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Required 10-digit dialing in effect

All local calls made by customers within the 313 area code must now be placed using 10 digits — including both the area code and seven-digit telephone number — as the area gets ready for a new overlay area code.

Any local calls placed using just seven digits, without an area code, will not be completed.

This is the final phase of the implementation of a new 679 area code in metro Detroit, as the area's long-serving 313 area code is running out of available numbers to assign to new customers. An important note: Current 313 area code customers will not have to change their phone number and will be able

See DIGITS, page 5A



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK PUBLIC SAFETY

Two-year-old Sam Shifan of Grosse Pointe Park got a second chance at life due to the combined efforts of Dispatcher Rachel Young, left, and PSO Jesse Lafriniere, right. Both received a Department Life-Saving Award Monday, Oct. 13. With them is Chief Jim Bostock, presenter of the honors.

Park honors real heroes

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Overuse of the platitude “hero” risks diluting its significance to the level of a participation award, but not this week at a life-saving award ceremony.

Two members of the public safety department, PSO Jesse Lafriniere and Dispatcher Rachel Young, earned the billing

for actions outlined during the Oct. 13 city council meeting.

Evidence was 2-year-old Sam Shifan, running around council chambers full of the life he almost lost by choking on a grape Aug. 25.

“All too often, the term ‘hero’ is used open-handedly,” Chief Jim Bostock said. “Tonight, that word holds special meaning. Not just for two members of the department, but

for the Shifan family and their son, Sam.”

Young answered the 911 call reporting the boy choking and not breathing. Lafriniere arrived first on scene.

“Officer Lafriniere immediately sprang into action,” Bostock said, “lifting the child and turning him over to administer black blows. When this had no effect, he turned the child over

abdominal blows.”

Still no luck.

“Officer Lafriniere again placed the child prone and administered additional back blows,” Bostock said. “These efforts began to dislodge the object. Continued black blows freed it completely.”

“This shows what quick thinking and good training can do,” Mayor

See HEROES, page 5A

GPPSS updating strategic plan

By Ted O’Neil
 Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Grosse Pointe Public School System is about to embark on a five-month process to update its strategic plan, which was last revised in 2021.

The GPPSS Board of Education voted unanimously at its meeting Monday, Oct. 6, to contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards to assist at a cost just shy of \$11,000.

Debbie Stair, assistant director of leadership development at MASA, said research has shown school districts perform better when school boards focus on five main areas: community leadership, policies, accountability, vision and relationships.

“The most important, when it comes to a strategic plan, is vision,” she said. “What is it we want this district to be as we look to the future?”

Stair said the process is meant to identify four to five main goals for the district to focus on over the next five years.

“We used to do plans for 10 to 15 years, but you can’t plan that far

See PLAN, page 13A

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 SECTION C

Prelim pool complex site plan approved

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

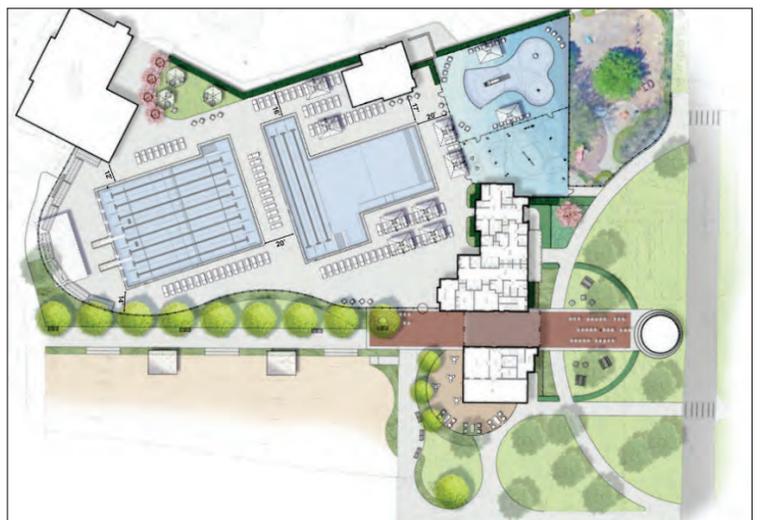
GROSSE POINTE FARMS — After being revised close to 28 times based on resident and committee feedback, the preliminary site plan for an estimated \$12 million to \$14 million revamp of the Pier Park aquatic facility unanimously was passed by city council Monday night.

Those leading the project addressed and incorporated constituents’

concerns so seriously, in fact, the only remaining issue raised prior to council’s vote was a plea to work around existing trees rather than remove and replace them; such specifics will be determined at a later stage of planning.

“What you’ll see tonight is really a summation of that feedback to the best of our ability,” City Manager Shane Reeside said. “With that said, not

See POOL, page 8A



RENDERING COURTESY OF GRISSIM METZ ANDRIESE ASSOCIATES

The approved preliminary site plan includes recreation and competition pools, an expanded tot pool, new splash pad and new bathhouse.

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Laura Meyer

Home: Grosse Pointe Park
 Owner of Maison Parc flower shop



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A word from candidates seeking office in uncontested races

By Grosse Pointe News staff

THE GROSSE POINTES

— While the bulk of our election coverage in today's paper focuses on contested city council and mayoral races, we also reached out to candidates running unopposed and offered them the opportunity to mention what they've accomplished this term and/or what they hope to accomplish in a new term. All are incumbents except for Scott Houghton, running for Grosse Pointe Shores City Council, and John Parnell Jr., running for municipal judge in Grosse Pointe Park.

Here are the responses we received.

Farms

Councilwoman Beth Konrad-Wilberding

I've been a proud member of the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council since 2019.

I am committed to serving our community with fiscal integrity, infrastructure improvements, strong public safety, community input and government transparency.

I have served on the following committees and leadership positions:

- ◆ co-chair of the communications committee, which has revamped the city website and estab-

lished live streaming and recordings of all our council meetings,

- ◆ member of the parks and harbor committee, including the current "pool committee" working on the proposed aquatic complex at Pier Park. The committee also has played a role in improving several park facilities including the pickleball and tennis courts, swimming programs, picnic tables, concession management and security,

- ◆ mayor pro tem for 2024-2025 and

- ◆ vice chair of the Active Adult Commission, which is the intergovernmental agency representing the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communities and created for the purpose of managing millage funds to support services for older citizens including transportation.

Other community involvement includes serving as a member of the Grosse Pointe Rotary and Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club, contributor to the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation, supporter and advocate for The

Family Center, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and Grosse Pointe Public Library and as the past president and current board member of the Society of Professional Journalists — Detroit Chapter, championing Freedom of Information Act and open government.

Councilwoman Sierra Donaven

I feel humbled and grateful to be running unopposed in the effort to retain my nonpartisan seat on the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council. My ongoing service demonstrates a strong commitment to good governance, collaboration and the community's overall well-being I am dedicated to serving.

Since joining the council, I have actively promoted initiatives that enhance public safety, infrastructure and community pride. I serve as chair of the beautification advisory commission, where my leadership has raised standards for the community's appearance and environmental stewardship. Under my guidance, residents and

business owners are encouraged to invest in the city's shared beauty — understanding that well-maintained spaces foster pride, unity and a stronger sense of belonging.

My legislative work demonstrates my commitment to public safety and integrity in civic spaces. I have sponsored and co-sponsored ordinances to ban firearms during city council meetings and regulate cryptocurrency machines within city limits — policies geared toward safeguarding residents, updating local laws and ensuring secure, respectful venues for public discussion.

Looking ahead, my vision remains focused on continuity — supporting the completion of ongoing major infrastructure and capital projects, enhancing coordination between the council and administration and preserving stability through principled decision-making.

Public service is a privilege and a humbling experience. It's about trust, consistency and seeing the work through. I have also realized that I know nothing but am willing to learn to improve my service to everyone who lives, works and plays within Grosse Pointe Farms.

Judge Charles Berschback

It has been my pleasure to serve the residents of Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores for the last four years as municipal judge. It has been a very interesting and rewarding experience. I want to thank my court

administrator, Susan Thomas, and her staff. All of them work very hard and treat the public with dignity and respect. The first four years have given me great insight into what it takes to be a fair and balanced judge. I am looking forward to my second term.

Shores

Scott Houghton

I've lived in Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores for over 30 years and truly appreciate our community. Most of my career has been in public accounting and consulting and I look forward to using that experience to serve our residents with fiscal responsibility.

I value the work our city council has done and would like to continue supporting the progress and success they've achieved, helping to keep Grosse Pointe Shores a wonderful place to live and raise our families.

Councilman John Dakmak

As my first term on the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council comes to a close, I'm very proud of the work we have performed on behalf of Shores residents. We've managed to lower the city's property tax millage along with the water rates — an accomplishment few cities can claim in southeast Michigan. The city's pension obligations are in order and its AAA bond rating remains intact.

All of these feats were accomplished while replacing necessary equipment such as a fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck, street sweeper and many other assets. My goal has always been to provide Shores residents with

the best possible services that we have come to expect from our city government.

During my term, substantial improvements have also been made to the aesthetics and functionality of the Shores, from seawall improvements to sidewalk repair to street and water works improvements. Of course, none of these accomplishments were possible without the diligent work of the professional staff at city hall, the public safety department and the department of public works. I'm proud to work with these dedicated people.

Looking forward to the next four years, I'm very excited to be part of the transformation of the park's 65-year-old pool. We are looking at a complete redesign of the pool and bathhouse's footprint that will meet the needs of Shores residents for generations to come. The council's role will be primarily to determine the best funding source for the project.

Woods

Mayor Art Bryant

During my term of the last four years, I'm most proud of the tremendous improvements we've made to our park system and infrastructure to make Grosse Pointe Woods an inviting place to live and work.

Within Ghesquiere Park, we've installed the Ahee Jewelers Disc Golf Course, a walking path with donated benches and a new restroom facility. Lake Front Park has benefited from new pickleball courts, a miniature golf course and new exercise equipment in the activities building.

We redeveloped Chene-Trombley Park with new landscaping, lighting upgrades, a sail-shade pavilion and the Phyllis A. DeMars Tot Lot that features a wheelchair-friendly rubberized surface and ADA-compliant friendship swing.

The city's infrastructure has been made safer with the Vernier/

See RACES, page 17A

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE CHAMBER

The Big Head Corps will return to the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade next month.

Chamber seeks participants for 50th annual Santa Parade

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

A fabulous 50th anniversary is in store for the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade. When spectators gather along Kercheval the morning of Friday, Nov. 28, they should expect to see new faces and new floats, as well as returning favorites.

Hoping to make this year especially extraordinary, Chamber President Jennifer Boettcher said she's counting on Pointers to put up their hands to participate in the parade.

"We're soliciting participants, clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts," Boettcher said, "and we're soliciting sponsorships. That's what makes the parade possible."

"It's our 50th annual parade and we're so excited about it," she added. "Spectators will be seeing extra special performances and floats."

This year's parade follows the theme, "Dreaming of a White Christmas."



Those interested have a variety of options from which to choose.

"The theme is playing into Grosse Pointe Theatre's opening at the new Schaap Center," said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and events coordinator.

One week after the parade, GPT opens its season with Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" at its new home, the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts, which has been years in the making.

To give potential theatersgoers a taste of what's to come, "They'll be in the parade, performing songs

from the production," Boettcher said.

Making a return to this year's parade is the Big Head Corps.

"They haven't been in the parade for several years," Boettcher said. "We're excited to have them back."

The Big Head Corps supports The Parade Company by raising funds for the preservation and restoration of the world's largest papier-mache head collection.

Its catalog includes notable Detroit legends such as Aretha Franklin, Bob Seger and Barry

Sanders, as well as Hollywood heavy hitters like Tom Selleck and Gilda Radner. A large selection of animals, cartoon characters and other costumes are available as well.

"Whoever signs up to be a Big Head, it's \$150 to participate, but you go to The Parade Company and pick whatever Big Head you want," Boettcher said. "They bring all the Big Heads on a semi the morning of the parade and everyone meets at the same location. You get dressed up and it builds camaraderie among the other Big Heads."

"Your costume can be anything from an ostrich to Kirk Gibson, or any kind of animal face or cartoon character," she added.

Participants also will be trained in how to properly wear a Big Head, because they tend to be heavy.

Those interested in participating in the parade, wearing a Big Head or not, should contact the chamber at (313) 881-4722.

Trial permit parking near arts center

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It's no fluke that a 90-day test period for on-street residential permit parking in a neighborhood next to the 435-seat Schaap Center for Performing Arts will be up and running in time for the center's grand opening next month and early days of operation.

"This is part of our proactive effort to address potential parking challenges associated with upcoming developments in the area, particularly the opening of the Schaap Center," Chief Jim Bostock said. "While the center will be a cultural asset to our community, we understand it may bring some increased traffic and on-street parking demand."

The trial applies to Hampton Street and the 1000 blocks of Wayburn, Maryland and

Lakepointe. "This is for on-street parking," Bostock said. "This would give residents some comfort that all those spaces in front of their houses are not going to be taken by patrons of the Schaap Center."

Permitting doesn't have anything to do with parking in driveways, garages or alleys.

Each residence and multifamily unit are eligible for two permits. To obtain permits, residents must provide proof of residency, vehicle registration and a description of their vehicle.

Bostock anticipates permit stickers being displayed in a vehicle's left windshield. Temporary permits for residents' visitors are likely to be issued as placards for dash display.

"The city is exploring parking management

See PERMIT, page 9A

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, OCT. 20

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Downtown Development Authority meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

- ◆ North/South football game and tailgate, 7 p.m. at South.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

- ◆ Registration opens for Grosse Pointe Woods' Polar Express, 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Electronic Waste Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Windmill Pointe Park. City, Farms, Park and Shores residents only.
- ◆ Halloween in the Park, 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Windmill Pointe Park.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Bear lady is budding florist

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

"I have a bear story." Let's hear it. "My son was 6 months old and we'd just moved to Colorado," said Laura Meyer of Grosse Pointe Park.

She, husband Ryan, their son and daughter had relocated from their native Dallas to the small town of Basalt, surrounded by the mountains 20 miles northwest of Aspen, where her husband accepted a job at a skiwear company.

The couple met a few years earlier in Dallas where they both worked as buyers for a department store chain.

Newly settled in Colorado, they packed up their infant son and went hiking with another couple in Snowmass, an even smaller and more mountainous town a few miles away.

The area is habitat for quaking aspen and Douglass fir trees, Colorado blue columbine and Indian paintbrush wildflowers, and seemingly everything from porcupines to elk. Some of which are

moms. None of which tolerate anyone near their cubs.

"A friend and I walked ahead on the trail," Meyer said. "We were talking quite a way ahead of my husband and another friend. We were lower in elevation down the mountain from them. My husband carried the baby in one of those baskets you wear."

She heard a sound, a big, loud reverberating sound from out of nowhere.

"It was terrifying," Meyer said. "My ears were ringing. I didn't know what was going on."

Her husband, behind but higher on the trail, had a bird's-eye view.

"My husband was going, 'Laura, stop. Don't move.' It started coming to me that he was warning me there must be a bear. It was a mother bear telling us to get away. I just kind of panicked."

Her husband yelled not to run. "Walk back up to me," he said.

"He could see the bear, the mom," Meyer said. "I could not see her. I was scared. I didn't want to look. My ears were still

ringing because she'd just yelled at us. We got back up slowly. Everybody was drenched in sweat. We were so terrified."

Lucky zoo visitors sometimes get to hear bears make noises, often a grunt, maybe a groan. Usually just a yawn. Things aren't so humdrum in the wild.

"It was what you'd think it was — a roar," Meyer said. "Terrifying. Whatever God was thinking when they designed the noise a bear makes, it was to warn humans to get away. It worked."

Reunited up the trail, Meyer and her husband found themselves bickering over the baby.

She said, "I said, 'Give me my baby.' He said, 'No way am I giving you the baby.' So, we're sitting there arguing at the top of the hill over who gets the baby. Our friends are starting to laugh."

Life looked different after the bear encounter.

"We lived in Colorado six years after that and I never was relaxed when we were out," Meyer said. "That was one of the reasons I was completely comfortable moving to Grosse Pointe. I got my taste of that for a lifetime."

That little boy is now 14 years old and in eighth grade. The daughter, who wasn't on the hike, is a recent college graduate working for an event design firm in Chicago. A second daughter that hadn't been born yet is now an 8-year-old second grader. The family's

move to Michigan came from husband Ryan's new job at Carhartt.

The challenge in Meyer's life these days is opening a flower shop, Maison Parc, at 15124 Kercheval between Lakepointe and Maryland in Grosse Pointe Park, Nov. 1. "Maison" is French for "house."

Meyer knows what she's getting into. Her workday already runs before sunup through evening.

"The computer, phone and messaging starts about 7 a.m., probably until midnight, seven days a week," Meyer said.

She's building a staff of experienced florists.

"We have been busy unpacking boxes," she said. "Our coolers are ready to be stocked with fresh flowers."

Rustic-themed wood showcases and shelves display single-bud vases from Morocco and containers of French Broad Chocolates from Asheville, N.C. A Farmer's Market Garden kit from Idaho contains organic vegetables for growing in containers or garden space for culinary or ornamental value, according to the company description.

"We're going to sell helium balloons, too," Meyer said. "I think that will draw in people who otherwise would go outside the Pointes."

Meyer comes from a family of retail proprietors. She continued working as a retail manager while raising her children.

"My parents owned retail stores," she said. "My background is in fashion. I sold fabrics to outerwear companies."

She and her husband always wanted to own a retail concept of some sort, she said.

"I grew up in that world," she said. "It's a little in my blood."

She wants Maison Parc to be a convenient source of individual flowers and bouquets through



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Laura Meyer brings from her native Texas a rustic aesthetic to her flower shop, Maison Parc, opening Nov. 1 on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park.

centerpieces and plants, where curated gifts are exhibited in a rustic and welcoming setting.

"I hope the biggest sellers in the store will be our beautiful grab-and-goes we'll have displayed," Meyer said. "I have an image that you're going to go to the bakery, you're going to grab coffee, you're going to put your baby in a stroller, go down to the bookstore and grab a book for your child; you have a dinner party that night and you're going to come here to get a bouquet of flowers. That's what I want to drive it because I think that's what sets us apart from other florists. It's a full experience here."

She hired a creative director to help make her dreams tangible.

"Retail has completely evolved," Meyer said. "Online took that from the traditional retailer. So, what can the retailer give back to the consumer to get them into the store? Here's what it is: stores that inspire. Stores that inspire by beautiful displays, beautiful fixtures, smells and the experience of that."

All the senses are hit.

"The experience is always evolving," Meyer said. "So, if you come into our store for the November opening, it's going to look a certain way and have a certain feeling and give you a certain emotion. When you come back in February for Valentine's Day, I want it to be a completely different experience. I want the colors to be different. The merchandise will be moved so it feels different. Maybe our signature smell of candles is different for that quarter of the year."

She added, "That will get people to say, 'I could order something online, but I want that experience. I want it wrapped in really good tissue and visually beautiful ribbon.'"

Buying flowers is a personal transaction, something people share space with in their homes and give to loved ones.

"It's what my grandmother used to say," Meyer said. "She made us food and said, 'I made this with all the love of my heart. I hope you feel that when you eat.' Of course, her food was the best."

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Trunk or Treat at St. Paul Lutheran

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is hosting its annual Trunk or Treat event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18.

All children are invited to visit spookily decorated car trunks to pick up candy and other goodies in celebration of Halloween. The church is located at 375 Lothrop, at Chalfonte, in Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call (313) 881-6670.

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Neff Park to host all-Pointes sporting equipment drive

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Neff Park, in collaboration with the Neighborhood Club, will host the first all-Pointes Sporting Equipment Drive from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1.

Area residents are invited to donate new and gently used sporting equipment, which is being collected for the newly opened Detroit chapter of nonprofit Leveling the Playing Field. The organization redistributes the equipment to kids in

lower income areas at no charge.

The nonprofit's mission resonates with Chad Murphy, who became the City's parks and recreation coordinator earlier this year.

"I still have stuff from high school that I'm just holding onto and it never gets used and my parents have stuff stored at their house and I know that my friends do, especially as we've gotten older," he said. "And nowadays, in Grosse Pointe specifically, we're replenishing sporting goods more frequently, which means we have more leftovers or goods not being used."

"The problem is you don't want to throw it out either, because it's usually a fairly expensive item or something along those lines, so I just thought if you knew it was going to a good home, that it would be a little bit easier to part with and maybe clear up some

space."

The drive will accept a plethora of equipment such as balls, basketball shoes, safety gear, free weights, yoga mats and first-aid kits, but the nonprofit is unable to accept the following: bikes, bike helmets, skateboards, clothing, croquet sets, exercise machines, fishing gear, uncertified football helmets, hats, partial sets of uniforms, protective cups/jock straps, racquetball equipment, scooters, skis and snowboards, trophies and used running shoes.

For a complete list of accepted items, scan the QR code to the right.

"The idea is that (donors) will be able to just pull their car up, we will have stations set up for each different sport equipment and then we'll have volunteers unloaded from their car if they wish," Murphy said, adding anyone who wishes to volunteer to work the drive should reach out to kara@neighborhoodclub.org.

Murphy aims to make the drive an annual staple of life in the Pointes.

"The idea is it is kind of like how everyone knows there's going to be a hazardous waste day," he said. "If there's one in another Grosse Pointe, we usually are allowed to go

to those. So it's along the same lines where you anticipate there's a place for these things to go every year."

The Neighborhood Club also now has a permanent Leveling the Playing Field collection bin easily accessible from its parking lot off Waterloo.

"If people have items they forgot to donate during the drive or they come up with new things after the drive, they can use that year-round," Murphy said, "but (the drive) is really more of a big push, where we can get (the organization) some really good stuff here right in the beginning."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Neighborhood Club now houses a permanent Leveling the Playing Field collection bin, which is easily accessible from its parking lot off Waterloo.

PUBLIC SAFETY

City of Grosse Pointe

Expensive taste

A Grosse Pointer's Chase Bank credit card fraudulently was used to order a \$641 Louis Vuitton purse at 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9. The purse was shipped to an address in California.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Stolen bike

At 11 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, a man walked into a backyard in the 400 block of McKinley and stole a kid's orange bicycle.

Security footage shows the suspect to be a black man wearing a blue jacket and black pants.

Smashed window

The rear driver's side window of a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Moran was smashed between 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, and 6:45 a.m. the next morning.

The car's dashboard and screen were removed and stolen.

Honest answer

When officers asked a 35-year-old Woods woman if she knew she was driving in the oncoming traffic lane on Mack at 12:09 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, she replied, "I don't know, I'm drunk."

A preliminary breath test showed the woman's blood alcohol content to be 0.206 percent, for which she was arrested.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Stolen vehicle

The owner of a 2024 Ford Bronco living in the 1000 block of Harvard reportedly told police the

vehicle was locked and parked in the driveway when stolen overnight Thursday, Oct. 9.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O'Neil
Report information about crimeto Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O'Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

HEROES:

Continued from page 1A

Michele Hodges said.

"The child was in mortal danger and the outcome would almost certainly have been fatal without the officer's intervention," Bostock said. "Equally important during this event were the actions of Dispatcher Rachel Young."

During the 911 call, Young gathered critical information efficiently for the officers. She also gave first-aid instructions to the boy's mother,

thereby able to administer aid prior to the officers' arrival, according to Bostock.

"In a moment when seconds meant the difference between life and death, Officer Lafriniere together with Dispatcher Young demonstrated extraordinary courage, skill and dedication," Bostock said. "Their actions embody the true spirit of service. Because of their efforts, Sammy is alive today."

"Thank you very much for everything you do," Councilman Marty McMillan, head of the

public safety committee, told the officers. "Grosse Pointe Park is ready for anything."

"We can't put a price on what you guys accomplished," Hodges added. "When you hear about something like this, it strikes close to the heart," Councilman Brent Dreaver said. "Every time I see you guys, I think about this and I feel so much safer, so proud that there are people like you to keep our families safe and our kids alive."

DIGITS:

Continued from page 1A

to keep the 313 area code. The new 679 area code will apply to new phone numbers issued once the 313 area code's numbers run out.

The transition is part of the preparations for the 679 area code to begin operating in Detroit and its nearby suburbs: Allen Park, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, the Grosse Pointes, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Redford

Township, River Rouge and Taylor.

Starting Nov. 7, customers in the 313 area code may be assigned a number with the new 679 area code when they request new service or an additional line. Numbers with the new 679 area code will only be assigned to new customers once telephone numbers in the 313 area code have been exhausted. The exhaust date is currently projected to be the first quarter of 2028, but the timing is subject to change due to telephone numbering demand.



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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

Who are you voting for?

As noted in this space two months ago, 19 of the 35 council and mayoral seats across the Pointes are up for election come Nov. 4. Fewer than half — eight — are contested.

Readers can see thoughts shared by those in uncontested races on page 2A.

Both the City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms have contested races for mayor.

In the City, Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak is running to retain her seat and is challenged by former mayor Chris Boettcher, whom she defeated in 2019 by 55 votes. Ms. Tomkowiak was re-elected in 2021 and 2023, as the seat carries a two-year term.

Mr. Boettcher served two four-year terms on council and a single two-year term as mayor. He said one of the reasons he decided to run again is because he is concerned about the general state of The Village, a concern we share, although the City recently appointed a dedicated maintenance person for downtown. He also boasts during his time in office that the public safety department on Mack was built on time and under budget, which is not always the case with municipal projects.

Under Ms. Tomkowiak's leadership, the City is close to securing a \$21 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for sewer separation, a step toward reducing basement flooding. She also has pushed for a priority-based, three-year balanced budget. The City also has a 25 percent fund equity balance.

We are concerned, however, at how quickly Ms. Tomkowiak seemed to jump on the racism bandwagon in December 2022, when a paper towel found in the restroom of a Kercheval restaurant was assumed to be a noose. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office found there was no evidence of a hate crime, but Ms. Tomkowiak's rush to judgment caused anxiety for the teens involved.

Three incumbents and a newcomer are running for three open council seats. Maureen Juip and David Fries were first elected in 2021, while Chris Walsh has been on the council since 2005. David Calcaterra is making his first run for office.

Mr. Fries and Ms. Juip said they are running again to complete projects undertaken during their first terms, including sewer separation. Both also noted support for Main Street Grosse Pointe and solving parking issues.

Walsh can point to his institutional knowledge, having worked with three different mayors and more than 20 different council members.

Mr. Calcaterra, who grew up in the City, said he is running to bring a younger perspective to council. His background in marketing meshes well with Ms. Juip's and Mr. Walsh's strengths.

In the Farms, Councilmen Joe Ricci and John Gillooly will face off to replace Mayor Louis Theros, who was elected to council in 2013 and as mayor in 2017, but is not running for reelection.

Mr. Ricci also was first elected to council in 2013, while Gillooly, elected in 2017, is in the final year of his second term. Both have served as mayor pro tem. Both have noted the importance of road and sidewalk maintenance, while Mr. Gillooly said he does not favor privatizing the city's trash collection. Mr. Ricci said he favors relocating city hall and the public safety department to land the city owns at Mack and Moross, calling it the city's "front door."

In Grosse Pointe Park, there are four candidates running for three open council seats. They include first-term incumbents Tom Caulfield and Max



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

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OUR VIEW

Vote yes on GPPSS bond

(Editor's note: A version of this piece ran in the Sept. 18 edition. We are running this in today's full-run edition, as it goes to every address in the Pointes.)

While vote totals will not be known for more than two weeks, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is asking voters to approve a bond at \$120 million for 20 years. We wholeheartedly support a "yes" vote.

Information about the matter can be found at gpschools.org/2025bond.

The full ballot language reads:
Shall the Grosse Pointe Public School System, County of Wayne, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed One Hundred Twenty Million Dollars (\$120,000,000) and issue its general obligation

unlimited tax bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of:

- ◆ remodeling all existing School District buildings, including security, roof, energy conservation and mechanical systems improvements;
- ◆ equipping, furnishing, reequipping and refurbishing all School District buildings;
- ◆ acquiring and installing technology infrastructure and instructional technology equipment; and
- ◆ erecting, furnishing, equipping, developing and improving athletic fields, athletic facilities and other facilities, parking areas, fencing, drains and sites, in the School District? The annual debt millage required to retire all bonds of the School District currently outstanding and proposed by this ballot

See BOND, page 7A

Wiener, plus Patrick Gleason, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and Olga Merametdjan, a former dispatcher for the city's public safety department.

Mr. Wiener and Mr. Caulfield have done a stellar job during their first terms.

Mr. Wiener, an engineer by training, was a force behind fundraising for and construction of the EERV (extreme emergency relief valve), sewer relining, water main replacements and establishing the city's first multi-year capital improvement plan. He also chairs the council's infrastructure committee.

Mr. Caulfield, who works in risk management, chairs the finance committee. The city had a \$1 million budget deficit when he joined the council, but the city recently has seen consistent surpluses.

Mr. Gleason, secretary of the Parks and Recreation Commission, also has a financial background and would complement Mr. Wiener and Mr. Caulfield. He was one of about 15 volunteers involved with restoring the playscape at Patterson Park and is known for following through with his commitments. He also is focused on how best to preserve aging assets within the city's two parks.

Ms. Merametdjan said she wants to see the city do more for aging residents, learn more about infrastructure projects and possibly have a block captain program to stay informed about issues around the city.

There are no contested races in Grosse Pointe Woods or Grosse Pointe Shores.

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.

Unhappy customer

To the Editor:
Please provide me time to respond to your paper's article regarding postal service not delivering the GP News in a timely manner.

This past year the postal service stopped delivering mail to my home on Wednesdays. I did not report this; I chalked it up to a lack of work ethic by the younger generation. As time moved on I noticed my mail was not being delivered to my home three days a week.

Enough was enough; I contacted Rep. Shri Thanedar, my Congressman. His staff were professional; they had my problem with the postal delivery resolved within a few days.

The Postal Regulatory Commission claims by cutting back postal service, it will also reduce operating costs by 4 percent. This philosophy may reduce your costs by 4 percent, but for me it increases my cost over \$100 out of pocket. Why? Because there were four separate times when the postal service did not mail my checks to pay my bills.

I have utilized credit cards for 50 years, always paid in full and on time. This past year there were two credit card payments I placed in a U.S. Postal mailbox and neither made it to the credit card company. Cost to me? Over \$110 for not paying, etc. At the same time, I placed two other payments to another company. Cost to me? \$30. Total

See LETTERS, page 8A

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

October 16 - 22

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Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
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Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Chance Rain	Chance Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	10%	40%	50%	0%	10%	0%
SUNRISE 7:46 am SUNSET 6:48 pm	SUNRISE 7:48 am SUNSET 6:46 pm	SUNRISE 7:49 am SUNSET 6:45 pm	SUNRISE 7:50 am SUNSET 6:43 pm	SUNRISE 7:51 am SUNSET 6:42 pm	SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 6:40 pm	SUNRISE 7:53 am SUNSET 6:39 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima

Pointes pride on display as fall sports playoffs begin



new sports season underway. Now the postseason has arrived for some of the best teams around the Pointes.

The playoffs always bring a sense of pride and excitement to the area. Everyone wants to see just how far the teams from Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School can go to prove the athletes in the Pointes are among the best in the state.

The boys soccer teams from all three schools already have started making their marks in the playoff race. Last week, the Blue Devils,

Norsemen and Knights all began their respective district tournaments and earned some wins to advance through the early rounds. It remains to be seen just how far any of them will go, but these wins in the early rounds already show the great fight and talent these players have.

Some of the most impressive postseason performances so far have come on the tennis court. Both the University Liggett and Grosse Pointe South boys tennis teams won their respective regional tournaments, with several players from both teams earning victories as indi-

vidual regional champions. Grosse Pointe North also finished high enough in regional play to earn a qualifying spot for the state finals, so all three teams will be representing the Pointes on the state's biggest stage.

Field hockey postseason action for South, North and Liggett has begun as well. The teams are taking the field for some of their first playoff matches this week, as each of them is looking to contend for the first-ever MHSAA field hockey state championship.

More playoffs will begin in coming weeks as other sports are winding down the regular

season. In football, fans can look forward to the annual rivalry showdown between South and North Friday, Oct. 24. The Blue Devils will host the Norsemen in a game that could be crucial for North, as the team might need a final win to help its chances of making the playoffs. For South, a rivalry win could give the Blue Devils even more momentum as they seem poised to make their own deep run in the playoffs.

Volleyball, cross country and girls swim and dive teams all have their own postseasons to look forward to as well. The

next few weeks surely will bring some of the most exciting action fans around town have seen all fall.

These schools are filled with great athletes and teams who have real chances at winning the biggest games and competing at the highest levels.

Playoff time is a time to show your pride and support all of the incredible athletes and coaches these teams have. Show up and cheer them on when it matters the most and show all of Michigan that not only do the Pointes have some of the best athletes, but the best fans too.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

GROUND IS BROKEN FOR BIG ADDITION TO ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL: The Rev. Albert L. Melvin, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Grosse Pointe Farms, turned the

first spade of earth for the new addition to St. Paul's School. The same plated-shovel used during groundbreaking ceremonies for the original building was employed for Monday's event. Parishioners who directed the campaign to raise funds for the new school addition included Mrs. Frances Bourke,

Mrs. J. A. Mullen, George H. Zimmerman, Anthony Motschall, Joseph R. Parker and Ross Roy.

BREAKS WINDOW IN WRONG CAR: Things reach a sad pass when a man doesn't know his own car, but this happened to J. W. McClellan of St. Clair Shores. Mr. McClellan left his car near Mack and Wayburn earlier in the evening and when he went to get it, he could not get into it. He

had unaccountable trouble with his key, so impatiently broke the glass in his door and got in. A moment later he discovered it was not his own car, although it was a twin brother.

WOODS REJECTS BATH HOUSE BIDS: The Woods village has an item on its budget this year of \$25,000 for the erection of a new bath house at the beach park. That building costs have

gone up greatly since the item was inserted was evidenced when the bids were opened for construction Oct. 3. Five bids were received, the lowest for \$38,000 and ranging up to \$43,000.

1975

50 years ago this week

WORK PLEASES See HISTORY, page 17A

ARCHITECTS OF WOODS PROJECT: From the architectural point of view, satisfaction is the keynote of the Woods Lake Front Park improvements project which features the reconstruction of the 13-acre site including a new swimming pool complex, new bathhouse, renovation of the existing bathhouse into

BOND:

Continued from page 6A

proposal is estimated to remain at or below 3.14 mills which is an estimated -0- mill increase from the debt millage levied in 2024. The estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 0.70 mills (\$0.70 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of the bonds is 1.63 mills annually (\$1.63 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The bonds may be issued in multiple series. The maximum number of years each series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty (20) years.

If passed, Grosse Pointe's bond debt will continue to be lower than what are considered "peer districts," including Birmingham, Troy, West Bloomfield, Northville and Ann Arbor. According to historical data, bond elections over the past decade with no millage increase have an

82 percent chance of passing. Those with a millage increase are a 50/50 shot.

GPPSS Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said bond money will be spent on every facility in the district and will touch on infrastructure needs, as well as safety and security, athletics, arts and other extracurricular endeavors.

Using information put together by Plante Moran in 2022, administrators identified \$60 million in critical needs the bond would address such as HVAC systems, roofs, windows and parking lots. Dr. Tuttle said if the bond does not pass, that money would have to come out of the general fund, 86 percent of which goes to pay for personnel costs, mainly salaries and benefits.

The district then appointed a Bond Advisory Committee to decide on the other \$60 million. Meeting four times over three months, the committee favored:

- ◆ \$8.2 million for new furniture,
- ◆ \$4 million to refurbish the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts

Center at Grosse Pointe North High School,

- ◆ \$9.7 million for boiler replacements,
- ◆ \$750,000 to relocate the main office at Grosse Pointe South High School,
- ◆ \$125,000 to resurface the track at South,
- ◆ \$50,000 to each building principal to use at their discretion on critical needs,
- ◆ \$1 million for air conditioning upgrades at the administration's discretion,
- ◆ \$475,000 for early childhood initiatives and
- ◆ \$3 million for locker room renovations at the high schools.

Another \$3.7 million will go to reconfigure the closed pool at Parcels Middle School, possibly into a technology and innovation hub, a STEM lab or an e-sports arena. Dr. Tuttle said such features could attract more students to the district.

If passed, bonds would be issued in three series, the first being in November so the millage could be levied on winter tax bills. Dr. Tuttle said the second and third most likely will come in 2027 and 2030. Amounts

will depend on project and cash flow needs, as well as interest rates. Each would run for 20 years.

Estimated cumulative interest is \$83 million, which the millage described above would be used to pay down.

Unfortunately, there have been calls on social media to vote against the bond by some who disagree with the current board majority. The same rhetoric was bandied about last year regarding the sinking fund millage by those who disagreed with the previous board majority.

Such talk is both unhelpful and unserious.

Bonds, sinking funds and operating millages are about doing what is

best for our students, attracting the best teachers and staff and protecting home values. It is hard to say who will be on the board in six or eight years, much less 20 or 25.

After starting the 2024-25 fiscal year budget with a projected \$1 million in deficit spending, the district finished the year

with an unaudited surplus of \$5.4 million and nearly doubled the fund equity balance to 15 percent. We believe under the leadership of Dr. Tuttle and her administrative team, which now includes a full-time CFO, the district is in good financial hands, which is why we recommend voting to pass the bond.

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GROSSE POINTE WOODS

SunriseGrossePointeWoods.com

8A | NEWS

POOL:

Continued from page 1A

every desire gets fulfilled with any plan, but I think we've gone a long way in meeting the objectives of the greater community."

The site plan separates the current pool into individual competition and recreation pools.

The competition pool incorporates eight 25-meter lanes, diving boards, deeper water for the starting blocks so swimmers can dive and an expanded area for spectators.

"Really, the benefit of separating the competitive pool is we're actually getting it to the proper 25-meter length of competitive swim," Reeside noted.

The recreation pool features zero-depth entry, ADA accessibility, a small corner of bench seating within the pool and three additional 25-meter swim lanes — giving seniors and other residents another option for laps when swim teams are practicing in the competition pool.

"Our demographics have changed, so we're seeing not only young users, but older, more active seniors using the pool on a regular basis," Reeside said.

With the current tot pool considered undersized, the plans will expand it by about one-and-a-half times. They also re-incorporate the splash pad, which residents strongly demanded when it was not included in the initial plans.

"The nice part of the

splash pad is we're going to be able to segregate the splash pad from the other features," Reeside added. "So this could be used, you can imagine, on a nice warm day in September, maybe October, with the weather we've had."

A newly constructed bathhouse will include a separate, standalone bathroom which also could be open throughout the year.

"So even when the pool is shut down, we think it could be used by people who are using the beach and kayakers," Reeside said. "It could even be used by boaters during the summer months, because it will have a bathroom facility and shower."

Splash deck features on the walkway leading up to the bathhouse remain part of the plans, intended to create "visual interest in the aquatic center," Reeside said.

The plans also include construction of a new mechanical building, with the life-guard station being moved into the current mechanical building, which is on the pool deck.

With preliminary site plan approval, the city now can begin more detailed architectural, design and engineering work with the intention to return to city council with complete plans.

Construction is intended to begin in spring 2026, with completion scheduled in time for the 2027 summer season.

"The foundation is behind this project 100

percent," said Councilman Joe Ricci, who is council liaison to the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation. "We've already committed a half million dollars to it. We're in the works of making another half million dollars, so that we can have \$1 million in, along with one other donation that's pushing on \$3 million."

Council also unanimously voted Monday to hire Farms resident Sheila Fredricks, senior project manager at Barton Malow Co., as the project's construction manager for an estimated total cost of \$546,000. Her scope of work will span developing the project schedule, preparing cost estimates, assisting with bid documents and negotiations and ensuring compliance with permit requirements.

"There's a lot of pieces involved, a lot of different trades, a lot of different contractors for the various aspects of this project, so we feel that it's imperative to have a very qualified construction manager to oversee and advise through all phases of this project," Reeside said. "... During the construction phase, the construction manager will provide on-site construction observation, coordinate safety programs and participate in all aspects of the construction and project coordination. The professional services will start immediately and will carry on through the very end to the final ribbon cutting of the project."

St. Paul to host clothing drive

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, will serve as the collection point for a clothing drive benefitting St. Vincent de Paul.

Items may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, and Sunday, Nov. 2.

Volunteers will be on hand to help with donations, which should be taken to the truck in the church parking lot.

New and gently worn adult and children's clothing, coats and shoes are needed, as well as small houseware items. Furniture will not be accepted, nor will

items that need to be repaired.

Organizers noted that clean and neatly packed clothes make it easier for charities to sort and distribute donations.

For more information, call Tricia Kesteloot at (313) 885-4816 or email tkesteloot@stpaulonthe lake.org.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

cost of \$140.

Why? Because the postal service decides to cut back service to save 4 percent.

I am not a happy customer.

MARGARET POTTER
Grosse Pointe Woods

Many thanks

To the Editor:

On Oct. 5, the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe proudly celebrated 75 years of empowering voters and defending democracy at our event at the Country Club of Detroit. Since our founding in 1950, the League has been a trusted, nonpartisan voice dedicated to voter education, civic engagement and informed participation in government.

As we marked this milestone, we were reminded that our work is only possible through community partnership and generosity. We extend our sincere thanks to the Country Club of Detroit and the over 100 members and guests who joined us for this event. We are deeply grateful to the following sponsors who supported our 75th anniversary celebration and, more importantly, the League's ongoing mission. Their commitment reflects a shared belief that democracy thrives when every voice is heard and every vote counts.

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Thanks also to the Grosse Pointe News for their continued support and excellent coverage of our event. For 75 years, our League members have registered voters, hosted candidate forums and provided election information. With continued support from our sponsors and community, we will carry this mission forward — ensuring that future generations inherit a democracy that is strong, inclusive and participatory.

We invite all who share this vision to join us — as members, volunteers or supporters — and be part of the League's next chapter. Visit lwvgrossepointe.org for further information.

LYNNE PIERCE,
PRESIDENT
League of Women Voters
Grosse Pointe

Thank you, Pt. 2

To the Editor:

This community continues to inspire me every single day. Your generosity toward our seniors is truly extraordinary. Because of your incredible support, our annual Take The Helm Gala exceeded every expectation and achieved record-breaking success. I am profoundly grateful to each of our benefactors, sponsors and supporters. Your kindness and belief in our mission make all the difference.

To our dedicated board of directors, your unwavering commitment to the mission of The Helm is unmatched. You continually help expand our reach, sharing our story with new supporters who, in turn, come to believe in and champion our cause.

A heartfelt thank-you to our outstanding gala co-chairs, Doug Blatt

and Jana Brownell, and their committee — Mary DeBrunner, Lisa Gandelot, Carol Klenow, Pam Stanton and Cheryl Wesen — for your leadership, enthusiasm and tireless efforts spreading the word, securing donations and gathering auction items.

To our remarkable staff, thank you for always going above and beyond — no task is ever "not your job." Your teamwork and dedication shine through in everything you do.

Our gala honorees, Patti and Jim Anderson, embody the very essence of philanthropy. Their generosity touches countless lives — locally, nationally and globally — and we are deeply honored that they have chosen to support The Helm so faithfully over the years with their sponsorships of our gala and their new commitment to the endowment fund.

We were also privileged to present the Guiding Light Award to former board president and current member Doug Blatt. Doug has co-chaired the gala many years, but his contributions extend far beyond that. He is a tireless advocate for The Helm, continually sharing our mission and inspiring others to give. Through his efforts, Doug has raised more funds for the gala than anyone else in recent years — quite simply, this event's success would not be possible without him.

A special thank you to the many area businesses and individuals who donated items for our auctions and have done so for many years. We absolutely could not have done it without you.

Every time we ask, you step up — for us, our mission, our community, but most of all, our seniors.

KRISTA SIDDALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
The Helm at the
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Halloween in the Park

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Half the fans attending this year's Michigan-Michigan State football game Saturday, Oct. 25, will leave Spartan Stadium freaked out by their team's loss.

They'll head home with an inkling of the frights and terrors of Halloween in the Park on the same day at Windmill Pointe Park.

Park staffers have begun decorating a festive trail through Windmill's picnic grounds for the annual

costumed event, themed for children 10 and younger. Children follow the trail, going from station to station for candy and toys. Doughnuts and small pumpkins are given away at trail's end. Tickets cost \$15 per child in advance and \$20 the day of the event.

Halloween in the Park almost always sells out, according to Recreation Director Chad Craig.

To purchase tickets online, visit secure.recl.com/MI/grosse-pointe-park-mi/catalog.

In-person sales are at Windmill's Lavins Activity Center.

The event is so popular, Craig scheduled three time slots: 3:30, 4 and 4:30 p.m.

"There are 200 tickets available per time slot — 100 online, 100 in person for each of those slots," Craig said.

"People are going crazy for Halloween this year," said Larry Haggart, a member of the recreation commission. "If you look around the neighborhood, there are so many decorations."

Also enthusiastic this year are sponsors of Halloween in the Park.

Table sponsorships cost \$75.

"We already have around 22 stations, of either volunteers or table sponsors," Craig said. "We provide candy or toys for them. Once approved, they're able to put up a banner or business sign. This is the fastest I've been filling up tables. I have four or five spots left."

Park Grill is sponsoring the event this year.

"They have generously given us \$1,000," Craig said.

Craig invited anyone interested in sponsoring a table or volunteering to contact him at craigc@grossepointepark.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

George Simon Jr. driving Miss U.S. 1 last month at an exhibition in Indiana.

On the road water again

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Although no longer competing in races, the fastest propeller-driven boat in history has returned to the water, giving a few demonstrations a year at various hydroplane races.

Named for George Simon Sr.'s company, U.S. Equipment, Miss U.S. 1 set that record April 17, 1962, on Lake Guntersville in Alabama, hitting 200.42 mph.

"My dad started the company after he got out of World War II," according to his son, George Simon Jr. "As hydroplane racing became more popular, especially on the Detroit River, he thought a boat would be good advertising."

Aside from the record, Miss U.S. 1 won the Gold Cup — the most prestigious award in hydroplane racing — in 1976 in Detroit.

"He retired the boat after that because he promised my mom he'd stop if he ever won the Gold Cup," Simon Jr. said. "But we kept the hull all these years."

Efforts to restore the

boat to racing condition began in 2003. According to missus1.com, what began as a three-month project pegged at \$5,000 turned into a four-year, \$100,000 "labor of love."

In 2010, however, during testing on the St. Clair River in preparation for that year's Gold Cup, the boat experienced engine failure and sat dormant for the next decade-plus.

"In 2022, my cousin, Joe Simon, convinced me we should take her back down to Guntersville for HydroFest," Simon Jr. said. "It just sat on the trailer, but we were kind of a novelty. It was the 60th anniversary of the record."

That also convinced Simon Jr. to get Miss U.S. 1 back in the water.

"I'm glad he did," he added. "We did a lot of work on it, including a new engine, a 12-valve from an old P-51 Mustang with 2,000 horsepower."

By 2024, Miss U.S. 1 was back on Lake Guntersville, giving an exhibition. Last month, Simon Jr. ran about 120 mph in Madison, Ind., along with a few other

See WATER, page 12A



Rockers think your gonna like it

A rock band with Grosse Pointe roots dug into its musical vault for part of its latest release, a cover of Alice Cooper's "Welcome to My Nightmare," timed and fashioned for Halloween.

"For the holiday, it's a good theme," said Derek Jendza, singer for Artificial Agent and a City of Grosse Pointe resident. "That's why we put the song out. It's on all streaming platforms."

The four-member band is big on theatrical rock and opened for Cooper at Pine Knob and, in a prior incarnation, the Michigan State Fair.

"We recorded the basics for 'Welcome to My Nightmare' back in 2018," Jendza said. "We put this out for Halloween with our friends from the Motor

City Horns, which is John Rutherford, who owns the Cadieux Café. He was in Bob Seger's band and Noel Gallagher from Oasis. Rutherford did a bunch of shows with The Who years back."

Jendza's snarly vocals are cushioned by backing tracks from his 10- and 7-year-old nieces. Their father, bass player and Derek Jendza's brother, Brad Jendza, is an advertising agency art director. He produced the song's animated video.

Recording the cover allowed bandmates to let off steam while in the studio.

"We're making our sixth album," Derek Jendza said. "It comes out at the end of January or first of March."

PERMIT:

Continued from page 3A

strategies with a focus on prioritizing resident street parking needs and minimizing potential inconveniences for neighborhood residents," Bostock said. "Enforcement is 5 to 11 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, which coincides with the performance schedule of the Schaap Center."

Initial permits are free. Replacing a lost permit costs \$10.

"It's great you're doing this now rather than after the opening of the Schaap Center," Councilman Brent Dreaver told Bostock during the Oct. 13 council meeting.

The center opens with a matinee Sunday, Nov. 30, followed by a gala party Wednesday night, Dec. 3.

Elected officials voted unanimously during the meeting to enact the temporary policy.

"This is proactive," Councilman Tim Kolar said. "It's a great start."

Implementation starts at a date to be determined. City officials want time to inform and educate residents of their options.

"It will give us a proper count of the number of stickers needed," Bostock said.

Enforcement will be lenient, according to Bostock.

"There's an air of common sense to this," he said. "As far as public safety running every single license plate that doesn't have a sticker on Thursday at five o'clock, it's probably not going to happen. If we run a plate and it comes back to a resident on the 1000 block of Wayburn, I'm not going to issue them a

ticket."

"It's going to come down to execution," Kolar said.

"This is a complex issue," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We want the Schaap Center to be successful, but we also want to protect our neighborhoods in the process."

Parking lots for the center are on Maryland, 44 spaces; at city hall, 88 spots; and 44 spots in Detroit for center staff

and performers.

Hodges said, "Hopefully the community feels confident that this is being addressed, we're going to be proactive about it and we're asking for patience as well, because it is going to be a learning process as we see how it functions in actuality."

If the test period rates well, Bostock will return to council for permanent enactment.

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Parks & Rec gets more oversight

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Aspects of parks and recreation system management were formalized this month by assigning two city employees to officially manage and supervise facilities and grounds.

New processes put into practice weekly, monthly and annual inspections of park assets.

“There are going to be more inspection sheets to make sure we’re seeing expectations we put in place,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. “Not so much day-to-day stuff, but looking at everything in general; not just going to the next project, but being assured they are responsible for everything within park grounds, along the perimeter and everything.”

Changes formalize what both employees already have been doing.

“They’ve kind of been doing the positions without it being formal,” Craig

said. “We needed higher leadership for supervision of the parks,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “So, we created a facilities, maintenance and grounds supervisor position and a maintenance and grounds manager.”

“There’s going to be a 90-day trial process for them,” Craig said.

The test period is more for the new management structure than of the employees. They already work for the city.

Members of the grounds staff are decorating city entrance signs for fall, plus light poles on Jefferson, Kercheval, Charlevoix and Mack Avenue.

“The department of public works was a huge help in removing all the light pole flower pot inserts,” Craig said.

— Brad Lindberg



Tending Patterson gardens

Anne Billiu, a member of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission since 2019, participates in the commission’s cleanup of Patterson Park gardens Saturday morning, Sept. 27. Volunteers met a few times during summer to tend flower beds. There may be a final cleanup of the year in October, according to Commission Chairwoman Lisa Kyle. “Last year we held one the second or third week in October because the weather was warm and weeds were still popping up,” Kyle said. “If the weather holds out and doesn’t get super cold, we might hold an impromptu the second or third week in October.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA KYLE

District 2 sidewalks have Halloween deadline

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — This fall’s sidewalk repair program is scheduled for completion before Halloween trick-or-treaters risk tripping.

“We want to make sure everything’s safe for the kids,” said Tom Jenny, director of public works. “We’re trying to make it a walkable city.”

The present cycle of repairs began the week of Sept 29. Work focuses on District 2 of the city’s five districts. Boundaries

of the 19-square-block district are Bedford to Kensington between Mack Avenue and Jefferson.

“We’re replacing about 800 squares of concrete, or 27,500 square feet of concrete,” Jenny said. “Weather permitting, it should take about three weeks. Everything will be filled in and closed by Halloween.”

Pedestrians should wait six to eight hours before walking on fresh cement, Jenny said.

“For a driveway and approach, you want four

to five days,” he said.

City officials initiated citywide sidewalk restoration last year for the first time in a decade.

“The city evaluated (sidewalk squares) for safety,” said Councilman Max Wiener, head of the infrastructure committee.

Some squares qualified due to damage caused by the city, such as being dislodged by the roots of municipally owned trees.

The cost of fixing other squares was deemed the property owner’s responsibility.

Squares marked with a white dot were designated to be fixed from the city budget. Slabs with pink dots indicated the homeowner would be billed.

Sections chosen for replacement had one or all of the following defects:

- ◆ offset at least a half inch between slabs,
- ◆ cracks larger than three-eighths of an inch in width,
- ◆ spalling or scaling where the surface is deteriorating more than 75 percent of the flag,
- ◆ holes more than two inches wide and/or a

quarter inch deep and cross slopes exceeding 2 percent.

Work continues each construction season in one district after another until walkways throughout the city are brought up to standards. Repairs in District 1 concluded last spring.

Construction was contracted to Luigi Fernandini & Son Cement, headquartered in Roseville. The company won a low-bid, \$145,368 contract last year for District 1 and kept the same pricing for District 2. Repairs aren’t

restricted to the district in which work is scheduled.

“If there’s a critical section that is really dangerous, please contact public works,” Wiener said.

“We do have spot issues,” Jenny said.

Property owners may arrange independently with the contractor for work outside the scope of sidewalk repairs.

“I’ve gotten many calls from the foreman that they want to add concrete,” Jenny said.

Arrangements are between the property owner and contractor.

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South alum named among best 40-under-40 MBA professors

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Though she hasn't lived in the state since heading off to college, Hayley (Soltész) Blunden still proudly maintains a 313 area code.

The alumna of Richard Elementary School, Brownell Middle School and Grosse Pointe South High School was honored this summer as one of Poets & Quants' World's Best 40-Under-40 MBA Professors of 2025.

"I look back fondly on my time at South, Brownell and even at Richard," said the 39-year-old assistant professor of management at American University's Kogod School of Business. "I remember some really impactful teachers the whole way through.

"Who could forget Mrs. Norris' AP U.S. history class? She was just fantastic and so energetic and I still can remember some of the historical elements that she spoke about. They come up as I enjoy reading history."

The Poets & Quants' 40-under-40 list each year seeks to identify and celebrate, through a nomination system, the most talented young professors currently teaching in MBA programs around the world.

This year's honorees include those from the United States, United Kingdom, Spain, France, Canada, China, Hong



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, Hayley Blunden now and, right, at her graduation from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2004.



Kong, Denmark and Costa Rica.

"I'm very honored," Blunden said. "I care about students and I care about my research and the impact that it can make. It was very exciting to see that recognized."

Hand in hand with teaching an MBA course on organizational effectiveness through people is Blunden's research, which at the tip of the iceberg delves into how leaders can improve workplace interaction.

In studying the value and potential of workplace interactions to drive organizational strength, she views organizations as an amalgamation of relationships and relationships as an amalgamation of individual interactions.

In more tangible terms, a recent paper she pub-

lished studied the impact of a simple shift in receiving constructive criticism — asking colleagues for advice rather than feedback.

"What we find is when people are asking for advice instead of feedback, it actually shifts people's thinking more toward the future and the givers of this information are actually being more specific when they're responding to an advice request," Blunden explained. "So that future focus really helps people center in on what specific actions they can take in order to improve."

A field study of more than 50,000 employees — where half were the sample asking for advice and half remained the default asking for feedback — indeed found those asked

for advice responded with more concrete, developmental information, which the receivers found to be more helpful in implementing improvements.

"I'm thinking about the potential that it's a very simple change that people can make even in their own lives," Blunden said. "You don't have to wait for your organization to change the systems. We can go out and ask for advice when we're looking for how to improve."

With a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, MBA from Columbia Business School and doctorate from Harvard Business School, the professor began teaching in 2022, after a previous career in economics and finance.

The students and their

potential, she said, are what drive her passion to teach.

"It's a really pivotal point in their career where they're really shaping where they're going to end up," Blunden said. "It's an important time in people's lives when they're reflecting on experiences they've had before and considering what that dream career is going to be for them, so it's really a really pivotal point and it's exciting to be a part of."

She'd be remiss, Blunden added, not to recognize two other teachers from her hometown who taught her with that same drive.

"Mr. Berschback, he taught AP biology and was just phenomenal with teacher-student interaction," Blunden said. "I had Mrs. Bonnie Berschback-Moyer, too, for algebra and she was great. She had us get four color pens and we would do our equations with different colors depending on what we were doing. That was really insightful."

With her parents still living in the Farms and a sister in the Park, Blunden said her family comes back to Grosse Pointe as often as they can.

"Now my sons are familiar with the area too," she added. "They are 7 and 9."

Much of Blunden's work can be found on her website, hayleyblunden.com.

Want to build a better business?

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THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce presents its next Building Your Business Boot Camp from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

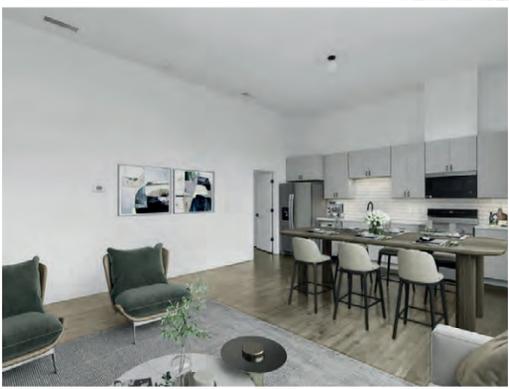
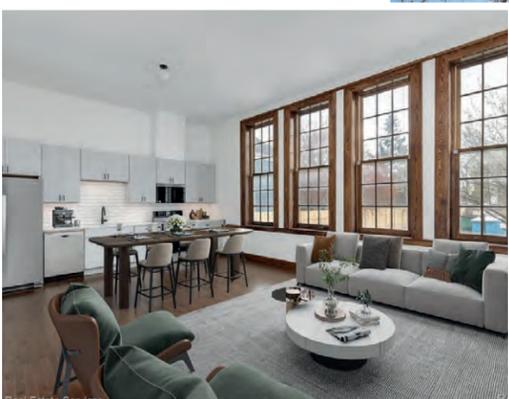
The topic, "Social Media: Stop the Scroll & What's Your Message," will be presented by chamber member Terri Voytowich of the Voytowich Collective, a marketing and strategy firm.

"Right when you think you know everything, it's always changing," said Jennifer Boettcher, chamber president. "It's good to keep on top of it. That's why we offer this to anyone, not just members. You never know what you're going to learn."

Participants will learn how to up their social media game through creating better content, developing clearer messaging and seeing real results through sales and reach.

The public is welcome to this event, which includes lunch. Tickets are \$35 for chamber members, \$45 for non-

See BUILD, page 12A



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South grad in new Netflix series

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

It took Jack Kay five years after college to land his first acting job, but the 2015 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate said he had an "intuitive sense" that his approach to his craft would eventually pay off.

"I stayed in New York after college and had this feeling that networking was the key," he said. "My entry into the industry was a bit unorthodox."

Kay, who just turned 29, can be seen in the new Netflix series "Boots," in episodes six, seven and eight. The eight-episode first season is now available.

"It's an incredible place to start my career," he said. "It was an honor to be included."

The series is based on the 2016 book "The Pink Marine," written by Greg Cope White,



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDON TYLER MOORE

Above, Jack Kay, right, on the set of the Netflix series "Boots." Right, Kay is a 2015 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School.

detailing his experience as a closeted gay man who joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1979. While White served until 1985, "Boots" is set in 1990, still a decade before the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was repealed.

"I enter in episode six as the main character's new bunkmate," Kay said. "He makes it clear he has a keen sense of

the character's sexual orientation. There's a romantic interest there and they forge an unlikely connection. But the drill instructor is also a closeted gay man and detects what's going on and does what he can to interfere."

Kay said he has not heard if there will be a season two or if his role would continue.

"It ends with Saddam Hussein invading Kuwait and the whole Gulf War thing," he said. "So the speculation is that they would be deployed."

The Park native, who also attended Maire Elementary and Pierce



rupted for five months by the strikes (the unions representing actors and writers both went on strike in the latter half of the year)," he said. "It picked back up in June of last year. If not for the strikes I wouldn't be part of it."

Kay also has been cast in the upcoming movie "Club Kids," about the artistic movement and nightlife of New York City in the 1980s and 1990s. Filming begins next month.

"I struggled a long time, but I had this apprehensive instinct that something important would happen," he said of his decision to remain in New York. "I didn't have an agent until five years after I graduated, but I was readying myself for years. New York has a palpable sense of opportunity."

Kay said he returns to the Pointes for holidays and a week's vacation at his family's Marine City cottage each summer.

"Grosse Pointe South was so instrumental in my development as a performer," he said. "I was in every production, plus the show choir. I'm really grateful for my time there."

Middle schools, studied classical singing at Julliard.

"I always gravitated more toward drama, so I hung out with those students mostly," he said. "I attended every performance, letting as much info seep in as I could."

Kay said an unusual series of events led to his casting.

"I was at a dinner party and kind of gave

an impromptu performance," he recalled. "Zach Quinto was there and he kind of took me under his wing, introducing me to his representatives."

Quinto has been in several movies and TV shows, most notably as the main character and producer of the current "Brilliant Minds."

"Boots" started filming in the summer of 2023, but was inter-

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Grosse Pointe News BEST of the BEST 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

BUILD:

Continued from page 11A

members. "It's great being able to host this with a chamber business member and bring in other mem-

bers and future members to learn something new," said Abigail Turnbull, membership and events coordinator.

"Everyone who comes will be able to take something actionable back to their business." To buy tickets, visit

grossepointechamber.com.

For information, call (313) 881-4722.

— Jody McVeigh

WATER:

Continued from page 9A

classic boats.

"It'll never go race speed again, but it's fun to drive after all these years," he smiled. "It was just like when I was growing up. The first time I ever drove, I was 19. You never forget

what that sensation is like."

Newer hydroplane boats, now powered by turbine engines, can top 300 mph.

"When they moved from piston engines to turbines, I think they took something out of the sport," Simon Jr. said. "They're much quieter and the noise used to be

one of the things the fans enjoyed."

Miss U.S. 1 is now in storage in a warehouse Joe Simon owns in Grosse Pointe Park.

"We'll work on it over the winter and get it ready for next spring," Simon Jr. said. "We'll probably run it a couple more years and then find a museum for it."

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Albom to speak at Liggett lecture

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — University Liggett School has announced that acclaimed author, journalist and philanthropist Mitch Albom will serve as the inaugural guest for the Honor Wallace Memorial Speaker Series at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23.

“We are extremely blessed and grateful that through this speaker series, we have the special opportunity to remember Honor and share her passions for continuous learning and inspiring others in a meaningful and lasting way with University Liggett School students and the extended community,” said Honor’s parents, Caroline and David Wallace.

This event launches the signature initiative celebrating the life and legacy of Honor Wallace, a distinguished member of the Class of 2022 and a University Liggett School Merit Scholarship recipient. She tragically lost her life at the hands of a drunken driver during her sophomore year at



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESS NESSER

Mitch Albom will speak at the Honor Wallace Memorial Speaker Series.

Southern Methodist University in 2023.

Created by the Wallace family in partnership with ULS, the Honor Wallace Memorial Speaker Series was established to reflect the values Honor lived by — academic excellence, artistic expression, global curiosity, gratitude and a heartfelt desire to connect with and uplift others. The

series brings nationally recognized leaders and storytellers to Liggett to inspire meaningful conversations and lifelong learning across generations.

“Mitch Albom is the perfect voice to launch this meaningful tribute to Honor,” said Kelley Hamilton, associate head of school for strategy and external relations. “His writing and

humanitarian work speak directly to the themes this series will explore — resilience, empathy, community impact and purpose. These are the same values that defined Honor’s life and that we hope to pass on to our students and the community.”

Albom, best-known for the memoir “Tuesdays with Morrie,” is an author, screenwriter, philanthropist, journalist and broadcaster. His fiction and non-fiction books — which include eight No.1 New York Times best-sellers — have collectively sold 42 million copies worldwide in 48 languages. Albom has also written Emmy Award-winning TV films, stage plays, screenplays, a nationally syndicated newspaper column and a musical. Through his work at the Detroit Free Press, he was inducted into both the National Sports Media Association and Michigan Sports halls of fame and was given the Red Smith Award for lifetime achievement by the Associated Press.

Pointe Players to perform ‘Sense and Sensibility’

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Fans of Jane Austen’s first novel, or the popular 1995 movie, are in for a treat if they plan to attend Grosse Pointe South High School’s production.

“This adaptation, written by Kate Hamill, lets you be a little unconventional,” director Dan DeMarco said. “It still keeps the same storyline of the drama and romance, but you can have fun with it.”

The Pointe Players will present “Sense and Sensibility” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, through Saturday, Oct.

18. Tickets are \$15, cash or check, at the door, or students can buy them during their lunch break.

The novel was released in 1811, although originally credited to “By A Lady” rather than Austen. Her authorship wasn’t revealed until after her death.

The main point is that a healthy, happy life requires a balance between reason (sense) and emotion (sensitivity), rather than prioritizing one to the exclusion of the other. Through the contrasting sisters, Elinor and Marianne, it explores how individuals must learn to temper

See SENSE, page 14A

PLAN:

Continued from page 1A

ahead anymore,” she noted. “Things change so fast that you have to be agile and able to adapt.”

Stair said the plan not only will focus on district goals, but also board goals as well as performance standards and goals for staff.

In convincing the board to contract with MASB, Stair said an outside facilitator provides four key components that are better than doing such planning in-house:

- ◆ allows for equal participation,
- ◆ recognizes barriers and opportunities,
- ◆ respects time demands and
- ◆ provides neutrality.

“If you use staff, they not only take themselves out of the process, they’re also not doing what you hired them to do,” Stair said. “And people don’t tend to give honest opinions to people they know. With us, people feel more free to talk.”

The process will include face-to-face listening sessions with a variety of groups, includ-

ing staff, community members, students and parents, as well as a virtual session and an online survey. It is expected to be completed by next March and include both year-one objectives and an action plan for the remaining years.

Stair said MASB typically does strategic planning in 18 to 20 districts per year.

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Defer flowers charm Beauty Commish

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — To use schoolhouse vernacular, Defer Elementary School is making exceptional progress toward achieving a beautification award.

Members of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission were sufficiently impressed with the campus' gardens to nominate the school an award in the civic category.

"A civic award is for members of the community that donate time, effort, money and donations to beautify and improve the community," said Lisa Kyle, commission chairwoman.

Defer, which opened in 1925, is the district's oldest building still in use.

Commissioner Kelly Konieczki nominated Defer during the group's meeting Oct. 1.

"They have a great mix of annuals and perennials throughout the seasons," Konieczki said. "They added a native

garden in 2022. Some of the plants are grown by students. It is run largely by parent volunteers."

"We are incredibly grateful for the recognition of our volunteers and PTO's dedication to the beautification of our school grounds," said Lindsay Studders, representing the PTO Beautification Committee. "We have a wonderful mix of native perennials, annuals and bright spring bulbs, some of which were grown in our greenhouse with our lunchtime enrichment program and planted by our Scout troops."

"It's a wonderful garden," Konieczki said. "It deserves recognition."

"We are building habitat for pollinators with plants that bloom throughout the season while creating space for students and families to explore and connect with nature," Studders said.

"Parents involved don't get separate awards," Commissioner Pat Deck said. "Only the school gets the award."

Awards are issued annually. This year's



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Members of the Park Beautification Commission nominated Defer Elementary's front garden for a 2025 beautification award.

ceremony is 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Tompkins Community Center, Windmill Pointe Park. Winners will be

notified and invited to attend the catered event.

"The goal would be to get invitations out by the end of next week," Kyle

said.

Residential awards constitute the largest category. Additional categories are for business and for houses at least 100 years old. Commissioners were in a small conundrum this month deciding whether to categorize Defer's award in the civic or business category.

"It wouldn't be a business," Commissioner Anne Billiu said. "It would be more of a civic award."

"I lean toward a civic award," Kyle said.

There are likely to be additional civic winners.

"We don't have a limit," Kyle said. "We have had three in the past."

Preparations for the awards ceremony are in the fine-tuning stage.

"Everyone please check to see if your addresses are correct," Kyle told commissioners about the various lists of winners. "I'm pretty confident everything is correct. Give it one more double-check and let me know if you find errors."

SENSE:

Continued from page 13A

emotional extremes with rational judgment and also allow genuine feeling to guide their choices, particularly within the societal constraints placed upon women in the 18th century.

Early reviews viewed the story as a sort of handbook for conduct, although it would later be seen as a classic.

DeMarco said he chose the play to contrast with the upcoming spring performance of "Les Misérables."

"We wanted something fun and not so serious for

this," he noted.

There are 22 cast members and 10 crew members.

"It's one of the bigger groups we've had," DeMarco said. "There's a lot of room for complementary roles."

He added that some of the cast had seen the movie or read the book,

but not all.

"They've become very familiar with it very quickly," DeMarco said. "We started auditions the second day of school, so by opening night we'll only have about six weeks of rehearsals. But they get it. They've really hustled to get things in order."



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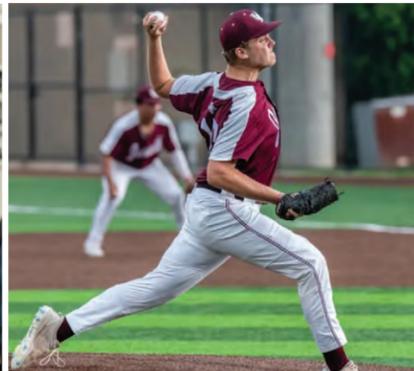
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SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Literacy for Kids efforts increasing

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Since 2019, Literacy for Kids has helped connect students to authors and illustrators, with the mission of introducing to children the concept that reading is connected to the arts.

“Beat, rhythm and illustration behind the words can make the task of learning more interesting,” its website reads. “Our vision is a world where curious children celebrate the art in literacy.”

Having already gifted more than 6,000 books this year, LFK founder Jayne Rose-Vallee is hoping to further the nonprofit’s efforts through a new partnership with Henry Ford Health.

“Start from Birth: Henry Ford Health x LFK” is a new partnership that provides every family in the HFH neonatal intensive care unit and birthing centers with baby’s first book, “because each book is more than just pages and pictures. It’s a baby’s first story, a moment of comfort, bonding and imagination, sparking a lifelong love of reading.”

An LFK board member suggested the idea to Rose-Vallee as an alternative to the hospital’s own book program, funding for which dried up due to the pandemic.

“They were building this library, but then because of germs, they determined they couldn’t share the books



COURTESY PHOTOS

Literacy for Kids founder Jayne Rose-Vallee helps package books.

any more,” she said. “They originally told us 3,000 families and I thought, we can do that. It looks now like it’s double that.”

So far, LFK has contributed 1,500 books to the program.

“They asked for them in different languages, so we donated books in four languages (English, Spanish, Arabic and Bengali) to represent the communities in Detroit,” she said.

She hopes to donate 4,500 books by the end of the year and eventually expand the program to other hospitals.

“We’re packing each book with a card with an emphasis on what literacy is — words and poetry and rhyming and songs,” she said. “It’s a tiny card, but it’s our mission. Each family gets their own.”

The books have been

well received.

“The families in NICU and postpartum are enjoying the books and are very touched,” said Shannon Angersbach, MSN, RN-NIC, the NICU

unit director at HFH. “We have been experiencing a baby boom, so they are definitely moving. The NICU (participated) in a global Read-A-Thon in



Through its Start from Birth program, in partnership with Henry Ford Health, Literacy for Kids donates books for families in the NICU at Henry Ford Hospital.

September, so the books will help immensely.”

The NICU/birthing center program is one of several growth goals Rose-Vallee has for LFK. Board expansion is underway as well. Through the eight-member-and-growing board,

she hopes to strengthen Detroit-area connections and sustain new partnerships.

“Our goal is building awareness in the Detroit community, but also collaborating with organizations already in existence,” she said.

Ford House, for example, partnered with LFK during its recent Story Festival, which invited families to its grounds for storytelling, drawing, collaborative art-making and a student mural project.

“We brought in an author from New York, Katie Yamasaki, who was their designated reader,” Rose-Vallee said, noting LFK led an art project that went along Yamasaki’s story.

Another new partnership involves the Detroit Institute of Arts.

“They’re opening their African American exhibit this fall,” Rose-



A new mother reads to her newborn in the NICU at Henry Ford Hospital.

See EFFORTS, page 16A



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16A | SCHOOLS

Liggett announces 2025-26 Merit Scholars

University Liggett School recently announced the recipients of the 2025 Liggett Merit Scholarship, a four-year, half-tuition award recognizing exceptional students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership and a passion for learning. This year's scholars are Catherine Van Culin, Matteo Marciano and Eleanore Juip.

The Liggett Merit Scholarship takes into account a comprehensive evaluation of applicants' academic prowess, teacher endorsements, interviews, test scores and their potential contributions to the ULS community. Drawing applications from across the metro Detroit region, the scholarship program serves as a beacon for ambitious young minds.

This year, ULS recognizes the following recipients:

- ◆ Eleanore "Ellie" Juip: Coming from St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School, the City of Grosse Pointe student has a global perspective and academic drive. She was a member of her middle school's



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Matteo Marciano, Catherine Van Culin and Eleanore Juip.

Destination Imagination team, which earned the opportunity to travel to Shanghai and ride a bullet train. She aspires to become a doctor and already contributes to the upper school community as a volleyball player and dedicated student.

◆ Matteo Marciano: An aspiring pilot and upper school tennis player, the Grosse Pointe Farms student also comes from St. Paul on the Lake. He cur-

rently is pursuing flight lessons and has twice been nominated for the Junior National Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. — an honor that highlights his drive and leadership.

◆ Catherine Van Culin: A "Liggett Lifer," the Grosse Pointe Farms student has been part of the ULS community since prekindergarten. She brings a deep connection to ULS and a spirit of

leadership both in and out of the classroom. She served as the eighth-grade volleyball team captain and was selected to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Honors Orchestra. In upper school, she is continuing her dedication to both volleyball and orchestra.

"These scholars embody the values of University Liggett School — curiosity, character and a commitment to excellence," said Stephanie Sikora, interim director of enrollment management. "We are thrilled to welcome them into the Liggett Merit Scholar legacy."

Now accepting applications for 2026

Applications for the 2026 Liggett Merit Scholarship are now open. Every student applying for admission to the ninth grade is automatically considered. To be eligible, applicants must complete the admissions process — including a required assessment and school visit — by Jan. 20, 2026.

EFFORTS:

Continued from page 15A

Vallee said. "They're already doing a school program, 'Freedom Braids,' with Monique Duncan. We're coming in this spring; we can fit 150 kids in the auditorium. They all get books, the author presentation and an art project. It's a way for Literacy for Kids to embrace what's out there. It's a better way than doing it all ourselves."

Other partnerships in the works are with Detroit Boxing Gym and College for Creative Studies.

"We want to continue to immerse ourself into the community," Rose-Vallee said. "That's where we're at."

At the heart of LFK is its flagship program, Authors:IN-Detroit, which connects authors and illustrators with students to promote literacy, imagination, poetry and creativity. Through the support of sponsors and donors, LFK hosts author presentations and gifts an autographed book to each student. Every student will receive a signed copy of "Flying Lessons and Other Stories," thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

The program has grown so large, this fall's Authors:IN-Detroit, slated for Tuesday, Nov. 18, will welcome 1,500 students to Detroit's Music Hall Center.

"There's a panel discussion with three authors and a moderator," Rose-Vallee said.

"Each of the authors — Matt de la Peña, Soman Chainani and Kelly Baptist — wrote short stories. Joel Greene, a Detroit poet, is the moderator. We may even have a student deejay."

A recently announced second program the following day, Wednesday, Nov. 19, will host 350 additional students at the Clara Stanton Jones Auditorium at the Detroit Public Library.

"We are so grateful to the Detroit Public Library for partnering with Literacy for Kids," Rose-Vallee said. "By opening the Clara Stanton Jones Auditorium to us, they are helping bring nationally recognized authors to even more Detroit students and strengthening the role of community in literacy."

Authors:IN-Detroit welcomes interested members of the community. For tickets, email jayne@literacyforkids.org.

"We're trying to think outside the box," she said. "Literacy, let's face it, is kind of a nightmare right now."

However, with the addition of its NICU/birthing center program, LFK now serves children from birth to age 18.

"That's huge," Rose-Vallee said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be part of a program like this."

To contribute to its growth, book donations — or monetary donations for books — are welcome, as are potential partnerships and collaborations. For more information or to make a donation, visit literacyforkids.org.

Family of Parishes seeks volunteers to pack meals

More than 150 volunteers are needed for the Mercy in Action Day of Service, hosted by the Family of Parishes that includes St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Matthew and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic churches.

Volunteers will be participating in a Kids

Coalition Against Hunger meal-packing event from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at the St. Paul gymnasium, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

The goal is to assemble 15,000 meals to fight hunger in neighboring communities and those in need overseas.

Volunteers are needed for setting up the event from 6:45 to 8 a.m.

At 8:15 a.m., a morning Mass takes place; all volunteers are welcome to attend.

The event itself, including cleanup, follows from 9 to 11:15 a.m.

All ages are welcome to volunteer, though chil-

dren ages 6 to 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

To sign up, visit signnugenius.com/go/ACTION.

For more information, call Tricia Kesteloot at (313) 885-4816 or email tkesteloot@stpaulonthelake.org.

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Sunday, November 23 | 4 pm

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Tickets \$25

Christmas Concert

"A French Christmas"

Sunday, December 14 | 4 pm

Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season in this festive afternoon of traditional favorites and choral masterpieces. This year's concert features selections from the French choral tradition including Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Messe de minuit pour Noël* and other holiday favorites. Then, the audience is invited to join in to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols and the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*.

Tickets \$25

For tickets and more information, scan the QR code or visit christchurchgp.org/concerts

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SCAN & SCHEDULE

HISTORY:

Continued from page 7A

a facility for senior citizens and other groups, eight new hard-surfaced and lighted tennis courts, expanding parking facilities and re-landscaping.

BIG LOOT, LOST, FOUND, RECOVERED:

A money bag containing around \$1,437 in cash and three checks with a total value of \$372.65 fell from the roof of a car where it was inadvertently placed and was recovered by some

youths, who split the money. Then, the juveniles were ultimately traced through the work of an off-duty Youth Service Division detective, who recovered all the cash.

2000

25 years ago this week

MENINGITIS CASES, DEATHS ALARM PARENTS:

While the number of cases of meningitis in the metro Detroit area is not out of

the ordinary, the number of deaths is — including one of a Lakeview middle school student in St. Clair Shores. Such a panic had jammed a temporary meningitis hotline at St. John Hospital and Medical Center last weekend.

BUD'S CLYDEDALES HITCH TO VILLAGE'S SANTA PARADE:

Cindy Melican was looking for something new — and found it: the Budweiser Clydesdales. Next month, 16,000 pounds of the world's most famous team of draft horses will

clop down Kercheval as the crown jewel in the Grosse Pointe Santa Parade. The horses are part of Melican's effort to arrange something special for the parade's 25th anniversary.

2015

10 years ago this week

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS SERVING THE POINTES:

The Grosse Pointe News has been a part of the Grosse Pointe community for

75 years, reaching residents' homes every week, uninterrupted, since its first edition was printed and delivered Nov. 7, 1940. The newspaper was the creation of Robert B. Edgar. The idea for the newspaper was born at Al Green's, a popular night spot in Grosse Pointe in 1940. Al and Torch Green, who knew everyone, brought together what would become a fortuitous meeting of Robert B. Edgar and Anastasia and Theodore "Teed" Buhl.

DISTRICT DEVELOPING SECURITY PLAN: The Grosse Pointe Public School System is the equivalent of a small town comprised of more than 8,000 students, hundreds of employees and contract workers, 17 buildings and related infrastructure. Securing the system from unwanted outside influence is as vital as it is difficult. To evaluate the district's security strengths and weaknesses, school officials in August retained Compliance One.

RACES:

Continued from page 2A

Mack intersection redesign, surveillance systems within the parks and the emergency electrification of our pump station.

In my next term, I look forward to productive collaboration with the council, our residents and our business owners to ensure that Grosse Pointe Woods is the city where people want to be.

Councilwoman Vicki Granger

A lot of improvements and upgrades have been made at our three main municipal parks — the new pool liner and the new splash pad at Lake Front Park, the new playground equipment and the handicapped accessible play area, along with a new walking path at Chene-Trombley Park and the new walking path along with benches at Ghesquiere Park, as well as new fencing and

bleachers for the baseball diamonds and improved handicap-accessible swings at the playground area.

We also added a second dog park on the municipal center grounds on Mack.

Additionally, we've funded a lot of municipal construction projects, particularly the new Mack and Vernier intersection. While residents are still getting used to the new no-left turn rules, in any direction, the goal was to make the intersection safer for the hundreds of school children using that area every school day. I've heard from residents who say that morning drop-off is much easier.

We have been very careful to plan construction projects in the most fiscally responsible manner possible, such as coupling a replacement of a water line with sewer work and road work, if possible. I have chaired the Construction Committee since I came

on council and I am very proud of how we were the first city in the area back in the early 1990s to start pulling together all the data on every street, water line, sewer line and even fire hydrants. The infrastructure book is updated every year, and we have data identifying the year the road was last constructed, for example.

Future projects include seeking ways to share services with the other Pointes to more effectively serve residents and creating a municipal app for smartphones and tablets.

Park

Mayor Michele Hodges

Our priorities moving forward build upon the strong foundation of progress established in recent years. Through hard work and collaboration, our administration has achieved meaningful results — most notably in infrastructure improvements

and long-term financial stability — both of which are essential to maintaining Grosse Pointe Park's reputation as a desirable and vibrant community. That momentum is driving us toward even greater success. In the months ahead, we will engage residents in developing a comprehensive Park's master plan to guide future investments in recreation and open space.

Collaboration will remain a key focus. We will strengthen partnerships with the city of Detroit and neighboring communities to stabilize our borders and enhance shared streetscapes. We will also work with the other Grosse Pointes to improve and formalize service agreements that benefit residents across our region.

Key projects include realizing the Charlevoix Streetscape Plan, pursuing solutions for the Trombly property that protect our neighborhoods and maintaining

our strong focus on infrastructure and public safety.

Every initiative we undertake is guided by a single goal: protecting taxpayer dollars while preserving — and enhancing — the exceptional quality of life that defines Grosse Pointe Park.

John Parnell Jr.

I'm a lifelong member of the Grosse Pointe community and a proud third-generation Grosse Pointer. I've lived in Grosse Pointe Park for two decades, dedicating my legal career to serving individuals, families and small businesses throughout the region.

A licensed Michigan attorney for 17 years, I'm a founding partner at Lubera & Parnell, P.L.C., and recognized for a practical, solutions-focused approach to the law.

My practice began with criminal defense, landlord-tenant disputes and general civil litigation. Today, I focus primarily on estate

planning, probate and trust litigation, real estate matters and estate administration.

As a candidate for Grosse Pointe Park municipal judge, I'm eager to bring my courtroom experience and fair-minded approach to a role that directly impacts the safety and integrity of the community. The court handles landlord-tenant disputes, limited civil cases, local ordinance cases and misdemeanor criminal matters within the city; as well as arraignments, bail settings and preliminary examinations in felony cases, all of which I am deeply familiar with.

I am actively involved in community service, including serving as vice commander of the Grosse Pointe Farms Police Reserve Unit, which I have been a part of for 17 years, and volunteer as a youth baseball coach with the Grosse Pointe Park Little League and an 11U travel team.

Retirement planning doesn't end when you retire.

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21A JENSEN JOINING FARMS CITY COUNCIL

Former City mayor challenges incumbent

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Christopher Boettcher

Education: Bachelor of Arts in business administration, Western Michigan University

Age: 61

Occupation/Profession: President of Airtec Corp., a third-generation family business

Volunteer/Charity Work: Member, City of Grosse Pointe Foundation



Christopher Boettcher

Boettcher was a city councilman eight years before serving a single term as mayor from 2017 to 2019. He is running for another go at mayor, he said, because he's less

than impressed with current city leadership.

"After six years of watching what the (current) mayor did, there's



Sheila Tomkowiak

more work to be done," Boettcher said. "There was work that I wanted to do that I didn't get to finish and overall, I think

that the community, it's not where it should be in terms of vibrancy and everything else."

His main qualm is with the general state of The Village.

"It looks run down — dead trees standing all summer long, an arch with no clock that works right and I can't even explain the lighting that's up there. It would be better off if it was turned off," Boettcher said. "Our shining star is supposed to be our arch that welcomes you to The Village and it's just in disrepair and the only thing that is a glimmer of hope was 40

new garbage cans.

"So if that's what we've been able to accomplish in six years, that's not acceptable."

Main Street Grosse Pointe, which replaced the Downtown Development Authority in 2020, and is responsible for supporting businesses and restoring vibrancy to The Village, also has not operated up to the former mayor's standards.

"I feel that Main Street hasn't necessarily accomplished its intended goals, at least those that I

See CITY, page 23A

Two Farms councilmen aim for mayor seat

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

attorney, Garan Lucow Miller

Volunteer/Charity Work: Chair, Grosse Pointe Farms Parks and Harbor Committee; chair, Grosse Pointe Farms Ordinance Committee; member, Grosse Pointe Farms Audit and Budget Committee; member, Grosse Pointe Farms Personnel Committee; board of directors, Detroit Bar Association; fellow, American Bar Association; past president, Association of Defense Trail Counsel



John Gillooly

Gillooly has been on city council since 2017, serving as mayor pro tem from 2023 to 2024.

He is at the end of his current council term, meaning he cannot remain on council if not elected mayor.

"I'm running for mayor to keep the city of Grosse Pointe Farms as an extraordinary place to live, to work

and to do business," he said. "... I think I'm uniquely qualified to serve as mayor given my background of 34 years of municipal litigation in high-profile cases. I've represented judges, prosecutors, cities and the state Department of Transportation in the past on very, very high-profile cases. And I'm called upon to lecture a lot to various cities and city councils who are in trouble internally, externally, on matters such



Joe Ricci

as getting along with one another, how to run effective meetings, the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act, things of that nature. I do a lot of training for police officers as well (such as on) use of force and constitutional issues."

Alongside experience representing the Grosse Pointes, Gillooly also has served as general counsel for the Grosse Pointes Clinton Refuse Disposal Authority more

than 25 years.

"The city of Grosse Pointe Farms, under my leadership, will not privatize its trash collection system in any way, shape or form," he said.

Entering a first term as mayor, Gillooly would be focused on managing and completing the city's major stormwater separation project, bringing about the proposed Pier Park pool complex upgrade — in which he has been heavily involved as chair of the parks and harbor committee — and seeing to it that the portion of Lakeshore between Fisher and Warner is promptly repaved.

"It's unacceptable for our road at the entrance of one of the most beautiful drives in the state of Michigan, if not beyond, to have (conditions) like that," Gillooly said, "and it's going to be done next year."

He's also focused on attracting good candi-

dates to city leadership; maintaining the city's water quality, which is unique in that the Farms has its own dedicated water system and filtration plant; continuing to improve the Mack border; continuing to be aggressive in traffic enforcement, particularly with speeding in school zones; and ensuring officers on an annual basis are trained in de-escalation policies.

Gillooly understands the position of mayor and council to be a policy-making body, which then "stays in our own lane" and allows city administration to manage the day-to-day operations.

He's committed to keeping the current reputation of the Farms council, which is well-prepared, gives everyone "a fair shake," and has made a habit of holding community

See MAYOR, page 21A

4 candidates vie for 3 council seats in City

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The seats of councilmembers David Fries, Maureen Juip and Chris Walsh are up for election Tuesday, Nov. 4. As the three campaign to retain their seats, they are joined in the race by newcomer David Calcaterra.

Councilmembers in the City serve four-year terms.

Find the election profiles of each candidate below.

David Calcaterra

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in marketing and logistics, John Carroll University

Age: 35

Occupation/Profession: Senior program manager, CBRE

Volunteer/Charity Work: Member, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church; member, City of Grosse Pointe Foundation

Calcaterra has lived in the City the vast majority of his life and is running for a seat on city council to serve as a voice of a younger generation and to take an active role in ensuring his children experience the same uniquely Grosse Pointe childhood he did.

Growing up on University, he was a lifeguard at Neff Park, on the Norbs swim team, later became a swim coach and at one point was a city employee as the pool supervisor. Among his fondest childhood memories are movie nights at the park.

"Now that I'm 35 years old, I'm settling down," Calcaterra said. "I've been married for a year and I'm expecting my first child in December. I want to give my daughter and hopefully kids in the future that exact same memory by preserving what they've built for us already."

"As the budget

becomes tighter, we still have to find a way to keep those events. Grosse Pointe is such a unique community that not a lot of kids can say they have those same memories, because their cities don't offer those services or have these beautifully-lined streets with trees."

As a new city councilperson, Calcaterra would be interested in learning from the current council and working on issues such as restoring the tree canopy, supporting businesses and improving communication to residents, particularly to the younger generation, via social media.

"It's our job to have very open communication," Calcaterra said, "explaining to them, 'Hey, these are what our challenges are and why we're trying to do this. We need your guys' help now to come support the

See COUNCIL, page 20A

Four candidates, three seats in Park

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The campaign for Grosse Pointe Park City Council Tuesday, Nov. 4, is between four candidates competing for three open seats.

All terms are four years long and voluntary. There's no pay.

In exchange, members of the council are expected to attend monthly meetings. There also are special meetings now and then, usually about drafting the municipal budget or discussing a timely issue of community interest or consequence. So too, council members are assigned positions on boards and commissions, which meet regularly and as needed.

All polling locations for Park registered voters are at Windmill Pointe Park. Precincts 1 and 2 vote at the Tompkins Center. All other pre-

cincts are at the Lavins Activity Center. The polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Candidates profiles appear alphabetically.

Tom Caulfield

It's all about customer service for Councilman Tom Caulfield.

Private sector, public sector, it doesn't matter. Customer service is key to meeting performance standards, building trust and effective communications.

"We have to realize we are in the service industry as a city," said Caulfield, seeking a second term on council. "We are here to serve the residents. Their taxes pay for that service. We need to be available to respond and address that. We need to take the approach that our residents are our customers and we need to provide customer service. That means quick response with everything and that there's no question about what's going

on."

Caulfield is a partner at Lockton Risk Control management and insurance consultants. For the city, he's mayor pro tem, heads the finance and ordinance committees, is liaison to recreation committee and Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, a member of the infrastructure committee and more.

"Being on council is a big commitment," he said. "The candidates need to understand how much of a commitment it is. It's not just showing up for one meeting a month. I'm on seven committees with the Park. But I'm committed to it. There is a lot of work to be done and I'd like to continue with your support. It's an honor to serve. We've done pretty well and I look forward to doing it some more."

He's a lifelong Park resident and wants to reinforce qualities that

See PARK, page 22A

20A | ELECTION

COUNCIL:

Continued from page 19A

businesses, to come out to these events, to come help raise money for trees and get these projects accomplished.”

Among the qualifications he said he brings to council are a fresh voice, energy and passion about the community he grew up in, as well as professional experience overseeing Stellantis dealerships built from Manhattan to Portland, Org.

“Across the country, I’ve been on the other side of the table going to the city council, representing the business owners, asking, ‘Why can’t I get the signage approved? Why can’t I get this done?’” Calcaterra said. “As businesses come and propose things to the city, I will be able to walk on both sides of the aisle and understand what they’re trying to achieve as well.”

He’s not running for council because he’s displeased with the way anyone currently seated is operating, Calcaterra added.

“Why I’m running is not because they’re not doing a good job,” he said, “I just want to give it a younger perspective and focus on things like (the park). I really want to support them, learn and help.”

“I’ve worked for the city and I’m trying to continue my pathway to keep the city and grow it.”

David Fries

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree in public administration, associate degree in business administration, associate degree in communication, University of Detroit; certified acquisition professional

Age: 73

Occupation /

Profession: Vehicle configuration manager, Department of Defense; owner, Home Management Services LLC; lieutenant colonel, U.S. Air Force Reserve; disaster preparedness officer, U.S. Air Force; commander in Iraq 2013-14, during which he brought all 85 people under his supervision back home

Volunteer/Charity Work: Member, City of Grosse Pointe Parks and Harbor Commission; member, Men’s Club of Grosse Pointe; board of directors, Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club; Base Community



David Calcaterra



David Fries

Council, Selfridge Air National Guard Base; member, Grosse Pointe Foundation; past foundation representative, 2013-14 governor, Optimist International Michigan District; board member, Lake Shore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe

Fries was elected to council in 2021, and is running for re-election to have the opportunity to complete the projects and efforts the city undertook during his first term.

“I don’t think we’re done yet,” he said. “I want to get the funding completed for the sewer separation, pending that \$21.6 million from the federal government, that’s the biggest one.”

He also places great importance on supporting Main Street Grosse Pointe in its ongoing efforts to support businesses in The Village, as well as on following through with the city’s ongoing water infrastructure projects, including working toward replacement of all lead service lines.

“We have to take care of our roads (and) we have to take care of our sidewalks, so we’re constantly looking at all that stuff with our engineering groups and our own fiscal team to make sure we’re within budget,” Fries said. “Infrastructure is probably the thing we focus on the most right now and we’re always trying to improve and look forward, so we’re not caught off guard and communicate with the community and make sure they’re happy.”

Fries’ time on council has been underscored by his generosity in tackling community betterment projects, for which there is no room in the city budget, out of his own pocket.

In March 2024, the first-term councilman enabled the repair of the broken clock tower at Neff Park by donating the full replacement cost of its 20-year-old mecha-

nisms.

In July of this year, he additionally covered the cost of 10 little red wagons for the park, after the wear and tear on the previous wagons reached unusable conditions.

“As I get older, I feel the greatest gift is the gift of giving back,” Fries said previously. “And I just enjoy that feeling of supporting something and making things better.”

It is with this same generosity of spirit that he believes the city council should interact with fellow residents.

“I believe kindness and respect are very important,” Fries said. “... It’s very important that the people know we have compassion. I got that from the military and it’s just my personality, but whether you’re a general or a one-striper (private first class), you’re the most important person in the world, because you have a specific job and it has to be respected. And it’s the same way with people.”

The City’s accomplishments Fries highlighted during his four years on council — “None of us does anything alone,” he said — span a significant master plan update, updating park program and building fees to better reflect the market rate and cover services, and approving the pending development in the St. Clair greenspace behind the CVS parking lot.

Maureen Juip

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in science engineering and Master of Business Administration degree, University of Michigan

Age: 47

Occupation /

Profession: Stay-at-home parent; past operations engineer in a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility, project engineer in a coding plant, supply chain logistics internal consultant, market research, strategic planning and



Maureen Juip

global product management, BASF Corp.

Volunteer/Charity Work: Commissioner, Grosse Pointes/Harper Woods Active Adult Commission; commissioner, City of Grosse Pointe Beautification Commission; member of board of directors, secretary of executive committee and staff member of communications team, Friedreich Ataxia Research Alliance; coach, Destination Imagination; member, University Liggett School Board of Trustees

Juip was appointed to council in 2020, and subsequently elected to her first complete term in 2021. In that time, she has built a reputation for her detail-oriented approach and a commitment to comprehensively educating herself on the issues coming before the council.

“It’s been my absolute privilege to represent our neighbors in the City of Grosse Pointe,” she said. “I hope that I have been a valuable voice in that council setting, asking really thoughtful questions, always being really prepared for our meetings and for the decisions that we face, and being really present in the community so the people I’m representing understand what the face of government is. So they know I’m their neighbor and when they have a question or they need help finding a resource, they know they can come to me and I can point them in the right direction.”

Through her nonprofit work, Juip has gained ample experience in strategic planning, budgeting and allocating limited resources. Her past career in engineering also has informed her role on council.

“I never thought pumps and pipes would be an important part of a role that I’m playing, but it turns out that as you talk about sewer systems and stormwater, that kind of knowledge does help me understand it at a level where I can ask questions and try to engage in really thoughtful dialogue as we weigh the different options that are brought



Chris Walsh

before us,” Juip said. “Especially with the sewer separation that’s coming up, that’s arguably one of the most important issues in the city right now.”

Stewarding the pending \$21.6 million stormwater separation federal grant is a main point of focus for Juip.

“When I was running last time, it was pretty much right after the (June 2021) floods happened,” she said. “So that was a campaign promise that I stood up and made that we would not let this be something that we forgot about. And over the last four years, I think we’ve really proven that it has been something that has been top of mind.”

Going into a second term, Juip’s additional focuses are on municipal finances and resource limitations within the operating budget; building upon the momentum happening in The Village; bringing that same vitality to the business districts on Mack and Fisher; continuing to foster a level of expectation for customer service she believes has been elevated across all departments with the current city management; and addressing residents’ concerns of paid parking in the city.

“That’s a true common pain point for so many people,” Juip said. “This is a very specific idea, but one of the things I’d like to explore is now that we have app parking across The Village and so much of the city, there are opportunities to (implement an option to) pre-load a wallet and then it debits down, so that can reduce the number of credit card fees.”

She proposed the idea to city administration during September’s council meeting.

Chris Walsh

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and economics, University of Michigan

Age: 59

Occupation /

Profession: Senior vice president, Morgan Stanley in Grosse Pointe Farms

Volunteer/Charity

Work: City council liaison, City of Grosse Pointe Foundation; member, City of Grosse Pointe Pension Board; member, City of Grosse Pointe Investment Committee; Michigan scholar-athlete of the year committee member, Detroit Athletic Club

Walsh is running for his sixth term on council, having held his seat since 2005.

“I’ve been through three different mayors,” he said. “I’ve been through 20-plus different council people. That brings you a lot of experience, a lot of wisdom. It’s both enlightening and humbling that you’ve gone through that. You don’t know that when you get started, but at this point in the cycle, this is what I have to offer.”

What he calls “institutional experience,” encompasses his connectivity with the community and familiarity with the plethora of issues, from zoning to businesses, that come before council. His 35 years working in finance also translate well to municipal finance as a significant portion of his role on city council.

Walsh is running for another four years on council with the goal of seeing as much get done as possible.

“We as a group, and me personally, are really proud of the work that we’ve been able to do for the city,” he said. “I think we’ve been effective and I think we can not only continue to be effective, but we can even take it further.”

Walsh has been a firm supporter of the city’s ongoing effort to receive a \$21.6 million federal grant to finish separating the city’s sewers and has voiced on several occasions the desire to see the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation operate at a level comparable to the foundations in other Pointes.

He recently took over the position of council liaison to the foundation.

“I firmly believe that our foundation can become a substantially more powerful tool for the city in not only fundraising, but what we could do for the benefit of those that are putting the funds in, meaning the residents of the City of Grosse Pointe,” Walsh said. “I really believe that’s an opportunity that we have that has been quite underutilized.”

Walsh also has been a staunch advocate for collaborative services

See COUNCIL, page 21A

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Former public safety director to join Farms council

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

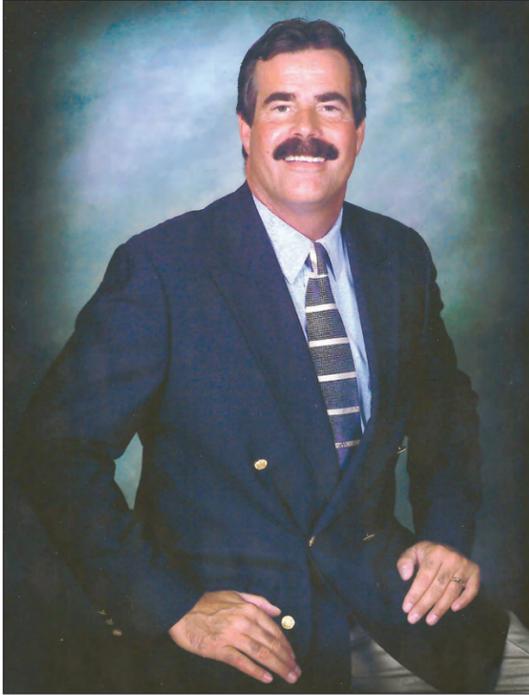
GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A familiar face in the Farms is returning to the public eye.

Dan Jensen, who retired in 2021 as Farms public safety director and a 44-year veteran of the department, is running unopposed for a seat on city council.

"I obviously have a little extra free time now, being retired," Jensen said, but he ultimately was drawn to city council because of his connection with projects currently underway.

Of greatest interest is the ongoing exploration of an all-Pointes joint dispatch and lock-up center.

"It's extremely expensive to run a dispatch center," Jensen said. "So if we can save



Dan Jensen

money and combine them and lock-up, which is very expensive

as well, then all the better. I'm in favor of it for sure."

He also is invested in the Pier Park pool complex renovation as a former parks employee and boater, as well as in the city's large-scale sewer separation project.

"I really appreciate the patience of the Tonnancour residents and those that have to traverse Kercheval and Jefferson around that construction project," Jensen said. "But it needs to be done. There's no doubt about it."

Though campaigning hasn't been necessary in the unopposed race, Jensen is running on the experience of a public safety director who has extensive experience with budgets — in the Farms, the public safety director and deputy director are responsible for preparing the department's annual budget — and

handling complaints; his years at the Pier Park; and the relationships he's had with the former and the current parks and recreation directors.

"I'm fair," Jensen said. "I listen. I respect opinions — even if it's not one that I totally agree with — and I'm open-minded."

Throughout five years as deputy chief and another 15 as director of public safety, Jensen can count on one hand the number of council meetings he missed. In retirement, he has consistently attended meetings as a resident.

"Not because I was going to run — because at one time I said I don't ever want to do this — but when you have the opportunity to give back, to volunteer, and you have the knowledge and the experience to do so, it's nice

to do it," he said.

Jensen also said he intends to spend his first year on council listening and learning, as he hasn't been privy to conversations in closed sessions.

"My goals are to keep this city the heartbeat that it is in this community," he added. "Obviously I'm a little bit biased, but I think the Farms is a tremendous city. I think it's got the best of everything."

"The goal is to maintain what we have and then improve on it. Wherever we have the capacity and the availability and the dollars to do so, you always want to keep moving forward. You always want to improve."

Jensen also remains executive director of the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation.

MAYOR:

Continued from page 19A

workshops prior to significant projects.

"When John Gillooly's mayor, the process will continue to be the most important," he said. "We will take as much time as we need on every issue to listen to our residents, to listen to our business owners and to try to make sure that everyone is accommodated within the extent of our ordinances and the laws in Michigan."

Joe Ricci

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering, Eastern Michigan University; master's degree in occupational psychology, University of Michigan

Age: 75

Occupation/Profession: Independent car dealership owner for 45 years

Volunteer/Charity Work: Council representative, Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation; trustee, Grosse Pointe Farms Pension Board; member, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club; charter member, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce; member, former board member, The War Memorial; former girls varsity hockey coach, University Liggett School

Ricci has served on council since 2013, including as mayor pro tem from 2021 through 2022. He currently is halfway through a four-year term.

The councilman previously ran for mayor in 2017, and was outvoted by current Mayor Louis

Theros.

"I gave (Theros) the respect as long as he was going to stay on," Ricci said as to what led him to run for mayor at this time. "... The next two years are going to be very, very crucial to the city of Grosse Pointe Farms. We have \$50 million worth of projects over the next two years — \$40 million on the sewer separation and another \$10 million for the Pier Park aquatic center — and somebody needs to be hands-on."

He emphasized meeting with and listening to residents impacted by these large-scale projects, such as those on Tonnancour.

A staple of his time on council, Ricci has held "Coffee with Joe" community chats with residents an average of every other month since being elected in 2013.

"That's what you get with me," Ricci said. "I'm not a grandioso. You never see me 'yelling and screaming at the auction' at council. I'm quiet. I take in everything."

"I'm the guy who goes behind and says, 'Listen, let's get this thing worked out. We need to get this done. How can we both come together? You're not going to be totally happy and I'm not going to be totally happy either, but there's got to be some way that we can get this thing resolved.' And that's how I work."

He recently spearheaded a significant

"Frankly, I think it's inevitable," he said. "I think it's something that would be beneficial for all the parties that we could get involved and I don't think it should be positioned as a cost-savings, but rather a more efficient delivery of service."

"I think it would be a significant improvement for residents and it keeps the viability of the Pointes intact without giving up the independence of the cities."

injection from the city budget into its sidewalk repair program.

"Our sidewalks are atrocious," he said. "We were spending about \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year doing sidewalk slabs. This year we're spending \$450,000."

Ricci's top goals for a first term as mayor would be to complete the sewer separation project, for which he began negotiations 10 years ago, as quickly as possible; complete the new aquatic facility at Pier Park; keep Pier Park for residents only; and complete a real estate purchase in ongoing negotiations near Mack and Moross to ensure the city's control of the Mack/Moross corner for future community development, without including affordable housing.

He is in favor of relocating the city hall and police department campus to the corner of Mack and Moross, which serves as the city's "front door."

"We had to finish these other two projects (sewer separation and aquatic facility) and then we can concentrate on that," Ricci said. "I figure I have another 10

years left (in city government) and I'd like to be on the forefront of that dream."

"I wouldn't do this over and over again unless I thought I was making a difference," Walsh said.

"I truly believe I make a difference, so I keep coming back to it. It's a skill set that I've worked on and am trying to become better at all turns."



Ricci has lived in the Farms 45 years, has six grandkids in the city and considers himself to be the unconventional candidate.

"When you're unopposed, it's the same old, same old and that's not what I'm about," Ricci said. "I'm not in the clan. I think outside the box. I always want to push and move forward and

look at everything and give people choices."

JOE RICCI FOR MAYOR

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

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**PAID FOR BY NANCY COTTON
121 KERCHEVAL, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MI 48236**

COUNCIL:

Continued from page 20A

with the other Grosse Pointes, consistently seeking new opportunities to combine manpower, equipment and costs.

As the five city managers have begun exploring the possibility of an all-Pointes joint dispatch and lock-up center, Walsh is fully in support.

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PARK:

Continued from page 19A

make the community a premier place to live, only better. Nor is he shy to point out neglected matters that need to be fixed.

"I saw a lot of big projects that needed to be completed," he said. "I'm proud that we've done a lot of those. We have a lot of work to do. That's why I'm running again. I want to continue the excellent work we've done the past four years."

Regarding the poorly executed switch to a new water-sewer billing system, which resulted in many customers being charged up to three times the expected amount for usage, Caulfield said municipal administrators must do a better job operating the city and communicating inside and out of city hall.

"Communication around this has not been clear to residents," Caulfield said of water billing.

Despite millions of dollars being invested in sewer improvements and mitigation of flood risk, he said more work needs to be done.

"My fear is we have a little bit of a false sense of security that we are completely safe (from flooding)," he said. "We are way better off with the EERV (extreme emergency relief valve), but looking forward to how we can do more, it could be the addition of a pump in the pump station. Those are things we're looking at."

The short-term rental ordinance, which Caulfield helped draft as head of the ordinance committee, is functioning as intended, he said.

"This ordinance was written as a working, living document," he said. "It is capable of being adjusted. We wrote it that way to have the power, if we did find issues — and there are some — to address those and adjust the ordinance."

During a second term he wants to continue work in progress, improve the quality of overall infrastructure and the city's financial position.

"I also want to greatly improve communication from our administration to residents so it is clear as to what is happening within our city," Caulfield said. "And increase the administration's accountability as well."

Patrick Gleason

Patrick Gleason is in the position to gauge Park operations from three points of view.

He's an 18-year resident. He also is secretary of the parks and recreation commission and treasurer of the Friends of Patterson Playscape, which provides something of an insider's eye. Third, he described learning from the wisdom and shared experience of a community

**Tom Caulfield**

elder.

"I cared for my grandmother her last five years as she aged in place, which was the opportunity to see from her perspective how hard she wanted to stay in this community she called home," said Gleason, a first-time candidate for city council. "Seeing city services from different perspectives has given me the appreciation for what a special place this is to call home."

Gleason owns CanAm Strategies. He described the company as a cross-border consulting firm that helps American and Canadian companies expand responsibly and operate efficiently.

"My professional experience in management, civic partnerships and policy development has equipped me to make informed, balanced decisions on behalf of residents," Gleason said. "If elected, my priorities will include modernizing infrastructure, revitalizing our parks, enhancing communication and transparency and strengthening resident involvement in city planning. I look forward to working closely with our current city leadership and administration, building on the progress already made to continue improving the Park we all love."

The most pressing municipal concern besides flood protection, he said, is handling legacy costs and maintaining longtime municipal assets, including at the two municipal parks.

"As secretary of the recreation commission, I can tell you that a large number of our most high-demand assets at those parks are aging," Gleason said. "We have to decide the best way to utilize those parks for our current and future needs. This is also applied throughout the city. People want to ensure the amenities people are seeking to use will be there as needed."

He said transparency at city hall is good, but can be improved.

"Our current leadership, both elected and appointed, are above and beyond in terms of their transparency," he said. "But, this community had a stage when that wasn't the case. All current and appointed officials inherited the legacy that comes with that. Part of that legacy is rebuilding trust. Communication gets us to that stage where we're maintaining sustainabil-

**Patrick Gleason**

ity and the future we all deserve, it's sharing with residents and those vested around town what's needed."

Gleason knows being on council is a lot of work.

"While this is a volunteer position, it's also a full-time job," he said. "We are accountable to each and every (resident). People who give back are a perfect example of why we do what we do, so we can do our part to ensure this city is a great place to live."

He supports the construction of the Schaap Center for the Performing Arts, but doesn't want its popularity to overwhelm nearby neighborhoods.

"I want to be cognizant of the concerns of residents who live there for future events and infrastructure challenges that will bring," Gleason said. "I know how challenging parking can be, especially when an event goes on."

He said the water-sewer billing problem, in which a 23 percent rate increase resulted in hundreds of customers being charged two or three times greater than before, was due to poor preparation.

"Metrics used in that new billing were based on a system that was not fully understood to be the Park's at the time," Gleason said. "(They) assumed our water meters were a different size than they (actually) were. That is where the initial discrepancy came from. Going forward, communication is key for this issue or anything else because the residents deserve to know what's going on in the city at every step and hold faith with elected officials and appointed ones throughout different departments. We have every right to know where your dollars are being spent."

Olga Merametdjian

Olga Merametdjian said she and her husband found their forever-community upon moving to the Park in 2016.

"We absolutely love this city," said Merametdjian, making her inaugural run for council. "We're choosing to grow old here. This is why I hope to be given the honor to be a city council member. I will dedicate time and effort to maintain the quality of life residents pay for and expect. I'm running because I want us to stay how we are. We're a

**Olga Merametdjian**

wonderful city with beautiful people."

If elected, she said she'll address the concerns of all age groups.

"I especially want to take care of our aging population and our children," she said.

She said city representatives must communicate with residents effectively.

"I will promote and encourage resident engagement using all avenues available," Merametdjian said. "I will return phone calls, emails and make home visits. I would like to spearhead a block captain program to work with council members, public safety and public works. I am in support of polls and surveys conducted quarterly, as well as quarterly in-person meetings with the city manager and residents to address what can be improved and what is working well."

Merametdjian said "we can do better" regarding transparency at city hall.

Again referring to senior citizens, she said, "There are different avenues we need to look at to reach out to people because we have an aging population. They don't do Facebook. They don't text message. We need to find a different way to reach out to bring them in so they can see exactly what's going on." To help spread the word about municipal matters, she wants to increase formal engagement with the public.

"I would hold forums, send out surveys and polls not only through social media but mailers door-to-door," she said. "I have a vision of making block captains so we can know what's going on in different parts of the city. If we have more outreach and more information coming in, we can make better decisions."

She said she looks forward to "diving into" detailed sewer and infrastructure matters.

"The city council's responsibility is to protect the interests of residents," she said. "It includes financial responsibilities, extensive planning for city projects with negotiation of contingency plans and oversight. Administration must maintain and restore the services we have become accustomed to and pay for. I will study budgets and find the core causes why our services are being depleted."

Besides infrastructure,

**Max Weiner**

Merametdjian said the second most important issue in the Park is maintaining the city's quality of life while planning for contingencies.

"Overall, we need open, honest and consistent communication, as well as proper planning and management to avoid being victims of circumstances," Merametdjian said. "I am ready to do the work. We need to manage and reinstate city services. City council has a duty to defend every dollar of tax revenue. Without diligent planning, we have become reactionary, resulting in less services with higher costs. If I am a city council member, I want to bring a higher level of effort to explore creative options, such as seeking synergy and cost-savings with other Pointes."

Her recent employment and volunteer service is with Compassionate Care, which involves meal preparation for residents with traumatic brain injuries. For Michael B's Café, Merametdjian listed being a fundraising planner and caterer; and at Wayne County Community College/Michael B's Café a life skills culinary instructor for special needs students at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

Merametdjian also was a Park public safety ordinance officer from mid-2019 to 2023, and a public safety officer for a while after that.

Summarizing her qualifications and general goals if elected, Merametdjian said, "I am up to the task to use my business skills, skills I obtained through working with public safety and internal skills I have through volunteer service. It would be a pleasure to serve as a city council member in this city that I love dearly."

Max Wiener

Ask Councilman Max Wiener anything — anything — about municipal infrastructure and he'll nearly aim a slide rule or monkey wrench at you and say, "Make my day." "This is my wheelhouse," said Wiener, a materials engineer seeking a second, four-year term on council. "I've studied this issue backward and forward the last four years. We have 40 miles of sewer. One of the biggest things I've been trying to exert on the city is a methodical and proactive posture on how we're addressing it."

Wiener, owner of automotive industry supply factories and metal finishers, was involved from the beginning with planning and carrying out the design and environmental permitting to build and install the anti-flooding extreme emergency relief valve. Also, as chairman of the infrastructure committee, Wiener helped draft the Park's first multi-year capital improvement

plan.

"The next big issue we're addressing with sewers — and this is one reason we put out the increase in water rates — is the sewers need to be relined," he said. "The most important methodology is to realize that a (pipe) failure is exponentially more expensive than preventive maintenance. There's a lot more to do, but we're in a much better place than we were. Residents have made big sacrifices, but we're doing really important work."

The main non-infrastructure issue in the city is employee legacy costs, Wiener said.

"A larger and larger portion of our budget is consumed by obligations — pensions and healthcare," he said. "(Some) \$2.5 million of our budget per year is going to pensions. How do we address that? We just signed a number of labor contracts and, as in the private sector, we shifted new hires to defined contributions (plans) as opposed to defined benefits. While it's going to take a long time to recognize the benefits of that, down the road we're going to have less and less liability."

He said he's seeking a second term to keep the city focused on core responsibilities to residents and ongoing professionalization of city services.

"When I got on council, we were faced with a \$1 million deficit," he said. "We are now consistently realizing surpluses. We've completely reworked the budgeting and accounting systems so it's more transparent and accessible to residents than ever before. We're getting more resources for public safety, ensuring our facilities and equipment are being upgraded. We've also now got a long-term labor contract in place in public safety so they can ensure continuity."

Everything dovetails back to infrastructure.

"Near and dear to my heart is infrastructure," Wiener said.

He said the Park has a legacy of neglected infrastructure.

"But no longer," he said. "We completely changed our stance to being proactive. We have a capital improvement plan that lays out all of our planning, expenditures and timelines. We put over \$6 million into flood mitigation. We're changing water mains and lead (water service) lines. I put out a report every month so residents can know exactly what we're doing. We've done a lot of work professionalizing how the city's run. If you see fit to reelect me, I commit to continue that work."

He approaches municipal challenges from a business perspective.

"I've been able to bring in many best practices from the private sector to improve efficiency," Wiener said. "Four years ago, I ran with the intent of focusing the Park council on what I consider its core responsibilities: financial stewardship, supporting public safety and addressing infrastructure needs. I appreciate the four years residents have been affording me, because we have very high expectations of services in the Park. To meet those expectations takes a lot of work."



CITY:

Continued from page 19A

understood when I first went to work with Main Street," he said. "... I felt that one of the pillars of Main Street, citizen engagement, was the place to start and they decided to start with economic development and here we are six years later and when we compare ourselves to Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms, they're having beautiful events and all of that and all we had was the old sidewalk sale."

Boettcher also said the "never-ending parking saga" has gotten worse.

His proposal for managing the challenge would be to "work closely with the city manager, give him those goals and he carries them out."

He's also interested in supporting rebuilding the local tree canopy, creating more benefits for senior residents and working together with the other Pointes, specifically with a strong emphasis on mutual services and mutual aid.

During his previous time on council and as mayor six years ago, Boettcher highlighted accomplishments such as being part of the team that navigated the great recession and kept Grosse Pointe on strong financial ground; helping see through the planning and implementation of the public safety building on Mack under budget and on time; and helping see through the planning and implementation of the public works building on Maumee after an article in the Metro Times drew backlash on the ini-

tial plan to place it in Detroit.

"I salvaged our Detroit relationship and actually fit the project on the same footprint in our own backyard under budget and on time," Boettcher said.

What he intends to bring to council through a second term as mayor, Boettcher said, is better engagement with the community.

"It surprises me that we have all these other little commissions and foundations," he said, "yet no council member of any of the Grosse Pointes regularly attends a school board meeting just to listen and see if there's anything we can do from an infrastructure or public safety standpoint."

His final accomplishment was, "Just being there for 10 years, challenging our administration to make great decisions with great outcomes on so many things," Boettcher said.

Sheila Tomkowiak

Education: Bachelor of Arts in journalism, Central Michigan University; Design & Observation Workshop with Milton Glaser, School of Visual Arts; Knight Digital Media News Entrepreneur Boot Camp, University of Southern California; Professional Development Independent Study, Macomb Community College

Age: 71

Occupation / Profession: Principal and creative director, Grayton Integrated Publishing; adjunct instructor in journalism, Wayne State University; past art director, copy editor, photo

editor, contributing writer, Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News; past design department director, The Publications Company; past co-founder/associate publisher, GrossePointeToday.com

Volunteer/Charity Work: Executive committee, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; board member, Michigan Municipal League's Michigan Women in Municipal Government; member, Michigan Association of Mayors; board member, as required by state of Michigan statute, Main Street Grosse Pointe; co-chair, SEMCOG Healthy Climate Task Force; ambassador, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods

As the incumbent mayor, Tomkowiak is running for re-election to a fourth term at the helm of city council. She served as a city councilwoman from 2016 to 2019, at which point she was elected mayor. She then ran unopposed in 2021 and 2023.

Her focus remains on improving the financial wellness of the city—the foundation upon which rests all other initiatives and betterment.

In the last six years, Tomkowiak has pushed for, and achieved, instituting a priority-based, three-year balanced budget to anticipate longer-term needs; implementing detailed quarterly financial reports; updating city fees to better cover services; establishing an investment oversight committee; expanding the asset management plan to include vehicles and equipment in addi-

tion to infrastructure and roads for improved future planning; and adjusting the bid process for road construction to successfully get lower quotes.

"One of the things I do want to stress is that the city is right now fiscally sound," Tomkowiak said. "We have a balanced budget, 25 percent fund balance and a AAA bond rating. We want to keep it that way and with revenues not keeping pace with expenses, that's a challenge. That's why that's overarching over everything."

Tomkowiak was a key player in the rigorous process for the City's 2020 acceptance into the Michigan Main Street Program, supporting The Village in its ongoing revitalization efforts, which since Main Street Grosse Pointe's genesis has seen a significant drop-off in storefront vacancies. The city also recently strategically positioned a dedicated maintenance person for The Village and one for Neff Park.

Tomkowiak also led the city through the transitions of the pandemic and was hands-on advocating for the city's disaster recovery strategy immediately following the historic basement backups of June 2021.

At the time, city leadership scrambled in the uncertainty of estimating refuse collection costs and getting no direction from the county or state



on reimbursement opportunities.

Tomkowiak leveraged her relationship with Reps. Brenda Lawrence and Joe Tate and received a guarantee the city should move forward with collection and would be reimbursed by FEMA or another entity.

"We were the first to finish cleanup and without those relationships, that would not have happened," Tomkowiak said. "While the city manager runs the city, you need the elected officials to deal with other elected officials to be able to get the leverage and to get the resources that you need and I've been dedicated to doing that."

Under Tomkowiak's leadership, city council has gained a reputation as a collaborative unit—she implemented team workshops as part of new councilmember onboarding and has been asked a number of times by the Michigan Municipal League to lead training for new council members in other municipalities—and as a municipal government that is willing to listen and adjust based on resident feedback.

In early 2021, council

unanimously put to bed a proposal it had pursued for three quarters of a year to create a historic district within the Estate Residential District when residents overwhelmingly opposed it.

In 2023, city officials made moves to discontinue rear-yard rubbish collection as a cost-saving measure but indefinitely pressed pause when residents came forward to defend its necessity.

"You can't have the answers for everything," Tomkowiak said. "You've just got to give it a try. Once you hear from people and you understand what the ripple effect is going to be of a decision, then you pivot. You decide we'll solve that problem in a different way."

Tomkowiak also brought about the city's first mayoral exchange day with Eaton Rapids in 2024; spearheaded this September's inaugural GP PorchFest; and spent three weeks this past June attending a prestigious, intensive program for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard University.

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If 'they' are not up to the job we elect them to do, and ...

... if 'they' fail to get that job done ...

... then 'they' should **ALL** be thrown out of office and a new group of people elected to take their place!

'We the people' must stop accepting (stop even 'listening to') 'lame excuses' such as "it's the 'other guys' fault!"

As a very young child, I remember growing up with two young sisters ...

My dear mother did not care 'who' started a dispute ...

When we began to argue, she sent **ALL** of us to just 'sit in a corner' and 'think' until we figured out a way to solve whatever our dispute was about!

'Excuses' are not accepted in any other sector of our society, where it's more often "either do the job, or we will find someone else who can get it done!"

STOP THE 'BLAME GAME' and finger pointing!

It's **NOT** the 'fault' of Democrats **OR** Republicans!

It's the fault of **EVERYONE** elected to public office ...

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Robert Wood & Associates

A rendering of the forthcoming James and Patricia Anderson Innovation Center.

\$3M donation helps fund Full Circle renovations

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

As Full Circle’s Upscale Resale Shop readies for the grand opening of its new home at 15415 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park — doors officially open at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 24 — renovations are underway at its second building, 15401 E. Jefferson, thanks to a \$3 million donation from Grosse Pointe Shores residents Jim and Patti Anderson.

The Andersons have long supported the mission of Full Circle, which collaborates with the Grosse Pointe Public

School System to nurture self-worth and independence among individuals with disabilities.

When Full Circle announced it had received a \$4 million grant from the A. A. Van Elslander Foundation to purchase the two buildings, the foundation made an additional offer too hard to refuse.

“The Van Elslander Foundation indicated if we were able to raise \$3 million for renovations — \$3 million was the projected cost at the time — they’d give us an extra \$1 million,” said Sue Banner, Full Circle board president.

“At the time, we didn’t know Jim would be so helpful,” added Mary Fodell, Full Circle founder. “Jim and Patti have always been there for us.”

The board approached the Andersons with their request and the couple was quick to respond.

“We said, ‘Here’s what we need, to do what we need to do,’” Banner said. “... He knows how important this is for the future, for the kids, for Full Circle, for the community.”

“He knows we’re good caretakers, too,” Fodell added. “We do our best and we do our home-

work. ... He believes in us and wanted to leave a legacy that will last 100 years.”

Jim Anderson is president and CEO of Urban Science, an automotive consultancy and technology firm headquartered in Detroit. He and his wife recognize the importance of the programs and services Full Circle provides.

“We are a community that cares about its people,” he said. “Full Circle is a bridge to the future for our young adults. We need to be able to promise parents that Full Circle will be here in the future. It provides our young

people with special needs a better life. Without Full Circle there is a void. Our vision is to have them happy and independent. We have to provide this as a community.”

“Nowhere is there a sense of community more visible than at Full Circle, where young adults with special needs are encouraged to flourish and become productive members of our community,” Patti Anderson added. “Through our support and the generous support of our many families, we have hope.”

The \$3 million gift will contribute to renovation costs, as well as help set

up an operating endowment. The larger of the two new buildings will be named the James and Patricia Anderson Innovation Center and will include expanded space to house four GPPSS Community Campus classrooms, with space for additional classrooms if needed; expanded programs and micro-businesses managed by Full Circle’s TEAM 26 members; a multifunctional gymnasium; sensory space; learning kitchen; and foundation offices.

“Jim understands

See *HELP*, page 2B

Gala supports The Helm; Andersons support endowment

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

A generous community showed up Thursday, Oct. 9, to show support during the 29th annual Take The Helm gala.

A sizable crowd attended the event, hosted at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, for an evening of food, fellowship and fundraising for The Helm, which provides assistance, information and activities to the senior population in the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

“It was a very nice, enjoyable evening,” said Krista Siddall, executive director. “There was great energy in the room. Everybody understood our mission.”

Last year’s record-breaking gala was tough to beat, but attendees did their best, raising funds that will support The Helm’s essential services and programs.

“The community really



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jim and Patti Anderson made a commitment to support The Helm endowment.

stepped up,” Siddall said. Grosse Pointe Shores residents Jim and Patti Anderson, who served as honorees at the event for their contributions to the community as a whole, also stepped up.

“They announced their commitment to our endowment,” Siddall said. “We had no idea it was coming. They’ve committed to \$5 million

over five years, starting with \$1 million in 2026.

“With an endowment, the idea is to not touch the principle,” she continued, “so we need to build our endowment to \$10 to \$15 million to have the interest to support us. It’s a lofty goal, but this is a big help to get us there. It will help provide our future financial stability.”

Siddall said it’s been an



exciting 12 months for The Helm, the time frame also highlighted by the passage of a senior millage.

“The community has shown it really cares about the senior population,” she said. “The millage has allowed us to expand our services with their support. The endowment is about our future. We’re excited that Jim and Patti felt it was important to make a major commitment. We’re excited to provide our services in the future.”



Top, a lively auction helped raise funds for The Helm. Above, The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall addresses attendees of the Take The Helm gala.

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Community call-out

What are you doing for Make a Difference Day?

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Julie Huellmantel is challenging members of the community to be of service Saturday, Oct. 25, National Make a Difference Day.

Huellmantel, the director of outreach at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, is putting out a call to everyone to lend a hand, help a neighbor or be the change they want to see in the world. She's got a lineup of opportunities at the ready for those willing to step up and participate.

"We did it last year, but it was small," she said, noting participants helped clean a senior church member's yard and cleaned up around the church, while younger members made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless. "This year a couple people reached out about doing activities in October and I decided to put them all together on Oct. 25."

First up, Huellmantel connected with the students in Grosse Pointe South High School's Interact Club and the folks at Furniture Bank of Metro Detroit to host Declutter with a Cause, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the South parking lot. Furniture, dining sets, sofas, chairs, linens, pots and pans are among the

items being collected. Those items then will be distributed to people in need at no charge.

While not everyone may be ready to part with their kitchen table, perhaps parting with a few cans of food is more reasonable. The fourth annual food drive, hosted by the church's men's Bible study group, takes place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fresh Farms Market. Donated food will be taken to the Second Mile Center in Detroit.

"The food drive is something anybody can do," Huellmantel said. "Just stop by and drop in a can. Same with the furniture drive — anybody in the community can do it."

Those looking for a more physical way to help out are invited to clean up around the Second Mile Center.

"Working with the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe, we're doing a fall cleanup at Second Mile Center on Morang," Huellmantel said. "We'll pick up garbage, clean up the grounds."

Volunteers are asked to bring their own tools, including hedge trimmers, clippers, rakes, gloves, blowers and lawn and leaf bags.

Clean-up efforts also are being planned from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the houses of a few senior

church members who need a hand tidying up their properties.

Memorial Church itself also will be tended to from 10 a.m. to noon.

"Last year we cleaned the windows and Murphy Oil'd the pews in the sanctuary," Huellmantel said.

While volunteers are beautifying the sanctuary, the church's children once again will be making sandwiches for the homeless.

Don't see anything that suits your charitable style? No problem, Huellmantel said.

"You don't have to do any of the stuff our church is doing, but I want everyone to do something. You can donate food, clean up a yard, help your neighbor — there are a lot of simple things you can do. Just keep in mind we can help the community for the better."

"Jane Goodall died (recently)," she added. "She would always say, what you do makes a difference; you have to decide what kind of difference you can make. So let's honor her."

While sign-up is encouraged for cleaning up seniors' yards — the number of yards worked on will depend on the number of committed volunteers — people are welcome to just show up for the other activities.

Where to go

- ◆ Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms
- ◆ Fresh Farms Market, 355 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe
- ◆ Second Mile Center, 18391 Morang, Detroit
- ◆ Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN WILLETTE

Shipping it

Bonnie Burke of Grosse Pointe Farms was on Lake St. Clair during a recent warm spell with her friend, Brian Willette, when they spied a tall ship making its way through a swath of schooners near Bayview Yacht Club.

AREA ACTIVITIES

The Helm

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

◆ Lunch & Learn: What's Normal, What's Not? Understanding Memory and Brain Changes with Age, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for guests.

◆ The movie "Wait Until Dark" is shown at 4:30 pm. Thursday, Oct. 16. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

◆ Basic Sewing, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 20 to Dec. 8.

◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, Cloverleaf Bar and Restaurant in Eastpointe, noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday,

Oct. 21. Cost for the bus ride is \$6 for members, \$8 for guests. Diners are responsible for the cost of their own lunches.

◆ Field Trip & Breakfast, Yates Cider Mill, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22. Cost for the bus ride is \$25 for members, \$30 for guests. The cost for breakfast is not included.

◆ Health for Her at The Helm, Real Talk about Marijuana: Find Out All the Facts, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23.

◆ The movie "The Birds" is shown at noon Friday, Oct. 24. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

◆ Free Flu Clinic, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24.

See EVENTS, page 7B

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HELP:

Continued from page 1B

what's happening with these kids after they turn 26," Fodell said of the TEAM 26 program. "He sees it as something so helpful to the community, the population we serve and the families."

"He wants this to be called an innovation center, because that's what he sees it as," she added. "We're doing something innovative for the community and our kids."

"This building will provide classroom space for the school district so the kids can do their learning in the community," Banner added. "They belong in the community;

they're in their 20s, not teenagers."

"... We're going to be able to offer something we never could offer before — space," she continued, "space for exercising, space for socializing, for micro-enterprises, for performing arts."

The space also will allow Full Circle to continue to help families understand and navigate the bureaucracies they face when a special-needs diagnosis is made.

"Families get discouraged and walk away because they have to jump through so many hoops," Banner said. "We provide services and support so they don't have to jump through those

hoops."

"We're a safe haven," Fodell added. "... This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Full Circle to realize its mission in the fullest possible way. The true meaning of community is to invest in those that need it the most and this campus will ensure that what we've worked so hard to create will have an enduring legacy."

"Jim Anderson is big on quotes," Banner added. "He said, 'If you want to predict the future, you have to invent it.' That's been our mantra lately."

Full Circle recently hosted a legacy party for donors who would like to have rooms named after them. A permanent donor wall in the grand atrium will feature the names of anyone donating \$1,000 or more.

"There are still many naming opportunities," Fodell said.

The James and Patricia Anderson Innovation Center is expected to open by July 2026.

"The community has been so supportive and present with all of this," Banner said. "It's been an absolute delight and a thrill to watch. It's a dream come true."

In addition to the resale shop's grand opening, a Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned Wednesday, Oct. 29.

Full Circle also is amidst preparations for its annual gala, An Evening Under the Stars, which takes place 6 to 10:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, at The Roostertail.

For more information, visit fullcirclefdn.org.

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Images captured in Vietnam tell portion of veteran's story

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Vietnam War veteran Tom Sherry remembers well his years of service overseas. He has thousands of negatives from photographs he took aboard the USS Coral Sea aircraft carrier on Yankee Station off the coast of Vietnam.

But it was his homecoming in 1970 that really sticks out.

"When I came home, I had no welcome home at all," he said. "I didn't let anyone know I was coming home. It was several days before anyone knew I was back.

"... It was a very unpopular war," he added. "Our veterans, we were not welcomed home. We were shunned. Some people were told not to wear their uniforms home."

Photographs captured by Sherry from the two tours he served — 1968 to 1970 — are part of the Vietnam War exhibition in the Patriot Galley of The War Memorial. The exhibition runs through Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Sherry served as a photojournalist for the U.S. Navy during his service. It was a natural fit for a man who became interested in photography as a young boy.

"I started wanting to photograph race boats," he said of his childhood. "Then I got into sailing and started documenting that. In the Navy, that was my big chance to do real photojournalism, for



Sherry was one of few people allowed on the flight deck of the USS Coral Sea during flight ops.

which I am very proud. I'm proud of what I put together for the show."

Sherry, a St. Clair Shores resident, joined the Navy, because "I could not bear to have been a foot soldier in Vietnam," he said. "That was a certainty for most.

"I wasn't a grunt in a combat zone, but we were launching air strikes 12 hours a day off the carrier. It wasn't a cakewalk."

He made the best of his service and enjoyed working with creative people, he said, but air warfare was grueling.

"This was going on 12 hours a day," he said. "Launching aircraft is so noisy. My office was right below the landing deck. When they landed, I hoped they didn't crash. There was constant fear

that tragedy could strike."

During flight operations, no one was allowed on the flight deck except the people immediately involved in the flight. Sherry was the exception.

"I was very privileged to be on the deck during flight ops," he said. "That was not something everyone was allowed to do, but I was very driven. I thought if I'm going to be here, those are the pictures I want."

As part of the public affairs division, Sherry was responsible for a daily newspaper, a monthly newsletter that was sent home to families, a monthly magazine, radio and television stations, cruise books and more. Some of those pieces are included in the exhibition.

"There were over 4,000 people on the carrier and 75 aircraft," he said. "It was a real functioning city in every manner.

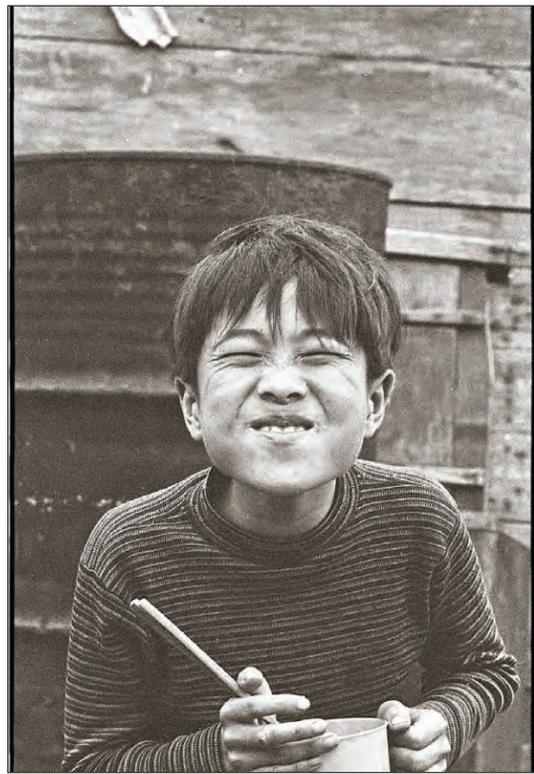
"... It was a desk job, but it was a dangerous situation," he added. "One thing about the exhibition is I'm happy to be able to show naval air war involvement. When people think of Vietnam, they think of grunts — and they bore the brunt of this — but the naval air war was very intense."

When Sherry came home after his first tour, he was relieved, but, "it was difficult because I knew I had to go back. I made the best of that, because I was resigned to it."

He was able to spend



Above, photojournalist Tom Sherry today, and below, the veteran after the war, when he grew out his hair to fit in.



Sherry captured a variety of photos during his service in the Vietnam War.

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VETERAN:
Continued from page 3B

photography as a lot of work, but it is," he said. "It's more than just snapshots. I learned a long time ago if I don't have a camera in my face, ready to take a picture, I'm not working."
Now 79, Sherry still walks around with a camera at the ready. He has built an extensive series of photos around The War Memorial and its front lawn monument, "Les Braves II." He's participated in art shows for more than a decade and is a member of the Grosse

Pointe Artists Association and Lakeside Palette Club.
"No matter where I am, I just see pictures," he said. "I see the abstract, the details of things."
"Work kept me busy, but it was wonderful to start taking pictures that I like," he added. "It freed me up creatively."
The dawn of digital photography also freed up the process. When he started, Sherry worked with a light meter and took photos with a dark cloth over his head. He manually developed thousands upon thousands of negatives in a dark room.

when I'm done."
He had his work cut out for him when leafing through negatives to find images for the Vietnam exhibition, but it was a rewarding effort.
"I had a lot of material," he said. "I'm a collector in a sense. Plus, when I put the panel together of photos, to see it as a photo story was very powerful for me. Having been able to do real-life photojournalism ... all of a sudden you're in this war. This is real."
From photos and uniforms to newspaper clippings, the exhibition tells a story that may be painful to remember, but

should never be forgotten.
"It's so important that we acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices that veterans were silently faced with and the difficulty they had transitioning home," Sherry said. "A friend of mine got off the ship and took his uniform and sea bag and tossed them in the dumpster."
"... Returning veterans felt the weight of the animosity of the war when they were coming home," he added. "I didn't acknowledge it for years and years; I suppressed it. When I got home I wanted to grow my hair long and fit back in — reinvent myself."
"This display is to recognize the contributions and sacrifices veterans went through and had to endure."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM SHERRY

Sherry often photographed celebrities for clients such as Hudson's, Art Van and WDIV, among others. Some of his favorite subjects were drag queen RuPaul, actress Elizabeth Taylor and Detroit Tigers pitcher Mark "The Bird" Fidrych.

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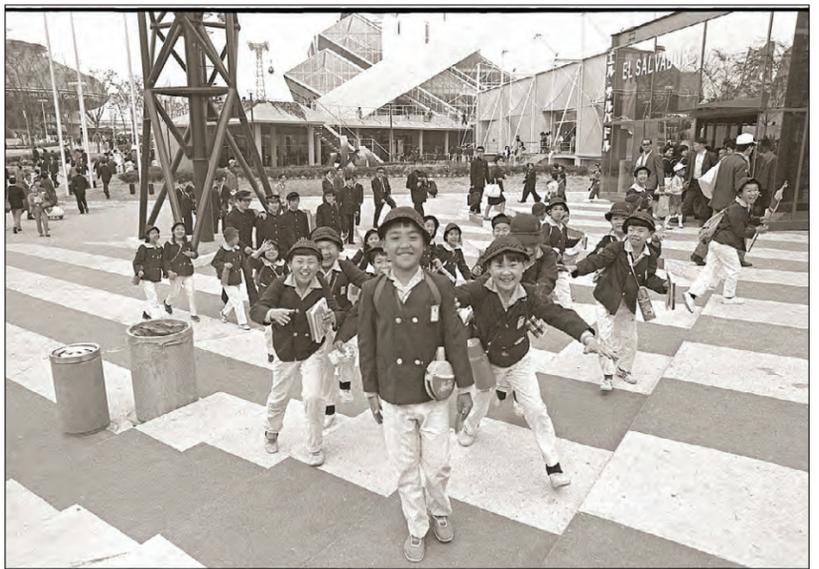
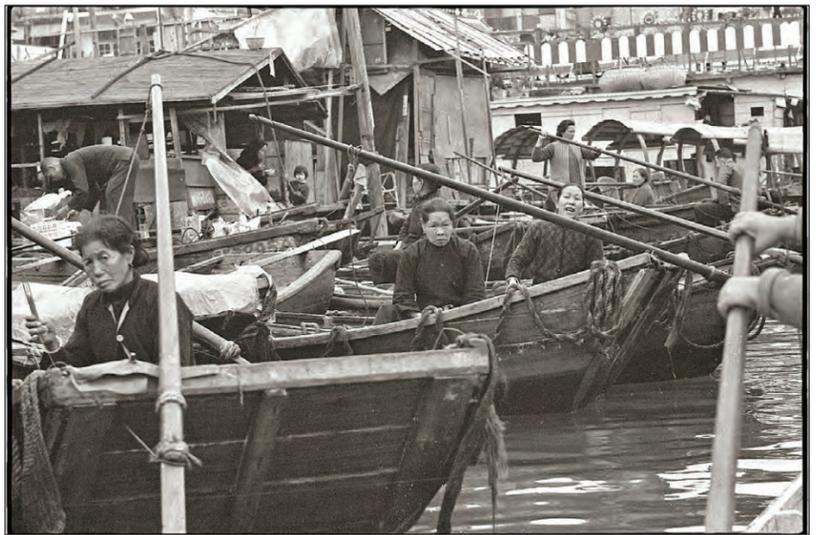
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Three of the photographer's favorite shots from his time overseas.

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.

Paul Leonard Nuccilli

Paul Leonard Nuccilli, 79, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's and primary progressive aphasia. He is survived by his daughter, Maria (Neil), and many dear friends and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents and Maria's mother, Joann.

Born June 24, 1946, in Detroit, Paul was the beloved only child of Leonard and Kathryn Nuccilli. He attended Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School through the eighth grade and went on to De La Salle Collegiate High School, where he excelled as a varsity bowler.

He earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Detroit, served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and devoted his 32-year career at Ford as a development engineer. The highlight of his career was working on the 1990s relaunch of the Mustang, winning Motor Trend's Car of the Year in 1994.

Paul married Joann in 1981, and settled in Grosse Pointe Farms. In 1988, they welcomed their daughter, Maria, who remained the center of his life until the end. He was a devoted father and son, caring deeply for his family. He was always ready to lend a hand to anyone in need.

Paul was an avid boater, jack-of-all-trades and music fan. He never missed watching a Detroit Tigers game, loved "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and was known to make an excellent key lime pie. Paul retired from Ford in 2005, and in 2011 began dividing his time between Naples, Fla., and Grosse Pointe Woods. He loved spending his summers with friends and family on the water in Elk Rapids.

Following his diagnosis in 2018, he spent the remainder of his life supported by the care of his daughter, Maria, and son-in-law, Neil. Though his disease progressed through the years, he remained the same man so many knew and loved.

Paul will be remembered for his generous spirit, sharp sense of humor, engineering mindset and unwavering loyalty.

A memorial visitation for Paul will take place 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, with a Rosary service at 6:30 p.m., at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

A memorial Mass will be held Friday, Oct. 24. The family will receive guests at 9:30 a.m. until Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in his memory be made to the Detroit Area Agency on Aging or Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Laura Griggs Bradley

Laura Griggs Bradley, 39, of the City of Grosse Pointe, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, after a long illness.

Laura grew up in Barrington, R.I., and Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Villanova University, where she was in the honors program and on the College of Engineering Dean's List. She went on to study health policy and management in the Master of Public Health program at UCLA Fielding. While there, she served as co-president of the Health Policy and Management Student Association and lead liaison of the First Year Student Health Policy and Management Student Association.

Laura worked at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals as a process development engineer and interned at Amgen in its operations leadership program. She was a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Women in Health Administration of Southern California, UCLA Anderson Healthcare Business Association and American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Always dressed in bright colors, Laura's smile and positive spirit brought joy to those around her. Her background in healthcare, paired with her generous heart, made her a natural caregiver who provided substantial care and comfort to several loved ones.

Laura was involved in the communities where she lived, including as a member of the Junior Leagues of New York and Los Angeles, as well as Sigma Gamma in Grosse Pointe.

She loved animals and provided a foster home for several dogs. She also was an accomplished athlete who loved and competed in swimming, sailing and skiing. As a devoted aunt, she cherished time with her nieces and nephew.

Laura is survived by her father, Bruce Bradley, and his wife, Christine; brother, Truman Bradley, and his wife, Nisa; sister, Eleanor Bradley, and her husband, Allan Carscaddon; and nieces and nephew, Maren and Alden Bradley and Lydia and Hadley Carscaddon. She was predeceased by her mother, Shirley Griggs Bradley.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The service also will be streamed live at gpm church.org.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org, or Girls on the Run Northern Virginia, gotrnova.org.

Lawrence "Larry" A. McCourt

Lawrence "Larry" A. McCourt, 77, passed away from natural causes Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025.

Larry was born in Grosse Pointe. He was the eldest son of Bill and Barbara McCourt, both now deceased. He graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and attended Ferris State University. Larry married Susanne in 1981, and they lived in Harper Woods for many years.

Growing up, Larry excelled in competitive swimming and baseball. During high school and into young adulthood, he was a familiar face in the neighborhood while working at Mr. McCourt Shoes in The Village. Later, he had a long career with Universal Flow Monitors.

Larry loved rock 'n' roll, dogs and cats, canoeing the Pine River, working in his garden and spending time with his family. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his kindness and sentimental nature.

Larry is survived by his wife, Susanne; daughter, Katie Leach (Jon); grandchildren, Nicholas Juncaj, Annabelle, Lukas and Jaxon; and brother, David (Nancy). He was predeceased by his parents; daughter, Colleen; and brother, Brian.

In memory of Brian, the family asks everyone to provide the gift of kindness.

A private funeral service was held.

Peter Adam Thomas

Peter Adam Thomas, 86, passed away Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025.

Pete was born March 22, 1939, in Detroit, to Charles and Gertrude (nee Glass) Thomas, both now deceased. Pete was predeceased by his wife, Ruth. He is survived by his son, Charles Thomas (Marie); daughter, Pamela Mowatt; sisters, Catherine Prietz (Andrew) and Theresa Chauvin (Clayton); and many nieces and nephews. Pete will be forever cherished by his four grandchildren, Ethan Mowatt, Annaliese Thomas, Tyler Mowatt and Sarabeth Thomas.

Pete married his beloved wife, Ruth (nee DeLong), in June 1966. Pete and Ruth built their first home in Grosse Pointe Woods, where they raised their children. Pete had a long and rewarding career with the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department. He began as a patrol officer and rose through the ranks to ultimately serve as deputy chief of police. Pete eventually became the city manager of Grosse Pointe Woods before he retired.

Pete was happiest when he was near the water. He enjoyed sailing on Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron. His favorite vacations were trips to the British Virgin Islands, sailing around the many islands with his family.

In retirement, Pete and



Paul Leonard Nuccilli



Laura Griggs Bradley



Lawrence A. McCourt



Peter Adam Thomas



Patricia Ann Schultz



Evelyn Hansen

Ruth traveled the world, golfed often, enjoyed their home in Port Sanilac and always made their children and grandchildren a priority. Despite frequent long drives, they could always be counted on to support their grandkids' sports and school events.

Visitation will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores, before a memorial Mass at 10 a.m.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Patricia Ann Schultz

Patricia Ann Schultz, 82, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025, surrounded by her loving family and dear friends.

Born May 30, 1943, Patricia was a devoted mother, grandmother, aunt and friend whose kindness and warmth touched all who knew her. She enjoyed a long career with Bank of America, where she was admired for her professionalism, compassion and ever-present smile. During her years at "the bank," she built many lasting friendships that she treasured throughout her life.

After retiring, Patricia found her greatest joy in her family, especially her beloved grandchildren, who affectionately called her "Grammy" and knew there would be orange Tic Tacs and Mentos in her purse. She cherished family trips to Lexington, Sunday breakfasts at The Original Pancake House with her son, Chuck, and her nightly routine of watching Alex Trebek on "Jeopardy!" to keep her mind sharp. Whether cheering at her grandsons' sporting events or sharing stories with her

lifelong friends, Patricia lived her days with energy, humor and love.

She was the daughter of the late Harry and Mary (nee Popelchuck) Kozlowski. She also was predeceased by her sister, Gloria Marciniak (Harry), and brother, Richard Kozlowski (Beverly).

Patricia is survived by her devoted daughter, Mary Wysocki (Kevin); her loving sons, Charles Heimberger and Scott Heimberger (Kim); and her greatest joys — her five grandsons: Jesse, Ryan, Evan, Alex and Landon. She also leaves behind her cherished "grand dog," Roxie.

Patricia's life was a testament to love, faith and resilience. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her memory will live on in the hearts of all who loved her.

Evelyn Hansen

Evelyn Hansen, 91, peacefully passed away Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, at The Rivers in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Though her passing was peaceful, she was better described as fierce. To say she was a firecracker is a gross understatement; those who met her did not forget.

Evelyn, aka "The Queen," was extraordinary. From humble beginnings, the firstborn daughter of German immigrants earned the nickname "The Queen" while working at her beloved Detroit Athletic Club. She almost didn't apply for the position, saying she didn't believe she was qualified. That certainly did not last. Evelyn became the person people went to when they needed anything. Her standard response to members who came to her for help was, "What can I do to make you

happy?" And then she executed.

Evelyn loved travel and had many favorite destinations. However, she also enjoyed returning to her home in Grosse Pointe, which she maintained beautifully, winning multiple beautification awards.

She loved music, particularly the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. More than movies or television, Evelyn loved live performances. For years, she ushered at the Fisher Theatre and organized dozens of groups to see shows at the Gem Theatre. Her grandchildren knew they only needed to mention wanting to see something and the tickets would be purchased.

Evelyn is survived by her children, Scott (Judi), Barbara, Stephen (Nancy) and Christopher; grandchildren, Jennifer (Morris), Erica, Ashley, Alecia (Colin), Stephanie and Billy; great-grandchildren, Trey, Addison, Carson and Jamison; and brother, Joseph (Pauline). Family was extremely important to Evelyn and, while she loved her children, she regarded her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as her greatest gift.

Predeceasing her were the two great loves of her life, Terrance Hansen and Benjamin Davis III, as well as her brothers, Raymond and Carl.

A celebration of Evelyn's life is planned for 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, at the Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison, Detroit.

In memory of Evelyn, donations are suggested to Focus HOPE, 1400 Oakman Blvd., Detroit, MI 48238, in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

See OBITS, page 6B

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6B | OBITUARIES

OBITS:

Continued from page 5B

Jay Schmidt

Jay Schmidt, 75, passed away peacefully Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025. He was a beloved husband, brother, uncle, shipmate and friend.

Jay was born May 22, 1950, in Ann Arbor, to Jarvis J. Schmidt and Gertrude (nee Elgear) Shmidt.

Jay is survived by his loving wife, Kathy (nee Mansfield), whose partnership and love were the foundation of his happiness. They were married in May 1988.

Jay attended Western Michigan University, where he was an active member of Delta Chi fraternity. After college, he joined the crew of Firebrand, a racing sailboat out of the United Kingdom. He raced the boat on the East Coast of the United States before delivering it to Bermuda and then England, where he stayed another year. He pursued his passion for sailing throughout his life, racing at the highest level in some of the most prestigious events in the world, including Newport-Bermuda, the Pineapple Cup, the Canada Cup, SORC, the Admiral's Cup and the Fastnet Race, in addition to countless Bayview and Chicago Mackinac races. As the epitome of a salty offshore sailor, Jay stayed positive even when things looked grim. One of his lifelong shipmates said Jay was the guy people wanted to sail with because he was tough and smart, and nothing fazed him. He always kept the crew looking forward.

His social circles extended to the Detroit Racquet Club and Bayview Yacht Club, where he was a fixture in the golf league and Four O'Clock Club. He spent many afternoons on the lawn at Bayview, spinning yarns and fact-checking the work of others. His lighthearted demeanor and wit belied his reputation as the toughest guy in the room.

Professionally, Jay was a commercial real estate broker for many years at Jarvis J. Schmidt and Co., and more recently, Ralph Vigliotti Realty.

Jay also leaves behind his two brothers, Kirk (Karen) and Craig (Peggy), who shared countless memories and adventures with him; as well as many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at Bayview Yacht Club, 100 Clairpointe, Detroit,



Jay Schmidt

where his friends and family can remember his light and share stories that are not fit to print.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Anne Marie Sylvester

Anne Marie (nee Ellsworth) Sylvester, 80, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, at Henry Ford St. John Hospital. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her generosity, fighting spirit, sense of humor and penchant for storytelling.

Born Oct. 4, 1945, in Detroit, to Irma Brunner Ellsworth and Colin McK Ellsworth, Anne Marie attended St. Martin School in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood for 12 years and graduated in 1963. The first in her family to attend college, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Michigan in 1967, and a master's degree in journalism from Michigan State University in the 1980s.

A proud Cadet and Wolverine, Anne Marie cherished the friendships she made at St. Martin and the University of Michigan throughout her life. She was a driving force behind St. Martin class reunions, trips, birthday luncheons, picnics and friendly and enthusiastic communications for decades. As far as education, campus experience and — most definitely — sports were concerned, there was only one school that mattered: the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Anne Marie celebrated her 80th birthday in the company of her son and his family, needlepointing her 51st and final Christmas stocking for her first great-grandchild, Hank, born in September, whom she held for the first time the day before her death. She also spent the day quizzing her grandsons on their states and capitals "for fun," and watching her beloved Wolverines best the Badgers.

Storytelling was always important to Anne Marie. Whether it was writing humorous plays performed by her younger sisters as teenagers, being mentored by Sr.



Anne Marie Sylvester

Marie Edwards, IHM, at St. Martin, working on the Michiganensian at the Student Publications Building, facing her first deadline at age 22 as a reporter for United Press International (UPI), a short stint teaching journalism at the University of Detroit or the many years she spent working in communications at the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association (MVMA) and General Motors, stories and communication were never far from her mind.

An ovarian cancer survivor of more than 15 years, Anne Marie loved nothing more than sharing stories and family lore with her family in person late into the evening, preferably over a glass of wine, or over the phone at any hour of the day. She was generous with her children, grandchildren, siblings and friends, offering her home or the use of her car and enjoying trips with them over the years to France, England, Italy, Germany and China. She loved a good party and was not averse to throwing herself one, as she did the month before her 80th birthday.

Anne Marie will be dearly missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her children, Rebecca Tull (Christopher), Amy Hayes (Brian) and Danny Sylvester (Kristen); grandchildren, Allison Fosket (Hunter), Nick Hayes, Natalie Hayes, Sam Tull, Lucy Tull, Kayla Sylvester, Sophia Sylvester, Roger Sylvester and Major Sylvester; great-grandson, Hank Fosket; sisters, Barbara Crate (Jim), Margaret Curran (John) and Colleen Kolar (Pat); brother, McKay Ellsworth (Mei); cousin, Mary Lou Dunipace; ex-husband, Curt Sylvester; and many dear nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and friends.

Memorial donations may be made to Humble Design Detroit, 21420 Melrose, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/4716ia8; or a charity of the giver's choice.

Anne Marie's family will receive guests at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17, until her funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.



Richard J. Schneider

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Richard John Schneider

Richard "Dick" John Schneider, 89, died unexpectedly Thursday, July 31, 2025, at Regency at St. Clair Shores Rehabilitation Center. He was born Nov. 10, 1935, in Detroit, to John J. and Evelyn L. Schneider.

Richard graduated from Denby High School in 1952. Following graduation, he worked at a stamping plant in Detroit for five years, then spent 35 years as an industrial engineer at Chrysler.

While working at Chrysler, he married Linda R. Black. They settled in Grosse Pointe Woods and celebrated 55 years of marriage in June.

Richard was predeceased by his parents. In addition to his wife, Linda R. Schneider, Richard is survived by his son, Matthew J. Schneider (Elizabeth A. Oppenheim); brother, John R. Schneider; nephews, Kurt J. Schneider (Betsy) and Erich J. Schneider (Meghan); and niece, Kristen L. Van Pelt (Tom). Richard also is survived by several great-nieces and great-nephews.

An avid golfer, Richard started golfing at age 9, and golfed in a league with his friends and family until age 83. Richard was a devoted and loving husband and father and also loved animals, especially his dog, Frankie. Richard was a newspaper carrier in his youth, which resulted in him becoming a voracious reader.

A service of remembrance in Richard's honor took place at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Memorial donations in Richard's honor are appreciated to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 296 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, gpaas.org/donate; or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, stjude.org/.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Who do you think you are?

Discover the fundamental building blocks of genealogy research at a half-day program from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Wayne County Community College District instructor Felicia Lewis-Williams will discuss the various resources available to help document family history — and where to find them online, at a library or other record-holding facility.

Snacks and beverages will be served. The workshop is free, but registration is required. Register at helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600.



Little Goblins is back at Ford House

Ford House once again welcomes families for its annual Little Goblins event 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. The daytime Halloween experience is designed for young children, offering activities across the estate's grounds — without the scares.

Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers, Little Goblins provides a safe, stress-free way for families to celebrate Halloween. The event takes place during daylight hours, with activities tailored to small children, making it an ideal introduction to the season filled with joy, exploration and autumn fun.

Guests can experience a full lineup of hands-on activities, treats and fun, including:

◆ Trick-or-Treat Trail: Follow a decorated path to collect candy and small prizes from friendly stations throughout the grounds.

◆ Photo opportunities: Capture moments near the 15-foot Pumpkin King and at other Instagram-worthy spots around the estate.

◆ Lawn games and straw maze: Enjoy classic lawn games and explore a kid-friendly straw maze, perfect for friendly competition among families and guests.

◆ Hayride: Climb into the family-friendly, haunt-free hayride from the main residence to the cider and doughnuts tent.

◆ Cider and doughnut treats: Each ticket includes a complimentary cider and doughnut to enjoy on the grounds.

"This event is not only a fun way to celebrate Halloween, but also a chance to take in the beauty and history of the Ford House grounds," said Andrea Ozanich, Ford House public events specialist. "Little Goblins is thoughtfully designed for our youngest guests — safe, friendly and full of hands-on fun — giving families peace of mind while creating lasting fall memories."

Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase, including seasonal beverages for adults. Learn more and purchase tickets at fordhouse.org/events.

Forum on voting integrity ballot proposal, ranked choice voting

Meghan Reckling, a longtime and prominent advocate for voting integrity, will speak to the Eastside Republican Club at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Refreshments will be provided starting at 7 p.m. All are invited. A \$5 donation from nonmem-

bers is suggested.

Reckling is a graduate of Michigan State University and has worked for several prominent legislators for several decades. She is an active sportswoman and member of the National Rifle Association. She has played several prominent roles in Livingston County GOP organizations.

Petitions will be available to sign or for anyone to take and seek signatures.

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

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets the third Tuesday of each month, September through May.



COURTESY PHOTO

Meghan Reckling





Sandra Mengel, left, and Marcia Wright read a winning ticket number. Both women are Chapter AO-P.E.O. members and Wright chaired the event.

Fashion for scholarships

Supporting women's education is always in fashion and that proved the case for a fun and successful show for Chapter AO-P.E.O., a local chapter of the philanthropic educational organization that supports funding for a variety of missions that allow women to achieve educational goals.

Sunday, Oct. 5, proved a perfect time to kick off fall fashions as the

Detroit Lions kicked off a Sunday win on TV at The Whiskey Six. While patrons enjoyed the game, they also were treated to a show of winning fall fashions hosted by Village Palm & Newport and Glitter & Scotch.

Funds raised also support a local award given each spring to a junior woman at Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North high schools in honor of educator Florence Miller.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHAPTER AO-P.E.O.

Left, Alicia Taub, Chapter AO-P.E.O. member, models a black dress. Right, Chapter AO-P.E.O. member and event model Linda Rice chats with fellow member Kathy Frakes.



Chapter AO-P.E.O. member Pat Elian models two different looks for the event, escorted by her son, Nadeem Elian.

FOCUS Detroit gala at Assumption Oct. 25

FOCUS Detroit will host its annual fundraiser and gala, "An Evening of Gratitude," at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, in Assumption Cultural Center's grand ballroom in St. Clair Shores. The evening will celebrate the metro Detroit community's generosity and support in serving children and families in need.

Through strong partnerships with schools, churches and local organizations, FOCUS Detroit provides critical resources — including food, clothing, backpacks, school supplies and more — to children, families and individuals experiencing homelessness, housing instability and poverty across the city.

The gala will begin with a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music and a silent auction. The auction will run from 5 to 7 p.m. Following the reception and cocktail hour, attendees will have dinner and hear from special

guest and emcee of the evening, Fox TV2 News anchor Charlie Langton.

Testimonials about FOCUS Detroit will be shared to convey the impact of its work in the community. The event also will feature music from a variety of cultures and the dance floor will be open.

Tickets are \$150 each with a special student rate of \$100. All proceeds from the evening will directly benefit FOCUS Detroit's programs that serve children and families in need.

For tickets and event information, visit focusdetroit.org/gala, contact FOCUS Detroit Center Director Adam Murphy at amurphy@focusna.org or call the Assumption Church office at (586) 779-6111.

The Assumption Church & Cultural Center is located at 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Library

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

◆ Drop Ship Like a Pro, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ General Motors and the Golden Age of Design, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ So You Want to be a Comedian? 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Reader Dog, 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Michigan Science Center presents Frostology, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Slices & Stories: A Teen Book Club with Pizza 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Creepy Crafting, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Spooky Teen Movie Night: "Five Nights at Freddy's," 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Film and the Monsters We Love, 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ GPPL Presents: Retro Technology Fest, all day Friday, Oct. 24, and Saturday, Oct. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Saturday Drop-In Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at Central, 10 Kercheval,

Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

POST Detroit

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

◆ Ceramics Workshop: Puff Pipes, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17. Cost is \$75.

◆ Drop-in Jewelry Workshop: Wire Wrap Rings, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. Cost is \$50.

◆ POST eighth anniversary party, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19. Register online.

◆ Ceramics Workshop: Critter Dish Trinket Tray, 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22. Cost is \$60.

◆ Sewing with Cocktails Workshop: Linen Pumpkin Coasters, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. Cost is \$60.

◆ Basket Weaving Workshop: Pine Needle Rim Baskets, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Cost is \$140.

◆ Concrete Planter Workshop: Spooky Succulent Gardens, 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Cost is \$70.

◆ Jewelry Workshop: Brass + Beads, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. Cost is \$75.

◆ Mixed Media Abstract: Collage Workshop, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. Cost is \$60.

◆ Pressed Flower Collage Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. Cost is \$85.

◆ POST Open Mic Night, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29.

GPAA

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

◆ Nuno Felting with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18.

◆ Portraits in the Style of John Singer Sargent with Donald Cronkrite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 30, and Nov. 6 and 13.

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

◆ Gemstone Ring Workshop with Twistful Thinking, 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. Cost is \$160.

◆ El Encuentro: The Latin Legacy Salsa Affair, 5:30 to 11 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door.

◆ Fix-it Together: Free Community Tech

Workshop, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23.

◆ The third annual Halloween Spooktacular, benefiting the Children's Enrichment Fund, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. Tickets are \$10.

◆ Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra autumn concert, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and veterans, \$5 for college students, free for K-12 students.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, Lakeview High School, 21100 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Chamber

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's Building Your Business Boot Camp takes place 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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 or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

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

◆ Estate Planning for Parents, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Central Library, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Ford House

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

◆ Little Goblins, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Admission costs vary.

◆ Family Workshop: Bricks of Hope, Saturday, Nov. 1. Admission is \$5 for ages 3 to 17, \$8 for adults.

◆ Storytime: "Acorn was a Little Wild," 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4.

◆ Concert Over the Cove: Julie Dilworth, 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7. Tickets are \$75 for members, \$90 for the public.

◆ Maker Studio: Fused Glass Charcuterie Boards, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22. Cost is \$85 for Friends, \$100 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

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9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
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Heroes' Movement: Reflecting on '25, preparing for next gala

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Last year, the Grosse Pointe community was introduced to Heroes' Movement, a nonprofit that helps strengthen veterans' physical and mental health through workouts and athletics.

The goals of the 501(c)3 nonprofit include bridging the gap between physical therapy and feeling strong again; creating a continued sense of community for veterans so they can reinforce their strengths together; reducing dependence on prescription drugs; and reducing suicide risk.

To help support its mission, the 10-year-old organization, founded by Wyandotte native and U.S. Navy veteran Mike McKay, hosted its first Heroes' Movement gala at The War Memorial in January.

"We had a phenomenal gala," McKay said. "And some veterans started training with us. We're looking to build off that again."

"Finally, due to the success of the gala, this was the first year we weren't completely strapped," he added. "Our progress this year has been steady. We're at sustainability right now."

More about Heroes' Movement

There are 350 active veterans involved nationwide in the program, which maintains a suicide rate of zero among participants.

"Our mission statement is strengthening veterans' mental and physical well-being through movement-based workouts," McKay said. "We want to take you from a place of pain into a place of less pain. When you're in less pain, you move more."



Left, Lori Stefek hosted a lively live auction during last year's event. Below, from left, U.S. Air Force veteran Kevin Gibson, U.S. Navy veteran and Heroes' Movement founder Mike McKay and U.S. Navy veteran Jeff Gilliland attended last year's event.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE MCKAY

When you move more, you do more."

McKay said being physically fit is one of Heroes' Movement's "secret sauces."

"That and getting with other people," he added. "Some people are isolated. But for this one hour (in the gym), this gets them talking with people, interacting with people."

Heroes' Movement accomplishes its goals by partnering with gyms nationwide to provide training free of charge to veterans. Of the handful of participating gyms in Michigan, local participants are SBG Training, 15318 Mack in Grosse Pointe Park, and Detroit Thrive, located at East Side Hockey Ice Arena, 4831 Canyon in Detroit.

"There are plenty of open spots in Grosse Pointe," McKay said. "You'll see veterans popping in with non-veter-

ans, but some gyms have groups of veterans who get together and you'll hear the branch banter. I would love to have that here."

Every partner gym follows post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury training guidelines to ensure veterans receive the type of care they need.

Veterans are welcome to train at participating gyms up to three times a week, "indefinitely, until they're good," McKay added. "They don't have to be injured to be in the program. They can be any era, any branch, any age, injured or uninjured — we make sure every day's a win."

Workouts happen in a noncompetitive environment.

"We set you up to compete with yourself," McKay said. "This is the way to do it. We help you get in control of your life

again."

More to come

McKay helped raise visibility for Heroes' Movement last month, Suicide Prevention Month, when he walked from the Wyandotte VFW hall to the VFW in Royal Oak.

"Twenty-three miles," he said. "It took 10 and a half hours. It was a decent donation month for us."

However, more help is needed. McKay currently is planning the second annual Heroes' Movement gala, which will return to The War Memorial Saturday, Jan. 24. Based on feedback from the last event, the 2026 gala will include dinner.

An open bar also will be included in the \$150 ticket price.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Lawrence Miller, who walked with McKay during the suicide-awareness event last month, will serve as keynote speaker.

"I first met him at Thrive Detroit," McKay said. "He's told me multiple times this program saved his life."

"Lawrence was a special ops Marine," he continued. "He ended up isolating a lot. With the help of this program and other support, he started the nonprofit Trek for Vets. Last Memorial Day, he walked from St. Joe's to Royal Oak — 200 miles in 12 days."

The primary objective of Trek for Vets is to raise awareness and support for veterans throughout Michigan, with a fundraising goal of \$222 per



mile. Funds raised provide assistance to veterans in crisis, including legal, mental, physical and housing support.

"Next year, he's walking 500 miles across the state of Michigan during the month of May," McKay added.

Find more information about Trek for Vets at trekforvets.com.

Other details confirmed for the Jan. 24 gala include an auction that will feature an autographed Detroit Lions football helmet and the chance to take the ice for a hockey game featuring 10 professional hockey players.

"We'll have 10 pros — five a side — so no matter what, you're skating on a line or on defense with a

pro," McKay said.

Lori Stefek once again will serve as auctioneer.

"She crushed it last year," McKay said. "She makes everything so easy."

Gift baskets will be raffled and AFC/NFC championship squares will be available.

The eight-member Packin' Heat — a powerhouse of horns, rhythm and harmony, according to its website — will provide live entertainment.

"Now we just need to get 150 people through the door," McKay said. "Last time it was a blast. It's going to be a great night again."

Keep an eye out for more information about the gala or buy tickets at heroesmovementusa.org.



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Dr. Sean Cassleman at Mission Metabolic Health offers more than traditional primary care

After more than a decade of practicing internal medicine, Dr. Sean Cassleman has seen the strong connection between metabolic disease, obesity, muscle loss and chronic illness that cuts lives short and disrupts quality of life.

"The new paradigm for medicine is not waiting for disease to appear and then prescribing medication. It's about being proactive," Cassleman said.

At Mission Metabolic Health, 21444 Harper, St. Clair Shores, the focus is on reversing metabolic dysfunction through diet, exercise and tailored medical care — services often missing in traditional primary care.

The office features an in-house gym along with fitness and nutrition coaches, ensuring patients have hands-on support to put their health plans into action.

Mission Metabolic Health emphasizes longer appointments and genuine conversations to understand each patient's goals. Cassleman brings expertise in lifestyle medicine, hormone therapy and obesity medicine, with a passion for preventative care.

Rooted in the Grosse Pointe community, Cassleman grew up in the City of Grosse Pointe, attended Grosse Pointe Public Schools



Dr. Sean Cassleman

and University of Detroit Jesuit High School and now lives in Grosse Pointe Park.

He went to John Carroll University and earned his medical degree at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Board-certified in internal medicine, he also has advanced training in obesity medicine.

The practice offers

services such as concierge primary care, weight management, hormone and menopause therapy, osteoporosis care and supplement guidance.

"It's transformative to see patients work with our coaches and bring exam-room strategies to life," Cassleman said.

For more information, call (586) 200-4265 or email info@missionmetabolichealth.com.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF COREWELL HEALTH BEAUMONT GROSSE POINTE HOSPITAL

Corewell Health Grosse Pointe hospitalists hard at work discussing their patients. From left, Dr. Al-Hakim, Dr. Bazzi, Dr. El-Ankouni, Dr. Seely and Dr. Chaudhry.

Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital improves patient care with 24/7 physicians

Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital last month became the first Corewell Health location in southeast Michigan to pilot a new hospitalist program — now enabling it to have in-house internal and family medicine doctors on site 24/7.

Previously, the hospital was staffed by private physicians who either attended at multiple hospitals or spent time at their private clinics. Additionally, they were not available to patients after 5 p.m., leaving only a house doctor on-site overnight for emergency situations.

“For example, if you are the spouse who came after work to go check on somebody, overnight doctors weren’t the people who were able to educate you on what had happened, to go over the

test results with you, because we didn’t really know them,” said Dr. Lisa Peleman, who once served as an overnight house doctor but is now medical director of the hospitalist program. “Now most of the patients are actually admitted under the hospitalist team and so we actually are very well acquainted with what’s happening. If you come after work, we can give you the whole plan, update you on what tests have been done throughout the day.

“If you’re looking on your MyChart after hours and say, ‘Hey, I see this number, should I be worried?’ We can go over each number with you at your bedside, things like that.”

The hospitalist program launched Sept. 1.

“It just allows people a lot better opportunity

to be able to have their doctor around if anything changes,” Peleman said. “We’re able to reassess. We’re able to change medications on a more minute-by-minute basis.

“We believe this is a better way to get patients more access to their physicians at a more constant pace to hopefully get people healthy and discharged sooner.”

The benefits of the new program extend to discharges as well.

“Previously we really only did discharges in the morning,” Peleman explained, “and now if a patient says by the afternoon, ‘Hey, that new treatment made me feel all better,’ we can get people home for dinner if they want to.

“That’s been a really great benefit of people

See COREWELL, page 12B

Cutting-edge laser targets deep wrinkles, scars, pigmentation

Entering the fall season when the sun becomes less intense creates unique opportunities for specialized skincare procedures which require a longer period of healing.

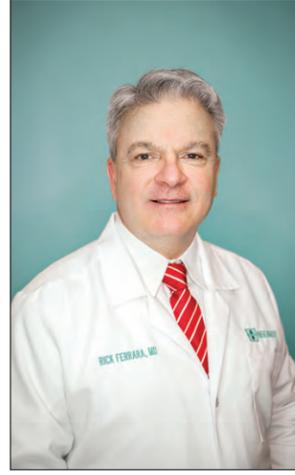
It’s now the perfect time of year to take advantage of a cutting-edge laser procedure offered by the board-certified dermatologists at The Skin & Laser Center at Ferrara Dermatology.

UltraClear by Acclaro is a first-of-its-kind cold erbium fiber laser with an ablative capacity, meaning it can influence all layers of the skin.

“The beauty of this laser is it can be customized to treat many different skin conditions and it has different modalities, so it can target everything including pigmentation in the skin, deep lines and wrinkles, acne scars and surgical scars,” Dr. Richard Ferrara explained. “The versatility of the laser is what truly sets it apart.”

The targeted way the energy is delivered into the skin makes the procedure a much more comfortable experience for the patient compared to past generations of lasers. This can make for less downtime as well as low pain.

“We can do everything from a lunchtime superficial 3D miracle treatment that heals in a couple days to a deeper, more comprehensive treatment looking for big results that might take seven to 10 days to heal,” Dr. Katie Caretti said. “The customization factor means everyone needs a thorough consulta-



Dr. Richard Ferrara



Dr. Katie Caretti

tion to understand expectations and once we have that, we tailor the plan to try to have the outcome match the expectation.”

Unique to the device is the laser coring aspect, which gives it the ability to create laser tunnels, which then are removed and able to heal, allowing for optimal collagen stimulation.

“By doing so, we can really target some of the deeper wrinkles and acne scars,” Ferrara said. “And this is more observational — it’s not part of its FDA statement — but we are empirically noticing some lifting and improvement of laxity, which is really quite unique and interesting for a laser to be able to achieve that.”

The UltraClear laser can be used on the face, as well as the neck, which is a key area where many people would like to see improvement.

The laser also can be suitable for darker skin tones, which is notable as options for darker skin tones historically have been more limited.

“We used to carry CO2 technology and we got rid of it a while back,” Ferrara noted. “It’s still a great technology, but we favor this because it offers comfort and quick healing alongside the same benefits as some of the old-school technology.”

Ferrara Dermatology Clinic is located at 20043 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. For more information, call (313) 884-5100 or visit ferraraderm.com.



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Corewell Health Family Medicine - 22646 9 Mile Rd

22646 East 9 Mile Rd. Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

586.498.4800

Sarah Koslaskiewicz, MD Monica Szmyd, MD

Corewell Health Internal Medicine - 18325 E 10 Mile Rd

18325 East 10 Mile Rd. Suite 300, Roseville, MI 48066

586.447.4000

John Geddes, MD Oneil Doha, MD Jeremy Santamaria, MD [Internal Medicine - Adult Care Only]

Corewell Health Family Medicine - 30695 Little Mack

30695 Little Mack Ave. Suite 200, Roseville, MI 48066

586.294.9600

Andreise Laurian Nazzaria Rosa de Souza, MD

Corewell Health Primary Care - 17000 Kercheval Ave

17000 Kercheval Ave. Suite 205, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

313.640.2424

Olga Caruso, DO Michael Dionne, MD

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GP as a puppy, during a training session in Florida.

Voting open for Defender Service Awards

Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs a finalist

Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, which pairs highly skilled service dogs with veterans, first responders and individuals with visible and invisible disabilities, has been named a Defender Service Awards finalist.

The Defender Service Awards, presented by Chase, recognize organizations making notable contributions to communities across the country.

Since 2010, Guardian Angels has made nearly 450 life-saving pairings between service dogs and their recipients — all at no cost to recipients. Each service dog represents a \$37,000 investment in care, including training, lifetime veterinary support, ongoing skills updates and 24/7 mental health resources.

There have been zero suicides among recipients — a testament to the healing power of these pairings.

A decade ago, the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors, as well as The War Memorial and several private donors, began raising funds to sponsor a Guardian Angels service dog, which they named GP.

Their years of fundraising in and around Grosse Pointe paid off for veteran Marty Baird, who has post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in the U.S. Navy during the Persian Gulf War, then spending 14 months serving in Iraq after 9/11.

In late 2017, Baird was paired with GP and his



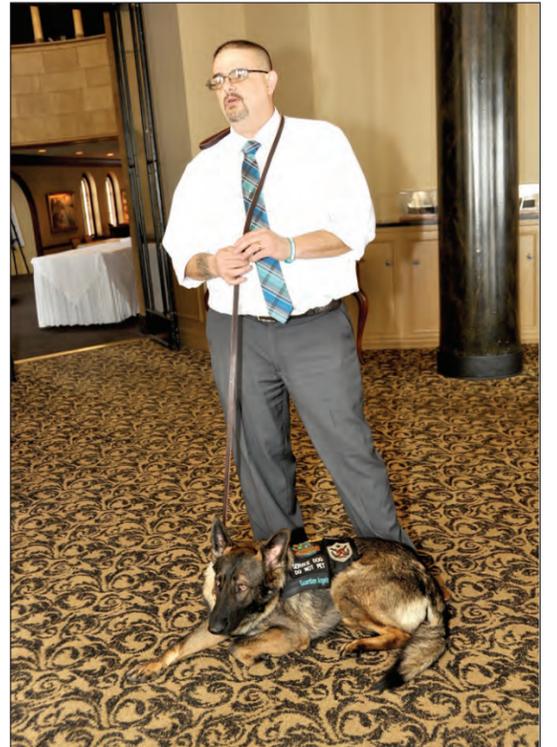
life was changed forever.

While GP was the area's first locally sponsored Guardian Angels service dog, since then, local efforts have been extensive.

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Mary Lamparter spearheaded those efforts through her annual Celebrate Michigan's Military fundraising gala, which raised more than \$1 million for Guardian Angels in nine years.

Voting for the Defender Service Award runs through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19. Votes may be cast once per person per day by visiting tinyurl.com/mt4crfau.

"Every vote brings us



Veteran Marty Baird introduced his service dog, GP, to the community that funded the pairing in 2017.

closer to winning this national recognition and expanding our mission to save lives," said Mary Jo Brandt, chief operating officer.



FILE PHOTOS

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COREWELL:

Continued from page 11B

being able to say, 'I feel better. Can I go?' And we'll just go, 'Absolutely. Let's get you out the door right now.'

To make the program feasible, the hospital brought on nine new physicians and 10 new advanced practice providers.

"It's a big investment on the hospital's end," Peleman acknowledged. "The plan is for it to spread throughout all of Corewell Health."

Additional new programs recently

launched at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital include a new prostate cancer treatment, new treatment for liver cancer through the interventional radiology department, the employment of two additional general surgeons and the employment of an additional gastroenterologist.

"We have so many new, wonderful things coming to Grosse Pointe that we haven't had before," Peleman said, "and I feel our community deserves this kind of care."

"Most of us live here and work here. I bike into work everyday. I love it here and I want it to be its absolute best."

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KNOW YOUR SKIN

by Lisa A. Manz-Dulac, M.D.

Try these dry skin solutions from Eastside Dermatology

As we approach winter in southeast Michigan, almost all of us suffer from dry skin. There are several things we can do to help heal dry skin and prevent its return.



- Limit your time in the shower or bath to 5 to 10 minutes.
- Avoid excessively hot water.
- Wash with a gentle, fragrance-free cleanser.
- Apply a moisturizer to damp, dry skin immediately after showering; ointments and creams are more effective and less irritating than lotions.
- Use only gentle, unscented skincare products.
- Avoid products that contain alcohol, fragrances, alpha-hydroxy acids or retinoids if you have sensitive, dry skin.
- Use laundry detergent that is hypoallergenic, and avoid bleach and fabric softener when washing clothes, towels and bedding.
- Protect your hands in the winter by wearing gloves outdoors, or if you are working with chemicals or if your hands are in water for a prolonged time indoors.
- Use a humidifier in your bedroom to add extra moisture to the air.

If these tips fail to bring relief, then schedule an appointment with your dermatologist. Severely dry skin may require prescription treatment or it may be a sign of internal disease. Call us at Eastside Dermatology, (313) 884-3380.

Eastside Dermatology has offices in Grosse Pointe Woods, New Baltimore, Hartland and Milford. You can reach them at (313) 884-3380 or (586) 716-1291.



New orthodontic office on The Hill puts patients first

A new orthodontic office in Grosse Pointe is bringing a patient-centered approach to The Hill. Orthodontic Associates PC, which opened in August at 114 Kercheval, is led by Drs. Thomas Gebeck Jr. and Gregory Hummon — both board-certified orthodontists and clinical instructors at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.

Dr. Gebeck carries on a local orthodontic legacy. His father, Dr. Thomas Gebeck Sr., treated multiple generations of families in Grosse Pointe for over 45 years.

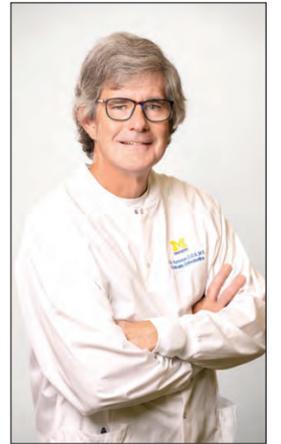
Orthodontics has come a long way since the elder Dr. Gebeck's early days.

Today's braces are "low-profile, lighter and more comfortable," Dr. Hummon said. "We've learned that lighter forces move teeth better and are more efficient."

Aside from traditional metal and clear braces, the office also offers Invisalign.

"Invisalign can be a great tool with the right patient," said Dr. Gebeck, "but it's not for everyone."

While most of their patients still tend to be pre-teens and early teens, adults make up 20 percent of the practice.



Dr. Thomas Gebeck Jr., left, and Dr. Gregory Hummon bring a patient-centered approach to their practice on The Hill.

"We are seeing patients in their 60s, 70s and 80s," said Dr. Gebeck. "That's because people are keeping their teeth longer and we work closely with their dentist to set up for the best restorative outcome."

Dr. Hummon and Dr. Gebeck do early treatment (two phases) and comprehensive treatment. Dr. Hummon said a two-phase treatment, however, is "highly overutilized."

"It should be used for a clear, selective benefit," he noted. "We prefer to do one course of treatment, if possible, because doing two phases means more time, effort and money from the patient

and family." "When it comes to early treatment it is not what can we do, but what should we do," said Dr. Gebeck.

Partnership with general dentists also is a key focus for Dr. Hummon and Dr. Gebeck.

They recommend patients continue regular six-month checkups with their dentists, noting healthy teeth lead to better orthodontic outcomes.

The doctors stress the importance of early evaluations, ideally between ages 6 and 8.

For more information, visit orthodonticassociates.com or call (313) 771-2655.

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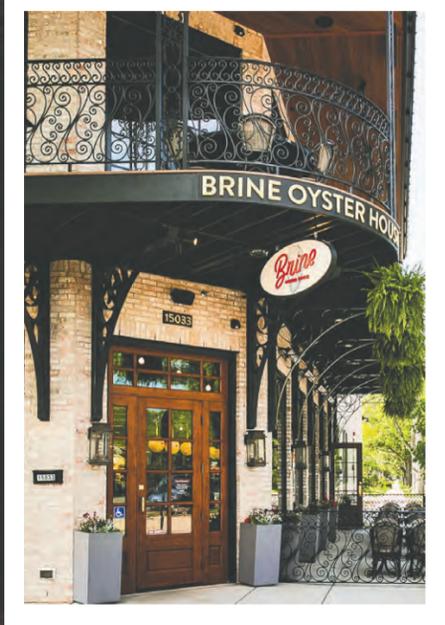
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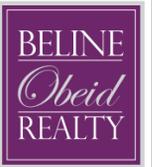
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Books & Bubbles supports GPPL

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

There are several programs lined up to benefit from the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation's annual gala, Books & Bubbles.

This year's sparkling celebration of the Grosse Pointe Public Library includes a cocktail reception, strolling dinner, live music, a silent auction and cork-pull game. To play the game, participants pay \$50 to win a mystery prize worth at least \$50, though most prizes are valued between \$75 and \$150.

Those who have yet to secure a ticket may just miss out on the event, which takes place 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Ford House, as limited tickets are available. However, there still are plenty of opportunities to support the foundation and, therefore, the library.

"You can find many ways to support the GPLF," said Books & Bubbles co-chair Nancy Gandelot Spearman, who noted the easiest way is to visit gplf.org/support. "We also do an annual appeal and have commemorative giving programs. And we welcome any donations of any size at any time."

Books & Bubbles also welcomes support through its Treasure or Travel Raffle, tickets for which are available online. The winning ticket-holder need not be present to

win.

"The first prize is the winner's choice," Gandelot Spearman said. "They can choose between \$1,500 in cash or a trip to New Orleans for two guests, including a three-night stay, a steamboat jazz dinner and a small group tour of a local attraction."

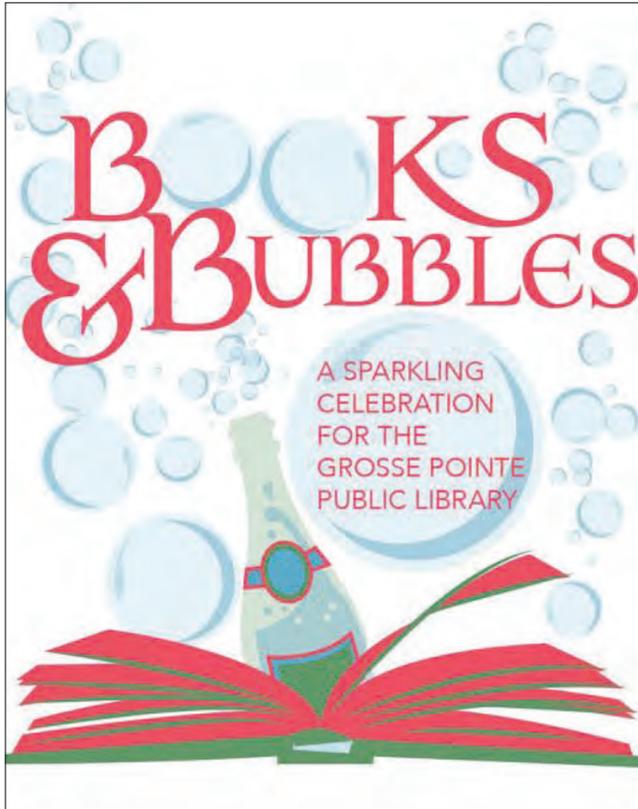
The second-prize winner will walk away with \$500 in gift cards to Grosse Pointe and Detroit restaurants, while the third-prize winner will get pampered with a rest/relaxation day at a local spa.

Raffle tickets may be purchased online at tinyurl.com/54b42mmc, where monetary donations also may be made. Funds raised support several facets of the GPPL.

"We are funding a tablet station at the Central branch, an embroidery machine for the maker's lab at the Woods branch, three interns ... trainings for staff and equine therapy visits for students programs," Gandelot Spearman said.

This is the third year Gandelot Spearman, a member of the foundation board, has chaired the Books & Bubbles gala. Her co-chairs are her mother, Lisa Gandelot, and Sherry McRill.

"There is good energy at Books & Bubbles, while offering a fun evening at a reasonable cost, attracting a broader audience while raising funds for a worthy cause," Gandelot said.



The cause is near and dear to her heart, as it is to many in the community. The library system was voted the best place to hang out on a rainy day in the 2025 Grosse Pointe News Best of the Best contest. In 2024, its three branches received 257,000 visits.

"I was 8 years old when the Central Library opened," Gandelot said. "We got to walk to the library from

Richard School to meet the librarian, hear stories and learn how to 'use' the library.

"As a young person, I was especially fascinated by the aquarium and the Calder mobile," she added. "The Central branch, along with the Park and Woods branches, provide so many excellent programs and services for all ages. They are wonderful assets that enrich our lives

and our community."

Her daughter agreed. "The library system is a jewel of the community," Gandelot Spearman said. "There is something for everyone — books, programs, a lending library of tools, the ability to rent movies, TV shows and books via digital platforms, a maker's lab with a 3D printer and soon an embroidery machine. Plus, it's a place to come together and learn. I want generations to come to have the same positive and cherished memories of their time at the library as I do."

McRill also championed the library for offering spaces for lifelong learning within all age groups.

"Our library has provided the opportunity from an early age for me to engage with my grandchildren in a comfortable learning environment, with stacks of diverse pleasure and research reading materials, an entertaining fish tank, cozy low furniture and educational toys, and — most important — the exposure to age-appropriate books that has shaped their love of reading," she said. "Our Grosse Pointe libraries are a safe, fun, educational treasure that deserve our charitable donations and an important stop on your next local outing."

For more information about Books & Bubbles or to support the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation, visit gplf.org.

Pointe native celebrates latest novel with hometown

Next Chapter Books, an independent bookstore on Detroit's east side, will host historical novelist and Grosse Pointe native H.S. Cross this week in conversation with Kelsey Ronan, a 2023 Michigan Notable Book Awardee and Grosse Pointe Park resident.

Cross's novel, "Amanda," set between the World Wars in Oxford, England, is the love story of two broken people who are trying find their way back to each other. It's a psychological study and mediation on the human experience of trauma steeped in the atmosphere of classics like "Jane Eyre," "Rebecca" and "Wuthering Heights."

Cross's voice has been compared by Kirkus to "Edna O'Brien, Muriel Spark and maybe a pinch of Jane Austen" and The New York Times Book Review calls it, "A historical romance of a grand, old-fashioned and very British variety, with hints of L.P. Hartley, D.H. Lawrence and Evelyn Waugh. ... Compelling and ultimately convincing, which is one of the most difficult things a love story can be." — Mary Marge Locker.

The event takes place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Next Chapter Books, 16555 E. Warren, Detroit. Cross will read from her novel, engage in a conversation with Ronan, author of "Chevy in the Hole," hold a Q & A with audience members and sign copies of her book following the program.

Cross, born in Detroit and raised in



H.S. Cross



Kelsey Ronan

Grosse Pointe, attended The Grosse Pointe Academy and Grosse Pointe South High School. As a kid, she played the Artful Dodger at the Alger Theater in a production of "Oliver Twist."

The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

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Not having time for homemade

both volunteering for these things if I don't have time for homemade? — Store-bought shame in the Shores

Dear Gabby: I brought some store-bought brownies to the school bake sale and I'm pretty sure I was

the talk of the PTO moms — not in a good way.

One person actually made macarons in school colors.

Is it better to not even

Dear Store-Bought Shame: There's no shame in your game. We all do what we can and it's great that you volunteered and showed up for

your child and their school.

Some people love to bake and have the time — and it's wonderful that they are able to provide amazing baked goods made with love. Let it be their time to shine.

Also, don't forget, there are plenty of kids with allergies who need to know exactly

what they're eating. In that case, store bought is ideal.

Bring your brownies in with pride!

— Gabby

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



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

No kisses, please

DEAR ANNIE: I have recently become acquainted with an older gentleman who is about the same age as my father would have been, well over 100. He is sur-

prisingly active for his age, much more than I am, since I deal with some mobility challenges. We have gone out to lunch a few times, and I have even driven

him to different events because he enjoys getting out and about.

The problem is that whenever I pick him up, he insists on giving me a big hug and a wet, sloppy kiss. I have told him more than once that I am not a hugger, and I try to turn my face away, but the kiss always lands on my cheek or even my ear. He laughs and says he will turn me into a hugger, as if I do not have a choice in the matter.

I know he means well, and I do not believe he is

trying to be disrespectful, but I feel uncomfortable every single time. I do not want to stop spending time with him because I enjoy our outings, yet I also do not want to keep dreading the greeting. How can I put a stop to this behavior and set clear boundaries without making him feel embarrassed or rejected? — Non-Hugger

DEAR NON-HUGGER: You are thoughtful to recognize that this gentleman likely means well,

but being well-meaning does not give him the right to cross your boundaries. Affection should feel welcome, not like something you need to dodge.

The next time he leans in, step back and say kindly but clearly, "I enjoy your company, but no kisses, please." If he jokes about turning you into a hugger, smile and reply, "That will not be happening." A little humor softens the message, but firmness makes it stick.

He may be lively and

charming at his age, but respect is the real proof of good manners. If he truly values your friendship, he will honor your wishes.

Remember, saying no to a wet kiss is not unkind. It is simply self-respect, and that is something even the best of friends can understand.e.

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

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Finally, a soft pretzel company at our fingertips

When new places join GP Eats & Treats, my Facebook group, I always pay close attention for multiple reasons. When Millie Lou's Pretzel Co. became a part of the page, my anticipation grew — where, when and how could I get my hands on what they were announcing? Finally, a soft pretzel company at our fingertips.



COURTESY PHOTOS
Millie Lou's Pretzel Co. classics.

This could get dangerous!

Steve and Irda Dothage are the duo behind this small business, named after their children (Mila "Millie" and Louis "Lou"). Steve, who grew up in St. Louis, tells me that pretzels are a big deal there.

"There's a long-standing pretzel bakery called Gus' Pretzels that's basically a local institution," he said. "Recently, more have popped up."

After moving to Michigan 12 years ago, he quickly realized something was missing. When I asked why they chose pretzels, he had one logical answer: "I noticed that these kinds of places didn't really exist here. So we started making our own pretzels at home, just for ourselves, family and friends."

Eventually, their family and friends convinced them they had something special that needed to be shared on a larger scale. So, in March 2025, they took the leap, started baking from home as a cottage food business and began selling through social media and word of mouth.

Let's just say, the buzz was real.

Their baking schedule originally depended on the week's demands. They participated in the local farmers market during the summer, which meant that on market days, the baking process started at 4 a.m.

"We begin by mixing the dough," Steve said. "It's a pretty simple mixture: flour, water, butter, salt and yeast. It is then divided into equal portions and shaped into a log. After resting for a few minutes, they're rolled into longer ropes and twisted into the classic pretzel shape, or cut into bites."

"Once shaped, they proof in the refrigerator for a while to develop a nice outer skin," he continued. "When ready, the pretzels are dipped in a mild lye solution (I Googled that; it's a food curing solution), topped with salt and finally baked in the oven."

While this process may seem daunting to us, it's something these two likely could do with their eyes closed. Their average batch size is roughly 72 pretzels.

"We quickly realized there was decent demand for our product and moved into a shared commercial kitchen at the end of June," he said.

That kitchen is located at 15324 E. Jefferson, a shared space with another amazing independent baking business, Cookies by MK, known for her delicious vegan cookies. Millie Lou's pretzels are always baked fresh.

"Our pretzels are best enjoyed the same day, but they freeze well if you want to save them for later," Steve said.

I can attest to that, as Millie Lou's gifted me a personalized treat within their first month of business: a soft pretzel spread

that read "GP EATS," along with some yummy pretzel bites. With a quick seven-minute reheat at 350 degrees in the oven or air fryer, you can enjoy and share whenever you want.



Custom-made gift for GP Eats & Treats Facebook group.

If you have a soft pretzel "problem" like I do, then you'll definitely need a good dipper. Millie Lou's offers classic nacho cheese, a house-made pimento cheese (yes, please), house-made whipped feta (noted!) and a few different kinds of mustard.

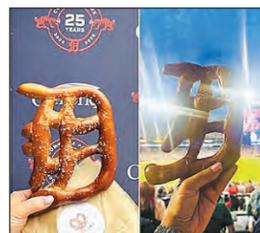
For custom orders, a week's notice is preferred, with a couple of days' notice at a minimum. Locally, you can find their classic salted twists at Farms Fresh Market on Fisher on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and at Fairfax Market on Beaconsfield in the Park on Saturdays as well.

The summer was significant for this couple and their small business. I asked them about their favorite event they had been invited to participate in so far and both of their responses hold a special place in my heart: the Detroit Tigers and Kiloh & Co.

"The Tigers collaboration was a dream come true," Steve said. "Baseball and pretzels are the ultimate combination, so having our pretzels at Comerica Park was truly 'the big leagues' for us."

We made an Old English D-shaped pretzel for opening day and posted it on social media. An intern in the marketing department

saw it and reached out, wanting to offer it at the stadium for Comerica's 25th anniversary series. When they contacted us, we weren't even officially licensed yet (our inspection was the following week), but when the Tigers reach out, you just say 'yes' and figure out the details later. It was a great collaboration and we loved seeing all the photos of people enjoying our pretzels at the ballpark. One post had over a million views!"



Detroit Tigers collaboration.

I was there — one of many who posted pictures. Hot pretzels have been my game-day snack of choice for years and I couldn't wait to get my hands on one shaped like the letter representing our Detroit Tigers. It was worth the wait in line. The Tigers then invited them to serve at their collaboration with Woodward Throwbacks, a Detroit-based furniture company that created a limited-edition collection using salvaged items from Comerica Park.



Kiloh & Co collaboration.

About Kiloh & Co., like my pretzel "problem," those who know me are aware I also have an obsession with this amazing female-owned company



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

that has carved out a niche in Detroit game-day attire for women. The connections? I'm a regular buyer and have gotten to know these ladies well. And they love pretzels too! With their booming business, this past summer they opened their first brick-and-mortar location in Northville. When they asked for vendors for their grand opening party, I shared Millie Lou's info and showed them pictures. Not only was Millie Lou's part of the store's grand opening event, but they also were invited to participate in one of their biggest Detroit sports clothing events to date.

"We were also at the Kiloh & Co. kick-off at Imagine Peace Park back in September," Steve said. "It was an amazing event at a beautiful venue and our first fashion show."

This was a big deal, especially since most of the models were affiliated with our sports teams in various ways. Their most popular events for catering and custom orders are birthdays.

"People order names or numbers in soft pretzel form for whatever birthday it is," Steve said. "Throw in an order of bites and you have a nice party platter. We've also received a lot of orders — both MSU and U-M — for graduation parties."



Grad season pretzels.

They also said multiple Ford Motor Co. offices and plants enjoyed "hundreds of pretzels" last month. I've given them as thank-you gifts because eating a delicious "thank you" is far more meaningful than reading a card. The pretzel possibilities are truly endless.



Special event custom orders.

"We've been so fortunate to be a part of some really cool events put on by some incredibly talented and creative people," Steve said.

I genuinely believe the best is yet to come for these two, their family and their brilliant small business. And with that ...

Fun Fact: Starting Thursday, Nov. 6, Millie Lou's will be opening a retail storefront at their commercial kitchen location on Jefferson, from noon to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

"We can't wait to have a more standard schedule and the opportunity to serve more people," Steve said. "We will also have MK's delicious cookies available."

Follow on social media for all their pretzel updates and pop-up locations around town. You won't want to miss them!

Facebook: Millie Lou's Pretzel Co.

Instagram: @millielous-pretzelco

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



After seeing lots of Instagram ads and then finally being convinced by the perfect-looking models' legs, I ordered and was really impressed with the Westmore Beauty Body Coverage Perfector.

At first, I was worried it would just look like a fake tan,



but it actually gives a super smooth, air-brushed finish that looks pretty natural. It's like my legs, only way better. The color is even and consistent, and it really blurs out imperfections and gives an all-over improvement. It's like wearing nude pantyhose, but way more com-

fortable and less dated.

I also was pleasantly surprised that it didn't transfer onto my clothes or sheets at all, which is a big plus. The coverage stayed put and looked great all day. I think it said to wash it off with soap and water, but I didn't even remember to do it and it all came off without incident in the shower.

I give this 4.5 out of 5

alligators. My only small hesitation is if you're wearing something really short or planning to use this with a bathing suit or something, it might take a little extra blending to make sure it looks totally seamless.

But overall, this product absolutely does what it promises — and makes your skin look pretty darn amazing. Available on Amazon in multiple colors

to match your skin tone. We chose natural radiance.

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.



4.5 Out Of 5

A hearty soup

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Soups are making a comeback here in Mombeau's kitchen and I couldn't be happier. It's so easy to make a big batch that can feed the hungriest of customers, pass for a meal on busy weeknights and only get better the next day.

Nine times out of 10, my kids will come home from school and heat up a bowl of soup for a snack. It's nourishing and it's instant comfort after a tough school day. Plus it's cheap and simple to throw together.

This soup met all of the needs during the week for my family; from the busiest athletes to the loungiest couch dwellers.

The idea for this soup came about when I was thinking of trying a gnocchi and sausage sheet pan dinner. The sausage and gnocchi are roasted with vegetables, garlic and olive oil on a single sheet pan making for delicious food and simple clean-up.

The problem was that I didn't know when everyone would be home for din-

ner. So I needed to make something that could sit. Soup was the perfect solution. I took most of the ingredients that I was planning to roast and threw them into a pot.

Sausage, white beans and kale make for a protein-packed meal that's flavored with lots of fresh basil. I decided to keep the basil leaves whole and they just melted right into the pot. I added a can of diced tomatoes and cream to give the soup that luxurious "I'm not on a diet" feel. The cream can absolutely be omitted.

My starch of choice was gnocchi. I love to buy it packaged and just throw it in. They turn out pillowy soft, almost like little dumplings. For an added depth of flavor, throw in a parmesan rind if you have it. It really does make a difference.

Feed your family well this week with a hearty soup that can be made in under an hour.

Cheers, Mombeau

Sausage, Kale and Gnocchi Soup

- 1 lb sweet Italian sausage
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced
- 2 garlic cloves, mined
- 1 15.5 oz can white beans
- 1 14.5 oz can diced tomatoes
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups shredded kale
- 1 cup whole basil leaves
- 1 parmesan rind (optional)
- 1 16oz package of gnocchi
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large pot, brown the sausage, then add in



PHOTOS BY KAREN FERGUSON

the onion and carrot. Season with one teaspoon of salt and a few cracks of pepper.

Cook until the onion is soft, about five minutes. Add the garlic in during the last minute of cooking.

Next, pour in the

beans and tomatoes with their liquid and the parmesan rind. Scrape the bottom of the pot to get any brown bits up from the sausage.

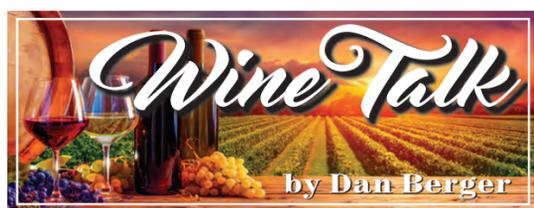
Pour in the broth and add in the kale and fresh basil leaves. Cover and bring to a boil

and then turn the heat down to a simmer.

Add in the cream and gnocchi, stirring to combine.

Cover again and cook on simmer for about 15 to 20 minutes.

Ladle into bowls for serving.



by Dan Berger

The wine society

I love gathering with friends regularly to enjoy wines that we taste without knowing much about them. The idea is to gain greater knowledge about different wine styles.

Staging regular tastings is an excellent way to learn about wines from different areas of the world. I'm involved in four local groups that meet haphazardly and I heartily recommend the idea.

There are no overlapping memberships in my groups because the participants vary in interests and skill levels. Since I live in wine country (Sonoma County, north of San Francisco), the most skilled group is composed of professionals, winemakers and retailers.

We call ourselves "Raiders of the Lost Art." Our monthly gatherings (seven or eight collectors) are often staged at an Italian cafe whose owner charges a nominal fee to allow us to bring in our own wines. Each taster brings two wine glasses, minimizing the impact on the kitchen staff.

All tasters share the cost of dinner.

I have been involved in similar events for 40 years and have found that they're

events between houses. One strategy is to ask each couple to bring a wine of the same type with certain parameters.

To find out more about Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.
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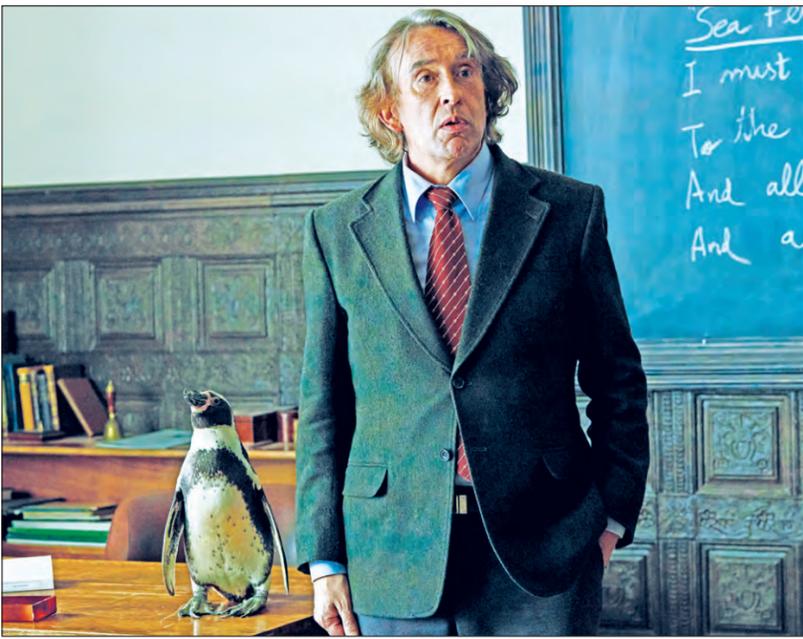
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">TIER 1</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">\$174</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Including service & facility fees</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">TIER 2</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">\$142</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Including service & facility fees</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">SINGLE TICKETS</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">Starting at \$29</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Including service & facility fees</p>
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF NOSTROMO PICTURES, 42 AND APERTURE MEDIA PARTNERS.

Above left, Richard or Baba as Juan Salvador helping Steve Coogan as teacher Tom Michell, keep his classroom focused in the 2024 movie "The Penguin Lessons," written by Jeff Pope and Tom Michell and directed by Peter Cattaneo.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "The Penguin Lessons"
 2024 - Rated PG-13
 1 hr 51 min
 ★★★★★

Earlier this year, my friend "L" lent me the marvelous book "The Penguin Lessons" and insisted I read it. I'm always fascinated by tales of intra-species relationships and this turned out to be one of the best books I've read in this genre.

It's the unlikely story about the friendship between a young high school teacher and a penguin. I couldn't put it down and I think I finished it in two sittings. After reading it I thought, "Please don't turn it into a movie."

Well, they did. I admit I was a little hesitant about watching it because I had a feeling they'd mess it up. Mainly because they used Steve Coogan (who I love) to play the role of

the 20-something teacher. I daresay, Mr. Coogan isn't in his early twenties. So I put it off until "L" suggested I give it a chance.

Naturally, they changed a few things, but overall, the filmmakers did an admirable job of telling the story. While there were a few differences, you still get the general sense of the remarkable tale.

"The Penguin Lessons" takes place in Argentina during a period of political unrest in the 1970s. It's against this backdrop the events occur.

Tom Michell (Coogan) arrives at St. George's, a boarding school for rich young boys. He's soon befriended by a colleague Tapio (Bjorn Gustafsson). He's a chatty, amusing fellow who's constantly making subtle, comical



observations as only the Scandinavian's can do. His dry sense of humor plays nicely off of Tom's gloomy and cynical disposition.

When things start amping up and the military starts dropping bombs and rounding up political dissidents, the school shuts down for a week. Tom and Tapio take advantage of the situation and spend their time on vacation in the neighboring country of Uruguay. While there, Tom pursues a woman he meets in a disco.

After their evening of partying they take a stroll along the beach where they encounter a horrific scene. As the result of a recent oil spill, there are a number of dead penguins littering the shore. When they notice one creature is still alive, Tom decides to impress his date and he brings the penguin back to his hotel room and cleans him up in the bathtub.

It's at this point the relationship between man and beast begins. The next day, Tom takes the penguin to the beach and encourages him to return to the sea, where he belongs. But the animal will have none of it — he follows Tom back to his hotel. As hard as Tom tries to shake the penguin, he just can't win. So against his better judgement, he decides to adopt him.

There are several amusing encounters with the authorities where Tom has to smuggle the creature through customs.

When Tom returns to school, he makes a home for the penguin, whom he decides to call Juan Salvador, on the balcony of his apartment. He can only keep his new friend a secret for so long.

Eventually his maid

Maria, played by Vivian El Jaber, and her granddaughter Anna (Julia Fossi) find out about the penguin. Soon all his students are in on the secret as well.

Actually, Tom uses his pal as a prop in his classroom. His kids are failing in their studies, especially Tom's English class. They're a disruptive bunch who just can't sit still. That is until he brings Juan Salvador into the classroom where he gets their undivided attention. He uses the penguin to get them to focus and it works like a charm.

It seems the whole school is aware of the penguin except for headmaster Buckle (Jonathan Pryce). Eventually he finds out about the creature. One day, Tom returns to his apartment and he spots the headmaster on his patio, pouring his heart out to the bird. The adorable creature has that rare ability to draw confessions out of people. There are several other scenes where Tom and his colleagues sit on the patio and converse with the adorable creature.

I thought the film was absolutely wonderful. Director Peter Cattaneo and writers Jeff Pope and Tom Michell did a fantastic job crafting a cinematic masterpiece.

I've seen a number of animal/human buddy films over the years, but they've rarely reached the depth that this one did. I especially appreciated the work Mr. Coogan did. I was a bit reluctant to watch it since while he's a hilarious comedic actor, I wasn't quite sure he could handle a more serious role like this. He certainly didn't disappoint.

If you're looking for a wonderful, heart-warm-



ing film the whole family will enjoy, don't miss "The Penguin Lessons." And if you like the movie, be sure to read the book. It's one of the best autobiographies I've had the pleasure of reading in a long time. Also, if you're as fascinated by penguins as I am, you might also like the recent film "My Penguin Friend" which I reviewed a while back.

Currently streaming on Netflix. And to rent on Prime Video, Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, and other streaming services.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

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

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

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



Tom encourages his friend to return to the sea.



Above, Tom dining with Anna (Julia Fossi) and Maria (Vivian El Jaber).



Above, Tom and Juan Salvador at the beach.

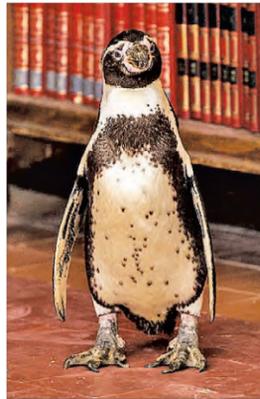
Below, Tom introduces Juan to his new home.



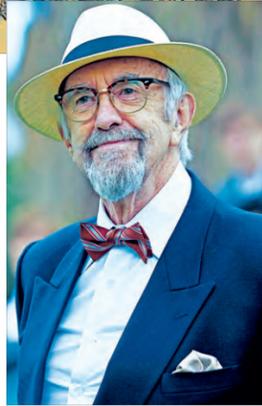
Dealing with the customs agent.



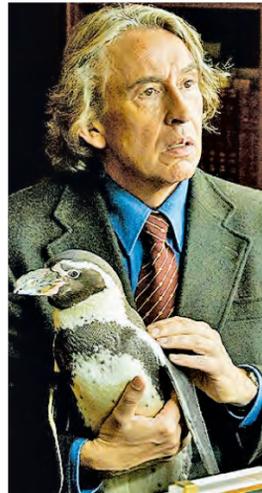
Tom's unruly class.



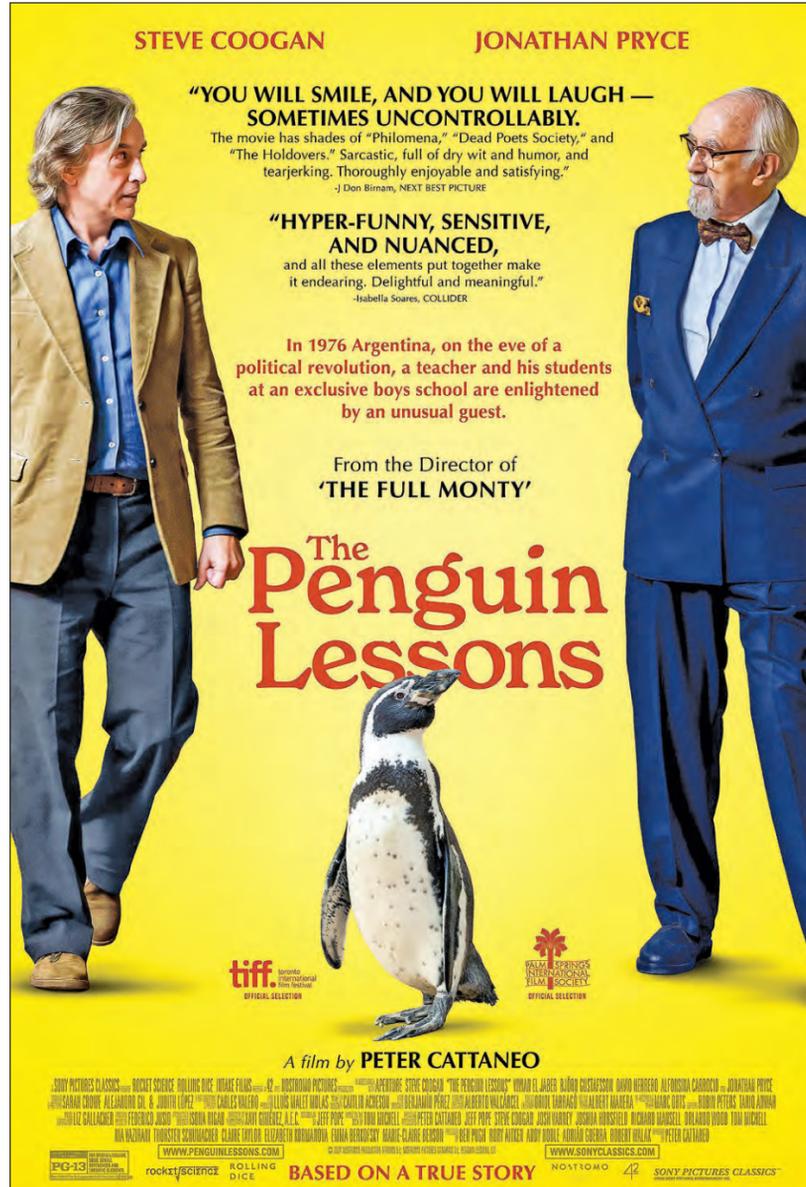
Two main penguins, real-life, mated-for-life couple Richard and Baba were used to play the star of the film, Juan Salvador.



Headmaster Buckle (Jonathan Pryce.)



Tom (Coogan) pleads his case.



Movie poster.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

10/16 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆
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Contract Bridge

SHEER ARTISTRY

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 8 7
♥ A 9 6
♦ A 8 3
♣ Q J 9 4

WEST

♠ 6 3 2
♥ 8 5 4
♦ 7 4 2
♣ A K 8 3

EAST

♠ Q J 10 4
♥ K 2
♦ 9 6
♣ 10 7 6 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A 9 5
♥ Q J 10 7 3
♦ K Q J 10 5
♣ —

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — king of clubs.

king and returns the queen of spades.

It looks as though you must lose a spade trick and go down one, but if you put your gray cells to work, the way to avoid the spade loser emerges.

So, you win East's spade return with dummy's king, ruff a club with the ten, re-enter dummy with a low trump to the nine and ruff another club with the jack.

This runs you out of trumps in your hand, since you've ruffed clubs three times and led trumps twice, but that's precisely what you've been trying to do.

You now cross to dummy with a diamond and draw West's last trump with the ace, discarding a spade from your hand. Your K-Q-J-10 of diamonds and ace of spades then win the last five tricks, and the slam is home as your spade loser vanishes into thin air.

To come to 12 tricks, you scored five trump tricks instead of only the four you seemed to have after the trump finesse failed. It might seem odd that to make the slam you must discard your spade loser on one of dummy's trumps, but that's the way things usually go in a dummy-reversal hand.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: After 2:30 p.m. EDT today (11:30 a.m. PDT) there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in VIRGO.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, October 16, 2025:

You are knowledgeable, perceptive and ready to help. Your intellectual curiosity prompts you to analyze people and your surroundings. This year you are reaping the benefits of your hard work. Expect power and leadership. Seize opportunities in business dealings and act on them. Expect promotions, awards and kudos.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Relations with partners (personal and professional) are super positive today. You feel that together you can run the world! Meanwhile, hiccups and upsets to technology, to your work routine or when dealing with a pet might occur. Be vigilant. Tonight: Work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Parents, keep an eye on your kids to avoid accidents. Caution against sports accidents as well. Meanwhile, social plans might suddenly change. Work-related travel might be thrilling. In fact, ideas related to your job might look wonderful and promising! Tonight: Play!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Your home routine will be interrupted today. (Stock the fridge.) Surprise invitations, unexpected gatherings, big plans related to kids, sports or the arts might send you in a new direction. This is a work hard/party day! Keep your eyes open. Tonight: Cocoon.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Family discussions will be positive today because people are upbeat and optimistic. However, this optimism could promote overestimating things. Therefore, be cautious, and don't bite off more than you can chew. Pay attention to avoid accidents today. Tonight: Discussions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
It's easy to be in a positive frame of mind today, which is a blessing. Your attitude and your outlook can change how you see your world. Today's optimism is why you're full of ambitious ideas! Protect your possessions and assets. Tonight: Check your money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
This afternoon the Moon in your sign will be at odds with unpredictable Uranus, which might make you impulsive and accident-prone. Don't do anything you will later regret. Today your rose-colored glasses could make you believe that a financial situation is more promising than it really is. Tonight: You win!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today the Sun is in your sign dancing with Jupiter, prompting you to try things you might not normally do. Your generosity might be extravagant. You might take on more than you can handle. These things are possible, but they might not happen. Be careful. Tonight: Privacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You might feel a stronger connection with your spiritual or inner world today because your idealism is aroused. Because of this, you might try to help someone. (Very noble.) Always remember that true generosity is giving what is needed. (Big difference.) Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You'll enjoy schmoozing with friends and members of groups. You are popular today. People see you as bigger than life and full of positive energy. Because of this, you can be like the Pied Piper encouraging others to follow your lead. Have something meaningful to offer them. Tonight: You're noticed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Travel plans might suddenly change today. With the Sun and fair Venus at the top of your chart, you look great, which is why others admire you. Because you hold influence over others, make sure you know what you're talking about. Tonight: Explore!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Double-check banking issues and details with wills, inheritances, taxes and debt, because something unexpected could impact these areas. Travel plans will be ambitious today. Likewise, your expectations in publishing, the media, medicine and the law might be "bigger than life." Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
When dealing with a friend or partner today, be ready for something unexpected. Someone might change their mind. Meanwhile, don't give away the farm today, especially to your own kids or for the welfare of other children. You can entertain grandiose plans, but keep your feet on the ground where money is concerned. Tonight: Cooperate.

BORN TODAY
Singer, guitarist John Mayer (1977), actress Angela Lansbury (1925) actor Tim Robbins (1958).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg October 16, 2025

ACROSS

- "Fingers crossed!"
- Where the Knicks play, for short
- Goes for a stroll
- Relating to kidneys
- French for "yes"
- French for "goodbye"
- Hunter of "The Hunger Games"
- Tedious task
- New Jersey county named for an English county
- Ladder step
- "Same old, same old" routine
- Palindromic name in Genesis
- Faith of "The Exorcist"
- Former presidential pet Bo
- Karate uniforms
- Authorize, as a digital contract
- Female lobster or chicken
- Ivy of "Legally Blonde"
- Long of "The Best Man"
- Small salamander
- "Ta-ta!"
- Speak like Daffy
- Met expectations?
- Midday snooze
- Hope of "E.T."
- Google Pixel, e.g.
- Neither's partner
- From ancient Scandinavia
- "You ___ seen nothin' yet!"
- Rolled Mexican chip brand
- Hoss of "Tar"
- "Go away!"
- Become one
- First word of many letters
- Thornton Wilder's "Our ___"
- Mr. ___ (most-subscribed-to YouTube)
- "NFL Live" channel

DOWN

- Rankles
- Recover from sickness
- Burst ___ the scene
- Sentence containing every letter
- Goree of "One Night in Miami..."
- Fuzz on a rock
- Brings to court
- Donate
- One of the horsemen of the apocalypse
- 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest or 10 Downing
- California congressman Ted
- Avid
- Belted out
- Rogen of "Steve Jobs"
- Board bigwig, briefly
- The Beehive State
- Competed (for)
- "Are you done wasting our time?"
- Fiona, for one
- "C'mon, ___ a little!"
- Brit's "Heavens to Murgatroyd!"
- Show with few episodes
- "What a disaster!"
- (The light's green!)
- Main idea
- California county known
- for its cabs?
- Second-in-command, briefly
- Overly hasty
- Capital of New Jersey
- Parisian paper
- Had pancakes, say
- Na+ or Cl-
- Senseless
- Telecom giant headquartered in Espoo, Finland
- Common side dish with shrimp
- Bygone
- Kermit's greeting
- Lose it
- Work hard for
- Rubber duck's "habitat"
- Complete collection

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

10/9 Solution
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10/16

Bad Actors by Aidan Deshong

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
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68							69					70	

Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Peanuts

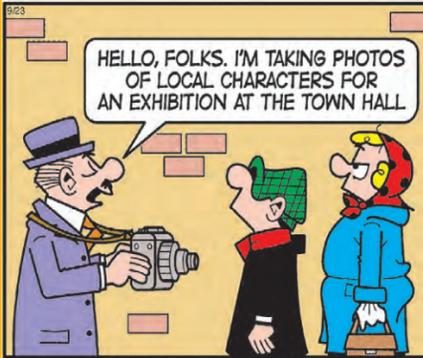
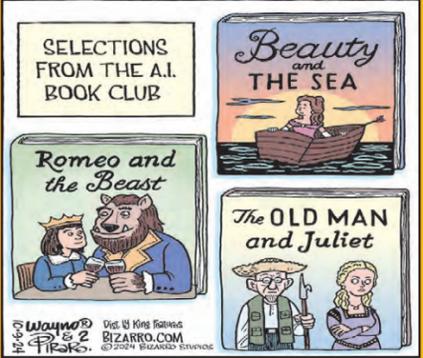
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

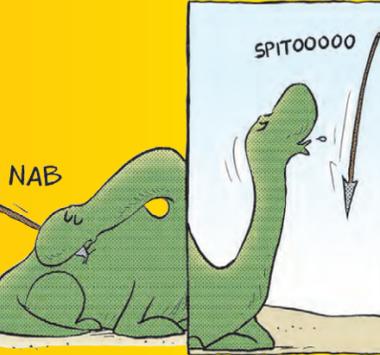
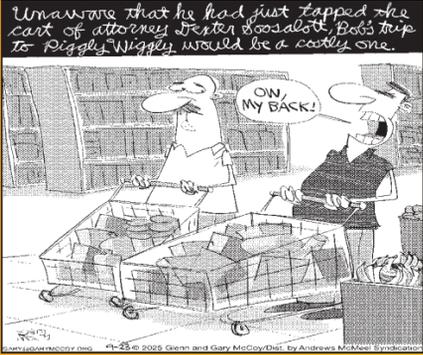
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

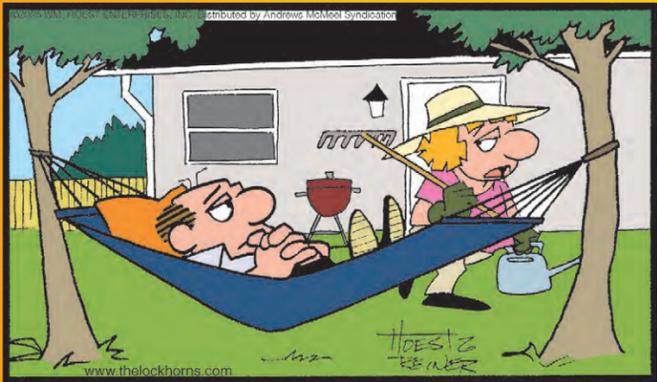
Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

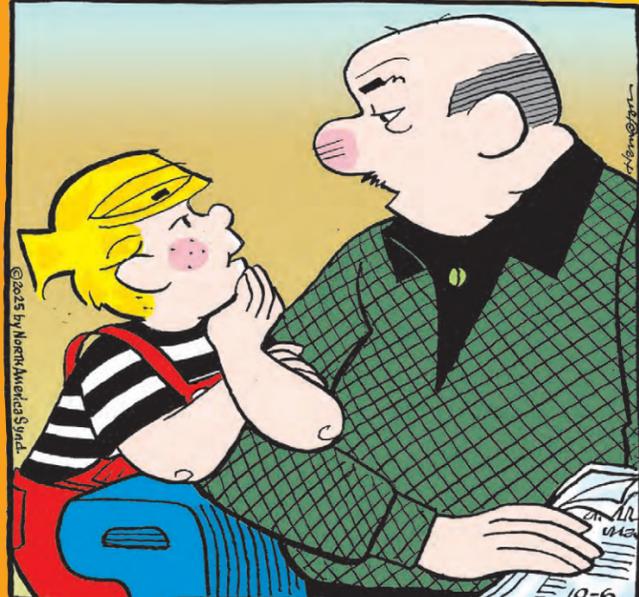


"NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU SLEEP IN THAT THING, LEROY, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO EMERGE A BUTTERFLY."

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

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



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



"DO YOU MISS ME WHEN I'M NOT HERE?"

"HOW WOULD I KNOW?"

Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

THEY SAY DO ONE THING EACH DAY THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY

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I SAY...

Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

IF ONE IS GOOD, 127 IS AWESOME!

JIM DAVIS 10-2

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

WISE MAN, SHOULD I FORGIVE MY HUSBAND AND LET HIM COME BACK HOME TODAY?

YES!

10-1

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HE'S STINKING UP MY CAVE!

Close To Home John McPherson

IF YOU AND I WERE TO SPEND TWO WEEKS TOGETHER, WOULD YOU WANT TO SPEND THEM: A: ON A DESERTED ISLE, B: ON A YACHT?...

Before going out on a first date with a guy, Heather had him take the Cosmopolitan Compatibility Quiz.

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

SIR RODNEY, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL FOR THE HAND OF THE FAIR GWEN!

WHAT METHOD OF BATTLE DO YOU CHOOSE?

HOW'S YOUR BEER PONG GAME?

8-26-25

© 2025 Wizard of Id, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Ziggy Tom Wilson

U.S. CUSTOMS

I SEE YOU DIDN'T DECLARE THESE SOUVENIRS!!

© 2025 Ziggy and Friends, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

Blondie

SO BUMSTEAD, DID I NAIL THAT PRESENTATION TO THE STOCKHOLDERS THIS MORNING OR DID I NOT?

WHAT CAN I SAY, BOSS?

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES, MY BOY

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Chris and Dean Young

HOW WAS YOUR DAY, SWEETHEART? I NAILED IT!!

10-16

Marmaduke Paul & Brad Anderson

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Over The Hedge Michael Fry and T. Lewis

I NEED TO SPEAK TO THE MANAGER!

WHAT MANAGER?

WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE...

NO ONE'S IN CHARGE.

THIS EXPLAINS A LOT.

THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING.

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Family Circus Bill and Jeff Keane

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Crock Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

CAN I SEE HIM?

YOU BET

JEEZ, CROCK HAS RECRUITED HIM ALREADY

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Popeye Bud Sagendorf

I JUS' DOESN'T UNNERSTAN' PARENTS!

THEY BUILDS US GOOD SCHOOLS!

THEY GIVES US BRILLIANT TEACHERS!

WE ENDS UP EDJAMACATED AN' INTELLIGENT!

AND THEN THEY WON'T LISTEN TO US!!

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F Minus Tony Carrilo

DOUG! MUST YOU ALWAYS TAKE YOUR PENSIVE STROLL DURING MY WISTFUL WINDOW STARE?

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“Which side of the toast am I s'posed to put the butter on?”

Bill and Jeff Keane

DISCOVER YOUR HISTORY WITH A FAMILY TREE

GRUFFLE'S GREAT-GRANDPARENTS



GRUFFLE'S GRANDPARENTS



THIS IS GRUFFLE



GRUFFLE'S GRANDPARENTS



A family tree is not a real tree.

Think of it as a picture of a tree that shows the members of your family and how they're related to each other.

The people that came before you in your family are the branches of your tree.

Your mom and dad are your parents, of course.



GRUFFLE'S DAD



GRUFFLE'S MOM



Your parents' parents are your **grandparents**.

Your grandparents' parents are your **great-grandparents**.

The people who came even before that are your **ancestors**.

Geneology is the study of family histories.

This Monster Family Tree helps Gruffle trace her family back to her great-grandparents.

What were your parents and grandparents like?

Did you have siblings? What were they like?

What are some funny or special family stories you've heard?

Were there any famous or infamous relatives in the family?

How did your family celebrate holidays or birthdays?

What family traditions have been passed down?

Did your family go on special vacations or trips?

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand the similarities and differences between generations.

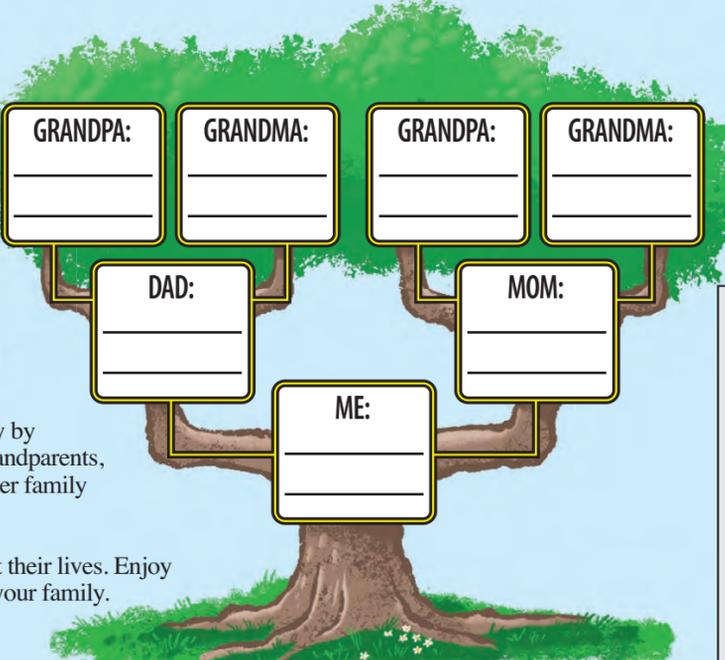
My Family Tree

Work with a family member to complete this family tree!

Learn more about your family by interviewing your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and other family members.

Most people like to talk about their lives. Enjoy learning about the history of your family. You might discover some surprising things!

Standards Link: Social Science: Interpret data using graphic elements.



Extra! Extra! Family Fun

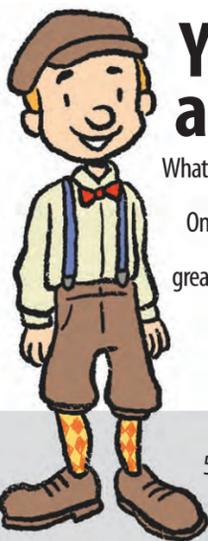
What do you and your family like to do together? Look through the newspaper for things you all enjoy. Ask your older family members how many of these things were around when they were kids.

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand the similarities and differences between generations.

FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!

With hundreds of topics, every **Kid Scoop** printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at: kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Kid Scoop Puzzler



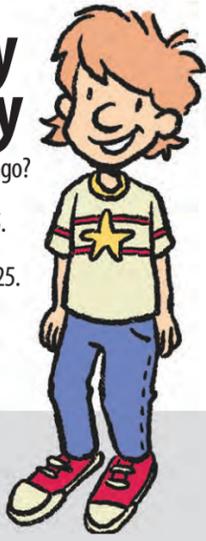
Yesterday and Today

What did kids wear 100 years ago?

On the right is Jason in 2025. On the left is Jason's great-grandfather Evan in 1925.

Can you find at least 5 differences between the two pictures?

Can you find at least 5 things that are similar?



Double Double Word Search

- AUNTS
- BRANCHES
- COUSINS
- DAD
- FAMILY
- GRANDMA
- GRANDPA
- LEARN
- LIVES
- MOM
- PARENTS
- TALK
- TRACE
- TREE
- YOU

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

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

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: ANCESTOR

The noun **ancestor** describes a family member who lived a long time ago. They are part of your family's history.

My **ancestors** were farmers in this area.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Who We Are

Look through the newspaper to find words and pictures that describe your family. Glue these onto a piece of paper or posterboard and share with your family. Or, do this as a family project.

Standards Link: Visual Art: Create a collage using mixed media.



ANSWER: The outside.

Write On! My Family History

My Family History

Talk to an elder in your family. Write a short description of something your family is proud of in your family's history.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.



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South, Liggett dominate regionals as tennis teams punch tickets to states

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The varsity boys tennis teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School proved themselves among the best in the state during their respective regional tournaments last week. The Blue Devils and Knights both ended up on top as regional champions, while the Norsemen battled their way to a qualifying spot at states to ensure that all three

teams will represent the Pointes on the big stage later this month.

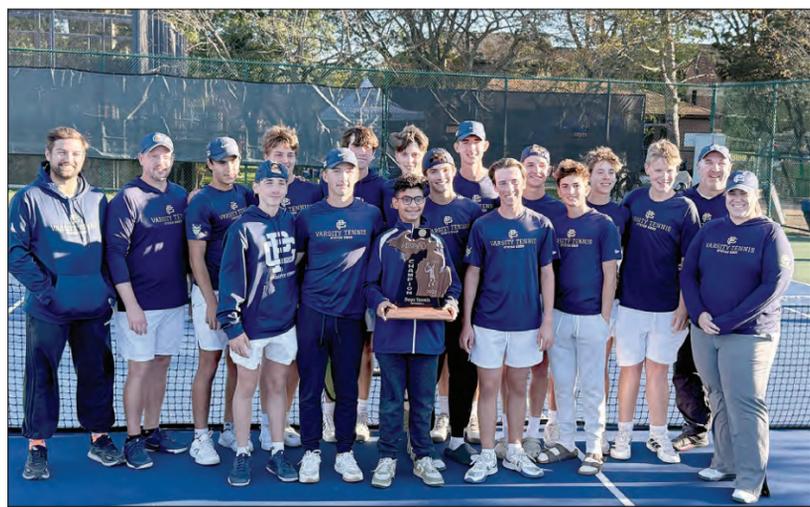
South-North
South hosted the Division 2 regional tournament Wednesday, Oct. 8, and had a dominant day on its home court. The Blue Devils had players win five of the eight flights in the tournament and finished with 29 points, two ahead of second-place U of D Jesuit. “Regionals wasn’t just a tournament; it was a test of our preparation, our resilience and ability

to play under extreme pressure when a title is on the line,” South boys tennis coach Brian Kean said. “The results that day showed that our culture of accountability and team-first mindset is working.”

Three of South’s five individual regional championship wins came in singles play. Matthew Holowinski won the No. 1 singles flight, defeating North’s Ajay Sarnaik in the semifinal match before taking down Liam Nantais from U of D Jesuit in the final round.



The University Liggett School boys tennis team celebrates its regional championship tournament victory and secured a place at the Division 4 state finals.



Grosse Pointe South boys tennis lifts the regional championship trophy after clinching its spot in the Division 2 state finals.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Matthew Bartoszewicz took the title in No. 2 singles. He also faced a crosstown rival from North in the semifinals, winning over Ben Truza, before defeating U of D Jesuit’s Truman Yaldeo in the finals. In No. 3 singles, Liam Haney from North made it to the semifinal match and South’s Brendan Stafford finished as the runner-up in the bracket.

The final match in No. 4 singles was a crosstown showdown between Oscar DeLuca from the Blue Devils and the Norsemen’s Michael Schorer. DeLuca won the

match to cap off a dominant day in singles play for South.

Stephen Listman and Emerson Hiliker from North put up a strong fight in No. 1 doubles, but lost to a team from U of D Jesuit. That Cubs’ pairing would lose to South’s Max Prather and Henry Logan in the final match, giving South another regional title victory.

South’s pair of Nate Yeamans and David Sutts went head-to-head with North’s Michael Goloweyco and Benson Hiliker in the No. 2 doubles semifinals. Yeamans

and Sutts got the win for South, but lost in the final round. Tommy Klatt and Alex Steiger from North advanced to the No. 3 doubles semifinals. So did South’s Joseph Guthat and Matthew Hamilton, who finished the flight as runner-up.

The fifth and final regional title of the day for the Blue Devils came in No. 4 doubles. South’s pair of Davis Gryzenia and Weston Jerabek defeated Levi Olsey and Johnny Cueter from North in the semifinals before defeating a team

See TENNIS, page 8D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Butler’s speed shifts North football into high gear

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Everything for Caleb Butler comes down to speed. Whether it is on the baseball diamond or, most notably right now, the gridiron, the Grosse Pointe North senior is consistently one of the best athletes on the field because of that speed that makes him feared by any opponent.

“Speed bleeds over into everything,” Butler said. “I train for baseball all year round, but that training translates into football, too. Doing all the agility training and strength training for baseball works with football and then, in football season, I’m doing more work in the weight room every week, too.”

He may focus largely on baseball for much of the year, but that does not make Butler any less of a talented football player. He has burst onto the scene this year for North as the featured running back in the offense and used his speed to play a key role in the team’s recent vic-



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Caleb Butler
School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Football
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

natural athleticism and willingness to do whatever it takes for the team.

“At the start of the season, I was at ATH (athlete) and that’s what I would tell

people,” Butler said.

“Coach Drouin would call me the jack-of-all-trades or the Swiss Army knife. I started at receiver doing 7-on-7 in the off-season, but when we got to the actual season, we found out it was going to be kind of hard to get me the ball. After the second

game, the lineman coach, Coach Pascoe, told me he wanted me at running back, so that week I started at running back and it was all uphill from there.”

Butler knows that what he can accomplish on the ground would not be possible without the work of a capable offensive line in front of him. The Norsemen may have some younger pieces on the line this year, but it seems as if they are growing in their ability to block in the same way Butler is growing in his abilities as a running back.

Boltin’ Butler

- 432 rushing yards and 6 TDs in 7 games for North this fall
- Scored both TDs in North’s 14-13 win vs. Lake Shore Oct. 3
- Member of North varsity football and baseball teams



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Butler carries the ball for North in a game against Lamphere Sept. 12.

lowers what his body is telling him and turns on the jets.

“When I run the ball, I feel like I’m reacting to what’s happening more than I am just searching for gaps,” he said. “I feel like if I let my body react naturally, I can just naturally hit those holes.”

The chemistry Butler has developed with the line in front of him has

helped North’s offense start to thrive in the ground game. Butler not only leads the Norsemen with his legs, but also leads with his heart.

Butler shares both the gridiron and baseball diamond with several of his teammates, like fellow senior and quarterback Jacob Sahadi, and

See ATHLETE, page 6D



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2025 FALL SPORTS 2025

Photos courtesy of Visual Sports Network



Varsity Football



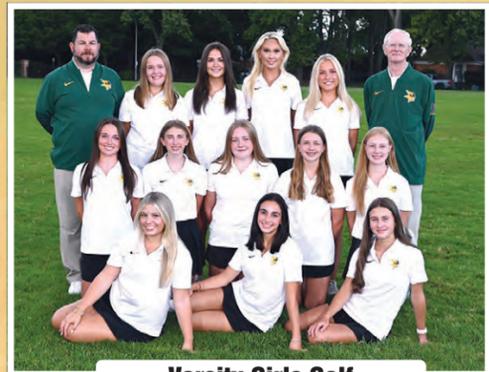
Varsity Girls Swim & Dive



Varsity Girls Cross Country



Varsity Boys Tennis



Varsity Girls Golf



Varsity Cheer



Varsity Boys Soccer



Varsity Boys Cross Country



JV B Volleyball



Varsity Volleyball



JV A Volleyball



JV Boys Tennis



JV Football

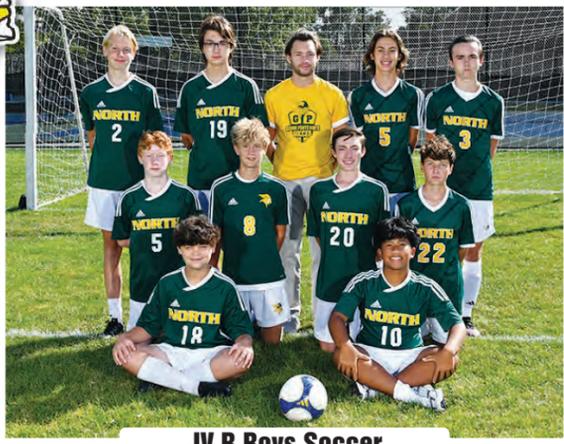
2025 FALL SPORTS 2025



Varsity Field Hockey



JV A Boys Soccer



JV B Boys Soccer



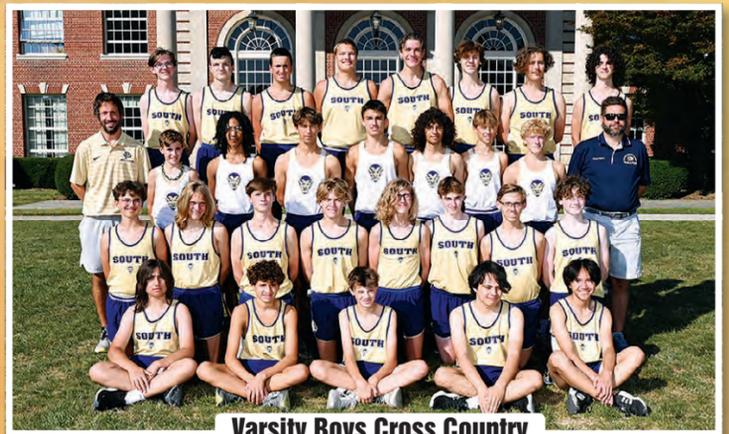
JV Cheer



Freshman Football



JV A Boys Soccer



Varsity Boys Cross Country



JV B Boys Soccer



JV Boys Tennis



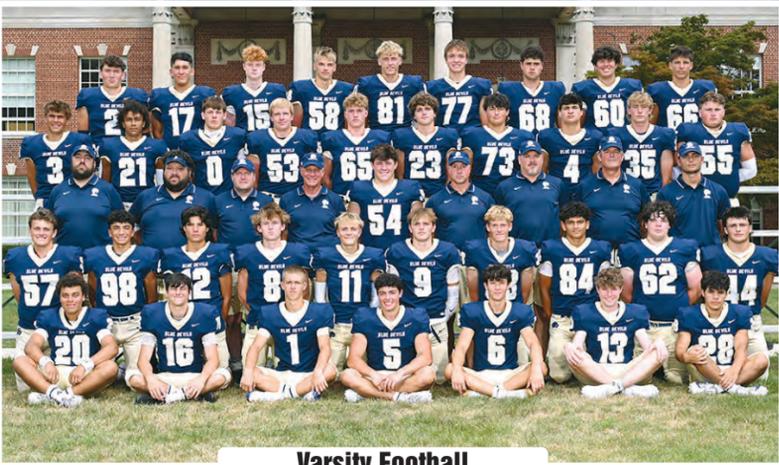
Varsity Boys Soccer

4D | SPORTS

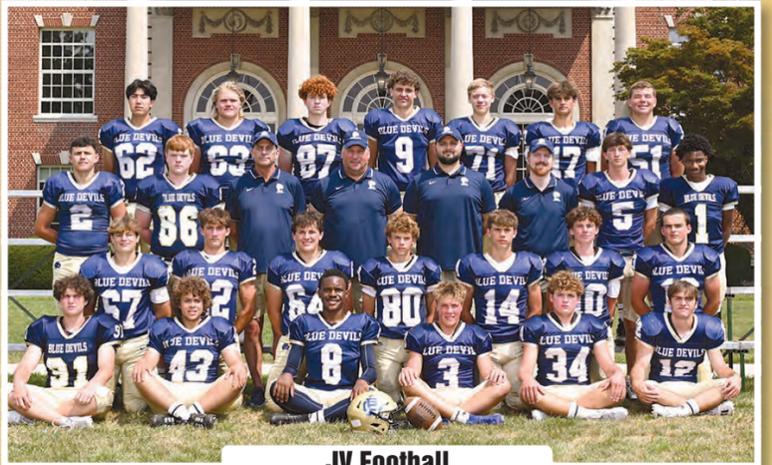
2025 FALL SPORTS 2025



Varsity Girls Cross Country



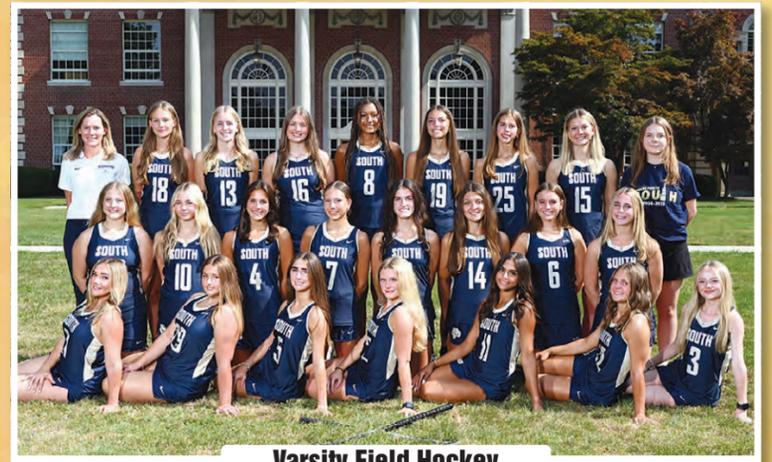
Varsity Football



JV Football



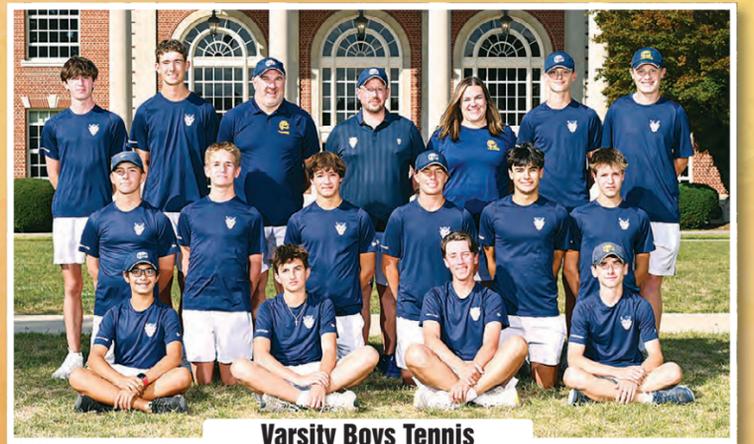
JV Field Hockey



Varsity Field Hockey



Varsity Volleyball



Varsity Boys Tennis



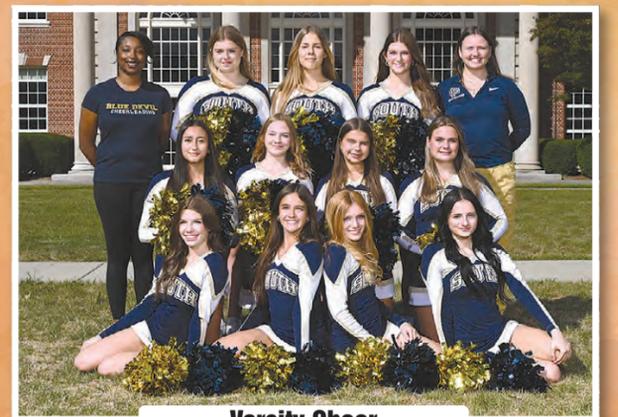
Varsity Girls Golf



Freshman Volleyball



Varsity Girls Swim & Dive



Varsity Cheer

South stunned by Lakeview on homecoming

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Before Friday, Oct. 10, Grosse Pointe South varsity football had not lost a game in MAC White Division play since 2015. That long streak of division dominance came to an end during South's homecoming game, when Lakeview stunned the Blue Devils with a 25-22 comeback win capped by a late, game-winning field goal by the Huskies.

"There's a lesson there that we can't take anything for granted," South football head coach Chad Hepner said about the loss. "I don't think that we got complacent, but I think there wasn't quite the sense of urgency and preparation that we should have had. We haven't had a loss like this in a while, so I think that it could be spun in a positive way and learn from it to not take anything for granted."

The Blue Devils seemed to be in control much of the game, which made the loss seem even more shocking. A rushing touchdown by junior quarterback Sam Rouleau in the first quarter made it 7-0 South early on. South added to the lead



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South's Charlie Michelotti stands over a Lakeview defender after powering his way into the end zone during the Blue Devils' 25-22 loss Friday, Oct. 10.

early in the second quarter with another score on the ground, this time by Charlie Michelotti, making it 15-0 Blue Devils.

Lakeview finally got on the board after that and cut into the deficit. South's last points came on another touchdown run by Rouleau in the third quarter that extended the lead to 22-8, but after that, the comeback was on for the

Huskies.

Fourteen unanswered points for Lakeview tied the game as South's defense struggled to get a stop. With the game coming down to the wire, the Huskies got in position to win the game with the leg of Alan Koles. Koles hit the game-winning field goal to shock South's homecoming crowd and hand the Blue Devils their first loss of the regular

season.

In the loss, Rouleau finished as South's leading rusher with nine carries for 147 yards. Michelotti also hit the century mark on the ground, running for 100 yards on nine attempts. Throop Linnell had 12 tackles and a sack on defense, while AJ Zieleniewski had 10 tackles and a sack.

The loss for South also ended the team's hopes of

capturing the outright MAC White Division title. Instead, the Blue Devils finished in a tie for first place with Utica, who also finished with a 4-1 record in division play after beating L'Anse Creuse North last Friday night.

With division play wrapped up for the year, South now will go back on the road for a matchup with a foe from the MAC

Red Division. The Blue Devils travel to face Anchor Bay in Week 8. The Tars have a 2-5 record this season, but will enter the matchup coming off of a win over Chippewa Valley.

Wins in the MAC Red Division can never be taken for granted and the Blue Devils know Anchor Bay will have some momentum ahead of their upcoming matchup. What South sees as the key to getting back in the win column in Week 8 is consistent and strong preparation to put the first loss of the season behind them.

"Just doing a better job of making sure they're prepared in every aspect and trying everything we can to make sure we win this game in practice throughout the week," Hepner said. "... This is an hour bus ride to face a tough MAC Red opponent. Even though they haven't gotten a lot of wins, they've played a lot of those MAC Red games competitively and now that they are coming off a win, we expect them to have confidence and be a tough opponent."

South visits Anchor Bay Friday, Oct. 17, with kickoff at 7 p.m.

North football's momentum halted by loss to Fitzgerald

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

On the heels of back-to-back wins, Grosse Pointe North football entered its game Friday, Oct. 10, against Warren Fitzgerald, hoping to continue the momentum it had been building in recent weeks. The Norsemen had their sights set on extending their winning streak to three, but the Spartans had other plans as Fitzgerald came to the Pointes and walked out with a 49-10 win.

"We prepared well, we just went into a game where our age showed," North football head coach Joe Drouin said. "(Fitzgerald) had some really good interior tackles... We had two sophomores and a freshman dealing with two guys who could be playing on Saturdays next year, so it was a bit of a wake-up call for what some of our younger guys can do in the

offseason to prepare for next year."

North had some trouble moving the ball on offense for much of the night, tallying only 174 yards in comparison to Fitzgerald's 523. All 10 of North's points were scored in the first half, with the first three coming on a 41-yard field goal by Ben Savich that put the Norsemen ahead 3-0 to start the game.

Fitzgerald put up 14 unanswered points after that, with a couple of touchdowns to make the score 14-3 by the end of the first quarter. North's only trip to the end zone happened in the second quarter with a touchdown pass by senior quarterback Jacob Sahadi to Peter Rheaume, which made it 14-10. However, another Spartan touchdown before halftime put Fitzgerald ahead 21-10 going into the break.

The second half became all Fitzgerald. The

Spartans added 14 more points in the third quarter to extend the lead to 35-10, and added another pair of touchdowns in the fourth quarter, while their defense shut out the Norsemen to walk away with the win.

Sahadi finished the game with 175 passing yards on 10 completions, with one touchdown and three interceptions. Rheaume was the leading receiver, catching five passes for 79 yards. On a rough night for the North defense, Mahki Passmore led the way with 10 tackles.

After three straight seasons of winning at least a share of the MAC Gold Division title, the Norsemen finished division play in fourth place after the loss to Fitzgerald. The win for the Spartans clinched the division crown.

North finishes the season with two non-division games, including its cross-

town rivalry matchup against Grosse Pointe South. Up first, however, is a Week 8 showdown with Warren Mott from

the MAC Blue Division. The Marauders are 3-4 this season through seven games and suffered a 49-7 loss to Port Huron

Northern last week.

The Norsemen travel to face Mott on the road Friday, Oct. 17. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Grosse Pointe Public School System will receive sealed bid proposals until **2:00 p.m. EST on October 28th, 2025**, for Contractor Services for the 2025 Districtwide Concrete and Flatwork RFP. Grosse Pointe Public School System will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

There will be a non-mandatory virtual pre-bid meeting on **Thursday, October 16th, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** Pre-bid Clarifications must be sent to Gary Kent at gary.kent@plantemor.com by **October 17th, 2025, 12:00 p.m. EST**

All bids must be addressed to: Grosse Pointe Public School System, 20601 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. Attention Ben Matteson, Director of Operations.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the school district. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must also be included along with a Familial Disclosure Statement, Criminal Background Disclosure Affidavit, and a Non-Collusive Affidavit.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

Documents will be available for viewing on **October 13th, 2025**. Digital Documents may be downloaded at the following address: <https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=728efa4fc4d147c9a670ca24e7711270>

Published: GPN, October 16, 2025

CITY OF HARPER WOODS CITY CLERK'S OFFICE WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN OFFICIAL ELECTION NOTICE

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN. Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City of Harper Woods in the Countotice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City of Harper Woods in the County of Wayne, State of Michigan on November 4, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. at which time the following offices will be voted upon:

NON- PARTISAN: MAYOR (1) Two Year Term - Expires 11/13/2027
CITY COUNCIL (3) Four Year Terms - Expires 11/10/2029

The Election will be conducted at the following places:

PRECINCT NO.	LOCATION	ADDRESS
#1	Beacon Elementary School	19475 Beaconsfield
#2	City Hall	19617 Harper Avenue
#3	WCCCD University Center	19305 Vernier Rd

All polling locations are fully accessible and have alternative voting instructions.

Interested and qualified persons may make application to vote an absentee ballot at the City Clerk's Office, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Absentee Ballot Applications can also be obtained online at www.harperwoodscity.org or www.michigan.gov/vote. Voters may obtain a Sample Ballot showing the candidates to be elected and the proposals in the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours. For additional information - please call (313) 343-2510.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
LESLIE M. FRANK, CITY CLERK

PUBLISHED: October 16, 2025
POSTED: October 13, 2025

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ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

has become close with many of them on and off the field after years of working together. He tries to maintain a team-first mindset, even though it may be difficult at times.

However, his ability to do something like step into a new position in the middle of the season and help lead his team to wins says everything one needs to know about Butler as an athlete and a teammate.

"Just keep playing for other people, not for myself," he said. "...

Sometimes, my teammates and I struggle with worrying about 'I didn't do this' or 'I couldn't do that.' Just not worrying about playing for yourself, but playing for the people around you. It really brings the best out of me, especially playing for the other seniors around me."



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Known for his skill on both the gridiron and the diamond, Butler steps to the plate for Grosse Pointe North baseball during a game in the spring season.

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QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Diploma or GED
• Valid Michigan Drivers License
• Be able to pass background check and drug screening
• Dependable

Pay rate is \$12.48-\$18.00 hourly with a morning schedule of 1 hour and 1 hour in the afternoon. Applications may be obtained at the Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee Ave. Grosse Pointe MI 48230 8:00 AM-4:30 PM, (313) 885-5800 or from the City website at www.grossepointecity.org. EOE.

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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK

1. 336 McMillan, GPF
2. 455 Calvin, GPF

3. 1568 Hampton, GPW
4. 21207 Norwood, HW

5. 23405 Edsel Ford Ct., SCS
6. 51996 Park Ave., Chesterfield

○ = YARD SALE ● = ESTATE SALE

See Classifieds for more details

8D | SPORTS

Soccer teams open playoffs with wins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The excitement and drama that comes with playoff soccer reached the Pointes last week. The boys soccer teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School all began their postseason journeys in their respective divisions last week, with all three teams picking up wins in their opening games to advance.

South

The Blue Devils kicked off the Division 1 district tournament last week hosting Dearborn in the district quarterfinal round Wednesday, Oct. 8. It was a tight, pressure-packed postseason battle, but South was able to end up on top with a close 1-0 victory.

Things were about as even as could be between the Blue Devils and Pioneers. It was not until almost 20 minutes into the second half that South was able to score the first and ultimately decisive goal. Senior Jonah Bukovec broke through the Dearborn defense and made a clear run toward the goal, putting the ball past the Pioneers' keeper to give South the lead.

South had to play strong defense for just over 20 minutes after that. The Blue Devils hung on, finishing the shutout and the first win of the postseason.

South advanced to the district semifinal, where it found itself in another close playoff battle Monday, Oct. 13. The Blue Devils hosted Detroit Western in an epic showdown that went to double overtime deadlocked in a scoreless tie. Senior Joey Reid

ended up as the hero in extra time, netting the game's lone goal to give the Blue Devils a 1-0 win.

The win moved South on to the district championship game, where it faced U of D Jesuit after press time Wednesday, Oct. 15.

North

The Norsemen were on the road Thursday, Oct. 9, for the first round of the Division 2 district tournament. North took on Center Line and started the postseason with a bang, earning a 4-0 win over the Panthers.

Three of North's goals came on a hat trick by senior captain Jack O'Dell. Joshua Triplett added another goal for the Norsemen, while goalkeeper Oliver Rathnaw got the clean sheet to send North on to the next round.

North faced De La Salle Collegiate after press time Tuesday, Oct. 14, in the district semifinals. The district championship game is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, hosted by De La Salle.

University Liggett

The Knights were on home turf for their first game of the Division 4 district tournament Wednesday, Oct. 8. Liggett hosted Hope of Detroit Academy and came away with a 4-2 win in a high-scoring battle.

Caden Martin scored twice for Liggett in the win. The team's other goals were added by Will Lynn and Jaan Vreeken.

Liggett moved on to the district semifinals, where it met familiar foe Detroit Cristo Rey after press time Tuesday, Oct. 14. The district final is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 16, hosted by Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.



COURTESY PHOTO

South, North faceoff for charity

Grosse Pointe North varsity field hockey hosted crosstown foe Grosse Pointe South last Tuesday, Oct. 7, in a match that meant more than just a rivalry. The two teams used the annual charity match to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Blue Devils came away with the win, beating the Norsemen 7-0. Hannah Agnone scored twice, with other goals for South coming from Andee Baker, Annie Paradise, Wells Webber, Mia Rouleau and Therese Carron.

TENNIS:

Continued from page 1D

from U of D Jesuit in the final match.

Both North and South will compete in the Division 2 state finals later this month. The tournament begins Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the Midland Tennis Center.

Liggett

The Knights nearly came away with a sweep in the Division 4 regional tournament Wednesday, Oct. 8. Liggett claimed another regional championship while winning seven of eight flights during the day.

Yurii Polnyi took first place in No. 2 singles, while Davis Ford won

No. 3 singles and Justin Platt took home the title in No. 4 singles. Tise Courtright ended up finishing as the runner-up in the No. 1 singles bracket.

The Knights then swept all of the doubles flights. Niko Cooksey and Griffin Marchal won No. 1 doubles. The pair of Landen Maltby and Charlie Laethem finished

atop No. 2 doubles. No. 3 doubles was won by Rene Quint and Lucas Ferguson, and Matteo Marciano and Fernando Romine took home the No. 4 doubles title for Liggett.

Liggett will compete in the Division 4 state championships at the Midland Tennis Center beginning Monday, Oct. 20.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST TO BE HELD BY: GROSSE POINTE PARK, GROSSE POINTE CITY, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY AND HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Accuracy Test will be conducted by your City Clerk at the address, date & time below for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the tabulating equipment and programs which will be used to tabulate voted ballots for the LOCAL ELECTION to be held on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025.

Interested parties are invited to attend.

CITY CLERK: Bridgette Bowdler LOCATION: City of Grosse Pointe Park 15115 E. Jefferson DATE OF TEST: 10/22/2025 AT 2:00 P.M.	CITY CLERK: Derrick Kozicki LOCATION: City of Grosse Pointe Farms 350 Lake Shore Road DATE OF TEST: 10/21/2025 AT 2:00 P.M.	CITY CLERK: Courtney Smith LOCATION: Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City 795 Lake Shore DATE OF TEST: 10/30/2025 AT 2:00 P.M.
CITY CLERK: Christopher Hardenbrook LOCATION: City of Grosse Pointe 17147 Maumee DATE OF TEST: 10/30/2025 AT 2:00 P.M.	CITY CLERK: Paul Antolin LOCATION: City of Grosse Pointe Woods 20025 Mack Plaza Drive DATE OF TEST: 10/28/2025 AT 2:00 P.M.	CITY CLERK: Leslie Frank LOCATION: City of Harper Woods 19617 Harper Avenue DATE OF TEST: 10/30/2025 AT 2:00 P.M.

Published: Grosse Pointe News, 10/16/25



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South senior captain Jonah Bukovec lines up to take a corner kick. He scored the lone goal in South's 1-0 win over Dearborn Wednesday, Oct. 8.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council adopted the following ordinance amendment at its meeting held on Monday, October 6, 2025. The ordinance amendment was adopted in accordance with the City Charter and is hereby published by title:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS, CHAPTER 44, UTILITIES: ARTICLE III. – CROSS CONNECTIONS; SECTIONS 44-198, 44-199, and 44-204, TO UPDATE CROSS CONNECTION REGULATIONS.

The ordinances are available for public inspection or purchase from the Office of the City Clerk, at the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or www.gpwm.us.

Paul Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:10/16/25

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2025**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present except for Mayor Pro Tem Regina Williams

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To excuse Mayor Pro tem Williams, from tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment.
- 2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held September 15, 2025.
- 3) To adjourn to budget session.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 133381 through 133542 in the amount of \$768,122.60 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve the request for the emergency repair of the Sewage Lift Station to be performed by Kennedy Industries in the amount of \$14,945.00. (3) approve payment to Blue Water Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$11,818.72 for the purchase of 24 new Orion automatic read water meters and accessories. (4) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$20,063.50 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks, this also includes trash pick up, painting of the picnic shelter and tables, the installation of cement walkways, and for lawn cuttings at residential homes that were not in compliance with the Ordinance. (5) approve payment to Turf & Timber, LLC in the amount of \$36,400.00 for tree trimming and the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (6) approve payment in the amount of \$20,330.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with replacement of stop boxes, repairs made to the ceiling in Courtroom and the floor drain at the DPW, water shut offs, and a fire hydrant replacement. (7) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$9,550.07 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of September and for IT support services for all departments, and for the purchase of an external hard drive and accessories. (8) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,703.33 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of October 2025. (9) approve payment in the amount of \$9,554.00 to Drive Creative Services, LLC for the printing of the Oct/Dec Newsletter. (10) approve payment to Trust Governmental Finance in the amount of \$17,980.00 for principal and interest on the bond for the automatic water meters. (11) approve payment to Macallister Rentals in the amount of \$5,908.40 for the rental of a bucket loader. (12) approve the request from the Harper Woods School District to hold their annual homecoming parade on Friday, October 17, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) to approve payment to Premiere Group Associates LLC in the amount of \$52,261.06 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the Roscommon Pocket Park project, #180-329.
- 3) to approve payment to Hartwell Cement Company in the amount of \$92,224.23 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement program, #180-367.
- 4) to approve payment to Michigan Joint Sealing, Inc. in the amount of \$7,337.77 for Progress Payment No. 2 (Final) on the 2025 Pavement Joint/Crack Sealing Project, #180-366.
- 5) to approve the five-year maintenance agreement with Cummins Sales and Service dated September 25, 2025 for the City's generator to be billed annually, with the total five-year agreement not to exceed \$6,846.04.
- 6) to adopt the attached resolution allowing the modification of the current Deferred Compensation Plans to offer designated Roth accounts into which Roth contributions may be made consistent with IRS Secure 2.0 Act regulations and that, additionally to allow plan Roth conversions.
- 7) to approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of \$177,826.05 for the City's proportionate share of the interest on the two SRF Projects, 5446-01 and 5446-02.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor **Leslie M. Frank**, City Clerk

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