25njs).

Hosted by Main Street Grosse Pointe, main event sponsors are Velvet Peanut Butter, Chicken Shack (26851 Schoenherr), Kercheval Company LLC, Savvy Chic Boutique and Pet Supplies Plus.

Additional event sponsors include Apple Blossom Baby, BeneFik Insurance Consultants, Chez LouLou Salon, Decker Dermatology & Mohs Surgery, Fildew Hinks PLLC/Charles S. Kennedy III, Councilman David Fries, Glitter & Scotch, Lochmoor Club, Posterity Art & Framing Gallery, SideStreet Diner, Small Favors, The Spice & Tea Exchange, Temrowski Eldercare, Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak and Village Palm.



## Parks & rec planning begins

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The Grosse Pointe Park City Council this week sanctioned its recreation commission’s choice of consultant to guide development of the municipality’s first-ever master plan for the parks and recreation department.

Planners will build upon an evaluation of the department’s current assets to draft a five-year outlook of goals and needs.

“Grosse Pointe Park’s distinct structure, with two premier parks at the core of its recreation system, requires a plan with a thoughtful strategy for maintaining system assets and creating a pipeline for future capital improvements,” according to the winning proposal signed by Patrick Droze, principal of OHM Advisors.

OHM has a separate contract as the city’s engineering consultants.

Droze’s five-phase approach to developing the master plan sat well with city leaders:

- ◆ review existing facilities and operations,
- ◆ use data-informed and lifecycle assessments to guide decision making,
- ◆ engage meaningfully with the community during the process,
- ◆ prioritize a capital improve-

ment plan and long-term maintenance strategy with achievable goals and

◆ prepare an action plan for seeking grants and donations.

“OHM will identify potential funding sources, including grants, philanthropic partnerships and public-private collaborations,” according to the proposal. “The plan will demonstrate how the asset management data and community engagement outcomes can be leveraged to strengthen funding applications and support long-term financial planning.”

The master plan’s five-year outlook is strategic.

“Michigan Department of Natural Resources grants require you to have a five-year timeframe,” said Cindy Paparelli, assistant city manager.

Part of the reason City Manager Nick Sizeland hired Paparelli in July was her experience working with a community foundation for parks and recreation programs in the St. Clair County area.

Councilman Max Wiener liked the grant angle.

“This gives us a great opportunity,” he said.

Members of the recreation commission on Aug. 13 recommended the council choose OHM, the third lowest of seven bidders for the job.

“Our (recreation) commission wants to be engaged and have a more meaningful impact,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “This is a great step forward.”

OHM’s bid of \$30,000 was twice as much as the lowest, \$14,600, and one-third the cost of the highest, \$95,575.

Park officials at both the elected and administrative levels trust OHM’s counsel based on its years of serving as engineering consultant.

“OHM has a great relationship with the city,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. “They are going to be able to provide us with what we’re looking for, knowing what Grosse Pointe Park is like. We have a lot of aging infrastructure. The plans they’re going to be putting together, we’ve already been working on. This is going to help us achieve where we’re at with things, what we need to replace, what we need to add to keep moving forward.”

“OHM has more than hit the mark,” Paparelli said.

A prospective timeline for the draft began with this week’s approval of the contract.

Soon to come are public engagements and weekly progress meet-

See PLANNING, page 5A

## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, SEPT. 15

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Facilities Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Rescheduled Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens’ Picnic, 11 a.m.
- ◆ Rescheduled Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens’ Commission meeting, 1 p.m.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe Election Commission meeting, 8 a.m.

## NATIVE:

Continued from page 1A

“We usually do a spring and fall sale,” Konieczki said. “At each sale, we earn plants for city beds.”

Last spring’s sale translated into acquiring \$300 worth of plants, she said.

“We’ll be planting those before the sale in the median beds,” she said.

Native plants are landed gentry of the kingdom Plantae.

“Native plants evolved or adapted to our local environment for thousands of years and are an important part of our local habitats (and) ecosystems,” according to the Conservation Fund. “They are the most sustainable plants for our specific area.”

Commissioners partnered for the sale with Michiganense Natives, a native plant nursery in Plymouth.

“Late summer and fall are a great time to plant, as temperatures begin to cool and rainfall is more consistent,” according to

the Michiganense website, [michiganense natives.com](http://michiganense natives.com).

Konieczki said she doesn’t have a list yet of what plants will be available for purchase during the sale, but she’s made a few requests.

“I talked to them about including more shade plants,” she said. “In the last couple of sales, a lot of people asked about

plants that grow well in shade. It makes sense. With Grosse Pointe having such (an extensive) tree canopy, people have a lot of shade. People are always looking for that because they think they can’t plant blooming, interesting native species in shade, which is not true. There are a lot of great plants that grow in shade.”

Park officials intend to seek reimbursement from the contractor for the weeded plants.

Kyle estimated the material loss between \$300 to \$400.

“They need to make it square,” said Councilman Brent Dreaver, liaison to the commission. “If they start paying a little bit, they’ll start paying more attention.”

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# From heartbreak to healing

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

Ashley and Nicholas Batt know the pain of losing a baby before ever getting to bring them home from the hospital.

Twice. Their first son, Bryson, spent exactly one month in the neonatal intensive care unit at Children's Hospital of Michigan before passing away Sept. 5, 2020.

Baker, born March 8, 2022, passed away six weeks later without ever leaving the NICU.

"When Bryson passed away, the doctors said it was random and it would be OK to try again," Ashley Batt said. "We didn't know we were both carriers for a metabolic genetic disorder."

Nicholas Batt said a year-long study by the Kansas City Children's Hospital found only a dozen cases worldwide.

"There were never any problems in either of our families," he added. "The doctors said there's a one-in-a-million chance someone is a carrier."

In memory of Bryson's first birthday, Aug. 5, 2021, the Batts asked family and friends to donate items for the Children's Hospital of Michigan's NICU ward.

After Baker's passing, they created the Bryson



and Baker Batt Foundation to ramp up donations.

The Farms residents now provide four different types of care bags primarily to Children's Hospital of Michigan, Henry Ford St. John Hospital and Corewell Health William Beaumont University in Royal Oak. One, a NICU welcome package, stems directly from their experience when Bryson was born.

"He was born at St. John and right away they wanted to send him to Children's Hospital of Michigan," Nicholas Batt said. "I went with him in the ambulance while Ashley stayed there and didn't have anything with me."

It includes food delivery gift cards, travel-size personal hygiene prod-

ucts and a swaddling blanket.

"It's to get the family through those first couple hours or days in the NICU," Ashley Batt said. "Unfortunately those are the ones the hospitals ask to be restocked the most."

A memory box, for parents who lose their children in the NICU, include a DIY memory kit, a stuffed animal, a candle and a note from the Batts.

Sunshine bags include a book parents can read to their baby, fuzzy socks, skin lotion and snacks.

"Those are for when the parents are having a particularly bad day," Ashley Batt said.

"The nurses are so invested, but there's only so much they can do to comfort families," Nicholas Batt said.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Allie May-Thompson, Ashley Batt and Nicholas Batt as they drop off comfort bags at Children's Hospital of Michigan. May-Thompson was one of Bryson Batt's primary NICU nurses.

Holiday bags, given out during the month of December, include a book, food delivery cards and a blanket. The foundation is hosting a blanket-making event 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 2, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

"The bags are a way to tell people going through this they aren't alone," Ashley Batt said. "Talking to people who are going through this, we've created friendships. That's what helped me get through it."

"A lot of people suffer in silence," Nicholas Batt

noted.

The foundation delivers around 500 bags per year, usually every quarter.

"NICU is a cold world," Ashley Batt said. "There's all kinds of noises and machines with people in and out. It's overwhelming, so hopefully our bags bring a bit of comfort."

The foundation has hosted two fundraising galas and are planning another for October 2026 at Ford House. A portion of the money they've raised is helping pay for a bereavement room at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

The Batts, who dated briefly at Plymouth High School, reconnected as students at Michigan State University and just celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary.

Due to the research done at Kansas City Children's Hospital and using IVF, doctors were able to test each embryo. Their third son, Lincoln, just turned 1.

"He's filled with crazy energy," Ashley Batt laughed. "He never sits still."

See [brysonandbakerbattfoundation.com](http://brysonandbakerbattfoundation.com) for more information.

## Defendant in overdose cases reaches plea deal

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The woman accused of selling drugs that killed three people more than two years ago could spend up to 20 years in prison.

Aerian Porter-Craig pleaded guilty in late August to two counts of distributing cocaine and fentanyl, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit. In exchange, the office will waive two counts of distributing cocaine and fentanyl causing death, which could have carried a life sentence.

Porter-Craig was arrested Sept. 11, 2024, on Hollywood Street, just

a few houses into Harper Woods from Grosse Pointe Woods.

The arrest was carried out by the Woods Public Safety Department and the FBI. Porter-Craig made her first appearance in federal court in Detroit later that day and was released on a \$10,000 bond with electronic monitoring and home detention.

"We are pleased that justice will be served in this case and thank all who were involved in the investigation," Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. "Drugs still continue to plague communities across the United States and locally. Hopefully more can be done to pre-

vent tragedies such as this one."

The three victims, including two sisters, were found deceased June 10, 2023, just blocks apart. The sisters were eventually identified in the media by their father as Antoinette Calbone, 27, and Angelina Calbone, 23. The male was Michael Artley, 31.

According to a criminal complaint filed by the FBI in federal court, one of the sisters and the male victim were found dead at a house on Canterbury Street, while the other sister was found a few blocks away at a house on Edmundton Drive.

See *CASES*, page 5A



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILHELMINA GIBLIN

## Morning reflections

City of Grosse Pointe resident Wilhelmina Giblin sent us this peaceful view of the sun reflecting on Lake St. Clair, which she captured at 8:45 a.m. Sept. 6.

## Park trims bond amount

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — City officials cut back plans to issue bonds for water and sewer system improvements.

Preparations are still on, but for a lesser amount than a few weeks ago.

Instead of issuing \$6.5 million in bonds to reline decrepit sections of sewer, replace inaccurate water meters and buy a sewer-cleaning jetter truck, Park council members this week announced their new goal is to issue bonds totaling \$6 million.

The \$500,000 reduction is due to cutting out the mobile sewer cleaner.

"No more jetter truck," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

"We wouldn't sell the bonds until, most likely, February-ish," said Steven Hayduk, a CPA with Bendzinski & Co.

Park officials retained the firm this week for \$29,000 to handle financial preparations of the issuance.

"If you were to sell the bonds today, a 20-year bond for Grosse Pointe Park would be in the neighborhood of 4.25 percent," Hayduk told council Monday, Sept. 9.

During the same meeting, officials approved a \$36,500 contract with Miller Canfield law firm to prepare legal aspects of the sale.

"We work with the city administration, financial advisor and other participants in a bond transaction to get funds for your project," Patrick McGow of Miller Canfield told council.

Preparations will carry over into next month's council meeting. A notice of intent resolution and bond resolution needs to be passed for things to move forward.

"This is a very complex and complicated process," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "You need good counsel to get through it and navigate appropriately."

The city's engineering consultants, OHM Advisors, identified just over four miles of sewers needing relining.

"We have sewers in critical condition," Sizeland said.

The idea is to fix sewers before they break or cave in completely.

"We can catch some of these sewers when they're still able to have lining rehab," said Katelyn Driscoll, a civil engineer with OHM. "A lot of sewers in the Park are in backyards. Digging holes in those areas is very expensive. We would like to get to those when they are able to be lined, save those dig-ups and save the quality of your backyard."

"It's addressing issues before they become catastrophic, before that increases the cost exponentially," said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee. "No one wants to deal with collapsed sewers."

Bond proceeds also will fund replacement of old, inaccurate water meters.

"We have meters that go back to the 1960s," Sizeland said.

They run so slowly the city loses an estimated 20 percent water revenue annually, numerous city officials have said for more than a year.

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### Grosse Pointe News

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## City of Grosse Pointe

## Healthcare hero

A nurse at an area hospital is suspected of stealing \$3,000 in jewelry from a patient's purse while she was in the bathroom at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30.

## Free for all

Two black women, approximately 30 years old, stole \$2,500 worth of clothing from a shop in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31.

An investigation is ongoing.

## Cat crime

Under the belief she was purchasing a kitten from Los Angeles, a Grosse Pointe woman was scammed out of \$5,700 at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31.

## Speeding

A 64-year-old Harper Woods woman was pulled over for speeding at Kercheval and Lakeland at 12:05 p.m. Monday, Sept. 1, and cited for driving with a suspended license.

## Apple a day

A doctor at an area hospital received veiled threats from a 63-year-old Warren man at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, after the man learned the doctor no longer would treat him.

## Landlord scam

A woman who believed she had given a landlord a \$1,500 rental deposit to move into a residence in the 600 block of Notre

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Dame, arrived Wednesday, Sept. 3, to find it was a scam.

## Stolen Jeep

A 2019 Jeep Grand Cherokee was stolen from the 400 block of Lincoln overnight Wednesday, Sept. 3.

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

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Jewelry theft

Five pieces of jewelry totaling \$11,550 were discovered missing from a dresser within a home in the 400 block of Moran Sunday, Aug. 31.

## Mi casa, su casa

After accidentally leaving the garage door up and the inside door to the residence unlocked, a husband and wife returned to their home in the 300 block of Lakeshore at 11:40 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2, to find an 18-year-old Harper Woods man emerging from their basement bathroom.

According to the couple, the man did not appear startled to see them and when asked to leave the house, replied, "This is my house and these are my car keys."

The man showed the couple their own car keys and further doubled down saying, "I'm not

going to walk out of my own house."

The couple waited in their driveway for officers to arrive and arrest the man for home invasion and carrying a concealed weapon, as a kitchen knife was found in his backpack.

It later was determined the suspect had laid on a bed in the basement, then made the bed and put the blankets in a laundry basket.

## Threats

A former employee of a local roofing company was reported Saturday, Sept. 6, for making threats to slander the company's reputation after suffering an injury on the job in April.

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Theft from truck

A landscaper was working in the 900 block of Trombley mid-afternoon Tuesday, Sept. 2, when an unknown thief lifted tools from his truck parked in the road.

Gone were a \$380 RedMax edger and \$350 weed whip.

## Bike taken

A bicycle was stolen while parked unlocked in the Defer Elementary School racks between

6:40 and 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Police said the bike is a red Co-op REV 16 model valued at \$250.

## Recovered

Officers responding to the report of speeding, unlit vehicles on St. Paul near Buckingham at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, wound up recovering a stolen 2024 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

"Officers responded, observing vehicles in the distance," according to an investigator. "(The) vehicles were observed in Detroit. Suspects entered a Chrysler 300 and left at a high rate of speed, leaving the stolen Jeep."

## Caught on video

Surveillance video recorded the theft 2 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, of a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee in the 15100 block of Charlevoix.

"Video shows (two males) arrive in a newer maroon Jeep Cherokee, break out a window, enter the vehicle and leave with it," according to police.

## Tools taken

A contractor working in a house in the 1100 block of Yorkshire returned to his unlocked trailer, parked curbside, to discover someone stole some of his tools.

The theft happened between noon and 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5.

Taken were a Ridgid

drill, Dremel battery charging station and Makita Sidewinder circular saws, total value \$1,300.

## Caught with video

Police can't say much at this time about the capture of an alleged armed robber Saturday, Sept. 6.

The suspect, a 24-year-old man from Detroit, is accused of holding up the Shell service station Sept. 1, on Jefferson two blocks from headquarters, where officers regularly fuel their patrol vehicles.

"Detectives working with other agencies identified the vehicle and suspect from the robbery," according to an investigator. "With the assistance of patrol officers, the vehicle was recovered and the suspect arrested."

"The use of license plate readers helped identify the vehicle and suspect," said Detective Ryan Willmer. "That's all I can give."

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

## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Suspicious visitor

Officers responded to a home on Renaud around 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6,

for reports of suspicious activity.

The owner, who was out of town, told officers security footage showed a black female get out of her vehicle and take photos of the front door and a parked vehicle.

Officers said there were several unlocked doors to the residence, but no evidence of anything being taken.

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

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Stolen vehicle

A Kia was taken from the driveway of a house in the 1900 block of Severn sometime overnight into Monday, Sept. 1. The owner had both key fobs, but was unsure if the vehicle was locked.

## Drunken driving

A 62-year-old Detroit man was arrested for drunken driving after being pulled over in the 21300 block of Mack for driving 10 mph in a 35 mph zone.

He failed several field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.245 percent.

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

## PLANNING:

Continued from page 3A

ings of OHM and Park officials.

Also starting soon is a needs assessment. Following that comes paper and online surveys seeking residents' opinions and preferences. A community meeting is scheduled tentatively the first week of November.

October is loaded with drafting an action plan, capital improvement plan, maintenance and sustainability guidelines and a funding plan.

Final adoption in January 2026 follows more presentations,

reviews and public meetings.

"The parks are our new frontier," Hodges said. "The public is hungry to be at the table and be part of this."

Councilman Tim Kolar said people have been "clamoring" for a recreation assessment and forecast.

Councilman Brent Dreaver said, "There's a lot of stuff that needs to be done in the parks. This (master plan) can't be a replacement for all the work that needs to be done."

OHM representatives will attend the public meetings and assist with the online survey.

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

"One of our favorite things about the Park are our parks," Councilman Marty McMillan said. "I'm really looking forward to this."

Dröze's proposal identified his five-member team on the project. Members consist of urban planners, a landscape architect and someone schooled in sustainable environmental and urban development.

In addition to at least two community meetings, the master plan will be discussed during regularly scheduled recreation commission meetings.

## ALLEY:

Continued from page 2A

concerns about overgrowth," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "I want to put a plan together that not only gives the community buy-in, but also creates identity and branding of alleyways."

A concurrent tactic is to marshal code enforcement.

"We are going to strictly enforce the alleys," Sizeland said.

The city's code enforcement inspector sent a notice recently to owners of property bordering alleys. The notice mandates compliance with four sections of the city code regarding upkeep.

Obligations encompass "all areas within their property boundar-

ies" — and from here everything's underlined — "including their half of rear alleys, area behind their fence lines and any spaces where utility or drainage easements cross their property."

A promise of forthcoming inspections and prospect of violations is included.

Kyle said weed patches along alleys could be transformed into islands of sustainability.

"It's a perfect opportunity for habitat corridors or pollinator corridors," she said. "It's perfect for milkweed or wildflowers."

Pat Deck, a commissioner since 1985, former chairwoman and longtime administrator of the beautification awards program, has had bad luck employing positive reinforcement to spruce up alleys.

"We went through every alley and nominated those we thought were the best," Deck said. "We came up with an alley award. It's a great idea but people just didn't care. What I think is more important is maybe you challenge one block against another to keep their alley the cleanest and do the most beautification."

"It was tried before my time," said Kyle, a commissioner since 2011. "Now, in this day and age, we have social media. We have ways to promote the award and beautification of an alley in a manner we didn't have 15 or 20 years ago."

Deck advocated code enforcement. "I don't want to go the code enforcement route," Creighton said. "That is a different discussion than beautification."

## CASES:

Continued from page 4A

The Wayne County Medical Examiner said the two victims on Canterbury died of fentanyl toxicity, while the one found on Edmundton died of fentanyl and xylazine toxicity. Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer.

The FBI examined the cell phones of Porter-Craig and the victims during its investigation. The complaint says the FBI believes the victims died late the night of Friday, June 9, 2023, within minutes of ingesting the drugs.

"Text message conversations show that AV-1, AV-2, AV-3 and another friend had planned to go out to a music show that night at a venue in Detroit but never made it. Outgoing communica-

tions on each of the victims' phones abruptly stopped sometime after 11 p.m. on June 9, 2023, shortly after Porter-Craig had been to each residence," according to the complaint.

The FBI also alleges conversations showed one of the sisters had purchased drugs from the suspect almost two dozen times between June 2022 and June 2023 and paid \$1,405 for them via Venmo prior to the

night of the overdoses.

The FBI said Porter-Craig texted the male victim and the sister found on Edmundton in the early morning hours of June 10, 2023, asking if they were OK. The complaint said that occurred after another customer contacted Porter-Craig at 12:30 a.m. that day, saying he used a test strip on cocaine she sold him that showed the presence of fentanyl.



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# POINTES OF VIEW

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

## Grosse Pointe News

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### OUR VIEW

## Remembering 9/11

(Editor's note: Below are the transcripts from the two times President George W. Bush addressed the nation Sept. 11, 2001.)

Emma E. Booker Elementary School, Sarasota, Fla., 9:30 a.m.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a difficult moment for America. I, unfortunately, will be going back to Washington after my remarks. Secretary Rod Paige and the lieutenant governor will take the podium and discuss education. I do want to thank the folks here at Booker Elementary School for their hospitality.

Today we've had a national tragedy. Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack on our country. I have spoken to the vice president, to the governor of New York, to the director of the FBI and have ordered that the full resources of the federal government go to help the victims and their families and to conduct a full-scale investigation to hunt down and to find those folks who committed this act.

Terrorism against our nation will not stand. And now if you would join me in a moment of silence. May God bless the victims, their families and America. Thank you very much.

### Oval Office, Washington, D.C., 8:30 p.m.

Good evening. Today our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed; our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America — with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C., to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong and the American economy will be open for business as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

### GUEST VIEW By Jeffrey D. Brasie

## 9/11: A difficult day to explain to the blind

On Sept. 11, 2001, I was CEO of a Cincinnati-based rehabilitation organization with satellite operations in nearby Dayton, Ohio, and Memphis, Tenn.

We had a total of nearly 300 full- and part-time employees who served hundreds of clients. With rehabilitative services, we also engaged in various manufacturing aspects and specialized printing.

In Cincinnati and Dayton, that morning offered light and misty rain with temperatures hovering in the high 60s. Memphis was sunny, with early morning temperatures in the mid-70s.

By 9:30 a.m., radio and television accounts in the breakrooms or individual vehicles created a buzz that something significant occurred.

Shortly after that time, people came to our administrative offices where we tuned in local television and radio stations.

A silence came over each of our operations as news accounts came in.

New York City's World Trade Center towers were destroyed by commercial aircraft, the Pentagon's freeway side had another aircraft slam into the structure and, finally, a news account that another aircraft careened into a Pennsylvania farm field.

Employees, clients, visitors and volunteers

were someplace between distressed and angry, coupled with a "why did these acts of terror happen?"

Total bewilderment. As the morning moved forward, each of the operations began to cease manufacturing and client services. At each of the sites, we decided after the noon hour to gather employees, clients and volunteers for a period of reflection.

The challenge was explaining to many what occurred.

The organization for which I was the CEO was Clovernook Centers for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Well over 70 percent of our employees and clients could not see or experienced low vision and, in some instances, had other challenges, such as being hearing impaired.

We were tasked to explain what 110-story skyscrapers looked like. The Pentagon's shape. We had to describe a commercial airliner, as well as fire trucks, police cars and other emergency vehicles. Then, describing what happened to the people and the rush of fire and thundering crash of massive structures.

We sang, prayed and cried. As the news accounts became more detailed, the impossible conversations came of why anyone would want to conduct such hideous acts.

See GUEST, page 7A



them. I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world and we stand together to win the war against terrorism. Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night and God bless America.

## 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.

### A first-year win

#### To the Editor:

When the Grosse Pointe PorchFest committee began planning our inaugural event last winter, we hoped it would be well received but kept our expectations modest. We had wanted the event to be a celebration of community, highlighting the walkable streets and charming porches of our historic neighborhoods.

We were not disappointed. Very quickly, 12 generous GP City residents offered up their front porches and 13 musicians signed up to perform. The response from the community far exceeded our expectations. Hundreds of people came out on a perfect Saturday afternoon to enjoy the music and socialize with their neighbors. A win for all and all for free.

I would like to publicly thank my fellow committee members, who made this event a rip-roaring success. They include Gretchen White, who was a driving force behind the effort; City Councilman Seth Krupp, who coordinated porches; Bill Kalmar, who wrangled the bands; Buzz Young, who handled publicity; Jim Van Fleterung, who designed our logo; and Cindy Willcock, who provided

See LETTERS, page 7A

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### GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

September 11 - 17



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
81° 55°	80° 57°	81° 60°	79° 58°	77° 57°	79° 55°	81° 60°
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Rain Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 7:08 am SUNSET 7:48 pm	SUNRISE 7:09 am SUNSET 7:47 pm	SUNRISE 7:10 am SUNSET 7:45 pm	SUNRISE 7:11 am SUNSET 7:43 pm	SUNRISE 7:12 am SUNSET 7:41 pm	SUNRISE 7:13 am SUNSET 7:39 pm	SUNRISE 7:14 am SUNSET 7:37 pm

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

I SAY By Laurel Kraus



# Remembering 9/11

way we've all experienced the confusion, disbelief and fear of the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

It's a collective sense of a societal shift, the realization we've lived something that will now be a major part of our history.

**A**n American who was alive at the time knows where they were and what they were doing when JFK was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963.

Much the same way many of us now remember 9/11. Similar to the

I was 4 years old when American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 were hijacked and struck the Twin Towers, killing 2,976 people on Sept. 11, 2001. I remember being at

Meijer on a morning shopping trip with my little brother and mom when my dad called and told her to leave right away and get home. No one knew if more attacks would happen.

We spent the morning in the basement watching the news.

That upcoming January, my class in school decorated paper calendars and were tasked with drawing something for each month. I came home with a child's drawing of two

rectangular buildings on fire for the month of September. My mom has kept it to this day.

Today is the 24th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.

It's not just another Thursday, but a day to remember what we went through as a country and the resiliency with which we emerged. At that moment in history, Americans were all on the same team.

"This was the most heinous attack ever launched on the soil of the United States," said

Ed Zier, who wrote "Undaunted," based on witness accounts of the day. "It surpassed Pearl Harbor by 500 deaths. It was a significant event that showed the best this country had to offer to simply stand tall and not let it crush us."

Zier, who was COO of a company in the South Tower, was invited to give a personal reflection during The War Memorial's 9/11 Service of Remembrance today at 8:30 a.m. on the lake-front lawn.

"The importance of never forgetting is why these (remembrances) are critical, so that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past and we don't allow the lost lives to be forgotten or to be trivialized as a statistic," he said.

There's a whole generation growing up now who weren't here to experience this turning point in our country's history.

If I can offer a suggestion: Take a little time today to sit around the kitchen table and talk about what you remember, where you were and what you were doing on Sept. 11, 2001.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1950

75 years ago this week

**PARENTS TO BATTLE SCHOOL BOARD:** The parents of the first and second grade school children in the Vernier school area do not intend to take lying down the dictum of the school authorities

that their children shall be subjected to half-day sessions this year in those primary grades.

### 1975

50 years ago this week

**WOODS COUNCIL STUDIES SUBJECT OF SIGN CONTROL:** A proposed amendment to

Ordinance No. 198, which would have eliminated all open roof and solid roof signs in the Woods by Jan. 1, 1978, was unanimously referred to the Committee of the Whole, by the council after a discussion, which ran over a half hour, concluded between the solons, members of the planning commission and representatives of the Mack Avenue Business Men's Club.

### 2000

25 years ago this week

**FARMS SET FOR DETROIT'S TRICENTENNIAL:** 300 years — where does the time go? The Grosse Pointe Farms City Council recently agreed to let historic re-enactors set up camp in the Farms Pier Park in May 2001 as part of the celebration of the 300th

anniversary of the founding of Detroit.

### 2015

10 years ago this week

**FIRST ENGLISH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR:** First English Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomed the Rev. Sean Motley as its new pastor during Aug. 30 worship services. Motley was born and

raised in Thornton, Ill., and graduated from Valparaiso University in 1989, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and criminal justice. While in college, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves and served in a reserve field artillery unit. Following college he received a scholarship to attend Kent College of Law in Chicago. In the fall of his first year, he married Colleen, his wife of 25 years.

## GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

We just stated the actions were conducted by people who had immense hate against America. Regretfully, their actions impacted thousands of innocent men, women and children from all walks of life.

As with millions across the world, the following days were somber, quiet and reflective.

During that week, Clovernook continued to produce

thousands of Braille pages, distribute recorded and Braille publications, manufacture file folders for the federal government and business firms, as well as biodegradable hot beverage cups for the U.S. Navy.

We continued to offer clients orientation and mobility training, low vision services, recreational activities and career training.

An epilogue to those tragic 9/11 events occurred in August 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the adjacent coastal region. Through the leadership of Edith Old, Clovernook's Memphis vice

president, she had the facility become a haven for guide dogs that became separated from their owners during the storm.

I am so proud of our employees and the people we served.

*Jeffrey D. Brasie is a retired health care CEO and a Vietnam-era veteran who served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Naval Reserve and was on the public affairs staff of the Secretary of the Navy. He grew up in Alpena and resides in Grosse Pointe Woods.*

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

administrative assistance. Thanks also go to City staff and our public safety officers who supported the event, as well as John Shook and the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation for funding the lawn signs.

We hope the community is as pleased with the outcome as we are and we look forward to next year. Mark your calendars for the Saturday after Labor Day 2026!

**SHEILA TOMKOWIAK**  
Mayor, City of Grosse Pointe

### A real rebuttal

To the Editor:

Margaret Weertz's recent letter is troubling not only for what it says, but for what it attempts to silence. To suggest that the Grosse Pointe News should stop printing the voices of residents critical of the school board president is a direct attack on open dialogue and community accountability. It is,

unfortunately, no surprise that an ally of Colleen Worden would try to stifle dissent rather than engage with the facts.

Weertz's defense of Ms. Worden rests almost entirely on the claim that because she received the most votes in the last election, her actions should be beyond reproach. That reasoning is absurd. High vote totals are not a shield against scrutiny and they certainly do not excuse incompetence or mismanagement. Public officials are judged not just by ballots cast in their favor, but by the quality of their leadership once entrusted with power.

Even more telling is Weertz's choice of words. Instead of rebutting the documented concerns raised about Ms. Worden's handling of board business, she dismisses them as "nonsense." That is not an argument — it is a deflection. Ms. Weertz did not even attempt to challenge the facts presented by Cheryl Denman on

their merits. Instead, she resorted to name-calling in an effort to delegitimize the conversation itself.

And for anyone who has watched the school board over the past two and a half years, Colleen Worden is anything but professional, calm or kind. Her conduct has reflected division, not leadership.

The irony is sharp. Margaret Weertz herself served as treasurer and later as vice president of the Board of Education during the period when the district's finances spiraled into near-disaster. For her now to hold herself out as a defender of responsible governance, while attacking those who point out failures of leadership today, should not go unnoticed.

I thank the Grosse Pointe News for standing firm against partisan pressure and special interest groups. Your commitment to publishing all voices is essential to preserving accountability in our schools.  
**KIMBERLY MOIN**  
Grosse Pointe Woods

## Deserving of better

To the Editor:

After reading the recent article about the school board's decision to eliminate a 10-year-old policy that allowed the public to view trustee emails online, I felt compelled to share my disappointment. That policy ensured residents could freely see communications among board members — without having to pay to file a Freedom of Information Act request. Ending it is a clear step backwards for transparency.

Wanting to better understand, I watched the meeting myself. What I saw was even more troubling. There was some debate at first, but the moment Colleen

Worden, Valarie St. John, Clint Derringer, Laura Hull and Tim Klepp didn't like what they were hearing, they voted to shut it down and rush to a vote. The second their position was challenged and it was shown they were wrong, debate was ended. Trustees are elected to represent us by asking questions, raising concerns and testing ideas in public — not silencing discussion when it becomes inconvenient.

This is just one more action by this board, under the presidency of Colleen Worden, that runs directly against transparency. The message to the public is clear — they believe only their voices matter, not ours. That is not how

democracy or representative governance is supposed to work.

What disturbed me most was watching Trustee Clint Derringer lose his composure when confronted with the truth and exposed for lying. His angry outburst looked less like leadership and more like a temper tantrum. For a board that should model civility and accountability, this behavior was deeply concerning.

The people of this community deserve trustees who value open dialogue, transparency and honest leadership. Silencing debate and hiding communications is the opposite of what our schools and our children deserve.

**MARLENE SMITH**  
Grosse Pointe Shores

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# European Wax Center opens in The Village

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — When the intention for Starbucks to move into the old Jos. A Bank space in The Village was announced in 2023, the site plan indicated the space would be split into two sections, leaving an additional 1,400 square feet for a new retail opportunity.

Its entrance was constructed facing St. Clair and now leads to Grosse Pointe's first European Wax Center location, which hosted its grand opening last Wednesday.

"One of our favorite taglines is 'Walk in, strut out,'" district manager Lacey Ankawi said. "It's what we do. We make people feel confident and beautiful, so we want to definitely bring that to the city."

European Wax Center, named for its wax from France, specializes in full-body waxing, although services are a la carte.

We're experts at what



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

European Wax Center held its grand opening at 621 St. Clair Wednesday, Sept. 3. From left, City Manager Joe Valentine, Councilman and board chair of Main Street Grosse Pointe Chris Moyer, European Wax Center owner Dipali Patel, Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, Public Safety Director John Alcorn, MSGP Executive Director Cindy Willcock and MSGP board member and Savvy Chic Boutique owner Lanna Young.

we do," Ankawi said. "We want to make sure that when people come in, they know they have trust in someone who's

been doing this and is a wax specialist. For example, we have some wax specialists who specialize in brows, who specialize

in Brazilians, who specialize in people with special needs. We specialize in positions for pregnant women."

The Grosse Pointe location boasts five private suites and will have five to seven waxers on hand at all times. It also features a retail component with products including body wash, exfoliating creams, polishes, moisturizers and eyebrow products.

"Our products have hair-growth-minimizing agents," owner Dipali Patel said. "So when you apply our product post-waxing, it actually slows down the hair growth on the skin. And also the quality of hair becomes so fine, so what happens is when you come next time, waxing is less and less painful. In general, our waxing is painless."

European Wax Center has more than 20 locations in Michigan and more than 1,500 nationwide.

"This is a luxury brand," Ankawi said, "so we definitely wanted to bring luxury into the City just like they have a Lululemon and the small boutique shops. It's beautiful, so we want to be a



**A focal wall inside European Wax Center's new location boasts one of its mottos.**

part of that."

The location at 621 St. Clair is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

First-time guests are offered, depending on the service selected, either 100 percent complimentary, half off or 30 percent off the first appointment.

To book an appointment, call (313) 470-0450 or go to waxcenter.com.

# Dirty Dog opens The Dog House on The Hill

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The Boardroom at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, formerly used for private dinners and meetings, reopened last week after being repurposed to fit the vision of a modern cocktail bar speakeasy, cheekily named The Dog House.

"Its idea is to create a symbiotic relationship with the Dirty Dog," said bartender Andrew Ramirez, who is a lead on the project, "in that it has more modern jazz-adjacent music playing to bring in not just the younger demographic, but also those that go out to the city from Grosse Pointe for food, to have a place for a nightcap in their own city."

With its own entrance directly next to Dirty Dog, The Dog House features a separate food and drink menu.

The beverage menu is essentially a martini bar, featuring a house dirty martini called The Mutt, espresso martini and a classic vesper, which is made using a throwing technique from tin to tin to give it aeration. These



are paired with a small bites food menu.

"It's finger food to go with three ounces of gin in a glass," Ramirez described. "So not only tasty, but it allows you to keep going."

As a complementary option to the live musicians who perform at Dirty Dog, The Dog

House offers other varieties of jazz music displayed over a new sound system in the soundproof space.

"Think Anderson Paak, FKJ," Ramirez said, "all things that stem from Etta James and Louis (Armstrong) but are more modern and a little bit more R&B."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EE BERGER

Above, as the newest venture of the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, The Dog House at 93 Kercheval is modeled after a modern cocktail bar speakeasy. Left, the beverage menu at The Dog House features a martini bar.

Decorated with images of artists who have graced the stage at Dirty Dog through the years, The Dog House also is meant as an answer to the no-chatting rule next door.

"When you're watching a jazz show, you want to be respectful to the musicians and so people couldn't converse with their party (at Dirty Dog)," explained Alexis

Elley of Textures Interior Design, who designed the space, "so the family also wanted to create a space where people could enjoy jazz music and have conversations."

The designer's concept for the space was to keep it intimate and cozy, with floating banquettes and moody but warm colors.

"It's meant to feel like a very exclusive secret spot where you're having

your beautiful martini and you're telling your deepest, darkest secrets while listening to really cool music," Elley described.

Hours at The Dog House, located at 93 Kercheval, are 5 to 11 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

Patrons also may follow The Dog House on Instagram @thedoghouseggp.

# Pearl celebrates one year with anniversary event, fall preview

Pearl celebrates its one-year anniversary this month with an evening event debuting its fall collection.

In its first year, Pearl

introduced the community to globally recognized designers including Frank & Eileen, Proenza Schouler, Missoni, Margaret O'Leary, Julie

Vos and others. With a philosophy rooted in quiet luxury and enduring style, Pearl has created a curated space where fashion and design converge and every piece tells a story.

"Our vision for Pearl has always been more

than a store — it's a place of gathering, conversation and inspiration," manager Gigi Badalamenti said. "We are so grateful for the warm reception from the community and the opportunity to grow alongside our clients."

Pearl will mark its one-year milestone with "A Year of Pearl," 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at the boutique, 74 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The evening will feature informal modeling, during which guests will preview the newest fall

styles and designer arrivals as they are modeled throughout the evening.

Additionally, designer Barbara May will be in attendance to showcase her handbags and accessories crafted in exotic leathers. Guests can explore swatches and place special orders, available through Sept. 20.

A curated selection of fall-inspired furs from Gorski will be unveiled exclusively at Pearl as well.

Guests also will be treated to light refreshments, as well as a complimentary pearl bracelet with purchase, while supplies last.

For more information, visit shoppearl.com or call (313) 458-8719.

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# Celebrating 33 years

This August, Wild Birds Unlimited in Grosse Pointe Woods reached a milestone — 33 years of bringing people and nature together. To celebrate, every visitor to their store at 20381 Mack Avenue had a chance to win gift cards during a month-long raffle.

Behind this beloved neighborhood institution stands the dynamic mother-son team of Rosann Kovalcik and Ryan Blagdurn, who have transformed their passion for backyard birding into something larger than a business.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, from left, Paul Max, Christine Wilson, Ryan Blagdurn, Rosann Kovalcik and William Black. Left, Rosann Kovalcik holds in one hand a photo of birds within a nesting box, an example of which she holds in the other hand.

What started as expert advice on attracting birds to yards has blossomed into a community hub where nature education thrives.

Kovalcik's commitment runs particularly deep. For 30 of those 33 years, she's been leading bird walks at Ford House, sharing her expertise with countless nature enthusiasts. But their impact extends beyond the storefront. Wild Birds Unlimited main-

tains fully stocked feeding stations at Lake St. Clair Metro Park in Harrison Township and at the renowned Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Paradise, Mich., ensuring that both local families and serious birders have access to

quality resources.

The store's educational mission comes alive through presentations at local libraries, civic groups and garden clubs, spreading their knowledge throughout the community. Their shelves offer everything

from premium bird food and feeders to baths and a carefully curated selection of Made in the USA nature gifts.

As part of the original and largest franchise system of backyard bird feeding specialty stores — with more than 300

locations across the United States and Canada — Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe Woods combines the resources of a proven system with the personal touch that only 33 years of local dedication can provide.



Wild Birds celebrated its anniversary with a Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting event.



Paul Max is ready to assist customers at Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe Woods.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Carol Fraser, retired Grosse Pointe Public School System teacher; Hillary Doe, Michigan Economic Development Corp.; Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle; GPPSS Superintendent Andrea Tuttle; Shannon Morgan, Renovare Development; Dawn Crandall, Michigan Homebuilders Association; Anthony Amoroso, Michigan State Housing Development Authority; Darian Neubecker, Robertson Brothers Homes.

## SCHOOL:

Continued from page 1A

Darian Neubecker, president of Robertson Brothers Homes, said the company plans to have streets paved in

two months, with construction to begin in December. The first units will be available for move-in next summer.

Options will include three-story townhomes at 1,327 square feet with two bedrooms and 2.5

bathrooms.

Two-story duplexes will be 1,206 square feet with two bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms.

Prices will start around \$235,000, with down payment help available for those earning

between 60 and 120 percent of the area's median income.

The GPPSS Board of Education agreed to sell the building and land to Robertson Brothers in November 2022 for \$650,000.



The mother-son team of Ryan Blagdurn and Rosann Kovalcik.

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# Sunrise Rotary 46th Annual Run

Runners and Supporters Come Together Once Again to Help Others

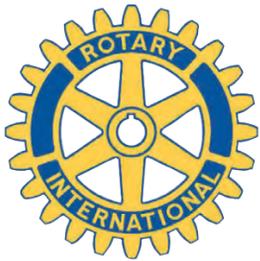
On Saturday September 20th, 2025 the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club will offer a wonderful way to spend a Saturday afternoon with the 46th annual Grosse Pointe

Run. This event is Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary's primary fundraiser. 100% of the money raised allows the Club to help those in need and provide college and trade school

scholarships to high school students in our community and surrounding areas. The Run is for everyone of any age! For the serious runners the racecourse is USA Track and

Field certified and uses a professionally managed chip system which automatically registers each runner's finish time. Participants just wanting to have fun and enjoy the surroundings can

choose the One-Mile Fun Run or the 5K Leisure Walk. Sunrise Rotarians will be there to welcome you with a smile, snacks, and beverages at the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park.



5K and 10K Run | 5K Competitive Walk | 5K Wheelchair  
One-Mile Fun Run | 5K Leisure Walk

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

**Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park**

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**Fun Run starts at 8:30 am**

**All other events begin at 9:00 am**

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*The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, one of the largest humanitarian service organizations in the world. Through its 501(c) (3) foundation, the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club supports many charities.*



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LWVGP

From left, voter registration in the LWVGP's early days; a publicity photo for the distribution of voter guides, circa 1954; and league members host voter registration at J.C. Penney in 1955.

## League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe turns 75

### Anniversary program features Barbara McQuade

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

What started as a small but mighty group of concerned citizens has grown through the decades, maintaining its mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

This year, the League of Women Voters of

Grosse Pointe celebrates its 75th anniversary with a special event Sunday, Oct. 5, while also looking back on its accomplishments.

"The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe Park was organized early in 1950, as a provincial league with 30 members," said Judy Florian, a 15-year mem-

ber who serves as director of communications. "The impetus was a citizens committee due to questionable things happening in city government. It was promoted by Karl Goddard, president of Grosse Pointe Park Village during 1940. ... They thought the league would provide transparency.

"Transparency has always been a big deal with the league," she continued. "I imagine there were some pretty vocal women back then."

Though created in the Park, the league soon encompassed all of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

"By '52, the branch had 200 members," Florian said. "That year, the league held a massive voter registration drive, increasing registered voters by nearly 20 percent."

League membership in its heyday was tallied at 356; now there are 154 members. The Grosse Pointe branch is one of 33 in the state.

Among its accomplishments was helping found the Northeast Guidance Center and Wayne County

Community College in the 1960s, and launching the Pointes' first recycling efforts in the '80s.

In the '90s, it launched the Running and Winning workshop, which introduced high school girls to the campaign arena.

"Running for office, coming up with a slogan, finding a candidate," Florian said. "It was a one-day event that ran successfully for four or five years."

Current LWVGP President Lynne Pierce acted as moderator for the workshop, which was spearheaded by Christina Schlitt, a past president. Years later, Florian said, Schlitt came across past participants who still had their workbooks; one of them had worked on a campaign.

The league also participated in the 2019 and 2024 Promote the Vote efforts.

"We don't support candidates, but we do support voting," Florian said, noting the branch at one time produced "This is Your Grosse Pointe," a comprehensive election guide that was sold in local bookstores.

"It was about getting people to vote," said Judy Masserang, a four-year member and chairwoman of the 75th anniversary event.

"And encouraging people to seek public office," Florian added.

Though the guide was discontinued when the league launched its website, members now annually distribute more than 6,000 "Your Government Officials" brochures, which include contact information for local, state and federal government officials.

Education is key, said Florian and Masserang, who urged voters to be in the know, whether



Barbara McQuade will speak at the 75th anniversary event.

## Celebrating 75

In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe will host an event from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms.

The event features hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Barbara McQuade, a University of Michigan law professor and former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, will provide the address.

"We've got a great speaker," said Judy Masserang, chairwoman of the 75th anniversary event. "She answered right away and said she'd like to come."

Though copies of McQuade's "Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America" will be sold at the event, her focus will be elsewhere.

"We wanted her to focus on democracy, what's happening today and why voting is important, because that's what the league is all about," Director of Communications Judy Florian said.

Also during the event, historic photos of the league will be played on a loop and proclamations honoring the chapter for its 75 years will be read. Members will speak about the history of the local league as well.

"It's going to be a really lovely party," Masserang said.

For tickets, email [lvwgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lvwgrossepointe@gmail.com) with the note "75th anniversary" in the subject line. Sponsorships also are welcome.

Reservations are required by Saturday, Sept. 20.

heading to the polls or signing a petition.

"There are so many petitions out there," Masserang said. "We want to make sure people read them before they sign."

"You can't always rely on petition gatherers," Florian added, noting the potential for misinformation and disinformation. "People need to

understand what they're reading. We have all kinds of resources out there."

Among them is its voter services group, which conducts voter registration activities at high schools and hosts candidate forums for city council, school board, judicial and other

See LEAGUE, page 6B



From left, Julianne Phillips, Jaime Rae Turnbull, Micki Verderbar and Martha Hutting.



From left, Marge Freundl, Susan Acton, Diana Domin and Mary Garlough.



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## 2B | FEATURES

## Registration for GPT's playwriting workshop starts Sept. 20

## Ten-Minute Play Festival submissions due Nov. 30

Grosse Pointe Theatre is gearing up to offer a three-part series of playwriting workshops, offered to encourage new and experienced playwrights to take part in its 13th annual Ten-Minute Play Festival.

The 2026 festival, which takes place next May, follows the theme, "The Waiting Room." All are welcome to register.

Workshops will help participants create compelling play ideas; develop interesting characters; and teach key elements of playwriting, including a beginning, climax, conflict resolution and conclusion.

Workshops take place 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 20 and Oct. 11, and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Space is limited and advanced registration is required. The series is free for Grosse Pointe Theatre members and \$25 for non-members. Register at [gpt.org](http://gpt.org).

For play submissions to be considered, plays must adhere to the following criteria:

- ◆ The theme, "The

Waiting Room," needs to center around the action taking place in a waiting area or room; have a limited black-box set with no more than four chairs, a desk and a multi-purpose bench, if needed. (No windows or doors will be included.) All action should be in a continuous scene that takes place in this one location. Set-dressing accessories also should be minimal.

- ◆ The number of characters should be between two and four, with simple costumes and makeup.

- ◆ The dialogue in the play should be family

appropriate.

- ◆ Playwrights should only include their contact information on a cover sheet, not on any of the play pages.

- ◆ Plays should be in transcript form, no more than 10 minutes (approximately eight to 10 typed pages) and include a three-sentence synopsis on the opening page of the play.

- ◆ Playwrights who do not follow the criteria will risk being automatically disqualified without notice.

- All play transcripts must be emailed to [take10@gpt.org](mailto:take10@gpt.org)



submissions@gpt.org by midnight Sunday, Nov. 30. Plays that follow the criteria and are family appropriate will move to the final adjudication by independent judges not affiliated with Grosse Pointe Theatre.

The playwrights of the top 10 judged plays will be

notified by March. The winning plays will be presented at Grosse Pointe Theatre's 13th annual Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival planned for spring 2026.

For more information, visit [gpt.org/take-ten/](http://gpt.org/take-ten/) or email [playfestival@gpt.org](mailto:playfestival@gpt.org).

## Karmanos presents 3rd annual Classic Cars for the Cure

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is gearing up for the third annual Classic Cars for the Cure, supporting cancer research at Karmanos, Saturday, Sept. 20.

"We are honored to invite our friends in Detroit, throughout southeast Michigan and worldwide, to a special event," said Deborah Savoie, Karmanos Cancer Institute board member. "This year's Classic Cars for the Cure is something we all will long remember. And while we are having a truly wonderful time with friends who love cars, we are also helping raise funds needed for local cancer research."

Classic Cars for the Cure is held indoors in a private garage. Guests are treated to a strolling supper designed by Forte Belanger, live '50s and '60s music by Intrigue featuring Stella Actis Aldo, a performance along with dance and swing lessons from the Oakland University



COURTESY PHOTO

**Karmanos Cancer Institute past board member Mary Matuja, left, and Karmanos Cancer Institute's Philanthropy Officer Linda Filipczak.**

Dance Team and dessert served in a 1950s diner. Guests also may get up

close and personal with classic automobiles that are rarely seen on the

streets today.

"People who love cars appreciate the special nature of their favorite automobiles," Savoie said. "Like real people, we think each auto has a unique personality. And, like people, every car tells a story. They'll hear those stories from the collectors as they walk up to view each car's profile."

Al Trombetta, Classic Cars for the Cure automobile curator and local car aficionado, has assembled 25 rare classic cars from museums and top collectors. Trombetta's mother died of lung cancer, so assisting with this event is near and dear to his heart.

"We are impressed and very appreciative of Al's commitment to bring the community together for a Motor City-style event and raise funds for the critical research that our investigators do at Karmanos," said Debra Partrich, Karmanos Cancer Institute board

member. "Our physicians and researchers work daily to give patients the best opportunities they have in the fight against hundreds of cancers by discovering new therapies. Attending this event not only gives Michiganders an up-close look at some unique and classic cars and interaction with the owners and fellow spectators who love high-quality vehicles, but it also brings in money to help Karmanos doctors and investigators continue to discover better treatment options for our loved ones, friends and neighbors."

The exhibition also will include several concept cars, as well as several interactive features, including "What's My Line," an opportunity for guests to learn more about Karmanos' research and speak with researchers about their work.

Among the evening's speakers will be Boris Pasche, M.D., Ph.D., FACP, president and

CEO at Karmanos. Pasche joined Karmanos in August 2023, and is the principal investigator of the National Cancer Institute's Comprehensive Cancer Center Core Grant and chair of the Department of Oncology at Wayne State University's School of Medicine. His goal for Karmanos is to become an undeniable leader in cancer research and treatment discoveries. He works closely with Karmanos physicians, scientists and principal investigators to elevate and expand the amount of research currently taking place at the cancer center in Detroit.

Classic Cars for the Cure takes place 7 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at 1330 N. Crooks in Clawson. Guests are asked to wear cocktail attire or 1950s and 1960s flair.

Tickets are \$250 each. For more details on the event and to purchase tickets, visit [karmanos.org/cars25](http://karmanos.org/cars25).

## AREA ACTIVITIES

## Jardinieres

La Societe des Jardinieres hosts its first meeting of the season at noon Thursday, Sept. 11, at Filippa's restaurant on Mound Road in Shelby Township. The program will be "Insect Crisis," presented by hostess Pat Hays. Dues will be collected.

## The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org) or RSVP to [maryjo@familycenterhelps.org](mailto:maryjo@familycenterhelps.org).

- ◆ QPR Suicide Prevention Training, 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at Morton Development Group, 19934 Harper, Harper Woods.

- ◆ Yoga for the Perpetually Online, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at The War Memorial.

- ◆ Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods coalition meeting, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at

The War Memorial. All are welcome.

- ◆ Memory Loss and Cognitive Decline discussion with a panel of experts, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at The Helm, 158, Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Community Yoga, 7 p.m. Tuesdays during October at The War Memorial.

- ◆ QPR Suicide Prevention Training, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, at H3—Hope, Healing and Health Inc., 23100 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

## Library

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

- ◆ Home Food Preservation Series with Michigan State University: Seed Saving 101, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Family Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Woods, 20680

Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Anime-Style Character Design & Concept Art Workshop with Finn Heenan, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Meet Up & Make—Backpack Lanyards and Buttons, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo!, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ "Join or Die" documentary screening, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ "Sentenced," a 2024 documentary on illiteracy, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept.

18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Crafternoon @ the Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Building a Business Plan with AI, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Book Lecture: "Revolutionary Vision Blvd.," 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

## Ford House

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

- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Ford House After Dark, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18. Tickets are \$25 for Friends of Ford House, \$35 for the public.

- ◆ Bird Walks, 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. Cost is \$8 for Friends of Ford House, \$10 for the public.

- ◆ Light, Lens & Legacy: A Ford House Photography Workshop & Photo Walk, 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. Cost is \$40 for Friends of Ford House, \$50 for the public.

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

## The Helm

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

- ◆ The 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.

- ◆ Out to Lunch Bunch: Pegasus in St. Clair Shores, noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24.

- ◆ Lunch & Learn: Handwriting Analysis and Forensics, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, with certified document

examiner Ruth Holmes. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for guests.

- ◆ The movie "The Life List" is shown at noon Friday, Sept. 26. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

## Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

- ◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, St. Margaret Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Mack, Detroit.

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, Redeemer United Methodist Church, 20571 Vernier, Harper Woods.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE "BUZZ" YOUNG

## The start of something big

Nearly 200 residents gathered Saturday, Sept. 6, at the corner of Washington and Kercheval to watch one of the inaugural GP PorchFest performances. Throughout the afternoon, a dozen such performances took place at other porches around the City of Grosse Pointe. Event organizers, with modest expectations, were thrilled with the size of the crowds, the caliber of the music and the beautiful late summer weather. Plans are already underway for 2026, on the Saturday after Labor Day.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Bunting had a hand in designing Meadowbrook Farm in Pennsylvania.

## Garden Club of Michigan, GP Garden Center present horticulture lecture

The Garden Club of Michigan and the Grosse Pointe Garden Center Inc., welcome Andrew Bunting, vice president of horticulture at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, as he presents "Transforming Lives through Horticulture," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Bunting will discuss his work with the organization, career journey and highlights from his renowned private garden. He will go in depth and share insights about the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's mission to advance health and well-being through horticulture, as well as the various programs that support this mission.

The society supports more than 170 community gardens, plants and cares for thousands of street trees, establishes



The Philadelphia Navy Yard is one of the projects Bunting has overseen.

storm water solutions, cleans and greens more than 12,000 parcels of vacant land, maintains public gardens and landscapes and produces the Philadelphia Flower Show. Guests will learn how all of these programs and events impact communities, create beauty and bring joy.

"We're thrilled to be able to bring Andrew to the Detroit area," GPGC Co-Vice President for

Events Robin Heller said. "There is so much opportunity to learn from him and his experience at the PHS and it's inspiring to think about what could be applied to our own communities."

Added GCM President Hadley Mack French, "It's a great honor for our organizations to partner together."

This event is free and open to the public, with no membership required.

For more information, visit <https://www.gp.gardencenters.org/> or call (313) 889-1647.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/gpgctransform> or scan the QR code.



### About Andrew Bunting

Andrew Bunting, vice president of horticulture at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, uses planting and design to promote environmentally sound gardening practices at PHS. He has elevated each of the departments he oversees and increased the brand and visibility of PHS through their respective work.

Bunting received a Bachelor of Science degree in plant and soil science from Southern Illinois University. Prior to arriving at PHS, he worked at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Chanticleer Garden and Scott Arboretum for 27 years. He has received the American Public Gardens Association's Professional Citation, Chanticleer Scholarship in Professional Development and the Certificate of Merit from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. He also serves on the board of Magnolia Society International. He published his first book, "The Plant Lover's Guide to Magnolias," in 2015.

## Colbeck to speak to Eastside Republicans

Patrick Colbeck — engineer, entrepreneur, author and former state senator — will speak to the Eastside Republican Club at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"The forum is open to the public at no charge, so we invite anyone interested in sound government to take part in the discussion with Mr. Colbeck following his remarks," said Eastside Republican Board member Mike Vethacke in advance of the meeting.

Colbeck is a former candidate for Michigan governor and served two terms in the Michigan Senate, where he was term limited representing the state's seventh Senate district, serving Canton, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne.

He currently serves as chief operating officer of Lindell Management, which offers business consulting services.

Following elective office, he founded Let's Fix Stuff, the mission of which is to share real news, data and solutions despite being increasingly scrubbed from the public square by big tech and big government.

Colbeck provided management consulting services more than 11 years, including six as a self-employed, independent consultant in fields as varied as healthcare, telecommunications and defense. He has been certified as a Microsoft small business specialist and has authored two other books, "Wrestling Gators: An Outsiders Guide to Draining the Swamp" and "IT Roadmap for Professional Service Firms."

The former senator's public service is highlighted by receipt of the Sen. Paul Fannin Statesman of the Year Award. He also has received legislator of the year awards from police, construction and senior citizen organizations.

As chairman of the



COURTESY PHOTO

Author and former State Sen. Patrick Colbeck.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittees for State Police and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Colbeck oversaw expenditures exceeding \$500 million. Under his leadership, both departments were converted to performance-based budgets resulting in dramatic improvement in services. For example, Michigan's veteran services improved from last to No. 2 in the nation.

He has served active members of the armed forces by co-founding Michigan Freedom Centers at Detroit Metro Airport terminals and at Regional Military Entrance Processing Stations.

He is a University of Michigan graduate with Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in aero-

space engineering and

the life sciences department at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France.

Colbeck's engineering design work includes key elements of the life support system for the International Space Station. He also served as an instructor at Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

He now lives in Canton with Angie, his wife of more than 20 years. They are members of Northridge Church in Plymouth.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at The War Memorial. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

Stay up to date at EastsideRepublican.Club and "follow" the ERC on Facebook and X.



## 4B | 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.

## Linda Jean Meeker

Linda Jean Meeker, 84, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Linda was born Oct. 3, 1940, in East Detroit, to Harold and Lucielle Lewis. She went to East Detroit High School (now Eastpointe High School) and graduated from Marygrove College with a degree in health-care management, specializing in electrocardiograms. She proudly served at Henry Ford Hospital, where she dedicated her career to performing diagnostic cardiac tests and caring for patients.

A woman of Christian faith, Linda loved God and dedicated her life to serving Him. She lived with an uplifting spirit and always put others over herself.

Throughout her life, she put her love for the church on display in many ways, including music, art and stage performances. She often translated many productions through her love of American Sign Language.

Linda cherished her family and friends dearly. She found great happiness in spending time with her beloved wife, Sylvia, and sharing her passions with those she held close.

She loved the music of John Denver, Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline. Her favorite places on earth were the breathtaking mountain ranges of North Carolina, including the Appalachian Mountains, Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains. She always said she was a mountain girl.

She was a storyteller, a keeper of family history, an extraordinary cook, event planner and a trusted life advisor available day or night. Her friends lovingly called her a "prayer warrior," because she would drop everything to console or pray for anyone in need.

Linda was funny. She saw the humor in almost anything. Her family has many memories of Linda and Syl telling stories and causing each other to burst out laughing. These moments always exuded pure joy from any audience.

Linda is survived by her devoted wife, best friend and life partner, Sylvia Kunst; son, Andrew (René); daughters, Jennifer (Timothy) and Marybeth; grandson, Drew; loving brother, Gary Lewis (Kathy); and nieces and nephews, David, Michael and Amy Lewis-Young.

Linda's life was a gift to all who knew her. Her family said they were lucky to have someone in their lives that made saying goodbye so very hard.

Per Linda's and her family's wishes, a funeral service will not be held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 20542 Harper, Harper Woods, MI 48225, gpaas.org/donate.

## William Paul Baer

William Paul Baer, 82, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025, at home in Grosse Pointe Shores, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bill was born March 1, 1943, in Detroit, to Phillip and Macy Baer, both now deceased.

Bill's professional life was defined by hard work, innovation and strong leadership. In 1965, he joined his father in the family-owned metal coatings business, which he later transformed into a thriving enterprise with operations across the U.S. and Canada. His leadership extended beyond the business world. He was a proud member of AAA Michigan's Board of Directors and ultimately served as chairman of the Auto Club Group. Bill served the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) board and later served as its chairman. He contributed his expertise as a director of Crestmark Bancorp Inc., was a member of the Detroit Presidents Organization and served as past chairman of the Young Presidents Organization. Bill also was honored to be elected as a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business, where he passionately advocated for the growth and development of small businesses nationwide.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Bill was a man of deep love for his family, friends and passions. A lifelong supporter of the Detroit Lions and the University of Michigan, his enthusiasm for his teams was both spirited and infectious. An avid boater, he spent countless joyful hours on the water with those closest to him. A fair but avid golfer, he valued the camaraderie of the game and deeply appreciated the peacefulness of fly-fishing trips shared with lifelong friends. Bill also cherished traveling with family and friends, always seeking new experiences and creating lasting memories.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife, Darrene; their two sons, Ryan and Brett (Brooke); brother, Jim (Gail); as well as many extended family members and dear friends who will forever miss his wisdom, kindness and generosity. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his charm, grace and gift for conversation — always greeting others with a warm, welcoming smile and with an innate ability to see the good in people.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The service may be viewed virtually at gpmchurch.org.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Family Medicine Program at Corewell Health Grosse Pointe Hospital, bit.ly/BaerMemorial.

## Scott Russell

Scott Russell, 68, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025, at home in Boynton Beach, Fla., after a courageous and inspiring battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma that spanned nearly three decades.

Born April 5, 1957, in Detroit, Scott was the beloved son of Thomas and Ruth Russell. He graduated from Austin Catholic High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Driven by a passion for learning and advancing his career, he later completed his MBA at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Scott built a life filled with love, laughter and resilience. He was a devoted husband of 42 years to Elena, a proud father to Tommy and Lauren (Joe Toedt) and a doting grandfather to Bobby and Nori. His family was the center of his world. Whether gathered around the table enjoying Elena's cooking or sharing stories during family visits with his brother, Brandon; sister-in-law, Nancy; niece, Kelli and nephew, Blake, Scott found true joy in the company of loved ones.

Known affectionately as "Scooter," Scott had an infectious smirk and always was ready with a sarcastic joke or an encouraging word. His strength throughout his long illness was nothing short of remarkable; he faced each challenge with quiet grace and determination. A successful bone marrow transplant in 2016 granted him more precious years with family and friends.

Scott was an avid sports fan, loyally devoted to Michigan State University athletics, as well as the Detroit Lions, Tigers and Red Wings. He loved playing golf, watching car racing and spending time with Birdie, the family dog.

Beyond his personal joys, Scott served as a mentor and role model within the non-Hodgkin lymphoma and bone marrow transplant communities. His empathy and firsthand experience offered hope and guidance to many navigating similar journeys. His legacy of courage and compassion continues to inspire all who knew him.

He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Ruth Russell.

Scott will be remembered by all who knew him for his unwavering spirit, generous heart and the joy he brought into every room. His memory will be a source of comfort to all who knew and loved him.

The family will honor Scott's life privately. No public services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Foundation, 4100 John R, Detroit, MI 48201, karmanos.org/giftofhope.



Linda Jean Meeker



William Paul Baer



Scott Russell



June Clare Mabarak

## June Clare Mabarak

June Clare Mabarak, 83, of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family and friends.

Born June 1, 1942, June lived a life rich in purpose, creativity and compassion. For 40 years, she was a devoted kindergarten teacher in Detroit, where she touched the lives of countless students and colleagues. Her classroom was more than a place of learning — it was a space of warmth, laughter and inspiration.

June was the beloved sister of Janet Shatusky, James Mabarak, Helen Mabarak, Charles Mabarak and Robert Mabarak; and a cherished aunt to many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Beshara and Katherine Mabarak; and siblings, Philip, Nora, Theresa, Paul, Anthony, Fr. John, Edward and Michael.

Family was the center of June's life. She was the poet laureate of her large extended family, always ready with a heartfelt, witty or celebratory verse for any occasion. Her poems were treasured gifts, capturing the essence of moments both big and small.

An accomplished artist, June had a special love for Pewabic Pottery. Her creativity was evident in everything she touched. She was smart, funny and endlessly admired by all who knew her for her talents, kindness and unwavering spirit.

June's legacy lives on in the lives she shaped, the love she gave and the art and poetry she leaves behind.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park, with a rosary at 7 p.m.

June will lie in state Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 9:30 a.m. until her funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Private interment will take place later in the day.

June will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

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



William J. Gryzenia

## William "Bill" Joseph Gryzenia

William "Bill" Joseph Gryzenia, 92, passed away peacefully Monday, Sept. 1, 2025, at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital.

Bill was born March 12, 1933, to Bertha and Joseph Gryzenia. He was the beloved brother of three sisters, Wanda, Bernice and Stella, all now deceased. Bill graduated from Catholic Central High School and earned a degree in chemistry from Wayne State University. He began his career as a biochemist at U.S. Rubber Co., Henry Ford Hospital and Pfizer Co. While working, he pursued an MBA at Wayne State and transitioned into a successful career as a stockbroker and financial consultant in 1963. He began with Goodbody & Co., and later worked with Loeb Rhodes, Shearson, Smith Barney and Citibank. Bill was among the earliest option traders in the U.S. and even was offered a seat on the exchange in the 1970s, an opportunity he declined in order to devote himself to raising his three children with his beloved wife of 59 years, Jean Gryzenia. Together, they raised Dr. Michele Ramsdell (Allen Taber), William Gryzenia (Nicole) and Dr. Paul Gryzenia (Anne).

A resident of Grosse Pointe Farms for 55 years, Bill was dedicated to his community. He volunteered with the Grosse Pointe Farms Police Auxiliary and spent many joyful years coaching Little League baseball and Grosse Pointe hockey, where his two sons played. He also was a member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and loved spending time fishing.

Nothing brought Bill greater pride than his family, except maybe his iconic 1967 Cadillac convertible. He was a devoted teacher and No. 1 fan to his 11 grandchildren, Craig (CJ), Lindsey, Charlie and Clare Ramsdell, Sofia, Gabriella and Andrew Gryzenia, and Will, Davis, Jack and Liv Gryzenia. He often could be spotted in the stands at their sporting events. He will be remembered for his humor, wisdom, constant energy, sweet tooth and the love he poured into his family.

A funeral Mass was



Krystn Alfred Rollins

celebrated at St. Matthew Catholic Church. He was entombed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Share a memory with Bill's family in the online guestbook at wujekcalcaterra.com.

## Krystn Alfred Glancy Rollins

Krystn Alfred Glancy Rollins, 85, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away at home Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025, on what would have been her late husband's 86th birthday.

Krystn was born Dec. 20, 1940. On April 22, 1966, she married Dr. Michael Edwin Rollins at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. She gave birth to their son, Michael, on Dec. 20, 1969, her 29th birthday.

A skilled equestrian, Krystn grew up riding horses and performed at Madison Square Garden. She earned a ribbon in the Working Hunter-Lady to Ride competition on one of her favorite horses, Moonflight. Licia B, Red Carpet, Safari 21, Prince Andrew and Jazz Session were the names of her other horses that she loved dearly. An all-around athlete, Krystn captured multiple trophies in tennis and golf. Beyond her tennis accolades, Krystn earned the title of Women's Club Champion at the Country Club of Detroit in 1989, 1992 and 1997. She also scored multiple holes-in-one throughout her career: on the 17th hole at Bloomfield Hills Country Club and twice on the 16th hole at the Country Club of Detroit.

A devoted wife and mother, Krystn loved traveling with her family. She enjoyed skiing in Aspen and Vail, Colo., and playing golf throughout Spain, France, Ireland and Scotland. She also was a fan of live music and attended many concerts at the Pontiac Silverdome, proudly boasting she had seen The Rolling Stones in concert three times before she turned 50.

Krystn is survived by her son, Michael Edwin Rollins Jr. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Michael Edwin Rollins.

A funeral service occurred at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

See OBITS, page 5B

## OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

## Anne Decker

Anne Decker, 77, passed away Monday, Aug. 25, 2025.

Anne was born July 7, 1948. She was one of three children born to Frank and Marge Decker. Anne grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods and attended Michigan State University before teaching the hearing impaired community in Lansing and Ingham counties for 34 years.

After her retirement, Anne moved to Traverse City. She traveled to many countries and often visited Arizona with her second husband, Ed Marshall. She loved to paint, quilt and play golf on the beautiful courses in northern Michigan. She also spent plenty of time playing piano and taking art classes, as well as playing mahjong.

Anne was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2018, and fought a courageous battle for many years. Despite her debilitating illness, she continued to find her creative voice, maintain an adventurous spirit and keep her signature Irish wit.

Anne was predeceased by her parents, Francis N. Decker and Marjorie G. Decker; and brother, Frank F. Decker. She is survived by her sister, Kathryn L. Decker; daughter, Jennifer Witt (Gary); son, Justin Breard (Nicole); and grandsons, Miles and Julian Witt.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, 2846 N. Three Mile, Traverse City, MI 49686, [gtrlc.org/donate/memorial-gift/](http://gtrlc.org/donate/memorial-gift/).

## Barbara E. Stowell

Barbara E. Stowell (nee Brown), 75, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away at home Monday, Aug. 25, 2025.

Barbara was born April 16, 1950, in Detroit, to Chester Sr. and Mildred Brown, both now deceased. A proud 1968 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and 1972 graduate of Western Michigan University, Barbara was a lifeguard at Windmill Pointe Park in Grosse Pointe Park.

She was predeceased by her brother, Michael J. Brown. She is survived by her loving husband, Charles E. Stowell; step-children, Darren Stowell (Kate) and Brenda Fellman; step-grandchildren, Melia and Austin; sister-in-law, Janet Brown of Port Huron; brother, Chester Brown (Karen Fagan) of St. Clair Shores; loving nieces, Julie Forrester (Jeff) and Jennifer Brown; and a host of other special nieces and nephews.

Barbara also is survived by four very special



Anne Decker



Barbara E. Stowell



Lucille Przybysz



Ann Brink

girlfriends — Beth Trees of St. Clair Shores, Maggie Triner of Fraser, Tammy Olson of Brighton and Susan Rentschler Reiff of Kalamazoo — and Kim Renshaw, a very special cousin.

Cremation has taken place. Arrangements were handled by A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

A private gathering of family will follow at a later date.

## Lucille "Lucy" Przybysz

Lucille "Lucy" (nee Malinowski) Przybysz, 100, of Grand Rapids, passed away Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, joining her beloved husband, Frank.

Lucy was born April 15, 1925, in Grand Rapids. Together with Frank, she owned and operated Fremont Food Market and Snug Harbor Cocktail Lounge, both in Grand Rapids, where they built a legacy of hard work and hospitality.

She is survived by her children, Lawrence Przybysz (June) of Grosse Pointe, Rosanne Clement (Tom) of Caledonia and the Rev. Mark Przybysz of Grand Rapids. Lucy was lovingly known as Busia to her five grandchildren, Kevin Clement (Karin), Ryan Przybysz (Liz), Kyle Clement (Adrienne), Andrea Arreola (Dan) and Matthew Przybysz; She was known as Busia Lu to her nine great-grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces.

Services were held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. She was entombed at Holy Cross Cemetery Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Emmanuel Hospice, 401 Hall SW, Ste. 263, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, [emmanuelhospice.networkforgood.com/](http://emmanuelhospice.networkforgood.com/); God's Kitchen, 40 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, [ccwestmi.org/donate/](http://ccwestmi.org/donate/); or the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Church

Endowment Fund, 2510 Richmond NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504, [bit.ly/3Jpp0K5](http://bit.ly/3Jpp0K5).

## Ann Brink

Ann Brink, a beloved mother, grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025, surrounded by the love of her children.

A lifelong resident of the Grosse Pointe community, Ann dedicated her life to uplifting others with kindness, patience and generosity. She had a gift for putting the needs of others before her own and was a steady source of love and encouragement to all who knew her. To her family, she was the heart and leader of love — always reminding everyone to find joy, embrace fun and cherish one another.

Ann also was the cofounder of Dance Court, a longstanding ballroom dancing and etiquette program for middle school children in the Grosse Pointe community. Through this work, she inspired confidence, grace and poise in generations of young people.

She is survived by her four children, Kirby Traynham, Bo Brink, Hadley Thiel and Emery Buccellato; three sons-in-law; and 13 grandchildren, who affectionately called her "Kissy." To them, she was more than a grandmother — she was a confidante, cheerleader and constant presence of warmth and laughter.

Ann's legacy will live on in the countless lives she touched, with her selflessness, unwavering patience, devotion to family and ability to make each person feel truly special. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew her.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Project Hope participants gather for a previous event.

## Community encouraged to join Project Hope Sept. 13

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church will host its 11th annual Project Hope event Saturday, Sept. 13.

While officially it's a 5K and Pray event, participants don't have to go the full distance. All are invited to walk as far they want, pray if they want and eat if they want — all for a good cause.

"It's for all ages and all walks of life," said Lisa Vismara, who co-chairs the event with her husband, John, and son, Tom. "You don't have to be Catholic to participate. Anyone is welcome."

New this year, the St. Clare Music Ministry will contribute spiritual support in the church during adoration, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Our music ministry asked if they could play," Vismara said. "They'll play meditative music during that time, so it will be a nice meditative, powerful environment."

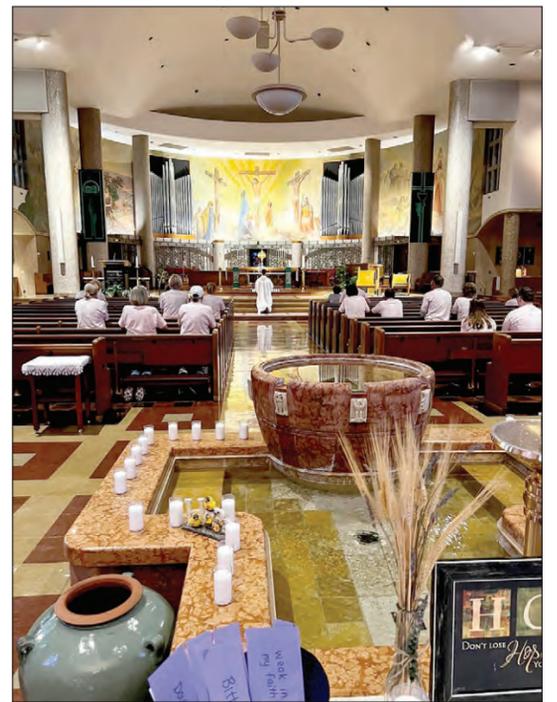
While music, prayer and meditation take place indoors, the church grounds will host the 5K, which begins at 9 a.m. Registration opens at 8:15 a.m.

Afterward, those interested are invited to Mass at 4 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. This year's speaker is WJR-AM's Jack Krasula, host of "Anything is Possible." Through his program, Krasula helps guests share their stories of achievement against all odds.

Making a comeback after facing adversity is a theme of Project Hope, which was created in 2014, to honor a parishioner who had cancer, as well as raise funds and support for parishioners going through cancer or other difficult situations.

Proceeds from this year's 5K and Pray benefit two former military men whose lives reflect the core value of service.

Jack Popek, along with his wife and two young children, moved to



Adoration will take place continuously from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the church.



Proceeds this year benefit Jack Popek, left, and Dennis Panas.

Grosse Pointe after his 26-year career with the U.S. Navy. In 2017, his wife, Brenda, passed away unexpectedly due to complications from a ruptured aorta.

"He became a caregiver for his children," Vismara said. "Numerous family members also died — his mother-in-law, his parents and his sister. So he's on his own dealing with that grief and raising his kids."

Despite his hardships, Popek has shown resilience and faith, while continuing to give to the community. He currently serves as a Stephen Minister at St. Clare.

The second recipient is Dennis Panas, who served 37 years in the U.S. Air Force and is a

Knights of Columbus member at St. Clare.

"He had COVID in 2020, and was on a ventilator for three months," Vismara said. "He has long COVID now, which stays with you for life. He's facing multiple issues from that."

While working through his own struggles, Panas cared for his wife, Mary, who was experiencing complications from juvenile diabetes. She passed away in June.

Panas then had major back surgery in July and still is recovering.

"We couldn't ask for two better people to support," Vismara said, noting both men's commitment to serving

See HOPE, page 6B

## The War Memorial to serve as collection site for Free Bikes 4 Kidz

The War Memorial will serve as a drop-off site for the Free Bikes 4 Kidz nonprofit from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, outside of its carriage house.

The last seven years, Free Bikes 4 Kidz has given underserved kids in metro Detroit 14,614

bikes — each one with a new helmet — getting kids started on a happier, healthier childhood. Their goal this year is to collect 3,000 bikes in one year, but that can't be accomplished without help from the community.

Those with a used

bike to donate may drop it off at The War Memorial or another donation site across southeast Michigan and Free Bikes 4 Kidz will refurbish it and give it to a child in need.

For more information, visit [fb4k.org](http://fb4k.org).

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9:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
Sunday School - During Service

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

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

6B | FEATURES

# St. Michael's hosts Lunch, Laugh and Learn

Lunch, Laugh and Learn at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, resumes Thursday, Sept. 18.

Drs. Nicole Ludke and Harrison Westmore from Grosse Pointe Audiology will speak about digital advances in hearing assistive devices and hearing aid technology, as well as the challenges of untreated hearing loss and cognitive decline.

Lunch is at noon, followed by the program at 12:45 p.m. The event is open to the public. A freewill offering is collected at the door.

Deadline to reserve a seat by Tuesday, Sept. 16. Call the church office at (313) 884-4820.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LWVGP

League members at their 2025 picnic.

## EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

### 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

◆ Second Saturdays at TWM: At the Circus, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. Tickets are \$10 per child.

◆ Adulting 101, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18.

◆ Flying the P-3 Orion: A Vietnam War Pilot's Story, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18.

◆ United States Naval Academy Admissions Forum, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 20.

### POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during September. To sign up for the following, visit mutualadoration.com:

◆ Two-Day Upholstery Workshop: Dining Chair Seat Covers, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Sept. 13 and 20. Cost is \$100.

◆ Sewing Workshop: Crossbody Bags, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. Cost is \$120.

◆ Woodworking Workshop: Framed Assemblage, 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. Cost is \$90.

◆ Hapa Zome Workshop: Eco Printed

Bandanas, 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. Cost is \$60.

◆ Ceramics Workshop: Terracotta Planters, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14. Cost is \$85.

◆ Three-Day Sewing Workshop: Intro to Garments—Wrap Skirts, 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 14, 21 and 28. Cost is \$175.

◆ Therapeutic Art Workshop: Neurographic Art Making, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14. Cost is \$60.

### Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Fred Hunter, CEO of Detroit PAL, speaks. Email [grossepointerotary@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointerotary@gmail.com).

### GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Register at [grossepointeartcenter.org](http://grossepointeartcenter.org).

◆ 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.

## LEAGUE:

Continued from page 1B

candidates. The forums are recorded and uploaded to the league's YouTube channel — which happens to be how Florian first learned about the league, when she couldn't attend a candidate forum in person.

"I found out a recording was available that I could watch," she said. "I thought, wow, this is a great service to the community. At their leisure they can watch a forum and make a determination on who to vote for."

"Our candidate forums are well-respected and greatly appreciated by our citizens," Pierce said. "We promote civic responsibility, encourage citizens to be informed voters, support citizens to register to vote and encourage them to vote in all elections."

"I joined because I didn't know anything about it," Masserang admitted. "I was hoping to help influence the election, but I had no idea they do things in a nonpartisan way. What I found was all these really smart women ... and really smart men."

Masserang became board secretary on day one.

"It's a fascinating group to be a part of," she added. "They're smart, they research things, they become knowledgeable about all the issues. It's a wonderful organization."

The league takes pride in its thorough study of issues. It has a history of developing positions and presenting programs on myriad topics, including gerrymandering, redistricting, voting rights updates and civic education.

"As president, my proudest accomplishment within the league is the policy we developed against banning books in public libraries," Pierce said. "Our local league was concerned about the national trend to ban books and decided to

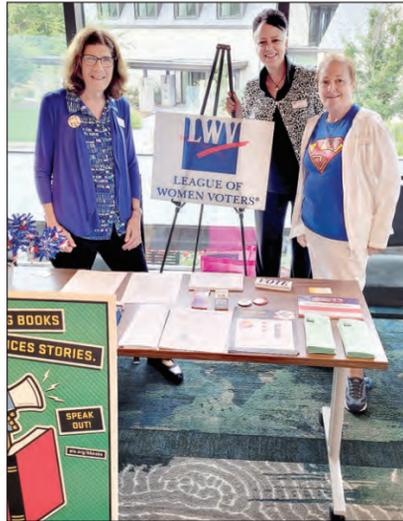
study the issue and develop a policy (which can be read on the league's website). Once our membership approved this policy, we took it to our state league. On behalf of our local league, I addressed our state convention to concur with our position. It passed unanimously."

She also presented a workshop on the topic at the national convention.

"Many of the attendees were from states that face serious erosion of their right to read what they chose," she added. "Our efforts provided support for leagues throughout the country."

The local league has developed positions on Wayne County government, solid waste management, library expansion, land use and recreation. It recently voiced its support of the City of Grosse Pointe's sewer project.

"We want to support issues," Florian said. "It's not just about voting; there's more to the league. The biggest is defending our democ-



League members at various functions, pictured clockwise from top left: From left, President Lynne Pierce, Julianne Phillips and Marge Freund; Margrit Poynter, left, and Julianne Phillips; and from left, Judy Morlan, Mary Morshead and Mary Vitolins.

racy." However, Florian noted one misconception about the league is people think it is partisan.

"It's not," she said. "The reason people think that is because we support issues that some people think are partisan issues, but they're not — issues like the environment, climate, voting rights."

"Our league has always played an important role in providing accurate, non-biased information to our citizens about candidates and issues," Pierce noted.

A member since 1991, Pierce joined the league because she wanted to be involved in a group that promoted civic responsibility.

"For most of this time I was an elected judge (Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Court, then 3rd Circuit Court)," she said. "I was therefore unable to take on a leadership position on the board. ... Once I retired, I was elected president of our league. As a non-partisan official most of my life, this is a perfect

fit." "The thing I love about the league is there's something for everyone to do, from a minor level to serving as an officer," Florian added. "We're all volunteers. ... You can jump in full bore or be a greeter at a forum. There's something for everybody."

Opportunities include being part of the observer corps, whose members attend local city council, school board and library board meetings, noting issues of importance and monitoring adherence to the Open Meetings Act.

Clerks in some of the Grosse Pointes ask for league assistance preparing ballots for absentee voting.

"Clerks in the area feel like the league is an important organization they can take advantage of as well," Masserang said. "A lot of us work elections, too."

Membership to the league is open to anyone 16 and older. Despite its name, men are welcome to join. For more information, visit [lvvgrossepointe.org](http://lvvgrossepointe.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

### Project Hope offers activities for all ages.

## HOPE:

Continued from page 5B

the country and their community. "... You don't get picked for years of service. We're supporting people who are giving so much to our world.

"... This event is about community support," she added, "walking side by side with these people and raising some money to help them out and let them know they're not alone in this tough time."

Vismara encouraged

the community to attend and participate in whatever way best suits them — sitting in church for a moment of peace or saying a few prayers; walking, running or riding a bike in the 5K; or all of the above.

Activities also will be available for children.

Cost for the 5K and dinner is \$50; dinner-only and run-only tickets are \$35 each. Project Hope T-shirts also are available for \$25. Additionally, donations of any size may be made online at [projecthopeofmichigan.com](http://projecthopeofmichigan.com).



League members met during COVID at The War Memorial to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

# LIFE & LEISURE



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## GPT's Purdon Studio Theatre presents 'Lifespan of a Fact'

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Whetting theatergoers' appetites ahead of the delayed start to its 78th season, Grosse Pointe Theatre opens its Purdon Studio Theatre season with a black-box production of "The Lifespan of a Fact."

Performances, which take place Sept. 19 to 21, and 26 to 28, mark City of Grosse Pointe resident Virginia Lee's first time directing a full-length play. However, with a background in film and entertainment, not to mention her work as a professional voice actor, she is fully prepared for the challenge.

"I did direct a Shakespeare short last summer," she said. "... When I heard they were considering 'Lifespan of a Fact,' I jumped on it. I'd seen it done on another theater. It was the first time I'd seen a play that sucked me in like I was watching a movie. It was so cinematic."

"The Lifespan of a Fact" is based on the true story of an essayist and a



Phil Potter and Laura Bartell enact a scene from "The Lifespan of a Fact."

fact-checker at a failing newspaper who find themselves at odds. It asks thought-provoking questions about truth, accuracy and the line between fact and art.

"It's a gripping battle," Lee said, "... inspired by real events and real people. Because it's such a naturalistic piece, the dialogue is very natural.

"The authors clearly

have an appreciation for words and literary devices," she added, "and since I'm a writer, too, I really appreciate this detail."

Newer shows on Broadway, Lee explained, have moved away from traditional theater styling and toward the human story, which creates more connectivity with audiences.

"When we see other people's messiness, it makes us feel more human," Lee said, adding that she's excited to bring the story to Grosse Pointe.

She hopes to make the performance more immersive by using a thrust stage, which extends into the audience, who will be seated on three sides.

"Because the performance space is more intimate, the actors are able to embrace this style — and they have been rising to the challenge beautifully," she said.

Lee, who earned a

degree in film from Wayne State University, studied directing, screenwriting and film history. Her final project premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival in the short film category.

She currently works as a professional voice actor.

"I've learned a lot the last five years," she said. "Voice acting is similar to theater acting; there's lots of crossover. I want to bring my knowledge to others in the community."

Lee has been affiliated with Grosse Pointe Theatre nearly a decade and has appeared both onstage and behind the scenes.

"I love being part of a well-oiled machine," she said, noting the many people who have helped with this production.

"Every theater piece ... feels like it's something bigger," Lee said. "You're creating a living thing outside of yourself and to have so many people involved has been touching and exciting. I can't wait to see how it comes out onstage."

Lee noted the production should entice anyone in search of a new theater piece, as "Lifespan" debuted on Broadway in 2018. It's also meant for those interested in natural dia-

### The details

**Who:** Grosse Pointe Theatre's Purdon Studio Theatre

**What:** "The Lifespan of a Fact"

**Where:** Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 19-20 and Sept. 26-27; and 2 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 21 and 28.

**How:** Tickets are \$20 and available at gpt.org/PST or by calling (313) 881-4004.

logue and comedy, as well as for wordsmiths.

"And people who like relationships," she added. "There are three complicated human beings in the mix. How they interact is fascinating."

"... You need to see this piece," she added. "It's timely. It's about journalism and truth. Right now, there are a lot of feelings about the direction of the country and the world at large. With the internet, what's true and what's not true? With politicians, are they telling the truth or not? It's difficult to find our bearings in this world. It's about finding the truth among the facts. ... It's about coming to our own conclusions as well and about seeing the bigger picture of how the world works around you."

### ASK THE EXPERTS By Kylie Gojanaj, LMSW, CTP-C

## Setting yourself up for an easier transition back to school

A new school year often stirs up anxiety and excitement for many children. September not only can signal new experiences and friendships, but also significant changes in routine. These changes may include earlier bedtimes, earlier wake-up times, fully scheduled days, extracurriculars and sports, homework and the expectation of your child's full attention for seven hours per day.

For some, the shift from summer freedom can feel daunting, but it can be successfully navigated with simple strategies. The following tips will help your family more easily transition back to school.

#### Plan for extra time — more than you think

Every morning, taking the time you need is the first step to a manageable school day. It is unsustainable for children, teens or even parents to be regularly hurried. This cycle could look like pushing through activities, homework and dinner in the evening while, in the morning, skipping breakfast and rushing to school before the bell rings. This pattern puts bodies in a chronic state of stress, where the nervous system is activated, and the following can occur as a result:

- ◆ anxiety
- ◆ tantrums
- ◆ mood swings
- ◆ family arguments
- ◆ difficulty concentrating
- ◆ difficulty falling asleep
- ◆ waking up not feeling rested

Therefore, with the start of the school year, be prepared by planning for extra time. If you think you need an hour, plan for two. Your mind, body and nervous system will thank you.

#### Notice your approach

Also important for your children's adjustment to school is your own approach to work and other tasks. Notice your language. How do you describe your responsibilities?

Perhaps, you find yourself saying words like, "I don't want to go to work either, but I have no choice and neither do you." Or, "I hate waking up so early." Maybe, you've commented, "I'm so worried about this presentation." Chances are, your children, who closely hear you, will develop a similar



orientation to school.

Shifting to intentional framings of work will set a new example for your children. Consider these two statements: "I love staying home with you and I look forward to going to the office," or "This presentation feels uncomfortable, but being able to share this information is important to me, too." These examples model to children how to balance their feelings and responsibilities as they enter the new school year.

#### Fall favorites

Lastly, one of the most difficult parts of going back to school for children is ending the summer fun — park playdates, riding bikes, going to the pool or beach, ice cream dates and more. While difficult, your family does not have to fully shift to a fall grind. Some hobbies from the summer can be integrated with special fall activities to help maintain stability between the seasons. Some examples include:

- ◆ picnics
- ◆ walks
- ◆ cider mills and apple picking
- ◆ bonfires and s'mores
- ◆ hot chocolate dates

As you head into the start of a new school year, remember to set yourself up for an easier transition: Plan for extra time, be intentional about your approach to responsibilities and incorporate some favorite fall activities into the new routine. With these three steps, you and your children will be guaranteed to have a better back-to-school experience.

Kylie (Capps) Gojanaj, LMSW, CTP-C, is a licensed psychotherapist and founder of Early Wellness Group and Early Wellness Advantage. For more information, visit [earlywellnessgroup.com](http://earlywellnessgroup.com).

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

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# GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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## Handling political discourse at home

**Dear Gabby:** My son graduated from college in May and has since moved back home with us. He has started his job search for a professional role related to his degree, but in the meantime he is working full time in an hourly position at a business he has worked at during summers since high school.

He is a great kid, he is sweet and kind to his siblings and he helps with (occasional) chores. That's not our issue.

Our issue is how extreme his political views have become since college. I tend to be politically moderate, so it isn't so much that I disagree with everything he believes, but I find some of his belief system flawed and based more in social media and "TikTok facts" than in the truth.

I find some of it disrespectful to his parents after we paid for his entire college career and as he lives under our roof. And I find a few of his views downright offensive and, quite frankly, morally wrong.

My question is how do



I keep my mouth shut while leaving out the proverbial welcome mat for my son? My husband, who is much more politically vocal, is really upset and fights with him a lot about their different beliefs.

I don't ever want things like politics or religion to ever interfere in my relationships, particularly with my family members. Gabby, please help! — Hopby to keep politics out of parenting in the Park.

**Dear Hoping:** It's clear you love your son and value your relationship with him. That is a very powerful and positive start, given that politics has a way of really tearing families apart. Many parents find

themselves in similar situations when their children return from college with strong political and ideological convictions. It can feel like you are suddenly living with someone you hardly recognize.

It's not wrong to feel uncomfortable or even offended by some of your son's views — especially if they challenge and oppose values and viewpoints you've held for a lifetime. The key is that your home is your home — and it should be a place of mutual respect. That means it goes both ways. Just as you are trying to respect his right to form his own views, it's fair and appropriate to expect the same in return. Let us

when you are feeling disrespected. A calm and clear discussion may need to take place — not to change his mind, but to lay out clear expectations. And plan the timing during a calm moment. It will only add fuel to the fire if it's in the midst of a disagreement.

Your son is still young and his beliefs may change, grow or mellow over time. What you can do (which is easier said than done) is remain steady, humble and reasonable. If he sees you living out YOUR beliefs without bitterness, defensiveness or being mean about it, maybe that will speak louder than any opposing political viewpoints.

In the meantime, try encouraging boundaries that protect the peace of your household. And if none of this works, it is your house, so maybe it's time for him to pay rent ... either at your house or out in the real world.

— Gabby

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

## ADD may be the reason for interrupting

**DEAR ANNIE:** I'm writing in response to "Love My Mother-in-Law," who was being rudely interrupted and chalked it up to somebody that wanted to hear themselves speak.

As a woman in my late 30s, I started to seek out mental health support because I wasn't the person I wanted to be. One of the behaviors I wanted to change was always feel-

ing like I was interrupting others, but I truly cared about what they were saying and wanted to show them that. Listening, for me, was waiting my turn to speak, not hearing what was being said. I thought it was a flaw in my personality.

After much digging and many other behaviors that seemed related, my therapist recommended I be evaluated for ADD. I

come from a generation where ADD/ADHD seemed to be a buzzword and a condition that was over-diagnosed to explain troubled behaviors in kids, so I wasn't necessarily on board.

Fast forward through research and an evaluation, and I have been diagnosed with ADD. It is such a relief to know I am not a bad person, but I have an imbalance

of neurotransmitters that creates many of these behaviors I am trying to change, including interrupting. There are so many thoughts in my head that I feel, in order to contribute to the conversation, I have to get them out or I will forget due to the incessant raving thoughts I have.

So while she may love her MIL, she should also



## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

know that there are many reasons for people that interrupt and some are not within their realm of control. — ADD Adult

**DEAR ADD ADULT:** Thank you for giving another possible explana-

tion for interrupting. When we know better, we do better.

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

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## New Order Coffee specializes in espresso and coffee

The Nautical Mile features many bars and restaurants, but a standout is New Order Coffee, a unique spot that doesn't serve steaks or sushi. Instead, it specializes in espresso and coffee.

Opened in November 2022 by owner Patrick Seeneey, a 25-year coffee industry veteran, New Order Coffee at 25109 Jefferson underwent a full remodel. With the closure of two other locations due to the pandemic, this new spot was a welcome addition.

and cold caffeinated and decaffeinated coffees. Their in-house roasting sets them apart.



**S'mores latte, Nitro cold brew, cereal milk latte.**

"We roast using a fluid bed air roaster," Seeneey said. "Less than 5 percent of the industry uses this method. It heats the beans indirectly with hot air, resulting in faster roasts with more acidity and crisp flavors compared to traditional drum roasting."

Roasting occurs daily, with Tuesdays designated for home delivery. Seeneey explained the brewing process, noting the difference between espresso and pressure brewing.

"Pressure brewing is unique to us, as most cafés do batch brew or pour-over," he said. "Our pres-

sure brew system provides a fuller-flavored cup without filtering, creating a nice crema on top."

They typically offer seven to 10 coffees at a time, including three blends, a decaf and multiple single origins. Their flagship single origin is Ethiopia Wush Wush, with tasting notes of strawberry, floral, and watermelon candy. The everyday blends are Case Study, with cocoa nibs, stone fruit, and vanilla bean notes; and Everyday Espresso, with chocolate, spiced rum, and peanut notes. All whole bean bags are roasted to order and shipped Tuesdays.

For busy morning coffee drinkers, New Order also



**Coffee Cart.**

produces in-house K-Cups.

"We are the only shop that makes our own K-Cups as fresh as our other coffees — the best K-Cup on the market," Seeneey said.



**Blueberry scone and Strawberry Pop Tart.**

They rotate seasonal blends, with the summer blend, Electric Feel, being phased out soon and the fall blend, Blue Velvet, set to take center stage.

Cold brew? Yep. Both nitro and still. Nitro is only available in-store.

"We flash chill all our regular coffees instead of offering cold brew in the store," Seeneey said. "Our Nitro placed third in the America's Best Cold Brew competition in 2022."

That's a cool accom-



## Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

plishment for a local coffee business. Along with standard café-style coffee drinks, New Order offers unique options as well and all their flavored syrups are made in-house. They also provide a coffee subscription for K-cups and whole bean bags.



**Fall flavors coming.**

"We offer a Roaster's Choice for whole bean, which lets you choose one bag, and we curate the other selections every month," Seeneey said.

When I asked about their espressos and lattes, I was reminded of the multiple options — not your typical flavors, but definitely one-

of-a-kinds, like a cereal milk latte made with Frosted Flakes-steeped milk. It's a fan favorite. Or a cookie butter latte made with Biscoff cookie butter.



**Chorizo cheddar breakfast burrito.**

They also have seasonal options and classics like the mocha latte, along with a variety of espressos, from classic to cappuccino to Americano. I love that there's a category on their online menu labeled "Not Coffee," where you'll find matcha and chai tea lattes,

See COFFEE, page 3C



**COURTESY PHOTOS**  
**New Order Coffee storefront.**

This is not a typical coffeehouse; it's a roasting and brewing bakehouse offering a variety of hot

# We Tried It!

by Hanna Lizer



A few weeks ago, our linen closet looked like it had survived a small tornado. With king, queen and full-size beds in the house, plus enough random pillowcases to clothe a small village, our sheet situation was spiraling. Stacks of bedding were sliding around, mismatched sets were tangled together and I could never find what I actually needed.



Opening the closet felt like triggering an avalanche.

But with the new school year looming and my organizing instincts on overdrive, I decided something had to change. I didn't want to drop a fortune on fancy organizing solutions, nor did I want to spend hours creating Pinterest-level labels. I just needed something cheap, functional and easy.

Enter these genius little bedding bands I found on

the Yermivie store on Amazon for \$17. No batteries, no instructions, no

full, twin — and they're exactly what I didn't know I needed.



assembling required. They're just wide, stretchy, fabric bands labeled by bed size — king, queen,

like it had been professionally staged. I half-expected someone from The Home Edit to pop out and

applaud.

I was so proud of the transformation that I literally sent out a group text to my entire family asking them to please go look at the linen closet whenever they had a chance. I also kept walking past it just to admire it like it was a piece of fine art. Honestly, I still make people stop and stare at it when they walk by, which is slightly embarrassing, but you know what? I'm proud.

Beyond the aesthetic upgrade, these bands are actually practical. On laundry day, it's so much easier to grab the right set without playing a game of "Guess the Sheet Size." The labels are big and clear, the elastic is sturdy but forgiving and they make even my crumpled fitted sheets look vaguely

respectable.

So if your linen closet is giving you stress sweats or you've ever cursed while trying to find a matching pillowcase, give these bands a try. Sometimes the best solution is the simplest one and in this case also under 20 bucks. This product is one of the best and it's getting 5 out of 5 alligators from me.

*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



# A winning combination

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

This is an absolute winner of a Sunday dinner. It's a pairing of two different pork loin recipes that I fused together for maximum satisfaction. This is Ina Garten's recipe for pork loin with fennel. I served it with a two-ingredient raspberry chipotle sauce from Bobby Flay.

The pork is butterflied by cutting long slits down its length. This opens the meat up to a flat rectangle surface and is what is wrapped around the stuffing. The stuffing has lots of aromatic fennel, herbs and sweet onions with fresh breadcrumbs and a bit of wine. I like to make my bread crumbs by putting leftover slices into a food processor and blending them into coarse crumbs. The juice from the pork seeps in, which produces a very moist result. But I couldn't just stop there. I remembered watching an old "Boy Meets Grill" episode on the Food Network. Bobby Flay was roasting a southwest spiced pork loin and served it with a raspberry chipotle sauce. It was sweet, spicy and oh so simple. A perfect pairing to the savory, deliciously stuffed pork.

The best part of this meal is a slice of leftover pork with stuffing in between toasted sourdough bread. A slathering of the raspberry sauce

and a touch of mayo for decadence. It's like a pork Thanksgiving sandwich. I know it's too early to think about Thanksgiving but it's never too early to think about a Thanksgiving sandwich.

The weather is supposed to heat up so clip this recipe and save it for a cool, lazy Sunday. But I love it so much, I couldn't wait to make it.

Cheers, Mombeau

## Loin of Pork with Fennel and Raspberry Chipotle Sauce

- 1 3 ½ lb pork loin
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 medium onion
- 1 large bulb of fennel
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 cups fresh bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp white wine
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme, sage or parsley
- Salt and pepper
- Kitchen twine
- ¾ cup raspberry jam
- 2 tbsp adobo sauce

Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Slice your onion and core and slice your fennel. Add to a large sauté pan with one tablespoon of butter and one tablespoon of olive oil. Cook on medium heat with a pinch of salt. Stir every few minutes until they are soft, about 10 minutes. Next add in the garlic. Deglaze the pan with the wine. Scrape up any bits on the bottom then turn off the heat. Add in the breadcrumbs and fresh herbs. Mix together to combine. Set aside.

On a large work surface, lay your pork loin fat side down. Slice the loin down the middle, lengthwise, about two thirds of the way down. Spread the meat apart and make another long slit down the middle of each side cutting two thirds of the way through. The cuts will open up the cut of meat, almost like a pamphlet. Make sure not to cut all the way through. Salt and pepper the cut side. Add the stuffing on top of the meat in an even layer. The stuffing should be about a half-inch layer.

Cut the kitchen twine into three 12-inch pieces. Roll each side of the pork up to make a log. Secure the middle by feeding a piece of twine underneath and tying it above to keep the stuffing in



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

place. Do the same on each end so you have three tied strings. Trim off any extra twine. It should look like a log. Place the meat, fat side up, in an oval baking dish or baking sheet. Rub another tablespoon

of olive oil over the top and season generously with salt and pepper.

Roast for 25 minutes then reduce the temperature to 350 degrees. Bake for 30 more minutes. Remove from the oven and let the meat rest for

10 minutes before slicing.

To make the sauce, add the raspberry jam and adobo sauce to a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer for 10 minutes, whisking, to reduce a bit. Serve warm over the pork.

## COFFEE

Continued from page 2C

hot chocolate, iced teas and lemonade.

Hungry on the run? New Order has a full breakfast program, with everything made in-house to order. The chorizo burrito is the top seller. It features honeybee chorizo, white cheddar, egg and spinach, roasted potatoes in a flour tortilla, with hot sauce and avocado crema on the side. I'll have to get one tomorrow because I can't stop thinking about it. Their sourdough-and-egg breakfast sandwich is also popular and a great vegetarian option. They offer vegetarian burritos as well.

I mentioned a bakehouse earlier — scones, coffee cakes, breakfast bars,

doughnuts — all baked in-house. Fan favorites include the mixed berry oat bar and mini pop tarts. I've never left New Order without at least one mini pop tart. Scone and coffee cake options change with the seasons, and they offer a vegan scone and a gluten-free cinnamon roll scone.

With the holidays approaching, did you know you can have New Order at your family festivities and work parties? A nice cappuccino or espresso after dinner with dessert? New Order has a traveling coffee cart.

"Almost anything you can get in store, you can get on our cart," Seeney said. "We curate the menu based on your event."

You can secure this option via their website or by email. Currently, you

can find New Order at pop-ups around town, like farmers markets. Always check their social media for updates.

This small but energized business is on the Nautical Mile and is being affected by the Jefferson Road construction. Located at 10 Mile, they're nestled between Pat O'Brien's and Baffin Brewery, sharing a portion of their patio, especially on nice days. Parking is in the rear, with a path leading to the front entrance. I can't wait to see what they come up with for their fall flavors.

New Order is open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends. Follow them on Facebook at New Order Coffee, Instagram @newordercoffee or order online at

newordercoffee.com.

"New Order has a singular aim: To delight and energize everyday lives with our coffee." Fun Fact: When I asked how Patrick

came up with the name, he said, "We enjoy music and the band New Order and the way in which we approached coffee was different than many other

shops at the time, so we thought it was a New Order of coffee as well."

I could not agree more. Stay tuned. Stay caffeinated.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT AND JENNIFER TODD PICTURES  
**Left, Celia Imrie as Joyce, Ben Kingsley as Ibrahim Arif, Helen Mirren as Elizabeth Best and Pierce Brosnan as Ron in the 2025 movie "The Thursday Murder Club," directed by Chris Columbus.**



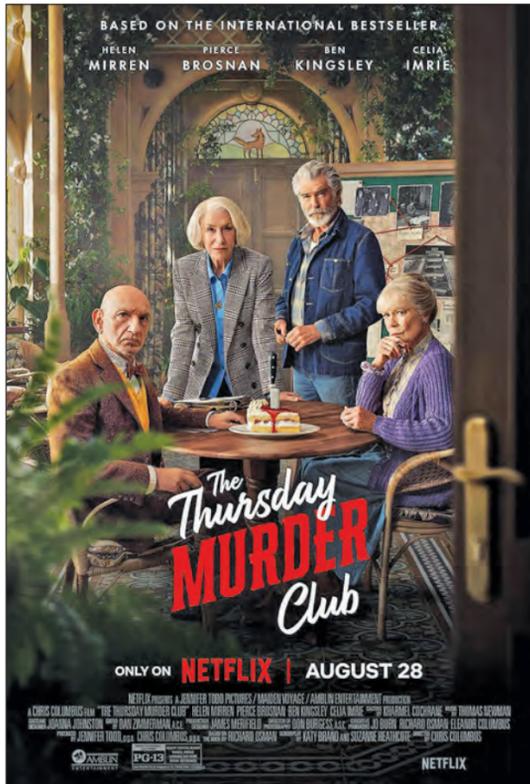
**David Tennant plays Ian Ventham.**

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
 "The Thursday Murder Club"  
 2025 - Rated PG-13  
 1 hr 58 min  
 ★★★★★

Back in the day, my wife and I used to look forward to Thursday evenings. That was the night BBC-produced mysteries aired on Public Television. We were treated to an hour or two of memorable shows like "Poirot," "Inspector Morse," "Prime Suspect," and "Marple." We'd fire up a bowl of popcorn, sit back, and try to figure out who done it. When the movie titled "The Thursday Murder Club" popped up on Netflix, I was intrigued. Then when I saw its stellar lineup of stars which included Dame Helen Mirren ("The Queen," "Hitchcock"), Pierce Brosnan ("The World is Not Enough," "The Thomas Crown Affair,") and Sir Ben Kingsley ("Schindler's List," "Gandhi"), I knew I was in for something special. And I was not disappointed in the least.

"The Thursday Murder Club" is based on the best-selling novels with the same title by Richard Osman. It's what mystery buffs would call a "cozy" whodunit. As opposed to those gritty, graphic type shows. The book was adapted for the screen by Katy Brand and Suzanne Heathcote. I've not read the novels so I can't say how closely they followed the book. But they certainly created an enjoyable story. You know your project is in able hands when director Chris Columbus is at the helm. He's directed and produced an impressive list of films over his long career including "Home Alone," "The Help," a couple "Harry Potter" films and "Nosferatu." He's certainly done a fantastic job here. I think it's amusing that even though the movie is quintessentially British, Columbus is about as American as it gets — he was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Ohio.

The setting is Cooper's Chase, an upscale retirement home in a beautiful country setting in southern England. But it's not



**Movie Poster.**

your run-of-the-mill spot for seniors. It's an opulent manor house that was originally a convent. It's lavishly decorated, full of activities for its residences and you just know the meals they serve are outstanding. Cooper's Chase is the sort of place that makes you look forward to your senior years.

One thing that makes the establishment unique is the residents. Chiefly a trio of folks who call themselves "The Thursday Murder Club." They're a close-knit cadre who love solving murders. The group was founded by Penny, an ex police officer who's since been transferred to the hospice wing and is in a coma. Now, the

# Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"

gang is made up of Bobby Tanner (Richard E. Grant), is a criminal who's been missing for ages and is presumed dead. Then, one of the other partners, Tony Curran (Geoff Bell), is leader, and Ibrahim (Kingsley) a soft-spoken retired psychiatrist.

The Club has taken on a case from 1973, involving a woman who "fell"

more. Luckily, I've heard that Netflix has at least one sequel in the works — what great news! If you enjoy "The Thursday Murder Club" you might also check out "Only Murders in the Building," and "The Man on the Inside." Both spearheaded by older actors.

Currently streaming in Netflix.



more. Luckily, I've heard that Netflix has at least one sequel in the works — what great news! If you enjoy "The Thursday Murder Club" you might also check out "Only Murders in the Building," and "The Man on the Inside." Both spearheaded by older actors.

Currently streaming in Netflix.

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 movie suggestions, feel free to email me at: [dominmark@yahoo.com](mailto:dominmark@yahoo.com).

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

While all this is transpiring, The Thursday Murder Club has taken it upon itself to solve Tony's murder. There are numerous suspects and the Club sets up a crime-solving area in the game room. But they need a bit of help. When an underutilized rookie police inspector Donna de Freitas (Naomi Ackie) shows up to make a presentation about home security, they convince her to help them in their endeavor. She becomes their person on the inside, and a partner in crime, so to speak.

I won't divulge any more of the story, but there are plenty of plot twists to keep you guessing right until the end. I thought the movie was great fun. It was refreshing and one of the better mysteries I've seen in quite a while. The film sped by and when it was over, it had me wanting

of the upper story of a building and was found bloodied with a knife in her stomach. Then Joyce (Celia Imrie) arrives at the home. She a sweet, mild-mannered woman who loves baking mouth-watering cakes. She's a bit reticent about living at Cooper's Chase, but when it's discovered that she's a former nurse, she's welcomed to be part of the Club. Her medical expertise is a perfect addition to the crime-solving group.

One thing I found refreshing was the way the characters were treated. It seems like whenever a film is centered around people of a certain age, they become stereotypes. You know, one-dimensional characters like fuddy-duddies, feeble, or out of their minds. And the stories are just plain corny. But here, they're presented as real people with actual histories. It's similar to the way the older set was showcased in the film, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel." I just wish they'd make more films featuring older talented actors like they did here.

As the story unfolds, we learn that Cooper's Chase is owned by three men. One of whom,



**The Club charts the evidence.**



**Cooper's Chase.**



**Club meeting.**

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# Weekly Challenge

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

9/11 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆  
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## Contract Bridge

### SOLUTION TO A QUANDARY

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ A 6 2  
♥ A K Q  
♦ A K 7 6 3  
♣ Q 10  
**WEST**  
♠ Q J 10 9 3  
♥ J 5 4  
♦ Q J  
♣ 7 6 3  
**EAST**  
♠ 5  
♥ —  
♦ 10 9 8 2  
♣ A K J 9 8 5 4 2  
**SOUTH**  
♠ K 8 7 4  
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 3 2  
♦ 5 4  
♣ —

The bidding:  
North 1♦ East 4♣ South 4♥ West Pass  
6♥  
Opening lead — queen of spades.

Readers who enjoy solving double-dummy problems are invited to test their skill on this hand, which has a neat and instructive twist. (A double-dummy problem is one where you are permitted to look at all four hands while trying to find the solution.) South is in six hearts, and West leads a spade. The contract would be easy to make if the trumps were divided 2-1, or if the spades or diamonds were divided 3-3. But a glance at the East-West hands reveals that none of these

conditions exists. So, the problem is to make six hearts despite the unlucky distribution of the adverse cards.

Here's the solution: Declarer wins the spade lead with the king, crosses to dummy with a trump and plays the queen of clubs. When East covers with the king, South discards a diamond!

Assume East continues with a club. South ruffs and leads a diamond to the king. He next trumps a low diamond and cashes the A-K of hearts, eliminating West's trumps.

Declarer discards one of his spade losers on the diamond ace and then ruffs another diamond, establishing dummy's seven as a trick. The ace of spades provides the entry to dummy that allows South to discard his other spade loser and make the contract.

Actually, this is about as good a way to play the hand as South has, even if the opponents' cards are unknown.

It is, of course, unusual for declarer to give up a club trick when no loser exists in that suit. But it allows the slam to be made if the diamonds are divided either 3-3 or 4-2, regardless of which defender has the greater diamond length.

If a club trick is not relinquished, the contract cannot be made. The unusual character of a play should never be allowed to stand in the way of giving oneself the best chance to succeed.

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by Steve Becker

## Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in TAURUS.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, September 11, 2025:

You're observant, perceptive and independent. You have excellent organizational skills. This is a more laid-back year. Take time to rejuvenate yourself. Focus on business and personal relationships, especially those that require extra kindness, helpfulness and assistance. Concentrate on your needs and what brings you happiness.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
Today you will identify with your possessions, which is why you might be less willing than usual to part with something. Or you might feel you have to defend your values. If making a big purchase, take a moment to think about why you want to do this. Tonight: Check your money.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Today you feel a strong need to "belong" to friends and loved ones. In fact, you feel sensitive to the feelings and the moods of those around you. This means you have a stronger emotional connection with people. Fortunately, things will tend to go your way today. Tonight: Take charge.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Carve out some quiet time today. You need a moment to withdraw and contemplate your navel. You might have to sort out some feelings or think about something. This is not the ideal day to socialize; however, it's an excellent day for inner exploration. Tonight: Seek privacy.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Today the Moon is opposite your sign, which tends to make loved ones and partners feel more important to you. And yet, you might have emotional conflict with them. Guard against knee-jerk reactions. Focus on getting along with others. Tonight: Work.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
Your emotional contact with friends and groups is important to you today. In fact, you might feel protective about someone or ready to defend them. You also might feel a bit jealous if they pay attention to someone else. Tonight: Schmooze.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
People respect you today because it's apparent that you're sensitive about their needs. This is why you might help someone. Likewise, you might be sensitive toward a group. Meanwhile, your private world is more public today — something beyond your control. Tonight: Learn something new.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
Try to break free from your daily routine and go off somewhere. You need a change. You need stimulation! Travel is a great choice, but if you can't travel, do something different. Seek out new friends, especially from different backgrounds. Learn something new. Tonight: Check your finances.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Today the Moon is in TAURUS, and TAURUS and LIBRA are both ruled by Venus, which means both TAURUS and LIBRA people appreciate beautiful things and the good life. Take care of financial details and banking matters. You also might feel possessive about something someone else owns. Tonight: Listen.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
When talking to others today, you want to establish a meaningful level of conversation with someone. You want to speak truthfully, from the heart. You don't want to waste time in idle chitchat about the weather. Your challenge is to find someone else who also wants a meaningful conversation. Not always easy. Tonight: Conversations.

**BORN TODAY**  
Singer-songwriter Harry Connick Jr. (1967), actress Taraji P. Henson (1970), actress Virginia Madsen (1961).

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You'll feel proud of your accomplishments today. Therefore, don't hesitate to roll up your sleeves and dig in! Work for yourself or, better yet, do something to help someone else. This will give you a strong sense of self-respect. Tonight: Friendships.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
This is a playful, loving day! Romance is favored. Perhaps you'll find that you feel protective and nurturing to others — either children or a romantic interest. More than any other sign in the zodiac, you value the tradition of home and family. Tonight: Socialize!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
This is the perfect day to take some "me time" and relax at home or any place where you feel private and secure. If you can do this, you might have a chance to observe how habits are ruling your life. If your habits are helpful, that's fine. If your habits are simply something from the past, think about this. Tonight: Home and family.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
Today you feel a strong need to "belong" to friends and loved ones. In fact, you feel sensitive to the feelings and the moods of those around you. This means you have a stronger emotional connection with people. Fortunately, things will tend to go your way today. Tonight: Take charge.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
Carve out some quiet time today. You need a moment to withdraw and contemplate your navel. You might have to sort out some feelings or think about something. This is not the ideal day to socialize; however, it's an excellent day for inner exploration. Tonight: Seek privacy.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Today the Moon is opposite your sign, which tends to make loved ones and partners feel more important to you. And yet, you might have emotional conflict with them. Guard against knee-jerk reactions. Focus on getting along with others. Tonight: Work.

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 11, 2025

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 "Scuse me"	1 Single-celled organism
5 Chatted and chatted	2 Source of an unguarded comment
10 Clickable symbol	3 "Quit it, you!"
14 Early LP format	4 Leader of the Three Stooges
15 Diva's performance	5 Frontwoman of the fictional Pussycats
16 Nothing, in Spanish	6 Fruit that symbolizes peace in China
17 Great Plains tribe	7 Fortnite couple
18 Fruits for a 1994 Keanu Reeves action film?	8 Bard's "before"
20 Bird in Indigenous Australian art	
21 Fancy scarf fabric	
22 Bench-warmers	
23 Cubes or slices for a 1988 Tom Hanks comedy?	
26 Readied a bow	
29 Sneeze sound	
30 Grp. making snap decisions?	
32 T'Challa's kingdom	
36 Surgery sites, for short	
37 Los Angeles amphitheater ... or a dish for 18-, 23-, 51- and 59-Across?	
41 www.ed. ____	
42 Pollen-producing plant	
43 Vehicle that's been around the block	
46 Bishop's deputy	
50 ____ firma	
51 Salty snacks for a 2011 Ryan Gosling action film?	
55 Stop	
57 Overly fussy	
58 Cause to go "Vroom!"	
59 Sweet spread for a 2000 Michael Douglas drama?	
62 "Stat!"	
63 "____ It Fun" (Paramore hit)	
64 Heavy animal in a crash	
65 Summer wine choice	
66 Murder mystery party "discovery"	
67 Icicle sites on a roof	
68 Indie ____ (hipster's rep)	
9 Parents known for their jokes	
10 "Not quite yet"	
11 Bee's knees	
12 "____ to Joy"	
13 Beers for the sober curious: Abbr.	
19 Like some citizenships	
21 Sandbar	
24 Monk's hood	
25 Support, as a scholarship	
27 Rap's Sweatshirt	
28 Private chats on Insta	
31 Slowly disappear	
33 Name hidden backward in "Mary-Kate"	
34 Grammy or Oscar	
35 Eggy drink	
37 Watering can filler	
38 Like most tennis serves	
39 Cut at an angle	
40 Thor's father	
41 Belly	
44 Not keeping out cold air	
45 Baby hippo or cow	
47 Desktop arrow	
48 "Relax, cadet!"	
49 Replied to an invitation	
52 Former Indian statesman	
53 Gandhi	
54 Foolish for "Let's go!"	
56 Wear out	
59 Safari navigation aid?	
60 ____ Grande	
61 "____-ching!"	
62 Shape of a hero's journey	

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

9/4 Solution  
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9/11 **Bite Club by Geoffrey Schorkopf**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18				19				
20			21				22					
23		24				25	26			27	28	
29						30	31					
		32		33	34	35				36		
	37	38							39	40		
41				42								
43		44	45					46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53	54				
		55			56	57				58		
59	60				61					62		
63				64						65		
66				67						68		

# THURSDAY COMICS

**Peanuts**  
Charles M. Schulz

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A LUCKY STAR, CHARLIE BROWN?

I DON'T KNOW

I THINK YOU DO, CHARLIE BROWN...

AND THERE IT WENT!

**Bizarro** Dan Piraro and Wayno

MIXED DOUBLES

**Andy Capp**

HEY, BOB. YOU'LL BE GLAD TO HEAR I WON'T BE GIVING YOU A HARD TIME TONIGHT

Tonight  
MUSIC  
GUITAR  
BOB

HAVE YOU FINALLY LEARNT TO APPRECIATE MY MUSIC, MR. CAPP?

NO, I'M GOING TO THE RIVETERS

Tonight  
MUSIC  
GUITAR  
BOB

**Flying McCoys** Glenn McCoy

BRAD BRINGS HIS HOME ISSUES TO WORK

THE VICTIMS OF THIS VIRUS ARE WOMEN BEYOND CHILD-BEARING AGE. AS YOU GET CLOSER TO ONE, THEY QUICKLY DEVELOP A HEADACHE.

MY WIFE HAS IT.

**B.C.** Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

I UPSOLD HIM ON THE SPORTS PACKAGE.

**Reality Check** Dave Whamond

I TELL YA-- 4 KIDS ARE ENOUGH! LAST WEEK, I HAD MY McNUGGETS REMOVED!

He's LOVIN' IT!

**Beetle Bailey** Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

Mort Walker's **beetle bailey** 75 Years of Smiles

TO ORDER THE NEW BOOK GO TO: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8d5uxp>

**The Lockhorns** Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

"THAT WAS OUR SMOOTHEST ROUGH PATCH YET."

**Mother Goose and Grim** Mike Peters

SUMO IS DEFINITELY THE UNDISPUTED HULA HOOP CHAMP

HIS HOOPS AINT EVER TOUCHING THE GROUND!

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

"I WISH I WAS AS GOOD GETTING OUT OF TROUBLE AS I WAS GETTING INTO TROUBLE."

**Crankshaft** Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

\*PANT\*... THAT WAS \*PUFF\*... CLOSE!

I JUST NEED TO SIT DOWN FOR A SECOND TO CATCH MY BREATH...

**Carpe Diem** Niklas Eriksson

ALWAYS ON THE RUG...

WHEN ROBODOGS THROW UP.

**Wumo** Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

LET IT GO!

Why dogs aren't used as delivery couriers

# THURSDAY COMICS



Garfield



Jim Davis



JIM DAVIS 8-7

Hagar The Horrible (Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren



Close To Home John McPherson



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



Having foolishly consumed two bottles of melatonin, Jay Blumenfeld woke up in the year 2805.

Ziggy Tom Wilson



Blondie Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Marmaduke Paul & Brad Anderson



"Nothing is junk to Marmaduke."

Crock Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Popeye Bud Sagendorf

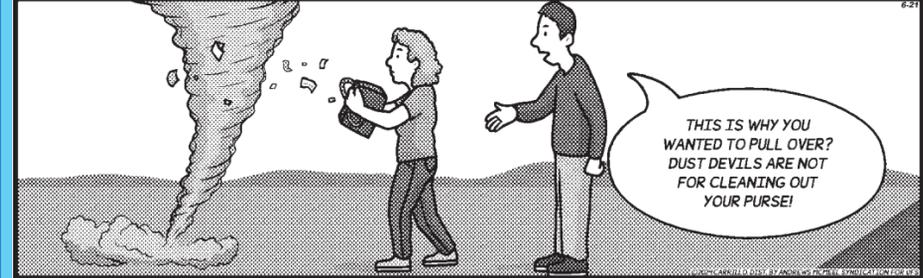


Family Circus Bill and Jeff Keane



"Aw, Mommy! You couldn't REALLY grow potatoes in my ears, could you?"

F Minus Tony Carrilo



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Bill and Jeff Keane



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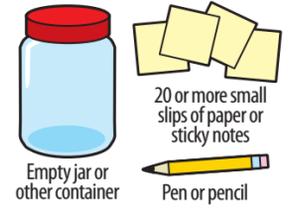
Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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**Kid Scoop Together**

**Make an Encouragement Jar**

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



DIRECTIONS:

1. Write an encouraging phrase on each of the slips of paper.
2. Decorate your jar or container.
3. Fold up the slips of paper and put them in the jar.
4. Each day, take one out and read it!
5. Smile! Remember, smile, and others will smile with you!

IDEAS FOR NOTES:

I am confident.	I am brave.
I am kind.	I can make a difference.
I am creative.	I can be a good friend.
I'm a problem solver.	I'm a good sport.
I cheer for my friends to succeed.	I'm nice to people at school.
I'm a problem solver.	I learn new things every day.
I help friends feel happy.	I learn from my mistakes.

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**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

This week's word: **ENCOURAGE**  
The verb **encourage** means to give someone hope, courage or confidence.

My grandfather encouraged me to study math.

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

**Write On!**

**Be an Encourager!**  
Write an encouraging sentence to give to a friend.

**CELEBRATE BE AN ENCOURAGER DAY**

**Encouragement is free!** It never costs us anything to say a few encouraging words to a friend, a classmate, a family member or even a pet!

Encouragement lifts someone's spirits when they are feeling down. It can also help someone reach a goal. Can you think of a time when someone encouraged you? Can you think of a time when you encouraged someone?



Jeff tried really hard to win the race but came in third place. What would you say to encourage Jeff?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Amy has been working hard in math. When she didn't get an A on her test, she was disappointed. What would you say to encourage her?

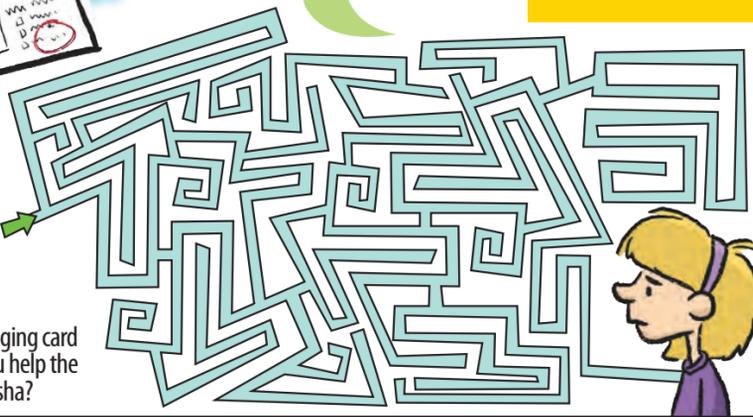
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Maya is sending an encouraging card to her friend, Sasha. Can you help the card find its way to Sasha?



Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

**How to Be an Encourager**



Do you know someone who is feeling a little discouraged?

Make a list of five positive things about this person. Send it to them or read it to them!

Include things that you appreciate about them and things they are good at. Here are some ideas:

Believe in yourself!

You're such a great friend!

You're super kind and helpful!

You are worth it!

You can do it!

You are important!

You're unique and special!

You're very smart!

You're really good at drawing!

You'll see a really BIG difference once you've helped them feel encouraged!

**Extra! Extra! Encouraging Words**

Look through the newspaper for words that make up one or more encouraging sentences. Cut these out and glue them onto note paper.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Use the code to reveal some words of encouragement to use with friends and family.

<b>SECRET CODE</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>A</b>
26=A	25	9	18
25=B	12=O	15	15
24=C	11=P	18	26
23=D	10=Q	13	7
22=E	9=R	<b>C</b>	
21=F	8=S	22	15
20=G	7=T	15	22
19=H	6=U	13	7
18=I	5=V	26	8
17=J	4=W	7	26
16=K	3=X	8	7
15=L	2=Y	21	18
14=M	1=Z	26	8
		4	22
		8	12
		14	22
		26	9
		5	22
		15	12
		6	8
		<b>U</b>	
		8	6
		11	22
		9	

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

**Double Double Word Search**

- FEELING
- FRIEND
- GOAL
- GOOD
- GREAT
- IDEAS
- KIND
- NICE
- PET
- POSITIVE
- TEST
- THINK
- TRIED
- WORDS
- WORTH

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

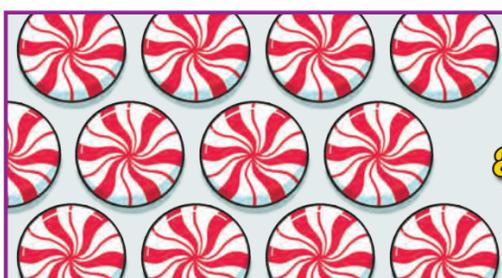
S	W	Z	F	E	E	L	I	N	G
L	Q	O	A	R	C	P	N	I	P
A	W	D	R	L	I	X	H	C	O
O	H	U	P	D	J	E	Q	E	S
G	T	I	E	K	S	Z	N	Y	I
O	R	D	T	N	I	S	K	D	T
O	O	E	B	I	J	N	C	L	I
D	W	A	A	H	V	W	D	Y	V
J	T	S	E	T	R	I	E	D	E

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

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**Cause and Effect**  
When someone smiles at you, it can cause you to smile back. This is a cause (the other person's smile) and effect (your smile). Look through the newspaper for an example of something caused by something else.

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.



**What kind of candy always cheers people up?**

ANSWER: Encourage-mints!

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# SPORTS

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## Blue Devils fend off North's late push to win soccer rivalry match

By Mike Adzima  
 Sports Reporter

Before the Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North varsity boys soccer teams enter the heart of their regular season schedules with games against division foes, arguably the biggest game of the fall for both teams came Saturday, Sept. 6. The Blue Devils hosted the Norsemen for this year's edition of the crosstown rivalry match. South looked largely dominant for much of the afternoon, with a late push by North bringing the final score to a close 3-2.

"The boys already knew that's probably the

biggest game of the regular season for us with the rivalry and how far back it goes and how everyone knows each other," South boys soccer head coach Joe Cada said. "... I really think we dominated the game in all aspects until the last five or six minutes of the game."

Neither team was able to break through much of the first half. South had the bulk of scoring chances early on, but it took until the 35th minute of the game for the Blue Devils to find the back of the net. Junior Jacob Duso put South in front 1-0 with a goal that got a lucky bounce off the North goalkeeper.

The one-goal advantage for the Blue Devils stuck into halftime.

South grew its lead to two early in the second half with a goal by senior Isaac Snyder. The advantage became three goals when the Blue Devils were awarded a penalty kick later in the second half, with senior Jonah Bukovec taking advantage of the opportunity and finding the back of the net.

With a three-goal lead in the second half, South was content to sit back and let the clock run out. However, the Norsemen proved they would not go down without a fight. Jakub Lutaborski scored North's first goal of the



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Camden Bartalino tries to keep the ball with North's Jakub Lutaborski in pursuit.



South teammates celebrate with Jacob Duso (No. 8) after scoring the first goal in the team's 3-2 win over North last Saturday, Sept. 6.

day with less than 10 minutes remaining.

North continued to push and scored again in the game's final two minutes, with Jean-Paul Shemmai making it 3-2. North's late surge fell just short, as the team ran out of time in the comeback effort and the Blue Devils claimed the rivalry win.

"The first chunk of the game was really what I wanted to see from them," Cada said. "(They

really playing good soccer, keeping the ball on the ground, moving the ball fast and keeping the ball in their zone. I tell the boys every day and every game is about cleaning up what we did bad and improving on what we did well and being the best version of ourselves every day."

South was back in action quickly Monday, Sept. 8, taking on Eisenhower in a match that ended in a 0-0 draw.

The Blue Devils hosted Dakota Wednesday, Sept. 10, after press time. They head on the road Monday, Sept. 15, to face Romeo.

The Norsemen also played Monday, Sept. 8, picking up a 4-1 victory over Sterling Heights. North faced L'Anse Creuse on the road after press time Wednesday, Sept. 10. The Norsemen are away again Monday, Sept. 15, taking on Marysville.

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Liggett's Ancona demonstrating leadership and dominance on soccer pitch

By Mike Adzima  
 Sports Reporter

In the first few weeks of the high school boys soccer season, University Liggett School's Brady Ancona arguably has been one of the most dominant players in the state. The junior has

made his presence known in every game so far for the Knights and has shown that good things tend to happen whenever he touches the ball.

The son of a goalie, Ancona has been playing soccer as long as he can remember and has been

coached by his dad in training and at the club level for years. However, he has become the opposite of what his dad did as a keeper, terrorizing goalies as the heart of Liggett's attack at the striker position.

"I'm pretty fast and use my speed as an advan-

tage," Ancona said while describing his approach to the game. "I'm very aware of what's going on around me and where I should be passing, or when I should pass or shoot in front of the net. I don't like to do everything by myself and really like being a team player."

Ancona can take over a game and come up with a goal or a clutch pass when his team needs it most. He has scored seven goals in the team's first five games and also tallied eight assists.

Ancona enjoys setting up his teammates with scoring chances as much as they set them up for him. Ancona knows he is part of a team that feels like it is full of talent across the board. The cohesion he feels with his teammates, especially the ones who have been with him on the pitch since they were freshmen, is something that could be invaluable for Ancona and the

team's success.

"We're all about positivity and staying positive with each other," he said. "When we make mistakes, we all just try to win the ball back for each other."

Especially when new freshmen come in, we try to be friendly with them and get to know them right away. ... We click so well together and I think that's an advantage we might have over other teams. We're like brothers."

The level of chemistry Ancona feels with his teammates brings a level of consistency for Liggett. He knows he can rely on any of his teammates in any given

moment of a game, creating plays for himself or anyone else.

That consistency also is present in the level of coaching Ancona is fortunate to have at Liggett. He has played his entire varsity career since he was a freshman under coach David Dwaihy, who has become one of Ancona's biggest mentors. Dwaihy and his staff have helped teach Ancona lessons on and off the field. He particularly likes how much his coaches emphasize accountability and the fact it is still a team game no matter what.

"They hold us very accountable for stuff we do," Ancona said. "... They really want us to be focused. Coach Dwaihy



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior striker Brady Ancona leads Liggett boys soccer in goals so far this season.

Grosse Pointe News

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Brady Ancona**

School: University Liggett  
 Sport: Soccer

### Brilliant Brady

- 7 goals and 8 assists in 5 games for ULS boys soccer this season
- Scored game-winning goal in 1-0 win over Detroit Cristo Rey Aug. 21
- Member of ULS varsity boys soccer since freshman year

See ATHLETE, page 2D

2D | SPORTS

# National and state rankings, state cuts anchor hot start for South girls swim and dive

By Meg Leonard  
Guest Writer

Very little is feeling second best about this year's girls varsity swim and dive team at Grosse Pointe South.

The Blue Devils have started out their young season hot, as they find themselves sitting at the top of the MAC Red conference standings at 2-1, earning 34 state qualifying times across multiple events — and with a loaded roster that boasts two swimmers with times ranked in the top 10 in the nation.

While the 2025 squad is currently ranked the No. 2 team in Division 2 by the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association, the team's only loss came in a close contest at the hands of five-time defending Division 1 state champion, Ann Arbor Pioneer.

The team's ultimate goal? Topping reigning D2 champion Farmington Hills Mercy, after finishing second to the Marlins in last season's state championship.

"This is definitely a hot start," said South head coach John Fodell. "I'm not sure we have been sitting on a hill this high so early...We bat-

tled with Pioneer better than we have in the past. The girls are not overwhelmed by any one team. I think it's settling in how good we can be."

Fodell likened the season to a chess game, where each race informs the coaches' next move for matchups to position his team for success.

With eight swimmers achieving state cuts just three meets into the new campaign, the Blue Devils appear poised for a championship season. A whopping 24 swimmers have earned time cuts to compete in next month's Wayne County meet.

South's success thus far has been buoyed by a strong core of underclassmen. Of the eight swimmers with state qualifying times, three are seniors, while five are freshmen and sophomores.

These include freshman phenom Corrine Stencil, who has already earned six state cuts. Sophomore Caroline Bryan has logged times fast enough to earn two top 10 national rankings. While the standings are fluid and are certain to fluctuate with each ranked swimmer's next race, Bryan is currently ranked third in the country in the 100

fly (56.63) and ninth in the 200 IM (2:09.36) as of press time.

Additionally, senior captain Mischa Eng is currently ranked 10th in the country in backstroke with a time of 58.19.

The Blue Devils secured their second consecutive win of the season Sept. 4, with a 148-35 victory over league foe L'Anse Creuse North. South won all 12 events, including a season-best performance from sophomore diver Ava Gerhard, who won the diving competition with a score of 190.58.

Other top performances against the Crusaders that earned state cuts include:

◆ Caroline Bryan, who took first in the 200 free (1:56.99) and 500 free (5:16.03). She also earned a state qualifying time in the 100 free in 55.45 by swimming the lead-off leg of the first place 400 free relay.

◆ Senior Heidi Bryan finished second in the 100 fly in 1:02.18. Eng won the event in 59.62.

◆ New Blue Devil and junior Olivia Colt, a transfer from Hawaii, took third in the 200 free in 2:02.19.

◆ Sophomore Nicole McEnroe won the 100



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

Grosse Pointe South varsity divers, from left, Ava Gerhard, Sonia Gehring and Sicily Spangler.

free in 55.65 and took second in the 200 free in 2:00.77.

◆ Stencil won the 200 IM in 2:16.08 and placed second in the 100 Free in 55.99.

South's stellar meet performance Sept. 4 prompted an unprecedented, but heartening, sight on the pool deck.

Crusaders head coach Mike Owensby gathered South's athletes to offer praise for their performance and encouraged them to keep reaching new heights. Owensby also voiced that not

many teams in the MAC have a chance at the state title, so he is rooting for the Blue Devils to win it all.

"I think after that talk, the girls started sensing that something is happening here," Fodell noted.

"It's all about the battle and I think these girls are ready for it," he added about the season-long grind. "This is the best team I have had to start the season, with the most talent and most depth across the board.

"But we gotta stay healthy," he added. "Some people got sick toward the end of last year and it hurt. How healthy we can stay will be a big factor."

South hit the road Tuesday, Sept. 9, to take on Fraser after press time. They return home Tuesday, Sept. 16, to host Grosse Pointe North, a meet after which the Blue Devils will host a "Friendsgiving" meal with their crosstown rivals. The meet begins at 6 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Brady Ancona takes the ball into the attacking zone during a game against Shrine Catholic last season.

## ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

really likes to play everybody and it's fun to see everybody out there getting a chance and playing with each other."

Dwaihy helped lead Liggett's varsity girls soccer team to an appearance in the Division 4 state championship game during the spring season. That has created a benchmark Ancona wants to help the boys program at Liggett reach. There is still a long time to go before Ancona and the Knights can even think about the postseason. However, believing he and his teammates are strong enough to compete for a state championship themselves has become Ancona's biggest goal for the season.

"We really want to make a run in the playoffs and be there when it comes down to the state

semifinals and state finals," he said. "For myself, I just want to keep playing hard."

Ancona can sound humble, but his dedication to the team never goes unnoticed. His personal improvements help to lift all the Knights and elevate the team to where it wants to be, and his coaches see the potential in him for true leadership.

"Brady worked extremely hard in the offseason and has been playing some really inspired soccer so far," Dwaihy said. "He's an exceptionally talented player who is able to run at defenders with confidence and control, and he's been the engineer to the vast majority of our chances and goals...He's a positive and supportive teammate. I can't say enough about him, and we're so grateful to have such a high quality player and person in our program."



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Grosse Pointe News

# Blue Devils football hangs on for road win against Romeo

Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The difference between Week 1 and Week 2 of the varsity high school football season for Grosse Pointe South was almost like night and day. The Blue Devils dominated Detroit Renaissance 49-0 in the season opener, but had a much tougher task awaiting them Friday, Sept. 5, going on the road to face Romeo. It was a much closer game, but South was able to overcome the Bulldogs 21-18 to start the season 2-0.

"It doesn't get much harder than going on the road an hour away to play a MAC Red opponent," South football head coach Chad Hepner said. "We had to grit this one out. We certainly didn't play a perfect game, but we made some plays when we needed to and were able to hang in there to get it done."

The Blue Devils and Bulldogs fought to a stalemate in the first quarter, with both teams looking ready for a close battle. South experienced playing from behind for the first time this season when Romeo took the lead in the second quarter on a 26-yard touchdown run by Parker Cohoon.

South was able to get the touchdown back soon after on a rushing score



Grosse Pointe South varsity football head coach Chad Hepner addresses the team after South's 21-18 road victory against Romeo last Friday, Sept. 5.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

by junior quarterback Sam Rouleau. However, a blocked extra-point attempt left the Blue Devils down by a point at 7-6. Charlie Michelotti put South ahead before halftime with a rushing touchdown and a successful two-point conversion made it 14-7 South going into the locker room.

Romeo began the third quarter with a field goal to reduce the deficit to four points. Rouleau showcased his legs again later in the quarter, scoring South's only points of the second half with a 60-yard rushing touch-

down to put his team ahead 21-10.

While Rouleau looked solid most of the night, especially with his work on the ground, a mistake early in the fourth quarter proved costly. An interception left Romeo with good field position that turned into points in the form of a touchdown catch by Joey Nepa. Romeo's successful two-point conversion brought the game back to within one score at 21-18.

With over nine minutes left, South was able to hang on. The offense kept things mostly on the ground and chewed up

large chunks of clock, seeming determined not to let the Bulldogs touch the ball again. South took a risk by going for it on fourth down with five yards to go and over four minutes left on the clock, but Rouleau found Stanton Kapla with enough space to pick up the first down and effectively ice the game away after that.

Rouleau finished the game completing 14 of his 19 passing attempts for 172 yards, while also rushing for 71 yards and two touchdowns. Michelotti rushed for 69 yards on 13 carries. Trey

Grabowski led the team in receiving with 60 yards on two catches, while Kooper Richards also had a strong game with six catches for 54 yards. On defense, AJ Zieleniewski had eight tackles, including two tackles for loss and half a sack. Simon Justin finished the game with one and a half sacks.

After coming away with a win on the road over a MAC Red Division opponent, South now turns its attention to MAC White Division play against its own league foes. Up first is Utica, which South hosts in

Week 3 Friday, Sept. 12, as the Blue Devils begin their quest for a fourth consecutive division title.

"We have had success in the MAC White in the last few years and that's not only a goal, but an expectation," Hepner said. "They're going to be ready. We're back at home and now that school's back in session, we expect a good student section. This group is ready to attack every day in practice and on game-day, so we're excited about it."

South and Utica kickoff at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12.

# North football drops to 0-2 after shutout loss to Cousino

Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The football field at Warren Cousino has not been kind to the Grosse Pointe North varsity football team so far in 2025. The Norsemen traveled there for a Week 1 game against Utica, who was using the field as a temporary home, and went back Friday, Sept. 5, to take on Cousino in a Week 2

matchup. As it did in the opening game against Utica, last Friday's game ended in a loss for North, who now stands at 0-2 this season after the 33-0 defeat.

North opened the game with the ball and put together a long first drive that took up a majority of the first quarter. The team moved into Cousino territory, but was unable to

come up with any points due to a missed field goal. The Patriots then broke onto the scoreboard first in the final seconds of the opening frame with a long touchdown catch by Julian Hayes thrown by Brick Sandridge.

Demarkus Wright extended the lead for the Patriots to 14-0 with a late-second-quarter touchdown, sending North into the locker room down two scores. Cousino's lead continued to grow early in the second half with a touchdown pass by Sandridge to Daniel Carter, making it a 21-0 game. Hayes then caught his second touchdown of the night to put the Patriots in front 27-0 before the start of the fourth quarter.

In the final frame, Carter added another touchdown on the ground for Cousino to put the deficit at 33 points for the Norsemen. North put together a late drive with some promise to avoid being shut out, but a fumble near Cousino's goal line left North scoreless.

North senior quarterback Jacob Sahadi finished the game, completing nine of 15 attempts for 133 yards and also had 50 rushing yards. Phil Prost led the team in receiving with three catches for 75 yards.

After opening the sea-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior running back Steven Santamaria carries the ball for North during the team's opening drive against Cousino last Friday, Sept. 5. Santamaria finished the game with 47 yards on the ground.



North quarterback Jacob Sahadi drops back to pass against Cousino. The senior had 133 passing yards in the team's loss.

son with back-to-back games on the road, North gets its home

opener in Week 3. The Norsemen start MAC Gold Division play host-

ing Lamphere Friday, Sept. 12, with kickoff at 7 p.m.

4D | SPORTS

# Longtime South golf coach enshrined in hall of fame

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

During nearly two decades of coaching golf at Grosse Pointe South, winning always felt secondary to Rob McIntyre. The Blue Devils did plenty of winning during McIntyre's tenure, but his main focus was helping his athletes grow and develop on and off the course. For both his wins and his mentorship, McIntyre was recognized as an inductee into the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame in August.

"I never thought starting off that I would be recognized at this level," he said. "I never did it for the accolades, but to be recognized is a huge honor. ... When I was writing my speech, you're supposed to go through three big points that were hallmarks of my career. None of them had to do with winning as much. I had the state title and the state runner-



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert McIntyre, third from left, with his fellow inductees in the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class of 2025. McIntyre spent nearly two decades working with both the boys and girls golf programs at Grosse Pointe South, leading the boys team to the Division 1 state title in 2018.

ner-ups — and those were special moments — but a lot of the things that I think about more are the moments with the team and where they had personal growth or camaraderie."

Before being a head coach for more than a decade and a half, McIntyre began his coaching career at

South in 2004, as an assistant coach for boys golf. He worked with then-head coach Doug Roby, who became a role model for McIntyre in shaping what a coach should be.

"I paid attention a lot to what Doug Roby taught me about coaching," McIntyre said. "We didn't always agree ...

but we always talked about the group and he was an excellent person to take over for. He was a coach of coaches."

McIntyre took over as head coach in 2008, staying with the boys team at South through the 2023 season. He also spent two seasons as the girls golf head coach in 2018 and 2019.

During his time with the boys program, the Blue Devils were nine-time MAC Red Division champions and won the Division 1 state championship in 2018. The team finished as the state runner-up three times in 2016, 2017 and 2019, with the girls team also finishing as runner-up in 2019 under

McIntyre's leadership. Winning was only part of the journey for McIntyre during his coaching career. During his time as a coach and science teacher at Grosse Pointe South and Parcels Middle School, he helped his students and athletes learn valuable life skills beyond the classroom or golf course. That is what he feels has defined his career more than anything.

"I always had measurable goals being a science guy, but most of the time, nobody knew those goals besides me and I was steering the ship knowing what I wanted to have happen," McIntyre said. "I would let the players know what I wanted to let them know the goals were. ... If you did things the right way, we'd end up where we should be and we focused on doing things the right way. I would never have scores as a goal. ... The big thing was always to do things the right way."

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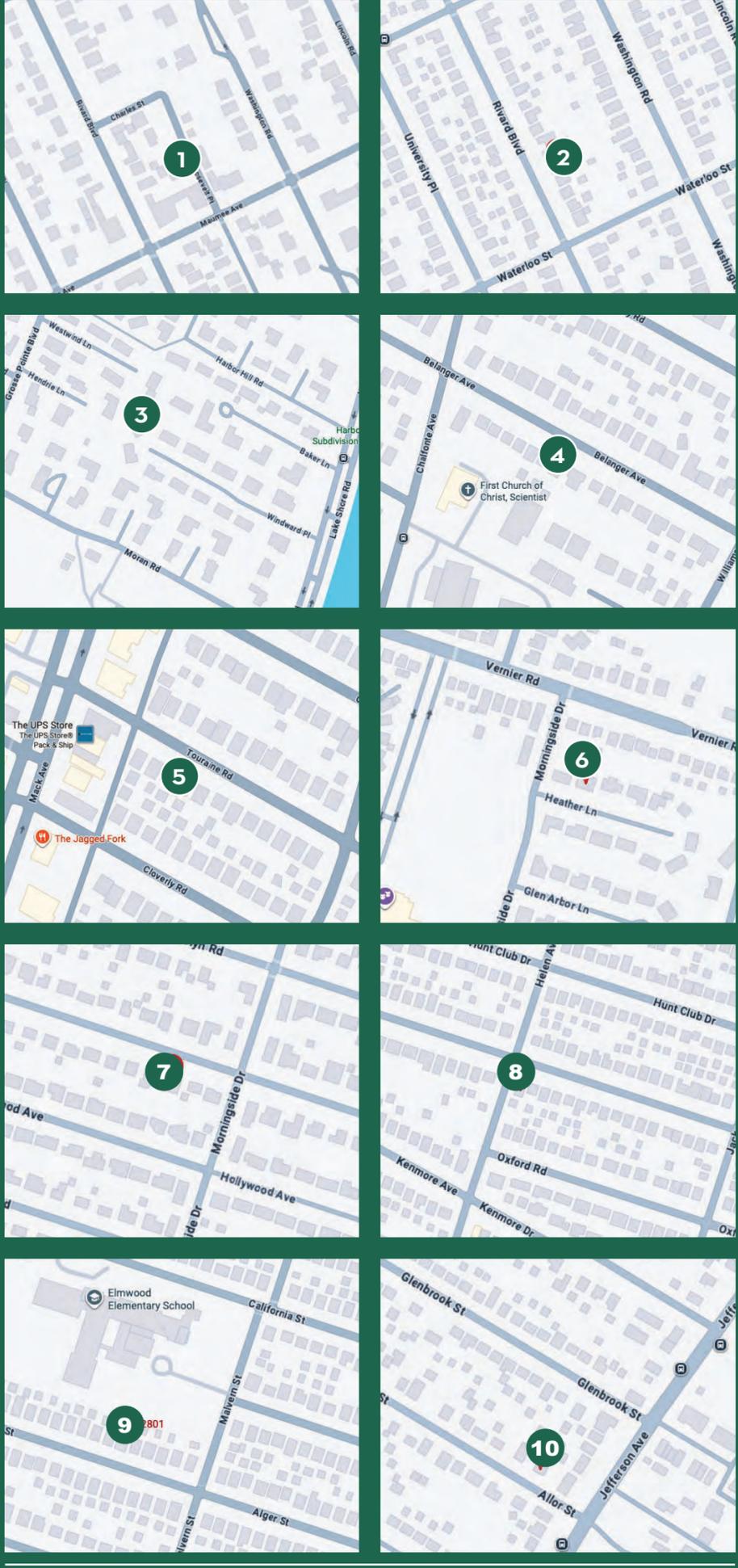


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**THIS WEEK:**

- 395 Roosevelt Place, GP
- 660 Rivard Blvd, GP
- 12 Windward Place, GPF
- 361 Belanger, GPF
- 471 Touraine, GPF
- 594 Heather Lane, GPW
- 707 Hampton Road, GPW
- 2081 Norwood, GPW
- 22801 Alger, SCS
- 23709 Allor, SCS

See Classifieds for more details

● = ESTATE SALE ○ = YARD SALE



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARIZONA CARDINALS

# Johnson shines in NFL debut

Former Grosse Pointe South Blue Devil Will Johnson made his NFL debut Sunday, Sept. 7, with the Arizona Cardinals. Johnson was a standout on Arizona's defense with one tackle and three pass defenses in the team's 20-13 win over the New Orleans Saints.

## HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:



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School is back in session and the fall sports season is heating up. If you're looking for a place to keep up with all the action, look no further than @GPNewsports on Instagram. Our page is dedicated to providing fans around the Pointes and beyond with the latest news and features surrounding Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett sports.

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### CROSS COUNTRY

Grosse Pointe South girls cross country placed second out of 12 teams at the Algonac Muskrat Invitational last Saturday, Sept. 6. Freshman Eleanor Pilsner finished third overall in the field with a time of 20:26. Morgan Costello and Rylee Piornack also made it into the top ten in seventh and ninth place, respectively. Lydia Thompson-Redus crossed the finish line 13th, while Erin Korsak came in 19th and Viviana Ostrowski in 20th to round out the top 20.

South's boys team finished sixth overall in Alognac last Saturday. The team's top runner was Everett Wood, who came in 21st with a time of 18:21. Oscar Resnick also cracked the top 25 in 23rd place. Both the boys and girls teams for South are in action again Saturday, Sept. 13, in the Autumn Classic at Stoney Creek Metropark.

COURTESY PHOTO  
**Eleanor Pilsner**



### FOOTBALL

University Liggett School varsity football dropped to 0-2 this fall with a 61-0 loss to Detroit Country Day last Saturday, Sept. 6. The Knights take their home field once again Saturday, Sept. 13, for a matchup against Bishop Foley at 1 p.m

### FIELD HOCKEY

Grosse Pointe South field hockey took the field twice last Saturday, Sept. 6, as part of a tournament hosted by Dexter. South's first game was a 3-2 win over Ann Arbor Huron, with two goals scored by Therese Carron and another by Evelyn Wodzisz. The Blue Devils then suffered a 2-0 loss to Ann Arbor Skyline in the next game. The Blue Devils return home to host Dexter Thursday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

