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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 86, NO. 43, 30 PAGES  
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 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

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## Trick-or-Treat in The Village Halloween Day

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Trick-or-Treat in The Village is going back to its roots this year, after add-ons last fall, including a costume contest, didn't meld with the festivities as hoped.

"It's such a machine, the way it works, which is great," Main Street Grosse Pointe Director Cindy Willcock said. "(The kids) come in, they walk The Village and they get out, so they can go trick-or-treat in their neighborhoods."

The annual event is held Halloween Day and this year will run 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31.

As has taken place for decades, businesses will purchase candy out of their own budgets to happily hand out to a slew of Grosse Pointe kiddos.

"I haven't been back

since I participated in it as a kid," said Chad Murphy, who became parks and recreation director earlier this year, "and I'm just excited to see it from this perspective and just see the excitement from an adult's point of view."

"... I remember getting home from school and being in costume and just rushing down to The Village to get started on Halloween. The Village was really kind of the kickoff to the actual night."

Street parking will not be allowed on Kercheval starting at 2 p.m. next Friday and the street will close at 2:30 p.m. Kercheval will reopen immediately following the event.

— Laurel Kraus



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe kids dress in their Halloween best to trick-or-treat at Village businesses last fall.

## Window painting remains after ordinance appeal

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The fall window display at The Spice & Tea Exchange will remain until Friday, Nov. 7, after owner Sara Biery last week appealed the city's initial ordinance violation notice to have it taken down by mid-October.

"The intention was for it to come down shortly after Halloween," Biery said. "It was meant for the fall season. I don't want pumpkins up during Christmastime."

Though the small business owner and city administration agreed to the new end date, a truce hardly has been reached. Biery, during a Nov. 6 court date, will continue the appeal process based on the principle of the

matter and with the intent to make allowable future window paintings.

"We said that we would like to actually contest the citation itself because we disagree with the application here," she said. "We pulled the city ordinance definition for signage of it is meant to inform and communicate. Artwork is not meant to inform and communicate. It was billed as artwork."

The Spice & Tea Exchange was cited — though without a fine — in mid-August after Biery commissioned a window painting which the city said violates its temporary signage ordinance. Namely, that temporary signs cannot cover more

See APPEAL, page 3A

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**HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST WINNER!**

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 See Section C

## Lining up shoreline restoration at Patterson

By Brad Lindberg  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Easy promises to voluntarily rid Patterson Park's rocky shoreline of invasive plants and replace them with native ones aren't substantial enough at present for the mayor to venture beyond general endorsement of the idea.

Mayor Michele Hodges wants proponents of shoreline restoration to draft a plan and timeline of work that is substantial, measurable and maintainable, for she knows there are few better tests of an advocate's good faith than accountability and having to meet a deadline.

"This is a first step, creating awareness," Hodges told newly appointed and emerging leaders of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, Jim Creighton and Kelly Konieczki, upon hearing their informal proposal

Oct. 13, to restore the shoreline's native condition. "Going forward, it would be helpful to have consensus from the beautification commission of what the priorities should be. There are myriad ones, right?"

Hodges also wants municipal administrators kept aware, updated and actively part of any proposal for environmental remediation, especially the one that commissioner's outlined involving outside agencies, including the federal government.

There also must be a "clear focus in alignment with the capital improvement plan, the parks (department) master plan, existing staff and resources, so we can accomplish something and have impact because we have leadership and all the pieces are fitting together," Hodges said, "And, then, an ongoing sustainability plan. If

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## GPPSS revisits AI

By Ted O'Neil  
 Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — After a five-month hiatus due to personnel changes, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is resuming ef-

orts to craft an AI policy. "One of our goals is to be intentional about it," Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop told the GPPSS Board of Education's Policy Committee Monday, Oct. 13. "It's here and it's not

going away, so we have to help students use it in a way that stretches their thinking and learning."

Bishop said several districts have adopted what he termed "fear-based" policies regarding AI use. "They basically say, 'Don't do this, this and

See AI, page 9A



## To the rescue

While delivering papers, our circulation manager, Ellie Carter, got locked out of her car in the driveway of one of our subscribers. While she waited for Grosse Pointe Farms police to unlock it, homeowner Marijane Poirier welcomed her inside with homemade chocolate chunk cookies, Arnold Palmers and the kind of storytelling that makes time fly. Thank you, Marijane, for your kindness and for being a loyal subscriber.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



**Andrew Neer**  
 Home: Grosse Pointe Woods  
 Conductor leading the way for orchestral music appreciation



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# Farms man charged with sexual crime against minor

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — A 51-year-old Farms man was arraigned before Farms Judge Charles Berschback Wednesday, Oct. 15, for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl in May.

Dwayne Howell is charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct — each carrying a possible life sentence — two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct regarding a person 13 to 15 years old, one count of accosting a child for immoral purposes and one count of refusing or resisting providing samples for DNA profiling.

Howell's retained attorney, Mohammed Nasser, entered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

"We are steadfast in our innocence," Nasser said.

Detectives conducted a search warrant in May — the crime was reported the day it took place — but did not arrest the defendant until last week because they were waiting for DNA evidence to be processed.

"We don't arrest somebody until we have enough evidence, so that's why he was not taken into custody when the original search warrant was done," Farms Detective Roger Wierszewski said. "We stand at this point because

with the DNA testing that just came back on Monday (Oct. 13), it shows a 3.7 octillion chance that he is a contributing factor in the DNA. That's 3.7 followed by 17 zeros. It's kind of hard to dispute that he's the suspect."

Complicating matters, Howell currently is out on bond and a tether as he proceeds through a separate criminal court case for charges including assault with intent to murder and felony firearm that allegedly took place in 2021.

"This crime took place while he was on the tether," Wierszewski said.

Berschback set the defendant's bond at \$200,000 cash surety, no 10 percent. If bond is met, he added, the defendant must wear a steel cuff tether, which cannot be removed, rather than the standard GPS tether with which he currently is outfitted.

"There's many factors that go into my bond determination," Berschback said. "The overriding factor for me is the safety of the community. These are very, very serious allegations here related to a minor. I'm going to follow the recommendation of the police department."

Howell's next court date, a probable cause conference, is scheduled for noon Wednesday, Oct. 29.

# New main going well

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Installation of the lower Charlevoix water main is progressing as planned.

"They're moving quickly," Nick Sizeland, city manager, said of contractors. "We haven't had any issues."

An excavation crew on Monday, Oct. 20, filled in the final hole through which they'd laid new pipe.

Charlevoix remains open to motor vehicle traffic while crews work in the three-block commercial zone between Alter Road to Beaconsfield. On-street parking in some cases is restricted.

"There's quite a bit of work going on," Sizeland said.

"Within the next week and a half it should be done," said Tom Jenny, director of public works.

Brief surveys of the district indicate unhindered commercial activity of businesses, restaurants, bars and a market, although water customers in work zones can expect temporary



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

**An excavator operator on Monday, Oct. 20, fills a hole dug earlier in the Charlevoix water main project.**

service interruptions.

"Businesses have been understanding," Sizeland said. "A couple businesses let people know they're still open during construction."

Construction consists

of putting in an 8-inch diameter plastic main. Unlike cast-iron pipes, plastic ones don't corrode. Also, being flexible, plastic resists breaking during freeze-thaw cycles and abrupt

changes in water pressure pumped from the city's supplier, Detroit.

Installation was achieved by directional drilling rather than the traditional but more disruptive method of excavating a trench the entire length of the pipe.

Instead, a series of smaller trenches are dug from which a pilot hole is drilled underground to guide insertion of the new pipe.

The main is the first to be located under lower Charlevoix. Water service in the area had been fed for decades by smaller lateral mains under side roads. In contrast, a water reliability study commissioned to help plan the new main predicted the Charlevoix installation will result in better water service to laterals under Maryland, Lakepointe and Beaconsfield, according to Sizeland.

"We're hoping for better flow," Jenny said. "Services should be better."

Funding of the main is from proceeds of an infrastructure millage Park voters approved a couple years ago.

A multimillion-dollar streetscape renovation of the district is scheduled to start next spring.

# Get rid of electronic waste Saturday

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Unwanted electronic items can be disposed of during Electronic Waste Drop-Off Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, in the parking lot of Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park.

Electronic Waste Drop-Off Day is hosted by the Park this year. Participation is open to residents of the City of Grosse Pointe, as well as Grosse Pointe Farms, Shores and Woods.

A valid driver's license is required to confirm residency and eligibility. Acceptable waste items are:

- ◆ computers and accessories, such as printers;
- ◆ cell phones and landline phones;
- ◆ radios, stereos and compact disc players;
- ◆ fax machines,
- ◆ photocopiers and
- ◆ typewriters and word processors.

Almost anything with a power cord is acceptable that isn't on the following list of unacceptable items:

- ◆ household hazardous waste,
- ◆ latex and oil-based paint,

- ◆ explosives, flares and firewood;
- ◆ weapons and ammunitions,
- ◆ radioactive waste,
- ◆ industrial and commercial waste,
- ◆ compressed gas cylinders,
- ◆ trash, tires and yards waste;
- ◆ appliances and white goods,
- ◆ freon-containing items and
- ◆ medications and syringes.

Windmill Pointe Park is at 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive.

Participating waste management services are ERG Environmental Services and Priority Waste.

## RESTORE:

Continued from page 1A

you can't fund it, you lose everything you already invested in. That can't be just volunteers. You all are amazing, but what happens 10 years from now? Those are things (the city council) is going to want to see as

it makes decisions going forward."

"From the perspective of volunteers, it's not a heavy lift," Creighton said. "It is sustainable. It is ongoing."

If volunteerism fades out, no worries, because maintaining the shoreline is a municipal duty anyway, according to the beautification team.

"If it (volunteerism) stops, it falls back to the city," Creighton said. "But the city would do it anyway from a shoreline perspective. It is still the city. The city should already be doing this for the shoreline."

"The city is going to have to eradicate the invasive species, beautification commission or not," City Manager Nick Sizeland said. "However, I want their input regarding what type of perennials we are to plant there; something very low maintenance."

A quick way for Park officials to know how to eradicate invasive plants along the shoreline would be to ask Farms counterparts how they did it a decade ago with

herbicide treatments and a flamethrower. Short of that, members of the Park's beautification commission are navigating various state and federal agencies seeking ways and resources to get rid of unwanted plants despoiling Patterson's shoreline on both sides of and beyond the boardwalk.

"It's constant monitoring," Konieczki said of the area's weedy plant growth. "This has been building up from multiple years. Some can be pulled out. Different ones, like phragmites and tall grasses, are much more challenging. (They) need targeted treatment and take two years to tackle."

She and her colleague said they've sought guidance and support from the Detroit River-Western Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area. The

organization, founded in 2011 and known trippingly on the tongue as DR-WLE CWMA, is an alliance of 13 partner organizations, from federal, civic and educational spheres in Wayne and Macomb counties.

"We are partnering with them to work on putting down the herbicide," Creighton said. "It is special for shorelines. It doesn't harm aquatic plants."

Seeds from which to grow replacements come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he said.

"Maintenance will be by Patterson Park Garden Club volunteers and the beautification commission," Creighton said. "It's people wanting to be involved and help manage that area. We'd start in spring when the leaves are coming up. We have to have foliage for the treatment to take to the roots."

"We can't just completely yank it out," Konieczki said. "It needs foliage to target it. With herbicides, it's very targeted. We're working with CWMA professionals for that. This is a multi-year project."

"Basically, the labor is all volunteers," Creighton said. "Once it gets established, the cost will draw down."

"We appreciate beautification commission members bringing their information to council," Sizeland said. "They need to go back to (the commission) and discuss the steps and process. The city is going to be talking with the Lake Erie organization about how they can give support. Our understanding is they can provide funds to help us do this. That will be our next steps. If we move forward on this, we're looking at starting next year."

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# Farms purchases JOANN property

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The Farms is continuing its acquisition of properties at the corner of Mack and Moross with the \$2.4 million purchase of the former JOANN Fabrics and Crafts building, which closed earlier this year after the chain filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

City council voted unanimously last Monday to purchase the 17,089-square-foot building from Mack 13 LLC for the \$2.4 million to be paid over three fiscal years in equal installments of \$800,000 and without interest.

The city will owe \$800,000 at closing, \$800,000 on or before the first anniversary of closing and \$800,000 on or before the second anniversary of closing.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The 17,000-square-foot former JOANN Crafts building closed early this year after the chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

“We’ve had interest in securing that property for a number of years,” City Manager Shane Reeside said, as council members echoed the necessity of taking advantage of a sale opportunity that may not present itself again

anytime soon.

The city has been intentionally scooping up properties along Mack between Moross and Kerby since the late ‘90s when it procured the Sears and Kroger buildings, as well as seven homes along

Moross, to square off the land bank. It also was at that time the Farms rezoned said stretch of land between Moross and Kerby to a community service district — enabling its current recreational use, while also hinting toward

future opportunities for city hall or its public safety station to be moved to the entrance of the city.

The Farms in May of this year also purchased for \$795,000 the vacant building at 18780 Mack between Wendy’s and

Belle Tire.

“We want to have some control with Mack Avenue, not only to enhance whatever we want to do with our greenspace behind it and the different properties that we bought before to make sure that it is zoned for community, but second to that is if we (don’t) buy it, how do we know what goes there?” Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad Wilberding said. “And how do we know if that’s going to be compatible with our community or with a future plan to make sure that we really do secure that area, particularly Mack Avenue.”

At 18850 Mack, formerly known as JOANN’s, the city’s immediate plan is to make use of the additional space for storage

See JOANN, page 4A

## Woods shooting case delayed

By Ted O’Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — A probable cause conference related to a shooting earlier this month was delayed Wednesday, Oct. 15. The delay was because the defense attorney had only been retained the previous day and did not have time for discovery.

“This is a significant case with a lot of details he needs to get a hold of,” Municipal Judge Theodore Metry said.

The Wayne County

Prosecutor’s Office agreed to delay the matter until 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5.

Amanda Marie Wilkins, 39, is charged with assault causing great bodily harm less than murder, use of a dangerous weapon and felony firearm, meaning the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. If convicted, she faces up to 10 years in prison, plus a mandatory two years for felony firearm.

The shooting occurred the morning of Friday,

Oct. 3, in the 1900 block of Roslyn. A 37-year-old Woods male, whose name police are not releasing, was shot in the right forearm. The incident occurred on the front lawn of Wilkins’ residence.

“They were dating but didn’t live together,” Public Safety Director John Kosanke previously said. “They were arguing and it spilled out onto the front lawn.”

Kosanke said it also was not the first time officers were called to the home due to domes-

tic disturbances. The victim is expected to make a full recovery.

Wilkins was arraigned shortly after the incident and was released on a \$200,000 cash/surety bond, meaning she paid \$20,000.

Wilkins was in court and waived her right to a preliminary exam within 21 days of arraignment, which had been scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 22, due to the delay.

Metry left the terms of her bond in place, which include:

- ◆ no drinking alcohol,

- ◆ submitting to alcohol testing twice a week,
- ◆ wearing a GPS monitor,

- ◆ no possession of a firearm and

- ◆ no contact with the victim.

The shooting occurred almost two years to the day that Dennis Doheny, then 19, was shot and killed in October 2023 at a home on Brys Drive in the Woods. His brother, Edmond Doheny, is serving two years in prison for felony firearm.

He also was sentenced to three years probation after pleading no contest to that and a charge of involuntary manslaughter in April 2024.

“The judge completely honored the plea bargain agreement in this terrible tragedy,” said Robert Ihrle, Doheny’s defense attorney, at the time. “Everyone recognized this was essentially an accident with zero intentionality. We would have preferred no jail time, but the judge didn’t have a choice.”

Brys Drive also is where officers found an elderly man and woman deceased in their home in late June after being called to do a welfare check. Kosanke said the department is awaiting the results of toxicology tests and that no weapon was used.

## APPEAL:

Continued from page 1A

than 10 percent of the total window and door sign area visible from the exterior; and that temporary signs are allowed on the interior of the business establishment only (as opposed to painting the outside of the window).

Within the City’s code of ordinances, a temporary sign is defined as “a sign intended to be displayed for a limited period of time, including decorative displays for holidays, special events, grand opening or public demonstrations; not including signs pertaining to sale, rent or lease of property.”

Though the city chose not to add additional citations into the mix, the display also violates a separate city ordinance — one of which Kroger also is guilty — which requires transparent windows to make up 70 percent of the facade of storefronts in The Village.

Such regulations in business districts are not an uncommon practice. They are put in place to encourage walkability and a level of connectivity with the surrounding streetscape, where passersby can see what is taking place and being offered within.

Grosse Pointe Farms has a signage regulation ordinance stating “No sign, decal or banner shall be permitted to be affixed on the inside, outside or within 3 feet of any glass window or any

similar transparent window if the sign, decal or banner occupies more than 10 percent of the total area of the window or if, when considered with other signs, decals or banners in connection with the window, the total area of the several signs, decals or banners exceeds 10 percent of the total window area.”

Grosse Pointe Park has a similar zoning ordinance prohibiting temporary signage on business windows from taking up more than 20 percent of the total window area. The Park’s central business district also is required to have “high levels of transparency on the front building facade.”

In The Village’s case, public consensus has found fault with an ordinance that prevents a warm, welcoming fall painting; however, amending the ordinance to make way for decora-

tive window displays is more complex than it initially would appear, as it could bring unintentional consequences.

Just the same as yard signs, the city would be unable to regulate the content of the displays — beyond blocking anything obscene — which begs the question, what happens when someone paints a display that public opinion doesn’t favor?

The Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Board, during its meeting last Tuesday, passed a motion to work with city administration, city planners and the city attorney to explore whether changes should be pursued and in what way.

“Our board did have a long conversation this month about the intent of the ordinance and all the ordinances that govern The Village and what you can’t codify,” MSGP Executive Director Cindy

Willcock said. “It’s much more complex than just saying, ‘Yes, you can paint a window,’ ... including is there enough of a demand to change an ordinance?”

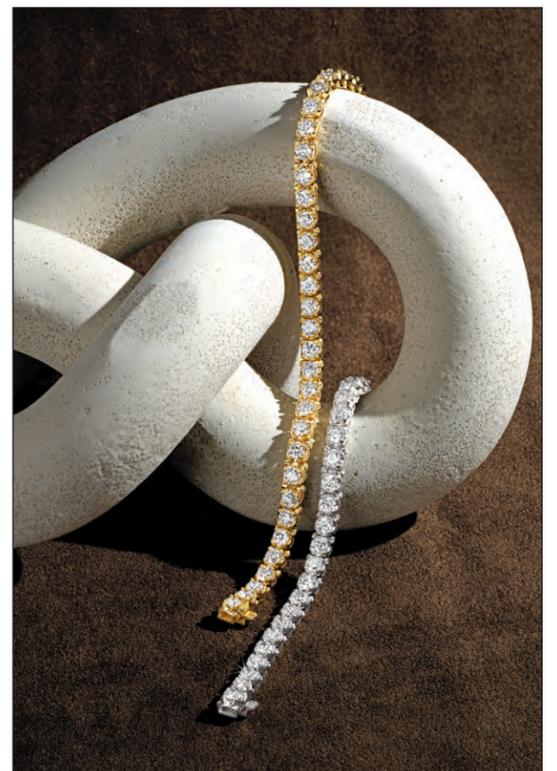
“Both our design committee and our business development committee will be looking at that from two different angles, from the design aspect and then from the policy aspect. And then they will take those recommendations to the board and should the board decide that they’d like to advocate for any changes in that ordinance, then that would go to council.

“Our board was very, very clear they want to make sure they’re doing the responsible thing and taking the time to do the due diligence and listen to people from all sides and really understand what the implications could be in changing it.”

## The Week Ahead

**TUESDAY, OCT. 28**

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Election Commission meeting — public accuracy test, 2 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.



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# Conductor: 'Music can change the lives of anybody'

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

It's a wonder Andrew Neer has time for coffee.

Between his day job — music director at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church — and his other FOUR jobs — music director and conductor of the Macomb Symphony Orchestra, Warren Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sono and Oakland Choral Society — he has little time to spare.

Music is life for the Grosse Pointe Woods resident, who also dabbles in website design, video editing and audio editing. He records every concert — there are 17 this season alone — so people know what they have to look forward to.

"I have a lot of different interests that all surround creative arts," he said. "I want to influence how orchestras are perceived in the world. I set up 10 cameras at each concert, to create a digital archive library so people can see what they're going to see when they come to our concerts. I'm really trying to drive a higher level of product on all angles of the organizations I work with."

Neer discovered his penchant for the arts as a high school sophomore in the Utica Community Schools district.

"I sang and played trumpet; those were my two main instruments when I was younger," he said. "Now it's conducting and singing."

Neer earned an undergraduate degree in musical theater from Central Michigan University, then went to Wayne State University, where he earned two Masters of Music degrees, in composition and conducting.

He was working for a church in Bloomfield Hills in 2017, when the South was devastated by an active hurricane season. Looking for a way to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREW NEER

**Andrew Neer is the music director and conductor of the Macomb Symphony Orchestra, Warren Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sono and Oakland Choral Society, as well as the music director at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church.**

raise money to directly benefit the people impacted by the disasters, he amassed an orchestra to present Dvorak's Symphony #9, and raised more than \$15,000.

The effort led to his appointment as music director for Orchestra Sono, formerly the Bloomfield-Birmingham Symphony. He gained the post with the Oakland Choral Society soon after.

Juggling his education, career and personal life is nothing new for Neer.

In 2020, he began his doctoral studies at the University of Michigan, where he was awarded the Helen Wu Graduate Conducting Fellowship. He earned a Doctor of Music Arts degree in orchestral conducting in 2023.

"It was intense, but awesome," he said. "Even during the pandemic, I was going between Grosse Pointe, where I live, to Bloomfield Hills, where I worked, and Ann Arbor for school — for three years."

"In 2021, I was invited

to apply for the Macomb Symphony," he continued. "I won the job in 2022. Also during my last year of school, my son came."

He added the Warren Symphony post to his schedule in 2023.

"There are 14 orchestras in metro Detroit, a combination of community and professional players," Neer said. "Macomb and Warren are all 100 percent professional — all paid, no volunteers. And they both have a 50-year legacy."

"... Wayne Symphony was formed because they took orchestra out of schools 50 years ago," he added. "David Daniels helped start the organization to maintain exposure to orchestral music. People came from all over to see the performances; they were incredible, high-quality experiences of orchestra. I think somewhere along the line, that was lost. Now people go to the DSO instead."

While he appreciates the DSO, he offers the Macomb and Warren symphonies as accessible, affordable alternatives. All ages are welcome to attend all Macomb and Warren concerts. Students in 12th grade and younger are admitted free of charge.

"Any family can come and see the symphony and it won't cost \$150," he said. "Parking is free. We talk music beforehand so people know what to listen for and why it was created. Five

sentences before each piece help paint a picture of what they're about to hear. There's no reason to come and think you won't understand it. We'll give you our take on it."

Rehearsals are open to the public as well. Anybody can come and listen, Neer noted.

The exposure is part of his philosophy that music is a transformative experience. "It can transform anybody's life at any age," he said. "My goal is bringing more awareness to more people — to those who love art and by bringing new people into the fold. Orchestral music is for everyone."

Another of Neer's goals is helping make Detroit a

place where musicians want to stay and make music, rather than leaving for New York, Los Angeles or Chicago.

"I want to cultivate Detroit to be a place people come to make great art," he said.

"... I want to be the person who's an agent for positive change in the industry," he added, "an agent not driven by politics or religion, but driven by fact that music can change the lives of anybody. It's the most uniting force to have, because it has no opinion. It can mean what you need it to mean."

Despite juggling a busy schedule — seven days a week, often until the wee hours of the morning — Neer makes sure to make

time for his wife of 11 years, Mary Lynn, who teaches math at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School, and their 3-year-old son, Eli.

He enjoys cooking for his family, which also includes two show-quality Belgian sheepdogs.

Add to that his duties as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve, for which he has served the past 14 years, performing military funeral honors.

"I'm an average guy with a career in music," he said. "I came from parents who just wanted me to do what I loved."

"Our craft can seem sometimes exclusive," he added. "I don't want it to be. That's part of the barrier I'm trying to break. I want it to be relatable to everybody."

## Coming soon

The Warren Symphony will perform "Halloween: Spooktacular" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Warren Woods Community Auditorium.

The Macomb Symphony is gearing up for the world premier of Nora Duncan's "Journey: From Slavery to Freedom," which takes place 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

"We're premiering this massive work with choirs, soloists and orchestra," Neer said. "It's a collection of spirituals, a journey from the beginning when they were enslaved to the music they sang upon being freed. It's such a beautiful journey of expression — the transformation from oppression to freedom."

The performance will be repeated at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Music Hall Center in Detroit.

Between now and then, the Warren Symphony performs "Across the Sea (ft. Britten, Mendelssohn, Debussy)" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, and Macomb Symphony ends 2025 with "Holiday Pops," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Macomb Center.

The Warren Symphony also will help St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church celebrate its 100th anniversary with a performance of Mozart's "Requiem in D minor" at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22.

For a full concert schedule, visit [andrewleener.com/schedule](http://andrewleener.com/schedule).



The Neer family, Andrew, Mary Lynn and their son, Eli.

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## Grosse Pointe News

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## JOANN:

Continued from page 3A

of seasonal equipment and materials for public works and the water department.

"We want to control ultimately what goes to that site, but we do have intent for that site, at least in the interim," Reeside said. "We have a strong need for storage for equipment within our public works department that is often stored outside and it's actually like a puzzle work when they get the equipment in at the end of the day trying to get the pieces of the equipment (put away). We also have need for storage for our water department both for equipment and materials."

Though the city already is invested in

large-scale projects with its stormwater separation and Pier Park pool renovation, ideas being floated as future projects for the site include as the home of a potential all-Pointes dispatch and lockup center. Pointe city managers currently are exploring the efficacy of the joint concept.

"Our public safety team has always said we need something to monitor and really have a strong presence on Moross and Mack," Konrad Wilberding said. "And if we look at some of our neighboring communities, our neighboring communities have done just that. They put some of their facilities on Mack Avenue and it has reduced a lot of different criminal incidents and it has provided more security."

"It is something that

really is to the betterment of their communities and so while we don't know what a future use will be for that at this point, it is really important that we secure this opportunity for all the reasons that I've stated."

At a time when the city already is juggling \$50 million-plus in significant projects, funding to purchase the building will come out of the capital projects fund, Mayor Louis Theros said.

The Farms annually allocates around \$1.2 million to capital projects, Finance Director Tim Rowland reported.

"At the end of our fiscal year that just ended June 30, we had \$2.8 million set aside in capital projects and we'll budget going forward to have funds to cover the next two years," he said.

# Woods receives housing grant

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The city has received a Housing Readiness Incentive Grant of \$50,000 from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to implement actions that encourage increasing the housing supply and affordability.

City Administrator Frank Schulte said the money will be used to update its zoning ordinance to promote housing readiness, reduce administrative burdens and align zoning provisions with the recently adopted master plan.

“The current zoning ordinance is outdated and cumbersome,” he said. “We want to make it more friendly to residents and developers.”

City council approved the new master plan in January after two years

of discussion, town hall meetings and input from adjoining communities. Mayor Art Bryant said at the time it was the first “deep dive” into the plan since 2006, with reviews every five years.

“Updating a zoning ordinance is the natural next step to adopting a master plan,” Schulte said, “to ensure that all plans and visions are backed and implemented by policy.”

He added the first goal of the master plan is to, “provide a range of housing choices for all ages, abilities and incomes.”

Changes to the zoning ordinance will include updating permitted housing types, development procedures and expanding the applicable zoning districts.

“One of the primary goals is to create a clear, modern, user-friendly zoning ordinance,” Schulte said. “That will

reduce confusion, increase transparency and make it easier for everyone to understand our land use regulations.”

Goals include:

- ◆ expanding the types and locations of housing permitted within the city,

- ◆ promoting equitable and efficient development by clearly defining expectations and processes,

- ◆ encouraging quality redevelopment that supports economic and community well-being,
- ◆ attracting investment by reducing delays and making the community more development ready,

- ◆ supporting long-term planning goals with regulations that reflect current and future needs,

- ◆ reducing administrative hurdles and
- ◆ ensuring the zoning

ordinance is compliant with state and federal law.

Schulte said one thing in the ordinance the city wants to promote is mixed-use development. Two-story buildings with an upper level of condos are allowed on Mack south of Vernier, while three-story buildings with condos on the second or third floor are allowed on Mack north of Vernier.

“We really want to promote walkability and offer more housing options along Mack,” he said.

McKenna, the city’s planning consultants, will start the process by reviewing the current ordinance and exploring possible changes.

“We can’t make any changes to the zoning ordinance without a public hearing, a recommen-

SEE GRANT, PAGE 8A



Serene or spooky? Allen Taber of Grosse Pointe Farms snapped this photo of the gazebo at Farms Pier Park last week. The full moon is tranquil as always, but given the time of year, perhaps it’s acting as a beacon for the things that go bump in the night.

## Leaf pickup starts

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** Dec. 19.

— Annual curbside leaf pickup is underway, but don’t get greedy during the Halloween season.

“Pumpkins and sticks — don’t put them in the leaves,” Councilman Brent Dreaver said. “Not good for the leaf machine.”

Pickups run through

The schedule is Monday through Friday, each day of the work week corresponding with the city’s five public works districts:

- ◆ District 1: Lakepointe south to Harcourt,
- ◆ District 2: Bedford to

See LEAF, page 8A

### City of Grosse Pointe

#### Stolen bike

An unlocked green and yellow Batch bike worth \$200 was stolen from outside a local school the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 11.

#### Entertainment system stolen

After smashing the rear driver’s side window to gain entry, an unknown suspect stole the entertainment system from a vehicle parked in the 800 block of Lincoln between 10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, and 11 a.m. the next morning.

An investigation is ongoing.

#### Like the movies

An unknown white woman passed a “motion picture only” \$100 bill at a Fisher business at 7:42 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, and received \$57 in change.

#### Stolen plate

The license plate was stolen off a 2023 Subaru parked in a city lot between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17.

#### Bicyclist hit

A 36-year-old Grosse Pointe man was arrested after hitting a juvenile bicyclist as the juvenile was crossing the crosswalk at Kercheval and Washington at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17.

The juvenile suffered minor injuries.

The man also was found to not have a valid driver’s license, for which he additionally was cited.

— Laurel Kraus  
Report information about these and other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public

Safety, (313) 886-3200.

### Grosse Pointe Farms

#### Stolen bike

An employee of a shop in the 18000 block of Mack had his bike stolen while it was locked to a bike rack in front of the business at 10:53 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 12.

The suspect is a white man who was wearing a white hat, dark pants and a gray and black hoodie.

#### Massage & dash

A 31-year-old Detroit man stole \$50 in services after leaving a Mack business without paying for the massage he had just received at 7:28 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16.

When the masseuse gave him privacy to get dressed, he hastily left the store on foot.

#### Identify stolen

A 24-year-old Farms woman last week discovered a Capital One credit card had fraudulently been opened using her Social Security number, name, address and phone number.

The card held \$2,377 in charges, surpassing the credit limit.

#### Passed out

A 41-year-old St. Clair Shores man was found passed out behind the wheel of a pickup truck parked at a Mack gas station at 10:44 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18.

Along with him, officers found crack cocaine and a can of spray paint

in his lap.

#### Touchscreen taken

The rear driver’s side window of a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Fisher was smashed to gain entry and steal the radio media touchscreen between 10:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, and 6 a.m. the next morning.

#### Flipped car

A 75-year-old woman flipped her vehicle onto its side and landed in bushes after colliding with a berm along the entrance drive to The War Memorial Monday, Oct. 20.

Based on the early investigation, the woman — who sustained no visible injuries — appeared to have accidentally pressed the gas pedal while in the parking lot.

Officers reported there was no evidence of a medical situation or the involvement of drugs or alcohol.

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

### Grosse Pointe Park

#### Theft

An unknown thief took a black metal fire pit out of the backyard of a house in the 1400 block of Lakepointe sometime between the hours of 2 and 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16.

The loss is valued at \$120.

# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

#### Theft Pt. 2

A \$1,000 infotainment system was stolen out of a 2024 Ram pickup truck while parked in a driveway late afternoon Friday, Oct 17, in the 600 block of Middlesex.

Police said the crime occurred between 3:30 and 5:45 p.m.

— Brad Lindberg  
Report information

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

#### Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O’Neil  
Report information

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.

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# POINTES OF VIEW

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

## Grosse Pointe News

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### OUR VIEW

## No creativity allowed

As the Five Man Electrical Band sang in their 1970 hit “Signs,” “Sign, sign, everywhere a sign; blockin’ out the scenery, breakin’ my mind; Do this, don’t do that, can’t you read the sign?”

That is what first came to mind after reading Staff Writer Laurel Kraus’s story earlier this month about the kerfuffle over painted windows at The Spice & Tea Exchange in The Village.

As owner Sara Biery explained, her intention was to create a fall-themed piece of art that would get the attention of passersby. It also caught the attention of City of Grosse Pointe officials, who deemed it a violation of city ordinance.

As City Manager Joe Valentine explained, the window display is in violation of the following two provisions within the temporary signage ordinance:

- ♦ temporary signs shall not cover more than 10 percent of the total window and door sign area visible from the exterior and
- ♦ temporary signs are allowed on the interior of the business establishment only (as opposed to painting the outside of the window).

As Ms. Biery pointed out, it is not a sign. “I tried to push back and indicate it’s artwork,” she told Ms. Kraus. “It’s clearly artwork. It was billed as artwork — I can show the invoice. At no point was it ever intended to be signage or interpreted as signage.”

We agree. Mr. Valentine, however, said the reason for the ordinance to encourage large glass windows is to allow for the view inside and out, to promote economic activity, encourage window shopping and boost impulse visits. Ironically, that is exactly what the artwork did. Ms. Biery said it drew attention, enticing people to stop and take photos, drawing them into the store and increasing her sales. When the article was posted on our Facebook page Thursday, Oct. 9, it received dozens of comments that people not only enjoyed it, but also would make a special trip to the store.

The City also said the ordinance has a public safety angle to it by making sure temporary signage takes up a maximum of 10 percent of the window space. Looking at the photo (right), however, we do not think it prevents a public safety officer from easily looking into the store if necessary.

Another irony is that the City encourages window painting for certain events, albeit not to the extent of Ms. Biery’s display. The other photo (below) is of the entrance to the Grosse Pointe News from December 2022, part of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s Promising Artists Council project to paint business windows during the holiday shopping season.

Other examples include the rainbow-themed paints for the annual WeGP Pride event and the decades old Paint the Windows — now called Paint the Village — project.

The City originally gave Ms. Biery until Friday, Oct. 10, to remove her display, coinciding with the end of the Art Takeover Project, which featured artwork displayed in numerous businesses throughout The Village. The ironies just keep adding up.

We will say, however, it was sweet of Mr. Valentine not to levy a monetary fine against Ms. Biery. She and the City have now agreed to let the display remain until Nov. 7. That means it will be up for Trick-or-Treat in The Village Friday, Oct. 31, something Ms. Biery was hoping for.

She also plans to continue objecting to the ordinance violation via municipal court, based on a matter of principle. We agree she should and hope the City rethinks its stance. It drives us out of our gourd to see creativity get squashed.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Pure Grosse Pointe

When the sun begins to set, it’s called the golden hour; it makes the light softer and warmer and the shadows long. In front of Kerby Elementary School, mixed with the leaves’ fall colors, is the soft light coming in through the trees about an hour and a half before sunset.

### GUEST OPINION By Russell Ethridge

## Thoughtful driving

In nearly three decades as a judge, I’ve heard thousands of cases of bad driving. But court matters are usually limited to conduct egregious enough to come to the attention of the police. It’s what I see off the bench, as a walker, bike rider and driver that concerns me most and it generally involves the innocently mindless operation of a multi-ton vehicle in a manner that compromises the safety of others.



It is exacerbated by Grosse Pointe’s narrow streets and poor sightlines and the large vehi-

cles many of us drive today. Since we’re not going to reengineer the streets anytime soon or switch from the SUVs and trucks that dominate the market, we need to redouble our commitment to thoughtful driving.

First, some data. It should surprise no one that the U.S. suffers more than 40,000 traffic deaths annually. What is surprising is that, unlike 27 other high-income countries where traffic deaths per 100,000 people declined by 20 percent from 2013 to 2022, U.S. traffic deaths increased 22 percent and pedestrian deaths 50 percent over the same period.

See GUEST, page 7A



## 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.

## In support of Mayor Tomkowiak

**To the Editor:**  
As members of the Grosse Pointe City Council, we do not always agree on every issue and that is healthy. Vigorous discussion, debate and diverse perspectives make for good governance. But on one thing we are completely united: Grosse Pointe City has benefitted from Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak’s leadership and we unanimously support her re-election.

During her tenure, Mayor Tomkowiak has led our community with competence, organization and collaboration. She approaches every challenge with preparation, transparency and a focus on solutions. Under her leadership, our city has made significant progress while maintaining the qualities that make Grosse Pointe such a special place to live.

Thanks to her steady hand, the City continues to thrive financially, maintaining a balanced budget, a AAA bond rating and a fully funded pension system. Mayor Tomkowiak has prioritized smart infrastructure investments, environmental sustainability, creating a welcoming environment for business and long-term planning. Her focus on teamwork between city council, staff and residents has resulted in measurable improvements, from modernized stormwater systems to strong support for our thriving Village business district.

Just as important, Sheila leads with civility and dedication. She devotes countless hours on behalf of our community, as evidenced by September’s wildly successful Porchfest. She listens to everyone’s perspec-

See LETTER, page 7A

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### GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

October 23 – 29



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
54° 34°	56° 36°	58° 41°	59° 53°	64° 54°	67° 49°	59° 47°
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Windy	Cloudy
20%	0%	10%	10%	10%	20%	30%
SUNRISE 7:55 am SUNSET 6:37 pm	SUNRISE 7:56 am SUNSET 6:36 pm	SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 6:35 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 6:33 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 6:31 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 6:30 pm	SUNRISE 8:02 am SUNSET 6:29 pm

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

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



# A runner's mindset

Last Sunday was probably the 14th time I've run downtown in the Detroit Free Press events. I've lost count. But no matter how trained or untrained I am, the day is magical and it brings out the absolute best in everyone who participates. And by that, I'm not talking about actual running times (least of all mine; I get slower every

year). Nearly 3,000 volunteers, along with countless law enforcement and border patrol officers, line the route with smiles on their faces and yell, sing or whistle their encouragement for all. That may not sound all that remarkable, except this year the wind was gusting to the point where I wondered if a skinny person might get blown off the Ambassador Bridge. To add insult to injury, it also happened to be raining sideways for much of the race. Some might say it was

miserable, but that would run contrary to the spirit of this "I Say" article. Runners waited patiently in the corrals, awaiting the start of the race, in various makeshift variations of rain ponchos, plastic garbage bags and raincoats. All the while, everyone chatted with their running neighbors, talking about this or that and soaking in the pre-dawn excitement. Now, I am a very competitive person in general, but having no "sides" and no competition (except maybe

with yourself), makes for a real feel-good experience and a breath of fresh air. A positive, healthy and shared experience where everyone's goal is to push themselves, encourage their neighbor and enjoy the energy of a vibrant city. Sounds like something the world could use more of, if you ask me. To have 26,000 runners up at 5 a.m. to torture-test themselves physically and mentally — it seems unbelievable doesn't it? That many humans found the will power,

inspiration and grit to finish a tough 13- or 26-mile run through the streets, tunnels and bridges of downtown Detroit and Windsor. After I hobbled home and took a good look at the medal I had earned, it struck me that this collective energy — people coming together to do something hard, something positive — is the antidote to the noise we so often hear. It's easy to rally against something. It's far more rewarding to rally for each other. In the long run, that's the kind of spirit that makes us better.

# Rink at whim of nature

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The ice-skating rink at Patterson Park is going au naturel. A cost-saving decision to discontinue using chilling equipment to artificially freeze the ice-skating rink at Patterson remains in effect for winter. "During winter, we would put water in it to freeze," City Manager Nick Sizeland said. Shutting down chillers is forecast to save the Grosse Pointe Park Parks See RINK, page 8A

## GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Further, 2022 was the deadliest year for pedestrians since 1981 and the deadliest for cyclists in the 47 years the National Safety Council has been keeping statistics.

According to studies, a major contributing factor is the size of vehicles Americans are driving. SUVs, pickups and vans now make up nearly 80 percent of new vehicle sales and these are not your grandfather's pickups. The average front end height grew by 11 percent and weight by 24 percent between 2001 and 2018.

Big vehicles have their benefits, but it is not without a cost. A 2010 study noted that pedestrians are 50 percent more likely to die when struck by an SUV or pickup than if hit by a car. A more recent Illinois study of 23,000 pedestrian/cyclist collisions revealed that a child is eight times more likely to be killed when hit by an SUV or pickup and adults up to four times. Big vehicles with high, flat front ends hit pedestrians in the torso, where there are

more vulnerable body parts and plow people over instead of flipping them on the hood.

Larger side pillars, mirrors and high hoods make it more difficult to see pedestrians, especially when rounding corners where many pedestrian accidents happen. In many large vehicles, the driver would not see a handful of preschoolers crossing within eight feet of their front end.

A recent study of 7.5 million crashes showed that collisions with the largest passenger vehicles cause more than 12 deaths of folks outside the large vehicle for every person saved inside the vehicle.

There is a lot more data where that came from, but you get the picture. Since it's not practical to reconfigure our streets and we're unlikely to change our vehicle preferences, we need to refocus our attention on driving habits that make everyone safer.

Here are some suggestions, all of which are required by law despite the fact that some police departments turn a blind eye to things like window tint and signaling.

◆ Put down the phone. There is no reason to hold your phone to your

ear or in front of your face, especially in a community where most everyone's car has the tech to go hands-free. I trust you are not FaceTiming. And don't text or surf the web at a stop light. All of us are tired of sitting at a green light behind someone who is checking email or texting.

◆ Stop at the stop line, look both ways, then pull forward and look again. The sight lines in this community were fine for horse and buggy but not for today's vehicles. Parked vehicles, landscaping and large trees make it hard to see what's coming, so you often have to pull up past the crosswalk to see if it is clear. But do that after you stop at the stop line. If not, you may miss a kid on a bike in the crosswalk who is below the hood line of your high-profile vehicle or the jogger coming out from behind a hedge.

◆ Use your turn signal, even when no one's around. How do I know where you are going? I could have pulled out if I had known you were turning into the street I was coming from. I get that it is hard to flip the turn signal when you have one hand on the wheel and one on a drink

or a phone, but it helps everyone know what they should do in response to what you are going to do. Do it every time and it will become a habit like using a seatbelt.

◆ Don't deep tint your windshield or front side windows. Last I checked, it is illegal in Michigan to tint the windshield or front side windows beyond factory tint other than the top four inches. It may look cool and the police might not care, but I can't know when I'm riding my bike if it is safe for me to proceed when I have the right-of-way because I can't tell if you see me.

This is especially important to cyclists and pedestrians. Plus, I can't imagine that a deep tint improves visibility for the

driver, especially at night. Good traffic safety is about seeing and being seen.

◆ Slow down. No one wants to hear your car roar down the street or rattle their windows when leaving a light. Lakeshore is not a 50 mph road and Moross is not four lanes until just before Mack. Doing 10 over is one thing at 70 mph, but it is a 40 percent increase in speed in a 25 mph zone. Speeding in a tight and congested road system like ours leaves little time to react to the unexpected.

◆ Cyclists and pedestrians must do their part. Cyclists must obey all traffic laws. Wear bright clothing and consider using forward and rear lights, even in the day. Walkers and joggers

should recognize when they're hidden from traffic behind a wall or hedge and not assume they've been seen. It is illegal in Michigan to walk or run in the street when sidewalks are provided and studies confirm the risk of being struck is far lower in communities with sidewalks.

This list is hardly complete and none of it is anything other than common sense, the law and respect for others. It is just a nudge to get us all thinking how we can stay safe and keep others safe.

Russell Ethridge was municipal court judge for the City of Grosse Pointe for 25 years before he aged out of the position and still sits as a visiting judge in nearby district courts.

## LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

tives, even if she doesn't initially agree. She builds consensus. And she brings people together to move our community

forward. The entire city council of Grosse Pointe is proud to endorse Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak and urges our neighbors to join us in voting for her re-election this November.

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8A | NEWS

# \$16,772 water bill irks in-law

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A man protesting a stratospherically inaccurate water bill puzzled city administrators during the Oct. 13 city council meeting because the matter had been resolved in his favor nearly one month prior.

“It’s done,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “Three weeks before he came to the council meeting, he called and we solved it.”

Bonkers billing resulted from poor preparation of a modernized, supposedly more transparent water-sewer billing system combined with a 23 percent water-sewer rate increase and the complainant’s failed water meter, according to city officials.

“His meter evidently read the wrong reading,” Sizeland said. “It gave a stupid-high number of something like \$8,000 for water and \$8,000 for sewer.”

The meter was more than 40 years old. It is among those citywide to be replaced by accurate equipment funded by the forthcoming sale of municipal bonds.

“It failed,” Sizeland said. “There are two ways of failure: it slows and doesn’t read correctly; or it failed by recording the wrong reading and transponding it to the system.”

The error translated into a water-sewer bill nearly 8,000 percent greater than warranted.

“My mother and father-in-law received this water bill for \$16,772,” the man, a resident of Beaconsfield, told the council during a public comment period toward the end of the meeting. “They’re 90 years old. Are you guys trying to give them a heart attack? How does this happen? She (his mother-in-law) was going to call one of the news channel(s).”

New billing methodology was supposed to properly differentiate individual and propor-

tional charges for sewer and water usage.

Yet, post-rate hike billing errors resulted from a consultant’s miscalculation of the city’s meters.

In response, city officials in August advised customers to not pay their bills while new ones were calculated. Also, the new rate formula was ditched and the process reverted to how it was done before.

“Regarding the sewer charge and water charge, historically, residents were always paying sewer charges, but the old bills didn’t reflect it properly,” said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

New bills are supposed to reflect an across-the-board 23 percent increase, proceeds of which are to fund infrastructure improvements.

Sizeland said an accurate calculation of the in-laws’ bill totaled \$216.

“I did the calculation from his previous bill, a 21 percent increase,” Sizeland said. “All taken care of. I think he came to council just to make a statement, even though we were happy to help him out.”

# Public safety gets new heater

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A \$32,000 budget amendment pays for a new heating and cooling unit for the public safety department at city hall.

The old one broke down.

“There are supposed to be two heat exchangers at city hall,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “At the end of last winter, one died.”

The remaining unit held its own during summer, but can’t be depended upon to do the same during cold weather months.

“It was only five or six years old, so we were able to run off our backup,” Sizeland said. “Now that we’re going into winter, if the one backup dies, we’ll have no heat at city hall. So, that needed to be fixed.”

The fiscal year 2025-26 budget included \$24,000 to replace the exchanger, but council members Oct. 13 amended the figure to not exceed \$32,000, including installation and contingencies.

“The Uniform Budgeting and

Accounting Act requires a city council prepare a budget amendment as soon as it is apparent that a deviation from the original budget is necessary and the amount can be determined,” according to the council’s resolution.

Contract terms with Thermal Mechanical Service include removing old equipment and piping, putting in new ones and testing everything to make sure it works.

—Brad Lindberg

## LEAF:

Continued from page 5A

Lake St. Clair and Yorkshire to Cadieux,

◆ District 3: Bedford to Kensington,

◆ District 4: 1000 block of Somerset to Devonshire and

◆ District 5: Barrington and Pemberton, Wayburn to the 1300-

1400 blocks of Somerset, Beaconsfield and Nottingham south of Jefferson.

“Please make sure your leaves are placed out for collection the night before collection starts in your area,” according to a municipal notice. “Leaves beyond two feet from the curb line will not be picked up.”

Contractors and landscape companies are not included in the pickup program.

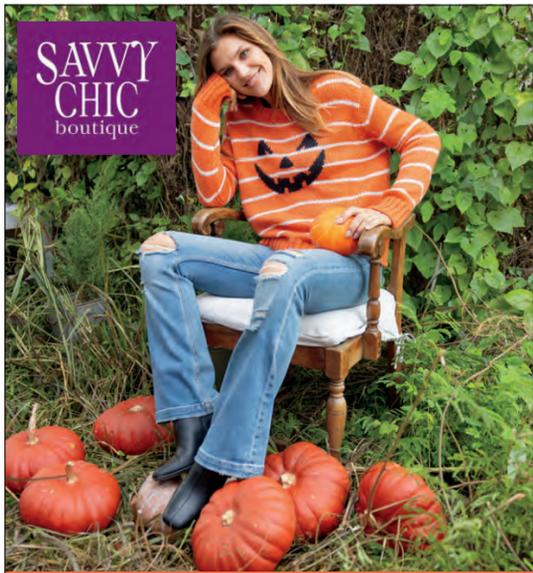
“Placing leaves at the curbside is not permitted by contractors,” according to the notice. “If you see this activity, please call the code enforcement officer.”

A district map is posted on the city website, [grossepointepark.org](http://grossepointepark.org).

## Quite a ride

Grosse Pointer Kirk Stevenson came across this atypical sight the morning of Oct. 6, while driving along Lakeshore.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIRK STEVENSON



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## Jarboe retirement soiree Oct. 29

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A party celebrating the career of retiring Municipal Judge Carl Jarboe is scheduled noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at the Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park.

Organizers anticipate nearly 140 people attending.

Jarboe has been in office 31 years. He chose not to seek reelection. His final term runs through the Nov. 4 election to January 2026.

## GRANT:

Continued from page 5A

dation by the planning commission and an affir-

mative vote from city council,” Schulte added. “The planning commission will review and discuss components of the draft ordinance at its

public meetings, then it will be presented at two public hearings, one before the planning commission and one before city council.”

## RINK:

Continued from page 7A

and Recreation Department up to \$50,000 per year in electric utility costs, Director Chad Craig said in July.

He said the equipment, bought secondhand in 1991, is so old it’s hard to maintain and find

replacement parts.

The decision upset members of the recreation commission last summer and still does resident David Transue.

“I have heard there is not going to be any ice skating this year,” he told the city council Oct. 13.

He said families like to use the rink and the pool, currently drained, is

unattractive.

“They noticed a small leak in the pool,” said Recreation Commissioner Patrick Gleason, attending the meeting. “That’s where the water went. They’re sealing that before they add water back to freeze it for the ice rink.”

—Brad Lindberg

# Hollyfest

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Together we can help build happier, healthier families for the next 25 years!



# WCCCD, partners host 'Merry Memorial' Art & Essay Contest

Students in first through fifth grade who live within the Grosse Pointe Public School System and Harper Woods School District are invited to participate in the annual Art & Essay Contest, presented by Wayne County Community College District, in partnership with the school districts, Grosse Pointe Artists Association, The War Memorial and Grosse Pointe News.

This year's theme, "Merry Memories," poses the questions, "How does your family celebrate the holidays? What traditions related to your religion, ethnicity and culture make this a special time of the year?"

Students can answer those questions by creating a piece of artwork or writing an essay. Artwork should be submitted on paper measuring 8.5 by 11 inches or larger. Essays must be handwritten and no more than 200 words.

A panel of WCCCD judges will select winners, who will be honored in the Thanksgiving edition of the Grosse Pointe News.

Winners also will have their work displayed throughout the holidays in the "Merry Memories" exhibition in the Patriot Gallery at The War Memorial; will play a part in the community tree-lighting event at The War Memorial Sunday, Nov. 23; and will ride on the WCCCD-sponsored fire engine during the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade Friday, Nov. 28.

Artwork and essays must be submitted to school principals by Wednesday, Nov. 5, with a completed registration form, available in school offices.

Winners will be announced Monday, Nov. 10, and students' work will be installed later that week.

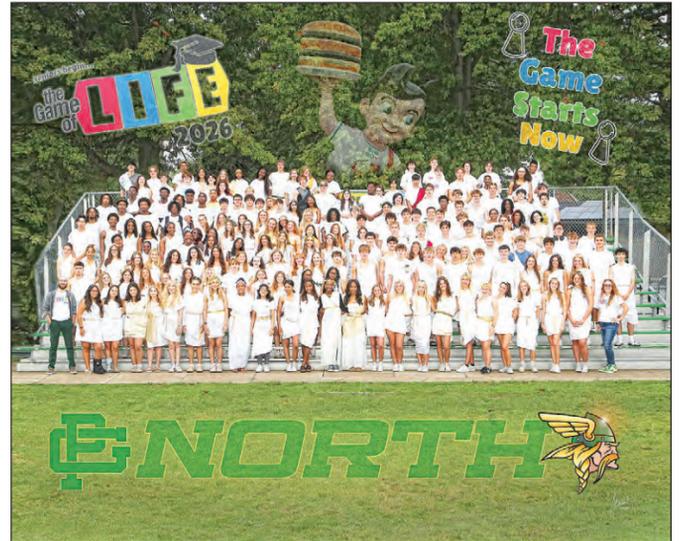
The exhibition will run through Friday, Jan. 9.



# North's big night

Grosse Pointe North High School hosted its homecoming events Friday, Sept. 26. The theme was board games. Seniors celebrated "Life," while juniors explored "Candyland." Sophomores got creative with "Clue" and freshmen took on "Chutes and Ladders." Left, the marching band performed during homecoming.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Above, Senior Day is called Toga Day and takes place the Thursday of homecoming week. As the name suggests, seniors wear togas. Left, the 2025 homecoming king and queen are Deshawn Edwards and Zoe Newsome.



COURTESY PHOTO

# Bond business

The Grosse Pointe Rotary Club recently welcomed Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Andrea Tuttle and Director of Communications Rebecca Fannon to discuss the 2025 GPPSS bond proposal — a \$120 million plan focused on infrastructure, safety and staff retention. Pictured from left are Tuttle, Grosse Pointe Rotary Club President Jackie Dale, Rotary District 6400 Assistant Gov. Ted Everingham and Fannon.

# GPSO awards 3 Nester Scholarships

For the first time in its history, the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra has named not one, but three winners of the 2025 Nester Scholarship for Young Musicians: violinist Isabell Johnson and cellists Bhargava Kulkarni and Cameron Renshaw.

Each receives a \$1,000 award and a solo performance with the orchestra — an honor reserved for Michigan's most promising pre-college talent.

At 16, Kulkarni already has won top competitions and performed nationally on NPR's "From the Top." He studies with Professor Amir Eldan and has soloed with multiple Michigan ensembles. He may be heard

performing Dvorák's Cello Concerto with the GPSO at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at The War Memorial.

A violinist since age 2, Johnson has played Carnegie Hall, toured Spain and composed original works performed by youth orchestras. She's third chair in the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra and will perform Saint-Saëns' Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso at the GPSO's Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Although he's only 13, Renshaw's résumé reads like a seasoned pro: international competition wins, solo debuts with orchestras worldwide and appearances at Carnegie Hall,

the Concertgebouw and on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." NPR calls him "a born entertainer." He'll perform with the GPSO in 2026.

"This year's applicants were off the charts," GPSO President William Hulsker said. "We couldn't choose just one."

Committee Chair Joey Cobau added, "Each of these young artists represents the future of classical music."

Founded in 1953, the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra is a community ensemble committed to musical excellence, education and supporting the next generation of artists. For scholarship information, email joeycobau@yahoo.com.

# AI:

Continued from page 1A

this," he said. "We want ours to be something that can evolve. We want to give teachers the ability to determine how it can and cannot be used in their classroom."

Trustee Ginny Jeup mentioned several profes-

sors at Baylor University, where one of her daughters attends, have specified on their class syllabus this semester that students can only use AI on assignments if given permission.

Bishop said he has talked with several teachers in the district about AI and has gotten mixed reviews.

"Some have really embraced it and others want nothing to do with it," he said. "But every conversation I have about it, I learn something new."

Bishop also referred to Wayne RESA, the county's intermediate school district, which has compiled resources about AI for local districts to use. It

has suggestions for elementary, secondary, special and multilingual education, including:

- ◆ drafting lesson plans,
- ◆ developing student assessments,
- ◆ providing feedback for students,
- ◆ supporting visual and hearing access,
- ◆ interpreting difficult words and

◆ augmenting speech and language tools.

Administrators also can use it to draft communications, analyze data and create schedules.

Trustee Valarie St. John said the policy should differentiate between generative and regular AI.

"It's one thing to run an essay through AI for spell

check or ask it how to construct a sentence better," she said, "but when it's used to generate content, that's not their work."

Bishop said the policy would definitely address plagiarism. He also intends to continue meeting with teachers, students and parents to gather more feedback.

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# Readying gardens for winter

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A “leave the leaves” approach to fall garden cleanup is good news for teenagers hoping to avoid being told by their parents to grab a rake and get to it.

Letting fallen leaves lie preserves shelter for insects to survive winter and emerge in spring to control pests and pollinate.

“We don’t think about it, but there is so much life in leaves,” said Kelly Konieczki, a member of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission. “Ladybugs, well known for eating aphids, overwinter in groups on stems or at bases of plants. If we’re clearing out all the leaves in a bed, we’re taking away shelter from beneficial insects that emerge in spring and give us a head start on pest control.”

Pollinators, such as bumblebees and some

butterflies, depend on leaves and similar debris in which to spend winter.

“It’s all about knowing the life cycle of insects,” Konieczki said. “The only bumblebees that survive are queens. She will have fertilized eggs and overwinter at the bases of bunch grasses and under leaves. She depends on that layer of debris to survive winter, emerge in spring, start a colony and continue that life cycle so we can have bumblebees.”

Wintering insects also are on the menu to be dished up in spring.

“Caterpillars, tiny insects — that is all bird food,” Konieczki said. “One of my favorite things in spring is to watch birds kick leaves up digging for food.”

A University of Delaware entomologist reported in 2015 it takes 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to feed a clutch of chickadees to maturity.

“We need to not be cleaning up where caterpillars would be overwin-

tering or living,” Konieczki said. “It’s taking food away.”

In terms of a native garden, less is more, she said.

“Skip the blower,” she said. “If there are caterpillar chrysalides and eggs in leaves and you take the blower at them, you’re kind of annihilating them. Be as gentle as we can, with reason.”

Still, those teenagers aren’t out of the woods. Nature has something of a compromise.

Not every fallen leaf is essential to harbor insects. When it comes to sheltering bugs during cold months, a small amount of leaves goes a long way.

“There was a fascinating study by a Maryland state entomologist,” Konieczki said. “He did an experiment by setting up emergence traps in 20 or so pesticide-free suburban yards. They were one square meter of leaves. They netted them. In spring he counted 18,000 individu-

als emerged from just one square meter.”

An interview with the researcher, Max Ferlauto, is transcribed on the “Bug Banter” podcast of the Xerces Society website, xerces.org.

“That’s just one square meter of property,” Konieczki said. “So, if you let just one small section just kind of be, it can make a huge difference.”

There are ways to prepare gardens for winter without going too native.

Members of the beautification commission recently completed what might be their last garden cleanup of the season at Patterson Park, depending on the weather.

“Most plants we plant don’t need to be cut back, but we clean up dead leaves and push them under bushes,” said Lisa Kyle, chairwoman.

Small plants get special care.

“If mulch is getting thin or in areas where

weeds keep popping up, we’ll mulch those over for winter,” Kyle said. “We mulch over little plants we planted this year to keep them warm and give them extra protection.”

If it gets really cold, she’ll cover plants with mulch.

“I’ll bury them with mulch just enough to cover the top,” Kyle said. “I don’t do that until it gets below freezing.”

“I have mulch around everything,” Commissioner Anne Billiu said about her residential garden. “That stays down all winter. It’s around my roses and everything.”

Konieczki also uses fallen leaves to prepare garden beds for spring.

“Rake them in a thick layer in the area you want to create a garden bed to intentionally help smother that area,” she said. “I have a great yew. I rake a lot of leaves in and around that because I see lots of animals and birds take shelter in that

big bush. Those leaves will also provide food for birds.”

Most plants in the commission’s native gardens aren’t cut back for winter.

“If we leave seedheads, they feed birds that don’t migrate,” Konieczki said. “Right now, my backyard is a feast for goldfinches. They’re eating seedheads from Echinacea, the purple coneflower. By cleaning our gardens, we’re actually getting rid of a lot of critical habitat and food and shelter for insects, birds and wildlife.”

“There are certain plants you have to cut down for winter and they’ll come back up in spring,” Billiu said. “Peonies, lilies, some people take hydrangeas down in winter, some in spring. Daylilies, you don’t really cut them down. You just keep pulling out the dead stuff until it’s finally gone. With roses, some people like to cut them down in fall; some in spring.”

“I’m a big fan of doing a final fall weeding,” Kyle said. “It’s one less weed I have to pick in spring.”

## Chamber Music at the Scarab Club opens season Oct. 26

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club presents “Past & Present,” the opening concert of its 27th season, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at Detroit’s historic Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth.

The program features the Baroque ensemble L’Invenzione, as well as trombonist Kenneth Thompkins and percussionist Gwendolyn Dease.

L’Invenzione’s portion of the

program, “In the Shadow of Vesuvius,” will include works by Scarlatti, Fiorenza and Mancini, all prominent composers in 18th century Naples, Italy. Each of the musicians in this group is a seasoned Baroque music specialist.

Founded in 2016, L’Invenzione has drawn on the rich music of 17th and 18th Century Naples, the undisputed “capital of the musical world” of that time.

The musicians for this performance are Elroy Cortinez, Mary Riccardi, Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos and Debra Lonergan.

Trombonist Thompkins is familiar to CMSC audiences. He currently is the associate professor of trombone at Michigan State University. He was principal trombone of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra from 1997 to 2024. Thompkins enjoys collaborating and commissioning works by contem-

porary composers.

For this program, he and percussionist Dease will perform “African Violet” for trombone and percussion by American composer Jeff Scott, with poetry by Miguel Edwards. Dease is an award-winning professor of percussion at MSU and maintains an active career as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral musician.

In addition, Thompkins and

Dease each will perform a solo work.

Each piece will be introduced by one of the musicians. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door and \$10 for students. Purchase tickets online at [eventbrite.com/e/1610602147379?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1610602147379?aff=oddtcreator).

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## Rising from the ashes

By Ted Coutilish  
Guest Writer

Jason and Sarah Greenhill are rebuilding life after a devastating house fire through faith, love and the embrace of a community like no other.

The most important things saved were a guinea pig named Panda, three stuffed animals and a baby book.

To the Greenhills and their son, Henry, those small rescues revealed something far greater — that in the ruins of a devastating house explosion and fire, love, faith and the strength of their community rise above all challenges.

This story starts the morning of March 28, 2025, when the Greenhills' home on Sunningdale Drive was

reduced to near rubble after a fire fueled by a faulty gas meter exploded and tore through it.

What remains unshaken is their spirit, love for one another and the remarkable generosity of a community that showed overwhelming love and support when they needed it most.

### A morning that changed everything

Sarah, 46, first smelled gas around 7:30 that morning as she and Jason were taking Henry to school, so she called the gas company.

"I was at a fitness class when Jason called me from work around 10 a.m. to tell me our house was on fire," she said.

"He was so shaken and upset. I drove home and saw the smoke from a block away on Lochmoor. I just kept telling myself,

'Put out the fire.' We watched our home burn for six to seven hours alongside our neighbors."

Jason, 50, was watching it all unfold on his home's Ring door camera at his office.

"I heard a gas company employee call 911 stating there was a fire," he said. "I raced home and saw thick smoke in the sky when I got to the yacht club on Lakeshore. The firefighters kept putting water on the fire and eventually there was five feet of water in our basement. The firefighters could not stop the fire because the gas company could not turn off the gas."

### Small miracles

As firefighters fought the blaze, Grosse Pointe Shores Sgt. Jason Cook asked if anyone was

inside. Only Panda, Henry's guinea pig, was. He asked where in the house he could find Panda and, without hesitation and at a risk to his life, he heroically broke through a window and rescued Panda along with collecting three of Henry's favorite stuffed animals.

"That meant the world to Henry," Sarah said. "In the middle of so much devastation and loss, he still had something familiar, something to hold onto."

Henry Greenhill, 9, said he is sad about what happened, but happy to be reunited. He showed how the stuffed animals were tainted by fire underneath, but the smell of smoke was removed after many cleanings. He is a big fan of "Smokey and the Bandit" and proudly showed off his new toy cars and trucks from the movie.



PHOTO BY TED COUTILISH

Jason, Henry and Sarah Greenhill pose with Panda, Henry's pet guinea pig, which was rescued from the fire by Sgt. Jason Cook of the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department.

See ASHES, page 2B

## Full Circle's 'Evening Under the Stars' is Nov. 6

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Full Circle Foundation's annual gala, "An Evening Under the Stars," almost wasn't going to happen this year.

Between opening its new resale store and renovating its new headquarters, organizers thought there may be too much going on.

"But everybody wanted it, because it's a fun gala," said Mary Fodell, Full Circle founder. "People always come away saying it's the best gala around. So out of popular demand, everyone insisted we do it again."

The gala takes place 6 to 10:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, at The Roostertail. Tickets still are available, but should be secured soon as the event usually sells out.

"There are a lot of galas



in Grosse Pointe," Director of Operations Stephanie DiVirgil said, "but because of our entertainment, people think our gala is the most fun."

Apart from dinner and an open bar, the gala features performances by the Full Circle Choir, which typically is the highlight of the evening.

"They have been working all year on this," Fodell said. "They want to perform. This is their chance to really shine."

Under the direction of Mary Jane Failla and Pat and Warren Liverance, the show choir will share

a handful of songs; with help from Kercheval Dance, they'll show off their dance moves, too.

"They really are beyond what anybody would believe," Fodell added.

Additionally, two families will share the successes they've experienced since joining the Full Circle family.

"They're very moving stories," Fodell said. "We are a place for special needs families to thrive and grow."

Added DiVirgil, "We love to share success stories. These families are finding a place and finding hope for their adults with special needs."

Proceeds from the gala fully support Full Circle's TEAM 26 program, which allows young adults with special needs who have aged out of the school district to learn skills that encourage and enable independence, as well as strengthen their self-worth and personal autonomy.

"This allows us to hire people and give them a quality program that is



COURTESY PHOTO

The Full Circle Choir is ready to entertain during the foundation's "An Evening Under the Stars" gala.

See GALA, page 4B

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- Family centered programs and retreats at the Holley Family Village in Brooklyn, MI
- Literacy development and American Sign Language classes

Your support ensures we can continue to offer these vital programs to our community.

*"When we learned our son was deaf, we felt completely lost. We didn't know sign language, we didn't know how to communicate with our own child, and we were terrified about his future. The Holley Institute didn't just teach us how to sign — they taught us how to be the parents our son needed. They gave us hope, community, and the tools to help him thrive."*

— Camille and Chris Coller

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or to make a donation, please visit [www.holleyfv.org](http://www.holleyfv.org), email [oabraha1@hfhs.com](mailto:oabraha1@hfhs.com) or call 313-343-4803.



**Noah Hauswirth**  
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Website: [raymondjames.com/noahhauswirth](http://raymondjames.com/noahhauswirth)

## Your future deserves our goal-based planning

You know what you want to accomplish and how you envision your future. Together let's build a financial plan designed to help get you there.

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COURTESY PHOTO

## Celebrating 77

The Northeastern Toastmasters Club 573 — the second-oldest Toastmasters club in the state — is celebrating its 77th anniversary. The group hosted its annual club picnic in August and is planning an open house in November, with details to come.

## 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:

- 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.

- Halloween Bingo and Treats, 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 30. Cost is \$2 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes one card and refreshments. Additional cards are 25 cents each.
- Free Flu Clinic, 8:30

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24.

### 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

- 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.

- Hallows’ Eve Masquerade, 6:30 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30. Tickets are \$85.
- “The AC-119 Gunships: From Cargo to Combat,” 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, with author Barry Levine.

### 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.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

### Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.
- 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

### Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at

See EVENTS, page 4B

## ASHES:

Continued from page 1B

### A community’s embrace

What could have been a day of unbearable isolation became a shining example of compassion, caring and community. Neighbors stood by the Greenhills as the flames burned for hours, not as spectators but as one large family.

“No one pulled out a phone to record,” Sarah said. “They just kept asking, ‘What do you need?’”

Devastated and shocked, the Greenhills could barely breathe let alone respond to that question. So neighbors took it upon themselves to bring them prepared food and life’s little necessities — new toothbrushes, toothpaste, clothes including pajamas in their right sizes and more food.



PHOTO BY TED COUTILISH

Henry Greenhill’s favorite stuffed animals went through many cleanings to remove smoke damage.

Anthony and Kristy Schena, neighbors just 10 houses away, pressed their house keys into the Greenhills’ hands and invited them to come live with them for as long as they needed.

“We’re very private people,” Sarah admitted.

“But we decided that night to accept help. It was the best decision we ever made. Truly, a God’s wink.”

In the days and weeks that followed, fish fry leftovers filled the Schenas’ fridge, Target and Meijer gift cards arrived in envelopes and Henry’s classmates and parish community at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church delivered toys, books and bicycles.

“Our neighbors knew what we would need before we did,” Jason said. “The outpouring of love was overwhelming.”

**Anchored in faith**  
For Sarah Greenhill, faith has been the foundation holding her steady.

“Faith is huge for me,” she said. “It keeps everything in perspective. This will make us stronger. It’s taught us it’s OK to feel sad, but we can’t let it consume us.”

This is not the family’s first brush with heartbreak. In 2010, Jason and Sarah lost their infant daughter, Addison, just two days after birth. That tragedy taught them lessons that still guide them today: Life is fragile, family and faith are everything and resilience is a choice.

**Choosing to rebuild**  
For now, the Greenhills are living in a rental home with a breathtaking lakefront view in St. Clair Shores.

“It feels almost like we’re cheating on our house,” Sarah said with a smile. “But the lake has given us new joy and we’ve learned to embrace where we are in life.”

Still, their hearts remain on Sunningdale Drive.

Jason continues to care for the property, mowing the lawn and occasion-

ally looking for keepsakes from the ruins.

“The response from our neighbors solidified our decision to rebuild,” he said. “It may take two or more years, but we’ll come home again.”

### Stronger together

The Greenhills’ journey began at a rescheduled Aerosmith and KISS concert at Comerica Park in 2003. Jason approached Sarah and her friends. They instantly bonded. Sarah wrote her phone number on a napkin. Jason later framed it. Five years later, they married, and in 2016, Henry was born.

“My mother was mad at me for giving some random guy my number at a rock concert,” she said. “She eventually warmed up to Jason.”

Nine years later, the fire tested them in ways they never expected.

“It’s been hard,” Sarah said. “Sometimes, we see things differently, but we validate each other’s feelings and we’re stronger together.”

Even now, they find ways to laugh.

“I never liked the wallpaper in the upstairs bedroom,” Jason joked. “At least I don’t have to worry about that anymore.”

### Anchored in everyday life

Before the fire, the Greenhills lived the kind of full, everyday life that so many Shores families recognize.

Jason was born and raised in Hickory, N.C. He graduated from Fred T. Foard High School in 1993, and from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering and minor in marketing in 1997. He is president of Isotech Engineering, Inc., a Michigan-based manufacturer’s representative serving the North American automotive market. His career began in North Carolina, where he was trained in the Toyota Manufacturing System and even featured in Fortune magazine for his early work in lean manufacturing.

More than two decades later, he still carries that same sense of discipline, accountability and responsibility into his work.

“As an entrepreneur, you need to be dedicated, committed and put in the hours,” he said.

“Companies I represent and my family depend on

me. Letting them down is a motivator.”

Sarah, who was born in Detroit and raised in St. Clair Shores, graduated from Lakeview High School in 1997, and from Macomb Community College in 2000, with an Associate of Applied Science degree in veterinary technology.

She spent 20 years as a licensed veterinary technician and supervisor at Madison Veterinary Hospital before retiring to stay home with Henry during the pandemic. Since then, she’s poured her energy into volunteering at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Catholic School, where Henry is a student, and now works part time as a preschool aide.

“I love being around younger people,” she said. “They find humor in everything. They remind you not to take life so seriously.”

### Lessons for all

The Greenhills want their story to be more than one of tragedy.

They agreed to be featured in this story in the hope others will take away lessons of preparation and perspective:

- Protect what matters most.** Keep important documents, keepsakes and belongings in a fire-proof safe.
- Take photos.** Snap photos of everything in your home.
- Accept help.** Community is a gift. Accept it and embrace it when it comes around.

Hold onto faith. In tragedy, small miracles are reminders of hope.

Choose resilience. You cannot control what happens, but you can control how you respond.

### A family, a future

The Greenhills lost their home, but not their hope. With faith, love and a village of support around them, they are not simply rebuilding a house. They are rebuilding a future together.

And, yes, it takes a village.

“You can let something like this consume you, or you can work through it,” Sarah said. “We choose to work through it, with gratitude, faith, community and love. We thank everyone involved.”

*(Editor’s Note: The Greenhills agreed to this interview to share some hope when times are tough and to reveal the kindness and outpouring of compassion received during this time. They express their sincere gratitude to those who selflessly came to help, including neighbors and Our Lady Star of the Sea parish and friends, and share a big thank you to the Grosse Pointe Shores, Woods and Farms public safety departments that did everything possible to save their house. This story, which originally appeared in The Village View, the Grosse Pointe Shores monthly newsletter, was written by Ted Coutilish, chair of the Shores Communication Commission.)*



COURTESY PHOTO

Damage caused by the March fire at the Greenhills’ home in Grosse Pointe Shores.

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# 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.

## Dr. Ronald William Bogen

Dr. Ronald William (nee Bogdziewicz) Bogen, 79, of Lake Orion and formerly of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away unexpectedly at home Friday, Oct. 10, 2025. He was born April 15, 1946, in Grosse Pointe Farms, to William and Patricia Bogdziewicz, both now deceased.

Ron was beloved by his three children, Jeffrey Bogen (Clare), Thomas Bogen and Dr. Victoria Boyd (David); and four beautiful grandchildren, Blaise, Edie, Thomas Jr. and Michael Bogen. Ron is survived by his four siblings, twin brother Thomas Bogdziewicz (Georgia), William Bogdziewicz Jr. (Kathy), Terri Kachmar (Ron) and John Bogdziewicz (Adriana); cousin, Michael Black (Pam); and many loving nieces and nephews. Ron was predeceased by his parents, William and Patricia Bogdziewicz; brother, Clinton Bogen (Joan); and brother-in-law, Ron Kachmar.

Ron was raised in both Detroit and Grosse Pointe Woods and graduated from Austin Catholic Preparatory School in 1963. He subsequently received a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Detroit. He practiced dentistry in Grosse Pointe Woods for more than 45 years.

He was a past president of the Detroit District Dental Society and received many accolades and awards over his career. However, when asked about his career accomplishments, he would say none of that was important.

The most important things to Ron were his faith, family and helping people. Ron was active in his home parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and served as a lector, Eucharistic minister and usher. He and his brother, John, were very involved in the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church Men's Fellowship for many years.

If Ron wasn't practicing his faith, he could be found taking one of his children to an ice hockey rink or other sporting event, or on the golf course. He was quiet in his generosity to everyone. Ron was an extremely proud father and grandfather and made sure his children were always provided for so they could accomplish their dreams. He made many contributions to his family, friends and community and will be forever missed by all who knew him.

A funeral Mass was held at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit. Burial will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mother of Divine Mercy Parish Food Pantry, 4440 Russell, Detroit, MI 48207, motherofdivine mercy.org/giving.

Share a memory at [ahpeters.com](http://ahpeters.com).

## Joyce Giffer Doyle

Joyce Giffer Doyle, 98, passed away peacefully at home Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, surrounded by loving family. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother.

Born in 1927, in Detroit, to John and Mary Ann Giffer, Joyce grew up surrounded by her siblings — brothers, Jack, Bobby and Patrick, and sister, Sally. In 1947, she married the love of her life, Larry Doyle, with whom she shared a beautiful life until his passing in 2013.

Family was Joyce's greatest passion. She was the proud mother of six children, Michael (Debbie), Sally (John Monigold), Sheila (Tim Leslie), Dan (Beth) and Kevin (Abby), who, along with 15 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, were the joy of her life. A talented cook and the heart of countless family gatherings, Joyce cherished every moment spent bringing her loved ones together.

At age 50, Joyce pursued her education at business school and launched a second career that became a source of great pride. She served 16 years as director of activities at Whittier Manor, a premier retirement home in Detroit, where she brought warmth, dedication and professionalism to all. She loved her work deeply and was admired by colleagues and residents alike. In retirement, Joyce and Larry enjoyed golfing and wintering along the Gulf Coast, where they made many wonderful memories with family and friends.

Joyce was predeceased by her husband, Larry; parents, John and Mary Ann Giffer; brothers, Jack, Bobby, Patrick; and son-in-law, Kevin Sterr.

She is survived by her children, Michael, Sally, Sheila, Tim, Dan and Kevin; grandchildren, Brett Doyle, Kyle Abbas (Aryana), Matthew Johnson, Christopher Sterr (Joleen), Jeff Sterr, Michael Sterr (Elizabeth), Sean Sterr, Danielle Riley, Jake Riley, Emily Sullivan (Neil), Peter Doyle (Jackie), Alex Doyle, Maeve Doyle and Fallon Doyle; great-grandchildren, Miranda Stephens, Samone Doyle, Chloe Doyle, Katherine Sullivan, Colleen Sullivan, Martin Doyle, Charlotte Doyle, Navy Abbas and Parker Sterr; great-great-grandchildren, Violet Stephens and Macy Stephens; sister, Sally Ballelli; and many loving nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life and funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at St. Bonaventure Capuchin Monastery, 1740 Mt. Elliott, Detroit. The family will begin to receive guests at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207, [cskdetroit.org/more-than-about-food](http://cskdetroit.org/more-than-about-food); or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730,

Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3K6FsFQ.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

## William Edward Tily

William "Bill" Edward Tily, 100, passed away peacefully Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, in Palm City, Fla. He was a brilliant engineer, enthusiastic sportsman and devoted family man.

Bill was born Dec. 8, 1924, in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. He lived a full and remarkable life.

Bill proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He then achieved academic excellence, graduating summa cum laude from Princeton University's Class of 1946, with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in chemical engineering. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Chi, forging lifelong friendships and a commitment to intellectual pursuits.

Bill's career was exceptional. At Merck & Co., he was instrumental in engineering the facilities that produced life-saving medicines like cortisone, penicillin, streptomycin and vitamin B12. He pioneered the use of the first and largest horizontal fermenter for vitamin B12, showcasing his innovative thinking.

In 1959, Bill brought his technical expertise to the Stroh Brewery Co. His leadership and engineering knowledge led to a dramatic increase in production, from 2 million to 8 million barrels annually, while significantly reducing costs. He conceived and oversaw the construction of the world's tallest beer fermenter, a testament to his vision. Beer lovers can thank Bill for Stroh's Light and Stroh's Signature, two beers he created.

Beyond his professional achievements, Bill was a man of diverse interests and passions. He was an avid golfer with a six handicap, a regional master in bridge and a croquet champion at Stuart Yacht and Country Club and Sandhill Cove. He enjoyed sailing, tennis, playing games and discussing politics.

He was a member of the Witenagemot Club in Detroit and actively involved at Christ Church Grosse Pointe and St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart, Fla. He loved to sing and participated in several choral and barbershop groups. He and his beloved wife, Connie, shared a passion for travel and exploring the world together.

Bill was predeceased by his wife of 72 years, Constance Wetherald Tily; brother, Coley; and daughter, Leslie (James Colt). He is survived by his children, Brook (Jay Qualman), Scott (Marsha Goan) and Blair (Gigi Marks); 10 grandchildren, Jack III (Helene), Erik (Ana Maria), Matthew (Mary Alison), Jonathan (Cheryl) Summer (Daniel Aragon), Conor, Sasha, Sofie, Robin and Fiona; and 11 great-grandchildren,



Dr. Ronald W. Bogen



Joyce Giffer Doyle



William Edward Tily

Jack, Katherine, William, Charles, Olivia, Scarlett, Sofia, Noah, Katia, Asher and Emmett, who will cherish his memory.

A family memorial service will be held at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

## Bob Hynes

Veteran Detroit radio and television personality and former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Bob Hynes, 93, passed away Friday, Oct. 17, 2025, after a short illness at the Tibor Rubin VA Hospital in Long Beach, Calif.

Bob moved to the Detroit area from Connecticut in 1966, to host the "Bob Hynes Morning Show" on ABC 7 (WXYZ TV). While hosting the morning show, he interviewed many celebrities of the late 1960s, including Gordie Howe, Robert Goulet, Florence Henderson, Lucille Ball, Adam West, Cybill Shepherd, Bob Newhart and others.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Bob hosted the afternoon show on WJR radio and filled in for legendary host, JP McCarthy. Bob also filled in on "Bill Kennedy at the Movies" on Channel 50.

In 1972, Bob teamed-up with Channel 7 morning show producer, Dan Kibee, and actor, Dom DeLuise, to film the television show "Road Company." The pilot episode featured the city of Houston and included musical guests Kenny Rogers and Sheila MacRae, as well as Apollo 12 astronaut Rick Gordon.

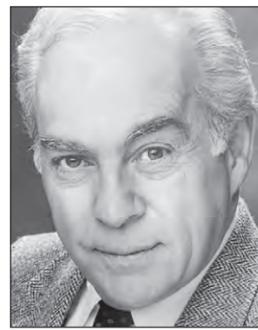
In 1978, Bob and his colleagues at WJR Radio mixed Neil Diamond's and Barbra Streisand's independent versions of "You Don't Bring Me Flowers." After an extremely positive listener response, Bob sent the mix to his brother, Ed, who was a vice president at CBS Records. CBS executives loved the mix and brought both Neil and Barbra into the studio to record the duet, which became one of the top hits of 1978.

In recognition of his efforts, CBS Records sent Bob a gold record plaque that he proudly displayed for years in his home.

In the late 1980s, Bob was a weatherman on channels 2 and 4, and hosted a radio show on WXYT. In the late 1990s, Bob fulfilled a lifelong dream by co-founding WYUR radio.

Bob was born July 11, 1932, in Boston. Prior to broadcasting, Bob served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany, where he met his wife, Jean (nee Williams). Throughout the years, Bob enjoyed spending Michigan summers at cottages in Houghton Lake and Lexington. After retiring from broadcasting, Bob served on the board of the Yankee Air Museum (Michigan Flight Museum) and was active in the Grosse Pointe Men's Club and Bayview Yacht Club.

Bob was predeceased by his first wife of 48



Bob Hynes



Nancy G. Pratt

years, Jean; second wife of 18 years, Mary Brieden; and daughter, Beth. He is survived by his sons, Michael (Rosalind) of Asheville, N.C., and Patrick (Andrea) of Manhattan Beach, Calif.; four grandchildren, as well as the seven children, 19 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren of Mary Brieden.

A funeral service will occur at Rupert Funeral Home in New Bethlehem, Pa., where he also will be buried. Read his obituary on [grossepointenews.com](http://grossepointenews.com) for service information.

## Nancy G. Pratt

Nancy G. (nee Anderson) Pratt, 72, of St. Clair Shores, passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.

Nancy was a trailblazing, award-winning professional, celebrated for her pioneering work in technology and government relations. Over the decades, she built a reputation as an expert in her field and was admired by colleagues nationwide. She was someone who treated others with dignity and respect and was a champion of innovation long before it became mainstream. Most recently, she helped establish the American Guild of Notaries Public, proudly serving as its founding chair and chief operating officer. Even in retirement, Nancy's mind was focused on building, improving and leading.

To her son, Christopher Pratt, she was not only a mother but a best friend and constant supporter. From the start of his teaching career, she was there — attending rehearsals, cheering on his students and becoming affectionately known by many as "Mama P." She was a familiar, joyful presence at every show, celebrating victories and offering encouragement after setbacks.

To her beloved granddaughter, Annalise Pratt-Steele, she was "Aummmie," and was devoted, fun and loving beyond measure. For years, she came over every evening to share dinner with Annalise, treasuring that time together. Sunday dinners were her favorite — mostly homemade, even when her health made it difficult. Her love for her family knew no limits.

Nancy faced immense health challenges with unmatched courage and grace. After retiring from a distinguished career at Black Knight Inc., in July 2025, she endured the effects of COPD, a battle

she fought with remarkable strength since 2022. Shortly after retirement, she faced Bell's palsy and just weeks later, lost most of her vision due to acute retinal necrosis. Yet her response remained characteristically determined, saying, "Well, I guess we'll have to figure it out." And she did. That resilience defined her life.

In her final weeks, Nancy was lovingly cared for by her family — especially her sister, Janet Anderson-Rodabaugh, who flew in to assist in her daily care; the compassionate team at Henry Ford St. John Hospital, including her nurse, Carly; and end-of-life support team, notably, Linda Marie Calisi. These people formed what the family fondly called "Team Nancy," ensuring she was surrounded by love, dignity and peace through every moment of her transition.

Beyond her work and family time, Nancy was a fierce Detroit Lions fan, rarely missing a game and always ready to believe, no matter the odds. The last Lions game she insisted on listening to came the night before she passed. She wouldn't have missed it.

Nancy was born to Eugene and Barbara Anderson and grew up alongside her brothers, Robert and William Anderson, and her sister, Janet. Nancy leaves behind her loving family and chosen family, including her son, Christopher Pratt; son-in-law, Christopher Steele; granddaughter, Annalise Pratt-Steele; brother, William Anderson; sister, Janet Rodabaugh; former spouse, David Pratt; and dear friend, Kathleen Kersey. She was predeceased by her parents, Eugene and Barbara Anderson; brother, Robert Anderson; and grandmother, Ethel "Gammy" Empe-Waugh.

A celebration of life will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Oct. 24, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park, with a memorial service at noon.

Her family is deeply grateful for the outpouring of love, condolences and support shared through calls, texts and social media during this difficult time. Nancy's legacy of courage, compassion and determination will live on in all who knew and loved her.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at [verheyden.org](http://verheyden.org).

See OBITS, page 4B

## 4B | CHURCHES

## OBITS:

Continued from page 3B

## Charles Dropiewski

Charles "Chuck" Dropiewski, 75, passed away Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, after a courageous battle with gastric cancer. He underwent months of new and different treatments with the goal of helping other patients.

Toward the end, Chuck wanted his friends and family to know, "While my life here might be done, my work is not yet finished. I want you to continue my legacy by building community with others and guiding others in their journey of faith."

The call to ministry and Christian evangelization came naturally and early to Chuck. Born June 2, 1950, into the Polish Catholic enclave of Mt. Carmel Parish in Wyandotte, he grew up serving Mass alongside his dad. It was no surprise when Chuck expressed a desire to study for the priesthood. He spent eight years of high school and undergraduate college at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, with additional studies in postgraduate theology at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth and Regis University in Denver.

Chuck's long career as a pastoral minister included positions at St. Matthew, St. James and St. Germaine parishes, as



Charles Dropiewski

well as the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica. His last and longest tenure was with his beloved St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Detroit and Grosse Pointe Park. Chuck dedicated himself to the service of others by preparing young couples for marriage and their children in baptism. A consummate theologian and educator, his greatest joy was instructing new members into the Catholic faith and helping those already in the church continue their faith journey. People who didn't fit into other more structured and intense church programs could always find in Chuck a way to access Christ.

Chuck had training as an adult educator, philosopher, biblical scholar, canon lawyer and liturgologist. He was a frequent visitor and helper in his wife's classroom in the Detroit Public Schools Community District, including many visits around Christmas in a jolly red suit. He was an avid New York Times crossword puzzler — always in pencil — weather and world

geography fanatic and continuous pursuer of wit. He was a lifelong baseball player and Detroit Tigers fan from his childhood in Wyandotte, where Al Kaline was a neighbor. Chuck's son took him to participate in fantasy batting practice at Comerica Park, where he took many great swings off former Tiger pitchers.

Chuck and his wife, Susan Palmer Dropiewski, met while working as counselors at a summer camp for special needs children. For almost 53 years they wrote their ongoing family story, including two children, Jonathan Dropiewski (Robin) and Janice Dropiewski Mason (Scott); and five bright grandkids, Andrew, Katie, Joseph, Nicholas and Alexander. Chuck was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Anna Dropiewski; and sister, Ann Dropiewski Cottone.

Visitation will take place Friday, Oct. 24, beginning with opening prayers at 3 p.m. and continuing until 8 p.m. at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. He will lie in state at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, until his funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park. A luncheon will follow in the ARK at the church.

Share a memory at [verheyden.org](http://verheyden.org).

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.



Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Hammond



Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Casgone



Mr. and Mrs. U.S. Booth



Miss O.F. Looker

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Légendaire

Grosse Pointers love to dress up for Halloween — or really any reason. These photos from the collections in the Grosse Pointe History Center feature prominent Pointers at a lavish costume ball given by auto-fortune heir Horace Dodge Jr., in 1924. Newspaper coverage said it cost \$50,000 (almost \$1 million today).

These photos and more about the Dodges and Rose Terrace will be featured during the "Legends of Grosse Pointe" exhibit at the Grosse Pointe History Center, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Opening day kicks off at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, with a program on the lawn featuring historic music, dance, stories and songs, refreshments and exhibits.

For tickets and information, visit [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org) or call (313) 884-7010.

## Music at Memorial presents Halloween concert

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church's Minister of Music and organist Logan Hamilton presents a Halloween organ concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26.

The concert will feature an iconic, spooky repertoire, as well as new music and arrangements that invoke the spirit of the season. Works by Johann

Sebastian Bach, Louis Vierne, Maurice Duruflé, contemporary American composer James Moberly and original arrangements will be presented.

A light reception will be held afterward.

Admission is free; donations are appreciated.

## Lyyra to perform at Christ Church

Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, will host the acclaimed all-women vocal group Lyyra for a concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, in the church's nave.

The new ensemble from the VOCES8 Foundation seeks to define the genre of upper voice music in the choral landscape, highlighting the astonishing capabilities within the full spectrum of women's singing. The sound of this bright, young group combines velvety richness along star-like brilliance. With a broad texture and exhilarating range of sound, the group's talented members specialize in classical, jazz, pop and folk music from diverse traditions and backgrounds.

"I am so excited to present the exciting new ensemble Lyyra to start our concert series this season," said Scott Hanoian, director of music at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. "Their broad range of music selections will no doubt inspire everyone

who hears them. We are honored to host them and we look forward to sharing their unique artistry with the community."

The Oct. 25 program will showcase the ensemble's versatility and their dedication to pushing the boundaries of choral music. Highlights include their takes on Simon and Garfunkel's "The Sound of Silence" and Billie Eilish's "What Was I Made For."

The concert is part of Christ Church Grosse Pointe's 2025-26 music season, "Soaring Sounds in a Sacred Space." Upcoming performances by the Christ Church Chorale with Orchestra include Haydn's "Harmoniemesse" Nov. 23, and "A French Christmas" Dec. 14.

Tickets are \$25 general admission; \$15 for students, and available at [christchurchgp.org/music](http://christchurchgp.org/music). For information, contact Colleen Fitzgerald at [cfitzgerald@christchurchgp.org](mailto:cfitzgerald@christchurchgp.org) or (313) 885-4841, Ext. 115.

## Sound bath experience

In honor of breast cancer awareness month, Pointer Melissa Schervish will host a sound bath with soulful sounds at The Spice & Tea Exchange of Grosse Pointe, 17037 Kercheval, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23.

Attendance is donation-based, with the majority of proceeds going to

Henry Ford Liggett Breast Center.

Attendees should bring a yoga mat, blanket, pillow and eye mask.

Tea samples will be provided before the class, as well as a private shopping experience with a portion of proceeds being donated.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

## EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of The Family Center, speaks. Email [grossepointerotary@gmail.com](mailto:grossepointerotary@gmail.com).

## Harper Woods Library

The Friends of the Harper Woods Library sponsor an Artisan

Market 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods. A variety of vendors will be selling everything from jewelry to homemade pickles.

## The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The

War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org) or RSVP to [maryjo@familycenterhelps.org](mailto:maryjo@familycenterhelps.org).

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

◆ Center and Sip, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3. Event includes guided meditation, cookies and tea. Bring a yoga mat or blanket.

## GALA:

Continued from page 1B

affordable," Fodell said. "It's not about the money; it's about having a place for special needs families."

Other highlights of the event, emceed by Fox2 Detroit's Ryan Ermanni, are silent and live auctions. An array of gift baskets will be up for bid in the silent auction, while the live auction — led by Lori Stefek — features nine outstanding opportunities.

One of them, arranged by WXYZ Channel 7 sports anchor Brad Galli, is a chance to spend a day at Detroit Lions train-

ing camp in Allen Park.

"He's doing a day with the Lions, where you can meet all the players and all the coaches," Fodell said.

This year's raffle features "a wagon full of \$2,000 of the best booze we could find," she added. "You just throw your paddle in the basket at the end for \$50 and they draw the winner."

Honorary chairs for the event are Mark and Mary Ann Rusch.

"Fun" is the perfect word for this; it's not a boring night," DiVirgil said. "It's all for the kids. That's the whole reason we do it. That's why them performing is so important. I think everybody

agrees that's the best part of the night. And it's all for them."

"Seeing the kids having so much fun, the families having fun, the great auction items — people are really excited about it," Fodell added.

Tickets to the gala are \$225 and available for purchase at [fullcirclehome.qtego.us](http://fullcirclehome.qtego.us).

While funds raised during "An Evening Under the Stars" go directly to TEAM 26, the Full Circle Foundation still is in the midst of a capital campaign and fundraising for its endowment.

Donations for both may be made online at [fullcirclefdn.org/donate/](http://fullcirclefdn.org/donate/).

# Worship Service

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**WEDNESDAY**  
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## Pointer releases book of short stories

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

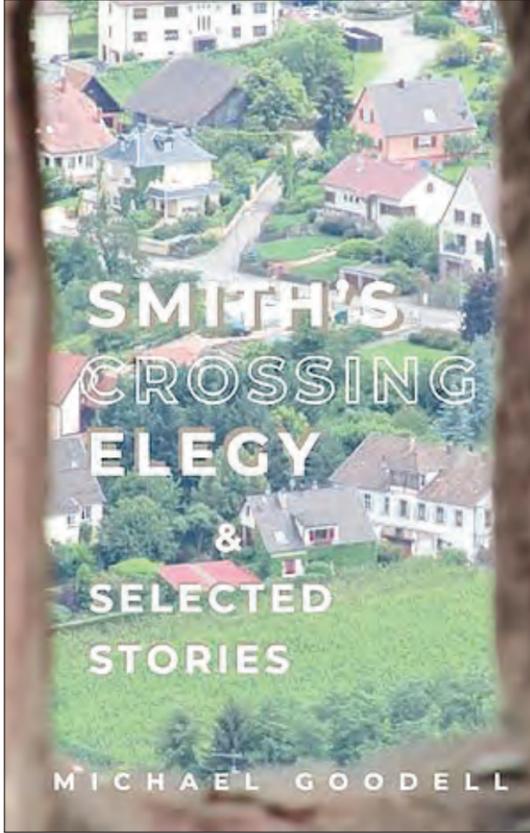
Michael Goodell's latest book, "Smith's Crossing Elegy & Selected Stories," is a compilation with a bit of a theme.

"I've been thinking about that question a lot, if it has a theme," he said. "It's more a compilation of my favorite short stories over the course of the last 45 years, but also reflective of a half century in an American's life."

The 19 stories range in length from a few pages to more than 20 and are a mix of semi-autobiographical, real and fictional events.

The title comes from the first story, "Smith's Crossing Elegy," which Goodell wrote in the early 1990s during a bicycle trip across Michigan. It's set in the hamlet of Smith's Crossing, outside of Midland, where the Bailey Bridge was built in the early 1900s to carry goods and people across the Tittabawassee River between Midland and Saginaw.

Goodell ponders the scenes of the time and what happened to Mr. Smith. Closed since 1980, the bridge finally is getting repaired. When told this, Goodell



laughed, "Well, I guess that renders my story irrelevant. I'll have to update that if I have a second edition."

The introduction details a few of Goodell's favorites from the book, including "The Ring." Using pseudonyms, it's a reflection on him meeting his fiancée, Renee, and the 2016 death of

his wife, Mary Northcutt, which he detailed in 2018's "The Word Shifted: A Cancer Story."

He also chuckled several times discussing "Going Viral." It's about a man who can't understand why his brilliant writings on all manner of public policy haven't gone viral. The insurance appraiser, living in

Des Moines, Iowa, finally gets his big break, sort of.

"His wife gets a dog, which he didn't want, then leaves to visit her mother," Goodell said. "He's stuck with the dog, so he videotapes it doing all kinds of dumb things. He does it to embarrass his wife, but when he posts it online, it goes viral."

The man eventually gets a call from David Letterman's producer with an invitation to come on the show.

"At first he says no, but then they tell him President Obama will be on, too," Goodell explains. "He thinks this is his big break, but all Obama wants to do is talk about the dog."

Goodell splits his time between the Pointes and Leelanau Peninsula, where he and his children, Emily and Matt, run Amoritas Vineyards.

"People who come to the tasting room ask if I stay all winter," Goodell laughed. "I tell them I go south and they ask me what part of Florida. I tell them no, Detroit!"

It's during the winter he gets time to write. Goodell is working on a follow-up to "Rebound," a 2013 murder mystery set in the Pointes.

"The detective is now

working on a case in Leelanau County," he said. "It's about two-thirds done. I know who's guilty. I just need an ending."

Goodell said he has about six other ideas for future novels.

"It takes me about two years to complete a

book," he said. "At 69, I'm not sure I need to go searching for any new ideas."

"Smith's Crossing Elegy & Selected Stories" is available at Flyleaf Literature & Libations, 92 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, and on Amazon.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROIS BOUFFONS

### Très divertissant

Trois Bouffons have been entertaining audiences around the Great Lakes since 2007. Their light-hearted stories, music and community dances from the French fur trade of the 18th century are a treat for audiences of all ages.

The group will perform 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, during "Legends of Grosse Pointe" on the lawn of the Grosse Pointe History Center, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. In addition to historic stories, songs, dances and music, the evening will include exhibits and refreshments.

Tickets available at [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org) or (313) 884-7010.

### ASK THE EXPERTS By Paramveer Swaich, D.O.

## Did you get your protein in?

The last decade, there has been a push toward increasing protein in our diet. It has become a fixation and is at the center of many diet fads. Let's take a dive into the world of protein and sift through what it is, why it is important for our health and just how much we need on a daily basis.

Proteins are molecules comprised of many amino acids linked together in our body that play a role in growth, development and maintaining bodily functions. This is why getting enough protein is important, so we can continue to support our bodily functions.

To understand protein, one must understand what amino acids are. These are organic compounds that serve as building blocks for protein. There are 20 amino acids, nine of which are essential, meaning we need to obtain them from our diet. The other 11 amino acids our bodies are able to produce on their own.

Eating foods that are complete proteins (have all nine essential amino acids) is a great way to ensure your body can function at its best. Examples of complete protein foods include most poultry, beef, pork, fish, eggs, dairy products, quinoa, soy, buckwheat, chia seeds and hemp seeds.

Now the million-dollar question: How much protein do I need in a day?



Patients ask me this question often and the answer is, it depends on your gender, physical activity, fitness goals and certain health conditions you may have. The most widely accepted guideline is based on the Recommended Dietary Allowance — at a minimum, for women it is 46 grams a day and for men it is 56 grams a day.

For athletes, active individuals and those who are recovering from illness or injury, the recommended amount is higher and can be calculated by multiplying your weight in kilograms by 1.5. For those who are serious about strength training and prioritize heavy resistance exercise, recommendations can be as high as 2.0 grams per kg of body weight.

It is important to consider what happens if too much protein is ingested. This can lead to health problems such as chronic kidney disease. Those who chronically ingest high amounts (2.5 mg or higher per kg) can predispose themselves to decreased kidney function. It also can lead to dehydration as protein metabolism requires water to excrete the

byproducts. Over time, without a balanced diet and lack of fiber, protein can lead to constipation. While these issues take years to develop, it is important to be aware, especially with younger athletes who will be emphasizing higher protein in their diet from a younger age.

Overall, protein is an extremely important building block molecule that serves many purposes. Obtaining it from diet and getting enough from whole foods alone is achievable. Protein shakes and powders are convenient and not something you should feel are required, but when used appropriately, can help you hit your protein goals.

As always, consult your doctor before starting a new diet or exercise regimen.

Paramveer Swaich, D.O., is a family medicine physician with Corewell Health East-Grosse Pointe. For more information, visit [corewellhealth.org](http://corewellhealth.org).

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

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# GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

## Yours, mine and ours? The ongoing neighborhood leaf dilemma

**Dear Gabby:** My neighbor keeps blowing his leaves into my yard. Should I say something or just let it go? — Rustled in the Woods

You could rake them up and quietly fume, or you could turn it into a neighborly moment. A lighthearted comment like, "Hey, I think our trees are conspiring against me!" can open the door without starting a feud. Most of the

time, people don't realize they're doing it, or they're hoping the wind is a good enough excuse.

If it keeps happening, a friendly chat — not an angry confrontation — will do far more good than a passive-aggres-

sive pile of leaves on their porch.

— Gabby!

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



## When a dog opens the door



COURTESY PHOTO

**DEAR ANNIE:** For most of my life, I've struggled with feeling isolated. As someone on the autism spectrum, I've often found social situations confusing or overwhelming. I longed for connection but wasn't always sure how to reach for it. Then something unexpected gave me not only companionship but also a sense of purpose: my dog.

She's not just a pet. She's a trained service animal who goes everywhere with me. She helps me navigate the world in ways I didn't think were possible. When I take her into stores, on walks or even to the coffee shop, people stop to smile, ask questions and sometimes share their own stories about dogs they've loved.

She has opened doors to conversations and friendships I never would have had on my own.

And it's not only service dogs that can change a life. Emotional support animals bring daily comfort and stability to those who need them. Therapy dogs can be taken to nursing homes, hospitals or schools, where they brighten the lives of people who might not see much joy in their days. I've seen firsthand how one wagging tail and a few minutes of gentle presence can soften the hardest expressions and bring light to the loneliest corners.

When we step outside of ourselves and look for ways to share that light -- whether through a beloved pet, a service animal or volunteering

alongside a therapy dog -- we don't just help others. We find our own lives brighter, too. The loneliness lessens, and in its place comes purpose, routine and a daily reminder of connection.

Sometimes the simplest answer to human loneliness is found in the company of a warm, loyal, four-legged friend. — Saved By My Service Dog

**DEAR SAVED:** Thank you for your heartfelt note. You're absolutely right; animals can be powerful companions. Whether as service animals, emotional support pets or therapy dogs, they offer companionship, comfort and even new pathways to connect with others. Your story is a beautiful reminder that sometimes the best medi-

cine for loneliness has four paws and a wagging tail.

**DEAR ANNIE:** I've always been the one in my family who organizes the holidays, remembers birthdays and keeps everyone connected. Lately, though, I feel taken for granted. My siblings rarely help, and when I try to step back, I'm made to feel guilty for "not caring." I love my family, but I'm exhausted from carrying the load.

How do I set boundaries without seeming cold or uncaring? — Worn Out Peacemaker

**DEAR WORN OUT PEACEMAKER:** You're not cold; you're human. Families often lean on the person who makes things happen, until that person is running on empty. Boundaries don't mean you care less; they mean you're protecting your well-being. Start small: Say, "I can host, but I'll need everyone to bring a dish," or, "This year I'm stepping back from planning." The people who value you will step up. And those who don't? Let their disappointment be theirs to manage, not yours.

**DEAR ANNIE:** A few months ago, my life took a turn I never expected. After noticing changes in



### Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

my wife's behavior such as late nights at work, a phone that suddenly never left her side and an emotional distance that grew by the week, I followed my gut. Against every instinct that told me not to, I hired a private investigator. What he uncovered confirmed my worst suspicions: My wife has been having an affair with one of her co-workers.

That discovery left me with another haunting question. Had she been unfaithful for months or for years? And then the darker thought I could not shake: Was the little boy I have been raising for four years truly my own son? I wish I could tell you I pushed that thought aside, but I did not. I ordered a DNA test. When the results came back, they shattered what little ground I had left. The child I have loved and cared for is not biologically mine.

The moment I learned the truth, I began divorce proceedings. I also filed to have my parental rights terminated. My reasoning is this: I do not want to live inside a lie. I know the boy is innocent in all of this, but I feel like my entire

marriage, and by extension my fatherhood, was built on a foundation of deception.

Of course, my wife tried to guilt me, insisting I am abandoning an innocent child who still needs his father. My in-laws echo her and even my own parents have turned against me. My father and I had a heated argument where I finally snapped and asked, "How would you feel if you discovered I was not really yours, and Mom had betrayed you all along?" Instead of understanding, my parents cut me off. I have not spoken to them since.

So now I am moving through the divorce, alone, estranged from my family and criticized by nearly everyone who knows the situation. I keep asking myself: Am I wrong for walking away? Or am I simply protecting what little of my dignity and truth I have left? — Searching for Answers

**DEAR SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS:** Your pain and anger are clear, and it is understandable that betrayal of this magnitude has shaken you to the core. Discovering both infidelity and the truth about your child is a heavy blow.

That said, there are two separate issues here. Your marriage is one, and your role in this boy's life is another. You are right that the child is innocent. While he is not biologically yours, he has only known you as his father. Cutting him off entirely may feel like justice against your wife, but it risks compounding the hurt for a child who did not choose any of this.

You need to decide what role you can live with long-term, whether that is no contact or some form of continued relationship. What matters most is making that decision with clarity, not anger. Divorce will end your marriage, but how you handle fatherhood will shape not only the child's life but also your own peace of mind. Seek help from a professional therapist to sort out all of your feelings.

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

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# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



If you've been reading this column for a while, you know we love an organized space. We love it so much, we've bought an alarming number of bins, baskets, hooks and gadgets — all in the name of finding that one missing thing.

In a house full of people, things don't just get misplaced, they vanish into a black hole. Then someone is yelling because they can't find their protein powder, matching socks or the sauce they swore was "right there" for their ramen noodles.

One of our biggest prob-



lem areas always has been the deep cabinet that holds our pastas, rices and assorted pantry items. It's a Bermuda Triangle of carbs. Things get shoved to the back, stacked on top of each other and forgotten. If you want something, you basically have to unload the whole shelf.

Enter the Nostalgia Lazy Susan from Amazon. This unassuming little spinner is a game changer. It suction right onto the cabinet shelf (or even a fridge shelf) and you just pile your stuff on it and rotate it 360 degrees to see every-

thing. Back row? Front row? No problem. It stays in place, holds a surprising amount of weight and is ridiculously easy to use.

Installation took about two seconds, the product is inexpensive and it comes in a pack of two. Within minutes, our chaotic cabinet looked calm. Suddenly, dinner prep doesn't involve a search party. We can actually see the rice instead of buying three more bags because "we must be out."

This little organizer has completely changed our cabinets in the simplest way. I give it five out of five

alligators and highly recommend it for anyone living in the land of misplaced condiments.

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



5 Out Of 5

## Ode to the navy yard

### Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Once upon a time in the navy yard of Boston stood a charming and cozy restaurant called the Navy Yard Bistro. It was a small and bustling wine bar situated in the heart of the old Boston shipyard overlooking the harbor.

We loved eating there on Monday nights when they would have their bistro chicken special. You couldn't beat the price for a beautiful and simply roasted half of chicken with silky mashed potatoes, a light rosemary gravy and sautéed broccoli rabe. It was so reliable and so good.

The fall weather has me thinking back to our Monday fall nights at the Navy Yard Bistro and especially their other seasonal special, apple cider pork chops. They were thick-cut, juicy and so flavorful. So naturally, I reimagined it and made it for my family.

The key to a flavorful and juicy pork chop is a salty brine. The salt and flavors from the brine creep in and seasons the entire piece of meat. It turns out tender and dripping with juices. In this case, I simmered apple cider vinegar with fresh sage and whole peppercorns.

Then, I grilled the pork chops. When grilling a thick piece of meat, you have to be mindful of burning the outside of the meat while not cooking the inside all the way through.

If that's the case, turn the flame to low on the side you are cooking on while keeping the other side on high heat. It helps to take the internal temperature of the meat after 20 minutes of cooking to see where you are at.

Roasted acorn squash seemed like the perfect fall pairing to my brined pork chops. I sliced them into rings and then brushed a spiced olive oil rub on both sides.

Then I topped them with a drizzle of honey and lots of fresh grated parmesan cheese. They came out browned and caramelized from the natural sugars in the squash and some help with honey.

If you have leftover olive oil from the squash, brush it on the pork chops for some added spice. The combination works for both the pork and the squash.

This is such a cozy fall meal that's easy to make and takes just a bit of planning for the brine. This hearty meal cer-

tainly takes me back to our cozy bistro in Boston.

Cheers, Mombeau

#### Apple Cider Brined Pork Chops

4 bone-in, thick cut pork chops

2 cups apple cider

1 cup water

¼ cup kosher salt

6 sage leaves

1 tsp whole black peppercorns

Add all ingredients, except the pork chops, to a small saucepan. Bring to a boil and reduce to a simmer. Simmer for about five minutes, stirring so that the salt dissolves. Turn the heat off and let it cool slightly. Add two scoops of ice to a large, resealable plastic bag then pour in the brine.

Add the pork chops, reseal the bag and mix around. Refrigerate for four hours or overnight. Take the pork out of the fridge 30 minutes before grilling to take the chill away. Preheat your grill to medium-high heat. Remove the chops and



PHOTOS BY KAREN FERGUSON

pat dry with a paper towel. Brush with olive oil.

Grill on each side for about 12 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 145 degrees. Let rest for five minutes before slicing.

#### Roasted Acorn Squash Rings

2 acorn squash

2 tbsp olive oil

1 tsp kosher salt

½ tsp pepper

½ tsp smoked paprika

½ tsp garlic powder

½ tsp cumin

2-3 tbsp honey

½ cup freshly grated parmesan cheese

Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Use a sharp knife to cut the squash

in half, at its equator, then remove the seeds. Slice each half into two to three rings. They should be about one inch thick. Lay them down flat on the baking sheet. Use two sheets if they don't fit.

Mix together the olive oil and spices in a small bowl and brush on each side of the squash. Drizzle each slice with honey then top with the parmesan cheese. Roast for 20 to 25 minutes. The tops should be browned and caramelized.

## Wine — an appellation primer

Wine can be classified in numerous ways, making it seem daunting to newcomers who try to learn the basic language of this historic beverage.

In its most basic format, it can be reduced to the simplest categorization — white, red, rose, sparkling and dessert. Or it may be thought of as low-alcohol, moderate, or high-alcohol, or imported/domestic.

Additional categories can get even more complex. To understand some of these becomes almost too esoteric, which makes the learning curve that much steeper. Yet wine lovers adore the information they glean from terms that are often on the front labels of wine bottles.

One of the most basic aspects of fine wine is understanding the meaning of the term "appellation," which is simply the region from which the wine grapes came. Frequently, this explains

a lot about the style of wine inside the bottle.

With domestic wines, a "California" appellation requires that all the grapes had to have been grown in the state, which doesn't carry much specificity. But appellations like Napa Valley, Mendocino County and High Valley are far more specific.

This has been codified by the government agency that regulates such regions, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, or TTB, under the umbrella of American Viticultural Areas (AVAs).

There are 276 AVA regions in 34 states. Most are obscure and have meaning for only a tiny number of people. The most important regions often have within them sub-districts with more specificity — which extremely knowledgeable people adore for their esoteric meanings.

Napa Valley is the

most widely known area. It may only appear on wines using fruit from inside its boundaries, which also includes 17 sub-AVAs. The valley's most important wine is cabernet sauvignon, a grape variety that does well in warmer climates.

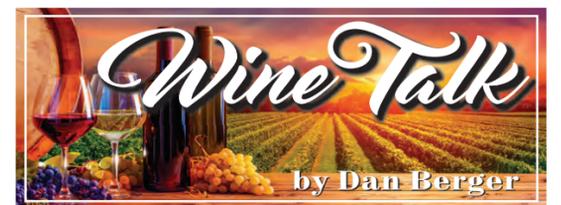
By contrast, grape varieties that prefer cooler climates are better in growing areas like the Russian River Valley and Petaluma Gap (Sonoma County), Willamette Valley (Oregon) and the Santa Lucia Highlands (Monterey County).

The above-mentioned High Valley is one of the lesser-known areas. It is adjacent to Clear Lake in Lake County, just north of Napa. At altitudes of 1,600 feet to 3,000 feet, High Valley has a history of making relatively dark red wines.

The smaller an AVA is in size, the more likely it is to define a specific kind of wine-growing area. The largest AVA

approved by TTB is the Upper Mississippi River Valley at just under 30,000 square miles. The smallest AVA is Cole Ranch (Mendocino County) at 60 acres.

The government's TTB prefers to have AVAs with distinctive boundaries that do not overlap, but sometimes it's not possible to avoid this situation. For instance, Washington's Walla Walla Valley



by Dan Berger

AVA partially extends from southeastern Washington into north-eastern Oregon.

resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

To find out more about Sonoma County

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON COLLINS



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA LAMB

**GROSSE POINTE NEWS  
COSTUME CONTEST WINNER!**

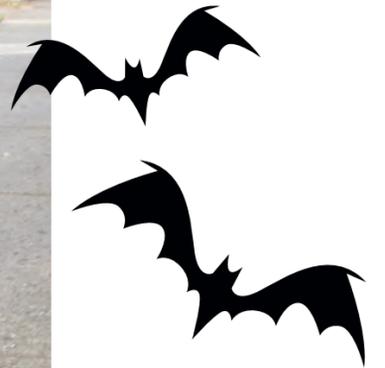
Far left: Madison Collins let her artistry shine down to the last detail in son Gordon's "IT" clown costume. They live in Grosse Pointe Woods. Madison wins tickets to the Haunted Garage.



The Lamb family, of Grosse Pointe Farms, have really aced Halloween over the years. This throwback from when Jacob Lamb was 3 years old, left, makes us hungry for some popcorn and a good scary movie. Great job!



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA LAMB



The Lambs did it again with this adorable spaghetti and meatballs getup for Brady Lamb, left — back when he was just a year old. It's especially cute that he seems so proud to be pasta. How sweet!



# CREATIVE COSTUMES

## Grosse Pointers show out in style for Halloween costume contest

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

A big part of the fun of Halloween is the chance to express your personality and creativity with a fun costume. Whether scary, clever or funny, the joy of dressing up adds happiness during everyone's favorite spooky season.

We asked Grosse Pointers to show us their favorite current or throwback costumes for a chance to win tickets to the Haunted Garage in Grosse Pointe Woods. We received some incredible entries that made it hard to choose a winner — because they were all so well-executed. It was exciting to see all the unique entries, each one a winner in its own right. That said, we made the difficult decision to award our grand prize to Madison Collins, of Grosse Pointe Woods, for her son's "IT" clown costume. Not only was it chilling (in a cute way) but the hair and makeup was expertly done and it was accessorized perfectly.

Congratulations, Madison (and Gordon) and we hope you enjoy your visit to the Haunted Garage. A big round of applause to all the creative entries. Happy trick-or-treating, everyone!

Tickets may be picked up during business hours at the Grosse Pointe News office.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAUNTED GARAGE

The Haunted Garage, at 18520 Mack Ave., above. For tickets, visit [hauntedgarageproductions.org](http://hauntedgarageproductions.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLISON DARICHUK

Alli Darichuk, above left, and Max Reitzloff, above right, of Grosse Pointe Park are sporting some of the coolest costumes on earth — and in outer space. Mission accomplished!



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRANKLIN FAMILY

The Franklin family, above, of Grosse Pointe Park, brings the movie "Shrek" to life. We are green with envy over their creativity and style. Well done, Franklins — and hats off to your little prince.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CBC FILMS, SISTER PICTURES, GOTHAM GROUP AND NETFLIX.

Left, Keira Knightley as Laura Blacklock and Guy Pearce as Richard Bullmer in the 2025 movie “The Woman in Cabin 10,” based on the book of the same name and written by Ruth Ware and directed by Simon Stone.

MOVIE REVIEW  
 “The Woman in Cabin 10”  
 2025 - Rated R  
 1 hr 32 min  
 ★★☆☆☆

If you’re in the mood for an entertaining little murder mystery, “The Woman in Cabin 10” is right up your alley. The new feature film on Netflix, is based on the book with the same title by Ruth Ware. It stars the award-winning Keira Knightley who’s supported by a whole slew of formidable actors.

It’s directed by Simon Stone, who co-wrote the screenplay with Joe Shrapnel and Anna Waterhouse. The movie features the fine camerawork of Ben Davis and a moving score by Benjamin Wallfisch. I’ve seen some critics who describe it as Hitchcock-lite, which I think is a fair assessment.

Ms. Knightly plays Laura, or Lo as her friends call her, a journalist who’s just returned from a difficult assignment. She recently met with a woman who she witnessed getting murdered right after she interviewed her. The article she penned received a great deal of praise, especially among her colleagues. She’s clearly a workaholic and is eager to take on another story. When she arrives at work, her editor, played by Gugu Mbatha-Raw, suggests she take some time off. Lo finds out about a job covering a special cruise, and is convinced by her co-workers to take it on.

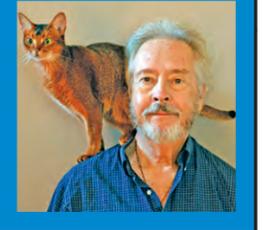
The cruise takes place aboard a luxurious private mega yacht, owned by billionaire Richard Bullmer (Guy Pearce) who’s married to Anne (Lisa Loven Kongsli) who’s suffering from stage four cancer. They’ve invited a bunch of their über-rich friends on a cruise from England to Norway, with a gala evening scheduled at the end of their voyage. The gang includes the actors Kaya Scodelario (“The Maze Runner”), Hannah Waddington (“Ted Lasso” “Sex Education”), and Daniel Ings (“The Gentlemen”). David Ajala (“Fast & Furious 6”), a photographer and her former lover Ben is also part of the cast.

On the first night aboard the vessel, Lo makes the mistake of overdressing for dinner. She’s subsequently mocked for this faux pas by her snobby shipmates. Clearly no matter how hard she tries, she’s simply out of her element and doesn’t stand a chance of fitting in. Even though her relationship with Ben ended badly, at

# Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



When she opens the door she discovers a blonde wearing a hoodie and she gets a brief look at her face. She’s forcefully ushered out of the room. Later she hears a splash and she spots a bloody handprint on the balcony of the woman’s room. Naturally she alerts the rest of the crew and this is where the mystery kicks into high gear.

When Lo relays what she witnessed, she’s informed that the room next to her is empty and

no one is staying there. In fact, all the guests have been accounted for. What’s more, the bloody handprint has mysteriously disappeared. She’s told that she must be imagining things. It’s also suggested that she might be suffering from PTSD as a result of her horrific encounter on her recent assignment. Even Ben has his doubts about her story. That is, until Lo sneaks into the room (cabin 10) and discovers a lock of blond hair in the

painting a creepy backdrop for her clandestine searches. The tight spaces in the hallways, the spiral staircases, the muted colors, and the dim lighting, all contribute to the overall claustrophobic feeling of the film. You almost feel like you’re trapped in a prison.

And the musical score definitely has a Hitchcock sound to it. A little reminiscent of classic films like “Psycho” and “North by Northwest.”

As the film ambles on, we get a chance to meet the oddball guests. They’re a quirky lot and they also include a special guest played by the comedian Paul Kaye (“Bank of Dave” “Game of Thrones”). He’s a hippie-musician who’s like a cross between Mick Jagger and Donovan. He’s an old rocker and entertains the guests with his ballads. That is until trouble hits. When he get wind of a possible homicide, he tells his fellow guests he doesn’t need any more legal troubles and abandons ship.

The truth is slowly revealed about two-thirds of the way into the movie. There’s a surprise that will surely catch you off guard. It’s an “aha!” moment you won’t see coming. And from that point on, things transpire rapidly until the end, which I’m happy to report, wraps up nicely.

I also thought that the running time of an hour and a half was perfect. Any longer and it would have dragged on too long. Overall, I enjoyed this well-crafted film. I think without Kiera Knightley playing the lead, it had the potential to be a dud—but she definitely raised it to the next level.

Currently streaming on Netflix.

Note to parents: The film is rated “R,” most likely to the nature of the film and language. I’d be inclined to rate it “PG-13.”

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.



Lo (Knightley) and Ben (David Ajala) do some research.



Danny Tyler played by Paul Kaye.



Yucking it up!



Lo doing a bit of sleuthing.

least she has him to commiserate with. We sense, correctly, that there’s going to be a bit of friction between the two of them and the other guests.

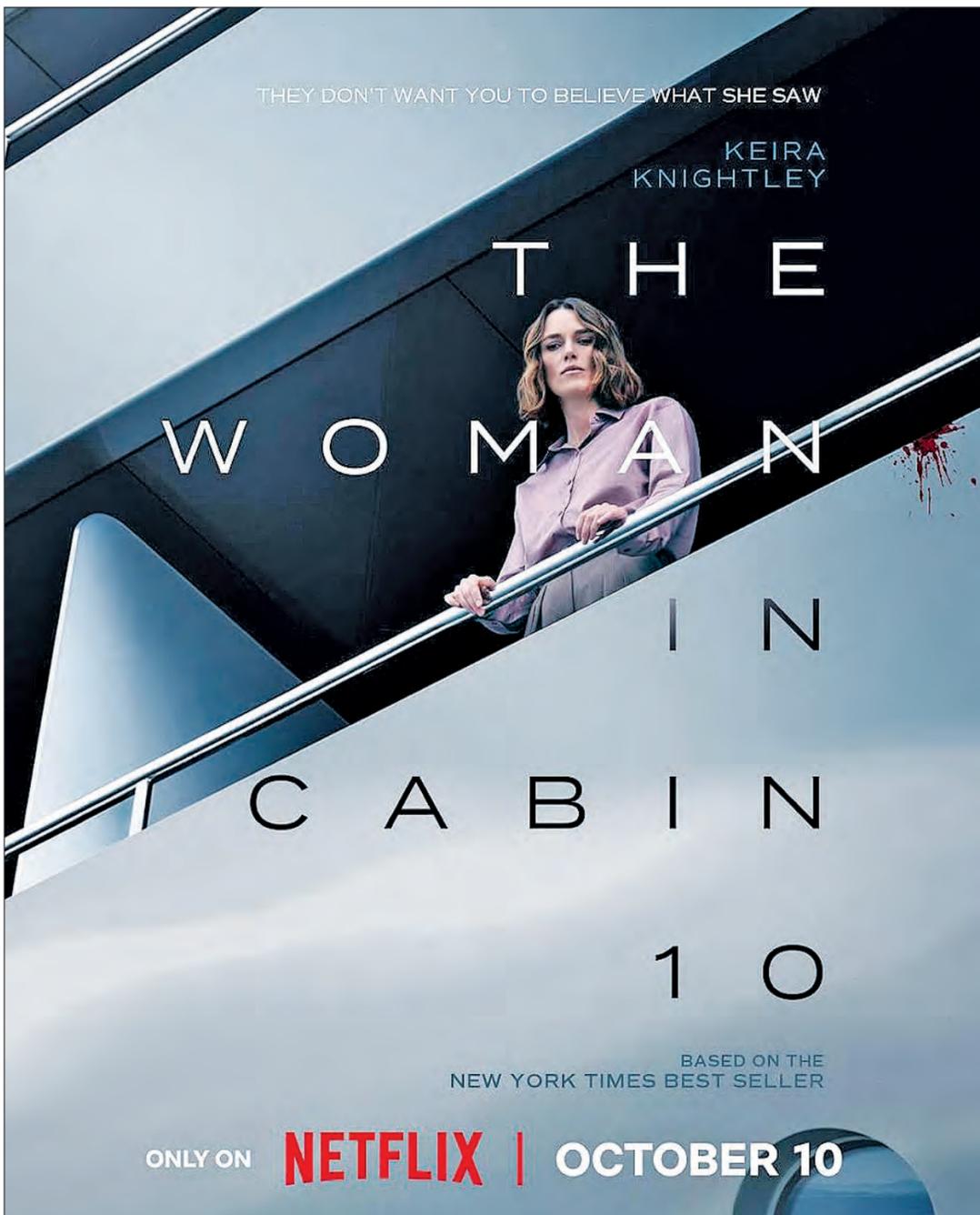
Not long into the trip, Lo is awakened by what appears to be a fight in the adjoining cabin.



The megayacht.

drain.

So it’s the two of them against the guests and the numerous members of the ship’s crew. Lo spends her time sneaking around the yacht, looking for evidence of the crime. Cinematographer Ben Davis does a brilliant job

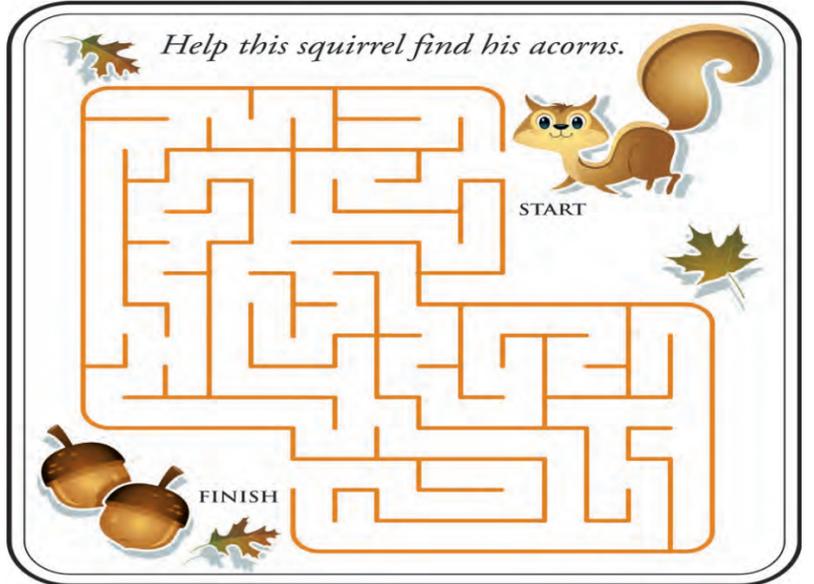


Movie poster.

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# WORD SEARCH

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

- ACORNS
- APPLE
- AUTUMN
- BONFIRE
- CHILLY
- CIDER
- CINNAMON
- CORNUCOPIA
- CRISP
- FESTIVAL
- FOLIAGE
- GOURDS
- HARVEST
- LEAVES
- MAPLE
- MAZE
- ORCHARD
- PUMPKIN
- RAKE
- SCARECROW
- SEPTEMBER
- SPICE
- SUNSET
- SWEATER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

# Color The Picture



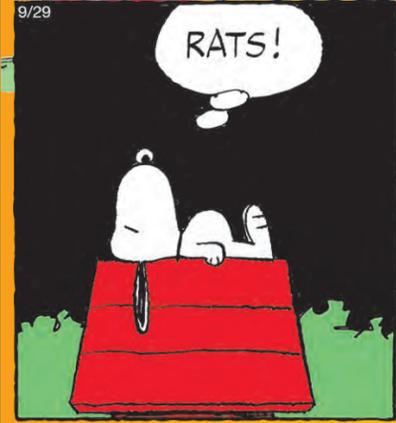


# THURSDAY COMICS



Peanuts

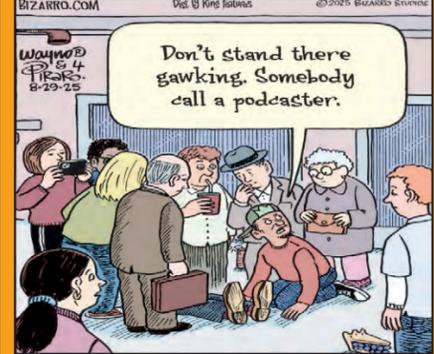
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

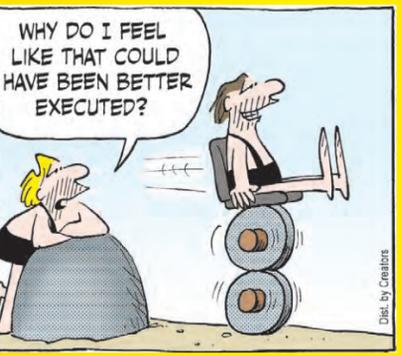
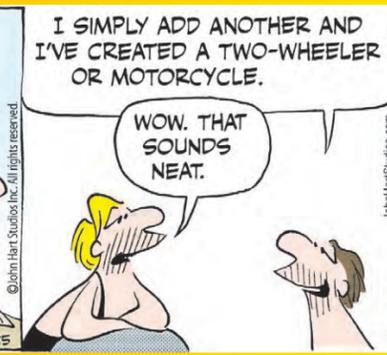
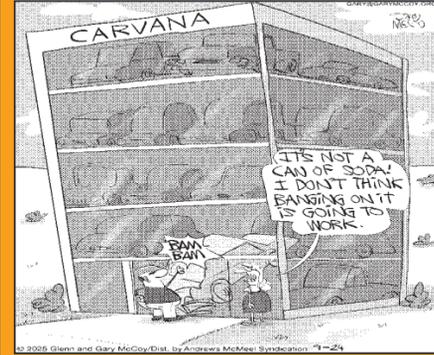
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

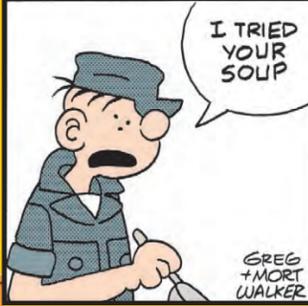
Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

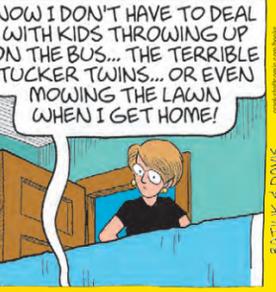
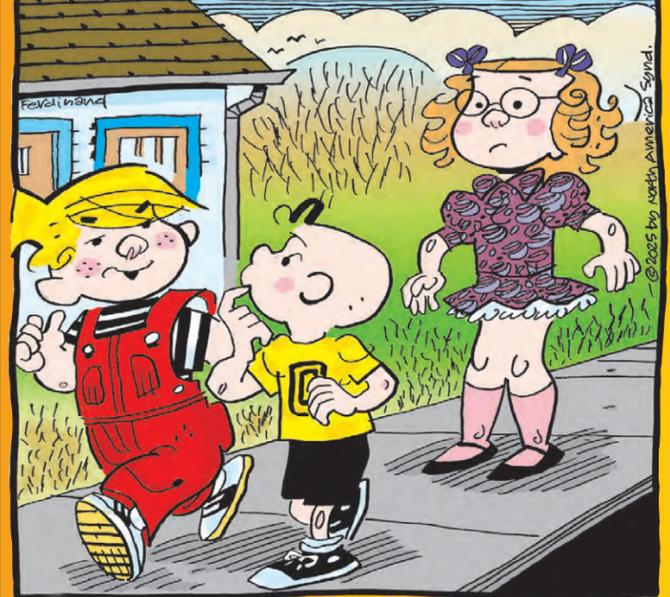
Mike Peters



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

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



# THURSDAY COMICS

**Garfield** Jim Davis

I HAVE A GREAT MEMORY

OKAY, WHAT DID YOU EAT OCTOBER 13, 2016?

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PEPPERONI PIZZA!

IMPRESSIVE

Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

WHAT DID YOU HAVE FOR BREAKFAST?

UMM...

JPM DAVIS 10-3

**Hagar The Horrible** (Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

SO, CAPTAIN JACK, YOU DECIDED TO RETIRE?

I DID! HOW DID YOU KNOW?

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THE GARDENING TROWEL!

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**Close To Home** John McPherson

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

WHAT THE HECK?! HONEY! THERE'S A SPIDER IN---

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WAIT A MINUTE HERE...

Facebook.com/WizardOfId

NOT INTO THIS NEW COMIC BORDER

I'M DOIN' HAGAR'S NEXT!

**Ziggy** Tom Wilson

NEXT EXIT: FAST FOOD/GAS

NEXT 15 EXITS: DITTO

© 2025 Ziggy and Friends, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

**Blondie** Chris and Dean Young

WHERE DID BUMSTEAD DISAPPEAR TO? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM FOR HALF AN HOUR!

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I SAW HIM GO IN THE BATHROOM, BUT I NEVER SAW HIM COME OUT

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WOW, MARLENE, THAT NEW APPLE PIE CANDLE YOU PUT IN THE BATHROOM SMELLS LIKE IT'S BAKING RIGHT IN AN OVEN!

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN

**Over The Hedge** Michael Fry and T. Lewis

WHEN WILL THE WORLD END, VERNE?

I DON'T KNOW...

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MAYBE TOMORROW. MAYBE MILLIONS OF YEARS FROM NOW.

BUT NOT TODAY...?

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CAN I GET BACK TO YOU?

UH-OH.

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**Crock** Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

UNCLE CLAYBO'S OL' PICKUP TRUCK FELL ON HIM

THAT MUST'VE HURT

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YEAH, ESPECIALLY WHILE HE WAS WRITING THIS LETTER

**Popeye** Bud Sagendorf

I KIN UNNERSTAN' WHY YOU WANTS TO LEAVE HOME!

GREAT! I KNEW YOU'D REALIZE I HAVE TO FIND MESELF!

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I WILL BE ON ME OWN! I WILL BE INDEPENDENT!

I WILL PROVE I YAM AS ABLE AS ANY ADULT!

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ALL I NEEDS FROM YOU IS A FEW HUNDRED BUCKS FER A GRUBSTAKE!

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**F Minus** Tony Carrilo

THINK OF ALL THE FOLDING TIME WE'D GET BACK IF WE PAID AN INFLUENCER TO MAKE WRINKLY CLOTHES TRENDY!

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**Marmaduke** Paul & Brad Anderson

© 2025 UPS Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UPS

"All the potential dog walkers wanted to add hazard pay."

**Family Circus** Bill and Jeff Keane

BAGGAGE CLAIM

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

"Because you're not a suitcase, that's why."

## You Can Give a Blue Ribbon Today!

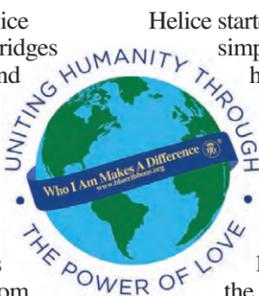
The 7-Step Blue Ribbon Acknowledgment Ceremony:

- Honor someone: Say, "I have a Blue Ribbon that says, 'Who I Am Makes a Difference,' and I want to honor you for . . ." (Tell them the reasons they make a difference for you.)
- Ask: "Will you accept my gift?"
- Ask: "May I have permission to put it on you?"
- Place: Affix the Blue Ribbon above their heart, pointing upward toward all their dreams coming true. **IMPORTANT:** Do not affix a Blue Ribbon to silk or leather!
- Cheer: Say, "In order to get the cheerleaders on the ribbon jumping for your dream, I'm going to point to them and shout BING!" Bing: This is the sound that helps make dreams come true!
- Gift: Gift them two extra Blue Ribbons to honor others.

# Blue Ribbons for All!

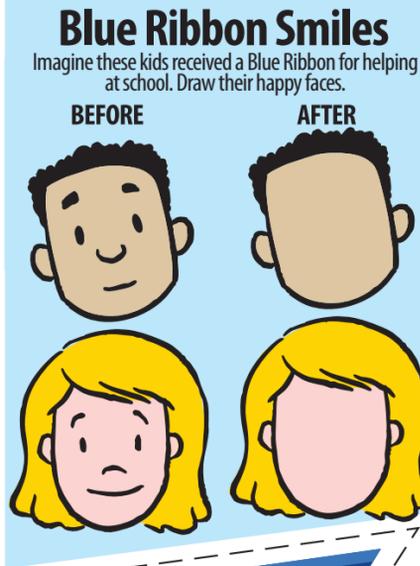
Nearly 50 years ago, Helice "Grandma Sparky" Bridges was told she was too short and too old to sing and dance on stage. She wondered why people chose to crush her dream rather than to cheer her on.

Helice started to see that lots of people got discouraged from following their dreams. "People were starving for encouragement," Sparky recalled.



Helice started doing something very simple, but very powerful. She honored people with little Blue Ribbons, telling each of them how they made a difference. She also gave other people more Blue Ribbons to give to others.

100 million people around the world have been touched by the Blue Ribbon message of **Who I Am Makes a Difference.**



**Who I Am Makes A Difference**  
[www.blueribbons.org](http://www.blueribbons.org)

You can get 10 FREE\* Blue Ribbons at [www.blueribbons.org](http://www.blueribbons.org)  
\*\$2.95 shipping fee

## Firefighter Making a Difference

Fire Chief John Cunningham has a burning desire to make a difference. He wants to tell people that they are appreciated and that they matter.

To do this, he and his fellow firefighters are giving everyone in their town little Blue Ribbons that say, "Who I Am Makes a Difference."

"I want to start a wildfire of acknowledgment," says Chief Cunningham. "This is the kind of fire we don't want to put out!"



Color this picture!

### Blue Ribbon People

Can you make a list of 10 helpful people you know who are making a difference?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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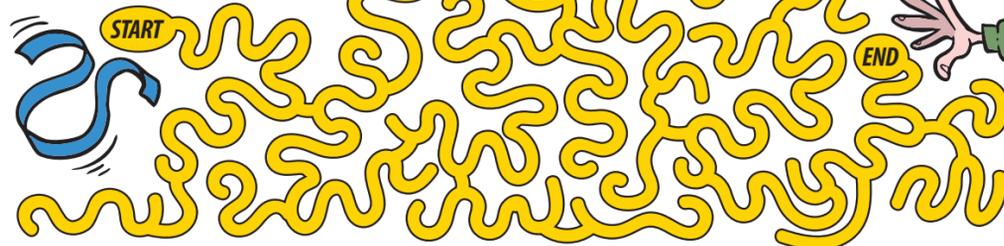
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Blue Ribbon Breeze

Whoops! This Blue Ribbon got snatched by the wind. Help catch it!



**Extra! Extra!**

## I Make a Difference

Cut out pictures from the newspaper that show places where you make a difference and people in whose lives you are important.

**Standards Link:** Social Science: Understand the importance of public virtue and the role of citizens.

**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:

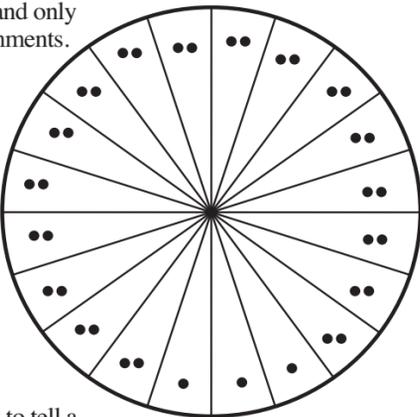


[kidscoop.com/activity-pages/](http://kidscoop.com/activity-pages/)

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Research shows that the average child hears nearly 500 negative comments each day, and only about 75 positive comments.

Color the spaces with two dots red and those with one dot green to create a pie graph comparing negative vs. positive comments most kids receive each day. (Red = negative, green = positive.)



Take a moment today to tell a friend that he or she matters and makes a difference! When you do that, YOU are making a difference, too!

## Double Double Word Search

- BLUE
- CHEER
- CHILD
- DANCE
- DIFFERENCE
- DREAMS
- GIVE
- MATTER
- MORE
- POSITIVE
- RIBBON
- SAY
- SING
- TOWN
- WHO
- YEARS

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



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

## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

**This week's word: ACKNOWLEDGMENT**  
The noun **acknowledgment** means something that is done to show thanks or appreciation.

As an **acknowledgment** of her kindness, she was given a Blue Ribbon.

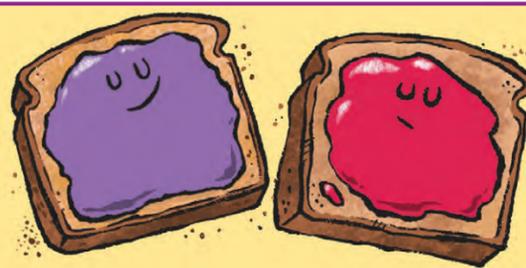
Try to use the word **acknowledgment** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Tell Your Story

Write about what happened when you gave someone a Blue Ribbon. Send your Blue Ribbon story to the editor of your local newspaper.

**Standards Link:** Visual Art: Create a collage using mixed media.



What do slices of toast wear to bed?

ANSWER: Jammies.

## Write On!

### You Matter to Me!

Write a message to a friend or family member telling them some of the reasons why they matter and make a difference.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

## Your Neighborhood

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# SPORTS

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## North volleyball storms back in rivalry win over Blue Devils

By Mike Adzima  
 Sports Reporter

With the regular season winding down for some fall sports, some of the biggest late-season matchups also highlight some of the biggest rivalries. One of those matchups came Thursday, Oct. 16, when Grosse Pointe South varsity volleyball hosted crosstown foe Grosse Pointe North. Going into opposing territory did not stop the Norsemen from getting the win, as North came back from an early deficit to secure a 3-1 victory.

“This match is always a highlight of the season and this year’s win was a proud moment for our program, showcasing the strength, resilience and unity that define what we call proud, tough, together,” North volleyball coach Chelsea Brozo said.

The first set of last Thursday’s match made it seem as though South

would be in control. The Blue Devils took the first set 25-13, but the momentum shifted after that.

North bounced back to win a close second set 27-25, evening things up. North’s offense, led by Leah Burney with 14 kills, Tiara Mahone with 12 kills and Rose Parker with 10, continued to help the team pull ahead. The Norsemen took the third set 25-21 and finished the win with another close victory in the fourth set, winning 25-23.

Eva Borowski and Lily Shanley both had perfect service performances for North. Madison Jewell also added 36 assists.

The win helped improve North’s record to 15-12 as it sits in second place in the MAC White Division. The Blue Devils record moved to 12-12-1 following the loss as they currently stand in third place in the MAC Red Division.

Beyond wins and



COURTESY PHOTO

North volleyball players huddle between points with rival Grosse Pointe South on the opposite side. The Norsemen beat the Blue Devils 3-1 in the teams’ rivalry charity match Thursday, Oct. 16.

losses, last Thursday’s rivalry match also served as the annual charity game for the two teams. North and South used the game to honor

Athletes United, a non-profit that helps provide young athletes with mentorship and opportunities.

North followed the win

by hosting Marysville after press time Tuesday, Oct. 21. The team hits the road Thursday, Oct. 23, going to face Utica.

Romeo after press time Tuesday, Oct. 21. They return home Thursday, Oct. 23, to celebrate senior night against Eisenhower.

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Handwork’s electrifying performances spur championship hopes for South swim

By Mike Adzima  
 Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls swim and dive is a team that always sets a high bar for itself. Every season comes with championship aspirations and senior Whitney Handwork is doing everything in her power to help her team meet those expectations.

Handwork set the bar high for herself last year as a junior by winning the Division 2 state championship in the 50-yard freestyle. Like most swimmers, she is in the pool year-round, swimming with the Grosse Pointe Gators when the high school season is over. Handwork had months to prepare in the pool for her senior season with South, defending her state title and helping her team achieve even more accolades. It’s the work outside of the pool, however, she believes has helped boost her performance the most.

“I think I focused a lot more on strength training and getting stronger,” Handwork said. “I do sprint events, so a lot of the time it’s all about



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

South senior captain Whitney Handwork is all smiles after tying the South pool record in the 50-yard freestyle at the Wayne County Championships Oct. 4

power. I really focused on building my strength and I think it’s really helped me in a lot of races.”

It has helped, as Handwork already has taken things to a new level in the event in which she is the reigning state champion. At the Wayne County Championships meet Oct. 4, Handwork tied

the pool record at South in the 50 freestyle with a time of 23.67. The time ranked as the fastest in the state so far this sea-

son across all high school divisions and the 11th fastest in the entire country. It was just fractions of a second behind the

South school record of 23.58, held by Olympic bronze medalist Catie DeLoof.

Records and individual achievements aside, Handwork appreciates the team aspect of swimming more than anything. She competes as part of relay teams alongside her teammates and was part of the 200 freestyle relay squad that took second place at states last year. The team-first mentality has become especially important for Handwork this year, as some of her best friends and fellow seniors are swimming alongside her for the final time.

“We’re trying to just take it all in because we’ve known each other forever,” Handwork said. “Swimming is a special sport that creates bonds that are super strong. You’re always together and with each other

through highs and lows. We’re really close and just enjoying one last season together.”

Handwork and her fellow seniors have some of the biggest races of the season left in their final fall as Blue Devils. They hope to continue South’s dominant run of success in the MAC Red Division championships Nov. 8, and then states beginning Nov. 21.

After that, Handwork will begin focusing on preparing for the next level. She recently announced her commitment to swim at the NCAA Division I level at College of the Holy Cross

See *ATHLETE*, page 6D

Grosse Pointe News



**Whitney Handwork**  
 School: Grosse Pointe South  
 Sport: Swim and dive  
 Sponsored by Shana Sine Cameron  
 Sine & Monaghan Real Estate

### Winning Whitney

- Tied South pool record in 50-yard freestyle (23.67) at Wayne County Championship Oct. 4
- 2024 Division 2 50-yard freestyle state champion
- Committed to swim at College of the Holy Cross



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2D | SPORTS

# Cross-country teams pick up big wins over weekend

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

As the fall sports season starts to wind down for some, the boys and girls cross-country teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North are preparing for some of their biggest races of the season. Victories and strong performances at this point in the fall can provide a huge boost. The Blue Devils and Norsemen gained major momentum last weekend with a couple of teams earning first-place finishes.

**South**  
The Blue Devils traveled to Lake St. Clair

Metropark Saturday, Oct. 18, to race in the MAC White/Blue Division Championships. It was another strong day for South in a series of great performances this season, highlighted by the girls team taking first place in the league championship.

“Without a doubt this was our best race of the season,” South girls cross-country coach Steve Zaranek said. “All 50 girls raced with full confidence and passion. Thirty-one on our team had season-best performances.”

South’s girls team had seven runners earn All-League honors by finishing in the top 21

of the field that included 125 athletes. Five Blue Devils finished inside the top 10.

Eleanor Pilsner led the way with a third-place finish, coming in with a time of 20:13. Calisee Budek was just behind in fourth place at 20:32. Morgan Costello finished seventh at 20:49, while Rylee Piornack (21:05) and Paige Garbo (21:10) took ninth and 10th place, respectively. Lydia Thomason-Redus crossed the finish line 14th and Viviana Ostrowski was 18th to round out South’s group of All-League runners.

South’s boys team also raced at the event, finishing fifth overall.



COURTESY PHOTOS

North boys cross-country lifts the first-place trophy, earning a victory at the Airport Haunted Harvest Invitational last Saturday, Oct. 18.

Oscar Resnick finished 15th in the field with a time of 17:52. Lualhati Verzosa was just seven seconds behind as he finished 16th. Logan Garbo finished 18th and Everett Wood finished 19th to give the Blue Devils four runners in the top 20.

Both the boys and girls teams for South now look ahead to the Division 1 regional meet Saturday, Oct. 25, hosted at Goodells County Park.

**North**  
The Norsemen had a successful day of their own Saturday, Oct. 18, competing in the

Airport Haunted Harvest Invitational. It was an especially big day for North’s boys team, who took first place in the field of 15 teams.

“Our boys were determined to show we can be a top-caliber team with all of our top five runners in the lineup,” North boys cross-country coach Jim Fisher said. “That was the case today, and our guys really competed and ran as a team to earn the championship.”

North was led by Paul Stephens. Stephens took eighth place with a time of 17:50 as the Norsemen’s top runner.

Coming in 10th was Sam Parish at 18:04. Dylan Phillips finished 11th, while Neil Orłowski rounded out the trio of Norsemen by coming in 12th.

The girls team for North finished eighth in its race. Maylin Parish led the team with a 13th-place finish, coming in with a time of 22:24. Avery Boutell crossed the finish line 21st and Evan Brunette made it into the top 50 by finishing 47th.

North’s boys and girls team are set to race in the Division 2 regional meet Saturday, Oct. 25, hosted at Columbus County Park.



South girls cross country captains celebrate taking first place at the MAC White/Blue Division championships. From left: Leila Oskui, Morgan Mannino, Abby Macey, Vivi Ostrowski and Chloe Slawson.

# North football unable to hold off Mott comeback, falls 35-34

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The saying in sports, “a tale of two halves,” was particularly true Friday, Oct. 17, when Grosse Pointe North varsity football traveled on the road to face Warren Mott. The Norsemen established a big lead early on, but could not stop the Marauders’ comeback efforts in the second half, ultimately falling 35-34.

“In the first half, Mott made mistakes and we capitalized on them,” North football head coach Joe Drouin said. “... In the second half, their scores came from mistakes we made. ... Mott didn’t beat us in

the second half; we beat ourselves.”

North’s defense was flying around the field in the first half, forcing Mott into mistakes. The Norsemen forced a fumble and had three interceptions in the first half, helping set up the offense with plenty of scoring opportunities.

Senior quarterback Deon Doe helped put the Norsemen up 14-0 at the end of the first quarter with a rushing touchdown and then a passing touchdown thrown to Phil Prost. Doe had another pair of touchdown passes in the second quarter, connecting with Peter Rheaume on both to help put North up 28-7 going into halftime.

While North seemed to have all of the momentum coming out of the break, things quickly shifted to Mott’s side. A costly turnover by the Norsemen helped give the Marauders the ball and led to a touchdown that cut the lead in half to 28-14. Mott’s defense came up with another stop and the Marauders then scored again to pull within one score at 28-21.

Another touchdown run for Doe helped North make it a two-possession game yet again, going ahead 34-21. However, Mott continued to surge. The Marauders were able to stifle North with onside kicks in order to keep possession, fueling the

comeback that ultimately led to a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns that put Mott in front 35-34.

North had one last chance to flip the script. The Norsemen had the ball with about two minutes left and drove into Mott territory, but another fumble gave up possession and allowed Mott to get the ball and run out the clock.

The loss for North drops the team’s record

to 2-6 as it heads into the final week of the regular season. The final game is one that is circled on the calendar every year, as the Norsemen travel across town to take on rival Grosse Pointe South.

Even though some chances have not bounced North’s way this season, the team knows that in rivalry games like this, sometimes all you need is one opportunity on which to

capitalize.

“All of the records go out the door when the rivalry comes,” Drouin said. “... You just prepare for it like another game and you go in looking to compete and we want to put ourselves in a position where we can compete and hopefully something good happens for us.”

North visits South Friday, Oct. 24, with kickoff at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior quarterback Deon Doe (No. 0) threw three passing touchdowns and ran for two more touchdowns in North’s 35-34 loss to Warren Mott Friday, Oct. 17.

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# 'It's been a wonderful ride'

## Longtime youth football coach bids gridiron farewell

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Anyone who does anything more than four decades is bound to have an impact in whatever field or community in which they worked. In terms of coaching, there are few who have had as great an impact on young athletes during the last four decades than longtime St. Joan of Arc Catholic School football coach Dennis Shubnell.

Part of the coaching staff at St. Joan of Arc since 1983, and the varsity head coach since 1987, Shubnell coached his final game with the team Oct. 11, with a fitting farewell for such an influential figure both on and off the field. His final day on the sidelines was more than just a game in between the lines, but a celebration of the legacy and impact Shubnell's coaching has had on his players long after their time at St. Joan of Arc was over.

"The way that he held the kids across the board to a standard. ... It was all about the game and about the team," said Kevin Shubnell, Dennis Shubnell's son. "The relationships, that's why you do something like that for so long, and he put so much value in the relationships. There's the piece of me that's like my dad, where I look up to him and want to be like him, but there's also the



PHOTO BY VINCE BIRNBAUM

**Coach Dennis Shubnell addresses his team following his final game as varsity head football coach at St. Joan of Arc on Oct. 11.**

piece of me as an educator that realizes that my dad is an example where you want people like that in coaching who are in it for the relationships. ... He'd run into kids that he coached at church or at Kroger and he would always check in and see how they're doing."

Shubnell began his career in education at De La Salle Collegiate High School after graduating from the University of Notre Dame. He joined the football coaching staff there and got his start before leaving the school and team to pursue another career. A few years later, in 1983, he discovered an ad in the Grosse Pointe News: St. Joan of Arc was looking for a football coach.

He always prioritized education and leadership over everything, making sure every athlete who

played for him would learn something valuable during their time together that went beyond the gridiron. Wins — of which Shubnell had nearly 150 in his career — were only a small part of the reward for all of his work.

"What I liked was watching the kids grow and watching their passion putting forth 100-percent effort," Shubnell said. "... You see them cry sometimes for winning or losing because they just gave everything they have. I thought that was something that was so special to be part of — seeing kids play with such passion."

Shubnell's career at St. Joan of Arc included four division titles, 14 CYO Prep Bowl appearances and a finish as CYO runner-up in 2018. His final

season came to an end during that final home game Oct. 11, which was a first-round playoff loss to St. Lawrence.

His team this year did not go as far as others in the past, but winning is only a small part of the deal with Shubnell. Every season is special in its own way, regardless of record or accolades, because of what he has helped his players learn on and off the field. What made his final campaign more special this year was the next generation of his family's legacy coming to St. Joan of Arc.

Shubnell had the privilege of coaching both his sons, Kevin and Jason, and this year got to keep the family tradition going by coaching his grandson, Jacob.

"Around the time I thought maybe it was enough and time to pass the baton, he ends up joining," Shubnell said. "I thought, 'Oh geez,

wouldn't it be neat if I get to coach him?' Once he joined, I knew I had to stay and coach my grandson. ... Having my grandson there made it another goal and we had a pretty good season. ... (It was) a magic moment for me to have my grandkid there and watch him play."

Jacob, like every player who played for Shubnell, will leave his time at St. Joan of Arc having learned plenty about football and beyond. On the field, Shubnell focused on the fundamentals, always making sure his players knew the most about the most basic elements of football.

But more important were the fundamentals of everything else. Shubnell knew if he could teach his players how to be successful with the fundamentals of football, they could be successful by knowing the fundamentals of life off the field.

His emphasis on teamwork and hard work still are felt by the players he coached generations ago.

"(Coach Shubnell) instilled in us the belief that the team was the most important thing," said Mike Aubrey, a former player at St. Joan of Arc and member of the class of 1992. "He taught us how to win and taught us how to lose. ... I remember when I went to play in high school at Grosse Pointe North, the coach came up to me the first week of practice and asked if I played for St. Joan of Arc because I did everything fundamentally correct. Everyone that ever played for Coach Shubnell knows the fundamentals in and out. Technically, he was an excellent teacher of the game and, as a person, I learned so much about the kind of man I wanted to be."

Now, Shubnell gets to enjoy retirement from both his full-time career and from coaching. He admits he probably will make the rounds at the St. Joan of Arc practice field in the years to come, still trying to be as close to the team as he can.

He may no longer have the formal title, but Shubnell will long be known as "Coach." He has become synonymous with St. Joan of Arc football and, even though it has been tough for him to say goodbye, he would not change anything about his journey the past 40 years.

"In these last few weeks, it's really hit me," Shubnell said. "I just get really moved sometimes. Remembering all the kids and what they did. I just hope and pray that I moved them in a way that made them a little bit better and work a little bit harder. It's been a wonderful ride."



PHOTO BY JOHN SCHRAGE

**Dennis Shubnell spent over 40 years on the football coaching staff at St. Joan of Arc, joining the staff in 1983 and becoming varsity head coach in 1987.**

## City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, meeting as the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 through 125.3702 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will consider multiple variances at 541 Robert John Road (R1-C District) in order to expand an existing residential garage. Variances are requested for the following:

- A variance from the minimum front yard setback of 30 feet (Sec. 50-3.1.C) to 26 feet.
- A variance from the minimum side yard of 6 feet (least one) (Sec. 50-3.1C), to one side yard totaling 5 feet 2 inches (least one).

The ZBA hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 10th, 2025, at 7:00pm, at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236). The application is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office between 8:30am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office (20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236), up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at (313) 343-2440 or at [cityclerk@gpwwmi.us](mailto:cityclerk@gpwwmi.us) seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at [www.gpwwmi.us](http://www.gpwwmi.us).

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at (313) 343-2426 or e-mail: [building@gpwwmi.us](mailto:building@gpwwmi.us).

Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

G.P.N.:10/23/25

## CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS 2026 BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Harper Woods Michigan will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 P.M.  
TO BE HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL  
19617 HARPER AVENUE  
HARPER WOODS, MI 48225

The purpose of this public hearing will be to receive public input and comment on the proposed 2026 Budget for the City's General and various other operating funds. The proposed levy upon the 2025 Tax Rolls for each \$1000 of Real and Personal Property State taxable valuation is as follows:

FUND	CURRENT	PROPOSED	INC/DEC
General Operation	18.8398	18.5370	(0.3028)
Police & Fire	19.5000	17.5000	(2.0000)
P.A. 359 (City Promotion)	0.1678	0.1678	( 0.0000)
Debt Retirement-Library	0.0000	0.0000	(0.0000)
Refuse Collection	2.4034	2.3635	(0.0399)
Library Operations	1.8053	1.7752	(0.0301)
Milk River Drain District	10.500	10.2500	(.25000)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>53.2163</b>	<b>50.5935</b>	<b>(2.6228)</b>

Summaries of the proposed revenues for the 2026 budgeted funds are as follows:

General Fund	\$14,393,131
Major Street Fund	\$1,288,611
Local Street Fund	\$1,004,750
Milk River Drainage Fund	\$2,742,910
Refuse Collection fund	\$2,088,131
Library Fund	\$610,103
Debt Service Fund	\$8,366
Water & Sewer Fund	\$6,210,041
Capital Project Funds	\$680,000
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$0
Revolving Loan Fund	\$0
Vehicle and Equipment Fund	\$340,463

**THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.**

A copy of the proposed 2026 Budget is available for public inspection between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm weekdays in the office of the City Clerk, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225-2095 (313-343-2510). All interested persons are invited to attend this public hearing.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS  
**LESLIE FRANK**  
City Clerk

Published: GPN, Oct. 23, 2025

4D | SPORTS

# Blue Devils bounce back with 42-14 win over Anchor Bay

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Following a stunning loss on a late field goal to Lakeview Oct. 10, Grosse Pointe South varsity football needed to have a short memory to regroup and face its next challenge. The Blue Devils took that challenge head on when they traveled to face Anchor Bay Friday, Oct. 17, and looked as if they bounced back in a major way with a 42-14

win over the Tars. "There was a shift in our mentality about having more sense of urgency in practice and understanding that we're a pretty good football team, but we can't just roll out there and get wins automatically," South football head coach Chad Hepner said. "... We were able to take a lesson away from the Lakeview game and put a plan in action to get back to our routines and our

process. It was a nice way to get back on track." The Blue Devils were in the driver's seat from the beginning last Friday. South's offense only needed two plays to find the end zone on its first possession, with a deep pass from junior quarterback Sam Rouleau to Trey Grabowski setting up a Rouleau touchdown run to make it 7-0.

Rouleau added to South's lead with another rushing touchdown early in the second quarter. Brody Vinyard also rushed one in before the first half was called off by a short touchdown pass from Rouleau to Grabowski, making it 28-0 South going into halftime.

Charlie Michelotti and Andrew Wilson both scored rushing touchdowns in the second half for South as the team had the game well in hand. Anchor Bay added a pair of touchdowns in the second half, but the game never seemed out of control for the Blue Devils.

Rouleau completed 15 of 17 passing attempts for 176 yards and a touchdown, while tallying 56 yards and two touchdowns on the ground. Grabowski had five catches for 68 yards and a touchdown, but the leading receiver for the Blue Devils was Kooper Richards, who had a stellar night with eight catches for 133 yards.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Junior QB Sam Rouleau scrambles out of the pocket looking for an open receiver against Anchor Bay. Rouleau finished the game with a passing touchdown and two rushing touchdowns.



Trey Grabowski walks into the end zone for an easy touchdown in the second quarter of South's 42-14 win over Anchor Bay Friday, Oct. 17.

It was a milestone night for South on defense. Senior defensive lineman AJ Zieleniewski tallied one and a half sacks, giving him 14 total for his career, a new program record.

The win brings South's record this season to 7-1, with just one game remaining in the regular season. Before the Blue Devils can focus on the playoffs, they must first turn their attention to crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North.

South has won seven

straight games in the series against the Norsemen, who enter this year's matchup with a 2-6 record following a close loss to Warren Mott last Friday. However, in a rivalry game like this, the Blue Devils know records mean nothing and focus is key in a matchup that will attract the eyes of the entire community.

"I tell them every year that this is the game that you have to live with and it is the game that you and your friends will be talking about 20 or 30

years from now, and I know that because that's what my high school teammates and I still talk about," Hepner said. "This is the one that everybody sees and is going to be memorable no matter what. I think that they're dialed in and I told them that everything this week has to be a little extra — a little extra in your effort and a little extra in your mindset."

South hosts North Friday, Oct. 24, with kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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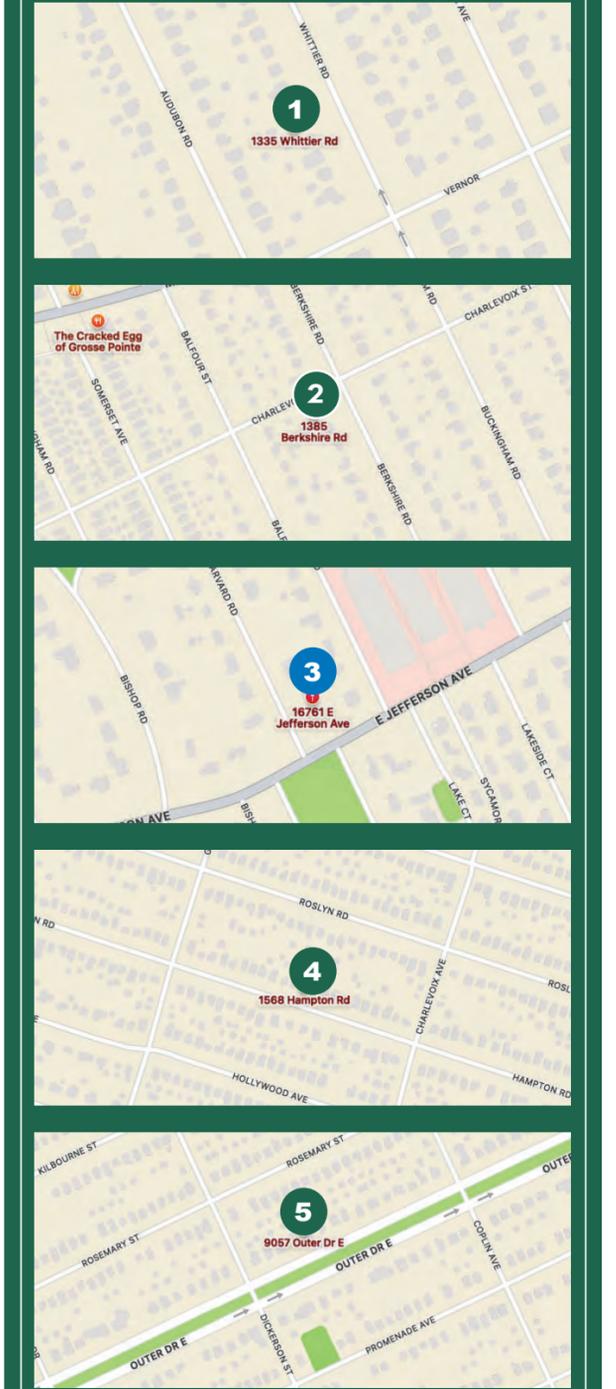
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**3** 16761 E Jefferson Ave  
**4** 1568 Hampton Rd  
**5** 9057 Outer Dr E

**THIS WEEK**  
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 2. 1385 Berkshire, GPP  
 3. 16761 E. Jefferson, GPP  
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## 6D | SPORTS

# Liggett wins district title in thriller, North and South out of soccer playoffs

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Playoff action continued for high school boys soccer last week, with the teams from University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South playing more district tournament games. The Blue Devils and Norsemen both saw their playoff journeys cut short with losses, while Liggett earned a district championship victory in thrilling fashion.

## University Liggett

The Knights earned a spot in the Division 4 district championship game with a win Tuesday, Oct. 14, beating Detroit Cristo Rey 3-0 in the district semifinals. Liggett went on the road for the district final, traveling to Allen Park to face Inter-City Baptist Thursday,

Oct. 16. The game was as exciting a playoff matchup as anyone could ask for, going all the way to a penalty-kick shootout before the Knights secured a 2-1 win.

Inter-City Baptist took a 1-0 lead and had the Knights trailing into the second half. Liggett was able to get the equalizer on a penalty kick opportunity in the second half, which Ollie Cooley put into the back of the net to make it a 1-1 game.

The score remained deadlocked at one apiece through extra time and into the penalty shootout. Brady Ancona and Caden Martin scored in the shootout for Liggett while goalkeeper Ravi Hines made the game-sealing save. The Knights ultimately prevailed in the end to close out the district championship victory and advance one

step closer to a state title.

"It was an incredible game and our boys had to show a lot of courage to get the result in the end," Liggett boys soccer head coach David Dwaihy said. "I was so pleased for them to find a way, and we are all grateful to still be playing at this point in the season."

The Knights moved on to the Division 4 regional semifinals, where they faced Hillsdale Academy after press time Tuesday, Oct. 21. The regional final is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, hosted by Ypsilanti Lincoln.

## South

The Blue Devils hosted their Division 1 district championship game Wednesday, Oct. 15. South welcomed in U of D Jesuit for the playoff showdown, and it was



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Joey Reid chases down Javier Antaran from U of D Jesuit with the ball in the district final match Wednesday, Oct. 15.

another close game for the Blue Devils. However, South ended up on the losing side of the close result, falling 1-0 to the Cubs.

"It was a fresh new season with a lot of young guys...As the season progressed, we kept getting better and better, and you could see it in the district tournament," South boys soccer head coach Joe Cada said. "...I'm super proud of the guys. They played with their whole heart and battled all year. They did everything I asked for, so I'm really proud of the guys, even if it's a little disappointing the way it finished."

The only goal of the game was scored by U of D Jesuit's Vasco Marra with 23 minutes left in the first half. South had about 60 minutes of game time to find an equalizer. The Blue Devils had opportunities

in both the first and second halves, but were ultimately unable to get anything past the Cubs.

The loss ended the season for South with a final record of 8-9-3. The team finished sixth in the MAC Red Division.

## North

North made its way to De La Salle Collegiate Tuesday, Oct. 14, for a showdown against the Pilots in the Division 2 district tournament semifinals. The Norsemen saw their hopes of playing for a district title cut short as De La Salle shut them out with a 6-0 result.

North's season ended with a 6-8-3 record and a second-place finish in the MAC Blue Division.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

University Liggett boys soccer celebrates with the district championship trophy after winning a thrilling district final 2-1 in a penalty kick shootout against Allen Park Inter-City Baptist Thursday, Oct. 16.

## NOTICE OF ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY, GROSSE POINTE PARK, GROSSE POINTE CITY, GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND GROSSE POINTE WOODS MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF GROSSE POINTE PARK, GROSSE POINTE CITY, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN THE AFOREMENTIONED MUNICIPALITIES ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025. THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

AT THE FOLLOWING POLLING LOCATIONS:

### CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS

PRECINCT All Precincts Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road

### CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

PRECINCT All Precincts Neighborhood Club Recreation & Wellness Center, 17150 Waterloo Avenue

### GROSSE POINTE PARK

PRECINCT 001 Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive  
002 Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive  
004 Lavins Activity Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive  
005 Lavins Activity Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive  
006 Lavins Activity Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive  
007 Lavins Activity Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive

### GROSSE POINTE WOODS

PRECINCT 001 St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park  
002 Community Center - 20025 Mack Plaza Drive  
003 Community Center - 20025 Mack Plaza Drive

### VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY

PRECINCT All Precincts Municipal Building, First Floor, Council Chambers, 795 Lake Shore Road

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that registered voters will be voting on the following as presented and listed below:

**Grosse Pointe:** Mayor (1 seat) and City Council (3 seats). **Grosse Pointe Farms:** Municipal Judge (1 seat) Mayor (1 seat) and City Council (3 seats). **Grosse Pointe Park:** Municipal Judge (1 seat) Mayor (1 seat) and City Council (3 seats). **Grosse Pointe Shores:** Municipal Judge (1 seat) and City Council (3 seats). **Grosse Pointe Woods:** Mayor (1 seat) City Council (3 seats) and city charter amendment proposal. **Grosse Pointe Public School System:** Bond Proposal.

Full text of the ballot, including the proposals, may be obtained at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote).

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the local Clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

All electors who are registered with the Clerk in which they reside are eligible to vote at this election. Sample ballots can be found at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote). To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the City Clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

**Brigitte Bowdler**  
City Clerk  
City of Grosse Pointe Park  
15115 E. Jefferson Avenue  
Ph: 313-822-6200

**Christopher Hardenbrook**  
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20025 Mack Plaza Drive  
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**Courtney Smith**  
City Clerk  
Village of Grosse Pointe Shores,  
a Michigan City  
795 Lake Shore Road  
Ph: 313-881-6565

## ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

in Worcester, Mass., a journey for which she feels her time at South has well prepared her.

"Going into my senior year, I realized that swimming helps me in a lot of ways and I don't know where I'd be without it and I really value the friendships I get from it," Handwork said. "When I visited Holy Cross, it kind of felt like how South feels. There's a great bond between all of the people there and I think it's a really great spot for me."

When it comes to getting ready for the collegiate level, Handwork is continuing to approach things like she did her senior season with South. Strength training

is a main focus as she keeps trying to build her speed, but she is not letting preparation for the future overshadow the best moments of her last races as a Blue Devil.

Handwork is grateful for every day she gets to spend with her high school team. She continues to work hard to become better with every race and practice, and knows everything she is experiencing now with her teammates and coaches will stick with her when she moves to the next step in her career.

"Coach (John Fodell) does a really good job of preparing us for the next level," she said. "All of our practices have an intention, so I am just keeping up what I'm doing and am really excited to be there."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

Handwork swims the breaststroke in a race against L'Anse Creuse North in September.