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# Grosse Pointe News

MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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## Less bang for more buck

### City's stormwater project cost skyrockets as scope shrinks

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The City's unprecedented \$21.6 million FEMA grant and correlating major stormwater separation project to mitigate the possibility of future basement flooding is on the rocks at best, as both the project scope and cost have shifted dramatically.

With 30 percent of the design engineering work complete, the project cost has skyrocketed from the \$29 million figure discussed the last four years to an estimate affirmed at \$52.6 million.

Far worse, the new cost is after city engineers shrunk the project scope to about 100 acres of the 242 acres of com-

bined sewer area in the city — meaning the project which initially was intended to separate a majority of the city's remaining combined sewers, now would separate about 50 percent of the remaining combined sewers.

What could end up being the final nail in the coffin?

"We designed the storm sewer pipe based upon a 10-year, 24-hour storm," City Engineer Stephen Pangori said. "And we've all seen what Mother Nature has brought upon us in these last couple years. ... If you get a 25-year storm, if you get a 50-year storm, or a more intense 10-year storm, there's a possibility there still could be basement flooding. This will not

solve that problem 100 percent."

City council members faced a landslide of harrowing project updates such as these Monday night, as administrators presented a detailed run-through on the reality of the situation and what few options remain.

The price surge, Pangori explained, is a result of the construction industry experiencing 25 to 30 percent inflation since 2021, in combination with a better understanding of

what the project will require following a topographic survey of the entire route that took place this summer.

"We found there were sewer depths approaching 20 to 25 feet starting down near the south end on Cameron Place and then also on Washington, where there's some of the highest elevations in the city," Pangori said. "(It's) extremely deep, which means more volume of dirt that had to

be dug out and hauled away and more volume of sand that had to be brought in and filled those trenches."

Contractors also informed city engineers the 96-inch diameter pipe is going to require one of the largest excavators in Michigan to reach those depths and handle a pipe of that size. Such an excavator in turn requires signifi-

See BANG, page 4A

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## Seeking waste contracts

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Top city officials are fishing for better deals on trash, recycling and yard waste contractors.

They're putting the current contract under review. Doing so won't automatically result in retaining a new carrier, but could lead to the city getting better terms.

Reviewing contracts and seeking alternative bids also is a way to test the market, evaluate cost structures and receive fresh ideas from industry competitors.

"I want to evaluate pricing, service capabilities and operational improvements to ensure the city is receiving the highest value and level of service for residents," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

See WASTE, page 3A



**Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant finds a Michigan license plate that says GPW2000 inside the time capsule from 2000.**

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Woods celebrates 75th anniversary

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Around 100 people, including residents, city council members, staff and volunteers gathered Thursday, Dec. 11, at city hall to celebrate the city's diamond jubilee, 75 years to the day when its charter was

approved.

"I'm delighted to see so many people," Mayor Art Bryant said, "especially with this weather."

The Village of Lochmoor was incorporated Jan. 4, 1927, from the former Grosse Pointe Township. It became the Village of Grosse Pointe Woods in March 1939, and voters approved a

charter forming the City of Grosse Pointe Woods 11 years later.

Black and white photos dotted the room covering the city's history, including one of people swimming in Lake St. Clair at Lake Front Park before the swimming pool was built and the iconic DeSoto dealership that now houses edmund

t. AHEE Jewelers.

A large board of mosaic tiles measuring 6 inches by 6 inches, each with the city's 75th anniversary logo and decorated by children at events throughout the year, will be on permanent display at the entrance to city hall.

See 75TH, page 2A

## Roofer gets unbid contract

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The newsiest thing about the city's latest contract with a roofing company isn't the scope of work.

After all, it's just a roof job.

Of interest is how city officials chose the contractor to perform \$111,500 worth of repairs

to portions of the city hall complex.

Rather than solicit competitive bids on the open market, a staple of municipal contract-letting to draw the lowest available cost, Park administrators this month picked a company appearing on an internal list of qualified vendors.

As a result, starting next spring, a crew from Lutz Roofing will end the

need for buckets and waste baskets to capture water leaking into the public safety garage and parts of the municipal building's outer lobby.

"We've also had issues in the courtroom of leaks," said Nick Sizeland, city manager, during the Dec. 8 council meeting.

The contractor earned "qualified" status by establishing a worthy record with the city.

City hall has six separate sections of roof. Lutz replaced one in 2023.

"The last several years, our electrician has worked with this contractor, Lutz Roofing," Sizeland said. "They are a qualified vendor."

"How do we know this is a good price for this?" Councilman Brent Dreaver asked.

"We familiarized ourselves with them," Sizeland answered.

See CONTRACT, page 3A

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See Section C

Public Safety . . . . . 5A  
Opinion . . . . . 6A  
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**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A

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Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant unlocks the chain on the 2000 time capsule.



Inside the time capsule from 2000 is another time capsule from 1980 to 2000.

75TH:

Continued from page 1A

There are 88 tiles in total, 82 of which have the logo and six depicting Ghesquiere Park, Lake Front Park, Veterans Memorial Parkway, Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch, Circle of Honor and the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation Clock.

The highlight of the night, however, was the unsealing of a time capsule from 25 years ago and the sealing of a new time capsule to be opened in 25 years.

Contents of the new capsule include a copy of the Grosse Pointe News, yearbooks from all schools in the city — Grosse Pointe North High School, Parcels Middle School, Monteith, Mason and Ferry elementary schools, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School and

University Liggett School — a key to the city, the city's 2025-26 fiscal year budget, a COVID test and a Narcan kit.

A few items pertained specifically to the public safety department. They included a badge designed for the 75th anniversary; a Breathalyzer; a trading card of Arcos, the department's newly acquired K-9 officer; and a challenge coin. The coins are used as tokens and presented to officers within the department in recognition of achievements, exchanged among different law enforcement agencies as a sign of mutual respect or cooperation and given to civilians to show appreciation.

The evening also included a video, shot at various community events over the year, with residents talking about why they enjoy living in the Woods, includ-

ing its walkability, safety, parks and friendliness of neighbors.

Before opening the 2000 capsule, Bryant joked that it had been "buried in a secret grave." After being questioned, however, he was forced to fess up.

"We thought it was in a closet off of council chambers, but when we checked all we found was dust," he said. "Then we realized it had been sitting under our council table the whole time."

Bryant said he and Councilman Todd McConaghy, who sit next to each other during meetings, had been kicking the box at their feet for years without realizing what it was.

That capsule included a cell phone from the time, a Harry Potter book and a Y2K emergency preparedness guide.

Each table had gold-wrapped chocolate coins with the 75th anniversary logo and slips of paper for people to fill out predicting the future, asking what changes in science, medicine and life in general will be like in 2050.

"I won't be here," Bryant joked, "but we'll put these in the new time capsule and if you're around you can come back to see if your predictions came true."

# Farms prepares to issue up to \$12M in bonds for pool

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The Farms is preparing to take the financial leap with the Pier Park pool and bathhouse project, as city council last week approved a notice of intent to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$12 million for a period not to exceed 30 years.

The actual amount the city chooses to issue will be determined following final contract approval for the project and taking into account fundraising donations, such as around \$500,000 anticipated from the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation.

"This is just the intent," City Manager Shane Reeside clarified of the bond notice. "There's a proposed dollar amount, an issuance of \$12 million in bonds. That would

be a maximum. We'd be coming back to city council with the number probably lower than that, but this gives us the most latitude in terms of our notification process."

City administration is estimating the actual bond amount needed may be closer to \$10 million for a period of 20 years.

Debt service payments on such a bond would be around \$720,000 per year, assuming a 3.75 percent interest rate. The city notably is AAA bond rated.

"We get the very best interest rates we can, because we have a AAA bond rating," said Lev Wood, councilman and chair of the budget and audit committee. "... so that's extremely good for our city."

City administrators will budget the debt service payments in the city's general fund, where additional funds are available from the completion of debt service payments on the Pier Park community building and harbor projects.

"Currently we are paying off the final debt service on a couple of other recreational projects," Reeside said. "The idea then would be to levy a bond issuance for the financing of the new pool, bathhouse, splash pad and surrounding amenities."

City council approved the notice of intent 6-0, with Councilwoman Beth Konrad Wilberding absent.

— Laurel Kraus



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

One of the items going into the new time capsule is a key to the city.



The public was invited to check out the time capsule and all the items tucked inside. Jerry Wiszowaty and his daughter, Cheryl Colt, found a lot of curious keepsakes, including a walkie-talkie and a cell phone, both of them massive compared to today's slim versions.

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# Pump station to blend in with neighborhood

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The Farms is pushing full steam ahead on its multi-million-dollar inland district sewer separation project.

Restoration efforts on Tonnancour Place wrapped up early this month; installation of the 48-inch force main and 60-inch stormwater sewer along the edge of the Country Club of Detroit's golf course is ahead of schedule; and last Monday, city council approved the site plan for a new pump station at the corner of Moross and Chalfonte.

The soon-to-be pump station on the city-owned property at 352 Chalfonte will facilitate the pumping of stormwater from the quadrant of the city north of Moross into Lake St. Clair.

"We had purchased the property at the corner of Moross and Chalfonte several years ago," City Manager Shane Reeside noted, "really with the intent of using that as a way to convey stormwater out to the lake, because it has to be done mechanically in the inland district. Where the lakeside district that was separated years ago, the east side of Ridge, you have gravity working in your favor."

With the intention of going out to bid for construction of the building



COURTESY RENDERING

The exterior design plans for the proposed pump station at 352 Chalfonte highlight a Cape Cod style.

in early 2026, city council during its last meeting gave the green light on the exterior design of the pump station, which is meant to look like a house and blend in with the neighborhood.

"I think this is great looking," Councilman Lev Wood said. "When I saw it, I thought, 'Nobody's going to know that's a pump station.'"

Designed by local architect and designer Robert Wood, the plans then further were refined by Hubbell, Roth and Clark engineers to meet the functional needs of the pump sta-

tion.

The Cape Cod-style exterior will house essentially one big room, including a restroom, with the pumps being placed below grade.

Its appearance incorporates a stone base, lap board siding, rooftop dormers, a covered porch with railings and double-hung windows with shutters — though the windows are just for show and will be backed by a solid wall behind them.

"I think it's beautiful — I'd make an offer on it if it was for sale," Councilman Dan Jensen

joked.

Though the homes nearby are ranch houses, HRC engineers explained the pump station's design style had to be either Cape Cod or colonial to leave room to extract the pumps for maintenance and repair.

The building will be roughly 30 feet tall, which is the maximum height allowed to the midpoint of a roof under the city's current ordinance.

"We couldn't build it as a ranch unless it was a very odd-looking ranch," said Tom Maxwell, HRC principal engineer. "It either had

to be a Cape Cod for the higher ability height or a colonial. And the reason for that is because we've got to pull these large pumps vertically up and out and we've got to get them out of the building. So a normal house that's got an eight or nine foot ceiling wouldn't work."

Pump station site plan approval came with the following recommendations for staff consideration:

- ◆ the enhanced landscaping and buffering be used where feasible,
- ◆ all exterior lighting be shielded, downward directed and residential scale,

◆ noise and vibration mitigation be employed consistent with best engineering practices,

◆ nearby residents be kept informed regarding construction, staging hours and access impacts,

◆ exterior materials remain consistent with the Cape Cod residential design character presented,

◆ the facility be included in the city's regular landscape and exterior maintenance cycle,

◆ and security features be implemented,

See BLEND, page 5A

## WASTE:

Continued from page 1A

Park council members agreed Monday, Dec. 8, to request proposals for the services while also understanding there are few qualified contractors from which to choose.

"The marketplace for collection and recycling has evolved significantly and is limited," Sizeland said.

"It's not like there are massive options out there," Councilman Max Wiener said.

"We may only have one or two (responses)," Sizeland said. "A formal

request for proposal does not obligate the city to exchange providers, but ensures the city is making an informed decision regarding future service levels and pricing."

The city's current contract with Priority Waste, which 1 1/2 years ago had a trouble-filled takeover of the prior provider, Green For Life, dates through various iterations to 2011. Expiration of current terms is Sept. 30, 2026. Priority serves all five Grosse Pointes.

Missed routes and failed pickups characterized the takeover in the Park, which Priority offi-

cials during council presentations attributed to acquiring GFL's startlingly poorly maintained equipment. Priority officials characterized severed hydraulic lines and defecation in vehicles as sabotage by GFL employees left out of or upset by the switch.

Since then, service improved.

A Pointe-wide roundup of municipal satisfaction two months ago tallied at minimum a steady upward trend in customer satisfaction and, at most, a lack of complaints.

Still, service reviews and the prospect of being

kicked to the curb can rouse a contractor into providing better terms.

"Issuing an RFP allows the city to clearly define expectations for reliability, missed collection protocols, performance standards and communication requirements," Sizeland said. "This provides a mechanism to strengthen service delivery and contractor accountability."

He added, "With changing recycling markets and stricter contamination rules, an RFP gives the city the opportunity to explore updated recycling programs, expanded materials and

more efficient collection technologies that may reduce long-term costs."

Council members showed consensus about adding performance requirements in whatever terms result.

"The next contract will include protections," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

There's a method to Sizeland's madness of seeking proposals 10 months in advance of Priority's contract expir-

ing.

"It is incumbent upon us to get ahead of this," he said. "Bidding in winter has better competitive pricing. Although the contract does not expire until the end of September 2026, it takes months for the preparation and understanding a community if a new hauler is selected."

"I would move as quickly as we can to initiate this process," Hodges said.

## CONTRACT:

Continued from page 1A

Councilman Max Wiener said he contracted two industrial roof replacements within the last decade and the prices were comparable to what Lutz submitted for the Park job.

"This is the range I thought it would go," Wiener said.

"That makes me feel better about it," Dreaver said.

"Competitive bids — we should always lean in that direction," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "It's good accountability for everybody, especially a contract this size."

The topic of qualified vendors came up as background material during an April 3 council discussion about raising the financial threshold below which top administrators and department heads may approve purchases or contracts without council permission.

"They have to go to ... qualified vendors we've

already qualified," said Ginger Moriarty, finance director at the time. She voluntarily resigned late this year and was replaced.

Yet the purchasing threshold was raised to \$25,000, less than one-quarter the unbid roofing contract.

"We might want to establish a policy about when we act (and) what

the thresholds are," Hodges said during this month's meeting.

"Over time, it's not a bad idea to bid it out," Sizeland said.

A representative of the contractor surveyed the roof to find out why it's leaking.

"Areas appear to be 25-year-old (synthetic rubber) adhered systems," according to a let-

ter Brandon Tomayko, Lutz project manager, wrote to the city in November. "While walking these areas, we noticed areas where the membrane was showing signs of failure (and) where the insulation below has shifted due to wind and/or old age."

"We've been Band-Aid-ing this for five years," Sizeland said.



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## 4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

## For former mayor, Farms will always be home

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

Louis Theros is so committed to life in the Grosse Pointes that he's earned Delta Diamond Medallion status two years in a row.

"They send you a congratulatory email saying, 'Congratulations, you're a Diamond Medallion and you're in the top 1 percent of all flyers,'" he said. "As a joke, I said, what it really should say is condolences."

Promoted in April to president of MGM Resorts International's Northeast Group, Theros is president and COO of MGM Springfield, Mass., and Empire City Casino in Yonkers, N.Y. — yet, for he and his wife, Patti, Grosse Pointe Farms remains homebase.

"That is home for us and always will be home," said Theros, who concluded a 24-year run on city council in November. "I'm not buying anything anywhere else. I'm just renting to have a place to rest our heads when we're out here. Our goal is to retire in the Farms and be active in the community."

He's lived in four of the five Pointes since being raised in the Woods in a home his parents built on Perrien Place.

"I did the typical Grosse Pointe thing," he said — Boy Scouts, Woods-Shores Little League, Red Barons football and track and football at Grosse Pointe North High School, where he also was student associa-



Louis Theros with his wife, Patti, and sons, Evan and Jon.

tion president in a fitting foreshadowing of the eight years he'd one day spend as mayor.

From there, he went to the University of Michigan for undergraduate school and then to Vanderbilt University for law school, where he roomed three years with a former classmate from North.

Grosse Pointe remained threaded into his life even when his first job at Dickinson Wright moved him to Chicago for four years.

"There I bought a brownstone with a guy I played Red Barons football with from Grosse Pointe Woods," Theros said. "We invested, rehabbed it and owned it for six, seven years. I moved back to Detroit

after I married Patti."

As an employment and labor lawyer, one of Theros' biggest clients was MGM, leading to a working relationship with the president of the Detroit property, who eventually offered him an in-house position as vice president and general counsel.

"At that point, I'd already been recognized by the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers as a fellow," Theros said. "Only one half percent of all employment and labor lawyers get inducted to this college, so I sort of reached the pinnacle of what I could do as a trial lawyer in that field. ... With the opportunity to go and work for a company, I said, why not? I'll give it a go."

He's never looked back.

Today, he runs two properties that do just under \$1 billion worth of gaming revenue.

"If you had lit a fire under my feet and said, 'What are you going to do when you're 61?' ... My feet would have

fallen off from the fire," Theros said of the thought of his career trajectory. "I would have beyond third-degree burns."

His experience in gaming law also led Theros to be on the team that drafted Michigan's internet sports betting regulation statutes.

"We worked on that for about three years," he said. "First in Gov. (Rick) Snyder's time as governor and then in Gov. (Gretchen) Whitmer's first year, before it was passed and signed by Gov. Whitmer. It's the statutes that allowed sports betting in the casinos in Detroit and also online."

Though he's often called away on business and to visit his sons — Jon, a doctor in Boston, and Evan, an investment banker and financial analyst in Chicago — Theros still finds plenty of reasons to come home.

On Saturday night, he and his band, 'Ish, performed their Merry 'Ishmas Party at Cadieux Cafe.

The name came about

11 years ago, when the band was forming, as a joke.

"Someone joked, 'Gosh, are we really musicians? Or is this music-ish? Is what we play music-ish, but not quite music?'"

The cover band is made up of four Grosse Pointers and one member from St. Clair Shores, featuring Theros on drums.

He's played since third grade, making it an easy choice when bandmate and fellow attorney Tim Monahan recruited him for the position.

"Here we are 11 years later," Theros said. "My kids were in middle school and high school when I started. Now they're adults. That's crazy."

'Ish's 100-song catalog Theros describes as danceable rock 'n' roll. It's everything from The Rolling Stones to Depeche Mode, Echo and the Bunnymen, Tom Petty and yacht rock.

"Our motto is, if you

can dance to it, we'll figure out how to play it," Theros said.

With his retirement from city council, Theros is using the opportunity to focus on work and regroup to see where he may like to next focus his energy.

In the meantime, he's appreciating the calm that comes with taking a real break for the first time in a long time.

This year's Christmas parade was the first in quite a few where his attendance wasn't required to give the key to the city to Santa.

"I woke up that morning and I saw my wife's sister and her husband off to fly back to Wyoming and then I turned to Patti and said, 'How about just grabbing a cup of coffee and turning the fireplace on?'" he said. "It was the first Friday that I didn't have to rush out to the parade after Thanksgiving. It was a quiet morning and really refreshing."



Theros performs with his band, 'Ish, last Saturday during their Merry 'Ishmas Party at Cadieux Cafe.

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NEW INDOOR-OUTDOOR RUNS

## BANG:

Continued from page 1A

cant room to maneuver, meaning the removal of

trees, streetlights and other infrastructure.

"Due to the size of the equipment and the depth of the excavation of this pipe, the main streets — Cameron Place, Washington up to St. Paul and then Lincoln from St. Paul probably up to Charlevoix and Goethe — we're going to need to clear the entire right-of-way, so basically from sidewalk to sidewalk,"

Pangori said.

FEMA funding is capped at \$21.6 million, which was meant to cover about 74 percent of the project; however, should the city choose to proceed, there is still a way to make the project fundable.

Voters approved an up to \$15 million bond toward the project in August 2024, though city officials had hoped they would only need to issue around \$7.5 million of that to fully fund the anticipated \$29 million project.

The remaining funds needed, around \$16 million, are available through a state loan program — the Clean Water State Revolving Fund — at a 2.5 percent interest rate.

Preliminarily, the \$15 million bond coming out of taxes in combination with the \$16 million state loan, which would come out of water and sewer bills, would cost the average household \$660 annually — equating to around \$13,000 over the 20 years it would take to pay off.

"Is there something a homeowner could do with that same \$13,000 to protect their property?" Councilwoman Maureen Juip questioned. "A different investment that the homeowner should consider to solve the prob-

lem in a different way?"

Install a subpump and backflow preventer, Pangori said.

"If everybody in the system has that, where does the water go?" Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak questioned. "Then they'll start to break down and the water will come in anyway."

City officials are not making any decisions on whether to move forward at this stage, as they wait to see if they even have the latitude to make such a decision.

The \$21.6 million in FEMA funding is yet to be officially allocated, without which everything else is a moot point.

To achieve the FEMA funding, the project must pass new cost-benefit analysis standards which are disadvantageous to the city, as well as be approved for a second one-year extension given completing construction prior to late 2027 is unrealistic.

"Let's not forget why we're even considering this," Councilman Chris Moyer noted, referring to the catastrophic basement backups that occurred in June 2021. "But before we make any decision, we need to figure out what our available resources are from the federal government."

## Grosse Pointe News

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## Woods shooting case headed to circuit court

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The woman accused of shooting her boyfriend in early October waived her preliminary examination in municipal court Wednesday, Dec. 10, and is tentatively scheduled to be arraigned in Wayne County Circuit Court Tuesday, Dec. 23.

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

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

"They were dating but didn't live together," Public Safety Director John Kosanke previ-

ously said. "They were arguing and it spilled out onto the front lawn."

Kosanke said it also was not the first time officers were called to the home due to domestic disturbances.

The victim is expected to make a full recovery.

Wilkins also pleaded guilty to a bond violation because she tested posi-

See COURT, page 8A

## BLEND:

Continued from page 3A

including keypad entry which logs who's coming and going.

Construction of the pump house and the physical sewer separation will run along a two-year timeline.

"After years of engineering and design and collaboration with state and federal and local authorities and our good friends at Hubbell, Roth

and Clark, we believe there's going to be a huge, huge percentage gain of the fact that basements aren't going to flood in that neighborhood," Mayor John Gillooly said. "There can't be any guarantees of that, of course, but we're talking an 80 to 90 percent chance basements aren't going to flood in that neighborhood after these changes are put into place so as to eliminate that possibility."

### City of Grosse Pointe

#### Lululemon arrest

After stealing \$1,800 worth of clothes from Lululemon the week prior, a 38-year-old Detroit man was identified and arrested Monday, Dec. 8.

#### Infotainment system theft

The infotainment system was stolen from a 2023 Dodge Ram parked at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital between 9:30 a.m. and noon Wednesday, Dec. 10.

An investigation is ongoing.

#### Thirsty

A four pack of Cutwater Spirits was stolen from a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

#### Swiped wallet

While shopping at a Kercheval grocery store, a woman's wallet was stolen between 5 and 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12. Shortly after leaving the store, she began getting fraud alerts from her various credit card companies.

An investigation is ongoing.

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

### Grosse Pointe Farms

#### Grinch

For the second year in a row an 85-year-old Farms woman's Christmas lights on her Stanton home were intentionally cut between Sunday, Dec. 7, and the

next day.

The light string was cut near the plug with the clear use of a tool. The longtime resident of the street told officers she has no quarrels with any neighbors.

#### Checking it twice

When detained for attempting to steal from a business at Mack and Moross at 2:29 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, a 57-year-old Detroit man was found to be in possession of a crack pipe, as well as stolen checks that were fraudulently reassigned to his name and endorsed by him.

The man has a history of uttering and publishing crimes.

#### Fraud alert

A 24-year-old Lincoln Park man was arrested for using another person's debit card to withdraw \$800 from an ATM Friday, Dec. 12.

He was found out when pulled over at Mack and Moross at 1:09 p.m. for a loud muffler, at which time officers located the \$800 in cash and six separate receipts from different bank locations within 30 minutes of the vehicle stop.

#### While you were sleeping

While staying over at a St. Clair Shores man's house Sunday, Dec. 14, a 35-year-old Dearborn Heights woman left at some point in the night and took the man's car.

When he woke up and reported it stolen, officers tracked it at 7:20 a.m. to a gas station on Mack, where the woman

was found intoxicated and without shoes.

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

### Grosse Pointe Woods

#### Stolen vehicle

A 2021 Yukon was stolen from a driveway in the 1900 block of Stanhope sometime overnight into Monday, Dec. 8. The owner told officers it was unlocked with the key fob inside.

It was recovered in Detroit via GPS.

#### Scam

A resident in the 2100 block of Beaufait fell victim to a scam after clicking a link on his computer regarding an Apple purchase of \$149 around 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.

He was instructed to buy a \$500 Apple gift card and send a photo of it and the activation code in order to unlock his computer. When he was told to send another \$500 gift card, CVS employees

told him he was being scammed.

#### Drunken driving

A 30-year-old Roseville man was arrested for drunken driving after he was found slumped over the wheel of his vehicle on Brys near Mack around 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Officers had to break a window on the vehicle as the man would not respond. A Breathalyzer showed he had a blood alcohol content of 0.286, more than three times the legal limit.

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

### Grosse Pointe Park

#### Cars entered

Residents of the 1400 block of Somerset generated two reports of suspected criminal activity occurring overnight Monday, Dec. 8.

Cases concerned someone either breaking into or tampering with parked vehicles.

# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

In the first, an unknown perpetrator smashed the driver-side window of a parked 2007 Honda and stole the instrument panel worth \$500.

In the second, the owner of a 2025 Chevrolet reported the vehicle's center console had been searched. Nothing was missing.

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

### Grosse Pointe Shores

#### Fraud

A resident on Shelden filed a report of identity theft around 11:15 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 12. He noticed his credit score had fallen 100 points and received a bill for \$8,000 from Verizon for items purchased in his name, including two cell phones and two iPads, through an account he did not start.

#### Broken tail light

A 36-year-old Detroit man was ticketed for driving with a suspended license after being pulled over for a broken tail light around 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, on Lakeshore near Lochmoor.

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



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— PAM

#### VOLUNTEER AT THE HELM

After retiring, Pam was looking for things to do to help make her life more meaningful. She now volunteers for The Helm as a Friendly Reassurance Program caller. Pam regularly checks in with homebound seniors to talk about overall well-being and help alleviate feelings of loneliness or social isolation.

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# POINTES OF VIEW

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

## Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC  
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### OUR VIEW

## Cream of the crop

It is no secret that students in the Grosse Pointe Public School System consistently excel at many endeavors, both in and out of the classroom. It also is a nice touch that the GPPSS Board of Education makes sure to recognize those achievements every chance it gets, normally at the beginning of meetings. From food drives to acts of kindness to special projects, the students and their teachers often tell the board about their activities and answer questions, thereby getting a chance to practice the soft skill of public speaking.

Recent meetings have featured recognition for groups of students who stood out for accomplishments in academics, athletics and fine arts.

A dozen students from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North high schools were recognized last month for their performance on the PSAT. Those named National Merit semifinalists scored in the top 1 percent of more than 1.3 million juniors who took the test last year. Those receiving a commendation scored in the top 3 to 4 percent.

Those students were Elena Martin (South, commended), Eleanor Sahutske (South, semifinalist), Caroline Ward (South, semifinalist), Zach Neme (South, semifinalist), Leo Neds-Fox (South, commended), Julian Lancaster (South, semifinalist), Gavin Perry (North, commended), James Jewell (North, commended), A Schroeder (North, commended), Peter Moe (North, commended), Erin Simpson (South, commended) and Joseph Reid (South, commended).

They get an A-plus in our book. Earlier this month, it was time to recognize standouts from the fall sports season.

Two, in particular, were at the very top of their game, pardon our pun. Both from South, Gabby DiVita and Matthew Holowski were named first-team All-State and won the Miss Volleyball and Mr. Tennis awards, respectively.

Other all-staters, named by their respective coaching associations, were:

- ◆ Field hockey: Harriet Kowalski, South, first team; Evie Wodzisz, South, third team; Kinley Arioli, North, honorable mention

- ◆ Golf: Lyla Hampton, South, honorable mention

- ◆ Soccer: Camden Bartalino, South, honorable mention; Jonah Bukovec, South, honorable mention; Jack O'Dell, North, honorable mention

- ◆ Tennis: Matthew Bartoszewicz, South, singles honorable mention; Max Prather and Henry Logan, South, doubles honorable mention

- ◆ Swimming: Whitney Handwork, South, state champion in the 50-yard freestyle and 200 freestyle relay, all-state time in the 100 freestyle; Caroline Bryan, South, state champion the 100 butterfly and as part of the 200 freestyle relay team, all-state time in the 200 IM; Quinn Ryan, South, state champion in the 100 backstroke and as part of the 200 medley relay, all-state time in the 100 freestyle; Corinne Stencel, state champion in the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay, all-state time in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke; Mischa Eng, South, state champion as part of the 200 medley relay, all-state time in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke; Nicole McEnroe, South, state champion in the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle, all-state time in the 200 IM; Ava Gerhard, South, all-state in one-meter diving; Cailey Hard, North, all-state time in the 100 butterfly

Also in November, five students from Parcels Middle School were recognized for being named to the State Honors Choir by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association: Thomas McBrady, Anjali Deonikar, Ellington Spilos, Scotland Powell and Cassidy Allen.

We also want to take a moment to recognize all-state performances at University Liggett School.

- ◆ Field hockey: Olivia Marcero, first-team; Maisy Huebner, third-team



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

### GUEST VIEW By Melissa Fradenburg

## Year-end financial steps for a strong start to 2026

As we settle into another early Michigan winter, many of us in the Pointes are already dreaming of warm weather for mid-winter or spring break. Before you start searching for flights, now is also the perfect moment to give your finances a thoughtful year-end review. A few smart steps in December can set you up for a more confident and organized new year.

### Check your tax planning opportunities

For anyone who experienced a lower income year, a Roth conversion may be worth revisiting. Converting a portion of your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA in a year when your tax burden is lower can create long-term tax-free growth and give you more flexibility in retirement. Since conversions must be completed by Dec. 31, it is important to run the numbers now or talk with your advisor or tax professional.

Required minimum distributions, or RMDs, also need attention before the year ends. People who were born between 1951 and 1959 must begin RMDs at age 73. People born in 1960 or later begin RMDs at age 75. Inherited IRA owners of any age also need to be sure any required withdrawals are completed by Dec. 31. Missing an RMD can lead to unnecessary penalties, so double check that these amounts have been processed.

Although the deadline for contributions to an IRA or Roth IRA are more flexible, workplace plans like 401(k) and 403(b) accounts must be fully funded by year end. For 2025, the employee limit is \$23,000, with a \$7,500 catch up if you are 50 or older. Some individuals choose to direct their final paycheck into their plan to top off annual contributions.

- ◆ Soccer: Ollie Cooley, first-team; Brady Ancona, third-team; Caden Martin, honorable mention

- ◆ Tennis: Division 4 state champion team; Tise Courtright, singles all-state; Yurii Polnyi, singles all-state; Landen Maltby and Charlie Laethem, doubles all-state; Niko Cooksey and Griffin Marchal, doubles all-state; Rene Quint and Lucas Ferguson doubles honorable mention.

Kudos to all. We cannot wait to see what our accomplishments our students achieve in the new year.

### Update your savings automations for 2026

A new year brings new contribution limits, so this is a good time to review any automatic deposits you have set up for retirement accounts. If your cash flow allows, increase your monthly contribution in January to take full advantage of the 2026 increased limits for both IRAs and work-place plans. Even a small increase at the start of the year can add up over time through the power of compounding.

### Review your spending and watch for lifestyle creep

Year-end also is a powerful time to revisit your spending habits. Pull up your credit card statements or budgeting app and look at where your money actually went this year.

Many families discover that small changes in daily spending, subscriptions or dining out have added up to more than expected. Tightening discretionary spending now can bring more breathing room in the new year and help you stay aligned with your longer-term goals.

### Review your investment allocations

Now is a great time to review your investment allocation and rebalance if needed.

Markets performed differently across sectors this year, especially with technology leading the way. Your portfolio may have drifted from its original target. Reviewing and rebalancing keeps your risk level aligned with your long-term goals.

If you have taxable investment accounts, you can tax loss harvest; which is simply selling an investment that has dropped in value since purchasing so you can use that loss to offset any gains you realized this year. This can lower the amount of tax you owe for 2025.



See GUEST, page 7A

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### GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

December 18 - 24



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
46° 19°	29° 19°	39° 26°	36° 23°	32° 28°	36° 10°	22° 31°
Rain	Snow Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
80%	50%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 7:56 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:56 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:03 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:04 pm

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

## 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.

### Restore order

#### To the Editor:

The Grosse Pointe Board of Education needs new leadership. But the more pressing question is for the Grosse Pointe Education Association (GPEA), the teachers union. What does the teachers' union really want from this board?

The GPEA endorsed five current trustees: Valerie St. John, Colleen Worden, Tim Klepp, Laura Hull and Clint Derringer. Laura Hull is a former member of the union. Clint Derringer's wife is a current member. These endorsements did

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Jody McVeigh



# The book is (almost) always better

Back in the '90s, shortly after I graduated college and before my first newspaper gig, I got a job at a video store called Suncoast, at Lakeside Mall. I remember my "interview" entailed being quizzed on movie trivia (I can't recall the question, but one of the answers was Nicholas Cage).

I also remember getting up early on Saturdays to be at the mall before it opened so I could count the drawer and straighten the shelves, which contained rows and rows of

movies on VHS tape. That job was fun, but when it was busy, it was BUSY. Did I mention I worked there around Christmastime? That little shop would be packed to the gills with people browsing the shelves, digging through movie-themed memorabilia and (im)patiently waiting in long, looping lines (I truly feel for any retail worker this time of year, though the most hectic holiday job I ever had was as a "jumper" for UPS, but that's another story for another time).

After the New Year, when Suncoast wasn't quite as busy, I'd pass the time watching whatever film happened to be playing on the wall-mounted TV across from the cash register. I even got to pick

said movie from time to time.

I've always liked watching movies, but never got into collecting them until that job. I couldn't resist the employee discount (a whopping 10 percent off) and right away bought a few classics: "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," "Caddyshack" and "Slap Shot" come to mind. After those first few purchases, my collection continued to grow — largely due to the discount bin at my neighborhood Blockbuster — as did my enjoyment of kicking back at home and watching a good movie.

A few months later, I landed my first newspaper job and got down to business, but whenever I craved the escape of a decent movie, I would put

to use my Blockbuster membership, more often than not bulking up my video collection as well.

Though my VHS tapes long ago were replaced with DVDs and Blu-Rays, and most of my movie watching these days happens via streaming services, one thing I miss about watching movies in the '90s is the previews. I discovered some of my favorite films watching the trailers leading up to the main attraction.

Much like my broad taste in music, the movie genres I enjoy run the gamut. I have favorites in comedy, horror, drama, and action. And just as my taste in music tends to favor lesser-known bands, some of my favorite films, too, are obscure, independent, lesser-known titles

(If you like music and bands and endings in which everything falls apart, I highly recommend "Hard Core Logo," an independent Canadian mockumentary directed by Bruce McDonald and distributed by Quentin Tarantino's Rolling Thunder Pictures. Where "This is Spinal Tap" brings humor to the mockumentary genre, "Hard Core Logo" shows its dark, dramatic side. Also, be advised: This is NOT a family-friendly film).

That said, as much as I love taking in a movie, the joy of reading has always eclipsed staring at a screen (Miss Ott awarded me Bookworm of the Year in fourth grade, I'll have you know). Movies come with visual limitations; books make imaginations

work overtime.

I have a mug that reads "The Book was Better." I often find that to be the case. I just read "Daisy Jones and The Six," which I thoroughly enjoyed, and followed it by watching the limited series on Netflix, which was good, but ... the book was better.

I've read plenty of books only to be disappointed by the movie. I was talked into buying the first few "Twilight" books, for example, and enjoyed them, but barely made it through the first film.

However, after watching and falling in love with "Hard Core Logo," I bought the 1993 book by Michael Turner on which it was based.

Turns out, the book isn't always better.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1950

75 years ago this week

**NEW HEAD OF SCHOOLS SELECTED:**

The Grosse Pointe Board of Education has unanimously selected James W. Bushong as superintendent of schools. He will succeed John R. Barnes, who is retiring on account of his health

on Jan. 1. **POLICE AND FIREMEN WILL ASK COUNCILS FOR SHORTER HOURS:** The Metropolitan Club of Grosse Pointe will be asked to petition the councils of four Grosse Pointe municipalities for a 40-hour work week for

all police departments. The petition would also seek to reduce the working hours for firemen.

### 1975

50 years ago this week

**CRIMES BY YOUNG JUMP:** The Youth Service Division reports it received a record high referral rate of cases for a monthly period (a 30-day month at that), in November when 88 offenses were forwarded for investigation. This was an increase of 25 over last November's total and a jump of 16 over this October's

amount.

### 2000

25 years ago this week

**TEACHERS TO JUMP IN ON LAPTOP DEAL:**

Teachers in the Grosse Pointe Public School System will be some of the first in the state to receive laptop computers and other computer-related equipment, thanks to Gov. John Engler's laptop project. The Grosse Pointe Board of Education signed a resolution in support of the laptop project, formally known as the Teacher Technology

Initiative, which is designed to give all participating teachers a laptop computer.

### 2015

10 years ago this week

**PROCLAMATION HONORS HILLER'S 44 YEARS:** On Jan. 3, 2016, 44 years to the day he first walked into the police station in Grosse Pointe Park, Chief David Hiller will retire. Mayor Robert Denner presented Hiller with an official proclamation from the city and thanked him for his years of service.

## GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

### Plan your travel early

And yes, winter arrived early this year and parts of the lake already are frozen. If you are like most Grosse Pointers considering a warm weather escape, this is one of the best times to book flights for mid-winter or spring break. Airlines often release new fare calendars and the earlier you plan, the more options you will find.

If you would like help reviewing your

portfolio, tax planning opportunities, or retirement strategy in the new year, please reach out.

Wishing you and your family a peaceful, joyful and financially confident start to 2026.

*Melissa Fradenburg, CDFP, AIF is a wealth advisor with Antonelli Financial Advisors in Grosse Pointe. The views expressed in this editorial are hers and do not necessarily reflect the views of Antonelli Financial Advisors. This article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered financial, legal or tax advice.*

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

not happen in a vacuum. Once the GPEA gave its approval, other advocacy groups quickly followed. The Alliance and the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club fell in line, and these candidates went on to win. The GPEA installed this board. They own its decisions, its direction and the leadership it chooses.

The actions of this board reflect directly on the GPEA. That means the teachers in our district need to consider whether they condone

what is happening. Do they support Colleen Worden's behavior toward Dr. Tuttle? The micromanagement, the drama, the lack of transparency? Do they believe this is helping students, staff or the district?

There are trustees who take the job seriously and want to see the board return to its proper role. It is time to let them lead.

Each January, the board votes to select its president. That role typically rotates every year. If Colleen Worden is selected again, it will not be routine. It will be a conscious decision. The GPEA will share responsibility for that outcome.

The union has influence. It is time they use it to help restore order. The district cannot afford another year like this one. That choice starts now.

**KRISTY ELLIS**  
Grosse Pointe Park

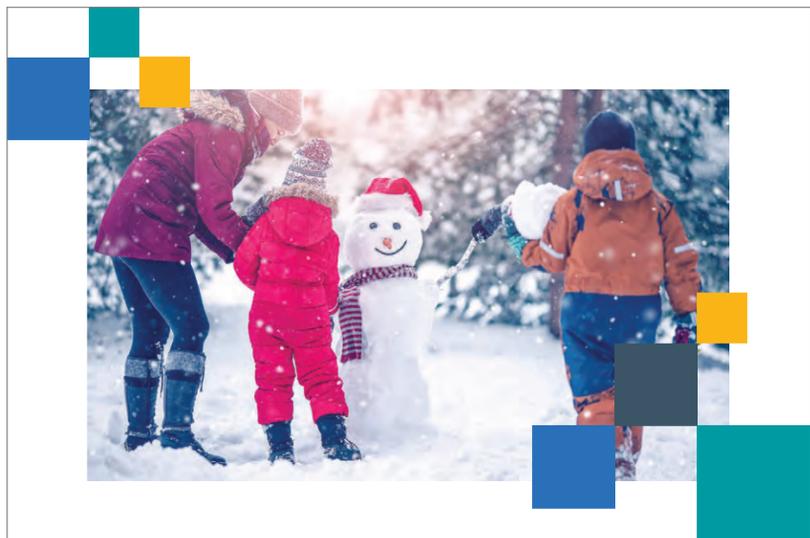
### Taken aback

**To the school board, superintendent:**

I was a bit taken aback that schools were closed today, Wednesday, Dec. 10, due to the rain and slush.

Big shout out to whoever decided inconvenience = emergency.

**LESLIE MILLER**  
Grosse Pointe Shores



## The real magic of the season—togetherness. Enjoy your holidays!

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# Police radios encrypted

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Everyone answers to somebody and the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety is obeying orders to modernize its inventory of hand-held radios. Doing so costs \$108,582 and puts the city in league with others statewide. “The (Michigan) Criminal Justice Information System came out with a mandate that, effective October 2026, all public safety land and mobile radios have to be encrypted on

encrypted channels,” Park Chief Jim Bostock said. “Basically, any personal or criminal information given or received over the radio must be on an encrypted channel.” New radios were needed because the department’s current hand-held, or prep, radios, were too old for updating. “We’ve done our best to make our equipment last, almost to a fault,” Bostock said. “The good news was our in-car radios were new enough that we’re able to do a software upgrade and they were able to be encrypted.”

In-car radios were altered to new standards earlier this year. The city had a restricted list of radio suppliers from which to choose. “The state regulates which radios can be used by public safety departments,” Bostock said. “They include big names, like Motorola and Kenwood. Quotes were received from both.” Kenwood, via Spectrum Wireless, came out on top with the lower bid of \$109,000 for 22 prep radios and six mobile radios for use by detectives and in fire trucks. Motorola wanted

\$209,000. “Spectrum Wireless is a local vendor out of St. Clair Shores and their pricing is based on the state contract,” Bostock said. “Several local municipalities, including St. Clair Shores, have changed over to the Kenwood platform and it has been seamless.” City council members approved the agreement unanimously Dec. 8. “We wanted to do this sooner, but for budgeting reasons we had to delay,” Councilman Max Wiener said. “Our current radio system is going on 15 years old,” Bostock said.

# City audit receives unmodified opinion

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — As is the norm, the City of Grosse Pointe received an unmodified opinion, the cleanest possible, for its fiscal year 2024-25 audit, which was presented to city council in November. In total, the City saw \$7,548,038 in revenue between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, as well as \$7,611,075 in expenditures. Property tax revenue, from which the city gains the majority of its revenue, increased to \$5,486,344, over \$5,157,460 last year, due to taxable value increasing from \$438 million to \$467 million. At the same time, the city received significantly less federal and state revenue — \$792,167, compared to last year’s \$1,238,431 — given the prior fiscal year included ARPA and FEMA funding. The city’s auditors, with Plante Moran, noted it is typical for federal funds to fluctuate year over year when it comes to one-time grants. Locally raised revenue remained relatively consistent with the prior year, while the city experienced continued increases to its investment income. Starting with a loss of \$72,747 in the red in 2022, the investment income then rose to a net positive of \$17,967 in 2023, \$68,906 in 2024, and now \$137,949 in 2025. “The increase here is just due to the fact that the city now has monies in an interest-bearing account,” said Dean Hewines with Plante Moran of the increase over last year, “so it’s earning about 1.65 percent of the monies, which resulted obviously in an increase in investment income.” General fund expenditures in governmental services remained relatively consistent, with a minor increase over the prior year due to an increase in salaries and

wages, as well as liability and insurance costs. While the public safety department made less equipment purchases this year, the slight decrease was offset by the increase in salaries and wages. The trend continued down the line with an increase in expenditures through the recreation department also due to salaries and wages, but specifically in regard to minimum wage raises for applicable employees. The public works department remained consistent with expenditures year over year. Transfers out from the general fund increased from \$263,258 the prior year to \$503,258, which can be attributed to monies moving from the general fund to the capital projects fund to cover various projects throughout the city. “There’s a (concerted) effort by staff to not spend more than they had to,” City Manager Joe Valentine said, “so I want to acknowledge that, but going forward, we’re going to overlay this, obviously, with the liabilities we have for the future and that always changes the picture somewhat. “So while we’re doing good year to year, we still have a forecast for the future that we need to deal with. And we’ll be obviously talking more about strategies going forward to optimize our position for the future.” When it comes to the city’s enterprise funds — self-sustaining city services via user fees — the automobile parking fund has been front of mind since experiencing a \$532,951 deficit in 2024, off the back of the CVS lot reconstruction and decorative entrance arches added to city lots. At the time, the state required the city to file a deficit elimination plan, which appears to be working successfully. “The automobile (fund) actually had positive cash flows this year, right around \$50,000,”

# Latest commission appointments

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — As the year comes to an end, the city’s roster of commissioners and committee members is set for the 12 months to come. Slots were rounded out this month. Mayor Michele Hodges made the nominations Dec. 8. “Considerable thought was put into this,” she said. Members of city council supported without dissent.

**Beautification**  
Of two new appointments to the beautification commission, one filled an opening created by the resignation of Nicholas Gwozdz. The other plugged an opening that

existed for a while. New members are Lindsay Winn and Chris Danel. Reappointed to the commission were Pat Deck, Kelly Konieczki and Barbara Miller. All are three-year terms except for Winn. She’ll conclude Gwozdz’s term ending in 2027. Winn volunteers for the Friends of the Patterson Park Garden Club, Wild Ones of Wayne County and more. Danel, a business student at Wayne State University, owns a seasonal garden design company. Continuing members are Chairwoman Lisa Kyle, Vice Chairwoman Cheryl Gauss, Secretary Shellie Hansen and members Anne Billiu, Armen Gulian, Jim Creighton, Sharon

Pierce, city council liaison Councilman Brent Dreaver and staff liaison Public Works Director Tom Jenny.

**Recreation**  
Also accepted unanimously were reappointments to the recreation commission: Terry Ayrault, Roger Basse, Howard Bouton and Paul Spratt. All are three-year terms. Continuing members are Chairman Michael Hindelang and members Michael Bannon, James Ceuninck, Paul O’Donnell, Larry Haggart, city council liaison Councilman Tom Caulfield and Director of Parks and Recreation Chad Craig.

# Council appointments for 2026

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Now that voters reconstituted the city council, however slightly, with re-elections last month of the mayor, two councilmen and a newcomer, Mayor Michele Hodges assigned committee appointments for the coming year.

- ◆ One committee with which she didn’t have to bother was the ordinance committee. Members completed their update of municipal regulations more than a year ago and effectively disbanded, a dormancy Hodges felt proper to make permanent.
- ◆ She made the appointments, to which council members agreed unanimously, Monday, Dec. 8.
- ◆ Active Adult Commission, Michele Hodges.
- ◆ Beautification Committee, Brent Dreaver, liaison.
- ◆ Community Engagement, Tim Kolar, chairman; Brent Dreaver and Patrick Gleason, members.
- ◆ Downtown Development Authority, Michele Hodges, member.
- ◆ Finance Committee, Chairman Tom Caulfield

- and member Tim Kolar.
  - ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Business Association, Max Wiener, liaison.
  - ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, Tom Caulfield.
  - ◆ Infrastructure Committee, Chairman Max Wiener, member Marty McMillan and liaison Tom Caulfield.
  - ◆ Jefferson East Inc. and Eastside Community Network, Michele Hodges, liaison.
  - ◆ Michigan Municipal League, Tim Kolar, liaison.
  - ◆ Personnel Committee, Chairman Marty McMillan, member
- See APPOINT, page 9A

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**COURT:**  
Continued from page 5A

tive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, in late November. She was fined \$100.

Terms of her bond include no drinking alcohol, using marijuana or non-prescription medication; submitting to drug and alcohol testing twice a week; wearing a GPS monitor; no posses-

sion of a firearm and no contact with the victim. Wilkins told Judge Theodore Metry she has cut back on her use of marijuana but has not stopped completely and that she does not have a

medical marijuana card. “I don’t care if it is legal,” Metry said. “If you want to use it, it’s up to you. You’re an adult. But if you test positive again, you’re going to jail.”

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# GPFPE announces fall grants

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education announced nearly \$70,000 in grants during the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Monday, Dec. 8.

“We are built on the belief that strong communities are intrinsically linked with strong schools,” GPFPE Secretary Caroline Marks told the board during her presentation. The foundation awarded \$95,000 during

its spring cycle. Since its founding in 2007, GPFPE has awarded more than \$4.8 million to the district.

The largest single grant was for \$10,000 to construct an outdoor obstacle course at Pierce Middle School.

Other grants were:  
 ◆ Sensory corner for emotional regulation, social interaction and cognitive and motor development, Barnes Early Childhood Center, \$8,000  
 ◆ iPads, Barnes, \$6,508

◆ Cook Schoolhouse field trips, all elementary schools, \$1,182, (using monies from the Lois J. Warden Fund)  
 ◆ Safety Patrol supplies, Maire Elementary School, \$327  
 ◆ Stand-up desks, Richard Elementary School, \$1,928  
 ◆ Author presentation on the Vietnam War, all middle schools, \$2,000  
 ◆ Mobile speaker for lunchroom and playground, Parcels Middle School, \$520  
 ◆ Math whiteboard

◆ iPads for PSAT/SAT math practice, North, \$3,530  
 ◆ Music technology lab, South, \$9,000  
 ◆ Future City High School, South, \$375  
 ◆ Safety eyewear sterilization cabinet, South, \$1,585  
 ◆ Touchscreen devices for special needs students, North, \$3,991  
 ◆ Therapy dog insurance, Barnes, \$470  
 ◆ Therapy dog insurance, Pierce, \$380  
 ◆ Student-led club for mental health and wellness, South, \$380  
 ◆ Student-led club to support students with disabilities, North,

kits, Pierce, \$576

◆ Underwater speaker system, GP Unified Blue Dolphins high school synchronized swim team, \$1,930  
 ◆ Drumline equipment, Parcels and Grosse Pointe North High School, \$2,000  
 ◆ General assistance for The Gearheads, North and Grosse Pointe South High School, \$2,500  
 ◆ Library books, North, \$148  
 ◆ Shoe marketing project, North, \$2,200

◆ Library Care Closet, North, \$1,329  
 ◆ Autism Spectrum Disorder materials, Kerby Elementary School, \$2,500  
 “The GPFPE’s mission is to provide extraordinary opportunities for GPPSS students at every grade and learning level,” said Cynthia Sohn, GPFPE president. “We believe this cycle of grants will further that mission, inspiring a love of learning in and outside of the classroom.”  
 The deadline for the next grant cycle is March 1, 2026. Visit [gpfpe.org](http://gpfpe.org) for more information.

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Left, from left, Lilah Page, Audrey Walters, Ellington Surowski and Eleanor Larson pose with some swags. Below, Max Krease and his dad, Kevin Krease, assemble a reindeer out of birchwood.

COURTESY PHOTOS



A handful of Maire students, including Liam Spayth, Benjamin Krease, Hugo Larson, Wesley Powell, Max Krease, Louis Mucherie, Nora Powell and Zella Gallery, enjoy making crafts at their school.

## Christmas crafting

Maire Elementary School recently hosted its annual holiday craft day, inviting Maire students to come in on a Saturday to make fun holiday crafts, with help from parent volunteers.

While all grades are involved in the craft, a yearly tradition for fourth graders is making birchwood reindeer, which Grosse Pointers may see around front yards and porches during the holidays.

This year, the fourth grade class also assembled holiday swags made with branches from Maire trees. The class sold the swags to raise money for their fourth-grade gift to the school.



## OPINION:

Continued from page 8A

Hewines said, “... so (the deficit) will soon be eliminated.”

On the other end of the spectrum, the City’s pension fund rests more than comfortably at 101.61 percent funded.

“As of 2025, you’re actually overfunded and you have more assets than the actuary’s projecting the liability, which is great,” said Spencer Tawa, principal with Plante Moran. “A lot of cities cannot say that.” That said, the city’s

necessary contributions to keep the plan so well-funded have been increasing rather exponentially year over year.

In 2023, the city’s contribution was \$70,000, followed by a \$195,000 contribution in 2024, more than \$230,000 this year and an anticipated close to \$400,000 contribution next fiscal year.

“While you do have a very well-funded plan, there’s still contributions that are going to need to be made in future years to continue keeping that plan funded very well,” Tawa noted.

The city continues to

use a pay-as-you-go approach to its OPEB — retiree healthcare — funding, meaning it budgets annually for the amount needed to cover that year.

This means the fund is only 15.7 percent funded, though it’s slowly increasing from 7.7 percent in 2021.

“There’s about \$400,000 or \$500,000 that are made in contributions each year to the OPEB plan,” Tawa said. “The city does do a nice job of ensuring those contributions do cover at least benefits and administrative expenses, but (it’s)

something to project out as well as continue to go through as this is a significant expenditure for the city.”

The audit team had only good things to say about working with city administrators and staff on this year’s audit.

“We started this audit at the end of September, early October, and we’re here presenting early November,” Tawa said, “so that’s a testament to the quality of the information we’re given and the books and the responsiveness as well.”

## APPOINT:

Continued from page 8A

bers Brent Dreaver and Max Wiener, and special consultants Tom Caulfield and Michele Hodges.

◆ Planning Commission, Michele Hodges.

◆ Public Safety Committee, Chairman Marty McMillan and

member Tim Kolar.  
 ◆ Recreation Committee, Patrick Gleason, liaison.

◆ Recreation Committee Marina Subcommittee, Tom Caulfield, liaison.

◆ EMCOG, Patrick Gleason, liaison.

◆ Trombly Elementary School and Board of Education, member Michele Hodges and Tom Caulfield.

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10A | SCHOOLS

# Albom first to the dais for Liggett speaker series

Acclaimed author, journalist and philanthropist Mitch Albom served as the first speaker of the newly formed Honor Wallace '22 Memorial Speaker Series, established by the Wallace family, in partnership with University Liggett School.

The series honors the life and legacy of Honor Wallace, a Class of '22 Liggett graduate who was killed by a drunken driver in 2023.

"The University of Liggett speaker series is

a beautiful and fitting forum to remember Honor and to share her passions for knowledge and inspiring others," said her father, David Wallace, who spoke about his daughter during the inaugural event, which took place Oct 23.

Albom spoke about his new book, "Twice," the theme of which is second chances. The novel follows the life of Alfie Logan, who discovers he has special powers to "undo" and relive any moment of his life.

Albom asked attend-

ees how many of them have said, "I wish I could do it over."

He said when he's asked people if they could go back and redo something from their pasts, many said they would change how a loved one died. He said his "twice" moment was when he learned to turn his grief into gratitude.

He also spoke about his New York Times Best Seller, "Tuesdays with Morrie," as well as the charities he's started and his relief efforts in Haiti.



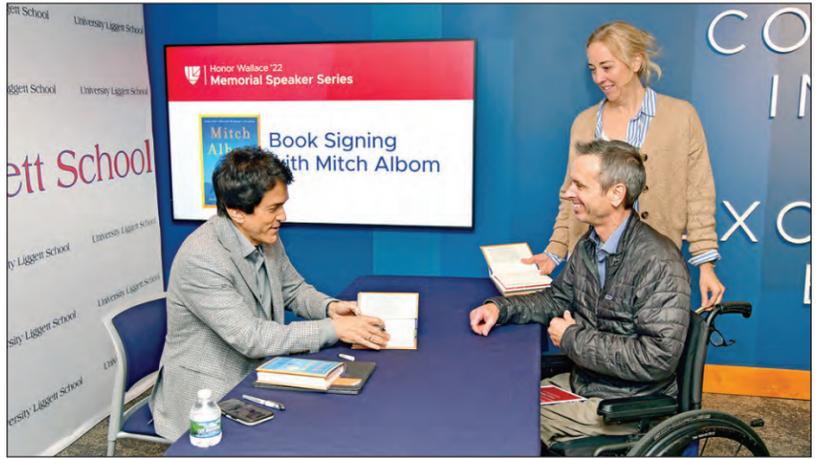
Honor Wallace's parents, Caroline and David Wallace, with author, journalist and philanthropist, Mitch Albom.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Above, Mitch Albom talks about his newest book, "Twice," which is a story about second chances. Right, Christina and Tom Michaud get their book signed by Mitch Albom.

David Wallace talks about his daughter, Honor, who graduated from Liggett in 2022 and was killed by a drunken driver running a red light the following year when she was at college in Dallas, Texas.



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## Mini Picassos going back to its roots

### Studio closed, but programs still available

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

It was a difficult decision for Katy Wereley to make, but once it was made, a tremendous weight lifted from her shoulders.

“We’re closing our brick-and-mortar studio,” the Mini Picassos owner said. “We’re going back to our roots with our camps and workshops.”

Mini Picassos’ roots go back to 2015, when Wereley and her mother, Heather Brush, began offering art projects and workshops to young children. For a while programs were housed at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, then moved to a studio in Harper Woods before finding its most recent home on Harper in St. Clair Shores.

Wereley and Mini Picassos have faced their fair share of challenges the last decade, from the pandemic nearly closing the studio in 2021, to her mother’s cancer diagnosis the same year and Wereley’s own cancer diagnosis in 2024.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Katy Wereley stands in the Harper Avenue storefront, shortly after securing the building as the new home of Mini Picassos in 2022.**

Earlier this year, Wereley was declared cancer-free, but the treatments she endured have left a lasting mark. Hence, the closing of her studio.

“I need to take care of

my mental and physical health after being really sick,” she said. “The studio is a lot of work. ... The side effects from my cancer make it challenging to have a brick and mortar. It was becoming

a lot. I really love what I do, but the studio just added another element of stress. Having a building was fine in the beginning, but when I got sick, it became extremely more challenging.”

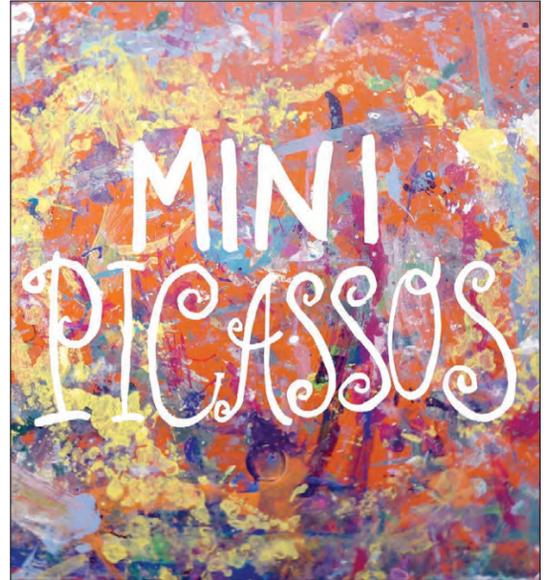
Though the doors are closing on the Harper Avenue storefront, much of the programming offered through Mini Picassos will carry on.

“We’ll have all the same programs, but there will be no drop-in art classes or birthday parties,” she said, adding that birthday party to-go kits will continue to be offered.

Starting in January, Mini Picassos programs will be offered in several locations, including its very first home, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

“Our toddler art classes will be there and we’ll have our winter camps there,” Wereley said.

The War Memorial,



Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center and Grosse Pointe Park also have reached out to host programs.

“There are places and people who really want to help,” she added.

Among those people are staff members who lead classes, camps and workshops.

“I have people to help me teach,” she said. “I also have two high school helpers and my mom, Miss Heather, helps too.”

“If I need to take a month off, I have that flexibility,” she said. “And the kids are so understanding. They might not know what I went through, though some of them do. Some days I tell them I need to sit in the roller chair today and they say, ‘OK, Miss Katy.’”

Wereley thanked Mini Picassos families for continuing to support her and the job she loves.

“You guys get me through the tough days,” she said. “Your support and love and understanding of everything makes all the difference. This is such a great group of people and it’s a community we all built together.”

“The Art After School

kids have a special spot in my heart,” she added. “They really do take care of me. It’s quite beautiful.

Mini Picassos and Art After School are a pretty magical group of kids. ... I love what I do; I love it.

It doesn’t feel like work. I look forward to those classes.”

Wereley said she hopes by offering programming throughout the community, more people will be exposed to Mini Picassos and all it offers. For those sad to see the storefront go, she assured them, “We’re not going anywhere.”

“If anything, you’ll see more of us — more fun and creativity,” she added. “We’re going back to our roots. We’re going to be all over, but this will just be a lot easier for me. I need to take care of my health and my family.”

Locations interested in hosting Mini Picassos classes or workshops are invited to contact Wereley at [mini.picassos.gp@gmail.com](mailto:mini.picassos.gp@gmail.com) or (313) 283-6710.

“I have a couple of teachers who would love to do more,” she said. “I want to build a bigger community so we can be all over.”



**Above, Mini Picassos students hard at work. Below, Wereley’s well-used Mini Picassos studio is closing, but its programming will continue at various venues throughout the community.**



FILE PHOTO

**Wereley and her mother, Heather Brush, in the early days of Mini Picassos.**

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# Park presents beautification awards

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

Fran Rolstrom digs gardening.

"It's not work if you enjoy it," she said. "I enjoy planting things and watching them grow, seeing them spread and being able to share what has spread and grown with my friends and neighbors."

Rolstrom and nearly 40 other property owners or representatives received Beautification Awards last week from the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission.

"We're grateful to you for making the Grosse Pointe Park community look so beautiful," Commissioner Pat Deck, organizer of the award nomination and selection process, said during an awards banquet Nov. 13 at Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park. "This is a great community in large part because of all the hard work you've put into your property."

"We've been working on this since June," Chairwoman Lisa Kyle said. "We canvassed every street in the city nominating beautiful homes for this well-deserved award."

Recipients included the return of Paul VanTol. Last year, he received a Civic Award for donating 100 sycamore trees to the city. This year, he received the Mayor's Award for continued donation of trees he grew and transplanted on land in Macomb County.

"I like to plant trees," VanTol said. "It's pretty simple."

He intends to donate London plane trees for planting next spring in the reconstructed traffic islands on Jefferson near the city limits. He didn't plant them this fall due to the drought. Transplanting trees during droughts overstresses trees.

Rolstrom said she's honored to receive an award, but doesn't toil in the garden with that as a goal.

"I love it when I'm in the garden and people walk by and say, 'I love seeing your garden,'" she said. "That's really the award we get."

If a plant fails, there's always next year.

"If they don't grow,



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

The annual Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission Beautification Awards ceremony at Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park, Nov. 13, began with a banquet catered at half the market rate by Hansen Catering, owned by the daughter of Commissioner Shellie Hansen.

they don't grow," Rolstrom said. "They're not my children. I don't have to save them all. If something doesn't work out, oh well."

Winners and judges' comments are:

## Residential

◆ 1368 Beaconsfield, Archie and Denise Partsalimis. "A bright, white front door and window frames provide a fresh feel, while the richly-colored, red umbrella provides a bold splash of color that draws the eye."

◆ 1349 Lakepointe, Kellie Danel and Chris Danel. "Lovely flower pots adorned with leaves in deep purple, and distinctive metal lighting surrounding the door, lends an elegant touch to this cottage-style home."

◆ 1242 Maryland, Heather St. John. "Cheerful is the word that best describes this beautiful home! The pink and white color scheme is reflected in the hanging pots above the porch, both dripping with blooms and foliage."

◆ 891 Nottingham, Michael and Ellen Doyle. "Spiked foliage, reminiscent of flowering spring bulbs, add texture and height alongside smaller shrubs just inside the border."

◆ 965 Beaconsfield,

James and Patricia Davis. "An absolutely delightful front facade graces this lovely home. Eye-catching in black and white, with a stunning yet whimsical landscape ... touches of whimsy include quaint, aluminum watering cans and colorful rain boots stuffed with impatiens along the border and on the porch steps. A true delight!"

◆ 735 Berkshire, Elizabeth Hurford. "It's the side lot that takes center stage, featuring several raised garden beds including a large metal arch trellis."

◆ 982 Lakepointe, Erin and Kyle Humphrey. "A bright yellow wreath, displayed on the front door, welcomes visitors and brings attention to its arched doorway and flared brick accents."

◆ 15200 Windmill Pointe, Matthew and Cassandra Burzynski. "Decorative brick, leaded glass, copper downspouts and dark wooden beams give this home an elegant appeal. Until recently, this gorgeous home was hidden; leaving passersby to wonder what lay beyond the overgrown landscaping. The secret is out; this recently restored home is a jewel of the Park."

◆ 717 Middlesex, Richard and Mary Trost.

"The side garden bed is host to hellebores which delight in the winter months, as well as heucheras, astilbe, epimedium and specialty hostas."

◆ 555 Barrington, David and Ann Ottenhoff. "A Mondrian-style stained glass piece fills the large picture window accentuating this artful home."

◆ 825 Edgemont Park, Anton and Nancy Tewes. "This charming Tudor-style home is nestled in a serene, storybook setting. Layered planting beds of pachysandras and beautiful hydrangeas in bloom create billowing large mounds in shades of soft blue pink and white."

◆ 906 Park Lane, Norma Eschenburg. "The planting focus is on specimen foliage and soft flowering shrubs: a striking, burgundy Japanese maple commands the front corner, providing a powerful deep-red accent against the cool gray of the house."

◆ 935 Three Mile Drive, Mona Simoncini. "Large-scale, mass planting establishes the garden's primary textural theme. The structure is nestled within a backdrop of mature, dense trees, which provide a deep, verdant frame for the entire scene."

◆ 845 Trombley, Robin

Johnson. "This impressive Tudor Revival showcases a harmonious blend of classic architecture and lush, layered landscaping. The landscape design is equally sophisticated, employing curved stone retaining walls to create tiered, raised garden beds that soften the slope of the lawn."

◆ 797 Trombley, Joseph and Jennifer Lenglet. "The entrance is flanked by large, well-established hydrangeas with white and pale green blooms, providing height and lush texture. The overall effect is one of established elegance and careful maintenance, where the landscape acts as an intentional frame for the stately brick architecture."

◆ 1148 Audubon, Mario and Alison Pacifici. "A delightful wrought-iron-style arbor covered in climbing vines frames the front entrance, drawing the eye to the bright white front door."

◆ 16001 E. Jefferson, Victor and Cristine Broccoli. "A focal point in the expansive lawn is the weeping ornamental tree, expertly pruned above a meticulously designed island bed filled with a vibrant wave of red and pink annuals."

◆ 1018 Three Mile Drive, John and Susan

Entenman. "Mature, pyramidal evergreens and other large shade trees symmetrically frame the house, providing a sense of depth and privacy. The landscape design beautifully complements the home's traditional aesthetic."

◆ 1148 Three Mile Drive, Curt and Fran Ralstrom. "The true highlight of this property is the stunning, expansive garden that sprawls across the foreground. It is a vibrant tapestry of perennials and annuals, boasting a kaleidoscope of colors and textures. Various shades of green foliage from shrubs and hostas provide a rich backdrop, ensuring visual interest throughout the growing season. This garden is clearly a labor of love, designed to create a dynamic and breathtaking display of natural beauty, perfectly complementing the traditional elegance of the home."

◆ 1043 Berkshire, Elias and Brenda Majoros. "A dramatic weeping Japanese maple serves as a focal point in the foreground, its deep burgundy foliage offering a beautiful contrast to the white trim and green shrubs. The established lawn and canopy of mature trees complete the scene."

◆ 1311 Devonshire, Darrin and Jody Bruce. "While the house is brick, stonework highlights the front door along with two stone pedestals on each side of the steps topped with flowering pots. To the left side, an American flag provides a visual balance to the cranes. Shade loving impatiens draw the eye to this side of the house showing its decorative archway."

◆ 1336 Three Mile Drive, Courtney Morgan. "A perennial showhouse with meticulously groomed grounds. Outstanding features of the house are its stone exterior, red tile roof, numerous arches and red awnings. A winding walkway leads to a side entrance where a lovely Japanese maple and a weeping tree are planted."

◆ 1310 Harvard, Ryan and Stacey Allemon. "Symmetrical front beds on either side of the walkway contain an

See BEAUTY, page 6B

## AREA ACTIVITIES

### East Village

The East Village Holiday Market — a collaboration between Vesey Lane Goods, Redesign and Restoration, Grandeur Cru Wine Shop, Moonlight Arts Collective and Grand Trolley — takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, through Dec. 20. Each five-hour tour starts with shopping at the David Sidney Building, 9916 Kercheval, Detroit, and continues to other businesses and art centers in East Village. Trolley tours take place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. A complimentary cup of hot chocolate, tea or coffee, a 5-ounce glass of wine and a thank-you card are included with each ticket, which

may be purchased online at [tinyurl.com/yej5mpm8](http://tinyurl.com/yej5mpm8).

### Shaw's Books

Shaw's Books, 14932 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, hosts its 16th annual Holiday Book Sale 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, through Dec. 28. All books, ephemera, prints, maps, posters and other paper collectibles — more than 25,000 unique items — are 20 percent off during the sale. Call (313) 824-4932.

### POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during December. To sign up for the following, visit [mutualadoration.com](http://mutualadoration.com):

◆ Littlest Giant Jewelry

pop-up shop, 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18.

◆ Ashwelle Fiber Works pop-up shop, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19.

◆ Black Cat Pottery pop-up shop, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20.

◆ Drop-in Workshop: Dog Bandanas, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. Cost is \$25.

◆ Alchemy Slow Living pop-up shop, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

◆ Tree Trunk Arts pop-up shop, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

◆ Sewing Machine Essentials Workshop: Scrunchies, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27. Cost is \$75.

◆ Sewing Workshop: Crossbody Bags, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28. Cost is \$120.

### The Helm

The Helm at the Boll

See EVENTS, page 3B



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

## Songs of the season

The Regina Choral Ensemble made its annual visit to Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores for the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary morning meeting Tuesday, Dec. 9. The choral group, under the direction of Eleonore Ellero, performed Christmas carols, much to the delight of the attendees. Ellero, the performing arts director at Regina High School, also accepted a donation for the ensemble from Sunrise Rotary. A local community-service and fellowship club, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to join its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House. For more information, contact the club at [dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com).

Diane Strickler's children flew in from around the state and out of the country for the event. From left are her husband, Ron; daughters, Wendy and Laura; Diane Strickler; and daughter, Lynne.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Diane Strickler, The Family Center founder, speaks about what this honor means to her.

## Hollyfest celebrates Strickler

The Family Center celebrated 25 years of serving the community with its annual Hollyfest party Nov. 20, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The event included a cocktail reception, dinner, live music, a live auction and an afterglow. Additionally, Diane Strickler, who founded the organization out of concern about the challenges and loneliness new parents face, was recognized. The Family Center hosts or participates in more than 100 programs each year and during 2025, program attendance grew by 46 percent. Today, the organization serves 62,000 residents and nine school systems, representing 13,200 students.

From left, Dennis Karic, associate provost for Wayne County Community College's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center; Mark Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House; and Sheri Testani, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce board member.



Left, from left, MaryJo Harris, Family Center director of programs and administration; Diane Strickler, Family Center founder; and Family Center Executive Director Jennifer Bingaman. Right, Dan and Cindy LaLonde stand with Maria Miller, president and CEO of The War Memorial. The LaLondes, owners of LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists on The Hill, donated a necklace for the raffle.



From left, Grosse Pointe Farms Councilwoman Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Farms City Manager Shane Reeside and Farms Councilwoman Sierra Donaven, also a member of The Family Center board.



Family Center board member Megan Gunnell, left, and Jill Campbell bid on auction items.

## EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

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 "Christmas with the Kranks" is shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

- ◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. The group is going to Cracker Barrel, Roseville. Bus transportation is \$6 for members, \$8 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.

### 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

- ◆ Merry & Bright Holiday Dinner, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$75 for dinner and the concert, \$20 for the concert only.

- ◆ Candlelight: The Wizard of Oz — A Classical Concert, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Tickets range from \$50 to \$73.50.

- ◆ Candlelight: Tribute to Queen and The Beatles, 8:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec 21. Tickets range from \$51 to \$73.50.

- ◆ Candlelight: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, 8:45 pm. Tuesday, Dec. 23. Tickets range from \$50.50 to \$69.

- ◆ War Memorial History Tour, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8.

### Library

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

- ◆ 1,000 Hours Outside Year-End Solstice Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Brave Belle's Book Club, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Holiday Teen Movie Night: "Home Alone," 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Holiday Candles and Karaoke, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at

Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Christmas Crafting, 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Crafterhours — Adults, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Christmas PJ Storytime, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Drop-in Movie: "Olaf's Frozen Adventure," 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

### Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

- ◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21, St. Margaret Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, Fraternal Order of the Eagles, 23631 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

- ◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

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

### 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 Dec. 21. Admission costs vary.

- ◆ Christmas Concert Over the Cove, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. Tickets are \$75 for Friends, \$90 for the public.

- ◆ Brunch with Santa, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Costs vary.

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

### Concert

Planet D Nonet takes the stage for its 18th annual holiday show at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. Book a seat at [tinyurl.com/2sw96jnp](http://tinyurl.com/2sw96jnp).

### 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. For more information, 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](http://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.

**Savvy Chic Holiday Hours**

Saturdays (until 12/20)	10AM-6PM
12/21	10AM-4PM
12/22 & 12/23	10AM-8PM
CHRISTMAS EVE	10AM-3PM
CHRISTMAS	CLOSED
12/26 & 12/27	11AM-4PM
12/28	12-4PM
12/29 & 12/30	11AM-4PM
NYE	10AM-3PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY	CLOSED
1/2 & 1/3	11AM-4PM



Join Grosse Pointe Memorial Church this holiday season as we await the arrival of Jesus our Savior!

**Wednesday, December 24**

12:00 pm  
*Christmas Eve Service*

5:00 pm\*  
*Family Service (Childcare available)*

7:30\* and 10:00 pm  
*Candlelit Service with Full Choir and Brass*

\*If you can't join us in person, tune in to our livestream services.  
Visit our YouTube channel at [gpmchurch.org](http://gpmchurch.org)

GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH  
"A light by the lakeshore"  
16 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
313.882.5330 | [gpmchurch.org](http://gpmchurch.org)

## 4B | OBITUARIES

# OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

## Mary Elizabeth Cirocco

Mary Elizabeth Cirocco, 68, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, at home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

She was born Feb. 15, 1957, in Detroit, to John V. and Sue Ghindia, both now deceased. Mary Beth was the beloved wife of 43 years to Terrance "Terry." She also was the loving mother of Colleen and Emily; dear sister of George Ghindia (Cheryl), Suzanne Robertson (Mark), Janet Ghindia and John R. Ghindia; sister-in-law of Alan Cirocco (Patricia) and William Cirocco (Susan); and devoted, loving companion of her loyal dog, Cannoli. She also is survived by many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Mary Beth was raised in Ecorse and Trenton and was a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms for 38 years. In her youth, she enjoyed playing competitive hockey and tennis. She also enjoyed ice skating with her family.

Mary Beth was a graduate of Trenton High School and earned a degree in political science from Wayne State University. She then attended Detroit College of Law, where she met the love of her life, Terry Cirocco. Mary Beth passed the Michigan Bar Exam and practiced at Sachs Waldman PC in Detroit, where she specialized in labor law. She also worked for Judge Audrey Stroia, District 33.

Mary Beth and Terry enjoyed supporting the Grosse Pointe South High School band, in which their daughters, Colleen and Emily, performed. Mary Beth also was an aficionado of classic rock and Motown music. She and Terry

traveled all over Michigan and the U.S. and loved the Detroit Red Wings, Tigers, Lions and Pistons and University of Michigan football. Mary Beth received sacraments at St. Francis Xavier in Ecorse and attended Mass at St. Philomena Catholic Parish in Detroit.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Dec. 16, with a prayer service and procession from the funeral home to Woodmere Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Michigan Humane, 2937 E. Grand Blvd., Ste. 800, Detroit, MI 48202, bit.ly/3YIVPCS. Share a memory at martenson.com.

## James "Jim" Seymour Goulding

James "Jim" Seymour Goulding, 94, a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 8, 2025. He was a beloved husband, brother, uncle and respected member of the legal community.

Born Aug. 13, 1931, Jim lived a long and remarkable life marked by service, discipline, sharp intellect and unwavering commitment to his family and profession.

Raised in Detroit, Jim proudly served in the U.S. Coast Guard, traveling overseas and gaining a broader perspective of the world that shaped his sense of duty and purpose. Upon returning home, he served with the Detroit Police Department in his early career, where he developed a lasting appreciation for justice and the rule of law.

Determined to continue his service in a new capacity, Jim dedicated himself to furthering his education. He earned a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1965, from the University of Detroit and

received a Juris Doctor degree June 5, 1968, also from U of D. He put himself through law school with steadfast determination, balancing work and studies with quiet perseverance.

Jim went on to build a distinguished legal career that spanned more than six decades. He practiced well into his 90s, continuing to consult on cases long after others had retired — driven not by obligation, but by genuine dedication to the work and those who sought his counsel. Serious-minded and thoughtful, Jim was known for his calm reasoning and ability to find clarity in complexity. On occasion, he wielded a dry and perfectly timed sense of sarcasm that reminded those around him that wisdom and humor can coexist.

The great joy of Jim's life was his marriage to Barbara, the love of his life and his partner for 64 beautiful years. Their marriage was defined by mutual respect, shared values and unwavering devotion. Barbara predeceased Jim Nov. 22, 2023. It brings their family comfort to know they are reunited.

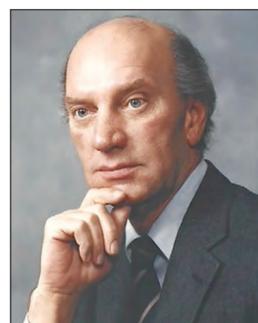
Jim will be remembered by all who knew him for his integrity, disciplined mind, dedication to the law and the steady strength he offered to family, friends and colleagues. He leaves behind nieces, nephews, extended family and many who valued his guidance and presence throughout their lives.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at Resurrection Cemetery, 18201 Clinton River, Clinton Township. James and Barbara will be laid to rest side by side, reunited in their final resting place.

In lieu of flowers,



Mary Elizabeth Cirocco



James S. Goulding



Theresa Crowley Logie

memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3K6FsFQ; or Shriners Children's, 2900 N. Rocky Point, Tampa, FL 33607, bit.ly/49dsSOY.

## Theresa Crowley Logie

Theresa Crowley Logie, 59, passed away Friday, Dec. 12, 2025. Theresa was born Feb. 6, 1966, in Detroit, to Paul and Peggy Crowley, and was raised in Warren.

On Oct. 12, 1991, Theresa married her loving and devoted husband, Michael Nicholas Logie. Together they shared 34 years of marriage rooted in love, partnership and unwavering support. They began their life together in Center Line and two and a half years later moved to Warren, where they built their family and made their home. Theresa was a lifelong parishioner of St. Malachy Catholic Church, a place that held deep meaning for her. She faithfully served her parish as a lector for seven years, a role she embraced with humility and devotion.

She was the loving wife of 34 years to Michael Logie; beloved mother of Nicholas Logie (Andrea), Mason Logie (Briana) and Samuel Logie (Sue); beloved daughter-in-law of Bernadine Logie; proud grandmother of Mikaela, Frejia, Maeva and Lainey Mae Logie; cherished daughter of Paul and Peggy Crowley; dear sister of Helen Cannon (Dane), Peggy Rode (Greg) and Joe Crowley (Susan); childhood friend of Kathy Hungerford and best friend of Manuela Anderson, with whom she worked.

Theresa graduated from Cousino High School in 1984, and attended Siena Heights College, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree summa cum laude in 1988. Her education laid the foundation for a career she truly loved. Theresa was a talented and dedicated print designer who owned and operated MITH Creative Services for 32 years, creating invitations, logos and a wide range of design work for countless clients. She also worked for five years at the Grosse Pointe News and more than seven years at Robert Bosch LLC. Her creativity, professionalism and attention to detail were evident in everything she did.

One of Theresa's greatest joys was spending time with her family and friends, whether celebrating holidays, birthdays or simply enjoying one another's company. She especially cherished summer vacations at the lake near Pinckney, where laughter carried across the water and days were filled with sunshine and easy conversation. Some of her most treasured moments were spent at

her brother Joe's house during the Fourth of July, where friends and family — regardless of belief or background — came together to celebrate as one. A proud patriot, Theresa loved those days of unity, fireworks over the lake and the shared joy of togetherness. Evenings by the campfire, telling stories, making s'mores and soaking in the warmth of the people she loved were among the happiest memories of her life.

Theresa cherished every opportunity to get away with her family, especially simple and peaceful camping trips with her beloved dogs, Ernie and Lucy, and her husband by her side. She took great joy in their new fifth-wheel rig, finding comfort and adventure in every mile traveled together. Some of her happiest memories were made at the family cottage and lake, spending time with her sons, nieces and nephews. Whether boating, floating in the water on a warm afternoon or wandering along forest trails taking in the beauty of nature, those moments brought her a deep sense of peace and fulfillment.

Of all the holidays, Thanksgiving was her favorite. She loved gathering the family together, sharing a meal and celebrating the many blessings in their lives. Turkey was always on the menu — especially the dark meat, which she insisted was the best. One of her cherished traditions was going around the room and having everyone write down what they were most thankful for. She listened with genuine joy and took every word to heart.

Theresa also had a remarkable gift for decorating, which was one of the many ways she expressed her love. She created warmth and beauty in every season, ensuring her home was a place where others could feel joy simply by stepping inside. She never missed an opportunity to add a festive touch to Christmas, Easter or any special occasion.

Another tradition close to her heart was the holiday cards she received each year. Whether from close relatives, lifelong friends or even kind strangers, she cherished every single one. She proudly displayed them throughout her home, treating them as small pieces of love. To Theresa, those cards were reminders of connection, kindness and the people who touched her life.

Theresa's natural creativity shone beautifully through her work as a graphic designer. She found great joy in creating projects for the people she loved, especially designing wedding invitations for family members. Each piece she crafted carried her heart, attention to detail and desire to make others feel special. When she began working at Bosch, her artistic gifts quickly became an invaluable asset. She poured her



Nicole Julie Hurd

skill and passion into newsletters, announcements and every project that needed a creative touch. Her work was more than a job; it was a place where she felt useful, appreciated and fulfilled.

One of the roles Theresa cherished most was serving as the hockey team manager for her sons throughout many seasons of their youth. She never missed a chance to organize, support and uplift the team. She made it her mission to ensure every child felt valued and appreciated, creating a welcoming and encouraging environment for all. Her dedication, energy and warmth left a lasting impression on every team she touched.

Visitation will be held 2:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, with a sharing of memories starting at 6 p.m., followed by Rosary at 7 p.m., at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 32000 Schoenherr, Warren. She will lie in state Friday, Dec. 19, from 10 a.m. until the funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Malachy Catholic Church, 14115 E. 14 Mile, Sterling Heights.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory made to the PreBorn Ministries are deeply appreciated.

## Nicole Julie Hurd

Nicole Julie Hurd, 81, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

Nicole was born Nov. 24, 1944, in Grosse Pointe Shores, to Victor H. and Julia DeBaeke, both now deceased. She graduated from the Academy of the Sacred Heart (now The Grosse Pointe Academy) and attended Marymount College. She then worked as a teacher at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School. Nicole also was an avid reader and passionate sports fan.

Nicole was predeceased by her parents. She is survived by her sons, Christopher Hurd (Sara), Victor Hurd and Charles Jon "C.J." Hurd; grandchildren, Nicholas, William, Ryan and Hunter; sister, Beth Myers; and brother, Sam Myers.

A memorial Mass will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to a teacher of the giver's choice through Donors Choose, donorschoose.org.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

See OBITS, page 5B

## EDWIN STEDEM JR.

Edwin Stedem Jr., affectionately known as Ned, passed away peacefully on November 8, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on October 7, 1936, in Columbus, Ohio.

Ned shared 57 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Marilyn, whom he married on January 20, 1968. Together they built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, and devotion to family. He was the proud father of three children, Susan (and her husband, Steven Lesha), Brad (and Solenne Lestelle dit Olivé), and Ted (and his wife Hillary Eady Stedem). He was a cherished grandfather to seven grandchildren: Steven, Katie, and Matthew Lesha; Stark Stedem; and Teddy, Charlie, and Andy Stedem. His family was the joy of his life.

Ned spent the entirety of his 33-year career in the auto industry with Ford Motor Company, working in several different functions, including finance, manufacturing and sales and marketing. Before joining Ford, he had an equally diverse academic career, starting in pre-med at Dartmouth, majoring in history at Ohio State, and finishing with a law degree from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Columbia University. He also served on nonprofit boards for over 30 years, primarily in health care and education.

Ned was a true renaissance man with a tremendous passion for poetry, literature,

art, photography, history, and travel. He enjoyed working with his hands, matting and framing his photographs and building beautiful pieces of wood furniture. In retirement, he decided to coalesce his favorite thoughts, and he authored an inspirational book on his life lessons to crystallize the "wisdom of the ages" along the road to happiness.

Family and friends will gather to honor Ned's memory in Naples, Florida at Saint William Catholic Church on Saturday, December 27, 2025. Visitation will be at 10:30 am followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 am.

We will gather for a day of remembrance in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church on Friday, May 22, 2026. Visitation will be at 9:30 am followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:00 am and Inurnment at St. Paul Columbarium immediately following the mass. The time of the mass will be confirmed in May.

Ned will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his warmth, wisdom, and laughter will live on in the hearts of his loved ones and all who crossed his path. When asked to give a toast, Ned drew on Luke 6:38, words written almost two thousand years ago: "Give and it will be given to you." Ned would end his toast reminding his listeners: "the only love we get to keep is the love we give away." We know that he departed with his heart overflowing with love.



## OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

## Mary Beth DiSante

Mary Beth DiSante, 102, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025, just four months shy of her 103rd birthday.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and cherished friend, Mary Beth brought warmth, humor and kindness to all who knew her. She grew up in Lansing as one of nine children to Slovak parents and made her home in Grosse Pointe after her marriage. In her earlier years, she was an avid golfer and bowler, as well as a fiercely competitive card player at Lochmoor Country Club. She also enjoyed traveling.

In her later years, Mary Beth became a voracious reader and finished several books a month.

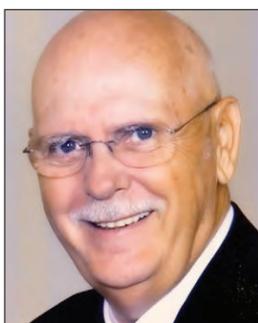
Mary Beth was predeceased by her beloved husband, Nick DiSante; and son, Nick Jr. She is survived by her children, Linda (Jim), Cathy (Greg), Ted, Sandi and Don; as well as four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at St. Gerard Catholic Church, 4437 W. Willow, Lansing.

Memorial donations may be made to the



Mary Beth DiSante



Donald Eugene Ludlow

Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph-Detroit, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207; St. Gerard Catholic Church, 4437 W. Willow, Lansing, MI 48917; or a charity of the giver's choice.

To honor Mary Beth's memory, laugh often, tell a joke, be kind, send a card, feed the birds or help someone in need, just as she always did.

## Donald Eugene Ludlow

Donald Eugene Ludlow, 81, of Grosse Pointe Shores, passed away Friday, Nov. 28, 2025.

Donald was born March 5, 1944, in Battle Creek, to Norma Geraldine (nee Beardslee) and Cecil Earl Ludlow, both now deceased. Donald served with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. He also was a Detroit police officer, where he was an

instructor on the motorcycle drill team and a member of the Detroit Honor Guard, among others.

Donald was a past commodore for American Legion Post 101, and was very active in his church. He also was an active member of The Helm at the Boll Life Center and enjoyed playing poker with his friends. He was a former resident of Augusta, Mich.

Donald is survived by his wife, Sarah; sons, Donald Jr., David (Vijal) and Matthew (Brenda); grandchildren, Ian, Samina, Jacob Sawyer, Jacob Warner, Lily and Christopher; and brother, Larry. He was predeceased by his parents; sister, Judy; and brothers, Robert and Gary.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. He will be laid to rest at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyen Inc.



## Ford House places 4th in national contest

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

Home for the Holidays at Ford House finished fourth in voting in the best holiday historic home tour category in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards.

"Ford House is very grateful to everyone who took the time to vote for us," said Mark Heppner, Ford House president and CEO. "Being recognized as one of the top holiday historic home tours in the nation is a meaningful honor for our team and community."

The top 10, according to USA Today:

- ◆ Graceland, Memphis, Tenn.,
- ◆ Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, Akron, Ohio,
- ◆ Meadow Brook Hall, Rochester, Mich.,
- ◆ Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich.,
- ◆ Merrehope, Meridian, Miss.,
- ◆ Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Staatsburgh, N.Y.,
- ◆ Glensheen Mansion, Duluth, Minn.,
- ◆ Bruce more, Cedar Rapids, Iowa,
- ◆ House from "A Christmas Story," Cleveland, Ohio and
- ◆ Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library: Winterthur, Del.

This is the eighth consecutive year Graceland has won. Ford House moved up one spot from last year.

Interestingly, three of the top 10 have ties to the early days of the automotive industry. Aside from Ford House, Meadow Brook Hall was built by Matilda Dodge, widow of John Dodge and former Pointer, and Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, built by Goodyear Tire Co. founder F.A. Sieberling.

"To be named alongside remarkable places such as Meadow Brook Hall, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and Graceland is especially gratifying,"



Heppner added. "Our work is driven by a commitment to connect people with the Ford family's legacy in a way that feels welcoming, thoughtful and rooted in history and culture and it is wonderful to see that spirit shine through for visitors during the holiday season."

Home for the Holidays at Ford House is an evening stroll through the glittering grounds as thousands of lights illuminate the estate, guiding guests on a one-mile walking tour throughout the property. It runs 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday to Sundays, with Dec. 18 to 21 being the finale.

On the grounds, weeping willows are dripping in lights, the rose garden is aglow in rich hues and the main residence is decked in ribbons of starry lights. Inside the home, decorated in Eleanor Ford's signature style of "understated elegance," showcases original ornaments and décor from when the family resided there.

See [fordhouse.org/events](http://fordhouse.org/events) for ticket information.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Optimist Club member John Koski, Optimist Club President Steve Licari, Detroit Goodfellows President Rick Pacynski and Detroit Goodfellows volunteer Conrad Koski.

## Detroit Goodfellows visit Optimist Club

Members of the Detroit Goodfellows team, including President Rick Pacynski and volunteer Conrad Koski, visited the Lakeshore Optimist Club Nov. 27, to provide an overview of Detroit Goodfellows' programs.

The oldest program is the Old Newsboys Goodfellow Fund, which has provided Christmas gifts for children ages 4 to 13 since 1914. Each year, packages for children are distributed through police departments and organizations to families in Detroit, Highland Park, Redford, River Rouge, Hamtramck, Harper Woods and Ecorse. Each package includes a variety of age-appropriate items, including clothing, toys, books, dental kits and candy.

Goodfellows also helps children throughout the year with "camper-ships," scholarships, dental programs and a shoe program.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club presented the Goodfellows with a monetary donation to help the charity continue its mission. For more information, visit [detroitgoodfellows.org](http://detroitgoodfellows.org). The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets at 7:30 a.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. All are welcome to attend, listen to interesting speakers and learn what the club is about. Visit [gpointimists.com](http://gpointimists.com) for locations, dates and times each month. Follow the club on Facebook at [facebook.com/lakeshoreoptimists](http://facebook.com/lakeshoreoptimists).

## Six Corewell Health hospitals named Best Hospitals for Maternity Care

Six Corewell Health hospitals, including Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, have been ranked as high performing for maternity care by U.S. News & World Report.

The other hospitals that earned the designation are Corewell Health's Butterworth/Blodgett, Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Troy and Pennington hospitals.

"High Performing," the highest designation a hospital can receive, recognizes excellence in maternity care as measured by factors such as severe unexpected newborn complication rates, birthing-friendly practices, transparency on racial/ethnic disparities and other factors.

"Parents deserve the highest level of

care and support when welcoming a new baby and we are honored that Corewell Health hospitals have been ranked again among the best in the nation," said Jeff Ditkoff, M.D., chief quality, safety and experience officer, Corewell Health. "This achievement reflects the dedication, compassion and expertise of our teams who are making a difference for families every day."

Corewell Health will deliver nearly 28,000 babies this year, amounting to one in every four born in Michigan.

U.S. News evaluated approximately 900 hospitals nationwide for the 2026 ratings and just 147 hospitals, or 16 percent, were designated as Maternity Care Access Hospitals.



# Worship Service

**Grosse Pointe Congregational Church**  
(United Church of Christ)  
**Worship Sunday at 10:00 am**  
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver  
An Open & Affirming Church  
240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms  
313-884-3075 • [www.gpccong.org](http://www.gpccong.org)  
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

**St. Matthew Catholic Church**  
Harper at 6021 Whittier  
Detroit, MI 48224  
313-884-4470  
Holiday Mass Schedule  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
Christmas Eve Mass ~ 10:00 pm  
Thursday, December 25, 2025  
Christmas Day Mass ~ 10:00 am  
Thursday, January 1, 2026  
New Year's Day  
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God ~ 10:00 am Mass  
Saturday, January 3, 2026: Vigil Mass  
Feast of the Epiphany ~ 4:30 pm  
Sunday, January 4, 2026  
Feast of the Epiphany ~ 10:00 am Mass  
Vespers Service ~ 4:00 pm

**Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool**  
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090  
[www.christthekinggp.org](http://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

6B | FEATURES

# New Ford House website honored for design, innovation

Ford House recently announced that Intellectual Ninjas, the developers behind its newly redesigned website, has been honored with the 2025 Web Excellence Award.

The Ford House website was recognized in two categories: Features & Design: Website Aesthetic Design and Website: Museums.

The award-winning redesign reflects a shared vision between Ford House and Intellectual Ninjas: to refresh and improve the digital experience while staying true to the estate's timeless aesthetic. The new site draws inspiration from the natural colors and hues found throughout the historic lakeside estate, tying the design more closely to Ford House's architecture, interiors and gardens.

"We knew that our website needed to evolve to better serve our visitors, but it was equally important not to lose the understated elegance that reflects Eleanor Ford's legacy," said Tommy Karr, director of communications and engagement at Ford House. "Intellectual Ninjas helped us achieve both, blending a graceful aesthetic with innovative features that make the

site more accessible, intuitive and engaging."

The project extended beyond design, strengthening the backend to improve navigation and discovery. The site now makes it easier for visitors to explore events, exhibitions and the estate's history.

In addition, new accessibility features allow guests to tailor their browsing experience to their individual needs. Visitors can increase font sizes, reduce or remove animation and make other adjustments to ensure the website remains welcoming and functional for all.

"We wanted the website to feel like Ford House — warm, inviting and true to what people experience when they visit," said Malea Tipton, communications and public relations manager. "It's great to see that effort recognized and to know people are enjoying exploring Ford House online. This project was a real team effort and it reflects how much pride we take in sharing Ford House with the community."

For more information or to experience the website, visit [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

# 'No place like hope'

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Mark Heppner, right, stands with Colleen McClellan of Wayne County Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, during the club's Nov. 11 meeting at Ford House. A longterm volunteer for CASA, McClellan explained how it supports abused and neglected children in and out of the Wayne County court system and foster care. CASA recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteer advocates for the 3,000 children in the care of Wayne County. She explained how residents can support CASA by volunteering, donating or spreading the word about the tax-exempt organization's work, the motto of which is "There's no place like hope."

## BEAUTY:

Continued from page 2B

abundance of hydrangeas fronted by low boxwood shrubs. Two stately trees anchor this exquisite landscape."

◆ 1440 Bishop, Michelle McPherson and Russell Consiglio. "A brick edge defines lovely tiered beds containing Japanese maples, boxwoods, spiral evergreens and flowers."

◆ 1211 Cadieux, Lisa Ladochi, Michael Fila and Betty Fila. "This

charming small bungalow has received a complete makeover from fresh ivory paint to a new circular driveway and new landscaping in a red and white theme. A visitor is greeted by an arc of red and white impatiens along the circular drive. Two tall decorative pillars in containers are on either side of the garage and a large tree is in the center of the front lawn."

### Century

For houses at least 100 years old.

◆ 912 Nottingham,

David King and Angela Wilson. "The steps leading up to the front door are flanked with two columns topped with attractive pots with fall color flowers. The front garden bed is filled with native grasses and shrubs and bordered by brick edging."

◆ 746 Balfour, Amanda and Brady Savage. "The first thing that draws you to this two-story tan brick French Colonial home is the blue Pewabic tiles around the door and decorative blue medallions over the main win-

dows and the center peak of the house. Plants include hydrangeas, burning bush, Japanese maple and Sweet William."

◆ 753 Barrington, Harry C. Morris. "The landing at the entrance is graced with blooming potted plants and a lovely wreath hangs on the door. Landscaping consists of beautiful hydrangeas, rose bushes, boxwood and an assortment of shrubs."

◆ 819 Edgemont Park, Frederic Detwiler. "The front of the property is not visible from the street; a large courtyard greets you as you enter. In the center of the courtyard there is a stunning huge floral arrangement in a pedestal vase surrounded by a circular bed of global boxwoods."

◆ 714 Grand Marais, Martin J. and Belinda Tibbitts. "This is a beautiful example of a grand Mediterranean-style house complete with a stone composition exterior, tile roof, arched windows with leaded glass, copper gutters and downspouts. The front face of the house is not visible from the street. Pewabic tile inserts around second-floor windows add visual interest to the street side and give a thoughtful nod to local history."

◆ 1353 Bedford Road, Perry and Linda Calisi. "Two planters filled with flowers are on either side of the front door. Red begonias border the stone-defined beds in the front of the property providing contrast to the hostas, rhododendrons and other plants at the back of the beds. Mature Japanese maples anchor each end."

### Sustainability

For "outstanding efforts in creating and maintaining environmentally friendly and sustainable home gardens."

◆ 1221 Maryland, no name. "This beautiful home and landscape does just that! With more garden than lawn, this charming bungalow, in earth tones and cream, is framed by a lush landscape that includes plants native to our region and others that support our native wildlife."

◆ 965 Pemberton, Lindsay Winn. "Lindsay was one of our core garden volunteers this season. From helping with installations, plant sales and garden club to attending monthly work days, helping with the

## Business

◆ 15425 Kercheval Avenue, Defer Elementary School. "The delightful gardens that surround Defer Elementary School are a wonderful mix of annuals and perennials that bloom throughout the seasons. Bright, beautiful flower bulbs welcome students and staff in the spring. A native pollinator garden was added in the summer of 2022."

◆ 14927 Charlevoix, The Wayburn. "We are delighted to present a Civic Award to The Wayburn for their outdoor patio beautification project. The thoughtful design and meticulous upkeep of the patio have not only enhanced the aesthetic appeal of our community but have also provided a delightful venue for outdoor entertainment."

◆ 15119 Charlevoix, O'Flaherty's Pub. "We are also delighted to recognize O'Flaherty's, for its newly installed outdoor patio and beautifully integrated green space. This inviting area provides a refreshing oasis for patrons, offering a perfect blend of atmosphere and natural space. This is truly a new gem in our community."

### Civic Award

◆ 1315 Grayton, Tina Ziemba. "Tina is awarded for her tireless effort in adopting a portion of the (Patterson Park) boardwalk garden and diligently planting, weeding and watering it. She planted an assortment of donated plants and took on the chore of watering. Initially that challenge involved carrying water back and forth from the only working faucet about 200 feet away, making several trips each day. She then brought a hose from home and not only watered her garden but also other nearby plantings and trees. She did this at least three times a week, dragging out the hose and then putting it back again each time."

◆ 965 Pemberton, Lindsay Winn. "Lindsay was one of our core garden volunteers this season. From helping with installations, plant sales and garden club to attending monthly work days, helping with the

children's garden at Patterson and more, she was always there to lend a tool, a smile and a hand. Lindsay also donated flagstone pavers and helped install the new pathway in the median garden bed at city hall. She was instrumental in contributing to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge initiative and city sustainability efforts."

### Mayor's Award

"The award is given to an individual who has significantly added to the overall quality, ambience and beauty of the community through a major donation or service above and beyond expectation," according to commissioners.

◆ Paul Van Tol "After a meeting in 2017 with former forester, Brian Colter, Paul planted 300 trees on land in Macomb County, specifically to give back to his community. Seven years later, in 2024, the first 100 sycamore trees were planted in various locations throughout the city. In 2025, Paul selected a variety of species for planting in various locations, including the replacement of trees removed for the installation of the extreme emergency relief valve in Patterson Park. Paul not only donated the trees he cared for over several years, he donated his time and effort to plant them as well."

### Volunteer gardeners

◆ Sue Orlicki, Ron and Susan Niemenski, Bruce Hubbell, Doug Horst, Corinne Foley-Bojanic, Linda McKenzie, Roger Basse, Lindsay Studders, Toni Gibson and Patrick Gleason.

"We are honored to present certificates to our incredible gardening volunteers. Your tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in transforming the green spaces in Matthew C. Patterson Park and city hall into thriving landscapes. Your dedication to planting, weeding and maintaining our gardens has created a lasting impact, fostering biodiversity and educating others about the importance of ecological balance."

**BE THE MIRACLE THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR**

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## Polar Express

Grosse Pointe Woods hosted its annual Polar Express — with the first of many — Thursday, Dec. 4. Families boarded the Woods bus to view the holiday lights on homes in Grosse Pointe and along Lakeshore while listening to the Polar Express story. When they arrived back at the “North Pole,” aka Cook Schoolhouse, they were greeted by Santa, then went inside to visit while enjoying hot chocolate and cookies.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Joseph Bauer poses with Santa.



Grosse Pointe Farms PSO Mark Laquere, his sons, Alex and Nate, and his wife, Lauren, had a blast seeing Santa, who liked their matching pajamas.

Stefanie Norlin matched her PJ's with her husband, Scott, while their children, Cece and Gus, matched each other.



In front of the decorated Cook Schoolhouse, Santa waves to the arriving bus filled with families coming to visit him and have hot chocolate and cookies.



Benji Wells tells Santa about the bells in the Polar Express story and said only people who believe in Santa can hear them ring.

### ASK THE EXPERTS By Susie Rohde, LMSW

## Create a drama-free holiday

The holidays bring joy, laughter and shared memories with friends and family. While cozy and warm, they also can bring high levels of stress. The joy becomes lost. We may find ourselves frustrated and easily disappointed in others and in situations that don't meet our expectations. Family members can be difficult to please, demanding, moody and critical.

According to Mel Robbins, in her book, “The Let Them Theory,” “You cannot control others or situations. You can only control yourself and your own reactions to people and events.” She advises us to ACCEPT others as they are and shift our focus to “Let Me,” empowering our own peace. “Let Them” does not mean being passive or avoidant with others. It means being assertive and honest.

According to Mel, it requires that we:

- ◆ set limits and define boundaries with others consistently and respectfully;

- ◆ communicate expectations clearly and effectively;

- ◆ resolve conflicts with others by validating their feelings, ideas or position while sharing our own — there can be two rights or room for negotiating a peace; and

- ◆ walk away from hostile interactions and decrease defensiveness.

When we shift our focus to our own peace, we empower ourselves and decrease drama, improving our own mental health and well-being. According to Nedra Tawwab, in her book, “Drama Free,” setting and main-



taining boundaries with others is the key to healthy relationships: “People don't come to therapy knowing they have boundary issues; it is disguised as issues of poor self-care, conflicts with others ongoing, poor time management, people pleasing or concern with how social media or the news impacts their emotional state.”

By uncovering boundary violations, we teach our clients to explore the discomfort and guilt that comes from asserting ourselves. When we “Let Them” and choose “Let Me,” we decrease the drama in our lives. Give yourself the gift of experiencing the true joy of the holiday season.

*Susie Rohde, LMSW, is a clinical therapist at Lifestance in St. Clair Shores, working with individuals, couples and families. Her work includes helping clients develop insights into their trauma patterns and emotional triggers, as well as exploring strategies to decrease their impact so a more fulfilling, peaceful life and rewarding relationships can happen.*

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

Final weekend for our lighted holiday walk!

# Home for the Holidays

at Ford House

Thursday through Sunday, December 18–21  
Get tickets at [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org) or scan the QR code.

Ford House is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and National Historic Landmark

# GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

## Holidaying close to home this winter break

**Dear Gabby:** We are staying local for winter break this year and my kids are already predicting they are going to die of boredom. Their words.

They would like to be flown to Aspen or Disney like half their friends, but that is not happening. How do I keep them busy and myself sane without turning into a full-time entertainment director? — Stir Crazy in the Woods

**Dear Stir Crazy:** Nothing brings out the dramatics in children quite like a staycation. They act like staying home for a week is a pun-

ishment when in reality they spend most weekends claiming they are too tired to leave the house. The best winter break strategy is a mix of small outings and structured laziness. Pick two or three activities for the week: ice skating at ESH, a movie at the theater, a bowling night, a trip to The League Shop to stare at fancy ornaments.

Then build in home days with planned activities like baking, board games, crafting or letting them make dinner — which is chaos, but also entertainment.

Also enforce the rule that boredom is not

your problem to solve every second. Kids need to learn how to be bored. Boredom is where creativity lives and also where they rediscover the pile of toys they begged for last year.

You do not have to compete with Aspen. You are competing with expectations and you can win that battle. Bundle up!!

— Gabby

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



## Havoc at holiday dinner

**DEAR ANNIE:** I am the default holiday host for my extended family. My parents are divorced and both come, my sister arrives late and stressed with her kids, my brother shows up with whatever new girlfriend he is serious about, and my mother uses the whole day to quietly criticize everyone's life choices, starting with mine.

By the time we sit down to dinner, I am so tense that one small comment

can set off a chain reaction. Last year my mom made a remark about my sister's children being "wild" and my sister burst into tears. My dad got defensive on her behalf, my brother cracked a joke that landed badly, and I ended up carving the turkey while everyone argued around me.

After everyone left, my husband told me he does not even enjoy Christmas anymore because it feels

like we are hosting a live soap opera. I am starting to agree with him. I feel guilty if I do not invite everyone, guilty when they come and fight, and guilty when I even think about setting firmer boundaries.

I want Christmas to feel peaceful for my own kids, not like a holiday version of walking on eggshells. How do I change this pattern without becoming "the bad guy" who ruined Christmas? — Tired of Playing Holiday Referee?

**DEAR HOLIDAY REFEREE:** First, please know that you did not create the drama. You just set the table where it happens.

You've been trying to make everyone happy, and it's costing you your peace. It's OK to say, "Not anymore." You're not the referee. You're the host. You're allowed to set the tone in your own home.

Talk to your family before the day. Tell



### Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

them, "I love having everyone here, but the tension is too much. I want Christmas to feel calm for the kids and for us. So this year, no criticizing and no picking at each other. If it starts, we will end the visit early."

You can also make the day smaller. Shorter visits, fewer

people or two separate gatherings are all allowed. Protecting your home won't ruin Christmas. You're choosing peace..

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

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## Holly Jolly Trolley and Santa sightings too!

'Tis the season for all things festive around town, from Santa sightings to holiday pop-ups and holly-jolly cocktails. Let's quickly dive into all the happenings coming in the next week.

Santa seems to be making his way through these parts swiftly! On Saturday, Dec. 20, Santa will be brunching at Hook on Jefferson's Nautical Mile from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. While the kiddos are with the big guy, adults can indulge in Hooks' holiday cocktails. Its espresso martini is made with gingerbread Kahlúa, spiced rum, fresh espresso, cinnamon simple syrup and garnished with an iced gingerbread crumb.

its festive cocktails to the next level. Its Santa's Night Cap consists of vanilla vodka, cinnamon simple syrup, amaretto and a floating eggnog-filled ornament that you open, pour and mix. This drink was absolutely phenomenal and so very creative. Zef's also is showcasing a gingerbread old fashioned, because who doesn't love an old fashioned when it's freezing outside? This one includes an edible, floating gingerbread man. I can honestly say these two holiday cocktails bring so much conversation to a table — and that's just two of them.

The Holly Jolly Trolley also runs up and down the Nautical Mile, from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday night, making it easier to visit multiple venues among the construction that is heavily affecting businesses in the area. The trolley includes a stop at Blossom Heath — I suggest parking here — where a tunnel of lights light up the park. Santa will be there between 5:30 and 6:20 p.m.

Dec. 20. I hear the hot chocolate stand is its most popular hangout — a great family stop this holiday season.

In the Pointes, there is a lot of holiday cheer to be had. Luxe Bar & Grill is featuring two Christmas cocktails. The Krampus Sour includes New Rip Rye, cranberry and ginger simple, fresh lemon, vanilla infused, allspice bitters and egg white, while the Open Your Eyes v4 is a spin on a minty espresso martini with Aside Detroit Distillery vodka and

multiple forms of coffee flavors. One of the ingredients is Mediterranean mint gelato.



Luxe Bar & Grill.

High Pointe Burger Jointe has fun holiday-themed smashers (mini burgers) as well as six festive adult beverages — like Santa's Sparkling Spritz, Nutcracker Manhattan and an apple pie sour — as well as two different martinis. Frozen sugar-coated fruit on a skewer seems to be a big trend in the holiday cocktail world this year. Flyleaf on The Hill is accenting festive martinis with frozen cranberries, while Bogart'z on Mack is doing



Flyleaf and Bogart'z.

the same with their White Christmas cocktail. Howlers & Growlers put out a classic holiday beverage menu with which you honestly can't go wrong.



Breweries: Howlers & Growlers, Copper Hop, Someday.

Speaking of breweries, attention beer drinkers, if you haven't met Cousin Eddie's Dickie at Copper Hopp Brewing Company yet, you are missing out.

And Someday Brewing has S'mores stout in a can to go and on draft — marshmallows, chocolate, graham and all.

Just outside the bubble, yet locally owned and operated, Harrison Township is the home to Jefferson Street Pub and Terry's Terrace.



### Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina



Santa will pay a visit to JSP from 11 a.m. to noon. Sunday, Dec. 21. This also is an excellent New Year's Eve location where karaoke will be going until the ball drops and the next day is its annual NYD brunch.



Terry's Terrace.

"This year we are doing a holiday bazaar as well," owner George Cassar said, "raffling off all kinds of prizes, all for charity." Down the street, Terry's

Terrace really knocks the holidays out of the park with its jingle pop-up — definitely the most decorated location in the surrounding area outside of downtown. It's like walking into the North Pole, with games and toys included. Marty the Moose cocktail is served in the National Lampoon moose glass. Or, you can warm yourself up with a spiked hot chocolate flight of different flavors. Grosse Pointe owner Nick Ritts does an excellent job with all of his locations this time of year, which also includes Mesa Tacos & Tequila, which has its Santa's Treehouse spectacular, and Ale Mary's Beer Hall next door, which is all jingled up. Both are in Royal Oak. I highly suggest you check out their social media pages to really see the full effect. It's impressive!



Holiday Coffee: New Order, The Sugar Bar, Caffe Far Bella.

As I'm typing this, the wind is whipping and my phone tells me it's 18 degrees outside, which brings me to last, but not

See FOOD, page 3C



COURTESY PHOTOS

### Hook.

Also on the Nautical Mile, Santa will make a pitstop at Zef's Dockside Sunday, Dec. 21, from noon to 2 p.m. This year, Zef's really took



Zef's Dockside.

# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Buckle up, everyone. We are officially in the darkest, coldest parts of the year. I'm pale as a ghost, my hands and feet are permanently ice cold and I've got the itch to leave my life in Michigan and become a snowbird. If you're not in the snowbird phase of life yet, let's talk about tanning mists.

I'm going for



that healthy, natural glow where it looks like I've just come back from a long weekend somewhere sunny, not like I've been marinating in a tanning bed. I want subtle color, a little sun-kissed warmth and the kind of face that makes me look alive when I wake up.

Enter the St. Tropez Self Tan

Purity Bronzing Water Face Mist.

I got mine from Amazon for \$33, but it's also available at Sephora and on St. Tropez's website. It's designed to give your face a gradual, natural-looking glow without streaks, splotches or that dreaded orange cast. It's infused with 100 percent natural tanning actives, is vegan and cruelty-free and you don't need to rinse it off or even touch your face after spraying. You can mist it over makeup or

bare skin and it develops into a soft, believable tan over the next few hours.

The best part is how foolproof it is. You can't mess it up. No mitts, no weird patches, no stress. It dries quickly and doesn't transfer onto clothes or pillowcases.

The glow develops slowly and fades just as gently over the course of a few days. It's the perfect little pick-me-up for those bleak winter mornings when your skin tone matches the

snow outside.

I'm giving this product four out of five alligators. My only complaint is that sometimes it's almost too subtle. I either didn't use enough or it just gives a very light glow that isn't super noticeable. But honestly, I'd rather have something subtle than streaky and orange, so I'm good with it.

Final verdict: You don't need this product, but if winter has you looking a little ghostly and you want

an easy glow without commitment or mess, this is a solid addition to your beauty lineup.

*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



## Creamy Brie and fig preserves

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

The weeks leading up to Christmas are always beautifully unhinged in my house. There seems to be double the school sports tournaments and concerts on top of holiday gatherings multiplied by Christmas shopping and housework. It's very likely that my daily to-do list will not come even close to being checked off. Most everyone I know can relate because they are in the same boat. So, easy appetizers are crucial to have in my back pocket when I need to go above and beyond.

This is a stunning and super easy five-ingredient hors d'oeuvres that is savory, buttery and cheesy. A warm and gooey baked Brie wrapped in fig preserves and puff pastry with a sprinkling of fresh thyme. The fun part is the edges of the pastry are turned into caramelized fig "twist offs" that you pull and dip in the oozing Brie cheese. They get slightly crispy because of the twists and the egg wash turns it a beautiful golden brown.

This method can be

used with any spread and soft cheese but you really can't top a baked Brie at a cocktail party. I have no crafting ability at all but this turned out looking quite impressive. You could also add spiced pecans to the finished products or sprigs of rosemary tucked around the edges so it resembles a wreath. I stuck with the bare minimum because there were four loads of laundry waiting for me. Everyone gave it the thumbs up though and it was gone well before dinner was served.

You can buy all of these ingredients days before so you have them on hand. And honestly, this time of year I will always have a jar of fig preserves and a wheel of creamy Brie hanging around, just in case. Make this in the morning and keep it in the fridge until you are ready to bake it off if that makes your day easier. Just remember to slice the top off the Brie to expose the soft cheese inside once its baked. I do think it's best served with a knife to spread.

Cheers, Mombeau

### Creamy Brie and Fig Preserves

2 sheets puff pastry, room temperature  
½ cup fig preserves

1 8oz wheel of Brie

1 egg

Fresh thyme

Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Gently roll out one sheet of puff pastry until it is slightly larger than a dinner plate. Take your dinner plate and place it upside down. Then trace along the edges with a knife to get a circle of pastry.

Do the same for the other pastry sheet. Lay one circle down on a parchment-lined baking sheet and spread the fig preserves over the top in an even layer. Make sure you spread it all the way to the edges. Sprinkle with one teaspoon of fresh chopped thyme. Place the Brie right in the center.

Next place the other circle of pastry over the top. Press the dough



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

down around the Brie making sure it tightly clings and there are no air pockets. The fig preserve should all be covered. Next, make about 1-inch cuts into the dough. Start at the edge of the Brie and cut to the edge. It should look like fringe. Now, gently

twist each cut piece two times. Be careful to make sure the pieces stay attached to the center. Whisk together the egg and a splash of water in a small bowl. Brush the egg wash over the top of the entire pastry. Bake in the oven for 22 to 25 minutes or

until it is golden brown with caramelized edges. Let rest for a few minutes before slicing the top off the brie with a serrated knife. Make sure to cut the top of the rind away and dip or use a knife to spread on the cheese.

## Holiday party strategies

When several people gather to celebrate, such as at year-end holiday parties, the beverages often aren't particularly upscale, which is perfectly appropriate.

In multi-party festivities, people rarely pay attention to the nuances that are in the glass. It doesn't make sense to serve classics like 1961 Chateau Petrus at large gatherings. Classic wines call for introspection and sharing with people who appreciate them — and won't put ice cubes in them!

Large holiday gatherings usually call for simple, tasty wines. At such events, some people can overindulge, which is a pitfall of any large gathering where libations

flow freely. Hosts must be aware of such issues and plan ahead.

Wine is one of the few alcoholic beverages of restraint. Moderation-wise, wine makes more sense than hard spirits, many of which can be made much easier to consume by adding additional flavors (i.e., cola) that can mask the alcohol.

But wine can also prove to be risky. For example, a chardonnay whose label says it has 14 percent alcohol may seem to be moderate in relation to the 40 percent alcohol of whiskey. But compare that chardonnay to a German riesling that comes in at 7 percent alcohol. It's evident that the latter can be saner and per-

haps even more tasty.

Those who are concerned about total alcohol intake have several options available today that didn't exist just a few years ago. Among the lower-alcohol wines available to consumers, there are also several New Zealand sauvignon blancs, such as Giesen, a Marlborough producer, whose dealcoholized SB (\$10 to \$12) is tasty and true to type.

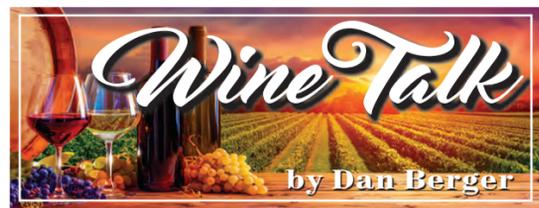
Savvy wine lovers also know of the exciting and refreshing white wine called vinho verde of Portugal. One superb value is from Broadbent, with only 9 percent alcohol (\$11).

Lower-alcohol beers can also be excellent choices. One of the

most interesting non-alcoholic beverages is from Lagunitas, the Northern California brewer. It makes a delightful beer alternative with no alcohol.

Hoppy Refresher, as the company calls it (locals call it "hop water"), is described on the company website as "chock-full of Citra, Equinox, and Centennial hops for a big splash of flavor that's surprisingly fruity."

Mimosas are another festive drink you can easily make at home with inexpensive sparkling wines (cava from Spain or prosecco from Italy) and orange juice. The more juice you use, the less important the qual-



ity of the sparkling wine. It's a waste of money to use a quality French Champagne to make mimosas because adding anything to a fine wine almost always dilutes the qualities of the wine we are paying more to get.

One popular mixed beverage for festive occasions was once known as a "champagne cocktail," with a lower-case c. It didn't necessarily use real French Champagne. It called for a bit of sugar as well as a dash of bitters, and today it isn't as popular as it was a century ago. I suspect that the

champagne cocktail became popular after the end of Prohibition (1933), when quality French Champagne (post-World War I) was expensive. At the time, cheaper Champagne was sour to American palates.

As a result, the drink needed a cube of sugar to make it palatable.

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

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## FOOD

Continued from page 2C

least: my favorite holiday coffee hot spots. My weakness this time of year is a peppermint mocha and I

make my rounds between the same three places: The Sugar Bar, Caffè Far Bella and Wally's Frozen Custard. Wally's mint-flavored lineup is my favorite and this season, they added a mint version of the Italian

dessert affogato, which means "drowned." They're literally drowning mint custard in hot espresso. I see myself in that drive-through line more than I should be.

New Order Coffee, I see you and your fancy

Christmas latte. You've been added to my holiday coffee hot spots. See you guys this week!

Supporting local is extra important during the holidays, so please get out there and make your rounds, just

like the jolly big guy does. As always, check out everyone's social media for all of their holiday updates, menus, beverages, eats and treats. Just because I can't get every one, doesn't mean there isn't so much more out there to enjoy

this holiday season!

•Fun Fact: After 50 Food Gossip articles I can now say: Follow along on Instagram at @food\_gossip.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all! Stay tuned. Stay festive.

# HOLIDAY PETS

## Celebrating

the pets that make the whole year more wonderful, but especially at Christmas time. We asked our readers to share photos of their treasured furry family members and have assembled a photo album to show them to you. May your holidays be merry and bright, full of love, warm hugs, belly rubs and wet nose kisses.

A hearty thank you to Lou's Pet Shop for sponsoring these pages and to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society (GPAAS) for all you do each and every year to provide food, shelter and safety for local animals as you ready them to find their forever homes.



WILBUR



GARY

MONET



ANYA GRACE



RIGGO, BANDIT, INDIGO



FONZI



BILLY



SCOUT

HUNTER



MIA



SKIPPER

### Gary

Handsome top cat at the Julie and George Sutton home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

### Monet

A rare work of living art, curated by the Zetterlunds, of St. Clair Shores.

### Anya Grace

Sweet BFF of Shelley Owens from Grosse Pointe Woods.

### Fonzi

Mom Nancy Darnell, of Grosse Pointe Woods, says this little guy even knows how to retrieve packages. Good boy!

### Mia

Proud mama Ann Derscha, of St. Clair Shores, introduces her best holiday gift, 14-week old Mia.

### Skipper

The Yonkus family, of Grosse Pointe Farms, reports Skipper loves unwrapping presents!

### Riggo, Bandit and Indigo

This cuddly trio of best buddies walk together every day! They are the much-loved pets of Biz Williamson (Riggo), of Grosse Pointe Farms, Anne Gryzenia (Bandit), of Grosse Pointe Farms, and Melissa McEnroe (Indigo), of Grosse Pointe.

### Billy

Susan Wenskus, of Grosse Pointe Woods, tells us Billy always loved Christmas and his tree.

### Scout, Hunter and Wilbur

A precious pair of pooches make the season bright along with gorgeous GPAAS rescue cat, Wilbur – for Karen Kienbaum and Jerry Brackett.

### Romeo

Two-year old Romeo keeps things lively for GPN designer, Donna Zetterlund.

### Samson

Samson rocks his Lions jersey at home with Jay and Shawna Sturtz of Grosse Pointe Farms.



ROMEO



SAMSON

COURTESY PHOTOS

**Happy Holidays from Lou's Pet Shop**  
 Spoiling pets one paw at a time  
 20779 mack ave, grosse pointe woods, michigan 48236 313-885-1560 @louspetshop

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
 Your donations help us assure that every pet is safe and has a loving home in the new year. Thank you.

20542 Harper Ave, Harper Woods  
 313-884-1551 • gpaas.org  
 email: gpaas@wowway.biz  
 Accepting donation drop-offs M-Th 10-3 (Please call first.)

6C | LIFE & LEISURE

It's that time of year once again, when Hollywood releases a ton of new holiday-themed movies, almost all of which are super sappy. This seems to fit in perfectly with the most commercial of holiday seasons. Every once in a while, I find a couple new ones that are actually worth watching. I've included a few here for your viewing pleasure. And at the end of this review, I've added some of my all-time favorites in case you're looking for something a bit better. Happy Holidays, everyone!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRUMPY ENTERTAINMENT AND OFF CAMERA ENTERTAINMENT.

**Sydney (Minka Kelly) enjoys a sumptuous dinner in the 2025 movie "Champagne Problems," written and directed by Mark Steven Johnson.**

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
 "Champagne Problems"  
 2025 - Not Rated  
 1 hr 39 min  
 ★★☆☆☆

Sidney Price (Minka Kelly) works in acquisi-

tions at a wine and spirits conglomerate. She's one of those all work and no play types. Before she travels to Paris to try and buy a prestigious champagne vineyard, her sister

advices her to have a day to herself and just enjoy the experience. So, soon after she lands, she goes out exploring the city and along the way, bumps into a handsome Frenchman Henri Cassell (Tom Wozniczka), at a bookstore. Of course, the two immediately fall for each other. And guess what? His father just happens to own the vineyard she's on a quest to purchase!

After making her pitch to Chateau Cassell's owner Hugo (Thibault de Montalembert), she and the other three reps vying to buy the winery are invited to the Chateau for the weekend. Her fellow reps are a bunch of lively characters. There's Roberto (Sean Amsing), a flamboyant millionaire who loves to have a good time and always serves the vineyards's champagne at his parties. The German Otto (Flula Borg), is a very serious, philosophic type who constantly makes dark comments. And there's Brigitte (Astrid Whettnall), who seems to have the inside track since she's French. Let the battle begin!

The movie is well written and well acted and is just full of surprises. The interaction between the guests were hilarious, and there was a definite spark between the two leads.

If you're in the mood for a delightful romantic comedy, set in Paris and the beautiful French countryside, you should enjoy this movie.

Currently streaming on Netflix.



Movie poster.



The vineyard's owner Hugo (Thibault de Montalembert).



A celebratory toast.



A romantic interlude.

# Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ACE ENTERTAINMENT AND TEA SHOP FILMS. Left, Olivia Holt as Sophia and Connor Swindells as Nick make plans for their heist in the 2025 movie "Jingle Bell Heist," directed by Michael Fimognari.



deal as well.

It won't come as a surprise when the two thieves fall for each other. Here I have to comment, I thought there was very little chemistry between the two leads. That's about the only negative criticism I have of the film. As you'd expect from a heist movie, everything doesn't go as planned. That's what makes it an interesting story. This one will have you guessing right until the end.

Currently streaming on Netflix.

If you're looking for something decent to watch over the holidays, and find the current crop of Christmas movies a bit disappointing, here's a list of some of my all-time favorites (in no particular order):

- "A Christmas Story"
- "The Holdovers"
- "Love Actually"
- "Serendipity"
- "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
- "The Holiday"

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.



Movie poster.

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
 "Jingle Bell Heist"  
 2025 - Rated TV-14  
 1 hr 36 min  
 ★★☆☆☆

This one was actually better than I thought it would be. What's not to like about a good old-fashioned heist movie, especially one that takes place over the holidays? "Jingle Bell Heist" focuses on two strangers who are thrown together and proceed to concoct an ingenious robbery.

Sophia (Olivia Holt) has recently moved her mom back to England from the United States for medical treatment. She has cancer and it turns out there is an experimental procedure available, although it's not covered under England's

National Health Plan. And Sophia is barely getting by financially — to the point where she supplements her income by stealing. One day, tech guru Nick (Connor Swindells) catches her on close-circuit TV swiping something from the department store where she works.

A few years before, Nick was made the fall guy for a crime he didn't commit at the same store and subsequently was not only fired, but spent time in jail. So he's game for revenge. The two of them devise a way to steal a fortune from the store owner's safe. As luck would have it, the two of them are not alone in their quest. Cynthia (Lucy Punch), the store owner's wife, wants in on the



Donning their Santa suits.

## Correction

Unfortunately the wrong answer box for last week's Universal Crossword puzzle was used and caused a bit of confusion among our readers. Here is the correct box for the 12-11-25 issue, with apologies for any inconvenience this has caused for all of our consistent and dedicated puzzle fans. Look next week for a half page of extra Crossword puzzles for our Christmas edition.

12/11 **House Salad** by Zachary Edward-Brown

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14						15				16			
17						18				19			
	20				21			22					
			23					24					
	25	26				27	28	29			30	31	
32						33				34		35	
36					37				38	39			
40				41						42			
43				44				45			46		
				47					48	49			
				50				51	52	53		54	
55	56					57				58		59	60
61						62				63			
64						65				66			

# Weekly Challenge

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

4	5			1				8
			8	2				
6	7			4				
			6	3			1	
1								3
	4			8	5			
				5			3	4
				9	6			
2		4				8		9

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

### Previous puzzle solution

6	5	9	7	2	1	8	3	4
2	4	1	5	3	8	9	6	7
8	3	7	6	9	4	5	2	1
4	9	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
1	7	2	4	8	5	3	9	6
3	8	5	9	6	7	1	4	2
5	1	3	8	4	2	6	7	9
9	2	8	1	7	6	4	5	3
7	6	4	3	5	9	2	1	8

12/18 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆  
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## Contract Bridge

### TACTICS AND STRATEGY

East dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

#### NORTH

♠ 8 6 5  
♥ Q 9  
♦ 10 9 6 2  
♣ A K 7 4

#### WEST

♠ A 10 7 4  
♥ 10 5  
♦ 5  
♣ 10 9 6 5 3 2

#### EAST

♠ K Q 3  
♥ A J 7 6 4 3  
♦ K 3  
♣ J 8

#### SOUTH

♠ J 9 2  
♥ K 8 2  
♦ A Q J 8 7 4  
♣ Q

The bidding:

East South West North  
1♥ 2♦ Pass 3♦  
Pass 3NT  
Opening lead — ten of hearts.

From the start, a fine declarer envisages the play of the hand as a whole. He is careful not to segregate the problem of how to play to a particular trick from the problem of how to play the entire hand.

Take this case where West leads the ten of hearts against three notrump. It is certainly not difficult for South to conclude that East has a string of hearts headed by the A-J.

Ordinarily, declarer would play the

queen from dummy to assure himself of two heart tricks. Certainly, that would be the right way to handle the suit in most hands.

But here the proper play is the nine of hearts, not the queen. The purpose is to get East to duck. South should be focused more on the importance of winning the first trick than in creating an extra trick in the heart suit.

East is not likely to take the ace if the nine is played — and if he does duck, South makes the contract. He wins with the king, overtakes the queen of clubs with dummy's king, takes a diamond finesse and finishes with nine tricks consisting of one heart, six diamonds and two clubs.

Of course, East might prove to be a suspicious soul. When the nine is played from dummy, he might wonder what South is up to and conclude that something is rotten in the state of Denmark. He might then go up with the ace in order to lead the K-Q and another spade, defeating the contract.

South cannot force East to duck the first heart by playing the nine, but he is more likely to accomplish his goal by doing so. If the queen is played instead, East is sure to take the ace and will most probably shift to a spade on the assumption that South has two heart tricks coming.

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by Steve Becker

## Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in SAGITTARIUS.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 18, 2025:

You are focused and ambitious. You are also an imaginary visionary who can stay on top of details. This is a playful, fun-loving year! Socialize and enjoy life.

Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Have fun, but don't lose sight of your goals.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

Do what you can to satisfy your urge to escape and seek adventure. You want to blow town and get a change of scenery! Why not check out a part of your neighborhood you've never been to before? Explore a little. Tonight: Interesting discussions.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, and today four planets are sitting in your Money House, making this the appropriate time to focus on banking and issues related to taxes, debt, shared property, inheritances and insurance matters. All that fun stuff. Tonight: Check your finances.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

Today there are four planets opposite your sign. Venus and Mercury will encourage pleasant conversations and warm exchanges.

However, the Moon will require that you compromise and accommodate the needs of someone else. Be open to this. Tonight: Cooperate.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

Today you might have to put the needs of someone else before for your own because a handful of planets are in the part of your chart that focuses on service to others. This also includes service to yourself, making this a good day for self-care. Tonight: Work.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

You are creative, dramatic and romantic. Today four planets are urging you to socialize and have fun! Enjoy the arts, grab a movie, explore the entertainment world, sports events and playful activities with kids. Did I mention flirtations? Tonight: Socialize!

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Home, family and your private life are your primary focus at this time. Home repairs and family conversations might be taking place. Many of you are redecorating and tweaking your digs as well. Today, however, you need to enjoy privacy. Tonight: Relax at home.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You have a strong urge to express your views to someone today, which is why it's important that you find someone who will listen to you. You don't want to spend time on superficial chitchat. You have something to say! Tonight: Discussions.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

As the Full Moon passes through your Money House today, you might find that you identify more than usual with something that you own. Take note of your moneymaking ideas. Since you're buying beautiful things for yourself and others, be smart and keep your receipts. Tonight: Check your belongings.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today the Moon is in your sign along with Mercury, Venus and the Sun, which means the entire world is having a Sagittarian hit. People will be upbeat, breezy and eager to explore their surroundings or travel afar. Since you have this advantage, why not ask the universe for a favor? Tonight: You're confident.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

In one way, you want to be low-key because the Moon and three other planets are "hiding" in your chart waiting for your birthday. Nevertheless, fiery Mars has just moved into your sign, boosting your confidence and making you a tad aggressive. Does "proactive" sound better? Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're enjoying the company of friends, younger people and artistic types, as well as increased involvement in clubs and organizations. This pleases you. Today is a good day to share your hopes and dreams for the future with someone to get their feedback. Why not? Tonight: Talk to a friend.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

You are empowered now because four planets are high in your chart. This means the gods are with you, making this an ideal time to make your pitch or ask for a favor or seek approval from authority figures. You might not get what you want, but the odds are on your side! Tonight: You're admired.

**BORN TODAY**  
Actor Brad Pitt (1963), actress Katie Holmes (1978), actor Robson Green (1964).

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 18, 2025

### ACROSS

- Chowder morsel
- Wabbit hunter Fudd
- "Gimme a break!"
- Walk in the woods
- Lacy table decoration
- \_\_\_ in the balance
- Say your parents had three children, two of which are named April and May. Who could the third be?
- This, in Spanish
- Sleep
- problem
- Tags on social media
- Philippine money
- Foreboding signs
- "Ciao!"
- It keeps a driver safe
- They keep cars safe
- "Easy" letters
- Utter me once to get a location; utter me twice to get a consolation. What am I?
- "Here's an \_\_\_"
- Permit
- Chimney residue
- Can you think of a term for a flower that's also a family member from Down Under?
- TSA checkpoint needs
- Cuts, as retail prices
- Make possible
- Like all-gender dorms
- Drummer
- Ringo
- Earthy pigment, in Edmonton
- Only even prime number
- Smidgens
- Fortitude
- It's used as a cover for the body, some meats or a gift for another. What is it?
- Ancient character
- Knight's attire
- Command with a floppy disk icon
- Crossed (out)
- Bamboozles
- Looked at

### DOWN

- Seed that's a superfood
- Speech therapy focus
- Related (to)
- Shooting star

- www. rice. \_\_\_
- Home of the Clippers and Lakers
- Cookie sheet holders
- Stately trees
- Deli bread
- Animals that can run 70 mph
- Spa liquid
- Rightly suspicious of
- WWF and others
- "Razzmatazz" smoothie chain
- Section
- Musician's gift
- T, in a sorority name
- Singer Paula
- Cool thing in a hotel?
- Face off
- Wear down, as trust
- Groups of things
- Goals
- Certain evergreen
- Various
- Biblical pronoun
- "If only \_\_\_ listened ..."
- ibo\_uclaic\_cid
- "Beavis and Butt-Head" spinoff
- Window-shop
- Shrek's home
- Shrek, e.g.
- Main point
- Drive-\_\_\_ window
- Cafeteria platter
- Dialect used by Black people in the U.S.
- Drove fast
- Bit
- Grads-to-be

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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www.upuzzles.com

12/18

### Trivial Answers by CJ Tan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14				15						16				
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34			35			36					37			
38				39	40				41	42		43		
44									45			46		
				47				48						
49	50					51				52		53	54	55
56						57				58				
59						60							61	
62						63								64

# Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



## Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

## Andy Capp

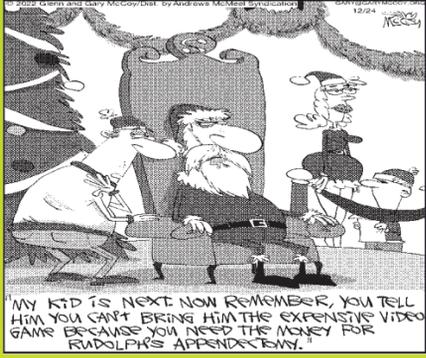
Reg Smythe



## Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



## Reality Check Dave Whamond

## Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



## The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

## Mother Goose and Grim Mike Peters



"A VACUUM CLEANER? REALLY? WHAT IS THIS... HOW THE GRINCH STOLE OUR ANNIVERSARY?"

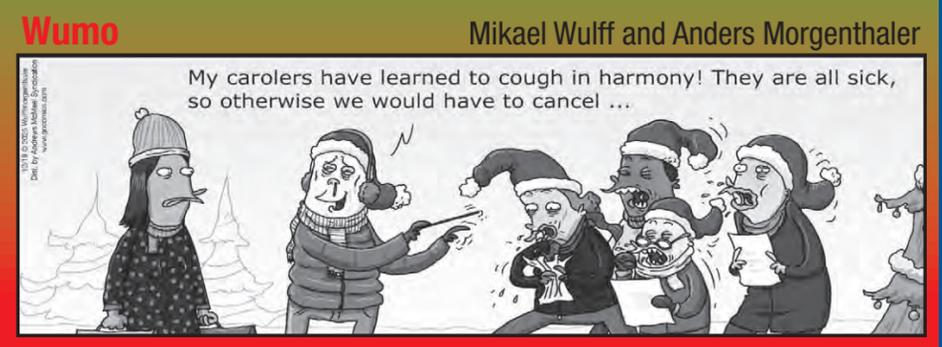


## Dennis the Menace Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

## Carpe Diem Niklas Eriksson



"HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD THIS YEAR?" "THAT DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH OF MY BEHAVIOR YOU CAN OVERLOOK"



# Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield



Jim Davis



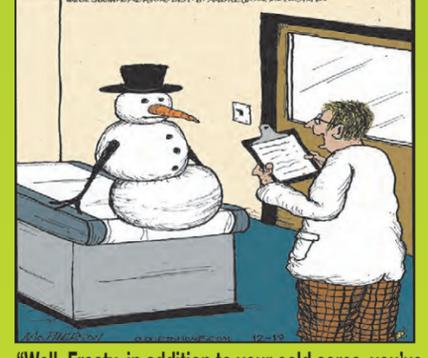
Hagar The Horrible

(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



"Well, Frosty, in addition to your cold sores, you've got frost bite and two frozen shoulders. But your beta-carotene levels are excellent."

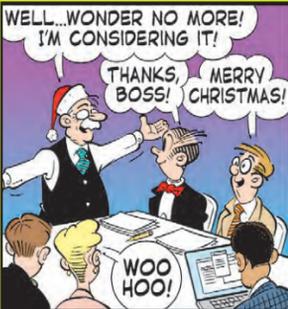
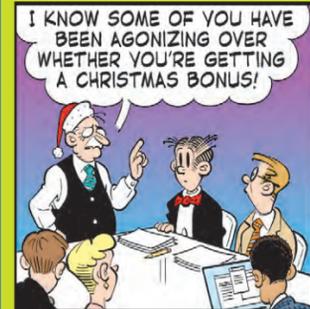
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"You are no Christmas tree."

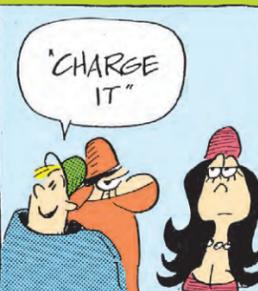
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



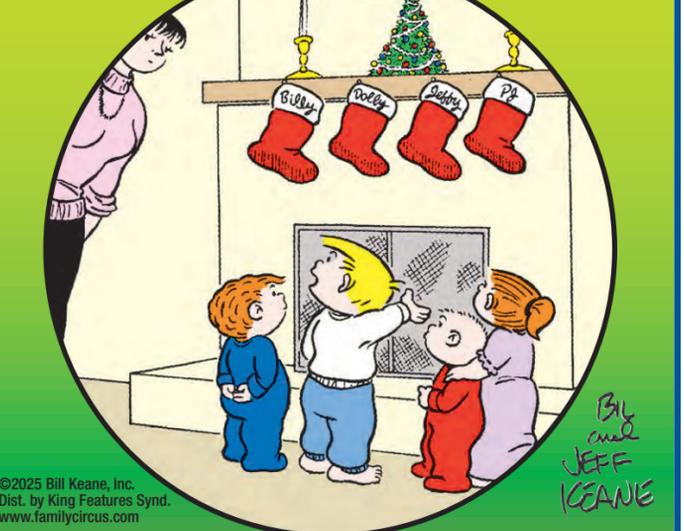
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Family Circus

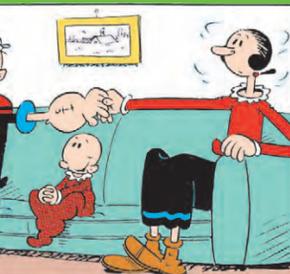
Bill and Jeff Keane



"We have two legs, so why don't we each have two stockings?"

Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



# Mice vs. Rats

Are mice and rats the same? Mice and rats are the same in that both are rodents. But there are many differences between them.

Look at the picture of the mouse and the rat. In the Venn diagram, write the ways they are the same in the center. Put what is only true about mice in the upper circle. Put what is only true about rats in the lower circle.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A mouse:</b>                               | <b>A rat:</b>                                  |
| • Has hair on its tail.                       | • Has large feet with sharp claws.             |
| • Is about 8 inches long, including its tail. | • Has a hairless tail.                         |
| • Has small, delicate feet.                   | • Is about 15 inches long, including the tail. |
| • Is a rodent.                                | • Is a rodent.                                 |
| • Has whiskers.                               | • Has whiskers.                                |
| • Has fur.                                    | • Has fur.                                     |
| • Is nocturnal.                               | • Is nocturnal.                                |

# Kid Scoop

## The Mice Before Christmas

The holiday poem *The Night Before Christmas* begins:

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
When all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring,  
Not even a mouse...



The fact that **house** and **mouse** rhyme makes this Christmas poem fun to read and listen to. But it seems that the author didn't know something important about mice.

**Do you know what that is?**

**MICE ARE NOCTURNAL!**

**WE LOVE THE NIGHT LIFE!**

**Nocturnal** means mice sleep during the day and are up finding food and doing mousy things at night.

So, they most certainly would have been "stirring" on the night before Christmas!

**WORDS TO KNOW**

**'Twas:** Short for "it was."  
**Nocturnal:** Happening at night.  
**Stirring:** Moving around.

## The Whole Tooth

Mice teeth never stop growing. That's why mice keep gnawing and chewing. That helps wear down their teeth so they don't get too long.

Uh oh! This mouse gnawed some of the words out of this paragraph. Can you replace them?



### Three Blind Mice

Another \_\_\_\_\_ that mentions mice is called *Three Blind Mice*. There is some \_\_\_\_\_ to this poem, as mice don't see very well. Their other senses are very \_\_\_\_\_. They use their sense of smell, their hearing, and the sensitive \_\_\_\_\_ of their whiskers to move about \_\_\_\_\_, find food, and \_\_\_\_\_ from danger.

**CANDY CANES!**  
Yum! Help me climb up this stocking to get one!



**FUN FACT:** A group of mice is called a **MISCHIEF** or a **NEST**.

## How does a mouse become mice?

A single mouse is, well, a **mouse**. But when there's more than one mouse, they're **mice**.

Circle every other letter to discover what you call a papa, mama, and baby mouse.

**G B Y U L C T K**  
A papa mouse is called a     

**A D H O V E**  
A mama mouse is called a     

**I P C I A N X K S Y**  
A baby mouse is called a       
(or a PUP)

## A Very Merry Mouse Party

Maddie and Misty are headed to the party. How many differences do you see?



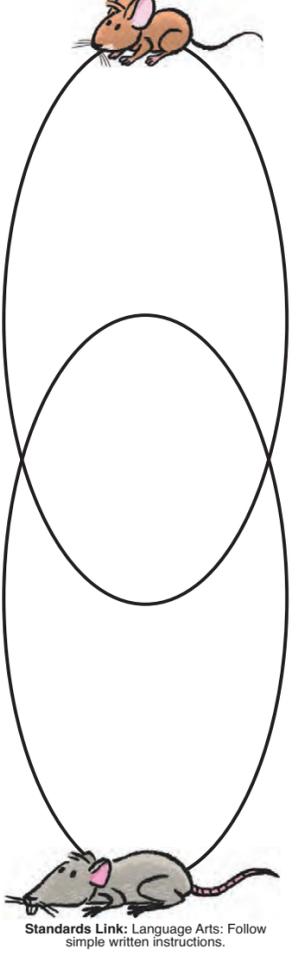
**Standards Link:** Observation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

**Extra! Extra!**

### Plural Fun

Look through the newspaper for examples of words that describe more than one of something. How many can you find where the word changes, like mouse changes to mice?

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Follow simple written instructions.



**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Follow simple written instructions.

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### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Continue the mouse pattern in each row by drawing the mouse shape that should come next.

**Standards Link:** Math: Recognize and continue patterns.

### Double Double Word Search

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

BABY  
CANDY  
CANE  
CHRISTMAS  
FOOD  
HIDE  
MAMA  
MICE  
NIGHT  
PAPA  
POEM  
SEE  
SENSE  
STOCKING  
TEETH  
WHISKERS

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

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

### Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

**This week's word: NOCTURNAL**

The adjective **nocturnal** means someone or something that is active at night.

The raccoon made a **nocturnal** visit to our trash can again last night.

Try to use the word **nocturnal** in a sentence today (or tonight) when talking with your friends and family members.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

### Holiday Poems

News reports share facts about the world and events. But poetry sometimes plays with words in ways that aren't factual, but are fun to read. Find five words in the newspaper that you can use to write a poem.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Identify parts of speech.

### Why are mice so good at washing the dishes?

**ANSWER:** Because they always get the dishes squeaky clean!

### Write On! Night Shift

Some jobs require working during the overnight hours. Write about what you think this would be like.

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

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# SPORTS



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## Blue Devils earn rivalry bragging rights with rout of Norsemen

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

When two rivals meet just once a year, it can leave whichever side loses with a bad taste in its mouth for a long time. The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys bas-

ketball team had to wait 358 days to get another shot at crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North after the Norsemen came to South last year and beat the Blue Devils. The Blue Devils got their revenge dominantly on North's home

court Friday, Dec. 12, controlling the game from the opening tip-off to the final buzzer for a 58-18 victory over the Norsemen.

"From the jump, we were ready to play this game," South boys basketball head coach Steve Benard said. "... We had expectations that we were going to come out and really set the tempo early, especially defensively. You can see from the final score that they had a hard time in their half-court set with our defense."

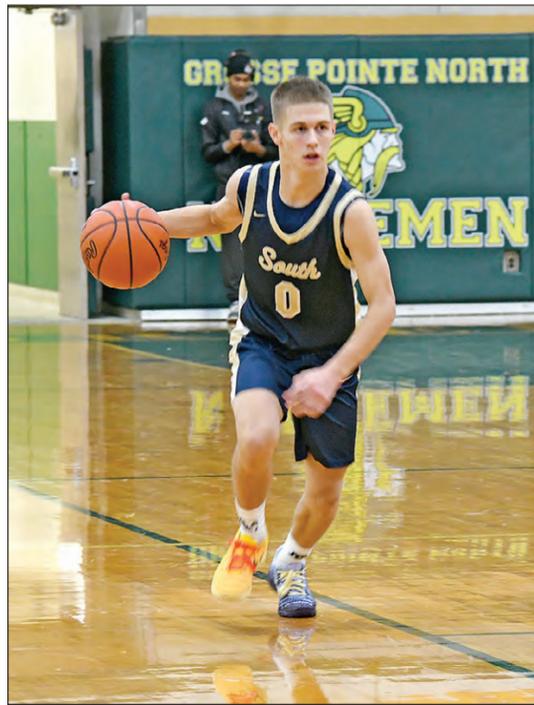
South's defense gave the Norsemen fits all night last Friday and the Norsemen's defense never quite found a way to slow down the Blue Devils' scoring. After just a minute or two of both teams trying to find a rhythm at the beginning of the game, the Blue Devils found theirs and did not let up. Shots were falling easily for South until it built up a 24-6 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Things continued going the Blue Devils' way in the second quarter. South improved its



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

North's Lewis Simmons (No. 5) jumps in an attempt to block a layup by South's Charlie Michelotti (No. 12).



Junior point guard Kooper Richards brings the ball up the floor for South. Richards scored 16 points in a rivalry win over North Friday, Dec. 12.

lead to 43-12 by halftime and the defense completely shut out the Norsemen in the third quarter to build the lead even more.

"The amount of toughness we played with and the high-level communication we had really did well for us as a unit," Benard said about South's defensive performance.

The Blue Devils

secured the 40-point win in the fourth quarter to reclaim the rivalry bragging rights from North. Jamison Spratt and Kooper Richards led South with 16 points each, while freshman standout Sam Conn was hot from beyond the three-point line to finish with 12 points. Lewis Simmons was the leading scorer for North with eight points.

South followed up its rivalry victory with another win Monday, Dec. 15, taking down Eisenhower 74-31. The Blue Devils go on the road Friday, Dec. 19, to take on Detroit Loyola. North faced Roseville on the road after press time Tuesday, Dec. 16. The Norsemen have another road matchup Friday, Dec. 19, when they visit Rochester.

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Lenhard eyes more championship success with South girls hockey

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

As she grew up playing youth hockey with organizations like the Detroit Bulldogs and Michigan Ice Hawks, Ruby Lenhard began building a community of friends and teammates when she was 5 years old. Some of those same teammates she still shares the ice with as a senior with the girls varsity hockey team at Grosse Pointe South.

In fact, it was many of those same friends who convinced Lenhard to join the Blue Devils' program a couple of years ago, ahead of her sophomore season, where she quickly became a key piece in leading South girls hockey back to state championships.

"My dad said it looked like fun and all of these girls that I played on the Ice Hawks with said that it was the best decision



Grosse Pointe News  
**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**  
**Ruby Lenhard**  
School: Grosse Pointe South  
Sport: Hockey  
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

them again."

Those seniors from a few years ago, when Lenhard joined the Blue Devils, set the example as leaders. Lenhard is now helping to continue. She is one of South's four captains this season, along with fellow seniors Charlie Harr, Audrey Reynolds and Anastazja Zielewniewski.

Lenhard and her fellow seniors have taken on the leadership respon-

sibilities in a crucial year for the Blue Devils. After winning the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 state championship in back-to-back seasons, the Blue Devils know they have a target on their backs as they try to win a third consecutive title this winter. It is up to Lenhard and her fellow captains to make sure all of their teammates understand what is expected of them.

"I've always looked up to captains in the past and wanted to be like them," she said. "The other captains and I ... we really want people to look up to us and see us as leaders of the team. We try to make sure everyone is putting in 100 percent effort in every game and every practice to make us the best team we can be."

Lenhard fits in perfectly with the group of leaders for the Blue



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

South's Ruby Lenhard lines up for a faceoff in a game against University Liggett.

Devils. For South's obvious choice. "Ruby is one of those Lenhard one of the captains seemed like an

See *ATHLETE*, page 2D



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2D | SPORTS

# Surging Knights conquer weekend of boys hockey action

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School varsity boys hockey team has been rolling through the competition in recent weeks, having not lost a game yet in the month of December. That momentum carried into the team's own Liggett Holiday Tournament last week, which also included Grosse Pointe North in action, as the Knights took home the tournament title with a win over Anchor Bay Saturday, Dec. 13.

To get to the final, the Knights earned a dominant victory against the M-1 Unified Griffins by a score of 10-3. Nick Gould led the way for Liggett with four goals in the win, while Griffin Marchal added a pair as well. Landon Maltby, Liam Kurtz, Troy Mashburn and Ryan Coradro also found the back of the net in the



PHOTO BY MADELINE HEXTER

Landon Maltby speeds past the M-1 Unified Griffins defense with the puck in Liggett's 10-3 win Friday, Dec. 12.

win. North suffered a 6-3 loss to Anchor Bay in its first game of the tournament last Friday. Aidan Burney scored twice and

Charlie Mueller added the third goal for the Norsemen in the loss.

Mueller recorded a hat trick in North's next game against the M-1

Unified Griffins Saturday, Dec. 13, with the Norsemen winning 8-4. Brandon Jarvis also tallied a pair of goals, while Burney, Brandon

Shock and Logan Perry found their way onto the score sheet as well.

Liggett took on Anchor Bay in the boys tournament final to end the day

Saturday. The Knights used a big third period to complete a 5-4 comeback win over the Tars to be triumphant in their home tournament.

Marchal and Gould scored in the first period for Liggett as the first frame ended in a 2-2 tie. Anchor Bay took a 4-2 lead by the end of the second period, but the Knights were ready to rally. Marchal and Gould each scored again to help tie the game. Maltby then scored the game-winner to give Liggett the victory.

Liggett hosts Flint Powers Catholic at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and travels on the road Friday, Dec. 19, to face Romeo in the team's final game before the holiday break. North plays its final game before the holidays Thursday, Dec. 18, going on the road to take on Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard at Yost Ice Arena.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Lenhard looks to make a play with the puck against Grosse Pointe North Thursday, Dec. 11.

## ATHLETE: Continued from page 1D

kids who motivates everyone else on the team to do better," South girls hockey coach Lexi Bohlinger said. "People listen when she talks. They respect her. She has the experience, she has the points and she has the skill to back up what she says. She's a genuinely very nice person who everyone respects and likes, so it's nice to have her as a leader in the locker room and on the ice."

The expectations have been set high for South, so Lenhard is part of the leadership making sure the Blue Devils can maintain that standard. The last five Division 1 state championships have belonged to Grosse Pointe, with South's recent back-to-back titles being preceded by three championships in a row won by University Liggett School, putting the pressure on Lenhard and the rest of the team at South to match their crosstown rivals.

"We just ended Liggett's run, so for us getting to be back-to-back state champions, it

feels like we need to get our own three-peat," Lenhard said.

The Blue Devils are living up to the hype so far through nine games this winter in their quest for a third consecutive championship. South has won seven of its first nine games, and Lenhard has played a major role with nine goals and six assists.

*'Ruby is one of those kids who motivates everyone else on the team to do better'*

LEXI BOHLINGER, GP SOUTH GIRLS HOCKEY COACH

While being one of South's biggest contributors in the offensive zone, Lenhard feels like she has made huge strides in her game ahead of this season. It all comes down to mastering some of the basics, while thinking about the ultimate goal she and her teammates have this winter.

"I've been working on my stickhandling at home and shooting pucks outside with my dad," Lenhard said. "I've really just been visualizing what I want this sea-

son to look like and trying to get a three-peat."

There are months to go before South's hopes for a third championship are possibly met. Lenhard, of course, would love nothing more than to end her time as a Blue Devil by lifting the championship trophy yet again, but doing it alongside those who have been her

friends and teammates for so long is what really would mean the most.

"Senior year, we've all come back together and our chemistry came right back," she said. "It's been really exciting, but kind of sad, though. With all of the people I grew up with, this is our last year ever playing together. ... I see these girls at school every day. Playing a sport and getting to see your teammates every day at school and talk to them, it's what makes this very special."

Grosse Pointe News



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# South girls hockey victorious in Liggett Holiday Tournament

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Hockey fans were treated to a full three days of action last week during the University Liggett School Holiday Tournament. The girls varsity hockey tournament featured all three teams from the Pointes, with Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and Liggett all battling for wins. In the end, the Blue Devils ended up on top after defeating Liggett in the championship game Saturday, Dec. 13.

“(The girls) were excited to win the Holiday Tournament because it’s something they’ve been striving to do,” South girls hockey coach Lexi Bohlinger said. “It feels like in the Liggett tournament, we’ve always lost by one goal or a shootout goal or something like that. Both players and parents and community alike were really excited that we got to take home the trophy.”

The action began Thursday, Dec. 11, with a rivalry showdown between South and North, with the Blue Devils earning a big victory 11-3. South jumped out to a 6-0 lead by the end of the first period, including a hat-trick by Sydney Eickhorst. Sophia Husek, Tinley Gram and Sydney King scored South’s other goals in the opening period.

Gram and Ruby Lenhard added another



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

**South’s Sydney Eickhorst tries to keep the puck away from North defender Ava Villani in the Blue Devils’ matchup against the Norsemen Thursday, Dec. 13.**

pair of goals for the Blue Devils in the second period, while North’s Ava Villani and Leah Burney found the back of the net. Kate Kasuba added the Norsemen’s third goal in the third period, while Eickhorst, Husek and Ana Zieleniewski helped close out the win for South.

In the other opening game of the tournament last Thursday, Liggett earned a thrilling 5-4 win over Regina in a shootout. Avery Welsh gave the Knights an early lead with a pair of goals in the first period.

Welsh completed her hat trick in the second period, with Kate Ricci also scoring to give the Knights a 4-1 lead after two periods.

Regina stormed back in the third period, however. Three unanswered goals in the final frame left the game tied and headed to overtime, then to a shootout. Liggett goalie Madeline Hexter turned into a brick wall in the shootout, while Welsh and Stella Smiatacz helped propel the Knights to the win.

Regina went on to face North Saturday,

with both teams playing to a 4-4 tie. Liggett and South’s victories led them to face each other in the final game of the tournament Saturday afternoon. The Blue Devils took the tournament championship and earned their second win over Liggett this season, although this one was much closer than the first, with South winning 3-1.

Kate Ricci scored Liggett’s lone goal in the first period to give the Knights the lead early, which felt crucial given the Knights were down a couple of key

players in the game due to injury. Lenhard tied the game for the Blue Devils in the second period and goals from Husek and Evie Wodzisz in the third period sealed South’s win.

“I think the first time we played them, we were a little bit intimidated by their speed and skill,” Yanovsky said about the difference in his team’s performance against South. “... This time around ... having eight players available against a full team, our girls were exhausted, but they battled and did everything

we expected of them and fought until the very end.”

With the tournament concluded, all three teams now prepare for their final games of 2025 before a long holiday break. South hosts Livonia United Friday, Dec. 19, with puck drop at 7:30 p.m. from East Side Foundation Hockey Arena (ESH). Liggett visits Greater Flint United Friday, Dec. 19. The Norsemen had their final game of 2025 after press time Wednesday, Dec. 17, against Plymouth-Canton.

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

### FIRE ALARM IMPROVEMENTS GROSSE POINTE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL and GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, Wayne County, Michigan, will receive sealed bids for the fire alarm improvements at Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier Road, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 and Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. The work generally consists of:

- Removal and replacement of existing fire alarm system, components, devices, etc. as indicated on the drawings for new voice evacuation system.
- New fire alarm system, components, devices, etc. as indicated on the drawings for new voice evacuation system.
- Removal and replacement of existing suspended ceiling tiles as required for the work.

Specifications and Bid Forms will be available to Prime Contractors beginning **Tuesday, December 16, 2025** by contacting the office of the Architect, Ehresman Architects, via email at [architects@ehresmanarchitects.com](mailto:architects@ehresmanarchitects.com). The Architect will issue the requesting company(s) electronic (.pdf) files of the Contract Documents including drawings and specifications. The cost of document reproduction will be the responsibility of the requesting party.

Bid documents will also be available for examination (no purchase) at the following locations:

- Ehresman Architects
- Construction Association of Michigan (CAM)
- Dodge Data & Analytics
- Construction Market Data (CMD)
- Construction Data Company (CDC)

A **Pre-Bid** meeting will not be conducted for this project. It is the contractor’s responsibility to review and become familiar with the job site, conditions, etc. prior to submitting its bid to the district. Contact the Chief Engineer (for both schools), Mr. Andrew Praedel @ 313-283-0243 to arrange any site visit(s) to review the project conditions prior to the bid due date.

Sealed bids will be due **Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. (local time)** at the Administration Building of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, 20601 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, at which time and place the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Contractor to note that the Central Administration offices are located within Grosse Pointe North High School (South end) but has its own address and entrance.

The School Board will not consider, accept, or open a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission in this advertisement for bid.

The bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond valued at five percent (5%) of the proposer’s maximum bid amount.

The bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement.

The bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance - Iran Economic Sanctions Act representing and warranting that the Contractor (including its officers, directors and employees) is not an “Iran linked business” within the meaning of the Iran Economic Sanctions Act, Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012.

Grosse Pointe Public School System’s Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, or to award the contract to other than the contractor(s) submitting the best financial Bid Proposal (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

This project will not be funded by federal or state monies.

Please direct questions to:

- Joe Cangemi, Senior Project Manager at (248) 244-9710 (ext. 106) or [joe@ehresmanarchitects.com](mailto:joe@ehresmanarchitects.com)

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Valarie St. John, Secretary (Grosse Pointe Public School System)



The winter 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!



4D | SPORTS

# HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:

## SOUTH BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Grosse Pointe South baseball will host its 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Friday, Jan. 23, at the Assumption Cultural Center in St. Clair Shores. The 2026 honorees include Ed Wernet, Tom Temrowski and the entire 2001 Division 1 state championship team in honor of its 25th anniversary.

The evening will be hosted by Fox 2's Ryan Ermanni. Tickets are \$85 and include dinner and an open bar. For more information, contact Southdugoutclubpresident@gmail.com.

## GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball earned its second win of the season Monday, Dec. 15, beating Lakeview on the road 53-41. Morgan Duff led the way with 21 points, and Evie Baer added 17. The Blue Devils return home Thursday, Dec. 18, to host Roseville. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA  
Eva Borowski

Grosse Pointe North's varsity girls basketball team earned a pair of wins in its first two games of the season last week. The Norsemen defeated Utica 54-25 last Tuesday, Dec. 9, with senior Eva Borowski scoring 27 points in the season-opener. The team then went on to earn a 38-23 victory against University Liggett School Thursday, Dec. 11. Borowski once again led the way with 21 points. North hosted Chippewa Valley after press time Wednesday, Dec. 17. The team plays its final game before the holidays Friday, Dec. 19, traveling on the road to take on L'Anse Creuse North.

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTION 2026

Hall Of Fame Induction Honoring:

*The 2001 Division 1 State Championship Team, Ed Wernet\* & Thomas Temrowski '79*

\*posthumous induction

MC for the evening : Ryan Ermanni '97

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Assumption Cultural Center  
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St. Clair Shores, MI

Tickets \$85 (Dinner & Open Bar)

\$600 Buys a Table for 8!

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2 and under free

Doors & Bar Open at 6:15 pm

Dinner 7 pm

Induction 8 pm



Please reach out to Southdugoutclubpresident@gmail.com with any questions.

Hold or scan QR code to purchase tickets

## BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys hockey suffered another loss Saturday, Dec. 13, falling to Canton 9-4. Liam O'Donoghue, Charlie Bunn, Brewer Puma and Will Gryzenia all scored for the Blue Devils in the loss. South hosted Chippewa Valley after press time Tuesday, Dec. 16, in its last game before the holiday break.



## City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

### EXHIBIT A

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS BY THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, County of Wayne, Michigan (the "City"), intends to issue limited tax general obligation bonds, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$12,000,000 for the purpose of defraying part of the cost of capital improvements consisting of the construction of a new municipal swimming pool and bathhouse, demolition of certain existing recreational structures, installation of new hardscape and landscape elements, parking lot improvements, site utility improvements and accessibility improvements, as well as all work, equipment and appurtenances necessary or incidental to such improvements. The balance of the cost of the improvements shall be paid with other funds legally available to the City.

The bonds of each series will be payable in annual principal installments not to exceed thirty (30) in number and will bear interest at rates to be determined at a competitive or negotiated sale but in no event to exceed such rates as may be permitted by law.

The bonds will be issued under and pursuant to the provisions of the Charter of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Act 279, Public Acts of Michigan, 190, as amended, and Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended ("Act 34"), and the full faith and credit of the City will be pledged to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as the same shall become due. The City will be obligated, as a first budget obligation, to advance moneys from its general funds or to levy ad valorem taxes on all taxable property within its corporate boundaries to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as the same shall become due. Taxes levied by the City for the payment of such principal and interest will be subject to applicable constitutional, statutory and charter limitations.

#### RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REFERENDUM

This notice is given, by order of the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, to and for the benefit of the electors of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms in order to inform them of their right to petition for a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the aforesaid bonds. The bonds will be issued, without submitting such a question to a vote of the electors, unless within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice a petition requesting a referendum upon such question, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors in the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, whichever is the lesser, shall have been filed with the undersigned City Clerk. In the event that such a petition is filed, the bonds will not be issued unless and until the issuance thereof shall have been approved by the vote of a majority of the electors of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information relative to the issuance of said bonds and the subject matter of this notice may be secured at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Act 279, Public Acts of Michigan, 1909, as amended.

Derrick Kozick, Clerk  
City of Grosse Pointe Farms

## Score big points this Christmas

If your son or daughter, coach, teammate, friend, or neighbor appeared in the Grosse Pointe News sports pages this year, we have the perfect holiday gift.

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It's an easy, meaningful way to celebrate your athlete, coach, or team this holiday season.



Scan the code to order yours today!



## City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

Notice is hereby given that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold three Public Hearings on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering the following applications, all of which are Map Amendments to the Zoning Map of the City's Zoning Ordinance:

Application #1: A rezoning of 1925, 1927, and 1929 Vernier Road (Parcel ID 007 99 0003 000) from RO-1, Restricted Office to C, Commercial Business.

Application #2: A rezoning of 21800 Marter Road (Parcel ID 001 99 0001 000) from R-3, Planned Multiple Family Residential to CF, Community Facilities.

Application #3: A conditional rezoning of 20160 Mack Avenue (Parcel ID 009 01 0001 000) from RO-1, Restricted Office to C, Commercial Business (conditionally).

Additionally, Notice is hereby given that the City Council will be considering the above proposed three (3) rezoning requests for a second reading/final adoption at the same meeting scheduled on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office (cityclerk@gpwmi.us), up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at 313-343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmi.us. For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at 313-343- 2426 or e-mail building@gpwmi.us.

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 the office is closed **TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY** December 23, 24, 25  
**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE** **MONDAY 1PM** December 22 for December 25 Issue

**CLASSIFIEDS 6-7**  
**Facts!**  
 Grosse Pointe News  
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6D | SPORTS

I SAY— SPORTS EDITION By Mike Adzima

# Not the (good) same old Lions

After a 41-34 loss to the Los Angeles Rams Sunday, Dec. 14, Detroit Lions fans, including myself, seem to be accepting the fact that this year's Lions team simply is not good enough. I sound ungrateful for a fan of a team that has an 8-6 record, because it could be worse.

Many of you would agree that there were many years where we Lions fans would have killed to be in this position with eight wins and in the playoff hunt down the final stretch of the regular season.

However, the standard has changed here in the Motor City and it changed quickly. Not even two full years ago, the Lions were leading the NFC Championship Game and seemingly on their way to the Super Bowl before enduring a collapse that still haunts us all to this day. Winning 15 games last season firmly cemented the Lions among the



upper echelon of the NFL, despite a disappointing exit after the first playoff game.

Still, that makes it safe to say this season for the Lions has largely been a disappointment. There was no secret it would be an uphill battle facing one of the toughest schedules in the league while bringing in new coordinators on offense and defense, but a truly elite team would be able to overcome that. This Lions team is not elite, sadly.

That does not mean there aren't areas where the Lions do not perform at an elite level. The offense has been nearly unstoppable, ranking first in the NFL in total scoring and

points per game, along with being fourth in yards per game. The Lions' offense is elite and certain players are performing at their best. Jared Goff is third in the NFL in passing and second in passer rating this season, only behind Matthew Stafford, the Rams' QB, who outdued him Sunday. Jahmyr Gibbs has even further cemented himself as one of the elite running backs in football, ranking in the top 10 in rushing yards per game and total touchdowns. Even Amon-Ra St. Brown, who has felt inconsistent at times this season, still ranks fifth in receiving yards and second in touchdowns.

The Lions were firing on all cylinders offensively much of the game against the Rams and usually scoring 34 points in an NFL game gives a team a pretty good chance of winning. However, with one side of the ball looking elite, the other side of the ball needs serious work.

The Achilles heel (apologies to Brian Branch) of the Lions, not only this year, but seemingly the last few years, has been the defense. The Lions are surrendering 24.6 points per game, 10th worst in the league, and are 12th worst in yards per game at 337.9.

Injuries play a factor and the Lions have been beaten and battered on defense all year. The secondary especially has a laundry list of injuries and the "Legion of Whom" nickname for the defensive backups in the secondary was fun when holding Tampa Bay to just nine points back in October, but not so fun when you are letting the Rams rack up 519 yards in a crucial game in December.

Like that game against Tampa Bay and a few others, the defense has had its moments this season, but inconsistency has been the ultimate dooming factor for the Lions. In a game where the defense held

the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles to just 16 points, the offense only scored nine. When the Lions' offense scores 34 points against LA's elite defense on Sunday, Detroit's own defense lets the Rams walk all over them.

Everyone loves to say the Lions with Dan Campbell as head coach never lose back-to-back games. The real issue this year is being able to win back-to-back games. Detroit has not won back-to-back games since its four-game winning streak that stretched from Weeks 2 through 5 of the season. Since then, it has been a cycle of alternating wins and losses, but there is no room left for error.

The Lions still are very much in the playoff picture and I do not want to get too gloomy and say if they do make the playoffs, it will be useless and they will lose right away. I firmly believe if you make the

playoffs, anything can happen. The frustrating thing now is that the Lions do not totally control their own destiny when it comes to making the playoffs.

With three games left in the regular season, Detroit has to win all three and receive some help from other teams, whether it be Green Bay, Chicago or San Francisco, to have a path to the postseason. If this were last year's Lions team or the 2023 team, I would feel much more confident about their chances in this position. However, the inconsistency that has plagued the Lions this year has left me, and surely plenty of others, feeling uneasy.

The word "grit" has been the defining factor of the Lions during the Dan Campbell era and this team is going to need plenty of it over the next three weeks. If grit lets them down, there are going to be a lot of questions that need to be answered before 2026.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Bulldogs win big at Silver Sticks

The 2015 Detroit Bulldogs boys hockey team won the Regional Silver Sticks Tournament Sunday, Dec. 14, to qualify for the Silver Sticks International Finals in January. The Bulldogs defeated Hartland Silver 5-2 in the championship, with goalie Brady Watson being named the MVP after the victory. The 2015 Bulldogs team will compete in the Silver Sticks International Finals in Sarnia, Ontario in January.

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