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VOL. 86, NO. 47, 50 PAGES ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 95¢) Your community newspaper since 1940 NOVEMBER 20, 2025 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Egregious odor persists at Chalfonte pump station

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Residents near Kerby and Chalfonte finally are gaining traction on a quality-of-life issue they say has been ongoing for years, but recently intensified — an egregious sewage odor emanating from the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District Pump Station at 305 Chalfonte.

“You save your money to buy this dream house to live in a nice neighborhood and you get your house and it stinks,” said

Lisa Brownlee, who moved kitty-corner to the pump station in 2021. “It smells so bad, I can’t even invite people over. “I have to leave the house sometimes to go to a fresh-air spot to enjoy the outdoors — forget that I have an outdoor patio that I put out there.”

The odor is periodic, neighbors say, but often. “Most of the days, you can’t sit in your yard,” said David Pitts, who has lived on Chalfonte across from the pump station 24 years. “I can’t invite my

See ODOR, page 2A



Paul Schaap, namesake of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts, and Executive Director Anne Bak Marine in the balcony of the theater due to open soon on the border of Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit.

PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Scurrying to open on time

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — That jumble of building supplies on Jefferson straddling the Detroit border is about to become the 49,000-square-foot Schaap Center.

It opens with a 1 p.m. music and dance matinee Sunday, Nov. 30.

“It is all hands on deck, full steam ahead, whatever other little cliché you can make,” Executive

Director Anne Bak Marine said. “We’re trying to get over the finish line.”

Performers Nov. 30 consist of Grosse Pointe Theatre, Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra, Eisenhower Dance and more. Tickets cost \$50.

Despite the building looking currently less like a first-class performing arts center and more like a flying madhouse in a nosedive, everyone involved expects a three-

point landing.

The veteran team overseeing preparations for the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery are used to construction projects being messy until work is finished and everything turns out well.

“That’s exactly what you’re witnessing,” said Luis Castro, director of facilities and information technology. “The last

four to six weeks of every construction project, from your kitchen renovation to a \$200 million project, they are all the same.”

“It’s like running a marathon,” Marine said. “That last half mile is the hardest to get across the finish line.”

Castro joined the Schaap squad from overseeing \$30 million worth of investment and renovation.

See SCHAAP, page 9A

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GPPSS considering expanded preschool program

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education is considering partnering with Wayne RESA, the county’s intermediate school district, to offer Great Start Readiness classrooms beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

“Wayne RESA has already told us in writing that they want to partner with us,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle told the board at its meeting Monday, Nov. 10. “This could be an opportunity for us to recruit new families.”

If the district moves forward, the program — also known as “universal

See EXPAND, page 16A

50th annual Santa Claus Parade is Nov. 28

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — A 50-year Grosse Pointe tradition — the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade — kicks off along Kercheval at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28, rain, shine or snow.

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, organizers of the parade since 2012, are hopeful for sunshine, but expect a large turnout regardless of the weather.

“Over 10,000 people came out last year,” said Jennifer Boettcher, chamber president. “And this is our 50th annual parade, so we’re excited.”

Several longtime parade participants will



Santa Claus gets the keys to Grosse Pointe during the 1963 Santa Claus parade.

FILE PHOTO

return to the route, including the Redford Township Unicycle Club, Detroit Ghostbusters and the go-cart-riding Shriners. The Detroit Parade Company is providing seven floats,

“which we rent through our generous sponsor support,” Boettcher added. “Our sponsors make the whole parade possible.”

Another return participant, Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan, has registered more than 100 precious pooches for this

See PARADE, page 10A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Glenn McCullough
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Lifelong artist practices the art of woodturning



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Hill daycare proposal tabled until January

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A lengthy preliminary site plan hearing last week for the early education daycare center seeking to fill the former Rite Aid building on The Hill could be boiled down to this: City council is united in agreeing there is an urgent need for infant childcare in the commu-

nity, while the majority also cited significant concern for allowing such a use in the business district.

“When we take a look at this district, this is probably the worst place that you could put a daycare child center,” Councilwoman Beth Konrad Wilberding said. “We are still looking at it to try to see how it could possibly work, because of this high

equivalent of emotion and it’s our children and we have a high need.”

Proposed is a 17,000-square-foot, two-story early education daycare center for children 6 weeks to 6 years old. The center would operate 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and be designed to accommodate approximately 179 students and 27 staff members.

The company, N Family Schools, is based out of the United Kingdom and looking to enter the U.S. market.

“Their learning philosophy consists of four major components,” said Bradford Egan, development manager for the project. “Theme-based learning, which uses topics of interest to children to place concepts in context; an academic curriculum,

which focuses on school readiness in math, language and literacy; enrichment programs, which include music, arts, gardening and foreign language, among other activities; and character development.”

At the close of the hearing Monday, Nov. 10, city council members unanimously voted to table the matter until the January council meeting, giving the city

time to conduct a traffic study on the impact at drop-off and pick-up times, as well as to reach out to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for clarification on a unique hurdle brought to light by Councilman Dan Jensen.

Jensen, who retired as public safety director in 2021, questioned the legality of allowing an early education center within a social district, where open intoxicants are welcome on the street. The Hill between Muir and McMillan became a social district last December.

“It was my understanding that you can’t have a bar, you can’t have anybody that serves alcohol within 500 feet of a school and this basically is an educational-type school,” Jensen said. “... We just passed all this social districting, we’ve got four to five platforms in the street all day long in the summer for booze and drinking and we want to put a daycare right in the middle of it. I’m not sure the liquor control commission will approve that, which would immediately concern our restaurant and bar owners.”

It is within city council’s purview to allow or decline the childcare center, given early education and childcare centers are not a listed permitted or conditional use in the B-1 district.

The council additionally is limited in the avenues by which it could grant a use variance to the applicant.

Rather than the typical council majority, granting a use variance would require five of seven yes votes. Approval would have to be based on factual findings that the applicant has some type of practical difficulty that would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for one of the designated principal uses within the district.

“It would require showing that there’s something special, something unique about this particular parcel that is not the case with respect to other surrounding parcels to create that difficulty to convince the board of zoning appeals to grant a use variance,” City Attorney Bill Burgess added. “You have to demonstrate that the difficulty is not self-created and you have to demonstrate that the

ODOR:

Continued from page 1A

elderly aunties and uncles over because I’m ashamed that the smell is going to come and it’s going to run them out.

“... My house is almost paid for,” he added. “I wouldn’t even sell this house to anyone without disclosing what they’re going to endure if they move here.”

The situation is being brought forward with renewed vigor following a particularly egregious stench on Halloween.

“On Halloween night, I was going to join forces with another neighbor and we were going to light their fireplace,” said Councilwoman Sierra Donaven, who also lives near the pump station. “I



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

The Southeast Macomb Sanitary District Pump Station sits at 305 Chalfonte next to the city’s public works department.

bought wood and I bought so much candy. I did it over-the-top.com. ... And as I approached his house at the corner of Kerby and Chalfonte, before I could even open my car door, I was gagging. I don’t even know

how to describe the odor, but it was so offensive ... I went back home.”

Farms City Manager Shane Reeside last week said city hall hasn’t received many direct complaints from residents, but is aware of the ongoing issue because the city’s public works department is directly adjacent to the pumping station.

“I think it’s unfair for people to say the city doesn’t care,” Donaven said, “but I am very concerned, not just as a resident, but as a city councilperson, too, because I feel that whatever is the city’s to do, we

have to do. We have that responsibility and I’m grateful for how the city has stepped up and is doing their own further investigation to determine what’s really happening here.”

Reeside said the SEMSD has been very cooperative in working with the city to try to resolve the issue.

“The site is in our community and we have a strong interest in how it impacts our residents,” he said. “We are going to make sure we hold the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District accountable.”

Since Halloween, SEMSD has set the pump station’s odor control system to its maximum setting, reported Kip Walby, director of operations.

The fans are not always on their maximum setting, he said, because it can be stressful on the equipment.

“You don’t want to drive 100 mph all day long,” Walby said. “We want to make sure we don’t run these into the ground and don’t have them, so we’re kind of careful in how we work the system. ... But we have been doing that as of late to have the system on full throttle to hopefully assist (with the odor).”

SEMSD also is working with engineering group, E C S Environmental Solutions,

which is the manufacturer of the odor-control system, to reevaluate the system and get a quote for replacement of its granulated activated carbon system filters.

“It was a very dry year this year,” Walby said. “Anyone that’s in the sanitary business will tell you dry years make it a little bit tougher. We like water moving through the system to help clean things out. So a dry, droughty system, which it was in the fall, does pose a problem.”

Residents near Kerby and Chalfonte intend to attend the city’s next council meeting, Monday, Dec. 8, to further raise the issue to city officials.

“I’m a registered nurse and I know sewer smells and different things can affect your health,” Brownlee said. “I have two special needs children who have health issues. I bought this house so we could have a walkable neighborhood (but) what do you want to walk in this neighborhood for? It stinks.”

“... This is a beautiful community,” she added. “Good people. I love living over here, but I would love to live over here with a decent quality of life.”

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See HILL, page 3A

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Park tree lighting Saturday, Nov. 29

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — That big evergreen in the Kercheval roundabout didn't get there on its own.

It's the city's Christmas tree donated by Shery Cotton.

Lighting the tree 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, is the focus of a block-long celebration on Kercheval between Maryland and the Wayburn traffic circle.

"We're going to do all the things we did last year — crafts for kids, hot cocoa, s'mores," said Waref Hawasli, owner of Pointe Hardware Group. "Kids will build a few crafts we'll have waiting for them."

"I assure you, each year it gets better and better," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "It's a wonderful tree lighting where we bring everybody to our beautiful Grosse Pointe Park to kick off the holidays."

Shery Cotton, Nancy and Sean Cotton, Lauren and Jon Cotton sponsor the event, featuring lighted sidewalk trees, s'mores stations and fire warming pits.

Attendance is free and open to the public.

"We want an even bigger turnout than last year," Hawasli said.

A difference this year is expansion of Little Builder's Santa's



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Soon to be decorated for the Saturday, Nov. 29, tree-lighting ceremony is this evergreen located temporarily in the Kercheval-Wayburn roundabout.

Workshop from inside the store to the street.

"Kids got to build and craft," Hawasli said. "There was hot cocoa and all the fun stuff inside. It was like a Hallmark movie, pure joy. Really fun."

About 150 children participated last year inside the store.

"This year we are doing the same thing, but this time we're getting a big tent and doing our Little Builder's Santa's Workshop in the street so it can have a much larger footprint and allow for more walk-ins — and also be right there with the

grand event, which is the tree lighting," Hawasli said.

"We're setting up a tent and getting heaters to make sure it's warm and getting a bunch of crafts for kids to do," said Danielle Hawasli, Waref's wife and president of the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association. "We've always been very family driven and kid-focused. The Christmas event is one of our favorites of the year because it combines our love for children and the holidays."

Little Builders participants are requested to register in advance so

organizers know how much material to provide.

To register, email workshop@pointehardwaregroup.com. Reference Santa's workshop.

Turnout for last year's tree lighting was strong despite frigid weather.

"I was the coldest night of that year," Waref Hawasli said. "But everyone was still there."

"It's truly a magical, magical night," Danielle Hawasli said. "Everyone wants to be involved, to be part of it. It's become a beautiful thing. It says a lot about the community itself. It's such a cool vibe, a cool environment."



A screen grab of a property for which owners were billed \$500 because a city contractor had to trim vegetation in compliance with municipal maintenance codes.

Alley gripes coming and going

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City officials refuse to be put between a rock and a hard place about enforcement of alley maintenance codes.

Having heard complaints from residents and council members about overgrown alley vegetation being unsightly and impinging on rights-of-way, administrators recently executed preparations voiced more than a year ago to enforce alley maintenance rules. Now, they're hearing gripes about doing so.

Two residents complained during the Nov. 10 city council meeting of receiving \$500 invoices for alley trimming. Both

residents admitted having overgrowth and the option of easily trimming it themselves for nothing. One of the residents sent council members photos of the trees after a city contractor concluded trimming.

"I'm here on behalf of myself and my neighbors," resident Sarah Domin told council. "There are a lot of things about these invoices that are concerning. First, some residents never received notice of an alleged violation. The notice didn't say where any overgrowth was. I could have done the work myself in about 20 minutes."

"Everything she said I agree with," resident

See ALLEYS, page 11A

HILL:

Continued from page 2A

proposed use would not alter the central overall character of The Hill business district."

City council also would need to approve the potential expansion of the footprint of the building up to a second floor, as well as parking and traffic flow considerations.

To accommodate its parent pick up and drop off, the center hopes to lease from the city around 15 parking spaces along the front row of the municipal lot along St. James Way.

Drop off typically takes place 6 to 9 a.m., with pick up between 3 and 6 p.m.

The city currently does not allow parking in the front row of the municipal lot prior to 9:30 a.m. to prevent those spaces being filled for the day by employees on The Hill.

The developer also is in discussions with Henry Ford Health to lease up to 35 spaces in the parking structure for the daycare's employees.

"I think with the combination of those, plus if we can get an agreement with the city to accommodate the pick-up and drop-off spaces," Egan said, "I think that we could make this work in a very safe, efficient and desirable way for the members of the Grosse Pointe Farms community and the Grosse Pointes as a whole."

Several council members urged the applicant to consider alternate sites within the Grosse Pointes, including partnership opportunities with the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

"I think you would get nothing but unbelievable support and a lot of great dialogue if we



107 Kercheval - Proposed Elevation

COURTESY IMAGE

This concept image shows a potential exterior design of the childcare center proposed to take the place of the former Rite Aid building on The Hill.

were to take a look at some other sites — and there are some other school sites and that conversation needs to be had," Konrad Wilberding said. "Now perhaps if you as the landlord looked at it from an economical standpoint and were saying, 'Hey, this is the most economical way that we could try to facilitate it,' OK, that's your prerogative, but you've got to look at all the different hoops you're going to put us through if we want to try to make this reality."

During public com-

ment, some community members cautioned against traffic and congestion in combination with Richard Elementary School, while others lauded the increase in foot traffic the center would bring to Hill businesses and the desire to see a large vacant building filled.

"Rite Aid had approximately 186 stores in Michigan," Farms resident Wendy Souvel said. "Most of them are pretty large and most of them are still vacant. A few do have new tenants, but it's a darn few and they've got urgent care-

type clinics, a single-tunnel car wash — I don't think that's going to work on The Hill — Kroger, O'Reilly Auto Parts (and) a few are getting redeveloped into multi-use with the hopes that they'll get coffeehouses or restaurants."

"Let's not let this huge building sit empty and further deteriorate. Let's use it for something different, something creative and something that will really address an important need."

The city also received four letters in support of the development and two in opposition.



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The Week Ahead

MONDAY, NOV. 24

◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

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

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

◆ Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

◆ 50th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, 10 a.m.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Don't burn it; turn it

McCullough revives forgotten wood through art and community

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

Tucked in the basement of a quiet home in Grosse Pointe Woods, Glenn McCullough has carved out a life, quite literally, through the hum of lathes and the scent of freshly sanded pine. A lifelong artist, McCullough's return to woodturning has blossomed into a craft that is both highly technical and deeply personal.

"I went to school for art at Wayne State," McCullough said. "I had one semester to go to get a teaching certificate, but I met my bride and we were going to seal the deal. So anyway, I ended up needing to go get a job."

That job, at Art Van Furniture, spanned decades until the company's closure. But McCullough never let go of his creative roots.

"I took a 42-year sabbatical from getting really involved in art," he

said, "but the last couple of years I've been really getting involved in things that are going on around the community."

His journey into woodturning began humbly, with a garage sale purchase and a simple idea.

"I actually bought a little lathe at a garage sale for \$75, thinking I would make a cane or a walking stick," McCullough said. "Yeah, I never made one."

Instead, he found something even more unexpected: a love for turning pens.

"I started making pens and I've made probably 1,500 of them," McCullough said. "People wanted them and it basically paid for all the tools and stuff that I have."

As the projects grew in complexity, so did the tools and creative niche.

"I started going off from pen making when I found I needed a bigger, better lathe," McCullough said. "And now I'm on my, I think, my fourth



Above and below right, samples of McCullough's handiwork.

one. It's the last one I'll ever need. It's pretty big."

That same lathe hums at up to 3,000 RPM, a speed that demands care and attention.

"It's one of the most dangerous tools you'll have," McCullough said. "I had a bowl fly off at about 1,800 RPM and hit me right in the face. I got 10 stitches."

He wears a face shield every time now, even when he is sanding, just in case.

Safety lessons aside, the thrill of the creative process still drives him every day. His workshop, equipped with a dust collector and an air-filtration system that recycles the air six times an hour, is a testament to both passion and precision.

"It's a smaller shop," McCullough said, "but I like to go down there. It's just fun."

What started with pens has expanded into an array of functional and decorative works: bowls, beer mugs, gavels, frames, gnomes and even musical wood from clarinet factories.

"Sometimes you take

what you can get," he said. "I've picked up logs at the curb. My neighbor cut a tree down and I made a bowl from it."

McCullough doesn't just buy exotic wood; he repurposes it.

"There's a guy that does tree trimming and he gives me some logs," McCullough said. "I've gone to the city and picked up a log there. A piece of pine, picked up at the curb, becomes something you'd never expect."

One of his favorite materials is African blackwood.

"There's no color or anything, that's the way it came," McCullough said. "That's a hollow form. There are different names for different things."

And while each piece begins with an idea, it rarely follows a fixed blueprint.

"Mother Nature creates the wood," McCullough said. "Sometimes it has a different idea. Sometimes you throw that piece away. Sometimes it gives you a new idea. It's called a design change."

That openness to change fuels his favorite part of the creative process: the reveal.

"After you've finished turning it, it's all dusty and there's no color to it," McCullough said. "But when you add the oil, it brings out the color of the wood. That's when it comes to life."

His pieces have sold as far away as Singapore and the United Kingdom. He's made custom pens, engraved Titanic tributes, gavel sets for local judges and pens from 14th-century Irish bog oak. He's taught classes



COURTESY PHOTOS

Glenn McCullough holds one of the pieces that is displayed at Posterity Gallery in The Village.



across the Midwest and is a proud member of the American Association of Woodturners.

"There's a whole community out there," McCullough said. "Some very, very talented people."

McCullough currently is an artist-in-residence at Posterity Art & Framing in The Village.

"It means I don't have to pay to go to a show and spend money to buy the space," McCullough said.

One of his pieces was accepted for display in The Village, as part of a community art initiative.

"This is the one that's going into The Village," McCullough said, holding up a frame featuring a cairn. "A cairn is designed to be either a meeting place, gathering place or a point of interest."

But the work that resonates deepest with him is one created for a child's cancer support program.

"This piece is probably my favorite," McCullough said. "It's for Beads of Courage. They give beads to kids who are getting chemo or radiation treatment. This holds the beads until they get enough to make

something out of it."

His workshop is filled with half-finished spoons, seasonal trees, layered staves and turned boxes he trades with other artists. He even invites friends and neighbors to collaborate or learn.

"It's nice teaching," McCullough said. "We do some teaching stuff too."

For McCullough, inspiration comes from his college instructors, fellow turners and the natural world itself.

"There's so many great woodturners all over the world that are inspiring," he said. "And I get to meet up with them at different places."

His message to those who see his work is simple, but powerful.

"I tend to make things that are functional, because I want people to use them," McCullough said. "Some things are more visual, but I hope they feel it's special."

Where others might discard or overlook a fallen limb, McCullough sees a story waiting to be told.

"There's so much wood that gets burned," he said. "(They) could be amazing pieces like these."

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Dodge Rams targeted for infotainment systems

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Unlocked vehicles in the Pointes long have been a pesky enticement

to criminals looking for an easy score, but a recent crime trend means even residents who dutifully lock their car doors at night and keep valuables out of sight could be

at risk.

In particular, the owners of Dodge Ram trucks. The specific make and model is the target of thieves who smash windows to gain entry and

steal dashboard touchscreen units and associated electronic modules.

“From what we understand, (with) the Dodge vehicles, it’s fairly simple to get the infotainment

centers out,” Farms Sgt. Derek Lazarski explained. “It’s a pretty simple process that kids are being taught and can do fairly quickly. They can be in and out in a

minute or two and walk away with the system, which has a resale value fairly high.”

Going back to March, there have been 19 reported cases of infotainment system thefts

See *THEFTS*, page 11A

Grosse Pointe Farms

Life saved

Good Samaritans and a Farms officer who happened upon the scene saved the life of a 54-year-old Detroit man who was overdosing behind the wheel of his vehicle on Mack at 4:33 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10.

The officer on patrol noticed people around the driver’s side of the truck and, thinking an accident may have occurred, found the driver unconscious, taking shallow breaths.

Good Samaritans helped the officer remove the man from the vehicle and lay him on the ground before three doses of Narcan were administered until the man regained consciousness.

He admitted to using crack cocaine and was safely transported to an area hospital.

Jewelry box

A black leather jewelry box containing several thousands of dollars in jewelry is suspected to have been stolen from a home in the 200 block of Stephens between Saturday, Nov. 8, and Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Dirt bike theft

A blue 2020 Yamaha YZ450F dirt bike was stolen from an attached garage on Meadow Lane at 3:42 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 13.

A security camera directly above the garage door captured three male suspects exit the garage with the dirt bike and push it down the driveway to the street.

The suspects likely entered the garage by lifting open a window.

The bike had been listed for sale on Facebook Marketplace for approximately five weeks.

Crimes of opportunity

A 2024 yellow Hyundai Kona was stolen from the 200 block of Kerby between 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, and 8:40 a.m. the next morning. The owner left her purse and keys inside the unlocked vehicle.

A black 2020 Lincoln Aviator was stolen from the 100 block of Touraine between 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, and 6:40 a.m. the next morning. The owner said the vehicle was unlocked with the keys inside.

— Laurel Kraus

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Pointless destruction

A homeless man is suspected of damaging the sink in a Kercheval eatery men’s restroom at 1:50 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, by loosening the PVC drainage pipe and causing water to drain onto the floor.

Temper tantrum

A male patient was verbally abusive and made threats to staff at a local hospital after his procedure was canceled

Tuesday, Nov. 11, due to him not having a ride home after the procedure.

Intoxicated

A 39-year-old Detroit man was arrested for driving intoxicated at 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, after he was pulled over at Charlevoix and St. Clair for two defective headlights.

Intoxicated x 2

A 38-year-old Clinton Township man was found slumped over the wheel of his vehicle at Charlevoix and Washington while it was still in drive and with his foot on the brake at 3:55 a.m. Monday, Nov. 17.

The man subsequently was found to be intoxicated, for which he was arrested.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Caught

At 12:20 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, Southgate police arrested one adult and two juveniles in a car reportedly stolen shortly before in the 1300 block of Lakepointe.

“(The) adult was arrested; juveniles were detained,” according to a Park investigator.

Fake prize

A telephone fraudster pretending to represent a sweepstakes contest called a Park woman Friday, Nov. 14, about being selected the winner.

All the resident had to do to collect the prize was hand over the numbers of her bank account. No dice.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Triple ticketing

A 30-year-old Detroit woman was issued three citations after her vehicle was clocked doing 60 mph in a 35 mph zone on northbound Lakeshore around 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

She also received tickets for no insurance and an expired license plate, leading to her 2015 Chevy Malibu being impounded.

Mutual aid

Officers provided mutual aid to the Grosse

Pointe Farms Public Safety Department for a kitchen fire in the 2000 block of Hollywood around 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16. They were on scene for about an hour.

— Ted O’Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Contractors targeted

Around \$1,300 in tools were stolen from the back of a work van in the 1800 block of Prestwick around 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12.

A contractor opened the rear doors of the van and was confronted by a black male around 6 feet, 3 inches and 200 pounds wearing a ski mask. He fled in a Chrysler 200 with no license plate driven by another black male. The contractor was able to damage the vehicle’s rear window with a

pipe before it sped away. Officers believe the same suspects tried to steal tools from another work van in the 1900 block of Severn less than an hour later but were scared off by neighbors.

Coupon cost

A woman believes several items were stolen from her purse while she was shopping at a business in the 20400 block of Mack around 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15.

She told officers she unzipped her purse to scan a coupon with her phone. After leaving the store she discovered a change purse containing credit cards, several hundred dollars and her identification was missing.

A credit card was used shortly after at a gas station for a purchase of \$116.

— Ted O’Neil

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



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Not great, but maybe so-so

As noted on page 1A, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education is considering partnering with Wayne RESA, the county's intermediate school district, to offer more Great Start Readiness Program classrooms beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

We encourage the district to proceed with caution. If the district moves forward, the program — also known as “universal preschool” — would be open to all 4-year-olds in Wayne County at no cost to families. Similar to regular K-12 state aid, GPPSS would receive a per-pupil reimbursement from the state.

The district also would receive \$50,000 per classroom for required furnishings. According to Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, the per-pupil payment would be around \$10,000 if GSRP is offered four days a week and around \$12,000 for five days a week.

Dr. Tuttle also said that in her experience in other school districts, Great Start classrooms can generate revenue, which the district's current tuition-based preschool classrooms do not.

For those not familiar with GSRP, it is not just another form of preschool.

For starters, it is designed to serve extremely high-risk children based on a number of qualifying factors. The first eligibility criteria for admission is family income, with preference given to students who come from households at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level and priority for those between 300 and 400 percent of that level.

Currently, 250 percent of the federal poverty level for a single person is \$39,125. It is \$52,875 for a two-person household, \$66,625 for three people and \$80,375 for four people.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income among the Pointes ranges from \$130,000 in the Woods and \$182,000 in the Shores. We would be curious how many students from the Pointes would qualify based on those numbers.

But this is about more than just receiving money to do something nice for less fortunate students from outside of the Pointes. Other criteria include a diagnosis of a disability or developmental delays, behavioral issues — including being removed from a previous preschool setting — a history of abuse or neglect and having an illiterate or incarcerated parent.

There is a potential for problems with that. Homeowners here pay high taxes because our schools are known for safety as much as quality education.

Dr. Tuttle also said existing classrooms already licensed for preschool would be used, noting the exact number and locations of classrooms and paid versus GSRP would be determined by demand upon enrollment.

The district currently has nine classrooms being used for tuition-based preschool — which has a waitlist — and one GSRP classroom at Ferry Elementary School run by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency.

Thus far, there has been no indication the district's tuition-based preschool offerings would be reduced by the GSRP, but priority should be placed on making sure GPPSS has enough preschool offerings for the children of homeowners who pay taxes to support the district, especially given the fact that in the past 15 months Grosse Pointe voters have approved the district's operating millage, a \$111 million sinking fund and a \$120 million bond.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

Further discussion on the matter, both Great Start and increasing the availability of tuition-based preschool, will be held at the next board meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, at Brownell Middle School.

We believe the answer, ultimately, sits at 820 Beaconsfield in Grosse Pointe Park. Yes, the shuttered Trombly Elementary School. It has enough room to meet the needs of local parents looking for tuition-based preschool and could potentially host more Great Start classrooms if interest really takes off.

Readers may recall the survey the district commissioned last spring in the Trombly catchment area. It found 396 children birth to age 9 living in 227 houses in the area. Based on data from Plante Moran, the survey estimated there would be 500 households that met the criteria, giving the survey a sampling error of plus or minus 4.9 points.

Of those 227 households, 48 percent said they had two children aged 9 or younger. Another 24 percent had one and 21 percent had three. Some 64 percent of those children were below kindergarten age, while 51 percent of them attended a private preschool.

Respondents also said if Trombly were to

reopen as a preschool, 86 percent of parents with children too young for kindergarten said they would send their children there, including all Trombly parents whose preschoolers currently attend Barnes Early Childhood Center.

For its part, the board already has shown a commitment to keeping Trombly as a district asset, having voted in the affirmative in April.

The board also approved spending around \$1.5 million on new windows for the building and the Bond Advisory Committee suggested around \$6 million of the recently passed bond be used to keep the building up to code.

State law requires all classrooms second grade and below, including preschool, be on the first floor of any multi-story school building, which Trombly is. By using the school's first floor to add more tuition-based preschool rooms, the district could potentially solve its waitlist problem and attract new families with young children.

Finally, if the district does move forward with Great Start, our hope is that no board or administration members would see it as a way to move toward participating in schools of choice.

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.

Salute to veterans

To the Editor:

As a veteran, let me offer our community multiple thank-yous for the kindness extended to the veterans in our community.

I'd begin by thanking the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association under the guidance of Maria Miller, who hosted a wonderful breakfast this morning (Nov. 11) and brought hundreds of veterans and their family and friends together for a great program. The list of dignitaries was long and all joined our community to celebrate our veterans.

Our keynote speaker, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Jim McCloughan, gave a wonderful speech on the connection that service members have, not just to their country, but equally important to the other

service members they served side-by-side with. The bond created lasts a lifetime.

Perhaps the most special thank-you I would like to send is to all the children in our schools who made cards and sent messages that were waiting for us on the tables at The War Memorial.

Many soldiers will remember the power of receiving a letter or card from home when they served in some distant corner of the world. It was the only connection we might have with home and it was always an eagerly awaited moment to get something in the mail. Their cards brought those memories back (Remember, there were no cell phones or texts). The authors ranged from elementary to middle school and I deliberately took time to read every one I could get my hands on. Thank you all!

For those children who made a card or wrote a note, please know they were read and greatly appreciated. In addition, they will be forwarded and passed along. It means a lot.

Additionally, I took a stack and am sending them to former platoon members I served with who are now spread out across the country — New York, Texas, California and Alaska to name just a few; your notes are treasured.

On behalf of all the veterans there today, thank you!

MATTHEW TURNBULL
Grosse Pointe Park

The cat's meow

To the Editor:

I wanted to send this letter to the editor in response to Renee Landuyt's recent column titled, “Why do we say what we say?”

I was prompted to send this because of an experience I had last Thursday morning. I was speaking with a friend and ended up using the phrase: “There's more than one way to skin a cat.” After I said that, I stopped to question the meaning of the phrase. When I looked it up, I discovered that it originated in the 16th century and related to the skinning of cats for their fur and was later — in the 1800s — used to refer to the skinning of catfish.

That same afternoon, I received the Thursday edition of the Grosse Pointe News and discovered Renee's column relating to the exact same topic. I wanted to let her know how much I enjoyed the column because I often look up sayings like this. It is amazing to me that we use phrases that derive from previous

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

November 20 – 26



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
50° 41°	51° 37°	48° 35°	50° 36°	51° 40°	50° 46°	53° 30°
Mostly Cloudy	Rain Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
30%	60%	20%	10%	0%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 7:29 am SUNSET 5:06 pm	SUNRISE 7:30 am SUNSET 5:05 pm	SUNRISE 7:31 am SUNSET 5:04 pm	SUNRISE 7:33 am SUNSET 5:04 pm	SUNRISE 7:34 am SUNSET 5:03 pm	SUNRISE 7:35 am SUNSET 5:03 pm	SUNRISE 7:36 am SUNSET 5:02 pm

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



A dog in the night

grown female collie, she packed it up and shipped it our way air freight.

None of this occurred with anyone in our family's notice until the telephone rang around 1 a.m. on a work night. I slept through it and didn't get up to speed until morning.

A shipping clerk at an airport in the city reported a crate waiting for my father at the unloading dock and to get down here now, mister. Can it wait until daylight? No.

Trains didn't run over-

night. There was no way to get to the city except by driving. Often fog rolled off the ocean at night so thick the few off-hour motorists that existed — some neighbors lacked driver's licenses — had to pull over or inch their way along two-lane roads winding through a countryside so hilly the name of almost every little town and hamlet boasted the association. All over were qualifiers such as Something heights, ridge, hill, hills and summit.

So my dad got dressed and behind the wheel of the family's ancient car. It was used almost exclusively by my mother to ferry him morning and evening to the train station, trips to the grocery store in a bigger town three miles east, weekend adventures to area farms to attend antique auctions and visit innumerable places where Washington had slept.

What a treat it was for me waking that morning.

The mystery package

was a collie out of central casting. I went downstairs to the ground-floor playroom of our tri-level house, an architect's capitulation to the slope on which it sat, and found staring at me something for which I've always been grateful.

She stood a couple feet tall, beautifully conformed with alert eyes, massive chest and shoulders, straight legs; thick, long hair, white, sable and tan; an alert, intelligent expression, triangular ears upright but folded forward near the tips and a tail wagging to the beat of a pendulum clock.

Patterns of life in the

household accommodated the dog's arrival. My mother walked it one hour each morning and afternoon. Remember the hills. She kept the dog in shape. The dog kept her in shape. Children played with the dog, running in the big back yard.

There's nothing more beautiful than a collie at full speed, a flurry of action and furious brushstrokes. Except perhaps a thoroughbred on the front stretch or, better, a quarter horse on the final leg of a barrel race, windswept mane and tail extending backward, the cowgirl

See ISAY, page 8A

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

centuries — many from the Bible or even Shakespeare — and often do not know their true history and meaning.

I enjoy reading the Grosse Pointe News and have been a proud subscriber for more than 50 years.

Keep up the good work!

ELIZABETH LUBERA

Grosse Pointe Shores

Holding breath

To the Editor:

Two very concerning developments came out of last week's city council meetings in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms. Far left progressives were just installed as the No. 2s in each council, the official position of mayor pro tem. Why?

First in Grosse Pointe

Park, Brent Dreaver, the progressive partner of fellow council member Tim Kolar, was appointed mayor pro tem. Dreaver was not on the ballot and no progressives were. Or were they? Mayor Michele Hodges, newly re-elected and running unopposed for the first time, put him forward and the entire council approved him. Maybe this was the grand bargain she had to make to avoid a challenger. Was she finally let back into the fold of the far left in the Park? What comes next?

Then there is Grosse Pointe Farms. Neil Sroka, a self-declared "Bernie Bro" and socialist, long-time fringe council member and widely seen as the leader of the GP Dems, was named mayor pro tem. Every council member voted for him except Sierra Donovan, who abstained. Joe Ricci, who spent two months publicly

attacking Sroka, inexplicably voted yes. Where is Joe's integrity? Maybe he was never the conservative people assumed. He has, after all, run as a Democrat before. And Dan Jensen, newly elected and known as a centrist, fell in line as well. Why?

Perhaps because Sroka has been loudly declaring that John Gillooly's mayoral win was a mandate. A mandate for what? Word is that he helped get Gillooly elected by bringing in the GP Dems and We GP to campaign for him. With Sroka, Beth Konrad Wilberding and Lev Wood already forming a strong progressive bloc, adding Gillooly may give them control of the Farms. If Gillooly is beholden to Sroka, that would be a fourth vote.

And in the Park, if Mayor Hodges' grand bargain brought the left firmly back in control,

what is next? Back to the days of Vikas Relan, Aimee Fluitt and Lauri Read? On to the other cities?

We are all holding our breath to see if the progressive bloc now controls not just the school board but half the Pointes, or even more.

KRISTY ELLIS

Grosse Pointe Park

Disenchanted

To the Editor:

There was a time when Grosse Pointe Park was the place to invest, where generosity and civic pride were celebrated. Residents gave freely to improve our community, donating to parks, theaters and even infrastructure. Philanthropy helped define the Park and donors were treated with gratitude and respect.

But that spirit is fading. Mayor Michele Hodges'

decision to appoint Mr. Brent Dreaver as mayor pro tem makes that unmistakable. Mr. Dreaver has been one of the most aggressive and hostile critics of the Schaa Center and the many generous donors who made it possible. His contempt for philanthropy has been loud, relentless and deeply personal. And yet he is now elevated to the second-highest title in the city.

What kind of message does that send?

It tells donors — past, present and future — that their support is no longer welcome. It confirms what many have suspected: Park leadership has grown increasingly hostile to those who want to give back. Nowhere is this more evident than in the silence surrounding the Schaa Center, the single largest philanthropic investment in the

Park's history. No praise, no gratitude, just derision for the Schaaps and the Manoogians.

This is not an isolated incident. For years, Mr. Dreaver and his allies have targeted the Cotton family and others whose most generous gifts have enriched this wonderful community. Elevating one of philanthropy's harshest detractors to a leadership role is more than tone-deaf — it is a repudiation of the very values that once defined GPP.

It is hard not to see this as a betrayal, not just of donors, but of the values that once made the Park special. The message is clear: If you are generous, keep it to yourself. Because today's Park leadership would rather sneer than say thank you.

What a shame. We used to be better than this.

CHERYL DENMAN
Grosse Pointe Park

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I SAY:

Continued from page 7A

leaning forward in the stirrups, hair whipped straight back mimicking the contrail from a jet aircraft.

Never have we had such a loyal pet. She was super protective of the children, but never threatening. Except in one circumstance. An example of her focus occurred while children on the block played a game of tag. She broke from her chain to stand between me and the person chasing me. I don't know how she didn't snap her neck.

I brushed her daily, made sure her water dish was clean, dressed her in my father's shirt and tie, snuck downstairs at night to cuddle and thought I was getting away with something by feeding her from the dinner table until realizing everyone else was doing the same.

Her main allegiance was to my father. My parents liked to entertain. They were always hosting or going to parties hosted by friends, neighbors and coworkers. Many times I sat behind a corner at the top of the

stairs listening to the group telling funny stories, often about work or military service, and singing along with each other.

There was one old Navy song that began: "T'was a sunny day in June,

"All the blossoms were in bloom,

"And the birds were raising hell among the brush.

"I spied a shapely miss, "And I asked her simply this"

I honestly can't remember the rest.

Our dog always sat at my father's feet, sometimes her forepaws atop them.

Yet there was one thing she forbade him. It was her only insubordination.

I was of the age when it was fun for my dad to carry me upstairs to bed.

And I remember this clearly: With the first step he took of me in his arms, our collie clamped her teeth gently on his nearest forearm. With every step, she tightened the clench. No growling, just an ever-tighter grasp until he put me down.

That's a pal. My parents loved her for it.

My mother's sister didn't think much, but she guessed right.

Farms selects new mayor pro tem

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Second-term Councilman Neil Sroka was appointed last Monday to serve the next two years as mayor pro tem, after prior Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad Wilberding declined to accept a nomination for her reappointment.

The position of mayor pro tem — which rotates at the time of city council elections every two years and is nominated and appointed by those seated on council — is largely ceremonial. The councilperson serving in the role is meant to fill in when the mayor is absent, such as during council meetings or at city events.

"Historically (city council) has chosen the council member who's had the most seniority," City Manager Shane Reeside said, "and have gone down the line based on seniority with the intent of allowing each member of city council to serve in that capacity."

Nominations took place Monday, Nov. 10, following oaths of office for newly elected Mayor John Gillooly and Councilman Dan Jensen. Upon the floor being opened, Councilwoman Sierra Donaven led off with a nomination to reappoint Konrad Wilberding, who served as mayor pro tem the last two years.

"With a new mayor and council member



Neil Sroka

elected, maintaining leadership continuity is essential for the effective operation of our city government," Donaven said. "(Konrad Wilberding's) commitment and preparedness greatly contribute to efficient and organized meetings. Keeping Councilwoman Konrad as mayor pro tem will provide stability, facilitate a smooth leadership transition and preserve the high standards of governance our community expects."

Konrad Wilberding respectfully declined the nomination, in favor of giving someone else a turn.

"This is a ceremonial position," Konrad Wilberding emphasized. "There's no power. I've been privileged to be mayor pro tem the last two years and have enjoyed trying to step into Louis' steps when he's not there."

"As I understand it, this has been a tradition where we really do take turns. ... We just rotate it. That's how it's been. So I think that while I understand there's a need for an election to do this, it would be my personal preference to follow that tradition rather than to serve another two years."

Of the currently

seated council, Lev Wood served as mayor pro tem 2015 to 2017; Joe Ricci from 2019 to 2021; Gillooly from 2021 to 2023; and Konrad Wilberding from 2023 to 2025.

As the remaining members' seniority goes, Sroka was elected to council in 2019, Donaven in 2021, and Jensen is newly-elected this November.

It was he who made the nomination to appoint Sroka following Konrad Wilberding's comments.

"Being a newbie, I support Neil Sroka for mayor pro tem, based on past practice and for the good of the order, I see no reason why not to nominate him," said Jensen, who took his seat on council just minutes prior. "I agree with Beth ... I see no reason at this point to deviate from that process and I proudly and strongly endorse Neil Sroka. It's his turn, he's earned it and I think he should be the nominee for mayor pro tem."

Sroka accepted the nomination, which Wood seconded.

"It's always an honor to have the support of colleagues and have a new opportunity to serve the community," Sroka said. "At the same time, it's also a largely ceremonial position, just stepping in when our mayor can't."

"... The rotation, I think, just takes any kind of factionalism out of it and gives everyone the opportunity to serve in this capacity. But I'm excited to do it and excited to step in when John can't and continue to lead in that way."

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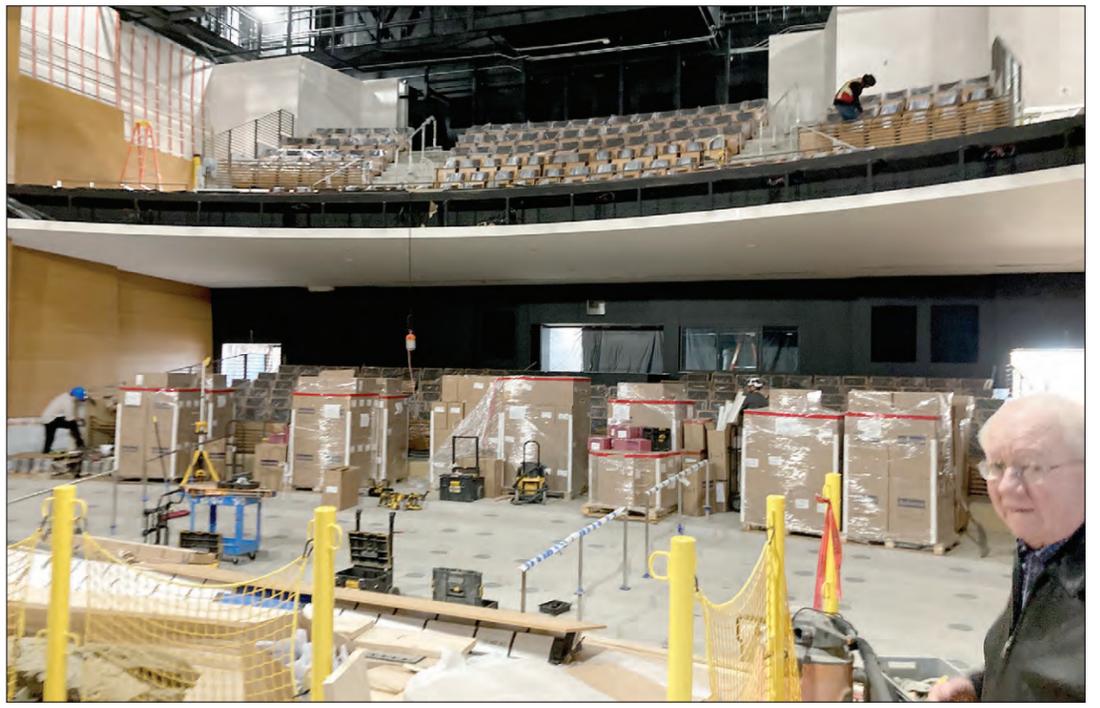
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PHOTOS BY BRAD LINDBERG

Paul Schaap stays to the side of the stage cluttered with building materials. Boxes of seats will be unloaded and installed this week.

The center's community gallery will showcase a series of art exhibitions.

SCHAAP:

Continued from page 1A

vations to the Detroit Athletic Club.

Marine was executive director of Eisenhower Dance Detroit, among a dozen of the Schaap Center's community partners.

"A lot of partners will have home seasons here," Marine said. "There's going to be a wide variety of performances in this space. Variety is a good thing."

She's easing into the job with help from outgoing Executive Director Jaime Rae Turnbull.

The first running show of the season is Grosse Pointe Theatre's "White Christmas" (See story,

page 1B).

"They've sold thousands of tickets already," said Paul Schaap, lead donor and namesake of the nearly \$50 million center.

He and Marine edged their way through construction workers, power tools and building supplies this week to inspect the final dash to completion.

Everything excited Schaap.

"The Grosse Pointe Theatre is going to have facilities they could only have dreamed of," he said.

"From my experience with so many theaters in metro Detroit, this space is unique," Marine said. "It's 435 seats with a full proscenium. There's an

intimacy this theater will provide that you can't get in many other spaces in metro Detroit."

"I'm excited to see they're beginning to put the seats in," Schaap said. "They just arrived from Montreal."

He stood on stage making sure to keep clear of workers lugging power cables, positioning step ladders and installing wall panels. The scent of fresh plaster and recently applied latex paint carried through the building.

Schaap pointed to three rectangular white ceiling panels suspended over the auditorium.

"We call those clouds," Schaap said. "They're sound absorbing. Scattered throughout the ceiling are starry lights that twinkle."

The house's acoustics

are tunable. Physical changes to the room accommodate various types of performances, from plays to full orchestras to quartets.

"The back wall can be sound absorbing," Schaap said. "Other parts can change from reflecting to absorbing. Two nationally known consulting firms have been helping us, Schuler Shook (lighting and theater design in Chicago) and Kirkegaard (which designed Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts)."

"I was standing in different spots in the balcony and down here," Marine said from the stage. "There's no bad sightline. None. There are no bad seats in the house."

Occupying most of the ground-floor, Jefferson

side of the center is a community art gallery. Rotating exhibitions, including sculpture from the Marshall M. Fredericks Museum in Grand Rapids, are planned.

Beyond the community gallery is the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery.

Schaap described it as "DIA quality" with light, temperature and humidity controls to protect major works of art from the Manoogian collection.

Wine bars are on the ground floor and upstairs. Chairs and tables soon will replace construction equipment and supplies jamming the main lobby, community gallery and upstairs landing.

"People can have a glass of wine and people

watch; all that kind of good stuff," Schaap said.

A donor wall in the lobby made of Mankato stone from Minnesota will list the center's benefactors.

Something that won't be finished in time for the opening is a pair of side-walks near the front entrance.

"They're heated," Schaap said. "No ice. We have a special boiler just for that purpose."

The center is being built on the site of an old Detroit trolley turnaround linking the Park with downtown Detroit.

"When we were first digging the ground here, we came across bricks and rail," Schaap said. "We saved them. A patio will have some of the bricks and rails. We want people to remember the history of this."

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Grosse Pointe Theatre

Irving Berlin's White Christmas: December 5-7, 11-14, 18-21

Richard & Jane Manoogian Gallery & Community Gallery - Featuring collections from Richard & Jane Manoogian - Detroit Institute of Arts - Marshall M Fredericks Sculpture Museum.

Open to the Public: 10am-2pm: December 6, 13, 20, 27

2026

Eisenhower Dance Detroit - January 24-25

Grosse Pointe Theatre

Pride and Prejudice: February 19-22, February 26-March 1

Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra - March 8

Grosse Pointe Theatre - Youth on Stage

The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition: March 13-15, 20-22

Eisenhower Dance Detroit Youth Ensemble - Dance Mosaics: March 21

Detroit Concert Choir - Sketches of the Morning Sky: March 28

Grosse Pointe Theatre

Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical: April 10-12, 16-19, 23-26

Grosse Pointe Community Chorus - May 2

Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra - May 3

Detroit Concert Choir - Sound in Technicolor: May 16

Detroit Medical Orchestra - May 17

Grosse Pointe Theatre

Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Broadway Version)
June 5-7, 11-14, 18-21

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10A | NEWS

PARADE:

Continued from page 1A

year's parade. The group also inspired the participation of a goldendoodle dog club.

"They formed because of (seeing the retrievers in) the parade and asked if they could join in," said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and events coordinator.

Larger-than-life inflatables, dancing elves, costumed reindeer and other characters will take part, as well as several school groups and dance clubs. Princesses from Part of Your World Princess Co. will be featured, while the winners of the Wayne County Community College District Art & Essay Contest will ride the route on a fire truck.

"We have four high school bands, lots and lots of scouts, football and softball teams," Boettcher said. "Lots of school groups are participating by building floats and dressing up."

This year's theme is "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," which will be exemplified by members of Grosse Pointe Theatre, who open the theater's 78th season Friday, Dec. 5, with Irving Berlin's



FILE PHOTOS

Reindeer prance beneath The Village arch during the 2005 parade.

"White Christmas." "Grosse Pointe Theatre will have actors on a float who will be singing and performing along the whole route," Turnbull said.

As a special incentive to spectators, the chamber will be handing out Grosse Pointe Gift Cards along the parade route, "to boost local commerce and reinforce the chamber's mission to promote economic growth," Boettcher said.

Added Turnbull, "With the parade kicking off the holidays, we've been

putting the work in early to remind all Grosse Pointers of the things you can buy locally. We hope to see an increase in foot traffic and awareness of all the places people can support in the Pointes."

The parade route begins at Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms and runs along Kercheval to Cadieux in the City.

"It's more than the bands and floats," Boettcher said. "It's the community groups that want to be involved who make it special. Grosse Pointe is unique. I'm

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grateful for that." "You don't get this kind of thing everywhere," Turnbull said.

"Follow the chamber's socials and website for more information on the parade and what's happening throughout the holidays with all of our members," she added. "Our online calendar has lots of information."

Learn more at grossepointechamber.com.



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to spectators during the 1977 parade.



St. Nick says hi during the 1997 parade.



Detroit Ghostbusters, above, and costumed reindeer, below, return to the 2025 parade.



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Passing the gavel

PHOTO BY
RENEE LANDUYT

Louis Theros, left, who is retiring from his post as mayor, passes his gavel to incoming Mayor John Gillooly, during a recent Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting.

THEFTS:

Continued from page 5A

from Dodge vehicles in the Pointes — nine of them within the last month.

While the Farms has experienced six such “smash and grabs” since mid-October — the most recent being Friday, Nov. 7, in the 400 block of Bournemouth — the Woods tallies the highest amount with nine incidents from March through September.

The Park also has seen three, with one in May and two in October, and the City saw one in the 800 block of Lincoln in mid-October.

The infotainment systems can

cost several thousand dollars to replace.

“They’re selling them to pretty much anybody who will buy them,” Lazarski said of the thieves, “whether it’s a crooked auto shop or Facebook Marketplace ... because whatever they get for it, it’s all profit.”

The Farms public safety department recommends at-risk residents take the following measures:

- ◆ Park vehicles in a locked garage or well-lit area whenever possible,

- ◆ do not leave valuables or visible electronic devices inside the vehicle,

- ◆ consider installing a security camera or motion-activated lighting near the driveway to

enhance security

- ◆ and immediately report any suspicious activity, such as individuals looking into vehicles, loitering in driveways or operating vehicles slowly through neighborhoods late at night.

“If you see somebody going around car to car at 2, 3 in the morning, that’s not normal,” Lazarski said. “We would much rather go to those calls than in the morning snag nine or 10 stolen item reports the next day. We’d rather go out that night and catch the people.”

The crimes are believed to be part of a coordinated effort targeting Dodge vehicles across southeast Michigan, according to the Farms public safety department.

ALLEYS:

Continued from page 3A

Lory Oaks said. “Every year we get a letter stating about the ordinances and things that need to be ... but nothing has ever been enforced. My trees kind of looked pretty in the alley. I thought you guys liked them. And this is my biggest problem here: It didn’t state that this specific year we are enforcing this. You’ve done in five minutes and a \$500 bill, which I could have done myself.”

Induced by the prospect of what may be higher-than-justified trimming costs, Mayor Michele Hodges instructed City Manager Nick Sizeland to look into the matter.

“Give council a report by the end of the week with the status of these addresses and any others that might be in question and a solution, please,” she told him.

He agreed, but later defended enforcement.

“I appreciate people coming to council and expressing their concerns regarding bills,” Sizeland said. “That is something the city will look at to see if there are discrepancies. However, I appreciate the work our code enforcement has done at the direction of myself and the city council to enforce our ordinances on the books.”

“We’re going to get this straightened out,” said

Councilman Brent Dreaver, appointed by Hodges as mayor pro tem earlier in the meeting. “It doesn’t seem fair. It doesn’t seem equitable. I know if I got a bill for what I saw in those pictures, it was \$500, I’d be very upset about it. I can see why the people are as well.”

Photos copied from internet views of alley property lines in question show dense tree vegetation spilling into the traffic lane.

Conditions match what Councilman Marty McMillan criticized during a council meeting in July 2024.

“Sometimes I can’t get my car through,” he said at the time.

McMillan, a member of the ordinance and public safety committees, and others were especially rankled because a public safety officer reportedly had trouble one month earlier deploying a pumper truck to a house fire due in part to overgrown vegetation restricting alley access.

“We’re ramping up code enforcement,” Hodges said during the same July meeting. “We’re looking at the alleys. We’ve not been as aggressive as we should have been. That’s happening now.”

“That should be a big focus for our city manager,” McMillan responded. “We hate to ticket anybody, but that’s the only way to fix it.”

So, it’s been 16 months since council members started tasking administrators to do something about overgrown alley vegetation and related problems.

- ◆ Section 44-9 of the city code specifies:

“Any tree, shrub, plant or part thereof growing upon private or public property which is interfering with the use of any public area ... or which endangers the life, health or safety of persons or property is declared a public nuisance.”

- ◆ Section 44-10, regarding the abatement of nuisances, empowers the city forester to give property owners 30 days’ notice to treat, trim or remove offending growth.

“If the owner of the premises refuses or neglects to comply ... the city forester is authorized to cause the removal, treatment or trimming of said nuisance tree or shrub. The expense thereof shall be charged to the owner of the property.”

- ◆ Low-hanging tree limbs overhanging public areas are addressed in Section 44-12:

“No part of any such tree shall be lower than 12 feet above any curb or pavement ... eight feet above any sidewalk (and) shall be trimmed so the foliage does not interfere with the illumination of the street and sidewalk provided by the street light.”

“Several of those (regulations) had not been enforced for many years,” Sizeland said. “We are changing that. It starts with code enforcement.”

A five-point, multi-year alley refurbishment action plan was announced in September this year.

“Immediate action along with a coordinated long-term annual strategy must be taken to improve the safety, cleanliness and appearance of city alleyways,” Sizeland said at the time.

The announcement prompted the following discussion among council colleagues:

“This is the type of thing I’ve been asking for,” Councilman Tom Caulfield said.

“There’s not one of us here who doesn’t want this same thing — nice, clean alleys,” McMillan said.

“This is a blueprint for other things in the city we want to do,” Dreaver said. “It’s a great launching point for people to glean

inspiration. Alleys can be warm, interesting places.”

This month Sizeland disputed the residents’ claims of not receiving a heads up of the impending crackdown.

“For the alley action plan, we sent notices and

gave people a heads up. We sent notices. We’ve been communicating it. It was in the ‘Park Scene.’

This has been out there that the city is coming. This is not new news. Whether residents have seen that, we’re going to continue enforcement.”

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Chick-fil-A Mack Avenue opens for business

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

DETROIT — Murray Sales of the City of Grosse Pointe and JR Duster of Grosse Pointe Woods were hoping to be the first ever customers of the new Chick-fil-A location at Mack and Marseilles when they pulled into the drive-thru lanes at 6:19 a.m. opening day, Thursday, Nov. 13.

They were a tad disappointed to learn that though the location was set to open for business at 6:30 a.m., employees at Chick-fil-A Mack Avenue were raring to go and already had waved through the first vehicle, which showed up just minutes prior.

“That’s a bummer,” Duster said, but the two quickly regained their enthusiasm.

“I have always wanted a Chick-fil-A close by,” Sales said. “It’s nice to finally have one.”

A steady stream of cars began to roll through the two drive-thru lanes as the clock turned to 6:30 a.m. Thursday morning and employees got the hang of putting their training into action, ringing bells to celebrate early customers’ arrivals.

Adrienne Nash and her 11-year-old daughter, Harper, came from St. Clair Shores and, in simply trying to beat the rush, ended up the third customers at Chick-fil-A Mack Avenue.

“This is our first time having breakfast here because it’s usually far,” Adrienne Nash said. “Our go-to meal is usually a



PHOTOS BY LAUREL KRAUS

Andrew Safadi, left, and Rory Combs are the first customers at Chick-fil-A Mack Avenue’s walk-up window at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 13.

30-piece nugget meal.”

Andrew Safadi and Rory Combs, neighbors and friends from Grosse Pointe Park, weathered the 34-degree temperature and early-morning darkness to be the first customers at the location’s unique walk-up window.

Both are graduates of Grosse Pointe South High School and currently pursuing degrees at Wayne State University.

“Chick-fil-A is my favorite brand,” said Safadi, who dressed in cow print and, in turn, received a free Chick-fil-A mini four-count. “I’m there at least once a week, but now more because it’s closer.”

Some early customers were on their way to start the day, such as Farms resident Karl Messenger and his SUV, filled with his kids and their friends, next headed to Kerby Elementary School, Brownell Middle School and South.

Others used the opportunity to end their day on a high note, such as Detroit resident Romeiro Finch, who had just completed his night shift as a facility engineer at a Target sortation plant.

“I anticipated (opening day),” he said. “I thought the launch date was last week, got it confused and then I got some clarity that it was today. As soon as I got off work at 6 a.m., I shot right here.”

The location is a labor of love for local owner/operator and Detroit resident Manda Taylor.

“I promise you, regardless of the time of the day, if you stop by, you’re going to see (my husband and I) working, bagging, taking orders, running our trash, all things,” she said during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held the day prior to opening, “because we are passionate about the restaurant, growing the brand, but not only



Team members at Chick-fil-A Mack Avenue, Keonte Riley and Ebony Dotson, serve one of their first customers, Detroit resident Alphonso Seals.

that, just being able to care for people, our guests and our team members.”

Before joining the Chick-fil-A team three years ago, Taylor was a middle school teacher and cheer coach, fostering her passion for mentoring youth and job creation.

Chick-fil-A Mack Avenue now employs 130 team members — most of whom live within 10 minutes of the location.

“I love when the 14-year-old comes in and they’re shy and they don’t make eye contact with you and then fast forward, they’re a freshman in college and they’re thriving because of the real-world experience and life skills that they develop here and the mentorship that we offer at Chick-fil-A,” Taylor said.

In a past life, she was heavily involved in volunteer work with Junior Achievement of Southeast Michigan — teaching elementary students about marketing tactics, entrepreneurship trades and how to pitch business ideas — making it only fitting that Chick-fil-A donate \$25,000 to the organization in celebration of opening the new location in the community.

here to Detroit.”

Additionally, with every new Chick-fil-A opening, the company also donates \$25,000 to support feeding people in need. The Mack location’s contribution was presented to local organization Forgotten Harvest.

“It’s a huge help,” said Taylor Seifert, corporate engagement and events manager with Forgotten Harvest. “Every penny counts. Every dollar spent is three meals for a member in need. So \$25,000 times three, that is enough to feed many mouths.”

Taylor also will partner with Food Rescue Detroit, donating all of the Mack location’s surplus food to people in need and playing a local role in Chick-fil-A’s shared table program, which to date has gifted 42 million meals.

“Our vision as an organization is to be the world’s most caring company,” Taylor said.

Hours of operation at Chick-fil-A Mack Avenue are 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday for drive-thru, carryout and third-party delivery.



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Detroit resident Romeiro Finch just finished the night shift at a Target sortation plant and was hoping to be one of the first customers.

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PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Forthcoming mixed-use daycare and apartment building at the corner of Kercheval and Alter across from the Grosse Pointe Park border.

Daycare and apartment building taking shape

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A construction crew on lower Kercheval is building prospects for the area.

“It’s creating a lot of momentum for the far eastside of Detroit and the far westside of the Park,” said Jimmy Saros, listing broker for the forthcoming apartment house and daycare center. “It’s going to be a catalyst to lead more to come down the pipeline.”

Scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2026, the building at the corner of Kercheval and Alter Road across the border in Detroit will consist of two stories: a ground floor designed for child development and daycare facilities and a second story of nine market-rate rental apartments, most with two bedrooms.

“Anyone looking for a newer construction with all the bells and whistles that come with new apartments have traditionally had to go downtown or to Royal Oak or Birmingham,” Saros said. “This project is showing that the Grosse Pointe market has a demand for this quality of product.”

“Projects like this tend to encourage further development, improvements in nearby properties, increased foot traffic for local businesses and stronger interest from other developers,” said Danielle Hawasli, president of the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association.

“I see this project as a cornerstone that will truly propel us forward,”

Park Mayor Michele Hodges said. “I’m certain it will quickly become an anchor because of the quality standard it will meet and the urgent need it will fill.”

“We’re excited about the child care,” said Leo Olofsson, a Farms resident and owner of Decent Coffee on Kercheval in Detroit kitty-corner to the new building. “We know a lot of people have wanted more childcare in the area. I view any investment in the far east of Detroit as positive.”

Sean Farnsworth, a Park resident and owner and director at Zanshin Karate Dojo across Kercheval from the construction site, said he’s “elated” about what is expected to open in a year.

“Good development seeping into Detroit is good for everybody,” Farnsworth said. “From my time in Grosse Pointe, this neighborhood has come a million miles from what it was. That helps the community.”

“This corridor was heavily blighted for a long time,” Saros said. “Now, seeing this new life breathed into the corridor is really exciting.”

Both Olofsson and Farnsworth anticipate the mixed-use development having a multiplier effect on area businesses. “I view all of this as positive things for the area and for us,” Olofsson said. “Specifically, having a lot of tired moms and dads dropping by next door is not necessarily a bad thing.”

“We’re excited it’s going to be a childcare, for selfish reasons — a revolving door of chil-

dren across the street seeing people doing karate,” Farnsworth said. “I hope to develop a relationship with the people running the childcare place and teach classes for them.”

Mike Stines, an attorney representing the developer, Jon Cotton, brother of the owner of the Grosse Pointe News, introduced the project publicly three years ago.

Original plans consisted of constructing three multi-story apartment buildings in the district. At one point, Detroit planning officials ruled out daycare. Now it’s back, as are the apartments, only fewer.

“I took a minute — years — to get the necessary approvals from Detroit,” Stines said. “There were various variances and lots of reviews. But we are fully permitted and have been flying on it. Everything’s been going really well. The plan is to have the building enclosed by the time snow flies and get to work on the inside.”

Saros said a sign on the building listing him as the real estate contact generated more response than usual.

“Most people looking to rent need to find an apartment within the next couple months,” he said. “So, with a building that is still being built, I’m very surprised at the amount of inquiries we receive on a daily basis on it. It’s super encouraging to see that amount of interest this early in the development. It shows a real need out there for a higher-end newer con-

See BUILD, page 14A

Mayor proposes off-leash hours at Neff

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak is proposing an out-of-pocket alternative idea for residents in the City who continue to wish for a dog park.

“One of the things I hear from residents all the time is that we need a dog park,” she said during the October council meeting, “and we do not have room for a dog park, but ... in Brookline, Mass., where my son lives with his dogs, there is a Green Dog program where they open their parks for dogs off-leash in the early morning hours before the parks get used.

“I ask that we present that concept to the parks and harbor commission to see if they will agree

to float a pilot at Neff Park.”

Brookline’s Green Dog program offers off-leash hours at city parks from dawn to 9 a.m. and incorporates a \$100 annual fee per dog.

The program also requires dogs to be at least 6 months old, up to date on all vaccinations, healthy, trained and under voice control to participate.

Additional Brookline regulations include:

- ◆ keeping the dog on-leash until in the designated Green Dog area,
- ◆ keeping the dog in sight at all times and under voice control,
- ◆ picking up after the dog and encouraging others to do the same,
- ◆ excessive barking not allowed,
- ◆ the number of dogs per person limited to three,
- ◆ and keeping dogs

out of playgrounds, sports court areas and flowerbeds.

“There’s some pretty stringent requirements, but it works great in Brookline,” Tomkowiak said. “They’re built up like we are, so fingers crossed, we might have an answer for our wonderful dogs and our great dog owners.”

Brookline also is where Tomkowiak first experienced the concept of a PorchFest, which she spearheaded bringing to Grosse Pointe in September.

“I’m just stealing their ideas left and right,” she joked, calling the technique, “a little R&D, which is rip off and duplicate.”

The city’s next parks and harbor commission meeting has not yet been scheduled but is expected within the next few months.



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AHEE Jewelers expansion complete

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — After two years of planning and work, edmund t. AHEE Jewelers has unveiled its newly expanded Patek Philippe showroom, carrying the Swiss company's watches, rings and cufflinks.

"Our vision was to create a space that reflects the timeless artistry and heritage of Patek Philippe while

also honoring our family's deep commitment to craftsmanship, service and excellence," said Peter Ahee, president of AHEE Jewelers. "This expansion is a testament to our long-standing relationship with the brand and provides our clients with an opportunity to truly experience the craftsmanship of these remarkable time-

pieces."

The project involved tearing down a storage building, moving the store's parking lot south to that location and adding to the main building in the current parking lot location. The building that was torn down, which abutted Henry's Cleaners, was used for storage and the jeweler's watchmaking shop.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The recently completed Patek Philippe showroom inside edmund t. AHEE Jewelers.

The expansion includes multiple show-cases, three viewing areas, a dedicated private showing room plus a bar and private dining room.

"We are proud to continue our enduring partnership with AHEE Jewelers and expand Patek Philippe's pres-

ence in Michigan," said Lisa Jones, president of Patek Philippe USA. "We remain confident in their abilities and commitment to represent us at the highest level by providing an exemplary customer experience and service."

AHEE has carried

Patek Philippe for 20 years.

"We are the only authorized retailer for them in the state and they are the last family-owned watchmakers in Geneva, so it's a nice fit," Vice President Andre Ahee said in 2023 after city council approved the project.

Bar stays in local hands

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The new owner of Marge's Bar knows what made the place worth buying.

"It's an icon in the Grosse Pointes," Charlie Brown said. "I'm going to do my best to make it right and keep that tradition going."

Brown bought the business recently from relatives of the original namesake owner, Marge DePuys. She died in 2014 at age 85.

"We're going to keep the tradition of Marge's," he said. "I'm not planning on changing the name. I wouldn't do that."

Brown, a Pointe native, is the former co-owner of Cellar313 wine bar on Kercheval and owner of a wine shop.

"Marge's Bar is a much-loved institution and I salute the DuPuys family for all its efforts in building it into what it is today," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "Thank goodness for seasoned and committed people like Charlie Brown for taking the baton. He has everything it takes to preserve it, which is welcomed news."

"I'm filling big shoes and I think I can do that," Brown said.

"Is he keeping the bar's hockey theme the way it

is?" asked Nick Sizeland, city manager.

"In the short term, I'm not doing much," Brown said. "Everybody I've run across says, 'Don't change a thing.' But, having said that, I've tweaked a few things."

He installed new televisions, added cocktails to the menu and reformatted a one-page menu with a fresher approach. "We also have a Captain's Wine List for those who are more interested in an upscale wine experience," Brown said. "I derived that from my experience at Cellar313 and ownership of Gibb's Worldwide Wines."

Tweaking extends to the menu.

"We're experimenting with new foods, like grilled shrimp over a jalapeño butter sauce," Brown said. "We're doing Australian wagyu 10-ounce ribeyes."

The premium cut of beef is described in most internet reviews as buttery, tender and delicious; known for rich marbling and tender texture.

Some improvements are prosaic.

"I put a new toilet in the men's room," Brown said. "The kitchen needed new lighting. Eventually, I'm going to put in a new bar top. I'm going to keep the vibe

'60s, so it's not going into some sleek-looking res-

taurant with a copper bar top or anything like that. I'm trying to keep as many elements of the current vibe as I can."

He'll be on friendly ground at city hall when seeking municipal approval to put a patio in front.

"If they want to expand their footprint onto the sidewalk, we'd be happy to work with them on that," Sizeland said. "We're excited to keep Marge's Bar, which has been a staple in our community and keeping the hockey theme, which makes Marge's so special. We're about helping businesses as much as possible. There could be opportunities from the TIFA (Tax Increment Finance Authority) district to help Marge's as well as for grant opportunities."

"I'm bringing back the Marge's Bar Band, a jazz band," Brown said. "They're going to start playing Nov. 26, the day before Thanksgiving. They played at Marge's for something like 25 years. R.J. Spangler, a friend of mine from 313 and a music artist, is going to play Saturday, Nov. 22. I hope people will come. Come visit a classic sports dive bar icon."

Marge's Bar dates to 1966. It is located at 15300 Mack Avenue at Beaconsfield.



Recovery and wellness

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner, right, stands with Kristen and Dominic Giancola at the club's Sept. 23 meeting at Ford House. The Giancolas shared with attendees an introduction to iCRYO, their new recovery and wellness center on The Hill on Kercheval. iCRYO opened in September and Michigan is one of 21 states with iCRYO franchises. Kristen Giancola stressed the importance of preventive care as key to a long and healthy life. Her background as a cardiac ICU nurse and her husband's background in business and finance anchor the Farms location.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Pointe Hardware to expand

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Tentative sale of a municipal parking lot at the corner of Kercheval and Maryland generates \$40,000 of income for the city and saves five times more in maintenance costs.

"If the city were to keep this parking lot — it is in pretty rough shape — you're looking at least \$200,000 that could be used in other areas of the city for alleys, etcetera," said City Manager Nick Sizeland, urging members of the city council Nov. 10 to approve a purchase agreement to sell the property.

On the other side of the transaction, the owner of Pointe Hardware Group intends to expand operations into the lot.

"When he develops it, it will increase taxable value," Councilman Tom Caulfield said.

"Thank you to them for being great community members," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

The city's opportunity cost of the sale is forgoing around \$1,500 per year in parking fees, according to Sizeland.

Waref Hawasli, owner of the hardware group, has until Feb. 8 to close the deal, according to city officials.

"We have an earnest money deposit, nonrefundable, of \$2,500," Sizeland said.

"It's been two-plus years in the making," Hawasli said.

He bought the business

in 2023 from longtime owner Randy Cousineau, now retired.

"I always had visions and aspirations of acquiring that parking lot," Hawasli said. "It falls in line with the overall vision I had when we took over Pointe Hardware Group in 2023. It wasn't just about Pointe Hardware and Lumber, as people can now see."

Expansion is at least a year away.

"By this time next year, I expect plans will have at least been presented to council, site plan approval and things," Hawasli said.

The deal is the latest in the block between Maryland and Wayburn that has been busy in recent years with the addition of Brine Oyster House, ABX Redux fitness center and, last month, relocation of Ripe Records vinyl record store.

Upon completing the expansion, Pointe Hardware Group will occupy most of its side of the block.

"It was always about this corridor and the ability to bring this full-service destination to our community and surrounding communities, as well to help facilitate within the building industry all the things people need for home improvement and renovations," Hawasli said. "We want to provide more lumber, building materials, sheet goods and expand workshop offerings for more custom work."

A big component of the

store's kitchen, bath and closet sections involve Kercheval Cupboards.

"Kitchen, bath and closet coupled with an expanded workshop, more building materials and lumber — allowing the corridor to breathe," Hawasli said.

He'll also introduce Kohler Corner.

"We will have Kohler Kitchen and Bath products on display with Kercheval Cupboards, which is in partnership with Etna Supply (HVAC, plumbing products) and Fusion Showrooms (home, kitchen and bath)," he said. "We are planning on expanding our Marvin (windows and doors) Showroom, showcasing more of the Marvin product line along with TruStile Doors and Therma-Tru Doors, which are interior and exterior doors."

Hawasli is optimistic about the store's location and ability to supply the Pointes and eastside Detroit.

"We're expanding that footprint to be able to give the community a lot more options," he said. "The volume of renovations, preservations and restorations in Detroit — I feel we can be an incredibly viable product for all the construction going on. We're keeping our heads down. We're working hard. We're grinding. We're reinvesting. It's critical for us to stay focused on the present, but have a firm grasp on what the future looks like. That's what's coming to light."

BUILD:

Continued from page 13A

struction apartment building in the Grosse Pointes. We're seeing that at the 389 St. Clair development, which we're also handling."

"From the business association's viewpoint, the Cotton family's project is a positive signal for the district," Hawasli said. "A mixed-use development that brings both child care and new residential units helps meet real needs in the area, and it generally indicates confidence in the neighborhood's long-term growth."

From residential and commercial investments to philanthropy, the Cotton family's involvement and support of the community goes back years.

Nearly 15 years ago, they helped establish the Grosse Pointe Housing Foundation, which subsidizes rent payments to 150 local college students living in the Park's multifamily dwelling neighborhood. The family also started the Detroit Crime Commission and opened retail stores and restaurants, built public parking lots and helped pay for the Park's flood-fighting extreme emergency

relief valve.

To support the mixed-use building, another parking lot will be built on vacant land next to the karate dojo.

"It has to be parking to meet the requirements of Detroit," Stines said. "It's going to be a very nice parking lot, like the other ones."

"The Cottons have single-handedly transformed our business community, with this yet another important example," Hodges said. "They have also made it clear they are mission-minded in their approach, which is something many people don't understand and I am grateful for."

New locations



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Full Circle Foundation welcomes the community to the new location of its Upscale Resale Shop at 15415 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. Shoppers are invited to stop by to browse the latest items in its ever-changing inventory. And stay tuned for next summer's grand opening of Full Circle headquarters next door. Learn more at fullcirclefdn.org.



Gilda's Club is the newest nonprofit organization to call The War Memorial home. Gilda's Club Metro Detroit and its cancer support community partners uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities and breaking down barriers to care. Support groups and events for those impacted by cancer and their loved ones now are offered at 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Learn more at gildasclubdetroit.org.



Pure Beauty & Wellness now may be found at 25701 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. The premier medical spa specializes in cosmetic injections and anti-aging aesthetic services. Owner Carrie Evatz-Schipper and her team are dedicated to cultivating honest relationships with clients that drive desired results. Learn more at purebeautymi.com.



The Rendezvous with Tea welcomes customers to its new location, 17728 Mack, City of Grosse Pointe. Owner Nasreen Gibson brings unique tea blends and elegant gifts to customers from Grosse Pointe to across the nation. The business offers customers the chance to try something new, create custom blends and see firsthand how tea can make a difference in one's diet and overall health. Learn more at trwtea.com.

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SCAN TO REQUEST SERVICE



Civil rights complaint against GPPSS dismissed

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTE — A complaint filed by a former Grosse Pointe Public School System administrator against the district with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights has been dismissed.

The complaint was filed by Michelle Davis, former assistant principal and athletic director at Grosse Pointe North High School, who resigned at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

"I am a woman, who participated in a protected activity on August 27, 2023, and I believe I was subjected to other terms and conditions on January 16, 2024, due to my sex and in retaliation for engaging in a protected activity. I also believe I was subjected to a hostile environment as recently as January 16, 2024, due to my sex," Davis wrote in her complaint, which the Grosse Pointe News obtained

through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Davis added, "I was subjected to discriminatory comments and conduct by Respondent's Representative when they wholly rejected the findings of a third-party investigation into my allegations of discrimination. I believe my sex was a factor in the hostile environment."

The matter stems from complaints Davis and Kate Murray, former North principal, filed in 2023 against then-GPPSS Board of Education President Ahmed Ismail. The board at first would not release a report on the matter, citing attorney-client privilege, but initially released a summary of the findings and a determination by Chris Fenton, who was interim superintendent at the time.

The FOIA request from the Grosse Pointe News found Murray, who also left the district in June 2024, did not file a similar civil rights complaint.

On Aug. 19, 2025, the MDCR wrote, "The investigation of this complaint included a review of all information obtained during the investigation. Based upon all the evidence in the file, e.g. any applicable statements of witnesses, analysis of comparatives and review of documents, the department determined that there is insufficient evidence to proceed."

Davis did not respond to the Grosse Pointe News for comment.

The board voted earlier this year to release the third-party investigative report Davis referred to in her civil rights complaint.

It says Davis filed her human resources complaint against Ismail Aug. 27, 2023, with Murray filing hers a day later. Both made claims that Ismail was trying to "push them out," that he engaged in retaliatory behavior and that his actions were due to gender harassment.

The complaints came the same week the board received a letter from Dan Griesbaum Sr., baseball coach at Grosse Pointe South High School, requesting the athletic fields at Grosse Pointe North be named in honor of Frank Sumbera, who coached baseball and football at North for 49 years and is

in the coaching hall of fame for both sports.

It was co-signed by Gary Bennett, North boys basketball coach; Tim Brandon, former South football coach; Russ Hepner, former South football coach; Chad Hepner, South football coach; Steve Zaraneck, South cross country/track coach; Gary Spicer, attorney; and Bill Babcock, former North baseball player.

In an addendum to her human resources complaint, Davis said she "terminated" Sumbera in June 2018, at the direction of then-Superintendent Gary Niehaus. In a letter to North baseball and football families that same month, however, Murray signed a letter that said, "Dear baseball and football parents and players, today, we received notice of the retirement of Grosse Pointe North High School head baseball and head football coach Frank Sumbera, effective June 29, 2018."

Brian Summerfield, then board president, told the Grosse Pointe News, "the board was made aware of the retirement announcement shortly before it was made. It is unfortunate that social media is spreading misinformation, particularly in this

offensive manner."

Niehaus at the time said, "I stand by the statements of our board president and Principal Kate Murray."

As for the claims that Ismail was trying to push out Murray and Davis, Ismail previously said that stemmed from a conversation he had with a former district employee who was considering taking a job with another district. Ismail said he thought the person should stay because several senior administrators were close to retiring. He mentioned several names, Murray and Davis among them.

The report goes on to say "Witness #5 (the employee Ismail was talking with) confirmed that he contemporaneously shared the comments made by Mr. Ismail via text message with another witness. The text messages, a copy of which had already been obtained by the investigator, were reviewed with Witness #5 and confirmed as authentic."

In his summary, the investigator said he did believe Ismail made comments to "push out" Murray and Davis.

"Mr. Ismail denied making these comments. The staff member to whom the comments

were allegedly made asserted that they were, in fact, made by Mr. Ismail. In one respect, therefore, this becomes a 'he said-he said' situation without a definitive answer. But the fact that the staff member shared the comments attributed to Mr. Ismail contemporaneously with another staff member in text message adds credibility to the notion that they were, in fact, made by Mr. Ismail. Those text messages were confirmed as authentic by both staff members involved in the exchange. There appears to be no obvious basis for those messages to have been fabricated or comments attributed to Mr. Ismail for no reason."

The investigator further said Ismail's "comments ... and/or associated actions" were in response to the Sumbera situation.

"Based on the evidence collected, it would be hard — if not impossible — to dismiss the termination of Mr. Sumbera as a significant moment in the employment trajectory of both complainants. While Mr. Sumbera's termination likely did not color every action which followed it, the perception of complainants was undoubtedly impacted,

See CIVIL, page 18A

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EXPAND:

Continued from page 1A

preschool" — would be open to all 4-year-olds in Wayne County at no cost

to families. Similar to regular K-12 state aid, GPPSS would receive a per-pupil reimbursement from the state.

"The application period for Wayne RESA starts in January," Tuttle said. "They would walk us through the steps to become licensed and receive the resources and curriculum."

The district would

receive \$50,000 per classroom for required furnishings. Tuttle said the per-pupil payment would be around \$10,000 if GSRP is offered four days a week and about \$12,000 for five days a week.

"We would use our existing classrooms that are already licensed for preschool," she added. "In addition, all of our

elementary school classrooms are licensed for Kids Club, which would expedite the process. The exact number and locations of classrooms and paid versus GSRP would be determined by demand upon enrollment."

The district currently has nine classrooms being used for tuition-based preschool and one GSRP classroom at Ferry Elementary School run by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency.

Tuttle said the district would add a question to its preschool enrollment form, which is available starting in December, for parents to indicate their interest in tuition-based or GSRP classrooms.

She added that eligibility for GSRP is first determined by a family's economic need, followed by special education needs and behavioral issues of the student.

The board asked Tuttle to bring back more information about both GSRP and the district's tuition-based preschool at its next meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, at Brownell Middle School.



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ParcellsBazaar.com

Parcells hosts 50th Holiday Art & Craft Bazaar

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Parcells Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, welcomes shoppers of all ages to its 50th anniversary Holiday Art and Craft Bazaar, which takes place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

"The Parcells PTO prides itself on offering the community this all-handmade holiday art and craft bazaar annually," said Amy Weglarz, part of the event's team of organizers. "Established in 1975, it is the oldest running and largest arts and craft show in the Grosse Pointe community. Typically, the bazaar hosts more than 160 vendors, offering various wares, from holiday stockings or candy to amazing home decor."

Housewares, decorations and holiday crafts kits also are expected, among a plethora of other homemade items, Weglarz noted.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Homemade holiday gifts await shoppers at the 50th annual Holiday Art & Craft Bazaar, hosted at Parcells Middle School.

"There will be a lot of holiday ornaments and food items, too — from holiday snacks and holiday cookies to someone making homemade barbecue sauce," she added.

All three gymnasiums

and the hallways at Parcells will be lined with vendor tables, mixing new offerings with returning favorites.

"This is one of the biggest craft shows in southeast Michigan," Weglarz

said. "The event itself is amazing. We have vendors that come back year after year and consumers that come back year after year."

Concessions also will be available, including pizza

courtesy of Jet's Pizza in Grosse Pointe Woods, as well as hotdogs.

Other sponsors include Mister A's Family Market, which will provide vendor lunches, and The Helm, which will provide shuttle service for vendors, who will park at Grosse Pointe North High School for the day, freeing up onsite parking for shoppers.

The event is run by a core group of parent volunteers, led by Kelly Butala, who spent the better part of the year planning every detail.

"I also want to say thank you to Principal Amber Schmittiel and the admin staff, as well as the custodial staff, who, in my personal opinion, is the best in the district," Weglarz said. "Without them, this event wouldn't work as well as it does."

The bazaar is the Parcells PTO's largest fundraiser.

"Funds raised will go to many amazing projects to help support the students

and staff at the school," Weglarz said. "Last year, funds went to creating a new, inclusive outdoor space for the students."

"... Besides supporting not just the local community, but also the students and teachers of the local community, it's a great place to find unique gifts for the holidays," she added. "You'll find something unique and different at wonderful price points."

In celebration of the bazaar's golden anniversary, the first 100 people through the door will receive a commemorative holiday ornament.

Admission is \$3 per person, free for GPPSS employees.

There's still time for crafters and artisans to be part of the show. Vendor applications are accepted until Monday, Dec. 1.

"Those interested in becoming a vendor or in shopping at the bazaar can find more information at parcellsbazaar.com," Weglarz said.



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18A | SCHOOLS

GPPSS credit rating upgraded

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Moody's Investors Service announced Friday, Nov. 7, it upgraded the Grosse Pointe Public School System's general obligation unlimited tax rating from A1 to Aa3.

According to Moody's, ratings in the Aa category, the second highest level, are "judged to be of high quality and subject to very low credit risk." The A category, in third place, "are considered upper

medium grade and subject to low credit risk."

The district was assigned the Aa3 rating in 2021 and downgraded to A1 in March 2023.

The news came less than a week before the district was to sell the first bond series for \$25 million of the \$120 million bond voters approved earlier this month. The sale occurred Thursday, Nov. 13.

"The upgrade to the 'double A' credit rating category is expected to attract more investors and

lower the interest cost paid by the district on its upcoming bond issuances," Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said in a statement last week. "The district's municipal advisor, PFM Financial Advisors, have estimated the upgrade will reduce interest rates by approximately 10 basis points (or 0.10 percent) based on the current market. This would equate to approximately \$1.9 million reduction in the interest cost."

According to Moody's, "the upgrade reflects the

district's improved available fund balance ratio (inclusive of the general and debt service funds), which will likely increase to around 17 percent based on the fiscal 2025 (year-end June 30) budget and its strong local support for additional revenues and bond referendums."

Voters last year approved both an operating and sinking fund millage.

Tuttle said Moody's reviewed the 2024-25 fiscal year audit, which

Plante Moran will present at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting scheduled for Monday, Nov. 24.

The district finished the 2024-25 fiscal year with an unaudited \$5.4 million surplus, which Tuttle in June said would raise its fund balance to 15 percent, or about \$15 million. That put the fund balance back to about where it was in 2020, before it fell to under \$10 million.

In addition, the district finished the 2023-24 fiscal year with a \$1 million surplus.

"The Aa3 issuer rating reflects the district's

strong resident incomes (166.9 percent of the U.S.) while benefiting from being within the Detroit metro area,"

Moody's said. "The district is also aided by a countywide enhancement operating millage, which is not available to most districts in the state and demonstrates local support for public education."

"Enrollment, while declining, has started to stabilize and the district is well-regarded and strongly competitive, even though it does not participate in the state's schools of choice program," they added.

North to present 'Little Women the Musical'

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — High school theater performances naturally are made up of students in the cast and crew, but Grosse Pointe North High School's upcoming rendition of "Little Women the Musical" goes far be-

yond that.

"We've got about 100 students involved overall," said Scott Sowers, producer. "We've had some really exciting opportunities for participation."

The performance is presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Christian A. Fenton

Performing Arts Center, 707 Vernier. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. They can be purchased at the door or at gpn.dramaclub.seatyourself.biz/.

There will be 26 actors on stage, 24 students in the production crew and 22 in the orchestra pit. Beyond that, students in North's culinary arts classes will provide lunch for all of

them Thursday, Nov. 20, when there is an all-school performance.

Sowers, who teaches business education, used the performance to teach marketing skills to his students.

"We had about 25 different posters designed," he said. "We chose one to use with input from the cast and crew. It's great that we were able to connect different pieces of learning."

Based on Louisa May Alcott's novel, "Little Women the Musical" follows the lives of the four March sisters — Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy — as they navigate poverty, personal ambition and the trials of growing up in Civil War-era America.

"This is more than just a play. It's a celebration of our students' commitment and artistry," Sowers said. "The energy and camaraderie of this fun ensemble cast is infectious and it's truly inspiring to see their

talent shine through every note and scene."

Sowers said the students are familiar with the story as the book is part of middle school English classes.

He added that he, the director and the musical, vocal and technical directors chose the play out of several options.

"We throw options on the table and then narrow it down based on who is going to audition, what the orchestra brings and the types of shows we've done in the past," he said.

CIVIL:

Continued from page 16A

even if they both continued to maintain their employment with the district."

The investigator also determined Ismail did not engage in gender bias, but that he did take retaliatory measures against Murray and Davis. He cited two instances for his decision, Murray being left off an ad hoc committee

and Davis not being told about the recognition of a retiring North coach.

Fenton in his determination disagreed.

"In support, he (the investigator) cited two instances — one with respect to each complainant — that could be explained as retaliatory conduct, but could also be explained as simple communications failure. (The investigator's) explanation for his conclusion is not well-documented or persuasive."

DAR America 250! scholarships available

Undergraduate and graduate students studying American history can apply for a \$25,000 scholarship from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution between now and Jan. 31. The DAR America 250! Scholarship will provide a one-time \$25,000 award to 10 students in 2026, and marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The DAR gives more than 30

scholarships annually, awarding close to a total of \$250,000 a year to students across the country, but the organization has never provided a singular scholarship of this size.

Applicants should apply through the DAR online scholarship portal, DAR Academic Works, at daracademicworks.com/.

Students currently majoring in American history at an accredited university or college undergraduate or graduate program in the year

2026 are eligible to apply. Recipients must be U.S. citizens, prove a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent and prepare a one-page online essay either on the nation's founding or the applicant's personal volunteer achievements for community and country.

Students are urged to apply well ahead of the Jan. 31 deadline. The scholarship portal will offer other DAR scholarships for which applicants may also qualify.

For more information email america250scholarship@nsdar.org.



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Moehring Woods Petals it Forward

Hoping to spread joy and positivity, Moehring Woods Flowers recently participated in the Petal it Forward campaign, designed to help people start their day with more smiles and less stress.

Owner Bruce Anderson and his staff handed out 200 bouquets the morning of Oct. 15, to passersby. “The premise is to take one bouquet for themselves and give the other

one to somebody else — to pay it forward by sharing flowers to make others happy,” Anderson said. Statistics show while 80 percent of people reported receiving flow-

ers makes them happy, even more — 88 percent — said giving flowers makes them happy. “We want to give people the chance to experience both,” Anderson said.



Bruce Anderson stopped in at Alliance Title of Michigan, where he gave Melissa Scalici and Roxanne Pingle flowers for Petal it Forward.



Above, Bruce Anderson hands flowers to Jackie Fylak, a financial consultant with the Grosse Pointe branch of Charles Schwab. Right, Colleen Thomas and her dog, Posey, received flowers from Bruce Anderson. “With so much turmoil in the world, it is nice to see people spreading happiness,” Thomas said.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, from left, Moehring Woods Flowers employee Jason Fain, owner Bruce Anderson and employee Kathy Yanni get ready to hand out flowers. Left, Derek Dunlap, who was on his way to pick up a DoorDash order for delivery, crossed paths with Anderson and received flowers. Dunlap said he thought the campaign was a great idea and decided to give one of the bouquets to the client whose food order he was about to deliver.

MI police departments host No-Shave November fundraiser for Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan

It’s about to get a little hairy at 13 Michigan police departments this November, yet it’s all for a good cause — supporting Michigan children experiencing hair loss. For No-Shave November, officers from Hazel Park, Fraser, Lathrup Village, Macomb County Sheriff’s Office, Milford, Orchard Lake, Portage, Romeo, Shelby Township, South Lyon, St. Clair Shores, Sterling Heights and Wolverine Lake will contribute funds to either avoid shaving (for men) or to

wear earrings and nail polish (for women) through the 13th annual Pigs 4 Wigs campaign. Monies then will be donated to Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan, a local, grassroots 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides wigs and support services to children ages 3 to 18, at no charge, throughout the state of Michigan. Awareness and funds raised during the month-long event help kids who face cancer, alopecia, trichotillomania and other medical issues. The Pigs 4

Wigs competition has sponsored many wigs and support services for these children the last 13 years. Founded in 2003, Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan is celebrating its 22nd anniversary and has helped more than 5,600 local children. Those who know of a child in need are invited to refer them; the organization helps everyone, charges nothing and turns no one away. Call the Wellness Center at (586) 772-6656, visit wigs4kids.org or follow them on social media.



COURTESY PHOTO

Officers from the Portage Department of Public Safety stand with Maggie Varney, founder and CEO of Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan.



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20A | HEALTH

Growing Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics and PGS Dentistry: A one-stop smile solution in St. Clair Shores

At Growing Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics, in conjunction with PGS Dentistry, 22524 Mack Ave., in St. Clair Shores, we are proud to offer something no one else in the area does: a complete dental team under one roof. Our practice brings together highly trained pediatric specialists, orthodontists and general dentists to provide seamless, coordinated care for your whole family.

Our expert team includes Dr. Alice Piatkowski, our compassionate pediatric dentist; orthodontists Dr. Tom Rafaill and Dr. Jerry Wesley; and Dr. Amber Sharpley, our caring general dentist. By working side by side, we ensure every patient's dental journey — from a child's very first checkup to orthodontic treatment and beyond — is smooth, comprehensive and personalized.

We also are excited to share that during open insurance enrollment, we now accept most insurance plans, making high-quality dental care more accessible and affordable for families in our community. To further support our patients, we offer flexible payment options that fit comfortably into family budgets.

At Growing Smiles and PGS Dentistry, we emphasize the importance of early dental and orthodontic care. Starting early often means shorter treatment



times, healthier outcomes and brighter smiles that last a lifetime. Studies show that oral health impacts overall wellness, so protecting your child's smile protects their whole body, too.

That is why we offer free consultations with our friendly team, giving parents the confidence and clarity they deserve when making decisions about their child's care. Many parents ask why early intervention with orthodontics is important. Simply put, the correction of these problems at a young age is easier because of softer bones and shorter roots — and it will help prevent future

extraction of adult teeth and the development of facial asymmetries that can become permanent if the child reaches a puberty growth spurt before it is corrected. Any new orthodontic case now through Dec. 31, will have their new patient records waived (\$375 value).

Taking the first step is easy — schedule an appointment at GrowingSmilesPD.com or PGSDentistry.com, or call us today at (586) 800-GROW (4769).

Healthy mouths, happy bodies. Let us start your child's journey to a lifetime of confident smiles together, with Growing Smiles today!

Hackett Homecare: 'Our family caring for your family'

At Hackett Homecare, clients always receive top-of-the-line service. Hackett has core values of trust, honesty, integrity and compassion. Their slogan, "Our family, caring for yours," demonstrates the personal touch clients will receive.

Founder and owner John Hackett is a Grosse Pointe Farms native who grew up in the Grosse Pointes. John has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing – BSN. After playing professional baseball he moved back to Grosse Pointe and raised his family here. He has worked in the medical field his entire life.

The business, Hackett Homecare, began as he took care of his own parents, who struggled with issues related to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. He decided to create a homecare business for other elderly people like his parents.

"I knew that I could help a lot of people in their later years providing them with an extremely high quality of care along with loving, compassionate and honest caregivers," he said.

Hackett Homecare specializes in companion care, personal care, Alzheimer's/dementia and Parkinson's care, traumatic brain injury, ALS and catastrophic injury care.

"If you or a loved one is growing increasingly dependent on others with everyday activities," the



company's brochure says, "Hackett Homecare can help regain and restore your quality of life."

"I'm just very blessed to have some outstanding caregivers who are hard-working, loving and caring and that's what makes it work seamlessly," he said.

Many of his caregivers have been with him for 15-plus years and embody the company's core values. They are the best, the heartbeat of the company and the reason why the company has had success. Robyn, Megan, Crystal, Jeff, Sheryl, Cathy, Tracy, Roberta, Jose, Necole, Natalie, Juanita, Sue, Jamika, Allison and John are some of the phenomenal caregivers that make up Hackett Homecare. His staff consists of registered nurses (RNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and companion aids, and provide care from a few hours at a time to 24/7 around-the-clock care.

"Robyn is one of the kindest and most loving individuals there is with a heart of gold and has a

passion to help seniors. Megan provides a wealth of knowledge with her RN care and is a leader in the industry. They work tirelessly to make sure everything runs smoothly."

Above all, Hackett prides himself on the depth and quality of service the company provides, which sets them apart. Hackett states, "I wouldn't place a caregiver into any client's home unless I felt comfortable enough to have them in my parents' home. Having caregivers for my own parents, I completely understand the importance of going the extra mile to only hire high-quality caregivers who have a passion for caring for those in need. If they don't meet the most stringent qualities, we will not place them in any client's home. We are so blessed and I don't take that for granted."

To learn more, visit HackettHomecare.com or email HackettHomecare@gmail.com. To schedule a free consultation, call John Hackett at (313) 319-8050.

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Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital expands radiation treatment for osteoarthritis at Lenox outpatient center

The radiation oncology department at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital is making leaps and bounds in new and expanded treatments to treat a wider range of conditions using radiation technology at its Lenox outpatient center.

Historically, such external beam radiation treatments have primarily been used in cancer treatment, but radiation also has a role in treating a number of benign conditions, including keloids (hypertrophic scars), Dupuytren contracture (a hand condition where the soft tissues harden and cause the fingers to contract) and plantar fasciitis.

“Most recently, we’ve begun treating more patients with osteoarthritis using very low doses of radiation,” said Radiation Oncologist Ron Levitin, M.D.

For patients who cannot rely on medications, the treatment involves two to three sessions a week for six total treatments, using 0.5 Gray (Gy) of radiation per session. By comparison, standard cancer treatments deliver 2–6 Gy per day.

“At these very low levels, we’re not trying to kill cells as we do in can-



Ron Levitin, M.D.

cer therapy,” Levitin said. “We’re modulating inflammation around the joint, which can provide meaningful relief without the systemic effects of pills or the tissue changes that can come with steroid injections.”

European data, where the therapy has been used for decades, show that roughly two-thirds of patients respond well after the first course. About one-third receive a second course three months later, raising the overall response rate to about 80 percent.

Concerns about radiation risk are common, Levitin acknowledged, but he emphasized the safety profile.

“There are no documented cases of second cancers from this type of low-dose treatment and

for the older population that typically has osteoarthritis, the theoretical risk is extremely low and the treatment is extremely well tolerated.”

The osteoarthritis program is available at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital Radiation Oncology — Lenox Twp., which is an outpatient center located at 36555 26 Mile.

“It’s an easy drive straight up I-94 and often much easier to get to from the Grosse Pointe area than our other sites, without the usual traffic and construction,” Levitin said.

Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital has also launched treatment with the radiopharmaceutical Pluvicto for metastatic prostate cancer.

“They’ve taken a highly sensitive imaging agent for prostate cancer and attached a therapeutic radioactive compound to it,” Levitin said. “It allows us to target prostate cancer cells wherever they are with the same precision used to detect them.”

Pluvicto is currently approved for patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

Get holiday ready with natural-looking results

It’s the best time of the year to prepare for family gatherings, photos around the Christmas tree and meetings under the mistletoe.

Dr. Richard Ferrara and Dr. Katie Caretti, board-certified dermatologists, have made The Skin & Laser Center at Ferrara Dermatology a winter wonderland for those aiming to look their best this holiday season with natural-looking results.

Freeze time for the holidays with neuromodulators — Botox, Dysport and Daxxify.

“If you’re looking for a little quicker onset and possibly a little longer lasting, then Daxxify, our newest neuromodulator, may be on your wishlist,” Caretti said. “Think outside the box, too, with areas outside the face, such as the neck, which is an FDA-approved area for Botox.”

When it comes to fillers, the dermatologists’ mantra is natural-looking results.

“The industry is trending toward more natural results, so less is becoming more,” Ferrara said. “We want to take your natural look and refine it rather than transform it.”

Adding to the options, get your holiday glow on with DiamondGlow, which not only exfoliates, but also infuses the



Dr. Richard Ferrara



Dr. Katie Caretti

skin with Pro-infusion Skinmedica serums and extracts to improve blemishes.

“DiamondGlow is a great thing to do before holiday events because there’s really no downtime,” Caretti said. “We’re trying to just reduce the congested look of the skin and get you ready for the glow.”

Products at the practice that will get skin looking vibrant for the season include Alastin HA IMMERSE SERUM, which boosts hydration, smoothes the skin and makes it more radiant.

Or, shine bright all season with Alastin A - LUMINATE BRIGHTENING SERUM.

“It’s a brightening serum that can be used twice a day and it not only protects and brightens the skin, but it reduces both the browns and the reds while providing a smoother tone and texture,” Ferrara said.

Since 1960, Ferrara Dermatology and The Skin & Laser Center have offered comprehensive dermatologic care that covers both medical and aesthetic needs.

The clinic is located at 20045 & 20043 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods. For more information, call the Skin & Laser Center (313) 884-9100, Ferrara Dermatology (313) 884-5100, or visit ferraraderm.com.

Burning questions about heartburn!



By Dr. Aditi Saxena

With the holidays rapidly approaching, now is the perfect time to discuss heartburn. Heartburn is the burning discomfort that occurs in the chest after eating and can be associated with regurgitation or the sensation of food or liquid coming back up into the chest or mouth. Heartburn is common, affecting up to 30% of adults. It is a frequent symptom of gastroesophageal reflux disease or GERD.

Other signs include nausea, bad breath, increased saliva, or the feeling of something stuck in the throat.

Managing heartburn and acid reflux starts with simple lifestyle changes, even if they’re not always fun:

1. Limit acidic, spicy, fried, and fatty foods — yes, the best-tasting holiday dishes!
2. Limit alcohol — even that beer during the Lions game!
3. Limit caffeine — we know, how else do you survive the holidays?
4. Eat small, frequent meals — do you really need that third serving of turkey?
5. Avoiding late-night eating — maybe skip that midnight pizza?
6. Elevate the head of your bed at night.

If these don’t work — or let’s face it — holiday willpower is limited, antacids such as calcium carbonate or aluminum hydroxide, can provide quick relief by neutralizing acid. Medications that reduce stomach acid production (like Pepcid® or Zantac®) will last longer and may be helpful when you know you’ll be indulging.

For frequent symptoms (more than two to three times per week), try proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs) such as Prilosec®, Nexium®, or Prevacid® which are taken about 30 minutes before meals to prevent acid from forming. These should only be used as short-term unless directed by a physician, as long-term use may mask other conditions.

Important: Though heartburn is usually benign, watch for “alarm” symptoms — trouble swallowing, pain with swallowing, weight loss, persistent upper abdominal pain, or blood in your stool — which warrant prompt medical evaluation.

With all this in mind, we wish you a happy (and heartburn-free) holiday season!

Dr. Aditi Saxena is a Board-Certified gastroenterologist who performs procedures at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital with her partners, Drs. Chris Hakim, Dr. Robbie Taha, and Dr. Bradford Whitmer. Her clinic is located at 25631 Little Mack Ave STE 205, in St Clair Shores, (586) 443-2930. Dr. Saxena and her team are currently accepting new patients.



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Dr. Sean Cassleman at Mission Metabolic Health offers more than traditional primary care

After more than a decade of practicing internal medicine, Dr. Sean Cassleman has seen the strong connection between metabolic disease, obesity, muscle loss and chronic illness that cuts lives short and disrupts quality of life.

“The new paradigm for medicine is not waiting for disease to appear and then prescribing medication. It’s about being proactive,” Cassleman said.

At Mission Metabolic Health, 21444 Harper, St. Clair Shores, the focus is on reversing metabolic dysfunction through diet, exercise and tailored medical care — services often missing in traditional primary care.

The office features an in-house gym along with fitness and nutrition coaches, ensuring patients have hands-on support to put their health plans into action.

Mission Metabolic Health emphasizes longer appointments and genuine conversations to understand each patient’s goals. Cassleman brings expertise in lifestyle medicine, hormone therapy and obesity medicine, with a passion for preventative care.

Rooted in the Grosse Pointe community, Cassleman grew up in the City of Grosse



Dr. Sean Cassleman

Pointe, attended Grosse Pointe Public Schools and University of Detroit Jesuit High School and now lives in Grosse Pointe Park.

He went to John Carroll University and earned his medical degree at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Board-certified in internal medicine, he also has advanced training in obesity medicine.

The practice offers services such as concierge primary care, weight management, hormone and menopause therapy, osteoporosis care and supplement guidance.

“It’s transformative to see patients work with our coaches and bring exam-room strategies to life,” Cassleman said.

For more information, call (586) 200-4265 or email info@missionmetabolichealth.com.

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Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan sells holiday cards

Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan is offering the chance to spread the holiday spirit while supporting local children in need.

The local nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, which provides wigs and support services to ages 3 to 18 at no charge throughout the state, once again is offering holiday cards for purchase, including two new designs that feature photographs by Anne Nicolazzo, community ambassador (facebook.com/annenicolazzo).

Funds raised help ensure more Michigan children will continue to be served.

Cards with envelopes come 10 to a package and are \$20 each.

Cards may be purchased securely through PayPal online at wigs4kids.org under the How You Can Help – Merchandise section; at the Wellness Center in St. Clair Shores; or by calling (586) 772-6656.

All proceeds benefit the charity. Cash, check, money order and credit cards accepted.

Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan Wellness Center is located at 30130 Harper, St. Clair Shores.

Those who know of a child in need of its services should call (586) 772-6656 or email maggie@wigs4kids.org.

The organization has provided more than 5,600 wigs and support services to children since 2003, charges nothing and turns no one away.



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Grosse Pointe Theatre welcomes patrons to Schaap Center with ‘White Christmas’

Performances are Dec. 5-21

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Calling it a holiday card to the community, Grosse Pointe Theatre kicks off its 78th season with Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas,” to be performed Dec. 5 to 21, at the long-awaited Schaap Center, 15001 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

“This show felt like the perfect opportunity to be part of the opening season at the Schaap Center,” director Nick Marinello said. “What better show than this Grosse Pointe Theatre classic and beloved American classic? It was a no-brainer to perform a holiday show to open the season. ... It’s a great way to say thank-you for sticking with us these last eight years.”

It’s been eight years since GPT lost its “home stage” at The War Memorial and instead has performed on school stages throughout the Grosse Pointes. GPT — as well as its supporters

— have been awaiting its new performance home ever since.

“We’re opening a brand new chapter,” Marinello said. “This will be our first time performing in a true theater space ... our first time to really show what we can do.”

“This marks an historic moment in our 78-year history — the move to a new performance home,” Grosse Pointe Theatre Executive Director Linda Zublick said. “This incredible milestone would not be possible without our dedicated members, passionate patrons, generous donors and the vibrant community that has supported us every step of the way.”

The show

“White Christmas,” based on the 1954 film starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen, tells the story of Army pals, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, who start a successful song-and-dance act following World War II. With

romance in mind, the friends follow a pair of beautiful sisters who are headed to a Vermont lodge to perform a Christmas show.

“They take their act to Pine Tree, Vt., and stumble across their ex-general, who is struggling to keep his inn afloat,” said Zak Shugart, portraying Phil Davis. “They decide to do what they can to help out their old general. They meet the girls and Phil ends up falling for one of them — but fighting against the death of his bachelorhood.”

His partner in the caper is another familiar GPT face, Mario Simone, who plays Bob Wallace.

“He starts as a grouch,” Simone said. “He was intending to go to Miami to try out the show but was bamboozled and brought to Vermont. ... Away from the chaos, there’s a love story baked in.”

Portraying Wallace’s initially reluctant love interest, Betty Haynes, is Manda Borden.

“She’s a misunderstood character who protects her peace,” Borden said. “She’s reserved, the older sister to Judy. She’s nurturing ... and jaded about love.”

Newcomer Jillian Evennou is taking on the role of Judy, whom she described as sassy and naive.

“She’s not as jaded as Betty,” she added. “She meets Phil and jumps right into it with him.”

Complicating matters and adding to the conflict is another old Army buddy, Ralph Sheldrake, portrayed by GPT veteran Panos Varlamos.

“He drives the plot more than I thought he would,” Varlamos said. “He’s a TV producer for



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE THEATRE

Leading the talented cast of Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas” are, from top, Mario Simone (Bob Wallace), Manda Borden (Betty Haynes), Zak Shugart (Phil Davis) and Jillian Evennou (Judy Haynes).



Confirmed bachelor Phil Davis, portrayed by Zak Shugart, attracts the attention two flirtly women, portrayed by Audrey Brennan, left, and Kristina Kamm.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Tap dancing to “I Love a Piano” are, from left, Lillian Klein, Erica Hobbs, Kristina Kamm, Sophie Leszczynski, Moni Valentini, Megan Smith and Audrey Brennan.

Ed Sullivan; he gets them on the broadcast and sets up the whole scheme.”

Despite misunderstandings and miscommunications, the show has a happy holiday ending and theater-goers are promised a “magical theatrical experience,” highlighted by Berlin’s well-known score, including “Blue Skies,” “I Love a Piano” and “How Deep is the Ocean,” as well as the title song.

People who loved the film — “It was one of my

favorite movies growing up,” Borden said — will notice differences in the stage play, Marinello noted, including a few songs and characters that weren’t on the big screen.

Those who’ve already seen the GPT production — it performed “White Christmas” in 2013, 2014 and 2015 — also may notice some differences. Sophie Leszczynski, part of the ensemble, should know; she’s been a part of all four productions.

“It’s a special show; I wouldn’t want to miss it,” she said. “Things are different in each show. There are different taps and different harmonies, but it still feels very familiar. It’s one of my favorite shows to do and I’m glad I’m doing it a fourth time.”

Varlamos also is excited to be part of this historic cast.

“I wanted to be part of a piece of history, moving into the Schaap Center and being a part of the first show,” the 10-year GPT member said. “This means a lot to a lot of people. It means a lot to the audience, of course, but it also means a lot to the people who have dedicated their time and effort into an organization without a home base.”

Coming home

The Schaap Center is a 435-seat theater featuring state-of-the-art lighting, world-class acoustics, a hydraulic orchestra pit, a fly system and other amenities GPT is excited to experience for the first time.

“The Schaap Center being our new home, it’s a fantastic space with all the bells and whistles,” Shugart said. “We’ve essentially been nomads eight or nine years. We can’t wait to show the community what Grosse Pointe can do with a whole theater behind them.”

“We are grateful to have had the schools,” said Patricia Ellis, a long-time GPT member and show promoter. “We learned how to adapt and pivot. Now we’re moving into the Schaap Center. ... We’re excited and grateful for the audience, for so many people who stuck with us all this time. The community support has been wonderful.”

Added Simone, “It’ll be interesting to see where our limit is and to do things never seen before.”

“In this new space, I’m looking forward to the

See GPT, page 5B

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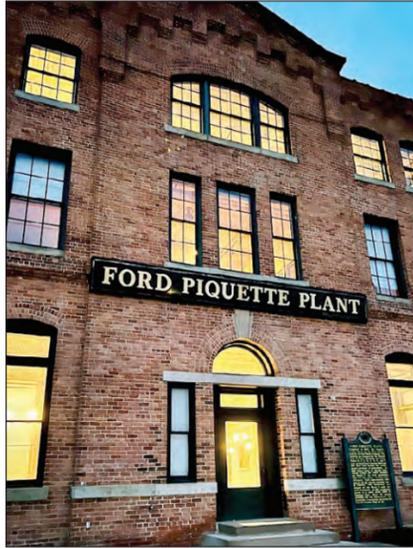
The Milwaukee Junction trolley in downtown Detroit, during the city's early manufacturing days.

Motor City Origins Tour is Nov. 29

Family and friends looking for adventure over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend can make new Motor City memories, learn about Detroit's automotive past and enjoy tasty food and drinks at the Ford Piquette Plant Museum, 461 Piquette, Detroit.

The museum will offer a "Motor City Origins Tour" at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. This themed tour explores how the Motor City got its start in the Milwaukee Junction neighborhood, just east of the New Center, with automakers including Ford Motor Co., but also Brush, Cadillac, Detroit Electric, Dodge, Hupp, Regal and many others.

The event includes a half-hour of socializing over complimentary drinks and a menu of light bites, followed by a theater presentation on Detroit's early automotive history. Guests then will take a deep dive into the museum's collection of rare antique vehicles made in Milwaukee Junction just after the turn of the 20th century.



The Ford Piquette Plant Museum is located at 461 Piquette, Detroit.

Among the topics discussed will be how Milwaukee Junction got its name; the role of the railway and trolley systems in Detroit's early manufacturing era; its diverse ecosystem of car companies and auto-

motive suppliers; and the legendary personalities that helped make history. Guests will have a night at the museum to themselves and an expert docent to provide storytelling in one of the oldest surviving automotive plants in the world.

Tickets are \$40 per person, \$25 for museum members.

The Ford Piquette Plant Museum is open year-round to the public, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth. Optional guided tours are offered daily and private group tours and school field trips are available by appointment.

Proceeds from special events support museum operations.

For a complete event schedule or to purchase tickets, visit fordpiquetteplant.org. Event tickets are available at the door, but advance sales are requested to ensure adequate catering supplies. For more information email info@fordpiquetteplant.org or call (313) 872-8759.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

◆ Brave Belle's Bookclub, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Poetry Workshop with M.L. Liebler, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Crafterhours, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Mystery Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Dino-Mite Drop-in Craft, 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, all branches.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 29, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28300 Rockwood, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, Recreation Authority of Roseville & Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

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

Register at redcrossblood.org.

See EVENTS, page 7B

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Key2Finesse competition supports Kids On The Go

The student run non-profit, Key2Finesse, will celebrate its 10th anniversary with its annual Speak The Difference 11.0 competition Dec. 7, at the Vistatech Center in Livonia.

This year's event supports Kids On The Go, an organization dedicated to providing free therapies, camps and enrichment programs for children and teens with special needs.

Speak the Difference 11.0 is a day-long competition that gives students in first through 12th grades the opportunity to showcase their creativity and voice in categories such as prepared and impromptu speeches, art, poetry, essay writing and photography. To finish the ceremony, overall donations to Kids On The Go will be revealed.

"Key2Finesse is a place

where countless students have received a platform to create change for the causes they care about," said Dhanya Chugh, who with Aashi Patel, serves as an outreach co-lead with Key2Finesse. "Our 10-year anniversary represents a milestone for empowering the next generation of change-makers to turn their passions into impact.

See SUPPORT, page 6B

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Kitten crisis at GPAAS

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society is bursting at the seams with kittens, so much so the shelter no longer can accept drop-offs until the fuzzy felines already in its care are adopted.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GPAAS

Volunteer Helen Roberts cuddles with one of the shelter's many kittens.

"Everyone I talk to at other shelters is saying the same thing," GPAAS founder and Executive Director Corinne Martin said regarding the rescue's copious amount of kittens. "It's not just GPAAS, but in our little community, people are frustrated."

Every kitten cage is full, she said, and the calls to place more at the shelter keep coming in. Alas, there is no room at the inn.

"There are 22 kittens in our shelter," Martin said, "and 10 adult cats. I got three calls this morning to place more kittens."

"... In 30 years, I've never seen anything like this," she added. "This is a bizarre year. We always have a lot of kittens in the summer and spring, but ... maybe because it was such a warm summer? I don't know."

The warm weather coupled with the high cost of veterinary care, Martin said, could be the culprit of the population explosion.

"So many people cannot afford veterinary care for kittens," she said, noting the average cost to neuter a male kitten is \$400 to \$500, while the cost to spay a female kitten is \$700. "That's not including shots or feline leukemia vaccines."

"All About Animals charges \$120, but you can't get an appointment for six months," she added.

Martin advised those looking for a kitten or cat not to be fooled by inter-

net offers of "free" felines.

"They'll get a free cat or kitten, then find out what it costs to take them to the vet," she said. "If people want to help, adopt a cat or kitten from any shelter — all the shelters are in the same boat. You can get a cat or kitten with all the veterinary care for an affordable fee, as opposed to getting a free cat or kitten and then finding out you can't afford the veterinary care."

"... We charge \$225 to adopt a cat and that includes all veterinary care," she added. "We don't make any money on that; we lose money. People are still not adopting. But we can't help the community with the cats they're finding and caring for until we get the ones we have adopted."

"... The ones that were eight weeks old a month ago are now 12 weeks old and bigger. In another month, they'll be 16 weeks old and even bigger."

While veterinary care is the primary expense, feeding these felines two to three times a day carries an "outrageous" price tag.

"Adopt," Martin said.



PHOTO BY DONNA ZETTERLUND

Kitten cages are bursting at the seams at GPAAS.

"Or refer to us people you know who are interested. You can also donate supplies."

A list of feline supply needs — including wet and dry food, as well as litter — may be found online at gpaas.org/donate.

"Reach out for help,"

Martin added. "We'll try to help and make suggestions. It's best to call the shelter for advice on what to do. ... Metro Detroit is saturated. The feline population in this community has become a crisis. We want people to be aware. That's all we can do."

Home for the Holidays at Ford House is Dec. 4-21

Home for the Holidays at Ford House returns Thursdays through Sundays, Dec. 4 to 21, with an expanded schedule, a new walking route, live carolers and festive experiences that capture the spirit of the season. A Friends of Ford House preview night takes place Saturday, Nov. 29, with a public opening Sunday, Nov. 30.

With limited ticket capacity and timed entries, each evening feels calm and unhurried, allowing guests to fully

savor the atmosphere without crowds. Guests begin by walking from the visitor center to Jingle Junction at Josephine's Playhouse, where gingerbread figures and colorful lights make for a festive photo opportunity.

From there, soft white lights and instrumental holiday music guide guests through the formal and rose gardens, past the pool and lagoon, toward the main residence, which, for many, is the highlight of the

evening.

The main residence provides a chance to step inside one of Michigan's most beautiful historic homes, warmly decorated in Eleanor Ford's signature style of understated elegance. Inspired by her personal taste and sense of refinement, the décor embodies a gentle, sophisticated celebration of the season.

"Eleanor Ford's style reflected a quiet kind of elegance and beauty," said Tommy Karr, director of communications

and engagement at Ford House. "Her approach to design was rooted in simplicity and intention and that spirit continues in Home for the Holidays. We want guests to slow down, take in the atmosphere and enjoy the season through her timeless sense of style."

For Ford House leadership, Home for the Holidays reflects not only the joy of the season, but also Eleanor Ford's enduring legacy of generosity and community.

"At its heart, Ford

House has always been a home, a place of connection between people, nature and beauty," said Mark Heppner, Ford House president and CEO. "Eleanor Ford gifted this estate to the community with the hope that it would enrich the lives of future generations. That sense of welcome is especially meaningful at Christmastime, when families gather, lights glow and the season fills the estate with comfort and joy."

After exploring the main residence, guests can choose one of two festive experiences. The first is Mistletoe Market, located in the historic Drying Yard, where guests can gather around fire pits, enjoy holiday snacks and beverages — including adult beverages — from the concessions tent and shop for unique gifts at The Shop's Pop-Up, featuring items available only during the event.

See HOME, page 7B

One induction, one introduction

Tony Lauri was inducted into Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary by newly inducted Rotary District Gov. Linda Morrow during a special meeting for club members to meet Morrow.

Morrow is a member of the Windsor-Roseland Ontario Rotary Club and has been a Rotary member since 2011. On hand for the ceremony were Assistant Gov. Ted Everingham and Grosse Pointe PM Rotary Club President Jackie Dale.

Lauri is a past member of the Owosso Rotary Club, beginning in 1986, and joined the West Bloomfield Rotary Club in 1996. He currently is a City of Grosse Pointe resident.

The Sunrise Rotary Club welcomes residents to join its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House.

For more information, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

From left, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Mark Heppner stands with new member Tony Lauri and Rotary District 6400 Gov. Linda Morrow at Ford House Oct. 21.



From left, Assistant Gov. Ted Everingham, Rotary District 6400 Gov. Linda Morrow, Grosse Pointe PM Rotary Club President Jackie Dale and Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Mark Heppner.

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Special delivery

Through a grant received from the Mary Thompson Foundation, The Helm was able to contract with Eastern Market to create 82 fresh produce boxes that were delivered to homebound seniors throughout the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Eastern Market packaged the produce and delivered them to The Helm Monday, Nov. 10. Volunteers then delivered the boxes to the recipients.

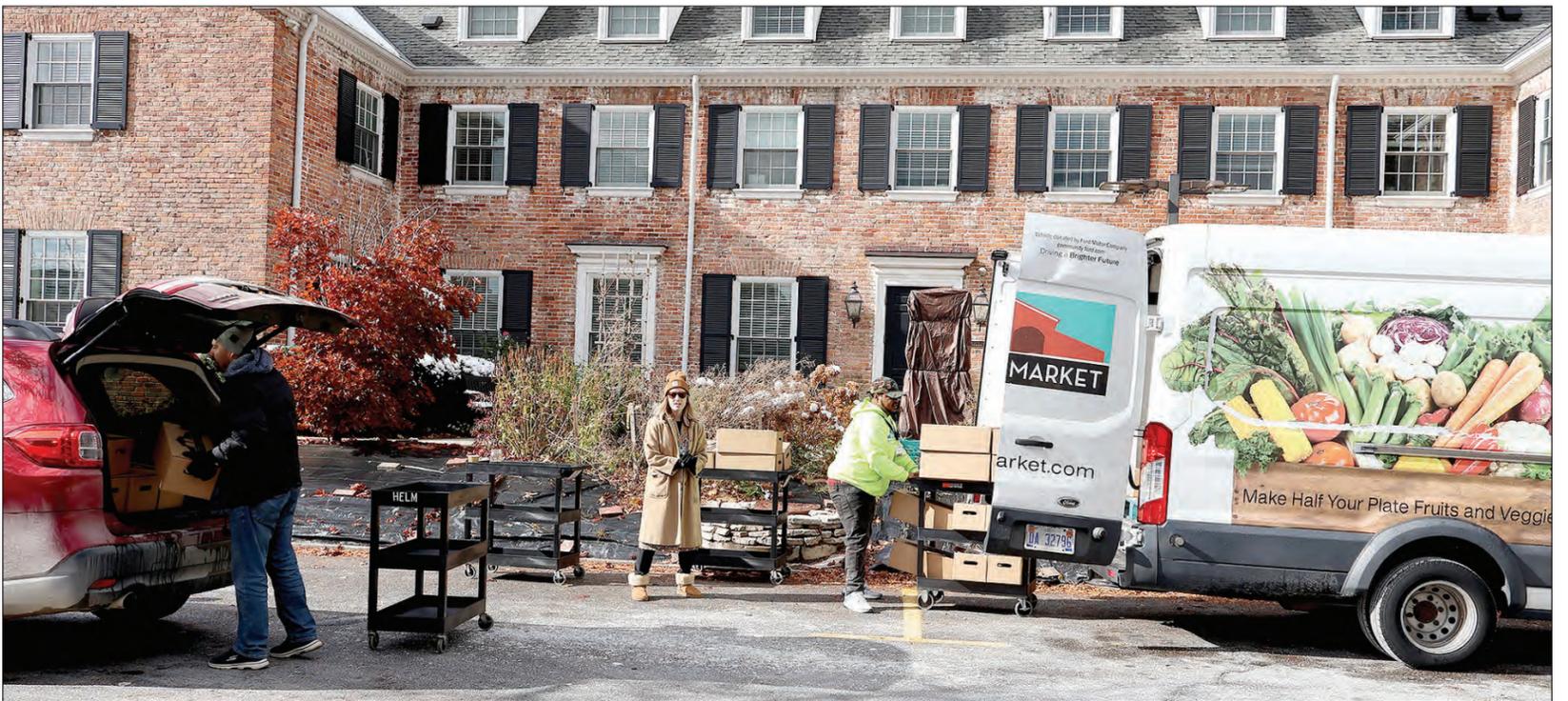
The Helm Development Director Liz Johnson delivers a food box to Harper Woods resident David Briggs.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HELM



Above, several volunteers loaded up boxes and hand delivered them to area residents. Below, Eastern Market delivered boxes of fresh produce to The Helm and unloaded the boxes, which then were loaded into the cars of volunteers who delivered them.



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Gearheads and Optimist Club members.

Gearheads visit Lakeshore Optimists

The Gearheads, the robotics team representing Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools, visited the Lakeshore Optimist Club to provide an overview of the club. The Gearheads are affiliated with For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, or FIRST, a global youth robotics organization.

The Gearheads have competed in numerous competitions and received many awards, introducing hundreds of students to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math). The team works together in seven sections: design, build, fabrication, controls, media, business and safety. Team members can plug in where their interests and skills lie.

Each year the team produces a new

robot based on specifications for group competition. The Gearheads brought their 2025 robot, "Connie," short for "Confidential," to demonstrate to Optimist Club members, who were amazed at the demonstration and overview of what goes into each year's project. At the end of the program, Optimist Club President Steve Licari provided a donation from the club to the Gearheads team.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend, listen to interesting speakers and see what the club is about. Visit gpoptimists.com for locations, dates and times each month. Follow the club on Facebook at facebook.com/lakeshoreoptimists.



The Gearheads team with their robot, "Connie."

The details

What: Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," presented by Grosse Pointe Theatre

When:

- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
- ◆ 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
- ◆ 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20
- ◆ 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21

Where: Schaap Center, 15001 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

Parking is free and complimentary valet parking will be available.

Tickets: Visit gpt.org/whitechristmas or call (313) 881-4004. Tickets start at \$29, including all fees. Special rates are available for groups of 10 or more.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Portraying passengers on a train are Keith Rikki and Erica Hobbs.

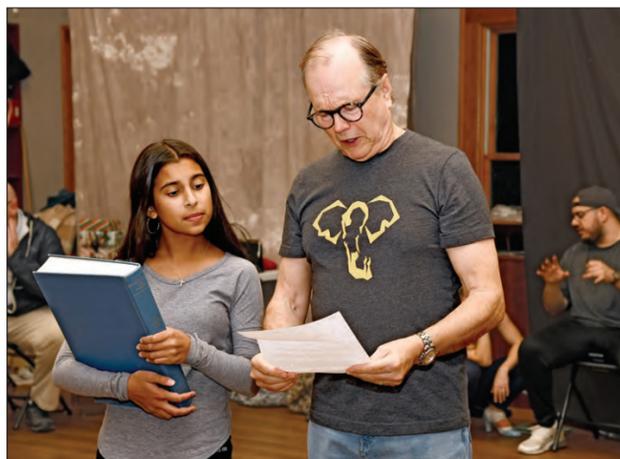


PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE THEATRE

Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" will run Dec. 5-21, at the Schaap Center. Leading the talented cast are, from left, Mario Simone, Manda Borden, Jillian Evennou and Zak Shugart.

From left, Sophie Lenczyczynski, Moni Valentini, Audrey Brennan, Jillian Evennou and Kristina Kamm Mardlin kick 'em high during their performance of "Blue Skies."

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



Tim Higgins, as Gen. Waverly, rehearses a scene with Anna Steiger, portraying Waverly's granddaughter.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

GPT:

Continued from page 1B

new memberships this could bring to the organization," Varlamos said. "The foundation of what we are is the dedication of our members. We want to keep growing, both onstage and through volunteering, and show the scope of what we're able to do."

For veterans

Sponsorships are integral to GPT's success. The nonprofit theater spends thousands on each performance and ticket sales account for just 40 percent of the annual budget.

"We pay the rights company to put on the show and for the space — we rent at Schaap; we don't own the building," Marinello said.

GPT has been hard at work fostering donor connections, he added.

Several sponsors are responsible for the production of "White Christmas," including the John and Marlene Boll Foundation, the show's presenting sponsor.

Other sponsors include



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Marie Boyle Reinman, left, plays the concierge/desk clerk at the lodge in Vermont. Arriving guests are angry that there isn't any snow.

Simone Companies, Speak Easy Therapeutics LLC, Conner Park Florist, Patricia Ellis and Richard Strowger, and The War Memorial, whose sponsorships are covering TIER2 tickets for veterans and one guest at the evening performances of "White Christmas."

"We wanted to find ways to support and uplift veterans for their service," Shugart said. "We've created a fund for tickets — 20 tickets per

evening — for veterans. We're offering two tickets for any veteran to come with a guest."

Veterans should log onto the ticket link — gpt.org/whitechristmas — select from the available TIER2 seating for one of the 7:30 p.m. performances and insert the code "VETTHANKS" at checkout. This ticket offer is only available while quantities last.

As is tradition, veterans will be honored during the show.

"My brother is a veteran of the Navy; he served more than 10 years," Lenczyczynski said. "Whenever he came home, he came to see a show and when we ask veterans to stand, that always made me tear up."

Another "White Christmas" tie to the veteran community is Kyle Weatherbee, who is serving as apprentice director. He spent eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps and has an appreciation for the story, as well as the challenge of adapting to life after the service.

"The Marine Corps has a way of humbling people through hardship, sacrifice and service," he said. "That humility often leads to a deeper gratitude for life's simple gifts."

"Some of the characters in this production are navigating life after the military, trying to find purpose and joy again," he continued. "I have walked that path and

understand the struggles and triumphs of adjusting to a new normal. At its core, 'White Christmas' is about people helping people, like the group of Army veterans and their friends who come together to support someone they care about — their beloved general. Such acts of kindness can have a lasting impact."

"White Christmas' is one of those timeless stories that embodies the spirit of the holiday season with friendship, laughter, romance, music and joy," Marinello said. "I wanted to direct this show because it is a beautiful blend of heartwarming storytelling and dazzling spectacle brought to life by our incredibly talented cast and creative team who are just as passionate as I am to make this an exciting and memorable experience for audiences of all ages."

"Come join us," Shugart added. "We guarantee a wonderful, magical time. You'll be tapping your toes and singing along; it's going to be a wonderful evening."

More to love

Prior to each performance, pre-curtain entertainment will be provided by several metro Detroit choral groups who will sing festive selections.

"We tried to intentionally find ways to plug the community into this," Marinello said, "so com-

munity and school choirs will be caroling — including Manda's students, who will sing one night — for a half hour before each show. We'll have a capella groups, a jazz group. We're excited for our patrons to get two shows in one."

Additionally, patrons are welcome to view artwork in the center's Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery.

An additional treat, Santa Claus and Christmas Carol are scheduled to make special appearances prior to the shows Thursday, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 14.

GPT hits the streets

Members of Grosse Pointe Theatre's "White Christmas" cast will take part in extra promotional efforts in the coming weeks.

In advance of the production's Dec. 5 premier, GPT will participate in the 22nd annual City of Detroit Tree Lighting Ceremony at Campus Martius Park. The event takes place 4 to 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

Locally, cast members will entertain spectators of the 50th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, presented by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28. A troupe of actors will sing songs from "White Christmas" along the parade route, which runs along Kercheval, from Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms to Cadieux in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Looking ahead

Grosse Pointe Theatre's 78th season continues with "Pride and Prejudice," Feb. 19 to March 1; "Matilda," April 10 to 26; and "Cinderella," June 5 to 21.

Its black-box Purdon Studio Theatre will present "Almost, Maine," Jan. 30 to Feb. 8.

Youth on Stage will perform "The Wizard of Oz," March 13 to 22.

The 13th annual Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival returns in May.

For information or tickets, visit gpt.org or call (313) 881-4004.

Who's who

The cast

- ◆ Mario Simone as Bob Wallace
- ◆ Zak Shugart as Phil Davis
- ◆ Manda Borden as Betty Haynes
- ◆ Jillian Evennou as Judy Hyanes
- ◆ Panos Varlamos as Ralph Sheldrake
- ◆ Timothy Higgins as General Waverly
- ◆ Marie Boyle Reinman as Martha Watson
- ◆ Anna Steiger as Susan Waverly
- ◆ Audrey Brennan as Rhoda
- ◆ Kristina Kamm Mardlin as Rita
- ◆ Rick Hawley as Ezekiel Foster

The ensemble

- ◆ Dominic Aldini, Gavin Bethell, Lyndsey Briggs, Erica Clarke, Scott Davis, Daniel Gauthier, Erica Hobbs, Shelby Holley, Lillian Klein, Sophie Lenczyczynski, Catherine Pearson, Keith Rikli, Megan Smith, Moni Valentini and Sean von Schwarz.

◆ There will be a cameo appearance by the Hon. William Giovan, in recognition of being the longest living member of Grosse Pointe Theatre.

The crew

- ◆ Nick Marinello, director
- ◆ Kyle Weatherbee, apprentice director
- ◆ Don Bischoff, set design/tech director
- ◆ Tracy Bischoff, scenic artist/painter
- ◆ Brett Wotherspoon, choreographer
- ◆ Stan Harr, vocal director
- ◆ Steve Woznicki, music director
- ◆ Amy Ricker, stage manager
- ◆ Olyvia O'Donnell and Raven Ross, assistant stage managers
- ◆ Lorie Kamm, Cynthia Kempton, Randie Kohler and Arlene Schoenherr, producers
- ◆ Tom Archinal, lighting design
- ◆ Erin Mee, assistant lighting design
- ◆ Clayton Rivera, sound design
- ◆ Mary Magyari, costume designer
- ◆ Costumers Katy Golden and Rebecca O'Reilly
- ◆ Haley Sommerstofer, hair and makeup chair
- ◆ Colleen Hughes, props chair
- ◆ Patricia Ellis, publicity chair
- ◆ Tamra Marinello, community engagement chair
- ◆ CT Hollis, rehearsal accompanist



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE THEATRE

Manda Borden as Betty Haynes, left, and Jillian Evennou as Judy Haynes perform the iconic number "Sister," in Irving Berlin's "White Christmas."

6B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

Dr. Robert "Bob" Niccolini

Dr. Robert "Bob" Niccolini, 84, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025. Bob lived his last years in Annapolis, Md., surrounded by his sons, grandchildren and loving wife.

Bob was born April 13, 1941, in Detroit. He was the only surviving son of Hugo and Sandy Rossi Niccolini. He was the first in his family to attend college and graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1966. After serving in the U.S. Navy for several years, he spent more than 50 years as a psychiatrist, caring for countless patients as the chief of psychiatry at Hutzel Hospital in Detroit and later as chief of psychiatry at Snowden Hospital in Fredericksburg, Va. He also worked for the state of Virginia and in his own private practice. Bob also was a professor of medicine for many years at Wayne State University.

While still a resident at Wayne State, Bob met the love of his life, Marlene Gralewski, and often said his greatest accomplishment was convincing her to marry him in 1966. Bob was a dedicated family man and an amazing father to his three boys, Robert, Michael and David. He also was a wonderful Nono to eight grandchildren and lived to meet two of his great-grandchildren.

Bob is survived and sorely missed by his wife, Marlene; sons, Robert, Michael and David; daughters-in-law, Leeann, Cristina and Beth; grandchildren, Kate, Chris, Trey, Charlie, Lauren, Caroline, Johnny and James; and great-grandchildren, Emmie and Hudson.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28, at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Severna Park, Md.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3K6FsFQ; or Wayne State University School of Medicine, 540 E. Canfield, Detroit, MI 48201, bit.ly/3WJax5w.

Nancy Ann Coles

Nancy Ann (nee Rouen) Coles, 93, died peacefully Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025.

Nancy was born in Highland Park to Frank and Francis Rouen, both now deceased. She was one of five children, including her sisters, Jeanne, Estelle and Marion, and brother, Tom, all now deceased. She graduated from Blessed Sacrament Grade School and Mercy High School. She graduated from Marygrove College in 1954, as class president.

Nancy and Thomas B. Coles Jr., M.D., celebrated 69 years of marriage June 9, 2025. They had seven children, Thomas, Peter (Sue Bourget), Kathleen Nemes (Charles), Mary Claire Kastenholz (Michael), Brian (Jennifer), Dennis and Michael (Susan). Nancy also is survived by her grandchildren, Anna (Justin), Stephen, Adam, Patrick, Christopher (Lisa), Andrew (Juti), Kara, Keith (Sarah), Daniel, Nicholas, Katelyn, Scout, Stuart, Keegan (Any) and Logan; and great-grandchildren, Charles, Sofia, Isabella, Ava, Callum and Ellis.

Nancy joined Tom in Germany and France from 1957-59, while he served in the U.S. Air Force Medical Service Corps. The couple then moved to Allen Park for six years before moving to Grosse Pointe, where they remained for 56 years. In 2021, they moved to a senior residence in Novi to be closer to family.

Nancy and Tom were members of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church since 1965, where Nancy was a choir member, catechist, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, sacristan and acolyte.

Nancy was a volunteer in the Bon Secours Assistance League for many years and twice served as co-chair of the annual Christmas Bazaar. She also was active in her children's grade school and high school parent groups. When her youngest went off to college, Nancy became a Realtor and served the Grosse Pointes for 20 years.

Nancy and Tom had many close friends.

They were members of a college potluck group for 55 years and a Grosse Pointe potluck group for almost 40 years. One of Nancy's favorite sayings when serving dinner was, "Start eating while it's hot. We'll pray when I sit down!" Nancy loved to cook and bake and usually made dozens of chocolate chip cookies at a time. She was known as the "pecan pie lady," making pies for people who were sick or mourning and for the rectory.

Nancy shared the characteristics of the song "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," as she was a very warm, friendly and cheerful person. Nancy had a full and active life and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

A funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Friends and family may begin gathering at 9:30 a.m.

Nancy requested no flowers. Memorial donations may be made to the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, 747 Third, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10017, bbrfoundation.org/.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

Gertrude Jeanne Simon

Gertrude Jeanne Simon, 91, passed away peacefully and surrounded by her family Friday, Nov. 14, 2025.

Gertrude was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Lottie. She was a devoted wife to her beloved husband, Joseph Simon, who predeceased her. She had a successful 50-year career caring for others as a registered nurse. She loved spending time with her family and hosting numerous holidays, birthdays and special occasions in her warm and cozy home. She also loved traveling with her husband on cruises and spending time with family, traveling to Boyne Mountain and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Gertrude is survived by her four children, Mark (Anne), Patricia, Matthew (Nancy) and David (Debbie). She



Dr. Robert Niccolini



Nancy Ann Coles



Gertrude Jeanne Simon

adored her 10 grandchildren, Mackenzie, Camryn, Shailee, Michael, Courtney, Christopher, Kathleen, Andrew (Sarah), Sydney and Katlyn; and was especially proud to have one great-grandchild, Amelia.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores. Her family will begin to receive guests at 9 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph, Ste. 150, Bingham Farms, MI 48025, bit.ly/47XBBTF; or the Alzheimer's Association fundraiser sponsored by American House Grosse Pointe, 161 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, bit.ly/48hvnzo.

Share a memory at ahpeters.org.

Kathleen Shapard Terry

Kathleen Shapard Terry, 73, died peacefully Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, at home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Kathy was born Aug. 9, 1952, in Detroit, to Barbara Reynolds Terry and Sydney Lee Terry, both now deceased. Kathy was the fourth of six children. She grew up and spent much of her life in Grosse Pointe Farms and was most recently a resident at American House Grosse Pointe, where she found great happiness and joy.

She attended St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School, where she developed her lifelong love of reading, and graduated in 1970. She remained a proud "Laker" throughout her many travels. In 2005, she was happy to return to Grosse Pointe to help her parents age in place. After the death of her father in 2009, she provided the devoted assistance that helped her mother maintain her sense of dignity and independence until her death in 2019.

She especially enjoyed time spent reading to the young children of Richard Elementary School as a volunteer



Kathleen Shapard Terry



Suzanne Agnes Suski

teacher's aide, where she was honored with the Golden Apple Award for her dedication and service.

Kathy was predeceased by her parents; and eldest brother, Christopher Lee Terry (Mary). She is survived by her sisters, Sheila Terry Tomkinson of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Martha Terry Dempsey (Joe) of Carrollton, Texas; brothers, Mark R. Terry (Kathi) of East Lansing and S. Lee Terry (Kathy) of Denver. She also is survived by many loving nephews and nieces.

Visitation begins at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, until the 10 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an elementary school library in the Grosse Pointe Public School System of the giver's choice.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Suzanne Agnes Suski

Suzanne Agnes (nee Emerson) Suski, 82, passed away Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025, in Grosse Pointe. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and community advocate.

Suzanne was born July 22, 1943, in Escanaba, to Gladys and James Emerson, both now deceased. She is survived by her devoted husband of 59 years, Joseph Suski; their children, Allyson and Joseph; and grandson, Andrew, who will carry forward her spirit of curiosity, compassion and integrity.

Suzanne earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northern Michigan University and a Master

of Arts degree from Wayne State University. A lifelong educator, Suzanne dedicated her career to teaching and mentoring thousands of students. She was known for her remarkable ability to prepare high schoolers for the real world through a distinctive blend of hard work, discipline and humor, all grounded in her profound love and unwavering support for those she taught. Among the many subjects she embraced, she especially cherished teaching English, speech and communication.

Beyond the classroom, Suzanne was deeply committed to civic engagement and horticultural accessibility. She was a proud 50-year member of the League of Women Voters and was recognized for her long-standing service in 2024. She also devoted time and passion to the Herb Society of America, advocating for gardening as a joy and resource accessible to all.

Suzanne's legacy endures in the lives she shaped, students she inspired and loved ones who will forever cherish her memory.

A memorial gathering will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, lvvgrossepointe.org/about-us/donate/; or the Herb Society of America, 9019 Kirtland Chardon, Willoughby, OH 44094, herbsociety.org/get-involved/hsa-support-donate-form.html.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

SUPPORT:

Continued from page 2B

We are so incredibly honored to be supporting Kids On The Go, a charity that cares so endlessly; it truly is the best gift in our 10th year."

In 2016, Esha Ghosalkar and Chintan Maheshwari began Key2Finesse as a small student-led initiative that has grown into a thriving nonprofit with more than 60 board members and volunteers. The past decade, it has raised more than \$760,000 for charities, including Variety Children's Charities, Gleaners, Easterseals, Angels of

Hope, Blessings in a Backpack and NAMI Metro.

This year's partnership marks a new chapter in the organization's commitment to connecting youth leadership to community service. This past summer, Key2Finesse high school board members helped create and carry out weekly lesson plans to teach leadership and public speaking skills for KOTG teens with special needs enrolled in social skills groups.

"The generosity from Key2Finesse has been transformative for Kids On The Go," said Katie Shubnell, KOTG manager

of development and mission engagement. "It is an honor to have been selected by this inspiring organization and benefit from their talent and generosity. Their voices have promoted our mission and raised awareness of the challenges that families who have children with special needs face. Additionally, the financial support that has come from both Key2Finesse and their corporate partners has significantly contributed to the funding for our programs and provided us with encouragement to 'think bigger' in terms of the impact our mission can have on those we serve."



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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Rotary Club members, from left, Lisa Gandelot, Bob Lucas, President Jackie Dale, Barb Carlier and Neil Sroka were given hammers to begin the demolition on their sponsored wall.

Hammer away during 'demo day'

The Full Circle Foundation hosted a "Demo Day" Nov. 13, at what will become its Innovation Center. Full Circle's TEAM 26 participants teamed up with members of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe to tear down walls at the former Henry Ford Ophthalmology site at 15401 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

The Rotary club donated \$25,000 to name the future dining area for students and were welcomed to participate in the demolition, donning hard hats and safety goggles and swinging hammers to break down a few walls.



Left, Ronald Alford helps make the hole larger to let the light in. Below, Jill Campbell, Full Circle board director, and Mary Fodell, Full Circle founder and vice president, are happy to help by bringing down the hammer.



Gary Van Elslander makes the opening in the wall even bigger and is greeted by the sunshine.



HOME:

Continued from page 3B

Alternatively, guests looking for that extra moment of Christmas magic can stop by Santa's Candy & Sweets Shoppe, a bright and whimsical corner of the main residence, for a brief meet-and-greet and photo opportunity with Santa before exiting to the market.

Every paid ticket includes a complimentary cup of hot cocoa. Adults also may purchase a shot to add to their cocoa for a cozy, spirited twist.

This year's Home for the Holidays at Ford House features live carolers performing festive favorites on select nights. The caroling schedule includes:

- ◆ Nov 29: Good Tidings Caroling
- ◆ Dec 4: Grosse Pointe

North High School

- ◆ Dec 7: North Broadway Church of Christ

- ◆ Dec 12: University of Detroit Jesuit High School

- ◆ Dec 13: North Broadway Church of Christ

- ◆ Dec 18: Regina High School Girls' Choir

- ◆ Dec 20: Community Chorus of Detroit

Ford House also has partnered with the Detroit Goodfellows to brighten the holidays for local children. Guests are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys for children ages 5 to 15, as part of the Goodfellows' annual holiday package distribution, which supports more than 13,000 families across metro Detroit, including Harper Woods. Toy collection boxes will be in the visitor center lobby and the administration building through Dec. 10.

Home for the Holidays

will now be open Thursday through Sunday evenings to meet growing audience demand. Admission is timed every 30 minutes between 5:30 and 8 p.m. Advance purchase is strongly recommended, as space is limited. The event takes place in rain, snow or shine.

The route includes pavement, gravel, wood chips and grass; portions may be uneven. Guests are encouraged to wear warm clothing and comfortable shoes suitable for winter conditions.

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$12 for ages 3 to 12. Friends of Ford House receive discounted ticket prices of \$18 and \$10, respectively. Tickets may be purchased at fordhouse.org/events/home-for-the-holidays-at-ford-house.

For more information, call (313) 884-4222.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org

- ◆ Night Cap: At-Will Band, 7:15 to 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$40 VIP.

- ◆ Tree-lighting ceremony, 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23.

- ◆ Mingle with Kringle Reception, 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23. Tickets are \$45 for adults, \$35 for children.

- ◆ Vet-to-Vet, 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.

- ◆ Middle School Dance: Holiday Sweater Edition, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, for Grosse Pointe students only. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 starting Dec. 1.

- ◆ Bedtime Stories with Santa, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, and 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9. Cost is \$28 for children, \$5 for adults.

- ◆ War Memorial History Tour, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

The Helm

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

- ◆ The movie "Green and Gold" is shown at noon Friday, Nov. 21. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

- ◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, Famous Dave's in Roseville. Cost for the bus is \$6 for members, \$8 for guests. Attendees are responsible for the cost of their own meals.

- ◆ Holiday Wreath Making, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, with presenter Kathleen Robinson Young.

- ◆ Lunch & Learn: Finding Meaning and Purpose in Life as We Age, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, with presenter Garry Cole, author of "Are We Old Yet?" Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for guests.

- ◆ Holiday Snowman Craft, 1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, with second graders from Richard Elementary School.

- ◆ The movie "Holiday in the Wild" is shown at noon Friday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

- ◆ Holiday Party, noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for guests.

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

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

- ◆ Bridge Club, 12:30 to

4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Free for members, \$6 for guests.

- ◆ Walking Club, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

- ◆ Grief Work Support Group, 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and 2 to 3 p.m. Thursdays, with psychotherapist Frank Wilberding.

- ◆ New Games at The Helm, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is free for members, \$3 for guests.

POST Detroit

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

- ◆ Sewing Workshop: Reversible Tote Bags, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22. Cost is \$100.

- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Puff Pipes, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23. Cost is \$75.

- ◆ POST Script PS: Open Mic Night, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26.

- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Critter Dish Trinket Tray, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. Cost is \$60.

- ◆ Mending Workshop: The Magic of Pockets, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. Cost is \$65.

- ◆ Macrame Workshop: Hanging Wood Shelf, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. Cost is \$75.

- ◆ Intermediate Knitting Workshop: Cable Knit, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30. Cost is \$50.

Live music

The Paxton/Spangler Band will perform songs from its new LP, "Trick Bag," as well as other favorites, 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at Marge's Bar, 15300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. The gig is in honor of RJ Spangler's birthday. For information, call (313) 881-8895.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Home for the Holidays at Ford House, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays, Nov. 30 to Dec. 21. Admission costs vary.

- ◆ Nooks & Crannies behind-the-scenes guided tour, 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2. Admission is \$10 for adult members, \$5 for members ages 3 to 17, \$20 for the public.

- ◆ Cookies with Santa, noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3.

- ◆ Sensory-friendly Cookies with Santa, 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3.

- ◆ Coffee with Collections, 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 4. Cost is \$25 for Friends.

- ◆ Free Drop-in Studio:

Decorate an Ornament, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

- ◆ Brunch with Santa, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Costs vary.

- ◆ Accessible Holiday Main Residence Guided Tour, 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 10. Admission costs vary.

- ◆ Holiday Tea and Tour, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Tables for two are \$120 for Friends, \$150 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

SCS Community Chorus

The St. Clair Shores Community Chorus, under the direction of Cynthia Ohrt, presents "A Very, Very Merry Christmas," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Lake Shore High School, 22980 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door, for adults; \$10 for ages 4 to 10; and free for children 3 and younger. Visit scscommunitychorus.org to purchase tickets.

The Family Center

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

- ◆ Fireside Yoga, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10. Bring a mat.

Sunrise on Vernier

Sunrise on Vernier, 1850 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts a support group at 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. Call (313) 642-2000.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets in person at Wayne County Community College District's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods, as well as on Zoom, at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

Worship Service

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www.christthekinggp.org

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

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

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
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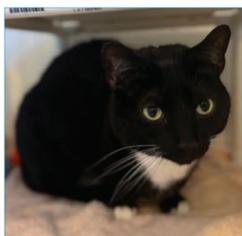
For 28 years, the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society (GPAAS) has been a lifeline for local lost, abandoned and needy animals. What began as a group of caring friends rescuing animals from their garages has become a fully-licensed shelter and adoption center serving the Grosse Pointe area.

Without a public county shelter supporting the Grosse Pointe community, GPAAS stands alone to make sure no animal is left without care or compassion.

Every day they work hand-in-hand with local police departments to rescue stray, injured and abandoned animals and provide needed veterinary care, safe shelter, food and a second chance at life.

GPAAS is funded totally by public donations. At times, the needs surge, such as with a current kitten crisis — they are also urgently seeking fosters and adopters.

To support GPAAS with an end-of-year donation, send checks to GPAAS, 296 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48238 or contribute via credit card or PayPal by visiting gpaas.org/donate.



Mochii

Male, 5 years old, shorthair, black/white

To adopt this cat please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



Bob Downey Plumbing
(586) 775-2441



Jeffrey

Male, 5 years old, American Bulldog mix, white, 55 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



JEFFERY TORRICE
(313) 881-0200



Elwood

Male, 2 years old, American Bulldog mix, tan/white, 50 lbs..

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



Obedience Training & Behavior Specialist
(586) 703-5922



Ivan

Male, 1 year old, Labrador/Akita mix, blonde, 75 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

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pointedesigns.com
(313) 332-0549



Titan

Male, 1 year old, Mastiff mix, black, 65 lbs.

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(313) 882-7233



Ginger

Female, 2 years old, shorthair, orange tabby/white

To adopt this cat please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



(586) 778-3897



Guinness

Male, 3 years old, Staffordshire Terrier, brown, 60 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



(313) 881-5675



Leslie

Female, 1 year old, Beagle/American Bulldog mix, tan/white, 50 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

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(313) 881-0200



Nico

Male, 1 year old, Husky mix, tricolor, 50 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



(586) 778-3897



Rocco

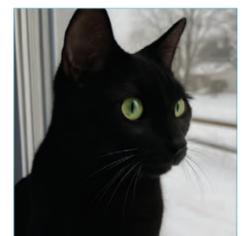
Male, 3 years old, Pitbull Terrier mix, fawn, 65 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



(586) 774-0090



Maxine

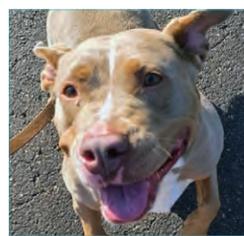
Female, 1 year old, shorthair, black

To adopt this cat please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



JEFFERY TORRICE
(313) 881-0200



Harlow

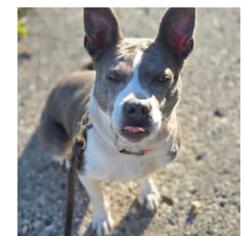
Female, 2 years old, Pitbull Terrier mix, fawn, 55 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



(586) 854-9278



Maple

female, 5 years old, Mixed breed, gray/white, 45 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



(313) 680-6688



Starsky

Male, 5-7 years old, Mastiff mix, fawn, 55 lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



DAN BATTJES
(313) 343-6494



Shylah

Female, 2 years old, Border Collie mix, black/white, 60lbs.

To adopt this dog please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



(586) 350-0776



Moo Moo

Male, 5 years old, shorthair, black/white.

To adopt this cat please call GPAAS (313) 884-1551

SPONSORED BY:



JEFFERY TORRICE
(313) 881-0200



Jester

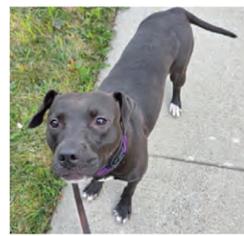
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Treats in The Village

Main Street Grosse Pointe hosted the annual Trick or Treat in The Village the afternoon of Oct. 31, with long lines of

costumed kids and their parents patrolling Kercheval for candy handed out by many Village businesses.



Alexander Wurm came to the trick-or-treat event as Dark Helmet from "Space Balls," a "Star Wars" parody. His mom, Jill, 3D printed his helmet and accessories.



Chinaza Ibekwe, dressed as a honey bee, came to the event with her siblings, Francisca, a ladybug; Vincent, a snail; and Antonia, a ladybug, with their mother, Miekeka Ibekwe.



Sydney Esdes, Monroe Anderson and Kenydee Dupree dressed as aliens from "Toy Story."



Annika Brenner and Nova Buck say mooove over as they head for some treats.



Freddy Cleary, dressed as Grumpy from the Seven Dwarfs, hopped in the truck with his skeleton friend.



Willie and James Dixon are dressed as Blue Angels, complete with their own planes. Their dad is a pilot with Delta, so every year their costumes follow an aviation theme.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Nichollas Rayfield, LPC



25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES & ENRICHING LIVES

Finding gratitude in the people around us

As we enter the holiday season, many of us are reminded of the importance of family, connection and gratitude. Yet, for some, this time of year can also bring tension, old disagreements or complicated emotions. Finding gratitude for the people in our lives — especially when relationships aren't perfect — can feel challenging, but it's one of the most powerful ways to build peace and emotional resilience.

Gratitude doesn't mean ignoring hurt or pretending everything is fine. Instead, it's about choosing to focus on what is good, even in difficult situations. It might mean appreciating a loved one's effort, their sense of humor or the lessons they've taught you — whether intentional or not. Every relationship, even imperfect ones, offers an opportunity for growth and understanding.

Here are a few helpful strategies to cultivate gratitude in your relationships:

- ◆ Shift from judgment to curiosity. When someone's behavior frustrates you, ask yourself, "What might they be struggling with?" Compassion allows space for gratitude to grow.

- ◆ Practice small, daily acknowledgments. Send a kind text, express appreciation out loud or quietly reflect on

what someone has contributed to your life.

- ◆ Focus on progress, not perfection. Appreciate small efforts and the positive intentions behind people's actions.

Gratitude also strengthens emotional health. Studies show it lowers stress, improves mood and helps us maintain perspective during challenging times. When we intentionally look for good in others, we often end up feeling more grounded, more connected and more at peace ourselves.

This holiday season, try to find one thing to appreciate in every person you encounter.

Gratitude doesn't erase differences — it transforms how we experience them.

Nichollas Rayfield, LPC, is the clinical director of Inner City Family Services, which provides a wide range of behavioral health services to support individuals and families, using a holistic approach to bridge gaps in mental health services and provide comprehensive support tailored to each individual's needs. Visit icfsdetroit.com.

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

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

Packing lunches your kids help choose and enjoy

Dear Gabby: My kids are officially staging a rebellion against their school lunches.

Every afternoon they come home acting like I have packed them a soggy cardboard sandwich and a side of misery. They claim everyone else has better lunches, though I have seen what kids trade on the playground and it is questionable.

I am out of ideas and out of energy. How do I shake things up without spending a fortune or turning into a lunch-packing, short order

cook? — Fed Up in the Farms

Dear Fed Up: Your children could open their lunchboxes to find a Michelin-star bento experience with edible glitter and gold leaf and they still would insist that “everyone else gets better food.” Spoiler alert: Everyone else does not.

The trick here is not to reinvent lunch. It is to trick them into thinking you did.

Try a theme day or two. Taco Tuesday in a

lunchbox. Breakfast for lunch with mini pancakes and fruit. A sandwich cut with the cookie cutter you already own but forgot about. Kids love shapes. Shapes make them think you tried.

You also can let them “order” from a lunch menu you create with three options so they feel powerful and you do not lose your mind. They choose one main, one side, one treat. You are still in control and they get the illusion of choice, which

for children is basically dopamine.

And finally, it is perfectly acceptable to outsource a day or two with something store bought that you lovingly pretend you made yourself. We are aiming for sanity, not martyrdom.

Keep packing!

— Gabby

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



Tackling tension at Thanksgiving

DEAR ANNIE: Every year, I host Thanksgiving for my family, and every year I start out with the same hopeful thought: “This time will be different.” I picture everyone laughing, passing dishes around, maybe even helping with the cleanup without being asked. But by the time the turkey is carved, the dream has gone up in smoke along with the sweet potatoes I forgot in the oven.

My sister always has something to say about my cooking (“Is the stuffing supposed to be that dry?”), my brother can’t resist bringing up politics

just to stir the pot, and my mother sighs loudly every time someone mentions dessert because she’s “watching her sugar.” By the time we get to pie, I’m exhausted and wondering why I keep doing this to myself.

I love them, truly. But the bickering, the side comments and the under-the-table tension leave me feeling more wrung out than thankful. I don’t want to be the family referee or lecture everyone on good behavior before Thanksgiving that ends in frustration.

How can I set a calm, grateful tone for the day without sounding bossy or like I’m running group therapy between the mashed potatoes and the pumpkin pie? — Tired of Turkey and Tension

DEAR TIRED: You’re not alone. If family gatherings came with a whistle, half the country would be blowing theirs by dessert. Every family has its cast of characters: the critic, the instigator, the martyr and the one (you) trying to keep the peace while basting a 20-pound bird. A little chaos is inevitable when

all these personalities come together. However, everyone at the table should always do their best to be respectful, not only to one another but especially to the host.

Here’s the truth: You can’t control how everyone behaves, but you can set the tone. The trick is to plan for peace the same way you plan the menu. Before anyone arrives, decide what you will and won’t engage in. If your brother brings up politics, change the subject with a light touch and say, “Not today. We’re sticking to gravy and gratitude.” If your



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

sister critiques the stuffing, smile and say, “Then you’ll love it even more next year when you make it.” Humor works better than heat.

And for yourself, remember that Thanksgiving isn’t an audition for Host of the Year. Order a pie instead of baking three. Sit down while the food is still warm. Gratitude starts with giving yourself permission to enjoy your own table.

Families are messy, but

love usually hides something where between the eye rolls and the second helpings. Focus on that. You deserve a peaceful Thanksgiving. It may not be a perfect one, but hopefully, it’s one that feels a little softer around the edges.

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

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Cookies by M-K creates healthy vegan treats

Vegan, by simple definition, means abstaining from all animal products, including dairy and eggs. To some it is a dietary must and to others, a dietary choice. Either way, to Mary-Kate “M-K” Lynch, veganism matters and she has created a business supporting the lifestyle.

Born and raised in Grosse Pointe Park, M-K started her business around 2019, during her final years of college. At the time, she was running a successful food blog and social media platform called “Six Vegan Sisters” with her sisters.

“I wanted to take things a step further by turning my passion for vegan baking into a business where people could actually taste the desserts we’d been sharing virtually,” she said.

With that, Cookies by M-K was open for business. While her time spent at the University of Michigan was on a different focus, M-K chose instead to follow her

true passion, as many do. “I’ve been baking for as long as I can remember,” she said.

She first started her business out of her parents’ house, but quickly realized she could grow much faster in a commercial kitchen.

“I rented space in a church kitchen for about a year before deciding it was time to build out my own dedicated commercial kitchen,” she said.

Less than a mile from where she was raised, 15324 E. Jefferson now is the home of Cookies by M-K.

“It’s so special to run a business in the city where I grew up,” she said.

It’s obvious to me that family is very important to M-K, as they all were instrumental in getting her business up and running. She told me her parents, siblings and fiancé, Matt, “are always eager to jump in whenever they’re needed.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

M-K and her sister, Molly, in front of the storefront.

Her oldest sister, Molly, and team member, Mary, help with everything from baking and packaging to daily management. These two women have played especially big roles in this journey.

“I’m lucky to have so many cheerleaders,” M-K said with a smile.

Whole Foods and Better Health are among M-K’s go-to shops for ingredients. The day-to-day process depends on how the week is structured as these cookie queens have designated days for different tasks. Some days are for prepping, some for baking and packaging and, of course, they leave room for online work.

To be clear, these are not your average cookies. My last Food Gossip article introduced you to a loaded ice cream cone. This week, it’s stuffed cookies.

“Prep days involve making all of our house-made fillings, prepping the cookie dough, then stuffing and shaping cookies,” M-K said.

When I asked her why cookies, her answer was short and sweet: “Who doesn’t love cookies?”

I mean, she’s not wrong. I then inquired what made her decide to go the vegan route. She said she has been vegan for around 10 years and that choosing to

make all of their products vegan was a no-brainer.

“Our cookies taste just as good, if not better, than traditional ones and it’s a bonus that people with dairy or egg allergies can enjoy them too,” she said. “We even offer gluten-free options for those who need them.”

Finally, an ooey-goey cookie for people who struggle in this category.

With a lineup of at least nine varieties each week, fan favorites like the Cosmic Brownie and Half Baked are always available — and they rotate in specialty flavors to keep things exciting.

“Most of our cookies are stuffed with our house-made fillings, but we also keep around classics like chocolate chip and funfetti, for those who loved the originals,” she said.

M-K explained that they bake hundreds of cookies on a typical day to keep up with online orders, wholesale orders and retail, especially now that they are open for business at the brick-and-mortar location from noon to 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Pistachio cream and strawberry shortcake are among some of the unique flavors that are now fan favorites. M-K’s personal favorite changes weekly,



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

though right now she’s loving the Cookie Butter Snickerdoodle, which sounds heavenly.

For something other than cookies, the shop also offers custom cakes, cupcakes and occasionally will rotate in fun treats like edible cookie dough and cake jars. Seasonal specials are definitely upon us. My

response to pumpkin cheesecake cookies for Thanksgiving and hot cocoa cookies for Christmas? Yes, please.

M-K also dropped a bomb on me that made my excitement level skyrocket: “For a delicious dairy-free treat this Thanksgiving, try

See COOKIES, page 3C



Clockwise from top left, Reese Peanut Butter, Cookie Butter Snickerdoodle, Nutter Butter Blossom and Pumpkin Cheesecake.



Current cookie choices.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I am a firm believer in the “one trip from the car” philosophy: purse on one arm, 900 grocery bags cutting off the circulation in my hands, my phone, my keys, a water bottle, probably a coffee. Like clockwork, I always drop my phone. I’ve cracked the screen on my



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last four phones and I’m determined to avoid adding another casualty to the list.

I’ve tried to do my part with a solid case and a glass screen protector, but what has really been a game changer is this little magnetic phone holder from SuydanBox on Amazon. It’s

only \$12.99 and it works shockingly well. The magnet is super strong, the grip feels secure and it stays on my phone like it was built in. I can pop it off if I need to, but otherwise it stays put, which means my phone stays in my hand instead of on the pavement.

The best part is how much easier it makes carrying everything else. I can loop my fingers through the holder and have a firm grip without worrying about dropping

my phone mid-grocery haul. It’s a simple little thing, but it genuinely makes my life easier.

Now, here’s why it’s not a full five alligators. The first one I ordered came with a magnet that was broken in the back and there was no way to fix it. I returned it and got another one, which arrived in perfect condition. So I’m hopeful yours will too.

Final verdict: four out of five alligators for a small but mighty

gadget that’s helping me protect my phone from its inevitable doom.

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

4 Out Of 5



Palette cleansing salad

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

What seems like forever ago, I had a simple salad in Rome that I’ve never stopped thinking about. It was served in between two heavy courses and consisted of shaved celery, fennel and thin strips of Italian hard cheese, maybe Romano. It was crunchy and ever so lightly dressed with lemon, olive oil and salt. A palette cleanser that has stuck with me for years.

Fast forward to last week, I stopped by the Central Library and saw that they had “The Complete America’s Test Kitchen Cookbook” on display. It’s 1,110 pages long and weighs about 10 pounds but I had to check it out. The recipes they produce are sheer perfection. Low and behold they had a recipe for a shaved celery salad that I had to try. My thought was that it could be beautifully paired with a heavy holiday meal, like Thanksgiving.

This recipe uses thinly sliced celery ribs and celery root. Celery root is a round, knobby root vegetable that, admittedly, looks a bit offputting. But the inside is mild and not too bitter with a subtle celery taste. It’s great mashed or roasted, but in this case it’s shaved thin and eaten raw. The lettuce used is frisée. Frisée is a hearty lettuce with beautiful green fronds that adds substance to the salad. Toasted walnuts are added for extra crunch and thin curls of Pecorino Romano for some richness and salt.

The dressing in this recipe is sweet. It has lots of honey and pomegranate molasses. But, the herbaceous and slightly bitter celery ribs, root and cheese really balance everything out. I was amazed how well it worked.

If you are having trouble finding celery root, frisée or pomegranate

molasses, check out Village Food Market. They have it all.

My suggestion to you is to serve this salad at your holiday table. Celery seems to give that feeling of lightness and healthiness that your body begins to crave during your Thanksgiving feast. Plus it’s quite stunning on the platter.

Cheers, Mombeau

Shaved Celery Salad with Pomegranate-Honey Vinaigrette

2 tbsp pomegranate molasses

1 tbsp red wine vinegar

1 small shallot, minced

2 tsp honey

¼ tsp salt

Pinch of pepper

2 tbsp olive oil

1 medium-sized celery root

4 celery ribs, sliced thin on a bias

1 head of frisée, washed, trimmed and cut into 1-inch piece

1 wedge Pecorino Romano cheese

½ cup toasted walnut halves

⅓ cup pomegranate seeds

In a small bowl, whip together the pomegranate molasses, red wine vinegar, shallot, honey, salt and pepper. Slowly drizzle in the olive oil while whisking and set aside.

To peel the celery root, use a sturdy vegetable peeler. Cut the top and bottom off and start working your way around peeling off the rough peel. You may have to use a knife to



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

remove any thick knobby peel. Slice into quarters. Then start peeling into thin strips until you get about one and three-fourth cups. This can be done using a mandoline as well. Add to a large bowl along with the sliced celery, frisée and walnuts. Pour in the dressing and gen-

tly toss together. To plate, use tongs to arrange the salad on a platter. Once again, use the vegetable peeler to shave off strips of the Romano cheese on top. You’ll want about one-half cup of the cheese. Finish with a sprinkling of pomegranate seeds and serve!

Wine kickback

Roughly 100 years ago, the American version of the supermarket was born, ushering in a whole new system of national product marketing that once relied mainly on local goods.

It wasn’t until the late 1950s that former President Dwight Eisenhower’s national highway system, headed for completion, allowed truck deliveries to expand grocery product supply to increase. Trucking allowed grocers to offer more items for sale.

It wasn’t until the 1970s

that dry table wines became a major department for grocers. Wine importers liked the supermarket chain operations because a lot of wine was sold in supermarkets to those heading home to prepare dinner.

However, one supermarket reality is that shelf space is precious real estate. Most grocery stores have limited space for displaying wine.

A cynic might suggest that this is a scenario that could go awry. Proof of

that thesis comes from a recent case in Southern California.

A wine buyer for a grocery chain has been charged with operating a years-long kickback scheme in which he accepted benefits for placing one company’s wines on his store’s shelves.

An article in the Los Angeles Times last week said a former employee of two grocery operations “allegedly demanded a series of payments and gifts from vendors.”

According to court filings, he did so “in exchange for his agreement to carry,

increase purchases of, or prominently display certain wines.”

The article said the wine buyer “allegedly vacationed with employees of a major distributor and suppliers at exclusive golf and other resorts in Florida, Oregon and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, according to court documents.”

The story also said, “Executives at wine supplier Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits who allegedly provided kickbacks to (the employee) pleaded guilty earlier this year to commercial bribery in a scheme worth \$360,000.”



I cannot conclude that other cases of kickbacks dictate which wines are in other grocery stores, but one thing is certain: most supermarkets do not carry many particularly unusual items. Standardization tends to rule.

If wine lovers are seeking something more creative or interesting, their

best bet would be to visit specialty wine shops where wholesale buying is typically done by those who really know wine.

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

COOKIES

Continued from page 2C

our limited edition carrot cake.”

Pre-order online for local pickup only. Sold!

Speaking of holidays, don’t stall on those holiday orders. Thanksgiving pre-orders are available online at cookiesbymk.com/shop, with a discount code THANKS5 — and free shipping. While you can purchase items individually in store, online Cookie Packs



Thanksgiving cheesecake.

are the way to go and come in mixed sizes. Giants are six ounces each — not your average cookies — and cuties are a tad smaller.

Aside from seasonal packs, you can build your own as well. I suggest joining the mailing list so you never miss a cookie drop. For catering, the cookie queens work directly with customers to create custom orders that fit everyone’s needs and can accommodate custom add-ons like personalization. You can view examples of what they offer and fill out request forms online at cookiesbymk.com/ catering or reach out to them directly at info.cookiesbymk@gmail.com to discuss ideas for your order. Please allow a few weeks in advance for all catering orders, but if you find your-

self in a last-minute situation, M-K said don’t hesitate to reach out as they may be able to accommodate orders even the week of your event. Local pickup and delivery orders also can be made online and you can ship cookies nationwide to loved ones.

Cookies by M-K is growing their wholesale business and are looking for new partnerships. The same goes for anyone who would be interested in possibly sharing their large commercial kitchen space. As I always say, sharing is caring.

Follow along with every cookie M-K is stuffing on Facebook: Cookies by M-K and become one of her more than 18,100 followers on Instagram @cookiesbymk.

This young lady has successfully grown her own business within her com-

munity and beyond in such a short period of time. In the process of growing, she and her “Six Vegan Sisters” also published their very own cookbook filled with drool-worthy vegan recipes

to enjoy. Click the Instagram follow button @sixvegansisters and follow the link to order.

Fun Fact: M-K currently is partnered up with Millie Lou’s Pretzel Co., in their

shared storefront and commercial kitchen space on Jefferson. If that’s not a jackpot location of sweet, salty and savory, I don’t know what is.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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TAKE A WALK THROUGH THE PAST YEAR WITH A SAMPLING OF SOME OF OUR FAVE SPECIAL SECTIONS. THESE MAGAZINE AND IN-PAPER SECTIONS ARE DESIGNED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT – AND TO SHOWCASE THE GREAT LOCAL SHOPS AND BOUTIQUES THAT CALL GROSSE POINTE HOME.

BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS/JUNE/FLOWERS



CREATIVE floral moods

A "High Tea" shower at The Whitney had floral centerpieces designed in teapots featuring matching garden flowers, above and left.

Viviano Flower Shop creates spectacular flowers for the most unique celebrations



"Love in Bloom" was the theme for the bridal shower of a flower-loving bride.

Flowers graced all the tables, far left. The celebration included a flower bar, left, where each guest could make their very own floral bouquet.



"Amalfi Coast" was the shower theme, above, of a bride from a large Italian family. This theme captured the feeling of dining on the patio of an Italian villa.



A "Family Farm" theme baby shower, above, was inspired by a beloved family farm home. Vibrant colors match a traditional farm, garden and wildflower color palette. Sunflowers were the mom-to-be's favorite, so were included in the arrangements.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE/FASHION

DRESS TO IMPRESS

This season, we've gathered the most eye-catching party wear — handpicked to make you look and feel your very best. From sultry to romantic, discover how these holiday gems can elevate your wardrobe and keep you shining bright on every occasion.

Luxurious faux fur wrap, left, gives a touch of old-Hollywood glamour. It's from IRIS.

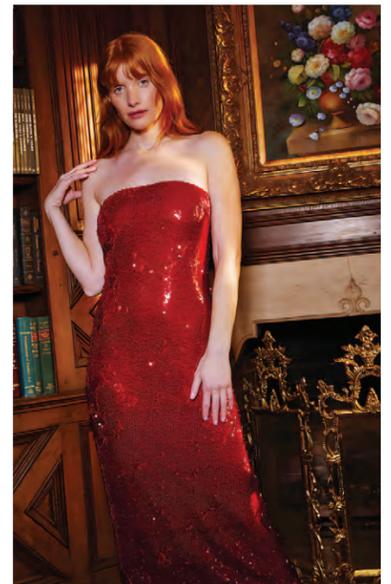


Turn up the glam this holiday season with this stunning metallic suit, far left, from Hersh's Boutique. This sophisticated ensemble features a chic blazer and flared pants, paired with a matching strapless top.

Step into the spotlight in this fierce faux leather Selita dress by Hutch, left, from Pearl. Featuring a sleek, body-hugging fit, a flattering sweetheart neckline and a daring thigh-high slit, this dress exudes confidence and edge.

Add a touch of boho-chic glamour to your holiday outfit with this stunning bag, below, from El's Boutique. Featuring intricate beadwork with pops of eye-catching color.

Steal the spotlight this holiday season with this showstopping red Atlanta sequin midi dress, bottom, from Glitter & Scotch. With its sleek, strapless silhouette and eye-catching sparkle. Pair it with statement earrings and a confident smile, and you're ready to dazzle.



WEDDING GUIDE/BRIDAL



The Book Cadillac Hotel offers an exquisite backdrop for a romantic Parisian-inspired fantasy wedding. Iconic architectural and soft draped fabric blend for a timeless and elegant look.



By Alicia Gbur
Special Writer

If you had your wedding at a Parisian-inspired brasserie and Vogue Magazine decided to host your afterparty, this is it. Desire, innocence, gold, and the shimmer of the fading city lights greet you at the door and then bid you farewell.

Soft, peachy floral tones adorn the fireplace, creating an incredible ceremony setup that offers an intimate ambiance, with organically climbing florals draping around the

marble. The elegant tablescapes feature three mini towers filled with cheese, charcuterie, and champagne, beautifully aligned down the center of the tables. Adorned fruit, studded with pearls and handcrafted elements, adds a touch of whimsy. For the reception, table florals emphasize shades of peach, creating a lovely transition with the plates, napkins, and menus.



Left: Playful dome-style cakes, iced in vanilla buttercream, are topped with charming white piping, flecks of vanilla bean and a bow.

Top: Say "Oh!" to pearl bridal shoes, the exclamation point for your dress.

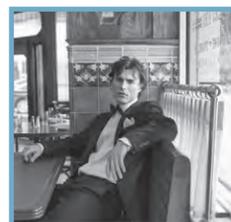
Center: Dior pearl drop earrings and sparkly rings are the perfect partners.

Below and right: Loosen your tie, shorten your dress, and slip on your heels. The afterparty is in full swing, and the more attitude you bring, the better!

Adorned by Kelley/Stylist • Alicia Gbur/Photography • Danielle Paquin Beauty/Makeup • Girlie Girl/Jewelry Book Tower Detroit/Venue • Rimanelli's/Menswear • Jade Social/Invitations

Details: A ballroom with skylights that cast a twilight glow on you and your moment. As the light fades, the party warms up. European-inspired details transport guests to a different time zone, one where any wonderful thing can happen – and probably will.

The classic invitations feature oval cuts; Playful dome-style cakes, iced in vanilla buttercream, are topped with charming white piping, flecks of vanilla bean and a bow.



BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS/JULY/BABY SHOWER



DERBY

BABY SHOWER

Baby Carter gets first welcome party with run for the roses



New baby Elwood George Carter, above, arrived at the finish line on June 23 of this year. Though he slept through the event — safe in mom's tummy — he no doubt felt all the love present.



Parents-to-be Phil and Ellie Carter.



Festively attired guests give Ellie some TLC.



A WINNING CELEBRATION

The pictures showcase all the special touches and smiling faces that made the Derby Day shower such a success, down to the littlest attendees, right.

FALL STYLE GUIDE



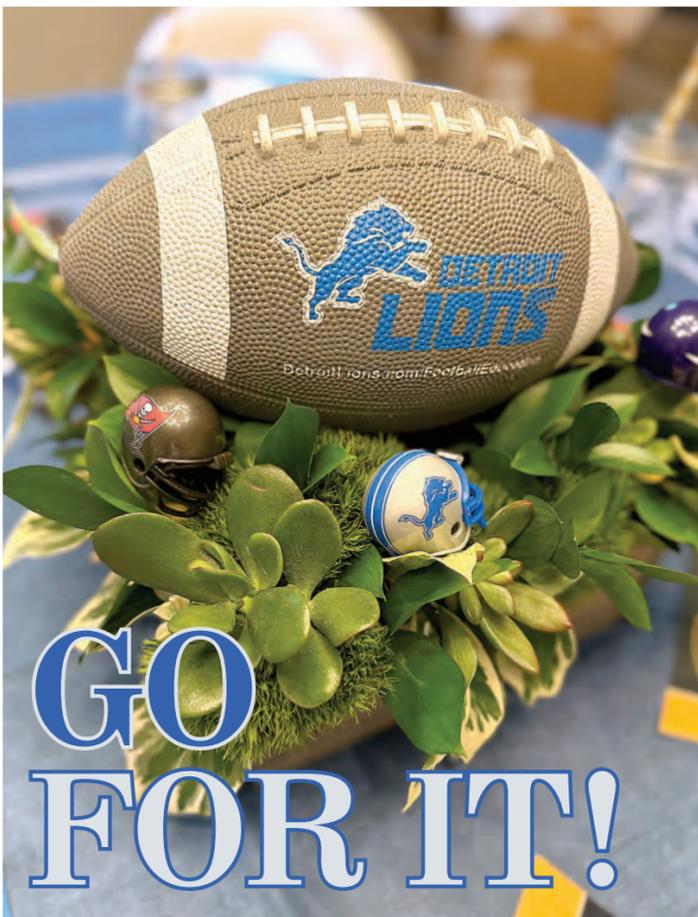
AHEE style

A) Elegant cultured pearl and diamond earrings are the finishing touch.
 B) Seven round bezel set brilliant cut diamonds in a luxe 18k yellow gold bracelet.
 C) Round brilliant cut diamond cocktail ring set in 18k white gold.

Accessorize!
 Wolf & Willa black and white chain link pattern carpet bag tote is every trend rolled into one great carryall. Find it at IRIS.
 Shu Shop Perfect Mary Jane is a fall fantasy in gold that will take you through the season. From Faircloth.

FOOTBALL ENTERTAINING

Tailgate vibes for the perfect backyard football party



Football centerpiece, above, by Rustic Root Design puts everyone in the mood for a great game day party. Linen napkins and cute tables, above right, like mini pennants and helmets dress up the table and provide take-home party favors.

By Anne Gryzenia
 Publisher

Football season is here and that means it's time to huddle up with friends, fire up the grill, and turn your outdoor space into the ultimate game day hangout. Whether you're hosting a Saturday tailgate or a Sunday watch party, we've rounded up our favorite essentials to keep the crowd warm, well fed, and wildly entertained. From a giant inflatable projector screen to cozy blankets, crowd pleasing games, and the perfect tumbler for your hot cider or cold beer, these picks will help you create a football gathering that's just as memorable as the game. And if you're lucky, we might even sneak in a winning chili or cider recipe from Mombeau's table.

CHUG A MUG

Great details make a party — like a sturdy mason jar football mug, above, with a built-in straw for spill-less drinking even when you jump to cheer a fantastic play! The stitching decal is just like on the precious pigskin being tossed around — and gives your gathering football flair. Get a set of six from amazon.com for your next festive event.

LET'S PLAY!

Official NFL Lions playing cards, above, pass the time during lulls but keep everyone in the spirit of supporting their team. From amazon.com.

SKIING SECTION

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

For over 50 years, Schummer's Ski Shop has been Southeast Michigan's go-to destination for winter sports enthusiasts.

Located at 20778 Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods, this family-owned establishment offers a comprehensive range of equipment and apparel for downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowboarding. With top brands like Rossignol, Volkl, Nordica, Tecnica, Lange, Spyder, Helly Hansen, and Burton, customers are assured of quality and performance.

Beyond their extensive product selection, Schummer's provides full-service and rental departments, including ski and snowboard tuning, custom boot fitting, and equipment leasing options. Their junior programs, featuring trade-ins, buy-backs, and season leasing, make it easy and affordable to keep young skiers properly outfitted as they grow. The knowledgeable staff is dedicated to helping customers find the right gear at the right price, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience on the slopes.

Whether you're preparing for a local outing or a destination adventure, Schummer's Ski Shop is committed to meeting all your winter sports needs with personalized service and expertise. For more information, visit their website at schummersskishop.com or call (313) 881-4363.

Sleek Helly Hansen women's Avanti jacket, right, is designed to inspire skiers to feel confident and take charge of challenges.

Nordica Enforcer 99 all-mountain skis and Helly Hansen Women's legendary bib pants, far right, deliver top performance and extra warmth on cold days.



BEST-KEPT SKI GEAR SECRETS FOR 2025

Turtle Fur Chelonia 150 fleece bang band, right.

X-Therm ladies' insulated gloves, above. Turtle Fur recycled Whitley slouch beanie, above right.

NEW YEAR NEW YOU



RING IN THE NEW YEAR

From new technologies and therapies to natural foods, tools are in place for vibrant health in the new year.

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

As we welcome 2025, there's no better time to invest in your health and wellness while supporting local businesses right here in Grosse Pointe. From fitness studios offering dynamic classes to spas and wellness centers focused on relaxation and rejuvenation, our community is brimming with opportunities to help you feel your best. Local juice bars and health stores provide the fuel you need with fresh, nutrient-packed options, while skincare and beauty boutiques offer high-quality products to refresh your routine. Recovery therapies are also available to keep you balanced and thriving. This year, take your wellness journey to the next level by exploring the exceptional services and products offered by our local businesses—they're ready to help you achieve a healthier, happier you!

The new Oura Ring is a sleek, innovative way to jumpstart your health and wellness journey in 2025. Designed to fit seamlessly into your lifestyle, this wearable technology provides actionable insights into your health by tracking key metrics like sleep quality, activity levels, heart rate, body temperature, and even blood oxygen saturation. Its cutting-edge sensors deliver accurate data, empowering you to make informed decisions about your daily habits and long-term goals.

One of the standout features of the Oura Ring is its focus on holistic wellness. The sleep tracking function not only monitors how long you sleep but also the quality of your rest, detailing stages like deep sleep and REM. With personalized recommendations, it helps you improve your nighttime routine for better recovery and mental clarity. During the day, the ring tracks your activity levels, encourages movement with gentle reminders, and ensures you're

striking the right balance between activity and rest.

Its user-friendly app synthesizes these metrics into a clear readiness score, giving you a snapshot of your overall well-being. Whether you're looking to optimize performance, manage stress, or simply live healthier, the Oura Ring makes wellness achievable, all in a stylish, durable design that fits right onto your finger. It's the ultimate tool for living intentionally in 2025.

The Hume Health Body Pod is redefining what a scale can do, making it the best scale on the market for anyone serious about tracking their health and wellness. This isn't just a device to measure weight—it's a complete body composition analyzer that provides in-depth insights into your health. From body fat percentage and muscle mass to hydration levels and metabolic rate, the Body Pod gives you a detailed understanding of your body's metrics, helping you set and achieve your fitness goals with precision.

What sets the Hume Health Body Pod apart is its advanced technology. Equipped with bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), it delivers highly accurate readings that rival professional-grade devices. The sleek design pairs with an intuitive app, allowing you to track progress over time, set personalized goals, and sync seamlessly with other fitness apps for a holistic approach to health management.

Beyond its technology, the Body Pod is built with user convenience in mind. The easy-to-read display, Wi-Fi connectivity, and multi-user functionality make it perfect for households or individuals looking for actionable insights. Whether you're focused on weight management, building muscle, or improving overall wellness, the Hume Health Body Pod is an investment that truly pays off in results. It's not just a scale; it's a game-changer for your health journey.

WHERE TO SHOP:

Adorned by Kelley
IG: @adornedbykelley

Alicia Gbur Photography
IG: @aliciagbur

AHEE Jewelers
20139 Mack Ave., GPW
(313) 886-4600
ahee.com
IG: @aheejewelers

Amazon
amazon.com

Book Tower Hotel
1265 Washington Blvd., DET
booktowerdetroit.com
IG: @booktowerdetroit

El's Boutique
17110 Kercheval Ave., GP
(313) 608-1381
IG: @elsboutique 1

Danielle Paquin Beauty
(586) 612-3688
daniellepaquinbeauty.com
IG: @danielle_paquin_beauty

Faircloth
8001 Kercheval Ave., DET
(313) 284-2600
faircloth.boutique
IG: @faircloth.boutique

Girlie Girl
19838 Mack Ave., GPW
(313) 881-4475
girliegirlsalon.com
IG: @girliegirlllc

Glitter & Scotch
16906 Kercheval Ave., GP
(313) 571-3607
shopglitterandscotch.com

Hersh's Boutique
6331 Orchard Lake Rd., WB
(248) 626-7776
hershsboutique.com
IG: @hershsboutique

Hume
myhumehealth.com

IRIS
19794 Mack Ave., GPW
(313) 821-4494
irisgrossepointe.com
IG: @iris_grossepointe

Jade Social
IG: jadesocial

Oura
ouraring.com

Pearl
74 Kercheval Ave., GPF
(313) 458-8719
shoppearl.com
IG: @shoppearlcp

Rimanelli's Menswear
20335 Mack Ave., GPW
(313) 882-0173
rimanellis.com
IG: rimanellis.com

Rustic Root Design Co.
23165 Greater Mack Ave., SCS
(586) 359-6004
therusticrootmi.com
IG: @therusticrootdesignco

Savvy Chic Boutique
16822 Kercheval Ave., GP
(313) 466-3388
savvychicgp.com
IG: @savvychicgp

Schummer's Ski Shop
20778 Mack Ave., GPW
(313) 881-4363
schummersskishop.com

Sullivan-Strickler Design
17029 Kercheval Ave., GP
(313) 492-8103
(313) 600-5498
sullivan-strickler.com
IG: sullivanstricklerdesign

Viviano Flower Shop
32050 Harper Ave., SCS
(866) 293-7436
viviano.com
IG: @viviano_flower_shop

8C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNFISH PICTURES

Above, Maren Heary as Lu in the 2025 movie “Sunfish (& Other Stories on Green Lake),” directed by Sierra Falconer.

MOVIE REVIEW
 “Sunfish (& Other Stories on Green Lake)”
 2025 - Not Rated
 1 hr 27 min
 ★★★★★

I’m a big fan of films made in Michigan, especially those from home-grown filmmakers. I hadn’t heard of this movie, until a reader, “M”, brought it to my attention — what a pleasant surprise. The fact that it’s set on an inland lake up north brought back a flood of great memories. For several years, our family would head up to a friend of a friend’s cottage on nearby Black Lake for long weekends. Fishing, campfires on the beach, and stunning sunsets were just part of the magical weekends. There’s simply nothing quite like a weekend “Up North,” and this film certainly reminded me of those trips.

“Sunfish” is the directorial and writing debut for Sierra Falconer, and it certainly portends great things to come, if this beautiful film is any

indication. It’s a heartfelt love poem to her childhood growing up on Green Lake in northern Michigan. Actually, it could be more aptly described as a cinematic novella, told in four distinct chapters. Quietly elegant in its simplicity. Not surprisingly, it was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize in Drama at the most recent Sundance Film Festival. Ms. Falconer’s stories were brought to life with the able assistance of cinematographer Marcus Patterson. And the beautiful original score by Brian Steckler added a folksy charm to the movie.

In the opening chapter, we join teenager Lu (Maren Heary) with her mom and her mom’s new husband. The happy couple is all set to celebrate their surprise wedding and drop Lu off at her grandparents’ house, much to her disappointment. She doesn’t know them at all and she treats the time as some sort of punishment. Pop (Adam LeFevre) is a crusty old codger and Nan (Marceline Hugot) is a

sweet, attentive grandma. The couple’s main source of entertainment is armchair bird-watching, and to their delight, they’ve recently discovered a loon nesting offshore of their lake-side home.

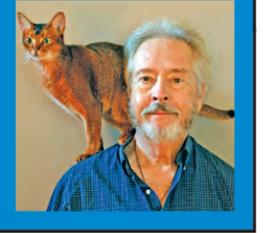
Naturally, Lu feels totally out of her element and bored to tears. That is, until she discovers a Sunfish sailboat on the property. After uncovering it and rolling it into the water, a whole new world opens up to her. Pop rises to the occasion as well and conducts a one-man sailing school for his granddaughter. He literally teaches her the ropes — learning about basic knot tying, handling the sails, avoiding being hit by the boom and how to right the craft should it capsize. As the story unfolds, you know it’s going to be a summer of self discovery for the spirited young girl.

One thing I particularly enjoyed was the innovative transitions from one chapter to the next. After we’ve spent time with Lu and her grandparents, we move on to the next

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



scene. This is deftly done when Lu sails to the site of Interlochen, the music camp for gifted kids. She looks through her binoculars and spots a young boy, all by himself. With this seamless move, we enter the next part of the film.

Jun (Jim Kaplan) is a violin prodigy and very introverted. While the other kids are playing games and frolicking in the lake, Jun is maniacally toiling away practicing his violin pieces. It doesn’t help that his mom is the ultimate helicopter parent. She envisions him being the first chair violinist of the Chicago Symphony by the time he’s 18. She even makes him repeat a success mantra before she leaves him for the summer. Clearly his stay at the camp is going to be all work and no play.

The third chapter in the novella is the oddest one of the lot. When a bartender, Annie (Karsen Liotta), overhears a patron, Finn (Dominic Bogart), spin a yarn about seeing a massive fish he encountered in the lake, it piques her interest. Before long, the two become partners in the pursuit of the mythical creature. It’s a caper that involves a robbery of sorts, a police chase and a surprise ending. It certainly is the most unexpected and unusual of the tales.

The last chapter is every bit as endearing as the first one. It revolves around two sisters, Blue Jay (Tenley Kellogg) and Robin (Emily Hall), who help their father run an Airbnb on their property. Their daily routine is interrupted when a Hollywood screenwriter and his family come to stay for the summer. They seem oddly out of place in this rural part of the world but eventually settle in. Set against this narrative is the fact that Robin is going off to college at summer’s end. You can sense that things are going to get emotional on moving day.

Collectively, the four chapters make up a gentle, magical story of a special time and place in Ms. Falconer’s life. She’s crafted a memorable tribute to an incredible part of the country. If you’re a Michigander, I’m sure you have your fair share of “Up North” memories. Which begs the question I’ve often pondered: Just where does “Up North” actually begin? After numerous discussions about this over the years, I’ve come to the conclusion that it begins somewhere around Clare. If you have an opinion about this, feel free to email me your thoughts.

Note to parents: The film is not rated, but with exception of a couple of minor swear words, I

think it’s appropriate for family viewing.

Currently streaming on Kanopy (free with your library card) and to rent on Apple TV, Amazon, and YouTube.

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 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.

Get your tickets today for the family event of the season!

SCHAAP CENTER
 15001 E. Jefferson • Grosse Pointe Park
 Tickets available at gpt.org/whitechristmas

EISENHOWER DANCE DETROIT
 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR STEPHANIE PIZZO

EISENHOWER DANCE DETROIT presents
HERE

World Premieres by
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Ticket Prices
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 \$45 Standard
 \$1-45 Pay-What-You-Can & ADA

www.eisenhowerdance.org/here

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

11/20 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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Contract Bridge

THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♥	3♣	4♥
5♣			

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The declarer who strives for perfection is always on the lookout for a way to improve on his chances even when he already has a very good chance to succeed by adopting the most obvious line of play. Sometimes he may have to do something unusual, but if that's what the situation calls for, he does it.

Consider this deal where South is in five clubs. It seems normal to win the heart lead with the ace, discarding a diamond, then cash the queen of trump and stake the outcome on two

spade finesses. As it happens, both finesses lose, and South goes down one because he must also lose a diamond trick.

Unlucky, you could say, but if South is a more imaginative declarer, he makes the contract. Rather than rely on the 75% probability that East was dealt either the king or queen of spades, or both, which is essentially a matter of luck, South opts for a different course of action that eliminates the luck factor.

Instead of taking the king of hearts with the ace at trick one, he plays low from dummy and discards a diamond from his hand! Now the contract cannot be stopped, even though West holds two apparently certain spade tricks.

Let's say West continues a heart at trick two. South discards another diamond on dummy's ace, cashes the queen of trump and ace of diamonds, then ruffs the ten of diamonds high. This is followed by a trump to dummy's nine and a ruff of the jack of diamonds.

Dummy now has the 8-7-2 of spades and J-10-4 of trump; South has the A-J-10-9 of spades and the A-8 of trump. Declarer leads the trump eight to dummy's ten, then plays a spade to his nine. West wins with the queen but must yield the contract, whatever he returns.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) or major decisions from 4 a.m. to 5:45 a.m. EST today (1 a.m. to 2:45 a.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from SCORPIO into SAGITTARIUS.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, November 20, 2025:

You're perceptive, self-controlled and disciplined. You are also influential and know how to promote the interests of issues that you value. Simplicity is the key to life for you this year. You work on creating foundations in your world, both external and internal. Stay grounded and levelheaded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Today you feel a strong urge to get away from your daily routine. If possible, take a short trip or go somewhere different. Give yourself a chance to experience new scenery, new interactions and meet new faces. Discover new places and new ideas. Tonight: Explore!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your emotional experiences will be more intense today as you deal with different situations. In a similar way, you might attract someone to you who is intense and powerful. You might have strong feelings about shared property or being surrounded by familiar things that hold memories from the past. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Conflict with others will be more emotional today because the Moon is opposite your sign. Guard against knee-jerk reactions. Nevertheless, loved ones and partners will feel more important to you than usual. You might even seek security and support from them. Tonight: Cooperate with others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Today you might be involved in the care of someone else. Or you might have to put the interests of someone else before your own. (You're not being a martyr; this is simply what's happening.) You can do this; you are the most nurturing sign in the zodiac. Tonight: Get organized.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's a playful day! For some reason, it will be difficult to conceal your feelings from others. Don't even try. Romance will feel stronger, and relations with a lover will be more intense. You also might feel protective and nurturing, especially toward children. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Home, family and your private life are your priority today. You might even feel possessive about something or someone. A conversation with a female family member could be important. Meanwhile, this is a great day to enjoy privacy among familiar surroundings. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are affected by your immediate surroundings. You are also a keen communicator. Today in particular, you want to discuss something that is real, something that has importance and meaning for you. Don't waste time on superficial chitchat. Tonight: Involved conversations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

An a curious way, you identify with your possessions more than usual today, which is why you might have a strong attachment to something. Or perhaps your attachment is to your values and ideas. You might have to defend yourself where you really have nothing at stake. Tonight: Check your belongings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which makes you more emotional than usual. However, it will also slightly improve your good luck. This happens for two and a half days every month, and when it occurs, you have the edge. Why not test this by asking the universe for a favor? Tonight: You win!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Peace and privacy are your top priorities today. You won't feel much like socializing -- not because you're being antisocial, but because you need to "get away from all this." New mystical or spiritual disciplines might intrigue you. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Friendships are important today. You might feel more protective and supportive than usual to someone, because you value the relationship. This is a good day to share your hopes and dreams for the future with someone to get their feedback. Why not try it? Tonight: Be friendly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today aspects of your personal life are on display, which means people know private details about you. (Time for some damage control?) This is a good day to think of professional and business concerns, as well as the impression you create on others. Tonight: You're noticed.

BORN TODAY
Activist, actress Bo Derek (1956), actress Ming-Na Wen (1963), actor, comedian Joel McHale (1971).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 20, 2025

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN | | |
| 1 Washbowl | 1 ___ one's time | 12 Nickname for a trio off Venezuela's coast | 39 Do a winter sport |
| 7 Luau instruments, informally | 2 Corrosive substance | 13 Transition from nursing | 44 Green legume |
| 11 Furry foot | 3 Breakaway group | 18 Tide type | 46 Tribute in verse |
| 14 Greenland feature | 4 "Gross!" | 23 Remote button for taping | 47 Norse trickster |
| 15 Find a buyer for | 5 Like the service academy in Annapolis | 24 Kung ___ shrimp | 48 Venues for big games |
| 16 16th prez | 6 Extra | 25 Bygone Russian ruler | 52 Yearn for |
| 17 DVD player? | 7 Org. with food safety research grants | 26 Community-driven | 53 Pancake that becomes a drink when its first and third letters are switched |
| 19 "His Master's Voice" co. | 8 Grand piano's 88 | 27 Steakhouse bowlful | 54 Eco-friendly commute option |
| 20 Setting for many Phillies games, briefly | 9 Moose cousin | 29 Name hidden in "toe the line" | 55 Years and years |
| 21 Locales | 10 Winter trips powered by dogs | 30 "Star Wars" pilot Dameron | 56 Employs Pineapple, in Spanish |
| 22 Sap energy from | 11 Like your relationship with a podcast host, perhaps | 31 Lost | 57 Reason for a day off school |
| 24 Entreaty | | 32 ___carotene | 61 Perform in bars? |
| 25 Lock of hair | | 33 State with the most boats per capita | 62 Chess prodigy Alice or director Spike |
| 26 Straight-A student's pride: Abbr. PC brand? | | | |
| 28 Sweeping tool | | | |
| 34 "Frog and ___ Are Friends" | | | |
| 35 Lion or leopard | | | |
| 36 "Don't let your dinner get cold!" | | | |
| 37 Delivery announcement | | | |
| 40 ___ and outs | | | |
| 41 Airport org. | | | |
| 42 Brand named for the Greek goddess of victory | | | |
| 43 Gardener's flat-bladed tool | | | |
| 45 AV club? | | | |
| 49 Queen at Epcot's Norway Pavilion | | | |
| 50 Cowgirl's show | | | |

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

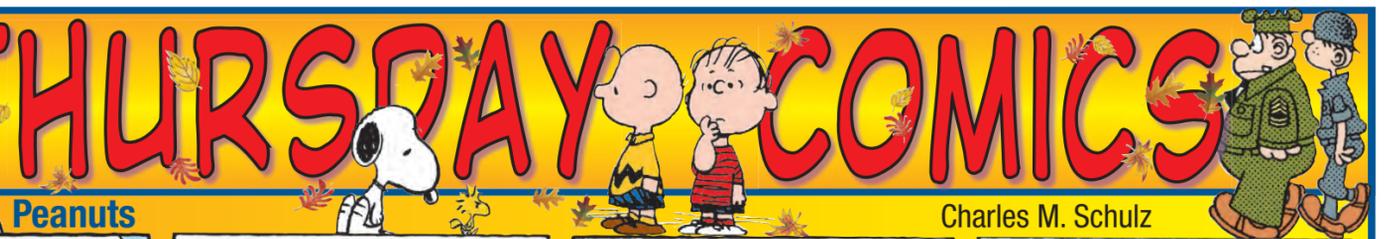
G	P	S		S	H	I	N	E		R	A	I	S	E
A	A	H		A	A	R	O	N		A	L	D	E	R
S	N	O	W	W	H	I	T	E		D	A	L	A	T
P	A	V	E		A	S	S			M	O	L	T	
S	M	E	L	T		H	O	V	E	R	O	V	E	R
	A	L	O	H	A		E	X	O		E	V	E	
		S	E	C		M	E	A	T		T	E	A	
	C	U	T	T	I	N	G	S	C	H	O	O	L	
S	A	N		A	D	A	M		T	I	L			
U	B	E		L	I	N		A	R	D	O	R		
B	L	A	C	K	C	A	R	D		A	P	N	E	A
S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

11/13 Solution
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www.upuzzles.com

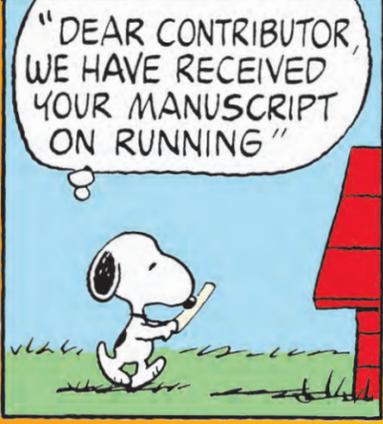
Technical Language by Shannon Rapp and Will Eisenberg

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14						15					16		
17						18					19		
20				21					22	23			
			24						25				
	26	27				28	29	30				31	
32				33							35		
36				37	38	39					40		
41				42						43	44		
45			46					47	48		49		
	50							51	52				
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59				60	61						62		
63				64						65			
66				67						68			

THURSDAY COMICS



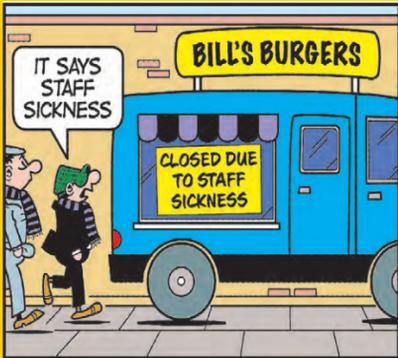
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

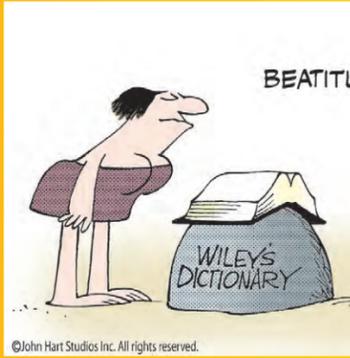
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

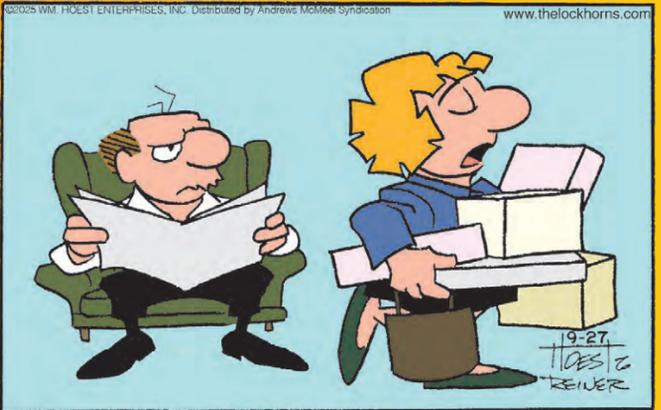
Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

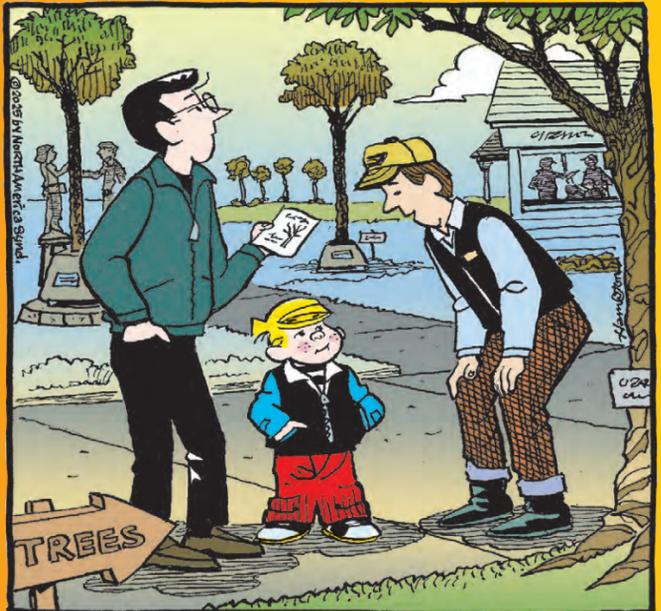
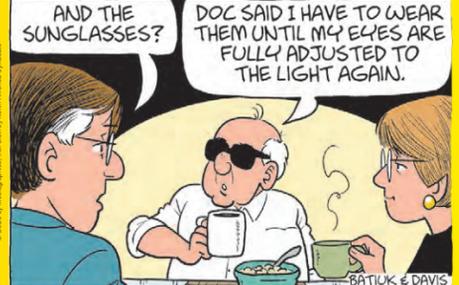


"DON'T BLAME ME... BLAME THE INFLUENCERS."

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

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



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

"WE DO HAVE A LOT OF TREES, BUT MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON ANY OF THEM."



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



THURSDAY COMICS

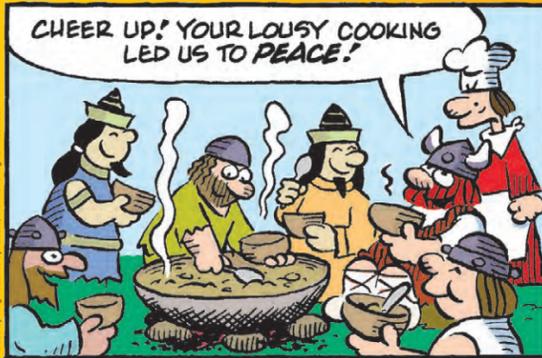
Garfield

Jim Davis



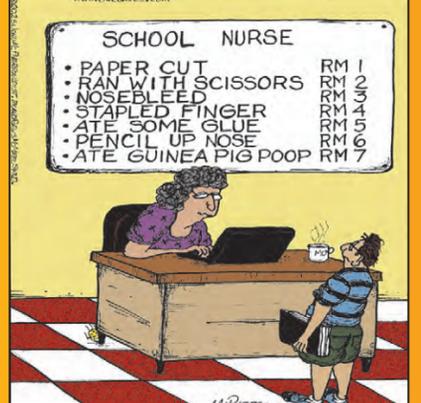
Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren



Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



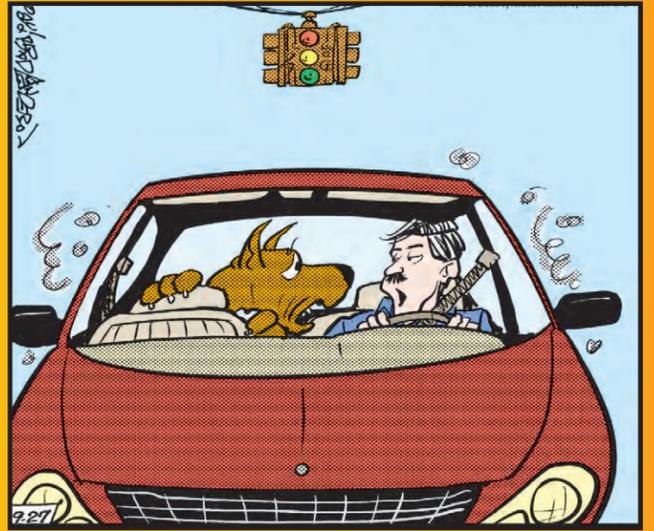
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



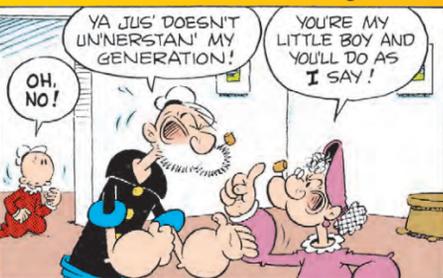
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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SPORTS



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DiVita makes history as South's first Miss Volleyball

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

At a school assembly surrounded by friends and family Friday, Nov. 14, Grosse Pointe South's Gabby DiVita became the first Blue Devil to be named Miss Volleyball by the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association, receiving the 2025 award to cap off her senior season.

"I'm just shocked and grateful," DiVita said after hoisting the Miss Volleyball trophy in the South gym. "There are many good candidates for this and the fact that I was chosen it's just overwhelming. And I'm grateful and I couldn't ask for anything else."

In her four years with South's varsity volleyball team, DiVita recorded 2,157 kills, 1,280 digs, 233 aces and 139 blocks. She received All-State recognition all four years, and was a four-time MAC Red Division MVP.

Receiving the Miss Volleyball award rounded out a week of milestones for DiVita. Thursday, Nov. 13, a day before being named Miss Volleyball, she officially signed on to play Division I college volleyball at the University of Nebraska.

DiVita celebrated receiving the award with teammates, coaches, family and friends who were there to share the moment with her. Her mom and head coach of South varsity volleyball, Janeil DiVita, helped arrange the surprise award ceremony Friday, giving DiVita a chance to share the moment with those who helped her along the way in her storied career in the gym she called home.

"It's a testament to the tradition (at South) and all of the support I've gotten throughout my four years," DiVita said. "I think it's a huge part of how I was able to get here and how I accomplished this, so I'm just grateful for everybody."



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Grosse Pointe South senior Gabby DiVita holds the MIVCA Miss Volleyball trophy, becoming the first Blue Devil to receive the award as the state's top player.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Cooley's energy helped fuel Liggett soccer's playoff success

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

This fall had almost everything Ollie Cooley could want from a soccer season. The University Liggett School junior helped lead the Knights' varsity boys soccer team to a Division 4 state runner-up finish, with the championship game going all the way to a penalty-kick shootout.

Cooley finished the fall being named first-team All-State in Division 4 by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association in arguably the best of his three seasons on Liggett's varsity team so far. However, it was the moments with his teammates that mattered more than any individual accolades.

Making it all the way to the state championship game was a testament to the bond Cooley has with his teammates and getting more games and time with each other the more they won in the playoffs was their biggest goal.



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Ollie Cooley
School: University Liggett
Sport: Soccer
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

"We're so close in everything we do, whether it's on the field or off it," Cooley said. "We really back each other up. Being able to work with this group of guys to get to where we got, it was amazing to see how much we grew from the beginning of

as the Knights advanced through the playoffs was a plus for Cooley, who takes pride in his school and team. He has had a passion for soccer since before he could remember. Helping take Liggett soccer as far as it went in a long time only made that school pride even

stronger. "I've been loving soccer and playing soccer since I could practically kick a ball," Cooley said. "... Just being around a community that's really into soccer helped. ... When my brother (Cass Cooley) came to Liggett, he enjoyed that experience with Coach Dwaihy and the team and that hooked me right away to come to this school and play."

Cooley has done enough to make the Liggett soccer program proud of him too. Along with his first-team All-State honors this season, Cooley tallied six goals and 12 assists for the Knights.

The stats show Cooley's talent, but those who have seen him on the field know his true impact on the game goes far beyond numbers in a box score. Cooley is one of the main figures always taking corner kicks or free kicks for the Knights, trying to set up his teammates with great opportunities to

score. However, it is his impact on the defensive side of the ball that Cooley thinks is most important and his tremendous energy all over the pitch doesn't go unnoticed. "The thing I pride myself the most in is my defensive work," he said. "Always wanting to win that 50/50 ball no matter where it is on the

pitch. Also, once I've won that ball, being able to provide offensively, whether it's a pass into space or a shot."



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Ollie Cooley

With the season ending in the state championship game Nov. 1, Cooley already is focusing his attention on next fall's campaign with the Knights. It will be his senior season and final time taking the pitch for the program he has loved for years. He knows there is only one more step up from there.

In order to get there, Cooley is putting in the work like the leader he is. Most importantly, he wants to keep that chemistry with his teammates flowing throughout the offseason so the Knights can come out firing right away once the 2026 season begins.

"I want to get out on the field with other players as much as I can," Cooley said. "... Getting

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2D | SPORTS

North focused on fast fun swim final

By Meg Leonard
Guest Writer

Entering its first state final as a new member of Division 3 this weekend, Grosse Pointe North's girls varsity swim team has two goals in mind — swim fast and make it fun.

North begins its quest for a top 10 season finish Friday Nov. 21, in the preliminary portion of the 2025 D3 swim and

diver state championship at the Holland Aquatics Center in Holland, Mich. The championship round begins noon Saturday, Nov. 22.

"We are obviously hoping to swim a lot of (personal records)," North head coach Chris Trepanowski said. "(We also are) hoping for some all-state relays and we'd be happy with a top 10 finish overall."

To achieve "all state"

status, individual swimmers and relays must finish in the top eight of each event at finals.

Trepanowski believes his team is poised to make a strong run this weekend, buoyed by North's second-place finish to rival Grosse Pointe South at the recent MAC Red conference championship meet. South is expected to challenge Farmington Hills Mercy at Eastern Michigan University this Friday and Saturday for the Division 2 state championship.

"We were super excited about our second-place finish (at MAC Red)," Trepanowski said. "Obviously, South has had a fantastic season and no team was going to match them. But going into the meet, we felt that second, third and fourth were going to be a tight competition."

"We didn't have any divers this year, so that put us at a disadvantage," he added. "But on meet day, our girls showed up to compete and almost every single swim was a season-best time."

North comfortably secured second place in the conference final, scoring 367 points. It finished well ahead of Dakota (294), Eisenhower (289) and Fraser (234) high schools, which finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively.



From back center, clockwise, Norsemen varsity swimmers Hadley Beal, Mia Melhem, Elliana Orlando and Ava VanBecelaere celebrate a well-earned third-place finish in the 200 medley relay at the MAC Red conference championship Nov 8.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS TREPANOWSKI

From left, at the Nov. 8 MAC Red conference finals, Grosse Pointe North's Liliana Ivanaj, Mia Melhem, Kennedy Hasting and Cailey Hard show off their silver medals in the 200 free relay.

The Norsemen also added four new state cuts last weekend. Elliana Orlando and Adriana Bogner earned theirs in the 200 IM. Hadley Beal swam to a qualifying time in the 100 freestyle, while Mia

both Elliana and Adriana managed to get their state cut."

North will bring eight swimmers to states, several of whom qualified for multiple events. Combining both individual and relays, swimmers

◆ Cailey Hard (50, 100, 200 and 500 freestyles, 200 IM, 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke)

◆ Kennedy Hasting (200 IM)

◆ Liliana Ivanaj (50 freestyle, 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke)

◆ Mia Melhem (100 butterfly)

◆ Eliana Orlando (500 freestyle and 200 IM)

◆ Ava VanBecelaere (100 backstroke and 200 IM)

◆ North also will compete in all three relays, including the 200 medley, 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle.

Trepanowski credits this team's dedication and ability to sprinkle fun into the mix as catalysts for this season's achievements.

"This year's team has had a great balance of success and fun," he said. "They know how to work hard and be successful in the pool and in the classroom."

"And they also know how to be goofy and fun — (they) just enjoy being with one another."

'Before and during the race, you could just tell that they were working together, pushing and willing each other to swim faster.'

CHRIS TREPANOWSKI, GP NORTH HEAD SWIM COACH

Melhem secured a spot in the 100 butterfly.

"We were very happy with our 200 IM performances," Trepanowski said. "On Saturday, we had three girls in the B final, all swimming right next to each other. Ava (VanBecelaere) had already made the state cut, but Elliana and Adriana hadn't."

"Before and during the race, you could just tell that they were working together, pushing and willing each other to swim faster. In the end,

can compete in a maximum of four events at state finals. However, only two of those can be in individual events. Most commonly swimmers compete in two individual events and two relays, but swimming three relays and one individual also is allowed.

North's 2025 state roster includes:

◆ Hadley Beal (200 IM, 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke)

◆ Adriana Bogner (200 IM)

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

this group of guys out and getting as many touches as we can in the offseason together is huge."

Trying to keep the team and the momentum together even through a long offseason shows the type of leader Cooley is. His impact on a game can be massive both on and off the field

and everyone around the Liggett boys soccer team knows it. It is why his coaches trust him with big responsibilities like being one of the first shooters in a penalty-kick shootout to decide the state championship. His upcoming senior season next year should see Cooley become an even bigger leadership presence.

"Ollie is an incredible soccer player and an even better person," said

Liggett boys soccer coach David Dwaihy. "He plays the game with a perfect combination of finesse and intensity and he is outstanding in every category. His leadership this year had a profound impact on our on-field success and also the positive, inclusive team dynamic that developed over the course of the season. He is a joy to coach and it's been an honor to work with him."



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Cooley lines up for his try in the penalty kick shootout during the Division 4 boys soccer state championship game Nov. 1.

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GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Girls Varsity Hockey

Blue Devils prepare for tough road toward another state title

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It goes without saying that the bar has been set pretty high for the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls hockey program. Winning a second consecutive state championship last season, the Blue Devils enter this winter with expectations of winning a third title in a row, but know the journey will be anything but easy.

“People come in and they expect that we’re just going to continue to be the great Grosse Pointe South team that we’ve always been and they kind of need to realize that it takes a lot of

baby steps to get there,” South girls hockey coach Lexi Bohlinger said. “It’s going to be another year of re-learning things and new lines and new positions. ... People are gunning for us. I don’t think people want to see us win a third state championship in a row and if we can do it, that would be incredible.”

Several key players who were part of South’s back-to-back championship teams have graduated, leaving big shoes for other players to fill. Taking over some of the biggest responsibilities this year are seniors Audrey Reynolds and Charlie Harr, who will serve as team captains.

Forwards Ana Zieleniewski and Ruby Lenhard also will play big roles as assistant captains. With the graduation of longtime goalie Rosie Smith, junior Rachel Farago steps into the main role between the pipes. Anchoring the defense will be seniors Evie Wodzisz and Sydney Eickhorst, the latter of whom is joining the team for the first time this year after playing travel hockey.

The Blue Devils are confident in their defensive abilities and toughness. However, there is no lack of offensive talent on this year’s team, as exemplified by a 9-1 win over Regina in

South’s season opener Nov. 6. What gives South the most comfort, at least early in the season, is the fact it can get big contributions from anyone, anywhere on the ice.

“We have all really great defensemen with hard, good shots,” Bohlinger said. “Sometimes, you just have one big point shooter that you’re feeding the puck to. We have a lot of strong, tenacious kids who aren’t going to let anyone get to Rachel, our goalie. Offensively, we’re running three pretty strong lines. We don’t have any dead weight on our team.”

South believes it has the talent to make it to the top of the mountain once again in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League. However, the road to get there presents plenty of challenges. The Blue Devils have two matchups with crosstown rival University Liggett School on the schedule, along with two meetings with Mid-Michigan Alliance, the team they faced for the 2025 state championship in March.

Even the next couple of games for South will serve as a true test of what this team is capable of as it travels north for two contests against Traverse City, a team with state title aspirations of its own, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21



PHOTOS BY LEON HALIP

Audrey Reynolds, pictured in a game against University Liggett last season, returns to South girls hockey this winter as one of the team’s senior captains.



Ella Smith is one of several experienced senior veterans in the lineup for the Blue Devils this winter.

and 22.

No matter the outcome for South, the program knows the standard it has set for itself. Nobody can say this early in the season that a state championship is guaranteed. Getting there is a secondary goal for the Blue Devils behind building team chemistry and consistent development throughout the year, keeping the program’s reputation not only for winning, but for being a

great team to enjoy the high school hockey experience with, on and off the ice.

“We’ve always been a great program and we’re going to continue to be a great program,” Bohlinger said. “... Kids have fun playing for us and playing with their friends. ... Score a lot of goals, have fun and continue to uphold the reputation that Grosse Pointe South has built for itself.”

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Girls Varsity Hockey

Norsemen search for emerging leaders

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Every season brings changes in high school sports and sometimes teams are faced with the task of moving forward without a player who was an integral part of the program. That is what Grosse Pointe North varsity girls hockey must adjust to this winter in its first season of the post-Josie Cueter era, with the former Miss Hockey award winner graduating after

helping bring the program to new heights.

“Josie was an outstanding leader whose presence brought a sense of calm to everyone around her,” North girls hockey head coach Taylor Shaheen said. “Her ability to score and perform under pressure gave the team confidence and composure. This year’s captains are stepping into their leadership roles beautifully, having learned and grown from watching Josie over the past two seasons.”

Those captains are Leah Burney and Kate Kasuba, with Paige Martin and Ava Villani serving as assistant captains. They are some of the most experienced players in North’s lineup this year and are expected to lead by example.

Along with their leadership off the ice, the captains could find themselves being some of the leaders on the stat sheet

for the Norsemen as well. Other key contributors might include new additions like standout freshman Mia Wilhelm and sophomore Twila Shappy-Behn. Both of them are new to the team, but already are working their way into the system in the eyes of the coaches. They continue to show why cohesiveness and chemistry is

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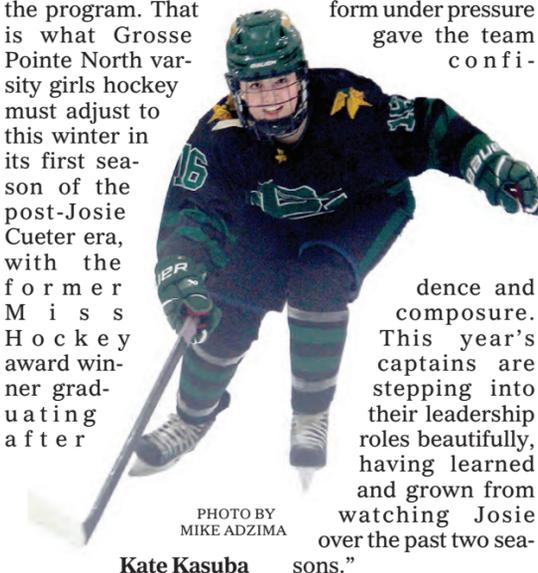


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Kate Kasuba

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council adopted the following ordinance amendment at its meeting held on Monday, November 10, 2025. The ordinance amendment was adopted in accordance with the City Charter and is hereby published by title:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS, CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS; ARTICLE II. - DOGS, CATS AND WILD ANIMALS; DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY, BY ADDING SEC. 6-41 - CARE OF ANIMALS.

The ordinances are available for public inspection or purchase from the Office of the City Clerk, at the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or www.gpwmi.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:11/20/25

EXCALIBUR PARK

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

THANKSGIVING

	<p>Wednesday Beer Tent 6pm-2am</p>	<p>Nov 26 2025</p>
	<p>Spinset DJ Set 8pm - 2am</p>	
<p>Nov 27 2025</p>	<p>Thursday Thanksgiving Day 12pm - 2am</p>	
	<p>Lions Game 1pm</p>	
	<p>Friday Class of 2010 Reunion 7pm - 10pm</p>	<p>Nov 28 2025</p>
	<p>DJ Rick 8pm - 2am</p>	

4D | SPORTS



UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

Girls Varsity Hockey

New leadership ready to turn ULS girls hockey back into contender

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

While the program is usually considered one of the state's perennial powerhouses, last season brought some adversity to the University Liggett School varsity girls hockey team. The team experienced a coaching change and even briefly shut down the season before starting back up and finishing off in the playoffs.

This winter, the program is back up and running under the guidance of a new head coach. Jonathan Yanovsky takes over the helm of the Knights this season, ready to get the team back where it is used to being — the top of the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League (MGHSHL). The team's roster may be a bit thinner than usual, but the energy and enthusiasm for the players have shown early on in the season have their new coach confident the program's

winning ways can return.

"They worked so hard to get the team back up and running this year," Yanovsky said. "Every single day, they worked so hard and you could tell they love the game so much."

The Knights have some players this year who will need to get their feet under them, as they are new to the team and the sport of hockey. However, there still is a strong veteran presence on this year's team at some key positions. The most important is on the defensive side, with experienced goaltender Madeline Hexter in net and some veteran defenders anchoring the blue line and making up the Knights' biggest strength.

"(Hexter) is such a great human being and such a great goalie," Yanovsky said. "I couldn't have asked for anything better as far as a goaltender. She's a huge strength of ours. The blue line is possibly



Avery Welsh will serve as one of the senior captains for the Knights on the ice this season.



PHOTOS BY LEON HALIP

Madeline Hexter returns to her spot as the starting goalie for University Liggett girls hockey this winter.

our biggest strength.

We have Miranda Birmingham. Smiatacz and Ricci both tallied hat tricks and Alcala added another pair of goals. Welsh found the back of the net as well and Hexter saved 12 of the 13 shots she faced between the pipes.

A big win to open the season provided much-needed early momentum for the Knights. The team knows the road will not be easy with a challenging MGHSHL schedule that includes two matchups against rival and defending state champion Grosse Pointe South. However, the focus for Liggett is on steady improvement, regardless of wins and losses.

"I want the girls to feel like they get better every single day,"

Yanovsky said. "Whatever it is I need to do to help them achieve that goal, I want them to accomplish it. We set expectations of what we want for the season. We're not creating excuses or saying we're short-handed. ... We're not limiting ourselves to just being OK. As far as an individual basis, I want to make sure everyone loves coming to the rink every day and they're learning and getting something out of playing."

Liggett faced Cranbrook-Kingswood after press time Tuesday, Nov. 18. The Knights take the ice on the road for the first time this season Saturday, Nov. 22, traveling to Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

14, with a 4-2 loss to Walled Lake. Walled Lake is one of the fellow Division 2 MGHSHL opponents North must compete against this year. Other Division 2 foes the Norsemen will see often include Ann Arbor Pioneer, Livonia United, Washtenaw United and more. North also jumps up to face some Division 1 teams such as St. Mary's and defending Division 1 state champion Grosse Pointe South, with the cross-town rivalry matchup set for Dec. 11.

Even with plenty of familiar opponents on the schedule throughout the winter, there are still some questions for North regarding which particular matchups could be

NORTH:

Continued from page 3D

so important for the Norsemen.

"This group's biggest strength is how close they are and how positive they stay," Shaheen said. "They're always lifting each other up and cheering each other on. It's really great to see. They play off each other's strengths and work together to be stronger as a team."

That strong chemistry will need to be put to use as the Norsemen try to navigate what can be a challenging schedule in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League (MGHSHL). The Norsemen got the season underway Friday, Nov.

tests for this year's lineup.

"Honestly, there's been a big shift in the league this year," Shaheen said. "With many girls graduating and a few teams going through coaching changes, the matchups that used to get everyone fired up look a little different now. It's still early, so we'll have to see how the season unfolds before knowing what rivalries or standout games emerge."

North hosted Washtenaw United after press time Wednesday, Nov. 19. The Norsemen take the ice again Thursday, Nov. 20, visiting Bloomfield Birmingham with puck drop scheduled for 8:15 p.m. at Detroit Skating Club.

Grosse Pointe News

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UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

Boys Varsity Hockey

Veterans lead Knights with high expectations

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It doesn't hurt a team entering a new season knowing it has a strong presence of veteran leaders. The University Liggett School varsity boys hockey team has nearly a dozen seniors on this winter's roster, all of them already knowing the system and standards set in place for the program.

That helps immensely as the Knights look to hit the ground running in 2025-26. It also helps set an example for the younger players who will continue that standard in the future.

"Having guys who know how the routine is and how things work and are setting the example, it pays dividends for the younger guys to see that," Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said.

Some of the players in leadership roles for the Knights this year include Luke Slanec, Griffin Marchal and Nic Gould. They make up the top forward line for Liggett and have already combined for 11 goals in the team's first three games.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Luke Slanec, pictured taking a face off in a game against Jackson Lumen Christi last season, will center the top forward line for the Knights this winter.

"Probably one of the most competitive lines in high school hockey," Smith said. "... The three have great chemistry and have been friends since they were

young, so I'm expecting some big things from them."

That top line for the Knights will bolster the team's attacking presence, with other for-

wards like Landen Maltby and Cam Stapleton also expected to play major roles. Johnny Secco, a new addition to the team coming over after playing at the Triple-A level, and Ryan Cordaro could be two key figures on the blue line for Liggett's defense. Stepping into the net this year in replacement of graduated former goalie Ben Wehrmann is Lucien Valiot, who could be the next in a line of strong goaltenders for the Knights.

Liggett feels like it has plenty of talent spread across the ice this season. With a few games already under their belt, it is clear what is clicking well and what could use some work. The Knights are confident in their ability to press on the forecheck and attack, but know their defensive abilities can be sharpened up to the highest level.

"We're hunting pucks very well," Smith said. "... If we can be a team that clogs up the neutral zone and we're fast and we're not the biggest, but we're physical and can disrupt teams' sys-

tems, that will be big. I think what will help us excel the most is if we clean up our defensive zone coverage."

Liggett has plenty of opportunities this season to be tested and learn where its strengths lie as a team. The Knights' schedule was designed for them to go up against some of the toughest competition possible, with games against teams like Detroit Catholic Central (a 9-0 loss for Liggett Saturday, Nov. 15), Detroit Country Day, De La Salle Collegiate and Flint Powers Catholic, among others.

"We didn't want to play teams that weren't going to prepare us for the end of the year," Smith said about the schedule. "We want to play teams where, even if we lose, we play tough teams to prepare us and watch how they play. The boys are all about it."

The Knights go on the road to face Country Day at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at the Southfield Civic Arena.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Boys Varsity Hockey

Norsemen energized for new hockey season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys hockey team looks to come out strong in the 2025-26 season. Already a couple games in, the Norsemen are starting to get a feel for what might be their strengths this season and the biggest positive so far is the motivation the team has shown to hit the ground running.

"The energy is good and the effort is good," North boys hockey head coach Rob Blum said, "all the way from top to bottom. It doesn't matter if it's our first line or our third line, the energy has been so good. ... They're coming to practice every day ready to work and so far it's been translating to the games."

Having a pair of returning captains helps keep up the motivation from a leadership standpoint. Forward Charlie Mueller

and goalie Ben Bujega once again are the captains leading this year's North team and already have been putting their veteran leadership to use in guiding a mostly young roster for the Norsemen.

"They've done a good job picking up where they left off with leadership and helping to bring along the new guys," Blum said about the team's captains.

While Bujega is going to be the Norsemen's stalwart presence in net, Blake Whittaker is expected to be one of the key players in front of him as a leader of the defense. Freshman Logan Perry will be alongside Mueller as one of North's top forwards, while newcomer Brandon Jarvis already has made his presence felt with six goals in the Norsemen's first two games.

Those first couple of games included a 13-5 win over New Boston

United Nov. 11, and a 4-2 loss to Saline Nov. 15. Scoring 13 goals in the season opener shows how capable the Norsemen can be when it comes to offense, but the key to getting the team to fire on all cylinders is going to be making sure things are tightened up defensively, which only can come with consistent work throughout the winter.

"Knowing defensive assignments and where to be without the puck," Blum said. "I feel like in youth hockey, it's more skill based and offensively based now, so younger kids come in not really knowing defensive assignments and responsibilities. That's where I really want to see them grow as a team."

The Norsemen go on the road for their next game to take on Lakes Area United Thursday, Nov. 20. Puck drop is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Detroit Skating Club.

wards like Landen Maltby and Cam Stapleton also expected



School is back in session and the fall sports season is heating up. If you're looking for a place to keep up with all the action, look no further than @GPNewsports on Instagram. Our page is dedicated to providing fans around the Pointes and beyond with the latest news and features surrounding Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett sports.

Best of all, you can be part of the action too! Send your best sports photos and moments to our DMs for a chance to be featured on our page and in the sports section of the Grosse Pointe News. Follow us today!





PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Next level Blue Devils

Three Grosse Pointe South athletes had a major milestone in the next steps of their careers last Thursday, Nov. 13, signing their official National Letters of Intent to play at the collegiate level. From left, Gabby DiVita (University of Nebraska volleyball), Lyla Hampton (Eastern Michigan University women's lacrosse) and Dane Lezotte (Cornell University baseball).

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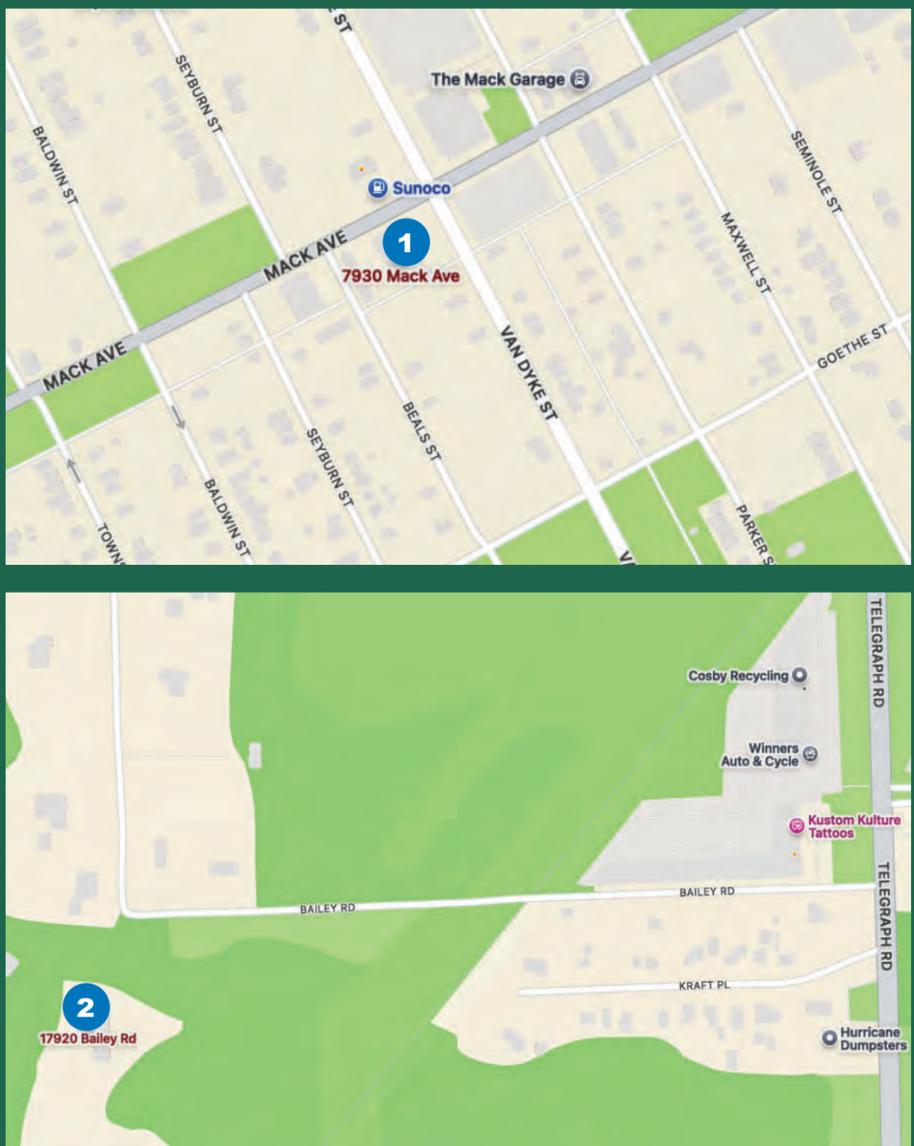
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8D | SPORTS



GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Boys Varsity Hockey

Blue Devils boys hockey ready to set new standard in 2025-26

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

This year seems to be all about rebuilding a new identity for the Grosse Pointe South varsity boys hockey team. One way to help do that is by constructing a brand new, state-of-the-art locker room inside East Side Foundation Hockey Arena. However, what matters the most is establishing a new identity on the ice and turning South hockey back into a respected name, which is exactly what new head coach Ben Warda intends to do. “We’ve all bought into establishing a new standard,” he said. “We agreed as a group that it hasn’t been good enough

in the past and we’re willing to do whatever it takes to turn that around. That’s been the overall message. ... The guys have bought into that and there hasn’t been any complaining at all. Everyone is coming together, so it’s been cool to see all of us agreeing to this goal and wanting to execute it.” The biggest leaders helping bring that new standard to life will be senior captains defenseman Charlie Wade and forward Lucas Reynolds. Both already seem to be at the forefront of moving the Blue Devils in a new direction. “They set the tone for us when our coaches aren’t around,” Warda said about the captains.

“We preach, ‘This is your locker room. This is your group.’ The guys respond to them and their work ethic and the way they handle themselves on and off the ice.” Outside of the captains, other names to watch out for on the ice this season include forwards Will Gryzenia, Cole Zaccagni, Ethan Zann and Liam O’Donoghue. Marty Wayman and Jack Babcock should be key defensive pieces on the blue line, along with captain Wade. The Blue Devils see their talent as pretty spread out, with a large number of players capable of making significant contributions to the score sheet. However, it

is not all about scoring and finesse this year for South. What the new coaching regime sees as perhaps the biggest strength of this year’s team is the size and toughness this group can bring to the table. “We’re a big, physical team,” Warda said. “I’m surprised to see that we have a lot of guys who are going to take over physically, I think. Big with speed. We’re going to be all over teams when they play us and the overall tenacity is something that I’ve been really impressed with.” Physicality could be key in helping the Blue Devils navigate through the MIHL, widely regarded as perhaps the most challenging conference in the state. South started the season with an MIHL matchup Thursday, Nov. 13, playing to a 2-2 tie against Port Huron Northern. Wade and Gryzenia were the goal scorers for the Blue Devils. The team followed that up with a 7-4 win over Utica Ford United Saturday, Nov. 15.



South captain Lucas Reynolds battles for a loose puck against Utica Ford United.



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE THOMAS

South celebrates the first goal of the game by junior Charlie Winkler vs. Utica-Fraser United on Saturday, November 15 in front of a packed arena.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Zingas dazzles in China with silver medal

Grosse Pointe Farms native and St. Clair Shores Figure Skating Club member Emilea Zingas, left, and her partner Vadym Kolesnik earned silver medals at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Cup of China. The competition took place in Chongqing from Oct. 24-26.