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JANUARY 1, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Mack/McKinley plans revised for a third time

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A proposed re-configuration of the Mack/McKinley intersection is on its third iteration of a preliminary site plan, but a traffic study has yet to be conducted.

“I can’t believe that we’ve got to this stage and I understand as of yet, not one traffic engineer has reviewed this,” McKinley resident Timothy O’Neil said, when the latest plans were presented to city council last month. “I’ve

been to two or three of these meetings where you hear anecdotal suggestions about doing this or doing that. There are experts that deal with this issue. Why don’t we have somebody look at it and give us a recommendation?”

“Is this really the best we can do? Would we be here discussing safety, (if not) for Village Market? I don’t think so. Let’s pay the piper and have it done correctly.”

Village Market owner Jacob Garmo brought the proposal — which would redirect McKinley to meet Mack on a 90-degree angle, effectively swapping the roadway with the parking lot — to the city in June of last year as a

See PLANS, page 4A

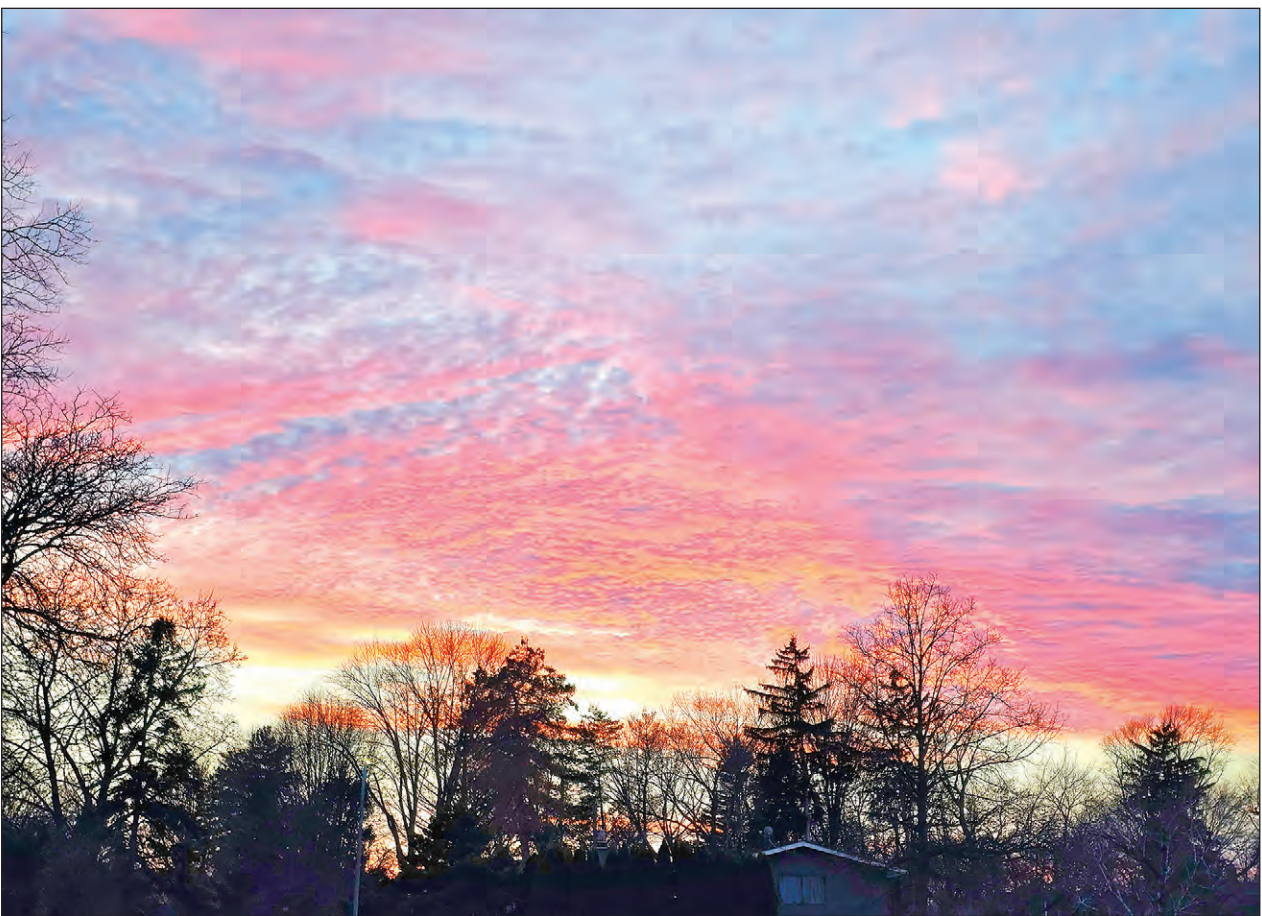


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

So long, 2025!

Staff photographer Renee Landuyt was visiting Neff Park in the City of Grosse Pointe when she captured a colorful Christmas sunset around 5:15 p.m. “The color started slow, got intense pretty quick right before disappearing into the night sky,” she said. As the sun sets on 2025, we wish you a 2026 full of luck, love and happy adventures.

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See section C

2025 IN REVIEW

Farms has a year of sizable projects

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Kicking off two major improvement projects this year, the Farms now is solidly within the construction phase of its stormwater separation and has approved design plans for the multi-million dollar Pier Park pool complex renovation.

The city also made substantial property purchases along Mack Avenue as part of future plans for the community service district near Moross, saw significant personnel transition in the public safety department and welcomed a new mayor in the con-

tested November election.

This is the year in review.

January

◆ Third-generation race car driver Jason LaDuke, who also served as a volunteer firefighter in Troy the last four years, is hired as the newest Farms public safety officer.

◆ Lt. Frank Zielinski retires after 25 years in the public safety department.

◆ A large sinkhole opens in the southeast corner of the Kerby and Kercheval intersection, taking part of the crosswalk with it.

February

◆ The War Memorial kicks off a year-long lineup of Vietnam War programming coinciding with the final year of a 2012 presidential proclamation commemorating the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last American troops from Vietnam.

◆ Councilwoman Beth Konrad Wilberding will serve as the Farms’ representative on the Active Adult Commission, which manages the senior millage tax funds, as the participating cities vote to execute an interlocal agreement for senior services.

◆ The city contracts new parks and recreation software featuring one-click court reservations; multiple household member login; a mobile app through which residents can register for classes and reserve courts; and

Infrastructure improvements abound in Park

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It was almost deja vu all over again in the Park during 2025.

Similarly to 2024, when infrastructure improvements and designing the flood-fighting extreme emergency flood valve ruled the roost, during 2025 infrastructure work gained momentum and the valve was installed, dedicated and, officials hoped, never needed.

Focus expanded last year to alley improvements and enforcement

of maintenance codes. Work began on the city’s inaugural master plan for the parks and recreation department. Also for the first time, a water main was installed under lower Charlevoix. The area had been supplied for generations by small feeder pipes.

The year ended with a stellar audit report showing upward trends in property values and savings.

“(The year) 2025 was a year of steady progress and thoughtful decision-making,” Mayor Michele

See FARMS, page 3A

See PARK, page 2A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Owen Rossman
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Local designer combines love of art and golf



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PARK:

Continued from page 1A

Hodges said. “We stayed focused on core services, addressed challenges head on and laid groundwork that will continue to benefit the community in the years ahead.”

“(The year) 2026 will be a year of continuing our progress and identifying new opportunities to enhance the quality of life our residents expect,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

An unresolved matter remained the fate of the Trombly Elementary School building, essentially mothballed in recent years by public school officials citing declining enrollment.

The wrap-up for this year promises the same focus.

This is the year in review:

January

◆ A federal flood reduction plan for southeast Michigan incorporates flow data from the city’s improved stormwater management system.

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official requests the data upon learning from City Manager Nick Sizeland of the city’s multimillion dollar investment in sewer upgrades.

Improvements in the city were due, in part, to a voter-supported, 10-year, water-sewer millage and installation of a flood relief valve paid partly by more than \$1 million in private donations.

◆ A councilman proposes doubling the mayor’s term in office to four years, matching terms of council members.

Councilman Max Wiener proposes the idea because the time it takes to mount a campaign for office occupies roughly one-quarter of an incumbent mayor’s current two-year term.

◆ Mayor Michele Hodges expects school district representatives to update city council soon on progress toward reopening Trombly Elementary School.

Trombly was closed in June 2020 due to enrollment drops, but has better prospects due to a reported increase in district school-age population.

“We plan to continue to stay actively engaged in holding (school officials) accountable because it’s clearly not acceptable for that building to remain derelict,” Hodges says.



Lisa Kyle, chair of the beautification committee, and Alan Colter shovel dirt around the base of the tri-color beech tree planted in Brian Colter’s memory. Wayne Nemeth, with J&W Tree Artisans, watches.

February

◆ Crime drops 10 percent.

In many categories of criminal cases, crime was so low to begin with that the addition or reduction of one or two cases generated out-of-balance percentage changes.

Aggravated assault was an example. Police registered two cases during 2024 compared with three the year before, a drop of 33 percent.

Figures appear in the Park Public Safety Department annual report for 2024, released this month.

◆ The mayor wants doers — work horses, not show horses — on a new ad hoc committee tasked with advocating for reopening Trombly Elementary.

Establishing a standalone ad hoc committee gives the effort more verve compared with a subcommittee buried within an established board, commission or committee.

“It sends a strong message and allows us to summon talent,” Hodges says. “An ad hoc committee is a specialized body intended to focus on a specific issue.”

◆ It is almost certain an outside consultant will be retained to help city officials draft their first-ever master plan for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

“A master plan is a high-level document,” says Mike Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission. “The intention of this project is to strategically look at where we want the city’s parks and recreation offerings to be in 10 or 15 years so that we can make more informed decisions and (the recreation director) can ensure we’re making the



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Park officers Sgt. Steve Thiel and PSO Jason Lockwood enjoyed s’mores while patrolling Chilly Fest.

best use of the resources we have.”

“This is going to set the way,” says Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

March

◆ Higher-density housing is on the long-term wish list of the Mack Avenue Corridor improvement study.

“We are a built-out community, so we have to be creative in adding population density,” Park Manager Nick Sizeland says.

The latest draft of the study cites Grosse Pointe Farms’ master plan, which advocates higher-density housing on its section of the corridor. It’s a concept Grosse Pointe Park representatives share for their city’s portion of Mack.

◆ Awards for trees grow like weeds in the city.

For the 42nd year in a row, the Park wins Tree City USA status.

City Forester Brian Colter receives the news March 5, from the Arbor Day Foundation, which established the designation 49 years ago.

“And for the 19th time, we got the more prestigious Growth Award, which means we went above and beyond the

standards necessary for Tree City USA,” Colter says. “Only one community in Michigan has more Growth Awards than Grosse Pointe Park. Berkeley has 20.”

◆ Councilwoman Christine Gallagher’s accusation of the city operating in deficit is traced to her wrongly adding and subtracting numbers in an audit report dated June 30 last year and presented to council in January this year.

“It’s a question of whether you are choosing to lead or mislead,” Mayor Michele Hodges says. “It’s not an issue of understanding or not understanding (accounting). What’s missing from my colleague is an unwillingness to listen and learn for reasons I can’t explain. But, they’re not reasons that have the best interests of this community in mind.”

◆ Brian Colter’s job as a one-man city forestry department means combining administrative duties with the physical labor of tending trees.

He says the hardest part of the job has nothing to do with forestry. The struggle is calming people’s emotional attachment to trees that have to be cut down.

Colter’s empathy seldom waned, but his strength and stamina wore out. He died in his sleep Saturday morning, March 15. He was 57 and one month shy of scheduled heart surgery.

April

◆ Cheers to the Charlevoix pub crawl.

The crawl, known officially as Sip, Stroll & Shape Charlevoix, is held one evening this month to gather the public’s ideas about renovating Charlevoix’s commercial streetscape.

“I care about the street becoming more pedestrian-friendly and commercial spaces filling out into the street so people feel like the street’s alive,” says architect and neighborhood resident Ellen Duff.

The March 25 event is held at O’Flaherty’s pub and The Charlevoix restaurant.

◆ When a small community antes up \$2 million for an emergency flood control valve to thwart a repeat of 1,000 basements flooded by sewer backups during thunderstorms, the valve is newsworthy no matter what.

The city’s newly cleaned sewer system handles a big storm one night this month without resorting to the relief valve.

“Over the course of an hour, we got close to one inch of rain,” says Mike Krause, an electrician and pumping station operator.

City Manager Nick Sizeland says overall rain throughout the storm measured 1.8 inches.

“The pumps worked as intended,” Krause says.

◆ Park firefighters run with the big dogs under a mutual-aid pact with Detroit.

“We probably respond to as many fires in a year as they do in a month,” says Jim Bostock, director of Park public safety.

An agreement signed by both jurisdictions this week prescribes Detroit fire investigators helping the Park root out causes of suspicious fires, plus helping put out fires in general.

“It’s a reciprocal agreement,” Bostock says.

May

◆ It turns out that memorandums of understanding make good handshake opportunities, but lack the legal grip of signed contracts.

The distinction is made by a municipal legal representative who says the Downtown Development Authority neither is, nor ever was, obliged to provide offsite parking spaces for the forthcoming Schaap Center for Performing Arts.

Parking is to be provided on a lot the DDA agrees to build on a vacant, grassy lot it supposedly owned in front of the Ewald Branch Public Library on Jefferson at Lakepointe beside city hall. Due diligence by Schaap representatives

reveal the land is owned by the city, not the DDA.

Members of the council affirm ownership of the land. They say nothing about transforming it into a parking lot for anyone.

◆ An advocate for improved water and sewer operations says a consultant’s recommended 23 percent combined water-sewer rate is “a bridge too far.”

Councilman Max Wiener, head of the infrastructure committee, supports a smaller, but still two-digit increase in rates starting with the new fiscal year, July 1.

◆ It’s easy to get cocky when governing people who donate thousands of dollars for a flood-control valve that, buried and covered with dirt, will never be seen again and hopefully never used.

“It’s time to show those flood waters who’s boss,” says Mayor Michele Hodges during a dedication ceremony May 20, of the extreme emergency relief valve installed last year at Patterson Park.

“The project was made possible through the engagement and philanthropy of Shery, Sean and Nancy Cotton, the Grosse Pointe Park infrastructure millage passed by residents and the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation,” according to a plaque on a brick wall about halfway up the driveway to Patterson Park.

“Infrastructure is so important,” Sean Cotton says. “This private-public partnership was difficult, but it was important. We’re honored to have this plaque, but even more so, we’re just happy to help our community.”

“This may be the most significant project the foundation has ever been involved with,” says Jay Kennedy, current president of the foundation. “It’s been described as an insurance policy. It should support property values. I hope it isn’t used and we don’t talk about it again for a long, long time.”

June

◆ Systematic sidewalk restoration, reinstated during 2024 for the first time in a decade, continues in 2025 in District 2. The residential area encompasses 19 square blocks and is bordered by Jefferson and Mack avenues from Bedford to Kensington.

◆ Council members vote 6-1 for a 23 percent increase in water and sewer rates.

Resulting revenue pays for, in part, replacing nearly 4,000 of the city’s water meters.

The old meters are road-weary, inaccurate and blamed for all kinds of costly problems, including not operating regularly and, when they do, not properly tracking water usage.

◆ The municipal budget passes almost unchanged from a draft discussed during a public workshop last month.

The main difference is factoring in a 23 percent increase in water and sewer rates that consultants from Bendzinski & Company Municipal Advisors recommend upon concluding an analysis of the city’s water-sewer infrastructure needs.

“The general fund has a \$130,200 surplus,” says Nick Sizeland, city manager.

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FARMS:

Continued from page 1A

the option for digital park passes.

◆ Liquidation sales began at JOANN Fabric and Crafts as it prepares to permanently close.

March

◆ Farms city council approves the first phase of stormwater separation construction for just north of \$11 million. The city also secures a series of agreements with the Country Club of Detroit to run a 48-inch water main down the edge of its golf course as an integral component of the project.

◆ Jim LaBeau, school resource officer at Grosse Pointe South High School, is named 2024 Farms public safety employee of the year.

◆ Henry Ford Pharmacy reopens on The Hill nearly four years after a fire closed the whole building.

April

◆ Flyleaf bookstore and bistro at 92 Kercheval on The Hill is approved for an on-street dining platform.

May

◆ The first annual all-Pointes “Touch a Truck” event is held at Pier Park.

◆ Village Market is approved for seasonal placement of an outdoor grill to give out samples on the sidewalk patio at the storefront entrance.

◆ Joe Maurer and Jack Maxwell join the public safety department as new officers.

◆ The city purchases a property at 18780 Mack, between Belle Tire and Wendy’s, for \$795,000.

◆ Construction of the inland district sewer separation project begins at Tonnancour and Lakeshore. As part of the selected route to transfer stormwater from the inland district to Lake St. Clair, a gravity sewer will be constructed along Tonnancour from Kercheval to Lakeshore, where the outfall will be installed in the break-wall.

Grosse Pointe Farms Officer Tim Harris gets his badge pinned on him by his wife, Grosse Pointe Farms PSO Paige Thomas, when he was promoted to lieutenant.



Grosse Pointe Farms PSO Charity Vanover hosted an ice cream social at the American House on Kercheval to give back to the community. She and her daughters, Victoria and Jordan Nelson, take a break from handing out popcorn to pose for a photo.



Above, Grosse Pointe South High School senior Nate Michaud and School Resource Officer Jim LaBeau stand by the police vehicle that sports the decals Michaud designed. Left, Allyce Kennedy pours a glass of Yuengling lager, which was first made available in Michigan in August, at Irish Coffee Bar and Grill.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

◆ Restoration of the Alger House historic library is completed.

June

◆ The City’s five precincts are consolidated to two thanks to a new state law that permits up to 4,999 voters per precinct, compared to the prior 2,999 maximum. All precincts remain housed at The War Memorial.

◆ Within the public safety department, Tim Harris and Derek Lazarski are promoted to lieutenant and sergeant, respectively.

◆ Wayne County reviews updated engineering drawings to reconfigure the intersection at Mack and McKinley and restructure the Village Market parking lot. Before it can move forward, the project needs site plan approval from Farms city council.

July

◆ The Farms is the first community in the state to pass an ordinance regulating crypto currency

ATMs for greater consumer protection against rampant scams.

◆ Lt. Matthew Hurner and Sgts. Kris Desmydral and Mike Ryan are honored with a ceremonial swearing-in ceremony for their promotions.

August

◆ Officers save the life of a 70-year-old Detroit woman who intentionally drove her car into Lake St. Clair.

◆ Orthodontics Associates opens on The Hill at 114 Kercheval.

◆ American House Grosse Pointe celebrates its 10th anniversary on The Hill.

◆ As plans proceed for a new Pier Park pool complex, residents nix proposed ideas of a lazy river and the removal of the splash pad.

September

◆ The Boardroom at the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe is reinvented into a modern cocktail bar speak-easy cheekily named The Dog House.

◆ An early childhood daycare is preliminarily proposed for the former Rite Aid building on The Hill.

October

◆ The preliminary site plan for an estimated \$12 million to \$14 million revamp of the Pier Park aquatic facility unanimously is passed by city council.

◆ Continuing its acquisition of properties at the corner of Mack and Moross, the Farms purchases the former JOANN Fabrics and Crafts building for \$2.4 million.

◆ Homes and businesses recognized for 2025 beautification awards are 353 Moross, 180 Country Club Drive, 135 Kenwood, 47 Oldbrook Lane, 154 Cloverly, 130 Lothrop, 63 Kercheval, Flyleaf Bookstore, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 255 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe South Garden Club and 261 Mt. Vernon.

◆ Just shy of a year since the Pointes — with the exception of the Shores — and Harper

Woods passed the six-year, 0.35-mill senior services millage, an agreement with The Helm for essential senior services is ratified.

November

◆ The newest public safety hire, Conor McKenna, transitions from a past athletic career to one in law enforcement, all within the community where he was born and raised.

◆ John Gillooly is voted mayor as Louis Theros decides not to run for reelection. Councilwomen Beth Konrad Wilberding and Sierra Donaven retain their seats in an uncontested election and are joined on council by former public safety director Dan Jensen.

◆ The city’s council chambers are named in honor of outgoing mayor Louis Theros.

◆ The proposal for an early childhood daycare on The Hill is tabled until January.

◆ Residents near Kerby and Chalfonte call attention to an egregious sewage odor emanating from the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District Pump Station at 305 Chalfonte.

◆ Walter Sandercott, his mom, Jenny, and grandmother, Anita, win The War Memorial’s first gingerbread house decorating contest.

◆ Pearl brings back free two-hour holiday parking on The Hill.

December

◆ All five Pointes respond to a Vendome house fire, fully extinguishing it within two hours.

◆ City council approves a notice of intent to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$12 million for a period not to exceed 30 years for its Pier Park pool project.

◆ City council approves the designs for a new pump station at the corner of Moross and Chalfonte.

◆ Orthodontics Associates on The Hill is the recipient of a surprise \$5,300 grant from Fifth Third Bank.

◆ Pointe native Lila Ostrowski is the last officer to be hired into the public safety department in 2025.

◆ A third iteration of preliminary plans to reconfigure the Mack/McKinley intersection is presented to city council. No votes are taken.

Randazzo calls it a career after 30 years

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — “Every day since I announced my retirement, my coworkers have done something to my office that created more work for me,” Public Services Director Pete Randazzo said — in the same breath acknowledging it was the camaraderie with coworkers that kept him working in the City 30 years.

Public works employees and city staff alike have taken turns littering Randazzo’s office with tiny ducks, little Jesus figurines, glitter-filled balloons, caution tape and toilet paper, as well as wrapping his computer and folders in Christmas paper.

“Every day I come in, I don’t know what to expect and they’re all in on it,” Randazzo said. “That’s what I’m going to miss is the camaraderie working with these guys. You can’t recreate it. It’s got to be organic and it’s got to be built.”

He’s had three decades to build it.

After serving in the Regular Army, Randazzo’s first day of work for the City was May 20, 1995, as an entry-level DPW worker.

In a tale of hard work and staying the course that isn’t often told in this day and age, he worked his way up through the ranks, becoming crew leader in 2009, DPW supervisor in 2012, and director of the

department in 2017.

“Just coming out of the military, I wanted to be a generator mechanic, because that was my job, and I wanted to be an electrician,” Randazzo recalled. “But then I got to learn a lot of things here in the DPW as a part-time, full-time guy and I thought, ‘Man, I can make a career out of this.’”

And make a career, he did.

Heading up a major department in a small city meant authority over refuse, leaf pickup, snow removal, the pump station, road construction, water mains, the sewer system and odds-and-ends repairs throughout the city.

His leadership extended to overseeing the design and construction of the public safety building on Mack, the transformation of the former public safety department into the current court and council chambers and the design and construction of the public works facility on Maumee.

“One of the biggest things was to build the DPW to house all our new equipment, because a lot of our equipment didn’t age well sitting outside back in the day and coming in the middle of the night doing snow operations, you’re freezing cold. Everything was iced up,” Randazzo said. “Now you can come in, hop in your truck and everything’s nice and warm, ready to go.”

See CAREER, page 5A

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 5

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission special meeting, 7 p.m.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Golf brand only the beginning for Pointe artist

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

Owen Rossman was unsure he had ever picked up a golf club before 2020, when he went to a course with a few friends. He grew up playing basketball and baseball at Grosse Pointe North High School, but quickly became passionate about golf and started thinking of ways he could incorporate it into his biggest passions — art and graphic design.

“We went out for the first time during COVID, me and three other buddies,” Rossman said. “Once I picked it up, I couldn’t go back. I was hooked on it. ... I really just fell in love with everything about the game. You make a lot of mistakes in golf and it’s about how you bounce back from those mistakes and I incorporate that in my artwork. I try to stay away from an eraser and just let my pen flow.”

Rossman was in college when he fell in love with golf. He was studying at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and originally had his eyes on industrial design, but quickly realized graphic design was



a more exciting way to express his own artistic creativity. Pairing his artistic and graphic design skills with his newfound interest in golf, Rossi Golf and Design was born, giving Rossman a way to share his art with the world through various types of golf apparel. “I didn’t switch my major, but I started to do (graphic design) a lot more in my free time,” he said. “I became so passionate about it. I got the idea to start a golf brand a couple of years ago and

it came to fruition about a year and a half ago. Using my illustration background and my love for golf, it seemed like such a prime opportunity to create something like that. ... I kind of call it more like an art project and my goal is to connect with people through my art.” Rossi Golf sells just about everything a golfer needs to look good on the links. Everything — from hats and hoodies to shirts, headcovers and stickers — is available on the company’s website, each sporting unique



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, Grosse Pointe North grad Owen Rossman began golfing in 2020, and paired his love for the sport with his artistic skills to create Rossi Golf and Design. Above, the “Detroit Football x Golf” hat designed by Rossman has become one of Rossi Golf’s best-selling items.

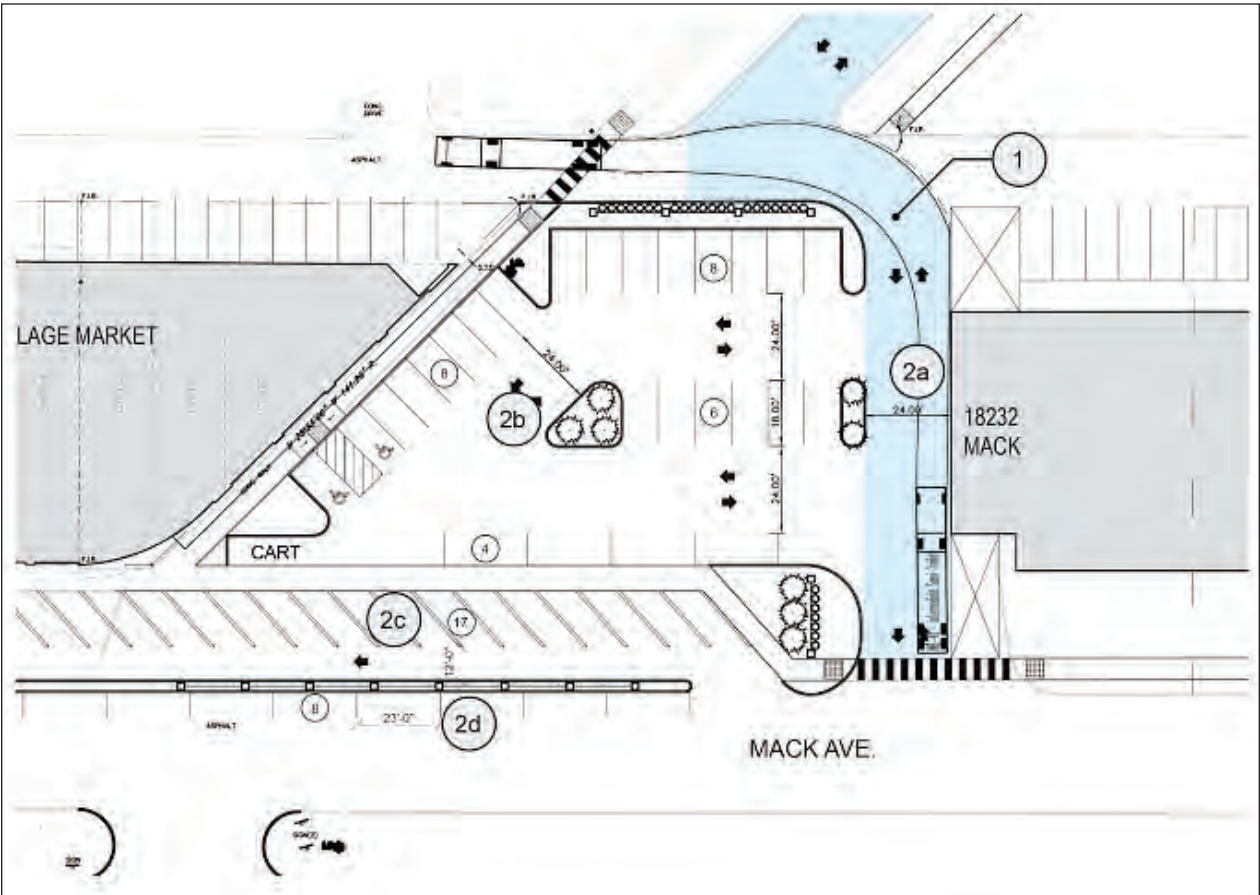
designs created by Rossman himself. While Rossman has all kinds of different designs available, some of his most popular are inspired by his hometown. Rossman has taken inspiration from the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan and created some of what he feels is his best art based on the culture close to home. Take, for example, his best-selling item, the “Detroit Football x Golf” hat, which features a lion riding in a blue golf cart, proudly waving a 313 flag. “Detroit is such an art-based community and there’s so much around us,” Rossman said. “It’s almost my whole inspiration. I’m always looking around for stuff that I can correlate and take and put into a golf design. It’s been my main inspiration for this and I want to keep growing in terms of design around Detroit

and maybe even eventually expand out of golf and into other sports. People really connect with that stuff and that’s something I really value — connection and conversation.” While Rossman loves golf, Rossi Golf may be just a jumping-off point for his art as a whole. The brand is continuing to grow thanks to Rossman’s efforts on social media and not being afraid to get in front of the camera and promote his own designs, but he wants the growth to expand to other areas too. Anyone who sees Rossi’s designs knows his artistic abilities have no boundaries and expressing those abilities through golf is only the beginning of what he thinks could be his ultimate art project. “Expanding not fully out of golf, but reaching more audiences and creating more artwork with different themes like football or when the baseball season rolls around,” Rossman said. “Eventually turning it into Rossi, not Rossi Golf, and having it be more of a total art-based brand where I can really create whatever I want.”

PLANS:

Continued from page 1A

way to connect its parking lot to the store rather than the current configuration, which requires patrons to park and cross McKinley. “The main purpose of our goal here is for pedestrian safety,” Garmo said. “This (new) parking lot is going to ... eliminate that crossing and also formalize an existing parking area that is currently unpaved and unstriped.” During its third presentation to city council last week — no votes have been taken as of yet — the site plan’s main change from previous iterations regards how McKinley would meet the public alley. While the concept of swapping the roadway and parking lot remains the same, the amended plan now calls for McKinley to effectively be terminated at the alley and then angled around the new parking lot to meet Mack perpendicularly, as shown in the



COURTESY RENDERING

The most recent design drawings call for McKinley to effectively be terminated at the alley and then angled around the new parking lot to then meet Mack perpendicularly.

design drawing (above). “If you were coming down McKinley, you would get to the alley, you

would have to make a right-hand turn and then make a left-hand turn to go out to Mack,” Public

Services Director Matthew Baka explained. The change is intended as a traffic-calming measure, which would slow traffic traveling north on McKinley. “Some of the main concerns from what we’ve had in the last couple resident meetings, as well as some of the concerns that were brought up from McKenna (the city’s planners) were a speedy cut-through for the residents,” Garmo addressed. “We hope this design alleviates that with the slow-down off of McKinley from Mack onto McKinley with that turn.” As the plans have evolved, there also has been discussion regarding the possibility of realigning the Mack Avenue pass-through at McKinley to prevent drivers from continuing to use it as a straight cut-through. “This plan, or the prior plan, has gone to Wayne County,” City Manager Shane Reeside noted. “There was not a formal review, but that was one of the things they talked

about is actually creating that, where you’re changing the alignment of the cut-through between the northbound and southbound Mack lanes, so it would force you to make a turnaround and not try to cut through. They (Wayne County) were OK with that.” While an additional intended appeal of the project was to create more parking spaces for Village Market and the surrounding businesses, there is a significant discrepancy between what that net gain of parking spaces actually will be. While Garmo reported the updated plans would provide an additional 25 spots throughout the block, the report by city planners cited a net gain of only five parking spots. Further compounding the parking debate, the updated design does not sit as well with owners of businesses on the other side of McKinley, who would only have four public parking spaces on their side of the street.

“The last version had 10 spots on our side,” said Tamara Baubie, co-owner of Tower Therapeutic Fitness and Wellness. “I know that didn’t account for something that reduces the speed of people going onto McKinley, but from that perspective, it was a little more amenable to us because there were parking spots available for people on the south side of McKinley.” A majority of city council members noted some measure of support for the plans, particularly from the stance of traffic calming and pedestrian safety, aside from Councilman Joe Ricci. “We have a problem with trucks going down McKinley, but that could be really easily corrected by saying you have to turn right when you leave the back of the alley,” he said. “I just don’t know why we’re doing all this and what we hope to gain at the very end. It’s kind of like taking that person who has a size 12 foot and you’re trying to get an 8 slipper on. It’s just a tough sale in my eyes.” As no votes were taken, city council invited Garmo to return during its February or March meeting with further fleshed-out plans. “We are willing to consider this going forward,” Mayor John Gillooly said. The applicant should return to council with a completed and thorough traffic study; details on how the changes to parking will affect surrounding businesses; a method of ingress and egress of vehicles out of the parking lot with regard to interest in no left-hand turn out of the lot onto McKinley; a plan for signage in the alley; and a decision on whether Village Market would be in favor of the city making the alleyway one-way from Moran to McKinley. “It’s not a perfect plan,” Councilman Dan Jensen said, “but I think the yeas outweigh the nays when it comes to pedestrian and vehicular safety.”

Wishing you a very

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City of Grosse Pointe

Suspended license

A 35-year-old Detroit man was stopped for speeding just after 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Mack and Lincoln. He was cited for driving with a suspended license and released.

Larceny

An unknown suspect stole a package containing \$216 worth of various items sometime between 6 and 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, from the front porch of a house in the 400 block of St. Clair.

Attempted theft

An unknown suspect broke the passenger-side rear window of a 2025 Dodge Ram, parked in the 1000 block of Lincoln overnight Monday, Dec. 29, and attempted to either steal the vehicle or its infotainment system.

— Jody McVeigh
Report information about these or other crimes to the City of

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Wrong plate

A 44-year-old St. Clair Shores man received several tickets after an officer noticed not only was the license plate on his 2005 gray Chevy Malibu expired, it was registered to a different vehicle. He was cited for an expired plate and no insurance.

Vehicle recovered

A 2019 black Jeep Grand Cherokee that was stolen from in front of a house in the 400 block of Bellanger around 5 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, was recovered two hours later by police in Grand Blanc.

The three Detroit residents in the vehicle were

arrested.

Warrant

A 27-year-old female from the City of Grosse Pointe was arrested around 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, on a warrant from Macomb County for possession of dangerous drugs.

She and a man were asking people near Fisher and Mack for money and telling them they would repay them via Cash App.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Broken window

A side window of a residence in the 800 block of Nottingham was discovered broken Tuesday morning, Dec.

23.

“It is unknown what caused the damage,” police said. “A neighbor reported hearing what sounded like breaking glass during the night (at 5 a.m.)”

Larceny from auto

A wallet containing \$15 was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked overnight Sunday, Dec. 28, in the driveway of a residence in the 1200 block of Nottingham.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen vehicles

A Ford Mustang was stolen from a closed

garage in the 800 block of North Renaud sometime between 11 and 11:40 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Cleaning personnel said they saw the vehicle in the garage at 11 a.m. but it was gone when they went out 40 minutes later to empty the trash. It is unclear how the garage was accessed.

A 2018 Kia Sportage was stolen from the parking lot at Henry Ford St. John Hospital sometime between 7 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19.

Infotainment system theft

The infotainment system was stolen from a 2023 Dodge Ram sometime before 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, while parked in front of a business in the 20100 block of Mack.

An officer on patrol noticed the truck’s rear window was shattered.

Breaking and entering

Police believe someone was trying to steal a furnace from a vacant home in the 19000 block of Raymond.

The homeowner told officers around 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, someone accessed the house via a key in a lockbox. The furnace had been disconnected from the gas line and a cordless drill was found nearby.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

CAREER:

Continued from page 3A

Major city disasters also fell heavily on his shoulders.

Fresh in his mind is the tornado that came through town July 2, 1997, hitting the City and Farms and devastating the Park.

“I remember working night and day, seven days a week for a good two months during that time, just getting everything cleaned up and somewhat back to normal,” Randazzo said.

And then there were the catastrophic basement backups that occurred in June of 2021, followed by far too close of a call in 2023, when a storm took out both power substations to the city’s pump station.

The crew brought in a generator that wouldn’t start, at which point the only equipment operational was a small generator that could only operate two pumps.

“That was probably the most stressful time in my career,” Randazzo said. “Just coming off the 2021 storm, we were about to have another flood in 2023.”

While waiting for DTE to fix the power, “the little generator that could” proved capable of handling the storm.

“Evan Gillooly, the new water and sewer supervisor, was there with me,” Randazzo said. “We were



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak presents retiring Public Services Director Pete Randazzo with a proclamation of appreciation Monday, Dec. 15.

able to make a bunch of phone calls and we did a lot of praying and we were able to thwart that potential disaster.”

Being a department head in such a small city meant Randazzo wore many hats — some with nothing much at all to do with DPW operations — led his team by example and often tagged-in on all-hands-on-deck scenarios.

“If I would see somebody bending over picking up litter, it was Pete,” Councilwoman Maureen Juip said. “... If there’s somebody who, on a holiday in the summer after catastrophic flooding, is out there picking up glass to make sure kids don’t get

cut in their front yards, it was Pete.”

Each year when election season came around, he could be found setting up election booths, placing a generator on standby in case of a power outage and standing at the front desk helping voters apply for ballots when manpower was shallow.

As is city tradition for the director of public services, Randazzo even served as the authorized person to take election results to the county via a police escort.

“The funny thing was we always wanted to be the first one in Wayne County to drop off our results, but somehow,

someway, it was always Grosse Pointe Shores there before us,” Randazzo said. “We were first once or twice, I think, in my career.”

He even dabbled in a bit of detective work.

One such time, an elderly resident was being scammed by a handyman and his friend posing as a building inspector. The duo created a revolving door of work that falsely needed to be done in her home to pass the city’s inspection.

“I was at my desk one day, she called me and she said, ‘Hey, I just want you guys to stop coming out here. I just want it to stop,’ and I had no idea what she was talking about,” Randazzo said. “So I go over there to her house and she starts telling me all the things that we approved, but we keep adding stuff. Right away I thought some things were strange.”

He proceeded to uncover missing checks from her checkbook, the fact she paid for sump pump installation when there wasn’t one in the house and astronomical charges for sprinkler repairs.

“I called the detective, now the police chief, and I said, ‘John, I think we’ve got a situation over here,’” Randazzo recalled. “Long story short, they found

him, they charged him with a couple felonies and he spent some time in jail.”

He kept in close contact with the resident, even after she moved to Indianapolis to live with her daughter.

“She’d always call me on my birthday,” Randazzo said. “She’d always call me on Christmas and talk to me and thank me.”

The director was honored for his three decades of service to the city with a proclamation from city council during its December meeting.

“The mayor, city council and citizens of Grosse Pointe formally recognize and honor Peter A. Randazzo for his exceptional service, leadership and contributions to the community over the past three decades,” the proclamation reads, “and extend their deepest appreciation to Peter for his outstanding commitment and dedication to the City of Grosse

Pointe, earning a well-deserved retirement.”

Though Randazzo will finish out the end of the year and depart the city, he’s only going up the road.

“I have another opportunity in Grosse Pointe Shores,” he said, adding, “Grosse Pointe Shores would be the only place I would ever leave this place for.”

He’s looking forward to taking a position with a little less responsibility, where he’ll no longer be the one taking phone calls in the middle of the night. The Shores’ lack of a business district and corresponding work is an additional plus.

“Grosse Pointe Shores was always my dream job,” Randazzo said. “I just thought the time was right. ... Like I tell the guys in the Shores, I’m going to be the best employee they ever hired. I’m just excited. I can’t wait to start.”

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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

A wish list for the new year

Heading into the new year, we have compiled a list of things we would like to see happen in 2026.

Before we get to that, however, we also want to take a look at just a smattering of the accomplishments and milestones achieved across the Pointes in 2025:

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods celebrated its 75th anniversary Dec. 11, the exact date in 1950 that voters there approved a city charter and transitioned from a village.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Garden Center also marked 75 years, as did the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe. We are sensing a pattern here.

◆ The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods celebrated 25 years.

◆ The 50th annual Santa Parade was held.

◆ The Grosse Pointe News turned 85 years old.

◆ Farms officers saved a woman whose vehicle drove into Lake St. Clair.

◆ The Farms 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U Little League teams all won their respective district tournaments.

◆ Voters approved a 20-year, \$120 million bond for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

◆ The Grosse Pointe News was named Michigan Press Association Newspaper of the Year for the fourth consecutive year, as voted on by press associations from various states.

◆ The Full Circle Resale Shop opened, thanks to the generosity of the Van Elslander family and Jim and Patti Anderson.

◆ The second annual Grosse Pointe Gathering raised \$300,000 for Corewell Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital's Endowed Spiritual Care Fund.

Now, our wishes for the new year:

◆ First and foremost, we want you to lock your vehicles, please. In a review of our 2025 public safety reports, we found 73 instances of unlocked vehicles either being stolen — mostly when a key fob was left inside — or rummaged through. Items taken ranged from pocket change to credit cards to laptops to guns. On top of that, 18 unlocked bikes were stolen from a variety of locations, including schools, businesses, porches and garages.

◆ A resolution to the odor coming from the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District's pump station at Chalfonte and Kirby that is plaguing nearby residents. Our local city managers and public works directors would never allow such a problem to continue.

◆ Success for the Farms and Shores in building new aquatic facilities at Pier Park and Osius Park, respectively.

◆ Speaking of Pier Park, lower or no levels of E. coli that close it to swimming.

◆ Or more home sales by older residents to families with children.

◆ Our fifth straight MPA Newspaper of the Year win.

◆ A smooth year of construction for the new Full Circle Foundation headquarters.

◆ Seeing empty storefronts in all of our shopping districts filled. We will not specify what types of businesses should move in, but will leave that to the keyboard warriors on the Facebook echo chambers.

◆ A quick death for Facebook echo chambers.

◆ Loving homes for the abundance of kittens, cats, puppies and dogs currently cared for by the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

◆ Class of 2026 seniors getting into the college of their choice or pursuing a path they find fulfilling.

◆ A clock arch in The Village that tells the correct



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1951

75 years ago this week

VOLUNTEERS FOR DEFENSE NEEDED: A civilian defense training program will get underway shortly in the five Grosse Pointe municipalities under the direction of the police and fire chiefs. The training will include emergency and first aid procedure in the event of atomic attack.

CHURCH PLANS 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: On January 10, the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a birthday dinner. This will be the first anniversary to be observed in the new sanctuary which was dedicated in February 1950.

POINTE'S FIRST 1951 BABY BORN TO DETROIT PARENTS: The first baby to be born in Grosse Pointe in 1951 arrived at Cottage Hospital at 9:15 a.m. on New Year's

Day for Mr. and Mrs. William Spear of 18830 Moross Road. The prize package tagged "boy" weighed six pounds 14 ounces on arrival.

1976

50 years ago this week

SCHOOLS BEATEN IN PROTEST OVER CUT IN STATE AID: Attorney General Frank Kelley has ruled that the State Legislature and governor did not violate any constitutional provisions with the formula used to cut school aid in the recent Michigan budget trimming. The ruling was requested by legislative leaders representing several high-valuation school districts including Grosse Pointe.

GUNSHOT BREAKS WINDOW AT BAR: Someone apparently fired a gun at the Lochmoor Lounge, 20934 Mack, Monday

See HEADLINES, page 7A

time.

◆ The ability to take a walk along Lakeshore in early summer without fearing for your life from dive bombings by red-winged black birds aggressively protecting their nests.

◆ A dog park in the City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ A safer intersection at Mack and Moross.

◆ Continued restoration of the tree canopy throughout the Pointes.

◆ More options within the Pointes for early childhood daycare.

◆ Another year free of basement backups.

◆ A successful tenure for Sue Como, the new Woods city manager and the first female to hold such a position in any of the Pointes.

◆ An enjoyable retirement for Frank Schulte, the previous Woods city manager.

◆ A more cooperative GPPSS Board of Education with a president who sets a respectful tone toward Superintendent Andrea Tuttle.

◆ A permanent home for Kids on the Go, which found out it cannot remain at South Lake Schools' Pare Nonprofit Center due to the building needing too many repairs.

◆ A long and productive career for Arcos, the new K-9 officer in the Woods and his handler, Public Safety Officer Duncan Gill, as they take a bite out of crime. Both the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society and the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation are accepting donations to support the effort.

◆ A state title for the Grosse Pointe South High School girls swim and dive team, which has finished runner-up the past two years to Mercy High School, including by just two points a little over a month ago.

◆ Keeping the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League championship trophy in the Pointes, regardless of which team wins. South has won the last two titles, with University Liggett School taking the crown the previous three years.

◆ A reopened Trombly Elementary School.

◆ An answer for the City to its sewer separation project so it can still qualify for a \$21.6 million FEMA grant after costs increased from \$29 million to \$52 million.

◆ Another title for South baseball coach Dan Griesbaum, whose team made it to the semifinals last year.

◆ A successful opening for the Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and years of soldout shows.

◆ Getting to try the new golf simulator the Woods is planning for Lake Front Park.

◆ For Sen. Kevin Hertel and Rep. Veronica Paiz to keep fighting for the Pointes in the state budget like they have been doing.

◆ A championship for one of our professional sports teams. Any one; we are not picky.

◆ Speaking of which, for Chris Ilitch to decide to spend money on his franchise players and generational talents.

◆ For Jerry's Club Party Store's new ownership to keep the name. And the frozen Coke machine.

◆ For the GP Trolley to come back to Kercheval.

◆ And finally, health, happiness and prosperity for all of you.

WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

January 1 - 7

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Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
21° 13°	23° 29°	38° 20°	34° 25°	31° 27°	34° 29°	37° 21°
Snow Showers	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	0%	20%	10%	10%	10%	20%
SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:10 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:11 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:12 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:13 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:14 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:15 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.

I SAY By Renee Landuyt

New Year’s traditions around the world



Out with the old year, in with the new year. People in America have traditions for celebrating New Year’s Eve, like dressing up for a fancy celebration at a restaurant or bar for a midnight toast and sometimes midnight kisses for good luck. There’s watching the ball drop in Times Square as we count down the arrival of the new year and of course, making resolutions and

self-improvement promises that might or might not stick. Some people like to be home before midnight and some like to stay out to ring in the new year. Some like to stay home to have their own celebration with friends or family. Kids like to bang pots and pans on the porch of their house, which is one of the things my siblings and I did as kids. Other countries have some similar and some different New Year’s traditions. Banging pots and pans on the porch also is a tradition in Poland, where kids do this to scare away bad spirits. Poland has a symbolic tradition where you write down on a piece of paper things from the

past year that were unhappy moments, regrets or negative experiences, then when the clock strikes midnight, you burn the paper with a candle or in a fire. This helps you let go of the past and they believe you can start the new year with a clean slate by creating space with positive energy for a new beginning. Some Polish cities have moved celebrations away from using loud fireworks and replacing them with light shows. The loud sound of fireworks is distressing to pets, wildlife and veterans and the awareness of this brings calm instead of an anxious feeling. Many other countries have different ways to celebrate the new year’s arrival. Upon doing a bit

of research I found some traditions such as, on New Year’s Eve in Spain, they eat 12 grapes for luck, one for each month. In Italy, they eat 12 spoonfuls of lentils for prosperity and in the Netherlands, they eat round foods primarily for good luck and a prosperous year. In Japan, they visit different shrines to hear 108 temple bells. In France, they eat stacks of pancakes for wealth. Wow, pancakes for wealth. Wouldn’t that be great if it counted here for all the pancakes you ate throughout the year? In Cuba, it’s a long-held tradition to gather all the negative energy from the past year and “throw” it out the door. I like that.

Two traditions in the Philippines are to eat round fruit and wear polka dots. I love polka dots; they’re so fun. Another tradition they have is for adults and children to jump as high as they can at midnight to help you grow taller. An Irish tradition starts with a freshly cleaned home, then banging the outside walls of your house with bread to keep away the bad luck. That sounds like a lot of pressure for a loaf of bread. In Brazil, they celebrate the goddess of the sea in a festival called Festa de Lamanja. Everyone dresses in white and at midnight they run into the sea, jumping over seven waves. Each one of the waves symbolizes some-

thing different like a request, a resolution, a prayer or hope for the future. In Scotland, the first person to enter your house after midnight, called First-Footing, brings you a gift of something like shortbread (food), salt (health), a silver coin (prosperity) and a dram of whiskey (for good cheer.) In Denmark, they smash old dishes on friends’ doors. Does the tradition say who will do the cleanup? Whatever way you celebrate the new year, I hope it’s fun, whether it is an old tradition or starting a new one. Happy New Year. Let’s make it a kinder one by helping others throughout the year.

HEADLINES:

Continued from page 6A

morning, shattering a window on the north side of the building, reported Woods police. At the scene, officers discovered a hole approximately 16 by 20 inches in a 72-by-30-inch plate glass window. The hole was around six feet above ground level with several small pellet marks around the hole.

2001
25 years ago this week

WOODS LAST CITY TO

JOIN COUNTY EMERGENCY PLAN: The eastside is now united in a nearly county-wide version of the Grosse Pointes’ decades-old mutual aid agreement. With only a few stragglers remaining, the county’s Emergency Management Program is nearly complete. Unification throughout Wayne County moved one step closer last week with the signing-on of Grosse Pointe Woods, the last of the county’s eastside cities to do so. **KERBY SCHOOL SEEKS TO GO AHEAD WITH ORIGINAL TRAFFIC PLAN:** Based on advice from traffic experts, Kerby school officials are seeking permission to go ahead with a plan proposed

last October to build a curb cut along Kerby for dropping off and picking up students. The decision to try to go ahead with the plan was made after traffic experts stated that a 120-day trial period for a proposed drop-off along Kerby Road is dangerous. **DISTRICT JOINS DURANT III LAWSUIT:** The Grosse Pointe Public School district has joined about 300 other school districts across the state hoping to collect funds from the state of Michigan for state-mandated special education programs. The lawsuit, Durant III, seeks reimbursement and the promise to continue to fund programs according to provisions in the Headlee

Amendment, which states the state must provide funding for state-mandated programs such as special education.

2016
10 years ago this week

OLD DEVILS DONATE TO DETROIT SWIMS: Friday, Dec. 18, the Grosse Pointe Old Devils met with Boll Family YMCA staff and board members of the Detroit Swims program to donate \$10,000. The money will be used to teach 100 children to swim. Detroit Swims, part of an initiative by the YMCA of Metropolitan

Detroit, aims to remove all barriers preventing a child from learning to swim to help reduce drowning rates in Detroit and surrounding communities. **PAIGE STALKER REMEMBERED:** A memorial service was held Tuesday, Dec. 22, to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of Grosse Pointe Farms resident Paige Stalker, 17. The Rev. Rich Bartoszek, Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe chaplain, spoke in remembrance of Paige, who volunteered at the hospital. “To live in the hearts of those we leave behind, we never die,” Bartoszek said. “You have taken her memory and done such positive things.”

Recreation has bright outlook

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The recreation department isn’t all fun and games. A lot of work goes into managing and maintaining the city’s two lakeside parks. Amenities include a super-sized swimming and diving pool, a more-than 250-slip marina, two movie theaters, gymnasium, boardwalk, dog park, community center and more. A review of the municipal budget puts the scope of operations into perspective. Auditors reported this month the Department

of Parks and Recreation accounted for the third-greatest expense — dwarfed by public safety, but only \$135,538 behind the cost of general government — to operate the city. “This year saw the continued modernization of the parks department, with adoption of new software, allowing online registration for all activities at the parks, as well as streamlined communication to pass-holders going forward,” said Mike Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission. “The Schaap Theater was refreshed with new seating and

the Okulski Theater received a new and upgraded projector for continued enjoyment of movies at the Lavins Center.” Hindelang said he looks forward to an “exciting and productive” 2026. “We’ll hopefully have the first stage of the marina process kicking off,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. “We’re also looking forward to the recreation five-year plan. Hopefully, that will be finalized in April.” The recreation plan is a five-year outlook of goals and methods of achieving those objec-

tives. This is the first time such an effort has been attempted by the recreation department, but is similar in concept to the city’s five-year master plan. “This plan will help identify areas of focus for the future, including capital projects, major asset maintenance and upgrades, and otherwise help provide direction for the future of Grosse Pointe Park’s parks and recreation opportunities,” Hindelang said. Among infrastructure improvements on tap, reconstruction of the Windmill Pointe Park marina entrance break-wall is scheduled to

conclude before the marina opens to boaters in April. “The long-term project at the marina continues to move forward, with plans being refined and work commencing on portions of the project,” Hindelang said. Chilly Fest, 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in various business districts, is one of the big community kick-offs of the coming year. “We hope to incorporate all the blocks into that event,” Craig said. “Memorial weekend kicks things off for the summer: the swim team, pools, grills, barbecue, boats — you name it. We’ll have the

Kercheval After 6 (street festivals) again this year on the fourth Saturday of June, July and August. Those are always exciting.” “In 2025, the commission saw the retirement of some of its longest-serving members, but was excited to be joined by several new commissioners,” Hindelang said. “In November, Commission Secretary Patrick Gleason was elected to city council, but will continue to serve with the commission as liaison to council. His election opens a spot for another resident to join the commission next year.” “We have a great group,” Craig said. “People may think it’s all play, but there’s a lot of work behind the scenes.”

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SCAN & SCHEDULE

PARK:

Continued from page 2A

July

◆ Lennon and McCartney needed more than eight days a week to show they care. Park employees figure they can do it in half that time. City hall shifts to a four-day, 10-hour work-week starting Monday, July 7. From then through Thursday, Aug. 28, municipal headquarters, excluding the public safety department, operate 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Offices are closed Fridays.

◆ The new assistant city manager, Cindy Paparelli, did her homework before seeking the job.

Paparelli, hired this month as the municipal administration’s second in command, consults her predecessor, Warren Rothe, for insight about what she’d be getting herself into.

“He had wonderful things to say about it (the Park),” Paparelli says.

Rothe left the Park to manage Beverly Hills.

◆ In-person applications for park passes begin being handled at Windmill Pointe Park.

Upon applications being processed and approved, applicants pick up their passes at Windmill’s outer, drive-up gatehouse at the foot of Windmill Pointe Drive.

◆ The two-performance stage strategy for Kercheval After 6 met its objective in June and is expected to do so again this month and next.

Last month’s KA6 street party, the first of three this summer in the Kercheval business district, is expanded by one block. The addition of a bandstand doubles the number of performance stages from years’ past.

Increased musical offerings not only give attendees more variety, but also induce people to stroll the length of the four-block fair, going from stage to stage and seeing carnival rides, restaurants, activities, food trucks, stores and vendors in between.

August

◆ Yard waste and branch collection is conducted the first full week and third week of each month for the rest of the pickup season through November, twice the frequency as before. Collection had been only once per month, a cost-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Cara Campbell helps demo the wall at the new Full Circle location.

saving change from prior years when collections were four times monthly.

“City pickup service will collect branches ranging from one to four inches in diameter,” according to a city notice. “Priority Waste (the city’s rubbish contractor) will continue weekly yard waste collection on your designated trash day, accepting smaller sticks (under one inch), brush and grass.”

◆ Renderings of proposed renovations to the city hall campus are likely to remain a gleam in the sponsors’ eyes.

Although members of the Downtown Development Authority board intend to continue funding their share of improvements to the grounds of municipal headquarters — the DDA encompasses the site — ambitions are cut back or redirected given unexpected realities of land ownership and changing logistical needs.

As prospects for the redesign begin falling apart, DDA board members realize a proposed patio or gathering place in front of city hall will be too costly to construct.

◆ City officials give themselves two weeks to figure out why current water bills are out of whack.

“Some people’s bills increased significantly while their consumption decreased,” says Councilman Brent Dreaver, chairman of the public engagement committee. “We’re talking about people who have had increases over 100 percent based on this (new) rate structure.”

Council members direct the city manager to explain why the water department pumped out bills dwarfing a 23 percent rate increase that went into effect with the current billing cycle.

“What doesn’t make sense is 23 percent and some people got hit with a 150 percent increase,” Dreaver says.

“For now, they do not have to pay those bills until such time (as they) receive a new bill,” Mayor Michele Hodges says.

◆ PSO Jesse Lafriniere, a licensed paramedic, saves a 2-year-old child choking on a grape.

September

◆ City officials cut back plans to issue bonds for water and sewer system improvements.

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

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

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

“We wouldn’t sell the bonds until, most likely, February-ish (2026),” says Steven Hayduk, a CPA with Bendzinski & Company, the city’s bond consultant.

◆ Plans are being made to use sugar instead of whips to spur alley beautification.

“Beautify it through positive reinforcement,” says Jim Creighton, of the beautification commission.

He presents an idea during the group’s September meeting to expand annual property beautification awards to alleyways.

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

◆ City council sanctions the recreation commission’s choice of

consultant OHM Advisors to guide development of the municipality’s first-ever master plan for the parks and recreation department.

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

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

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

October

◆ A court ruling last week gives and takes on both sides of class action lawsuits generated by basement sewer backups during the summer of 2021.

The ruling, issued Oct. 2 by the Michigan Court of Appeals, has the practical impact of returning the actions to where they started, this time letting plaintiffs and defendants battle on a level playing field, according to one of the plaintiffs’ attorneys.

A three-judge panel dismisses claims against the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park and some claims against Detroit. Judges also allow claims to be pursued against Grosse Pointe Farms and the Great Lakes Water Authority, and permits investigation, or discovery, of as-yet unnamed GLWA employees, such as pump station operators.

◆ Installation of the lower Charlevoix water main progresses as planned.

“They’re moving quickly,” Nick Sizeland, city manager, says of contractors. “We haven’t had any issues.”

An excavation crew this month fills the final hole they’d dug to lay new pipe.

“Within the next week and a half it should be done,” says Tom Jenny, director of public works.

◆ The ice-skating rink at Patterson Park is going au naturel.

A cost-saving decision to discontinue using chilling equipment to artificially freeze the ice-skating rink at Patterson remains in effect for winter.

“During winter, we would put water in it to freeze,” City Manager Nick Sizeland says.

Shutting down chillers is forecast to save the parks and recreation department up to \$50,000 per year in electric utility costs, Director Chad Craig says in July.

He says the equipment, bought secondhand in 1991, is so old it’s hard to maintain and find replacement parts.

November

◆ Mayor Michele Hodges wins an uncontested election for a third consecutive term.

On city council, Patrick Gleason is voted into office. He joins reelected incumbents Tom Caulfield and Max Wiener.

In another uncontested race, John Parnell Jr. wins the job of municipal judge. He’ll be sworn in during January.

◆ Sympathetic dwellers of city hall express alliance with their D.C. counterparts by waiving late fees on municipal utility payments until 90 days after the feds get back in the saddle.

A united city council approves late-fee cancellations Nov. 10, just as some Democrat members of the U.S. Senate end their holdout and vote with all but one Republican to return Uncle Sam to business.

“The city recognizes the ongoing federal government shutdown may cause temporary financial hardship for federal employees who are currently furloughed or working without pay,” says Mateusz Tylecki, deputy finance director in a memo to city council.

◆ While the Grosse Pointe News goes to press with a report from Schaap Performing Arts Center officials pledging the facility’s opening within days, the opening is delayed indefinitely.

Also, what was touted as the center hosting the season-opening run of the Grosse Pointe Theatre’s production of “White Christmas” is cancelled.

◆ Construction of a two-story, mixed-use

daycare, early childhood learning center and residential apartments takes shape on lower Kercheval just across the Detroit border.

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

“I see this project as a cornerstone that will truly propel us forward,” Park Mayor Michele Hodges says. “I’m certain it will quickly become an anchor because of the quality standard it will meet and the urgent need it will fill.”

December

◆ A municipal audit shows the rainy day emergency savings fund totaling \$2.9 million, equal to around 22 percent of general operating funds.

“This is what you want to see grow,” auditor Daniel Beard, senior manager of Yeo & Yeo and head of its government services group, tells city council. “You want those to be between 15 to 25 percent of total expenditures. You guys are at 22 percent, so you have a healthy fund balance. Excellent.”

“We’re on a path we need to be,” says Councilman Tim Kolar, in his first term on council. “This started many years ago and I’ve only been here two years. It’s a testament to all the work and effort everybody here and the staff have put in to get us to this point. This is what we’re going to continue to see. We are going to be in a great state here, as we continue to allow us to be even more responsive to residents’ needs.”

◆ Municipal leaders set a limit on how deep they can dip into the city’s financial cookie jar.

They set a minimum 15 percent standard for the budget’s general fund balance.

Fund balance is set aside for emergencies.

◆ Top city officials say they’ll fish for better deals on trash, recycling and yard waste contractors.

They’ll put 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.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
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NOTICE
AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED
VEHICLES

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on JANUARY 7, 2026 at 5:00 P.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, East Pointe, MI, 48021 The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2017 DODGE CHARGER	2C3CDXBG3HH504249
2010 LINCOLN MKT	2LMHJ5AT1ABJ08701
2014 FORD FUSION	3FA6P0HD4ER353366
2018 PJ TRAILER	4P5F8162213027174
2013 CHEVY SILVERADO	1GC1KVC8XDF107489
2018 GENESIS G80	KMHGN4JE6JU247966
2014 JEEP CHEROKEE	1C4PJLCS2EW302355
2013 BUICK VERANO	1G4PR5SK8D4178443
2005 ACURA TL	19UUA66255A003747
2021 BUICK ENCORE	KL4CJESBXM358894
2014 HYUNDAI ACCENT	KMHCT4AE8EU691988

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Lt. Thomas Teatsorth
Traffic Safety Section
POSTED: December 29, 2025
PUBLISHED: January 01, 2026

A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.



Judge Carl Jarboe, for the last time before he retires at the end of 2025, swears in the Defer Safety Patrol.

2025 IN REVIEW

Big bucks and big battles for GPPSS

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — A successful bond campaign, a long search for a new CFO and tension at board meetings are the takeaways for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Here is the year in review:

January

◆ A new school board is seated, including incumbents Sean Cotton, Ginny Jeup, Colleen Worden and Valarie St. John. They are joined by newcomers Tim Klepp, Clint Derringer and Laura Hull. Worden is elected president, Hull vice president, Klepp treasurer and St. John secretary.

◆ Pointers for Academic Excellence announces the Compass Scholarship program, which will award \$5,000 to one female and one male senior athlete from both Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools.

◆ A patrol vehicle used by School Resource Officer Jim LeBeau at South is unveiled featuring decals on both sides in school colors with the school name, along with the Blue Devil mascot and the iconic tower. It is designed by then-senior Nate Michaud.

◆ GPPSS and the Grosse Pointe Education Association agree to a memorandum of understanding that will mean more pay for most of the district's special education teachers.

February

◆ The board votes 4-2 to release the full report regarding human resource complaints filed by two North administrators against former Trustee Ahmed Ismail. Jeup and Cotton vote no, citing the advice of district counsel, while St. John is absent.

◆ Information from the Michigan Department of Education shows the district is down one student from the February count day compared to the previous fall.

March

◆ Possible threats are made at a board meeting during public comments, seemingly directed at Cotton, leading to a metal detector being used at board meetings at Brownell Middle School and the presence of a school resource officer at the board table.

◆ The district begins the search for a new principal at Parcels Middle School after the resignation of Jason Wesley.

April

◆ The Bond Advisory Committee holds its first meeting to rank potential projects should a bond be successful in the November election.

◆ The board votes unanimously to reopening the closed Trombly Elementary School in some capacity, but does not give a specific date.

◆ A survey in the Trombly catchment area shows 396 children birth to age 9 living in 227 houses in the area.

◆ Four North seniors — Chris O'Connell, Carter Cole, Caleb Kosel and Jack Ryan — receive the Evans Scholarship, a four-year full housing



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Dylan Scott, Susan Howey and George Locke pose for one last photo before Ms. Howey and Fan Faces retire.

and tuition scholarship for golf caddies that's regarded as the nation's largest privately funded scholarship program.

◆ Cindy Parravano is named principal at South, replacing Moussa Hamka, who is named assistant superintendent of human resources.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education announces \$95,000 in grants for its spring cycle.

May

◆ Sienna Mann from Pierce Middle School is one of just 500 students nationwide given an Outstand Achievement Award by the National Junior Honor Society.

◆ Kevin Shubnell is named principal at North. He replaced Sara Delgado, who is named assistant superintendent of teaching and learning.

◆ PFAE recognizes teachers, nominated by students, with Luminary Awards, which include a \$100 Visa gift card.

June

◆ Tensions run high at a board meeting during a discussion about the search for and salary of a new CFO, as Superintendent Andrea Tuttle excuses herself after persistent questions from Derringer.

◆ Amber Schmittiel, a Michigan native who spent the past 14 years as an educator in Florida, is named principal at Parcels.

◆ The board approves bond language that will ask voters for \$120 million over 20 years.

July

◆ A \$1 million lawsuit is filed against the district, Parcels and a former administrator, alleging civil rights violations of a black student at the school in 2022 and 2023.

◆ School Resource Officers Jon Ross and LeBeau of the Farms and Jeff Martell of the Woods attend the National Association of School Resource Officers convention in Texas.

August

◆ St. John comes under scrutiny after Freedom of Information Act requests show issues with property tax forms of homes she and her wife previously owned in Grosse Pointe Park and St. Clair Shores.

◆ The board potentially violates Michigan's Open Meetings Act when it votes to go into closed session for Tuttle's mid-year review without ask-



St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School student Evelyn Faust double checks to make sure everything is in the Welcome Home basket. Baskets were assembled for individuals and families moving into the newly opened Residences at St. Matthew in Detroit.



During Career Day at Brownell Middle School, Col. Amanda Ward, chief of joint staff, Michigan Air National Guard, discussed opportunities in the Michigan Air National Guard and the educational benefits that come with serving.

ing her first.

◆ After months of searching, the district hires a new CFO, Andrea Agrusa, who previously worked for Fraser Public Schools.

◆ It is revealed the district spent \$50,000 for a North student to finish high school at a private, alternative school after the girl's mother took legal action against the district over her suspension.

◆ The board votes 5-2, with Jeup and Cotton opposed, to rescind a policy requiring certain emails between members

to be posted publicly.

September

◆ Ground is broken on the site of the former Poupard Elementary School in Harper Woods, where 48 townhomes and 23 duplexes are to be built by Robertson Brothers Homes. It is called Fraser Square, named after Carol Fraser, a former GPPSS teacher who spent 34 years in the district, including 20 at Poupard.

October

◆ The board contracts with the Michigan

Association of School Boards to oversee the development of a new strategic plan.

November

◆ The bond passes with 70 percent voter

See 2025, page 10A

BoE votes to accept state money with strings attached

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education has voted to accept state grant money that could require the district to waive attorney-client privilege in certain circumstances.

The money comes from a program known as 31aa that funds counselors, social workers and school resource officers. It includes a new provision requiring school districts to waive "any privilege that may otherwise protect information from disclosure in the event of a mass casualty event." That essentially means waiving attorney-client privilege.

The law defines a mass casualty event as involving significant injuries to three or more people, including fatalities.

The change came about in light of the deadly shooting at Oxford High School in 2021. Three dozen school districts filed lawsuits in state and federal courts challenging the law's constitutionality, but unlike several other districts, the board voted against giving Superintendent Andrea Tuttle authority to opt out by a Dec. 30 deadline based on the outcome of those court cases.

The Michigan Court of Claims upheld the waiver on Dec. 17, which the plaintiffs have appealed.

Trustees Laura Hull and Clint Derringer voted against the resolution, saying they wanted to give Tuttle the ability to opt out. Trustees Sean Cotton, Ginny Jeup, Colleen Worden, Tim Klepp and Valarie St. John were in favor.

"The implications go beyond just one year of funding," said Hull, a former Grosse Pointe North High School teacher who

See MONEY, page 10A



GPPSS INFO NIGHTS

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BoE moving ahead with universal preschool plan

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

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

The board voted 5-2 at its meeting Monday, Dec. 8, to approve the resolution.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle previously said the organization told the district it wanted to partner.

Trustees Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup voted against the resolution. Trustees Colleen Worden, Clint Derringer, Laura Hull, Tim Klepp and Valarie St. John were in favor.

Cotton said he doesn’t think it will draw new students to the district and that he would prefer to see an expansion of the district’s tuition-based preschool, particularly with Trombly Elementary School empty.

Klepp and Derringer said they were in favor because they think it could stem the district’s enrollment decline.

The program — also known as “universal pre-

school” — is open to all 4-year-olds in Wayne County at no cost to families.

There currently is one GSRP classroom at Ferry Elementary School run by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. This change will make the district what is termed a “subrecipient,” meaning it will get the money instead of Wayne Metro.

Sara Delgado, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, said the district would get \$42,000 in initial startup funding for the classroom for any furniture or curricular needs. Similar to per-pupil funding the district gets for K-12 students,

the district would receive \$12,222 for each GSRP student. Families of full-time tuition-based students pay \$9,600 annually.

Tuttle said more GSRP classrooms could be added based on interest. The district is collecting data through a preschool enrollment survey now available to parents at shorturl.at/UqV17.

Delgado added that Northville Public Schools intended to switch one tuition-based preschool classroom to GSRP, but ended up switching four based on parental interest.

The district currently has nine classrooms being used for tuition-

based preschool, including one at Ferry, one at Richard Elementary School and seven at Barnes Early Childhood Center.

The GSRP classroom at Ferry has 16 students, 14 of whom live within the GPPSS boundaries. Students from outside GPPSS cannot continue with the district for kindergarten.

Delgado said there are 145 students from within the district enrolled in tuition-based preschool, plus seven from outside the district, four of whom are children of GPPSS staff. There are another eight students on a waiting list for 4-year-old preschool.

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

Other criteria include a diagnosis of a disability or developmental delays, behavioral issues — including being removed from a previous preschool setting — a history of abuse or neglect and having an illiterate or incarcerated parent.

Liggett senior selected as QuestBridge National College Match Scholar

University Liggett School recently announced that senior Mia Conner has been selected as a QuestBridge National College Match Scholar for 2025, joining a distinguished group of high-achieving students from across the country.

As a QuestBridge Scholar, Conner has been admitted to Northwestern University on a full four-year scholarship.

“Receiving a QuestBridge Match Scholarship is a recognition of Mia’s hard work, intellectual curiosity and commitment to her community,” said Elizabeth Jamett, director of college guidance.

During her time at ULS, Conner actively participated in a wide

range of academic and co-curricular activities. Three experiences were particularly formative for her: Robotics, where she developed leadership skills; the Core Values Council, through which she connected with and served the school community; and Lambrequin, which allowed her to collaborate creatively with peers on a student-produced publication.

At Northwestern, Conner plans to double major in mathematics and physics. She has long been drawn to mathematics and developed a growing passion for physics through her honors physics



COURTESY PHOTO

Mia Conner, Class of ’26

ics and advanced physics calculus-based mechanics courses at ULS. These classes deepened her appreciation for problem-solving and understand-

ing how the universe works.

“I am so grateful to my friends, family, teachers and counselor, who encouraged me to pursue the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship,” Conner said. “It still feels wonderfully surreal.”

Match Scholarship recipients are admitted early to QuestBridge college partners with full scholarships that cover tuition, room and board, books, supplies and travel expenses, funded by participating colleges and universities.

Jamett noted that QuestBridge allows uni-

versities to identify top students early in the application process.

“In addition to financial support, QuestBridge creates a support network for students so that they will be successful as they make the transition to their university,” she added.

Previous QuestBridge Scholars from ULS have attended the University of Chicago, Hamilton College, Tufts University, Princeton University, and Yale University. In addition to Northwestern, QuestBridge college partners include top liberal arts colleges such as Amherst, Colby, Hamilton, Pomona, Williams and Yale, as well as leading research universities including

Brown, Columbia, Duke and Stanford.

This year’s Match Scholarship recipients come from all 50 states, as well as American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico. The National College Match is a highly competitive process. As a group, this year’s scholars have an average unweighted GPA of 3.9, with SAT scores ranging from 1290 to 1460 or ACT scores from 27 to 33. Nearly all scholars pursued advanced coursework and 23 percent engaged in deeper learning opportunities beyond their high schools. The majority are first-generation college students, breaking new ground for their families.

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EVEN MORE EACH WEEK!



Teachers union ratifies contract

Zone 6 counts toward the bond

Welcome back!

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MONEY:

Continued from page 9A

now is at St. Clair Shores Lakeview High School. “What if I sent an email to a counselor saying I’m concerned about a particular student and the counselor doesn’t take action? What does that mean?”

Derringer agreed.

“I’m concerned this makes us unsafe,” he said. “The staff might refrain from sharing information for fear that if something were to happen they would be held liable. We can find the money elsewhere.”

Tuttle said she thinks the district should opt out.

“We would absorb that money through our gen-

eral fund,” Tuttle assured the board previously. “I would never get rid of our school resource officers or counselors. I would never recommend getting rid of those supports and security.”

Tuttle also said she did not think the board had the power to unilaterally waive attorney-client privilege for every employee in the district.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

William Jaeger-Karalla takes the payment for Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant’s lunch at Ferry Elementary School.

2025:

Continued from page 9A

approval.

- ◆ Moody’s Investor Services upgrades the district’s bond rating from A1 to Aa3.
- ◆ A civil rights complaint filed against the district by a former North administrator is dismissed.
- ◆ Tuttle is rated “effective,” the highest rating

possible for superintendents under state law, during her evaluation, held in open session, despite several low marks from Worden, St. John, Derringer and Hull.

- ◆ An audit for the district’s 2024-25 fiscal year budget shows a surplus, adding \$3.9 million to its fund balance.
- ◆ The board approves giving law enforcement in all five Pointes and Harper Woods access to

security cameras in each building under certain circumstances.

December

- ◆ The board votes to partner with Wayne RESA, the county’s intermediate school district, for a Great Start Readiness Program classroom at Ferry Elementary School.
- ◆ The GPFPE announces \$70,000 in grants for its fall cycle.

FEATURES

2-3B SENIOR LIVING | 4-5B OBITUARIES | 4-6B AREA ACTIVITIES | 5B CHURCHES

Bringing history into focus

Your Old Mansion series kicks off Jan. 11

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s 2026 Your Old Mansion lecture series gets underway with “Face Value: Contextual Cataloging of Historic Native American Photographs,” which will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Jakob Dopp, graphics division cataloger at the William L. Clements Library on the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus, will speak about his mission to uncover the true stories behind the photos in the Richard Pohrt, Jr. Collection of Native American Photography.

“I’ll be presenting historic Native American photography from the 19th and early 20th centuries,” Dopp said. “The Clements Library has a substantial amount of these photos. I’ll be going over some of the aspects — the nature of this sub-genre of photography is what makes it unique and special — and some of the pitfalls I’ve encountered.”

Those pitfalls, Dopp explained, stem from a period of time where Native American tribes were fraught with challenges, from becoming increasingly marginalized and removed from their ancestral lands to their traditional ways of life being systemically destroyed and being forced into Christianity.

“On top of that, pho-



“View of Nez Percé Indian tipi near river in Oregon.”

tographers are coming in to take these pictures,” Dopp said. “The ways and means that certain subjects were identified, some were intentional and some unintentional.”

Information written on the backs of photographs often incorrectly identified the subject matter, he explained.

Circumstances also suggest they may have been photographed while being held as prisoners of war.

Additionally, “It was common practice among a lot of photographers to provide Native subjects with studio props or ‘authentic’ clothing.”

For example, he’s found photos of Michigan-based Native Americans wearing “war bonnets,” which were worn by Great Plains Native Americans, not those in Michigan.

“That was imposed as a way to visually recognize that token look of



COURTESY PHOTO

Jakob Dopp will present “Face Value: Contextual Cataloging of Historic Native American Photographs,” at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at The War Memorial.

Indian-ness,” Dopp said. “It was completely misleading. ... I’ll do a deep dive into specific examples, as well as call out issues and clue people in. They say the camera never lies, but some-

times it does.”

Since subjects sometimes were made to pose with studio props, Dopp often questions the backdrops in his research. During his presentation, he’ll discuss how he assesses and analyzes photographs, as well as why photographers knowingly modified their subjects.

“Particularly interesting is the retouching,” Dopp said. “Adobe Photoshop was not born in a vacuum. It comes from historic photo studios. They would take glass-plate negatives and chip away or add paint to modify a portrait in order to achieve what they wanted to achieve.”

“We have an example of a young Indian child, I’m not sure of his tribal affiliation, named Ma-Za-Oo-Nie, the Little Bird Hunter,” he continued. “If you take a close look, it looks heavily illustrated. There’s a wooded area behind him that’s clearly drawn. In his hand are three arrows that are all illustrated. We found the original printing before any edits were made to the glass-plate negative. It’s interesting to compare.”

“I’ll talk about why this happened — the economic incentive,” he added. “The more feathers, the more arrows and axes and tomahawks, the better. Photographers were trying to meet consumers’ expectations.”

During his research, Dopp goes through one item at a time, ticking off boxes to identify each subject. He keeps a list of name variants individuals may have gone by, including their name in their native language and how it might be phonetically rendered in other languages.

“Maybe they had multiple Native names in life and Anglo names,” he added.

He also does reverse



PHOTOS FROM THE RICHARD POHRT, JR. COLLECTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF JAKOB DOPP

“Studio group portrait of two unidentified Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian women (possibly siblings) standing before illustrated backdrop wearing traditional clothing including dresses and blankets embroidered with silk ribbon appliqué as well as shell and bead necklaces. Both women lean on chair at center decorated with personal items (possibly from deceased individual/individuals known to subjects) including woven beadwork sash, blanket with silk ribbon appliqué, western-style leather purse, and what appears to be a family portrait photograph.”

image searches on Google to track images in the collection, which occasionally — and somewhat surprisingly — lead him to Pinterest boards.

“Pinterest is a very valuable resource for finding sometimes the exact photo I have in my hand,” he said. “I turn over every possible stone I can. ... I focus on the subjects and trying to pin down their names and biographical details of their life.”

“... You have to be super, super, super careful when assessing a photo,” he added. “There can be pitfalls, things misconstrued, people misnamed, derogatory language.”

As Dopp continues his research, the Pohrt Collection continues to grow, as the university was given the green light to add to it. The collection, Dopp said, is approaching 2,000 photographs.

“We’ve found it’s worthwhile to exhaustively research this collection in particular, which is not just portraits of people, but landscapes, too,” Dopp said. “Much of this collection is digitally available.”

Those interested may find it online at quod.lib.umich.edu/p/pohrt?page=index. Guests may search the catalog to locate a specific item. Clicking on each photo brings up its description. High-resolution photos may be downloaded free

of charge.

“It’s a great resource, a great collection,” Dopp said.

Dopp has been working at the Clements Library since 2017, first on a set of lithographically produced portraits of Native Americans. Shortly after, he began working on the Pohrt Collection.

“This is something I’ve become very passionate about,” he said. “This is something I didn’t know about before I started working with the material. It’s amazing what I’ve been able to learn.”

Through his research, he’s learned the history of 90 or so tribes, mainly East Coast and West Coast tribes, but also Great Plains and Michigan tribes.

“There’s so much I’ve learned by engaging with these materials,” he said.

He invited those interested to “hop on the computer and take a look at the digital collection; peruse it. I promise you’ll learn something new.”

Dopp invites anyone interested in historic photography or Native American history — as a historic practice or an art practice — to attend the Jan. 11 lecture.

“Anyone who doesn’t have any grounding in these fields of study will still find it quite fascinating,” he added.

He welcomes questions following his presentation.



On tap for ‘26

The 2026 Your Old Mansion series celebrates the nation’s 250th birthday.

Upcoming lectures include:

“Love and Romance in Early America,” 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, with Jayne Ptolemy, a curator of manuscripts at the Williams L. Clemens Library at U-M.

“Curators of Maps,” at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8, with Curator of Maps and Graphics Sierra Laddusaw and Mary Pedley, assistant curator, also from the Clemens Library.

“Bloody Work: Lexington and Concord 1775,” 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29, with Cheney Schopieray, curator of manuscripts at the Clements Library.

Bonus lecture: “The Founding of the Detroit Institute of Arts,” 2 p.m. Sunday, April 12, with artist and Detroit historian Mike Kroll.

Cost to attend each lecture is \$35 for GPAA members, \$40 for nonmembers. Four-lecture packages are available for \$140 for members, \$160 for nonmembers. Those who buy the four-lecture package are treated to the fifth bonus lecture.

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Making New Year’s resolutions, senior style

By Donna Zetterlund
and Grosse Pointe News Staff

The tradition of making New Year’s resolutions is more ancient than many people may realize. The Babylonians are believed to be the first people to do so roughly 4,000 years ago. Wonder how many of *those* resolutions were actually kept over four millenia? Hmmmm...

As we age we may think we can no longer change — but that’s just not true. The trick to changing any habit is wanting it more than you desire the old behavior — then sticking with the change long enough for it to become a bona fide *new* habit.

Scientific American reports a recent study that showed it took an average of 66 days to make one simple change — such as eating an extra piece of fruit, drinking more water or running for 15 minutes a day. The important thing is to stick with it and eventually it *will* work if you keep trying. Remember, in the meantime, every effort in the right direction is already improving your life.

To make your resolution plan easier, we’ve gathered some tips, along with some ideas for resolutions to consider for bettering life, health, relationships and personal well-being.

C’mon, you’ve got this!



Psych up

Give serious thought to the changes you want to commit to. Numerous variables can affect whether or not a person keeps a promise to oneself, but giving a resolution little thought ahead of time can make achieving a goal unlikely. Research ways to help stay the course. Prepare. A little legwork and mental commitment in advance of declaring a resolution can pay off in the long run.

Set micro goals

Small goals along the way to the larger goal can serve as motivation to keep going. If you aspire to watch less television and read more, resolve to read 50 pages per week and then gradually increase that total if you so desire. Small goals can provide a great means to measure incremental progress that will ultimately make achieving a larger goal more certain.

Be realistic

Honest goals are more likely to be achieved than ones that seem good on the surface but are too difficult to keep. For example, as a senior, workout routines from your 40s may no longer be doable. You may need to reduce those expectations in favor of more achievable (and less painful) goals. Taking on too much without actually having the time will only discourage you when hurdles inevitably appear, and that is likely to compel you to abandon the resolution entirely. We may always feel that we have endless time and energy, despite the reality, but being truly realistic may be the difference between success and failure.



Have an accountability buddy

Don’t go it alone. Many people employ the buddy system as a means to stay motivated with fitness-related resolutions, and that approach can be applied to any goal you set at the beginning of the year. Having someone there to hold you accountable, and doing the same for a partner, increases the chances you’ll stay the course.

Be kind to yourself

You are embarking on self-improvement as a way to honor yourself and have a better life. Don’t turn the process into self-punishment or you’ll be defeating the purpose. Self-discipline can be firm but loving as you encourage yourself to go on. Instead of a barrage of self-deprecating thoughts at little inevitable failures, forgive yourself and try again tomorrow. Use positive reinforcement, meditation or prayer instead of harsh words directed at your human weaknesses. You want to arrive on the other side of your goal feeling better from the inside too.

Every resolution doesn’t have to be painful. Some can actually feel good. Here are some wise New Year’s resolutions that can help nurture relationships, along with your own well-being:

Don’t over-commit

One of the big myths of retirement is that you’ll have oodles of time to relax. Ask any retiree who has now filled their calendar with all those long-awaited

social activities and home projects — you may be even busier once you stop working! But don’t replace work with waiting on everyone else around you.

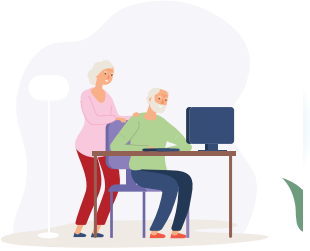
Feeling that you don’t have a complete handle on how you spend your time can exacerbate stress. Time management isn’t just about work performance. It’s also an important tool for your entire pie chart of time. Key aspects of time management involve asking for help, focusing on one thing at a time, setting priorities and just letting some things go altogether. As a senior, you’ve earned some freedom from any activity you no longer enjoy, so don’t be afraid to claim it.

Pamper your mind often

Our lives have often been stuck on “full-steam ahead!” Our culture can value quantity over quality and that has a lasting effect on the mind. To undo the residue of the rat race, dedicate some time each day or week to doing nothing, or at least doing something totally relaxing.

Keeping a mind/body balance is essential. Reading excerpts from motivational books or passages, turning off notifications on the phone, taking a break from social media, carving out time for spiritual enrichment, sitting peacefully listening to music or working on a puzzle can not only relax you but also help fuel the mind and enhance enjoyment of your other activities.

Giving yourself needed decompression time will offer you a better opportunity to be your best self with family and others.



Plan for the future

There is no age at which we stop looking to tomorrow with dreams, hopes and plans. Avoid living in the past by continuing to plan ahead. Whether anticipating a long-desired dream vacation, health strategy or organizing financials to ensure a comfortable future — looking ahead is healthy and smart.

Tyler Pettit, risk advisor at Diebold Insurance Agency, Detroit, agrees that the new year is a perfect time to give thought to senior financial concerns such as budgeting and Medicare coverage.

“Understanding your benefits helps avoid unexpected expenses,” Pettit said.

Prescription coverage sometimes changes throughout the year — and doctors may move in or out of insurance networks — vital information to know, especially regarding specific medications that are pricey.

“A review can help ensure your coverage still fits your health needs and budget,” Pettit added.

Making the first of the year a time to look over all your expenditures, insurance coverages, subscriptions and the like, gives you an opportunity to re-align as necessary for a better year ahead.



Learn to stop procrastinating

Procrastination can increase stress and also the unhealthy means we resort to for managing stress, like overeating and other forms of escapism. To overcome procrastination, break down tasks into smaller steps to help tall tasks feel more achievable.

Make lists — and if a task does not get done in a week, maybe it’s not that important. Don’t let things hang over your head for a long time. If cleaning the closets has been on your list for a month, hire a professional organizer and be done with it! Your peace of mind is worth more than whatever the service costs. Or invite someone close to do it with you. You’ll have fun and it will get done in half the time. More importantly, it’s off your list and you are already enjoying the benefits of being organized.

Just don’t spend your golden years bogged down with never-ending to-do’s.

Hone your listening skills

This is probably the single most important skill you can adopt to make every relationship better in the new year. Most of us speak to be understood. But it’s equally important to be able to receive and understand the messages and intent of others. As you learn to slow down and be more present, you’ll be able to show up in relationships in a new way.

Really listening, including eye contact and awareness of silent communication such as facial expressions and body language, can make you a more valued partner, parent, child or friend. Focus on empathy, tolerance and understanding, regardless of differences. It’s a great way to become closer to anyone in 2026. Happy resolutions!

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Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Four random thoughts left over from 2025

1 I was aimlessly scrolling around on Facebook when I came to an ad for a T-shirt that had “I’m Fine” written across the front. I ordered it. What was I thinking? I had just thrown out all my raggedy T-shirts with writing on them — all those tiresome boasts of vacation sites, colleges, cute clichés, cities and countries I’ve visited. A few years ago I decided I’m too old and too jaded to display advertisements and aphorisms across my chest. The “I’m Fine” shirt didn’t arrive for more than a month, which made me think it was being shipped from China or the North Pole or someplace far away. Maybe it was a scam. It finally arrived. I wore it once. Lesson learned. No more T-shirts with writing on them.

2. Not long after, I ordered a pillow online that was supposed to hold my iPad in whatever position I choose: upright or slightly slanted or kind of half-laying down. It promised to provide the ideal angle for iPad viewing no matter where I was or how I was seated, slumped or slouched. I ordered it. About six weeks later, my credit card was charged, but the pillow was a no-show. A-ha, a scam, for sure. I was about to notify my credit card company when it arrived all smooshed and squashed into a cardboard box the size of a Snickers bar. And it smelled funny. After a week or so, it gradually poofed itself up into a pillow which, sadly, was about one-third the size I had anticipated. I washed the pillowcase, which improved the aroma, but the pillow turned out to be unsuitable for any position I could

possibly bend myself into: reclining, sitting bolt upright or slouching. Another lesson learned. 3. I recently tossed a pump bottle of hand lotion into the trash even though it still had a bit of lotion left in the bottom. The pump just couldn’t reach it. I often have thought that manufacturers are cajoling us into buying more of their products than necessary. I’ve always suspected shampoo manufacturers of this. It’s the “lather; rinse, repeat” instructions that bother me. Shampoo should clean my hair on the first go-around. A friend of mine, the mother of a bunch of teenage boys, claimed they were lathering, rinsing and repeating at least three times a day. She bought an oversized bottle of shampoo, then poured half of the liquid into another bottle, which she hid in the closet behind a box of Tampax. She filled the original bottle up to the brim with tap water and shook it vigorously. The boys never knew. 4. I’m looking for a good word to describe women in my age

bracket, which is the wrong side of 60. OK, the wrong side of 70. OK, 80. We need an upbeat feminine word.

I want a decent term for women who are aging with, if not enthusiasm, at least acceptance and good humor. “Matron” sucks. A matron is a warden in a women’s prison. “Later-life” or “late-in-life” sound like we have a firm appointment at the funeral home but are backpedaling furiously. I refuse to consider “dowager” because of

the sour, disapproving image it conjures up. Of course “battle-ax,” “war horse,” “crone” and “witch” are completely out of the question. “Elderly” isn’t so good either. “Senior citizen” or “senior” is just OK. “G r a m m a ” or “Grandma” is good, but not every one of us is a Gramma. How about “seasoned”?



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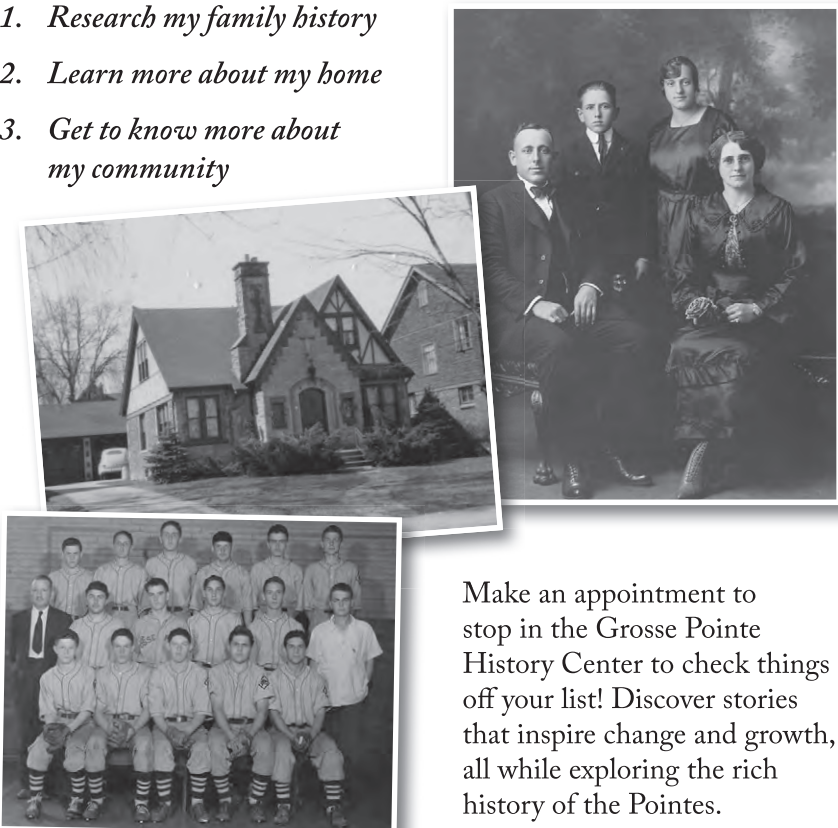
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2026 New Year's RESOLUTIONS:

- Research my family history
- Learn more about my home
- Get to know more about my community



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OBITUARIES

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

Diane Kirby MacKenzie

Diane Kirby MacKenzie, 83, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, at The Birches at Perry Farm Village Assisted Living Facility in Harbor Springs. She was a former resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Diane was born Sept. 22, 1942, in Detroit, to William and Marion Kirby, both now deceased. She attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart (now Grosse Pointe Academy) and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School (now Grosse Pointe South High School) in 1960. Diane worked for North Central Airlines and the Ask Mr. Foster Travel Agency in Detroit before moving to Harbor Springs in 1973, to work at The Highlands Resort.

Diane served as a candy striper at Lockwood-McDonald Hospital in Petoskey. She also was a founding board member of the hospital's hospice program, which has since become Hiland House. She was president of the Harbor Springs Garden Club and volunteered at New Beginnings resale shop, where she was so good at organizing plastic supplies that they called her "Diane Plastics." She also volunteered at the Harbor Springs Food Pantry, where she spearheaded food drives and ordered canned goods. Diane also loved gardening, needlepoint, knitting and watercolor painting.

Diane is survived by her stepchildren, Rob and Jamie MacKenzie; and siblings, Joan and Tom. She was predeceased by her brother, Gerry.

A funeral service was held at Holy Childhood of Jesus Church in Harbor Springs. She was interred at Lake Forest Cemetery in Grand Haven.

Memorial donations may be made to the Harbor Springs Food Pantry, P.O. Box 23, Harbor Springs, MI 49740.

Arrangements entrusted to Stone Funeral Home in Petoskey.

Judith Lee Orhan

Judith Lee Orhan, 84, passed away Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was a beloved mother, wife, daughter and friend.

Judith was born May 27, 1941, in Dearborn, to Norene Mae and Kenneth Lee Townsend, both now deceased. She attended Fordson High School in Dearborn and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan. While in college, she answered a call to a wrong number, which led to her meeting her best friend and husband of 61 years, Xhafer "Jeff" Orhan.

After teaching and working in health care services as a young professional, Judi found her true passion for travel and helping others discover that same joy. To learn the business, she worked for free as a travel agent. Within a few years, she opened her own successful agency. Running Pointe Travel and her 30-year career in the travel industry was only overshadowed by her success and love as a mother and grandmother. She adored her children and grandchildren.

Judi was happiest helping others create wonderful memories on trips she helped plan and traveling the world herself with family and friends. She always made room for anyone and loved to meet new people, who quickly became her friends. Judi also loved spending time with her family and enjoying time on their boat, ScoJen.

Judi will be remembered by all who knew her for her unconditional love, kindness, generosity and sense of humor. She touched the lives of so many through her friendships and community involvement.

She is survived by her husband, Xhafer Orhan; children, J. Scott Orhan and Jennifer O. Hudson (Tim); and grandchildren, Jacob, Carly, Gwen and Julia. She was predeceased by her parents, Norene and Kenneth Townsend.

A celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, Judi's family requests memorial donations be made to Starfish Family Services, 30000 Hivoley, Inkster, MI 48141, starfishfamily services.org/make-a-donation/. Judi was a board member at Starfish Family Services for many years.

Peter Thomas Oliver

Peter Thomas Oliver, 71, passed away peacefully and surrounded by family Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025.

Peter was born Sept. 30, 1954, a beloved son of Norwood and Barbara Oliver. He also was the devoted brother of Jack Oliver, Cathy Mott, James Oliver and Paul Oliver.

He attended Austin High School in Detroit and studied at Aquinas College.

Peter built a long and respected career as a manufacturers sales representative in the automotive industry, where he was known for his professionalism and building lasting relationships rooted in trust and integrity.

Above all else, Peter loved his family. As a husband, his love was unconditional. He was steady, loyal and deeply devoted, offering quiet strength, constant support and a sense of safety. As a father, he was a steady guide, leading with presence and patience. His children always knew they were supported and never alone.

In the face of illness, Peter showed the same strength that defined his life. He faced it with resolve, courage and grace, fighting hard while remaining grounded in his love for his family.

Peter also was a proud grandfather, known lovingly as Papa. He found joy in simple moments, sharing stories, laughter and time together. His calm, reassuring presence made his grandchildren feel safe, seen and deeply cared for.

Peter is survived by his wife, Kelly (nee Burke) Oliver; children, Nora Kochkodan (James) and Michael Oliver (Lindsey); and beloved grandchildren, Brooks Oliver,



Diane Kirby MacKenzie

Jameson Oliver and Olivia Oliver.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The family will greet guests beginning at 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit, MI 48236, henryford.com/development/make-a-gift.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Donald Richard Eugenio

Donald Richard Eugenio, 89, a lifelong Grosse Pointe resident, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather, loyal friend, businessman, golfer, squash champion and mentor to all who knew him.

Donald was born Oct. 21, 1936, to Zellinda and Anthony Eugenio, both now deceased. He grew up in Grosse Pointe with his brothers, Roy and Roland, and sister, Linda. Constantly supported by a tight-knit family, Donald developed a lifelong passion for athletics. He graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1958, and was inducted into the Grosse Pointe South High School Football Hall of Fame in 2025. Donald attended Hillsdale College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business and continued his athletic career.

Donald was a proud family business co-owner of Eugenio Painting Co., where he enjoyed a long career and retired in his early 80s. Quoted in the Detroit Free Press, Donald and his nephew, Michael, said, "We're keeping it in the family," when asked about the legacy of the company started by Donald's father, Anthony.

In 1964, Donald married Leona Marie Furnari and had three wonderful children who were the loves of his life. He often expressed how grateful he was to have such an amazing, loving family.

Donald had a presence whenever he entered a room. Anyone who knew him was bound to hear a Pavarotti line belted at full volume. In life, he was admired for his courage, compassion and a vitality that brightened every space he entered. Early each morning, he could be spotted with a



Judith Lee Orhan



Donald Richard Eugenio

newspaper in hand, sitting elbow to elbow with great friends at the Original Pancake House. He had a huge heart and started every week surrounded by loved ones at Sunday dinner hosted in his home.

Donald was a member of the Detroit Athletic Club for 35 years. Countless nights were spent dancing on the bricks while afternoons were spent winning squash championships. The two somehow never seemed to interfere with one another.

Donald is survived by his wife of 61 years and love of his life, Leona; their children, Christine, Anthony (Molly) and Celeste (Mark); and well-loved grandsons, Andrew, Brooks, Cooper and Donald Jr. He was predeceased by his parents; and brothers, Roy Eugenio and Roland Eugenio.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Joan Margaret Thornton

Joan Margaret Thornton, 93, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, surrounded by her loving family at Beechwood Manor Assisted Living and Adult Daycare in St. Clair Shores.

Joan was born in Detroit to Robert and Helen Houghten, both now deceased. She grew up on Detroit's east side alongside her three sisters, Gail (Herbert), Patricia (Nick) and Pamela Natzke, all of whom predeceased her.

Joan shared a remarkable life and love with her beloved husband of 73 years, Charles H. Thornton III. Together they built a family rooted in faith, adventure and deep devotion to one another.

A lifelong champion of women's fitness and healthy aging, Joan lived her values every day. She ran three marathons, including one on the island of Hawaii, and co-founded Vital Options Fitness, which she grew into a successful business franchised throughout the state of Michigan. Later in life, she contin-



Peter Thomas Oliver



Joan Margaret Thornton

ued her passion for helping others as a balance and mobility instructor at Services for Older Citizens (now The Helm at the Boll Life Center).

Joan's commitment to learning and service was extraordinary. She held degrees in health services, gerontology and exercise science, with a minor in religious studies. She served her community as a council member for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, on the Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens' Commission and as a wellness coordinator at SOC, advocating tirelessly for the well-being of older adults.

Family was the heart of Joan's life. She treasured every opportunity to be with her children and grandchildren. Joan and Charles were avid boaters who loved spending summers on the water, especially at Club Island (now the Clinton River Boat Club), creating memories that will be cherished for generations.

Joan was a devoted Christian Scientist and a longtime member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Grosse Pointe Farms, where her faith and kindness touched many lives.

She is survived by her loving husband, Charles H. Thornton III; children, Kyle Thornton, Shari Alber (Phillip), Charles "Chip" Thornton IV (Mary) and Krista DiLuigi (Jim); and cherished grandchildren, Emily Alber, Phillip Alber (Kathleen), Elisabeth Mulligan (John), Christian Alber, Erin Thornton, Charles "Chase" Thornton, Allie DiLuigi, Lilly DiLuigi and Jack DiLuigi.

Visitation for the family will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at Kaul Funeral Home, 28433 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, followed by public visitation from 3 to 8 p.m. A small, non-denominational service will be held at 6 p.m.

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

See OBITS, page 5B

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

◆ Paging Through the Past: A

Historical Fiction Book Club, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 3, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 3, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Dry January Mocktail Workshops, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, at Ewald,

See EVENTS, page 5B

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OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Marjorie Ann Volkman

Marjorie Ann Volkman, 88, passed away Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital.

Marjorie was born May 11, 1937, in Akron, Mich., to Emily Schmid and Frederic Bach. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Michigan State University.

Marjorie worked in a variety of roles, including as a school teacher and a part-time assistant with the Grosse Pointe Public Library system. She also was a hospice volunteer and volunteer staff at Peace Lutheran Church Detroit.

She was an avid lover of nature, voracious reader and home gardener and participated with an informal walking club regularly in the early morning on Belle Isle. She also enjoyed yoga with local groups



Marjorie Ann Volkman

around the Pointes, taught Adobe Photoshop editing online and gathered with her online friends around the world.

Marjorie is survived by her children, Mark and Victor Volkman; and brother, Robert Franklin Bach of Carp Lake, Mich. She was predeceased by her husband, Frederick Otto Volkman, who passed away in 1995.

There will be no funeral service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, bit.ly/4qu8Dmh.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Ford House announces 2026 season

While Ford House celebrated the season with Home for the Holidays, welcoming visitors for an illuminated walk filled with festive cheer, elegant décor and sparkling lakeside views through Dec. 21, it also is gearing up for its 2026 public season, featuring concerts on the water, family-friendly celebrations, theatrical experiences and more.

“Our guests come to Ford House to celebrate, reflect and make memories together,” said Mark J. Heppner, Ford House president and CEO. “Home for the Holidays shows how much people value time on the estate and our 2026 season builds on that spirit with concerts, family programs and traditions that welcome the community in every season.”

Ford House welcomes approximately 150,000 visitors annually for tours, programs, dining and special events. Seasonal programs contribute to local economic activity by supporting dozens of local vendors, artists and performers throughout the year.

2026 highlights

New for 2026 is an expanded concert lineup, the return of the beloved Nutcracker Tea and additional seasonal enhancements across fall and holiday programming. These updates reflect guest feedback and the continued growth of Ford House as a regional destination for family-friendly and arts-focused experiences.

◆ Expanded summer music lineup featuring the nostalgic sounds of Saved by the 90s

◆ New and returning Concert Over the Cove performances, beginning with a Valentine’s concert featuring Detroit vocalist Ben Sharkey

◆ Beloved fall family programs including Harvest Day and Little Goblins

◆ Shakespeare Stroll returning as an immersive outdoor theater experience in partnership with Grosse Pointe Theatre

◆ Home for the Holidays returning with an elegant nighttime walk inspired by Eleanor Ford’s timeless holiday style

Live music

Ford House’s 2026 concert season brings music to the lakeshore with intimate performances set against the backdrop of Lake St. Clair. The 2025 Outdoor Summer Concert Series was a record-breaking year, welcoming more than 4,600 guests to enjoy performances on the water. Strong audience growth across 2024 and 2025 has shown rising demand for live outdoor music and intimate lakeside performances. The 2026 season builds on this momentum by expanding offerings and continuing to highlight regional and national performers.

“There is nothing quite like hearing live music along the water at Ford House,” said Tommy Karr, director of communications and engagement. “People come here because the concerts are not only performances but moments in an environment that feels timeless. Guests tell us they love the way the estate opens up in the summer



and how the lakeshore becomes part of the experience. It is a setting that makes every concert feel personal and memorable.”

The season opens at 7 p.m. Feb. 13, with the Valentine’s Concert Over the Cove with Ben Sharkey, followed by the second Concert Over the Cove at 7 p.m. May 15, with an artist to be announced soon.

The 2026 Outdoor Summer Concert Series features Saved by the 90s at 7 p.m. July 10, followed by additional concerts by performers to be announced soon at 7 p.m. Aug. 14 and Sept. 18.

Autumn brings the Halloween Concert Over the Cove with Kalkaska String Quartet at 6 p.m. Oct. 30. The season concludes with the Christmas Concert Over the Cove at 6 p.m. Dec. 4, with artists to be announced.

Seasonal celebrations

Seasonal celebrations return throughout 2026 with programs for all ages.

Photos with the Easter Bunny returns March 28, followed by Easter Brunch on April 5, Mother’s Day Brunch on May 10, Eleanor’s Birthday Tea and Tour on June 14, and the Shakespeare Stroll at 6 p.m. Aug. 6. Now in its third year, the Shakespeare Stroll is a co-production between Ford House and Grosse Pointe Theatre, guiding guests scene by scene through the estate as actors bring classic works to life among the gardens and grounds.

Murder Mystery Parties take place Friday, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10, offering two immersive evenings of clues and characters inside the historic main residence. Inspired by the murder mystery parties Eleanor

Ford hosted during the family’s years in the house, guests are invited to explore the estate at night through theatrical storytelling and playful suspense. They typically sell out within hours of going on sale, reflecting the strong interest guests have in experiencing this elegant tradition in its original setting.

Signature fall programs

Autumn brings two of Ford House’s most beloved family programs: Harvest Day on Sept. 26 and Little Goblins on Oct. 24.

The 2025 Harvest Day welcomed 60 vendors, doubling the number from 2024, and drew 4,562 guests compared to 2,590 the previous year. Little Goblins also experienced a record-breaking year in 2025 with 3,303 guests, an increase from 2,059 in 2024.

Both events remain cherished fall traditions that invite visitors to celebrate autumn at Ford House through hands-on activities, outdoor play and festive seasonal treats. These seasonal programs also highlight partnerships with local makers, performers and community organizations, reflecting Ford House’s ongoing commitment to supporting the region’s creative and small business communities.

Holiday traditions

The holiday season at Ford House begins with Cookies with Santa, offered on select dates from Nov. 28 through Dec. 19. Families are welcomed into the historic setting for a quiet, personal moment with Santa. Sensory-friendly sessions feature softened lighting and sound and offer a calmer environment before general admission sessions

begin.

Holiday Tea and Tour on Dec. 6 invites guests to enjoy refined seasonal décor inside the main residence. After many years away, the Nutcracker Tea returns Dec. 12, filling the day with whimsy and joy for children and all who are young at heart. Brunch with Santa on Dec. 20 closes the season with a joyful morning inside the visitor center.

Home for the Holidays, returning for its fourth year, guides guests along illuminated pathways and through festive outdoor displays inspired by Eleanor Ford’s timeless holiday aesthetic.

“The holidays feel especially joyful at Ford House because the estate creates a sense of belonging,” said Andrea Ozanich, public events specialist. “People want to celebrate here because it feels welcoming and full of heart. Every light, every decorated space and every visit with Santa adds to the feeling that this is a place where holiday memories are made.”

Ways to experience Ford House

Visit fordhouse.org to explore the full calendar and additional details about all events, tours, dining reservations and seasonal programs. Friends of Ford House, the estate’s annual membership program, enjoy early access to ticket sales and receive discounts of 20 to 50 percent on select events, tours and experiences, including dining and shopping. Early access often means Friends secure tickets before they open to the public. Friendships begin at \$50 per year and support Ford House’s year-round programming.

Visitors also can spend a full day at Ford House by enjoying lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch at The Continental, relaxing with quick service options at The Speedster or browsing seasonal gifts and locally made items at The Shop inside the visitor center. The amenities are open to all guests and offer additional ways to explore the estate before or after an event or tour. Parking is available on site and accessibility information may be found at fordhouse.org.

For more information, visit fordhouseorg or call (313) 884-4222.



38 years & counting

“We have been passing this fruitcake back and forth in the family for 38 years,” wrote Grosse Pointe Park resident James Hoffman, in an email. “It’s the beginning of a tradition between me and my sister, Cindy Hoffman.”

The Grosse Pointe North High School grads have had some fun with the fruitcake, which first made its way into the Hoffman household in 1987.

“The fruitcake is quite storied,” James Hoffman continued. “Typically it was hidden in wrapping

paper or another gift as if the recipient wouldn’t want it. One year we had a scavenger hunt with clues dispersed all over the house. One of the clues included a video which was called ‘The dark side of the fruitcake.’ In the end, the fruitcake was hidden in the piano.”

Around 15 years ago, Hoffman encased the storied fruitcake in half-inch plexiglass.

“It is now preserved forever in a museum-quality sealed container for all eternity,” Hoffman noted.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 4B

15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Make Comics Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ DigiLit Series, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Yoga Storytime with Miss Moo, 10 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Anime-Style Character Drawing Lab with Finn Heenan, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Funny Acting Comedy Workshop, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ Portraits with Liz Frankland, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 6 to 27.

◆ Workshop about Donald Cronkhite’s “Willow Tree,” 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 8, 15 and 22.

◆ Color Theory with Saveria Giovinazzo, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 9 to 30.

Ford House

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

◆ Storytime: “Life on Mars,” 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6.

◆ Family Workshop: Paper Marbling, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17. Costs vary.

◆ Trivia Night, 6 to 8

See EVENTS, page 6B

Worship Service

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(United Church of Christ)
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stmichaelsgpw.org
January 4 ~ The Second Sunday after Christmas Day
10.00 am – Lessons and Carols
The Blessing of Homes for Epiphany and the Easter Proclamation
January 11 ~ The First Sunday after The Epiphany
10.00 am –Holy Eucharist
20475 Sunningdale Park - Grosse Pointe Woods

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
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

And the winners are . . .

The American Association of University Women of Grosse Pointe has announced the winners of its fifth annual art contest, which followed the theme “Listen to Women,” inspired by the AAUW mission of gender equity. The exhibition, juried by Elizabeth Gauthier, invited teen artists to shine a light on women’s issues through their artwork. First-place winner, Fu’ture Knight, earned \$200. Violet Sarcona and Hanna Jansen tied for second place, earning \$150 each. Anna Scott and Lucy Foster tied for third place, earning \$100 each.

Four students, Lillianna Burden, Isabelle Zuehike, Claire Schoenherr and Ashlynn Stemmerich, earned honorable mentions. For the past three years, the exhibition has been staged in the guest gallery at The War Memorial. Karen Pope, president of the Grosse Pointe Art Association, has helped mount the exhibition. The AAUW invites the community to view the exhibition, which is on display at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, through Friday, Jan. 23.



Left, Violet Sarcona tied for second place with “Spelling It Out.” Right, Hanna Jansen tied for second place with “The Smile That Lies.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AAUWGP

Fu’ture Knight earned first place for her “Select Your Character.”



Far left, Anna Scott tied for third place with “Penitence.” Left, Lucy Foster tied for third place with “The Riot.” Above, Lillianna Burden earned honorable mention for “Identity.” Below far left, Isabelle Zuehike earned honorable mention for “That Long Term Goal.” Below left, Claire Schoenherr earned honorable mention for “Growing Up (Still a Kid).” Below, Ashlynn Stemmerich earned honorable mention for “Tapping.”



EVENTS:

Continued from page 5B

p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. Admission is \$10 for Friends, \$12 for the public. ♦ Lecture: Creating a U.S. Great Lakes Waterfront Trail, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29. Cost is \$12 for Friends, \$15 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives: ♦ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. ♦ Noon to 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 9, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. ♦ Noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, Bethel Baptist Church, 24600 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores. ♦ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, Holy Innocents-St. Barnabas Parish, 26100 Ridgemont, Roseville. ♦ Noon to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 17017 12 Mile, Roseville. Register at redcrossblood.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Paul Brink, presi-

dent of Warm Hearts Foundation, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

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 ♦ War Memorial History Tour, 10 to 11:30

a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8. ♦ Second Saturdays at TWML Space Explorers Blast Off, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10. Cost is \$10. ♦ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13. ♦ Puzzle Palooza, 6 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15. Costs vary. ♦ Traveling Acupuncturist Pop-Up, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HELM

Drivers were checked off the registration list as they entered The Helm parking lot, then made their way through the lot and stopped for staff to load a fresh produce box into their car.

Fresh fruits, veggies for seniors

Staff and volunteers of The Helm and Eastern Market distributed 100 boxes of fresh produce to seniors of the five Grosse Pointes at a drive-thru pick-up event at The Helm Thursday, Dec. 18.

The Helm contracted with Eastern Market to create 100 boxes of fresh fruit, root vegetables and leafy greens, paid for by private donations. The Helm held two similar events in November — a drive-thru pick-up event in Harper Woods and a delivery event to Harper Woods and the homebound seniors in five Grosse Pointes.



A fresh produce food box is loaded into a waiting vehicle.

One car stops to check in while another heads out after receiving a fresh produce box.



ASK THE EXPERTS By Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW

What will your story be in the new year?

Q. What can I do about all the “what ifs” that run through my head? I worry about every potential thing that can go wrong when I anticipate change or face a new challenge. This cycle of anxiety and self-criticism is exhausting.

A. As we prepare for new experiences, we start to tell ourselves stories about what we think is going to happen. Sometimes these stories focus on positive potential and other times they focus on failing and what could go wrong. The stories we tell are very powerful because where we invest our energy is what we nourish. When we are focused on potential problems, our fears are magnified and we are more risk averse. When we are optimistic, we cultivate confidence and motivation. Becoming aware of the narratives we create helps shape our outcomes and influences how we navigate our lives.

◆ Be attentive to your stories and self-talk. Many anticipatory stories are so automatic, we don’t even notice them; we just feel the weight of them. We are all imperfect narrators, but curiosity about our internal stories allows us to develop intention and shift our focus. We can consider questions that disrupt negative spirals, challenge self-criticism or change our perspective from what might go wrong to what might go right.

Such questions may include: How might this go well? What strengths and competencies am I overlooking? Is this story incomplete? What evidence is it based on? Does this story acknowledge my resilience or opportunity for growth? Could I handle my worst-case scenario?

◆ Develop a growth mindset. Focusing on the positive potential rather than the catastrophic “what ifs” counters the negativity bias we are vulnerable to when we anticipate the risks of doing something difficult. Trying to pre-empt everything that could go wrong doesn’t better prepare us for challenges or protect us from disap-

pointment. A growth mindset honors what could be accomplished with intent; recognizes the value of effort, risk and persistence regardless of outcome; and views mistakes as a chance to learn or expand a skill. Difficulties are ultimately an opportunity for meaningful growth and developing resilience.

◆ Resist perfectionism. Anxiety goes hand-in-hand with perfectionism and comes with a high cost. Perfectionism fuels unrealistic performance expectations, a low tolerance for disappointment and an unrealistically critical self-assessment that leaves no margin for error. It fuels “all or nothing” thinking, inhibits positive self-regard, undermines narratives that imagine a successful outcome and discourages risk taking that supports growth.

◆ Control what you can. We rarely have control over outcomes, but we do have control over how we talk to ourselves about a particular challenge. We can choose the attitude and optimism we bring to a difficulty and how we define success. People who have the belief that they have some control over future outcomes tend to be more empowered, motivated, persistent, creative and resilient. Countering negative storylines and considering optimistic alternatives is a strength we can continue to cultivate with practice and intent.

As we enter 2026, the “what ifs” will persist, as they always do. The stories we tell ourselves about how we will respond to new challenges remain ours to create.

Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW, is a licensed social worker with more than 25 years of experience providing individual, group and family therapy in the private and public sectors. Check out her blog at marybethgarveytherapy.org/.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

Lakeshore Optimist Club hosts 43rd Youth Appreciation Awards

The Lakeshore Optimist Club’s 43rd annual Youth Appreciation Awards took place Nov. 20, at The War Memorial.

Sixteen high school seniors representing Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South, University Liggett School and Harper Woods high schools were honored for their achievements in school and particularly their service to their communities.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Scholarships were awarded to, from left, Claire Nurse, Zachary Neme, Jacob Johnston and Avery Welsh.

Lakeshore Optimist Club, for his efforts to assist the youth of Detroit through his nonprofit, Detroit Horse Power.

Lakeshore Optimist Club meets 7:30 a.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. All are welcome to attend, listen to interesting speakers and see what the club is about. For locations, dates and times each month, visit gpointimists.com.

David Silver, founder and executive director of Detroit Horse Power, served as the keynote speaker.

Highlights of each student’s academic and community service were presented by Kent Commer, Lakeshore Optimist Youth Appreciation chairman, and awards were presented by Steve Licari, president of the Lakeshore Optimist Club.

All students received an award certificate and a gift card. Four were selected to receive a scholarship check from the Optimist Club to use toward their post-graduation endeavors.

Licari closed the eve-

ning by presenting Silver with an award from the



The entire group of honorees included Isaac Brenner, Grosse Pointe South; John Daugherty, Grosse Pointe North; Ahmad Glover, Harper Woods; Colin Hynous, South; Jacob Johnston, North; Elliot Karr, University Liggett School; Gustavo Leyva, Harper Woods; Shelby McMillan, South; Christina Miller, Harper Woods; Zachary Neme, South; Clare Nurse, North; Zachary Rabbani, Liggett; Phoebe Rinaldi, Liggett; Hope Watkins, North; Avery Welsh, Liggett; and J’adore Williams-Senegal, Harper Woods.

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Find a comfortable compromise

Dear Gabby: My husband insists the house must be kept at 66 degrees “for efficiency.” I now wear a coat, sweater, wool socks and occasionally a scarf indoors. Is this grounds for divorce, or at least a strongly worded conversation? — Frozen in the Farms

you are not storing fine art or perishable cheeses. If compromise fails, begin spending evenings “warming up” at friends’ houses or cozy restaurants. When your husband notices you’re never home, explain that you’ve discovered heat ... elsewhere.

— Gabby

Dear Frozen: Divorce seems extreme — but so is indoor scarf season. I recommend a calm negotiation involving utility bills, comfort and the undeniable fact that

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



Midlife, heartbreak and starting over

DEAR ANNIE: I really enjoy reading your column. I have a problem of my own I’d like some help with. I have two daughters in university. When they’re home, they stay in their rooms or maybe talk to friends on the phone. They hardly talk to me. They go back to school and I’m home alone. I really miss them. They

come back for the holidays again and it’s the same cycle. At the same time, I’m dealing with the trauma of infidelity. My husband had a secret affair, and I found out the woman has a child with him, too. I have started having serious heart palpitations after finding out about his infidelity. I asked him to leave the house in order to

protect my sanity. I’m now in the process of a divorce. I cannot forgive him. I cannot continue to be under the same roof with a cheating husband. I feel so alone. I’m thinking of taking up a hobby, maybe joining a book club. I just don’t know. I’m 51 years old, and I’m a high school teacher. I know that I need

therapy, but I don’t know any therapists nearby. Thank you for your articles. — Midlife Loneliness



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR MIDLIFE LONELINESS: You’re facing more than one heartbreak at the same time, and it’s no wonder you feel alone. Children pulling away, a marriage ending in betrayal and the physical effects of stress would leave anyone shaken. Your daughters’ distance, while painful, is common at their age and not a reflection of your value as a mother. Still, it’s

fair to tell them you miss them and would welcome some intentional time together. You were right to protect your sanity by asking your husband to leave. Therapy would be a wise next step. The Psychology Today website offers a “therapist finder” tool, which lets you search by location, specialty and insurance. Many therapists now offer virtual sessions, so geography

doesn’t have to stand in your way. At 51, you are far from finished. This painful chapter does not define the whole book. Take care of yourself, reach for support and trust that happier days are still ahead. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SANDY LANE PRODUCTIONS, CELSIUS ENTERTAINMENT AND FULCRUM MEDIA. Left, George Ferrier as Sam butting heads with Charlotte Rampling as Ruth in the 2021 movie “Juniper,” written and directed by Matthew J. Saville.



A wary Sam.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Juniper”
2021 - Not Rated
1 hr 34 min
★★★★☆
I don’t recall the first time I saw Charlotte Rampling in a movie, but it was most likely back in my college years during the early days of the Detroit Film Theater. What I do remember is being totally smitten by her ravishing beauty and fantastic acting. These days, whenever I see she’s in a movie, I immediately put it in my queue, knowing I’m in for a rare treat. Over Ms. Rampling’s long and distinguished career, she’s acted in an incredible range of movies; working with directors as diverse as Luchino Visconti and Woody

Allen — in English and French films. She always seemed to push herself to take on challenging roles which ensured she was never typecast. What a formidable talent. Rampling came out of semi-retirement to act in the 2021 film “Juniper” and what a treat this movie is. It’s the directorial debut for New Zealand native Matthew J. Saville, who also wrote the screenplay. It’s filmed in New Zealand which provides the usual visual feast for the eyes. I’d say it was set in a beautiful part of the country, but then again, what part isn’t? The film is your basic older/younger family members plot involving two individuals who start out at loggerheads, but eventually become fast

friends. It’s a common trope that’s been done countless times. “Juniper” doesn’t cover a lot of new ground, but there’s one thing that sets it apart from the rest—the amazing



Ruth shows the kids how it’s done.

Charlotte Rampling. She may no longer have her youthful beauty, but she’s still a striking individual. And she’s also a commanding presence, whenever she’s on the screen. The story is about a young high school boy Sam (George Ferrier) who’s a rebellious sort. He’s constantly getting in trouble at school. Part of his behavior may be due to the recent death of his mother. To make matters worse, his father Robert

Movie Junkie Mark
by Mark Domin
“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



(Marton Csokas) announces that Ruth, his grandmother whom he’s never met, is coming to stay with them while she recovers from a broken leg. Enter Ms. Rampling. To say she’s an abrasive and combative personality is putting it mildly. Not only is she cantankerous, she’s a raging alcoholic. Her nurse Sara (Edith Poor) instructs

Sam in the exacting way to make her cocktails. You take a large glass pitcher, fill it half with gin and half with water, and top it with a slice of lemon. She has this at her side all day long. Reluctantly, Sam agrees to look after her as long as he doesn’t have to speak with her. The first time he mixes up her drinks, he decides to water it down. After she takes one sip and realizes what he’s done, she throws her cup at him. It misses him and shatters on the floor. He moves closer to her and challenges her to try again. This time she hits him squarely in the forehead. This acts as an ice-breaker of sorts, and paves the way for a slow thawing between the two headstrong individuals. Robert hasn’t been the best father to Sam. He’s

sent his son off to boarding school, which largely relieves him of his parental duties. He’s often away on business and after Ruth comes to stay with them, he has to travel to England to straighten out her legal affairs. Then, after a few days, the stress of waiting on Ruth constantly gets to Sara and she’s off on a break, leaving Sam to look after his troublesome grandmother. Ruth has an annoying buzzer which she uses constantly to call for help.

See JUNIPER, page 3C



One last hike.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I stumbled upon electric hand warmers in my Instagram or Facebook feed and thought they looked interesting, so I clicked “Add to cart.” After a few weeks, I had forgotten about them, but was reminded on a frigid day outside, walking my dog, when a friend had toasty warm hands as my fingers were practically numb and throbbing from the cold.

After getting home that day, I immediately clicked “Buy it now” on my Amazon cart and eagerly awaited my ice rink and dog walking saviors. As anticipated — since it was an “Amazon’s Choice” — they came quickly and really do the trick. They heat up in seconds and have multiple heat settings. They are a nice size and I like that



rather than the little packets that float around in your gloves or pockets, these are more substantial and have a lot more surface area of warmth. They charge easily with the provided cord and each charge gives about six hours of warmth, up to 131 degrees. I can think of so many places I will be toting my hand warmers in

the future: hockey games, dog walks, spring season outdoor sports when it’s bone-chillingly cold, skiing, fishing in fall. And they would be great for hunters, too. At \$13.99 on Amazon, they would also make a nice little gift or side gift for almost anyone. I am giving these five alligators and two big (warm) thumbs up. Find them here: tinyurl.com/yz7ccn8y.

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

5 Out Of 5



The line at the Lobster Pot Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

This Christmas Eve I found myself at The Lobster Pot with visions of linguine with clams and crabcakes dancing in my head. The line was bustling and joyful, almost like the customers wait all year to enjoy the company of their fellow neighbors. It snaked all the way from front to back, circling the small waiting area. The air was sweet and briny from the fresh seafood. It’s made all the more merry with Katie, the owner, calling out hello to everyone who comes inside. I didn’t call ahead for clams but was lucky that someone else had and canceled at the last minute. The Lobster Pot has definitely woven its way into our Christmas Eve traditions. Linguine with clams is a tried and true recipe for me. Crab cakes, however, are not. I wanted to make them light and herby with little filler. I had seen a recipe that uses artisanal crackers as the binder. Not only as a binder but also to serve the mini crab cake on.

These crackers are thin, long and very crispy. They’re simply seasoned with salt. You can find them most anywhere that has a decent cheese selection. I bought mine at Fresh Farms Market. If you can’t get them, substitute with panko breadcrumbs. But these work so well in the crab cake. They keep the cake light so the crab and herbs take center stage. They are delicately fried for a couple minutes on each side in butter until a golden crust is formed. I served them on broken pieces of crackers with a dollop of herby mayo. All I can say is that these went fast. They were a home run, slam dunk victory. They went over so well in fact that I am making them on New Year’s Eve. Since the cakes can be made ahead, I can form the cakes in the morning and fry them up just before guests arrive. Ring in the new year with these beauties. And make sure you

catch the line at The Lobster Pot too! Cheers and Happy New Year, Mombeau

Mini Crab Cakes
(Makes about 22-24)

1lb lump crab meat

8 Fire Hook Sea Salt Baked Crackers (about 3/4 cup)

¼ cup parsley, chopped

3 scallions, finely chopped

1 tbsp tarragon, chopped

Juice from ½ lemon

½ cup mayo

2 eggs

Pinch of salt and pepper

Fire Hook crackers to serve

2 tbsp butter

2 tbsp olive oil

Sauce

½ cup mayo

¼ cup parsley, chopped

1 tbsp tarragon, chopped

1 tsp Dijon mustard

Juice from ½ lemon

A couple dashes of hot sauce

Begin by making the sauce. Add all ingredients to a small bowl and mix well. Cover with plastic wrap and set in the fridge until you are ready to serve. For the crab cakes, add the mayo, herbs, lemon juice, eggs and breadcrumbs to a bowl and combine. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper. Gently fold in the crab meat. Try not to overwork it so the crab doesn’t get too broken up. Lumps are a good thing. Heat a large skillet over medium heat and add one tablespoon of butter and one table-



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

spoon of olive oil. Use a small melon baller or spoon to scoop a large tablespoon of mixture. Shape into a ball and add to the hot skillet. Once in the skillet, gently press each one down to form a flat top. Fry each side for about two minutes, until golden brown. Don’t overcrowd, you will need to work in batches.

Once cooked, remove to a plate lined with paper towels. To serve, break a cracker in half or in thirds. Spoon a dollop of sauce on the crackers and place a crab cake over the top. Finish with another dollop over top and serve with lemon wedges if so desired. Garnish with any extra chopped herbs.



Dry January

Because I have written about wine regularly for the last 50 years (or more), you can probably assume that I do not observe dry January. The idea of a full month sans booze has only been with us for a few years. I believe it developed as the result of a lot of Jan. 1 hangovers after New Year’s Eve bashes in which over-consumption seemed widespread. Most drinkers have experi-

enced the symptoms of excessive alcohol ingestion; it’s not fun. And although several dozen “remedies” or strategies for avoiding hangovers have been developed over centuries, I haven’t found one that works. The best strategy is to attend all festive functions with the strategy that you will reduce consumption to a sane level and consume an equal amount of water.

Going an entire month without any alcohol at all is easiest for certain people. Regular Abstainers: They have no difficulty with Dry January because they don’t drink any other time of the year in the first place! Infrequent Alcohol Consumers: They may miss the occasional glass of wine or a beer with a hot dog, but since they probably won’t miss it, going 30 days without any alcohol poses little inconvenience. Regular Wine Lovers: This is where the major awkwardness usually occurs. These people, like me, can’t imagine a dinner without a sip of vini frumenti. Alcoholics: I seriously doubt whether anyone in this category has even heard of Dry January,

and if they had, they could not participate; most are likely addicted. Drinking less total alcohol is easier today than ever, in part because major wine companies have devoted scientific research into the development of some quality, low alcohol, and zero alcohol products. Although low- and no-alcohol beverages have been with us for decades, only recently have they become good enough to drink. Technology has proven beneficial in this area. Today, we have a few new alternatives. Nonalcoholic wines (often listed as “alcohol-removed”) have recently been developed by several wine companies. In general, the best that I have tasted tend to be white

wines; a couple are also made in the style of a traditional rose. For the most part, however, red wines that have no alcohol have generally been rather woeful substitutes for real red wine character. Some of the best low alcohol products I have ever tasted are German Rieslings. Many with only 7 percent alcohol are not only typical of the way they have always been made, but they work beautifully with lots of the lighter dishes that we prepare as part of a healthy diet, including seafood, vegetarian options and soups. Several wine companies from New Zealand have developed low-alcohol versions of Sauvignon Blanc, and one of the best I have tasted includes our

wine of the week, which has no alcohol and relatively fascinating flavors.

Wine of the Week:
Giesen Delcoholized Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand (\$13) — The aroma of this product is vaguely like Sauvignon Blanc, which makes it far more interesting than so many other zero-alcohol efforts. Also, the wine is quite dry. It certainly is not as good as most serious SBs. It has 6 percent actual grape juice and is a fascinating substitute for people who cannot consume alcohol.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM

JUNIPER

Continued from page 2C

While rifling through some of his grandmother’s papers, Sam discovers a trove of war photos. It turns out, Ruth was a famous war photographer back in the day. This opens up a part of her life Sam finds fascinating. And it’s a gateway for the two to learn more about each other. You simply can’t bury the past forever. As their relationship thaws, the

overall mood of the film shifts, becoming quite a bit more uplifting. One day, Ruth makes Sam an offer he can’t refuse. If he and his pals clean up the sadly overgrown and neglected garden, she’ll let them have a party. They get immediately to work and throw themselves into the task at hand. And they’re not disappointed. Ruth supplies them with all the booze they need and a whole bunch of their friends join in on the celebration. I was a

bit surprised when Ruth is offered a joint at the party; she happily takes several hits and gets high with the kids. What do you know — she’s a party animal after all! Overall, the movie doesn’t cover a lot of new ground and is fairly predictable. However it’s a heartwarming tale of two similar personalities coming together to create a close bond. And in the process, learning about themselves. As usual, I thoroughly

enjoyed seeing Ms. Rampling’s performance. This was the film debut for Ferrier, and I think we’re gong to see a lot more of him and Saville in the very near future. Currently streaming on Kanopy (free with your library card) and Hulu. And to rent on Apple TV, Amazon, Fandango, YouTube, and other services. Note to parents: The movie is unrated, but I’d probably rate PG-13 due to underage drinking

and pot smoking, and a brief sex scene.

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.



THURSDAY COMICS



Grosse Pointe News

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

A NEW YEAR'S TOAST!



TO THAT WONDERFUL GENIUS...



TO THAT PERSON WE ALL ADMIRE...



THE INVENTOR OF THE DOGGIE BAG!



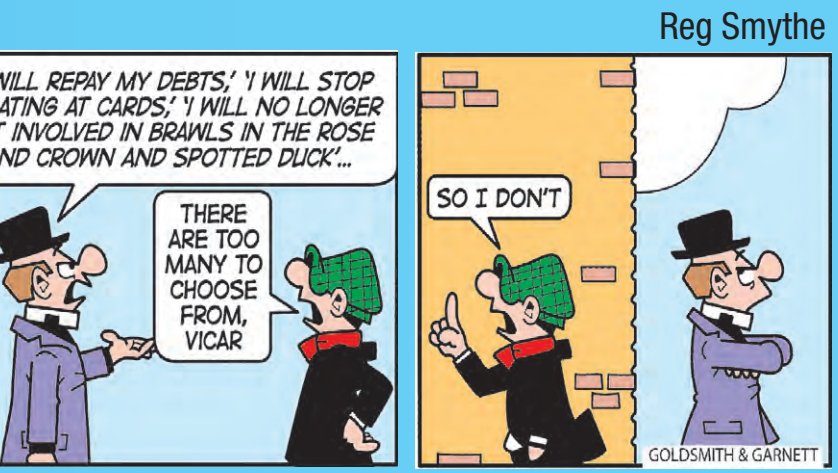
Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno



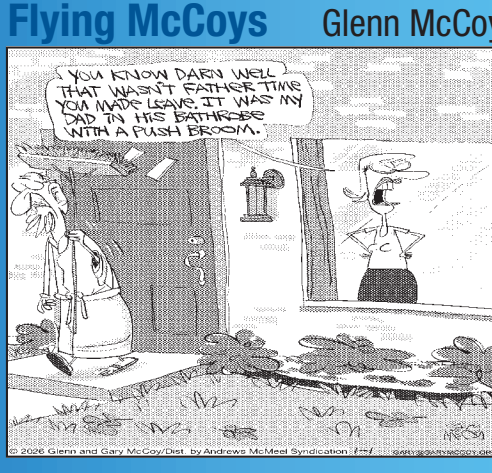
Andy Capp



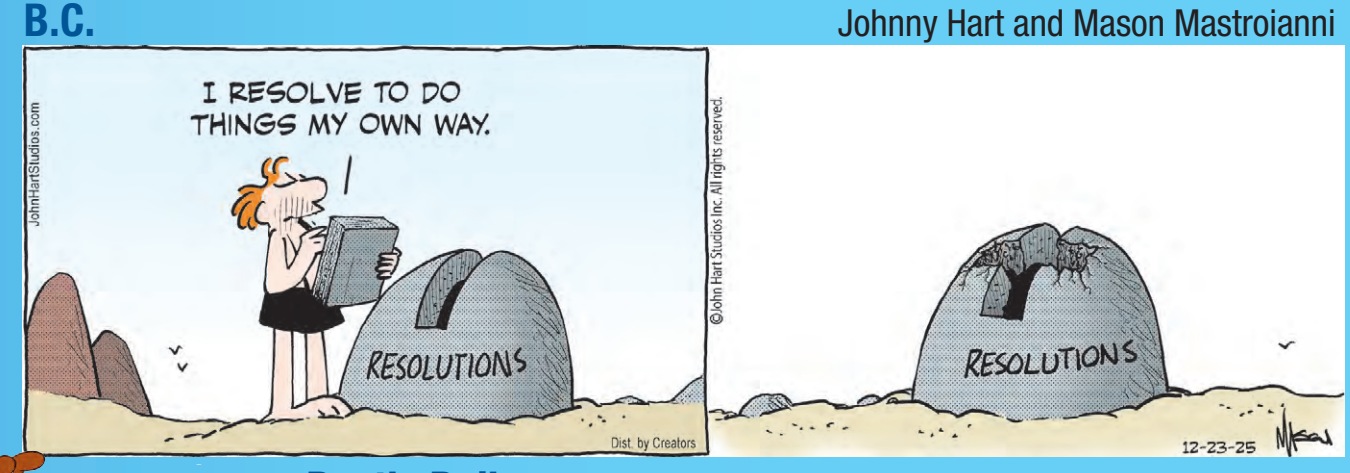
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy



B.C. Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond



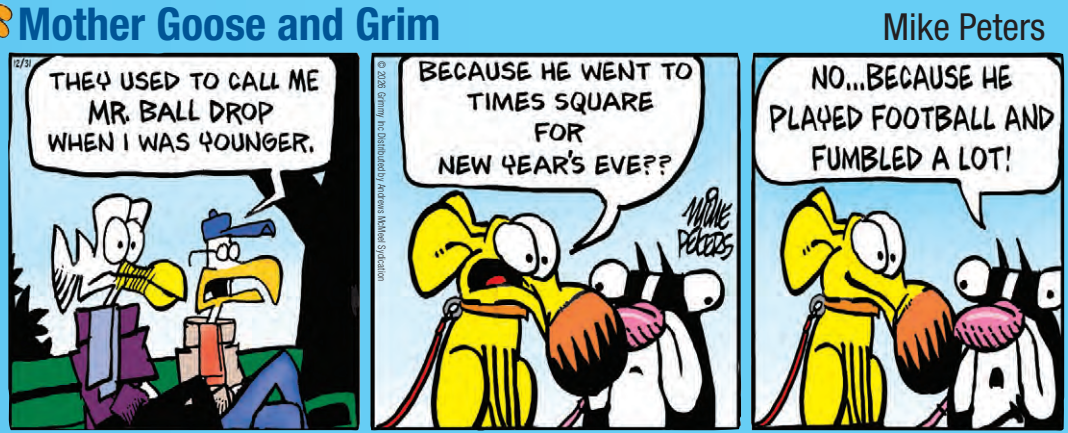
Beetle Bailey Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



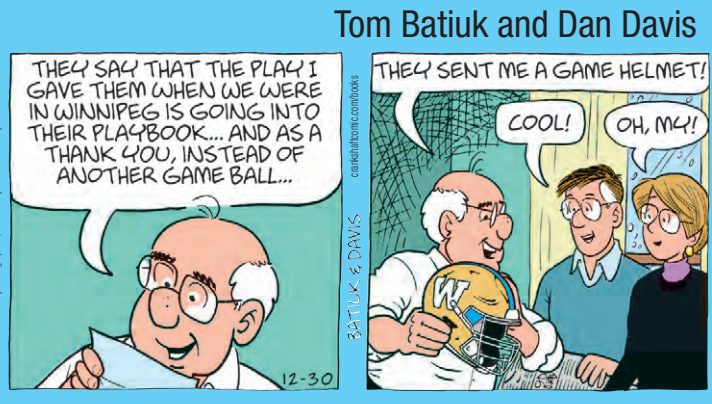
Mother Goose and Grim Mike Peters



Crankshaft Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



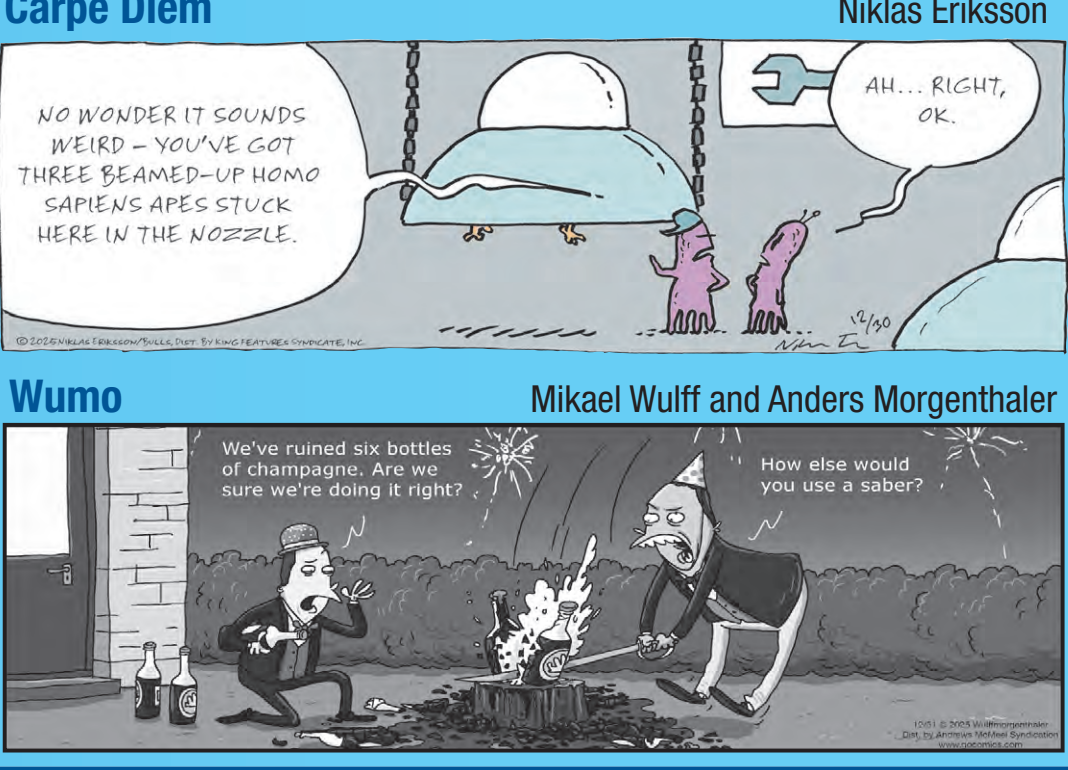
Dennis the Menace Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Carpe Diem Niklas Eriksson



Wumo Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis

EVERY NEW YEAR'S EVE WE GATHER TOGETHER...



JIM DAVIS 12-31

TO WATCH THE TONGUE DROP



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WOO-HOO!

YAAAAAY!

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

THUD



Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

LET ME BRING **EXCITEMENT** TO YOUR LIFE!

OKAY!



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

FETCH HIM!



Close To Home

John McPherson

THE HOKEY POKEY, THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.



Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF ID!

CHEERS!



© John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved. 12-31-25

Ziggy

Tom Wilson

NEW YEAR

I'D LIKE TO TOAST THE NEW YEAR!



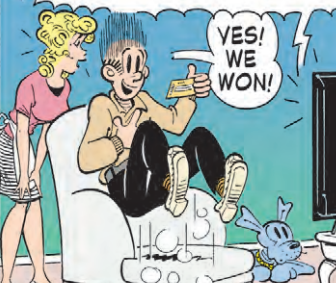
©2025 Ziggy and Friends, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

Blondie

Chris and Dean Young

YOUR WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS ARE 5-19-20-38-42 AND 53!

YES! WE WON!



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SAYONARA, DITHERS & CO.!!



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IF 2026 IS ANYTHING CLOSE TO WHAT I JUST DREAMED, WE'LL HAVE IT MADE!

DREAM ON, HONEY!



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Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



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Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

NEW YEAR'S EVE. GOT BIG PLANS?

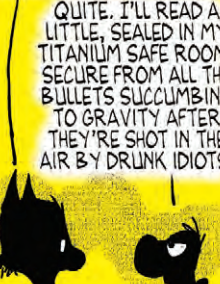
PROBABLY BE IN BED BY 8:30.



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WHOA, MOMMA.

QUITE. I'LL READ A LITTLE, SEALED IN MY TITANIUM SAFE ROOM, SECURE FROM ALL THE BULLETS SUCCUMBING TO GRAVITY AFTER THEY'RE SHOT IN THE AIR BY DRUNK IDIOTS.



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IS THERE ROOM IN THERE FOR TWO?



© 2025 MFR & T. Lewis. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

IS THERE ROOM IN THERE FOR THIRTY-TWO??!



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Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

CROCK WANTS YOU TO HAVE THIS LEFTOVER

IT'S FROM HIS NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER PARTY

I CAN'T WAIT TO SINK MY TEETH INTO A BIG, JUICY...

PLATE OF CONFETTI!



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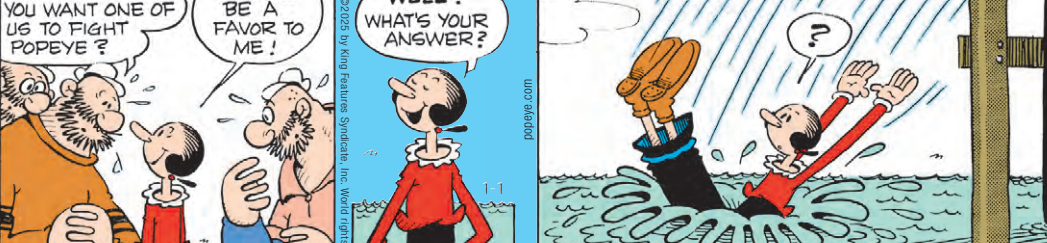
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf

YOU WANT ONE OF US TO FIGHT POPEYE?

IT WOULD BE A FAVOR TO ME!

WELL? WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?



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F Minus

Tony Carrilo

AFTER I WAS FIRED, THEY GAVE ME THIS BOX TO COLLECT MY THINGS. SO I TOOK A LITTLE SOMETHING OFF EVERYONE'S DESK TO REMEMBER THEM BY.



© 2025 CARRILLO. DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION FOR UPS

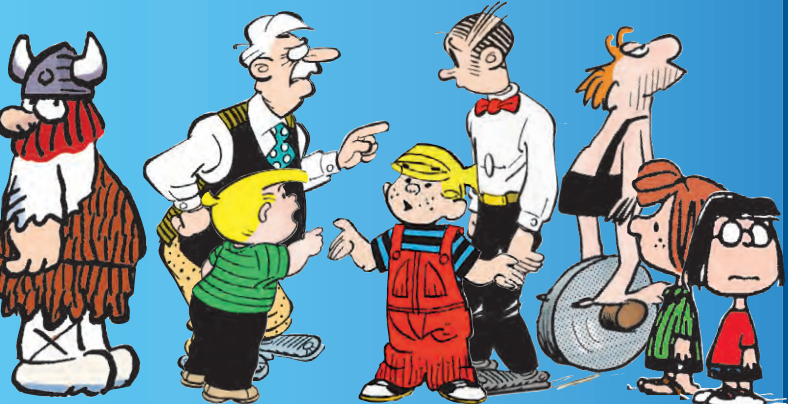
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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

"Don't forget, Mommy! If we fall asleep, be sure to wake us up at midnight!"



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

1/1 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/25 Solution

Contract Bridge

RATIONALE OF A SAFETY PLAY

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ A 8 4
♣ A K Q J

WEST

♠ A
♥ K Q 10 2
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ 8 5 4 2

EAST

♠ Q J 9
♥ J 9 7 4
♦ Q 9 5 2
♣ 9 6

SOUTH

♠ K 8 5 4 2
♥ 8 6 3
♦ K 10
♣ 10 7 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Safety plays come in so many different guises and occur in such a variety of circumstances that there is little to be gained by trying to memorize all the different possibilities. It is far better to recognize the need for a safety play and take the appropriate steps as each new situation arises.

Consider this deal where declarer takes the opening heart lead with the ace and returns a low spade from dummy, on which East produces the nine. Which card should South play?

It can be seen that if he plays the

king, he goes down, losing three trump tricks and a heart. However, the king is the wrong play in this particular deal. South should play low, and if he does, he makes the contract.

The recommended play is not based on a peek at the East-West hands, but rather because it simply is the right play. The contract is virtually certain to make if declarer does not lose three trump tricks, so all his efforts should be directed toward dealing with that possibility.

After the nine appears, it is clear that the contract has no chance if East has all four trumps or if West has the A-Q-J. Both of these possibilities are therefore dismissed from consideration, leaving only the cases where the spades are divided 2-2 or where East has three of them, including the nine.

If the spades are 2-2, East must have A-9, Q-9 or J-9. South can well afford to duck the nine in all three cases, though it is true that by playing the king he could gain a 30-point trick in the first case.

If the spades are 3-1, East might have A-Q-9, A-J-9 or Q-J-9. Again, South can afford to duck the nine in all three cases, but playing the king would cost the contract in the third case.

Ducking the nine thus never loses the contract and sometimes makes it, so it is therefore the right play.

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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 GEMINI. Happy New Year!

Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 1, 2026:

You are rational and clear-thinking. You're also determined, hard-working and thoughtful. This is a fun-loving year for you! Your creativity, zest and desire for life are at a pinnacle! Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Old friends might reappear to rekindle relationships.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Even though you might be seized with New Year's resolutions, relax and take it easy today. This year starts off in a casual, easygoing way. Wait a few days before putting plans in action. Be clear when communicating to bosses and parents to avoid misunderstandings. Tonight: Learn.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Don't rush into anything today. Kick back and relax. Be careful about embracing some kind of ideology as if it were gospel, because things are confusing today, and it's easy to push things out of perspective. This is a couch potato day to read or watch TV. Tonight: Tidy up.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

The Moon is in your sign, which will attract favors to you today. (A nice way to begin your new year.) Take it easy, because it's a dreamy day. This means it's a poor day for important financial decisions, especially about inheritances, wills or shared property. Relax. Tonight: You're strong.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Keep a low profile today. You might have some resolutions, but today is not the day to act. This year starts off slow, which means it's the perfect time to relax at home if you can. Conversations with partners, spouses and close friends might be confusing. Be aware of this. Tonight: Solitude.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Take it easy today if this is possible. Don't feel that you have to get busy because it's the first day of the year. This is a great day to daydream, watch a movie or snuggle up with your main squeeze. This year starts off gently, in slow motion. Tonight: Friendships.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Although you might want to make New Year's resolutions, don't guilt yourself into productivity. This year begins gently, and as much as possible, you want to take it easy today and enjoy yourself. Caution about pie-in-the-sky romance. Tonight: Show respect.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Relax today. No need to jump up and begin this day with determined fervor. Au contraire! This is the day to take it easy, because there's a dreamy quality in the air. In fact, family conversations might be misinterpreted or confused. Baby steps. Tonight: Travel dreams.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You might feel full of firm resolve with four planets in your House of Communications; nevertheless, take it easy today. This is the day to relax, because the entire world is having a dreamy moment. Communications are hazy. Double-check everything. Tonight: Check banking details.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Be careful with financial decisions today because confusing vibes are in the air. You might tend to overidealize something. Postpone ideas about cash flow and spending for a few days so that you know what you're doing. Kick back and relax today. Tonight: Genuinely listen.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today Mercury moves into your sign to join the Sun, Venus and Mars, which means four planets are now in your sign! (Oh yes, it's all about you, dear CAPRICORN.) Nevertheless, take it easy, because this year begins on a relaxing note. You can start your engines later in the week. Tonight: Home crafts.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This is the perfect day to sleep in, have a second cup of coffee and relax. You don't have to jump into action just because it's the first day of the year. In fact, you might want to hide and enjoy your privacy. Nevertheless, you will feel sociable and up for some fun diversions. Tonight: Socialize.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a friendly day; however, it's also a relaxing day. Enjoy schmoozing with friends and groups. Or you might choose to relax at home. Today Mercury is at odds with your ruler Neptune, casting a dreamy element of confusion and gentle vibes over the world. Tonight: Relax.

BORN TODAY
Military officer and silversmith Paul Revere (1735), actress Angourie Rice (2001), actor Morris Chestnut (1969).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 1, 2026

ACROSS

- Up to the task
- Opera solo
- Droop
- Red court material
- Mailed out
- Bike race fall
- Steamy part of a script (In this answer, note the 6th letter)
- Eagle's nest
- Sharp surgical tools
- One has one cell (... 3rd letter)
- 007 creator Fleming
- Pays a visit
- In the ___ of (among)
- Reef organism
- + or - particle
- Miles away
- Medieval laborers
- Where a sensei teaches
- Egg parts in orange curd (... 3rd letter)
- Blaze from a dragon
- Cookie known in China as "ao li ao"
- American ___ (state tree of North Dakota)
- Instantly recognizable
- Spotted big cats (... 3rd letter)
- Storage space behind a door
- Last Greek consonant
- Matching group
- Tributes in verse
- Committee leaders
- Son of Zeus and Hera
- Religious dissident
- Like Biden's presidency
- Veteran sailor
- Secret agent's file (... last letter)
- Tissue layer
- Slimy substance
- Flea market sights
- Often-torn knee parts
- Voting alliance
- Volcanic flow
- Blinker?
- Upward climb
- Spool on a rod
- Country lodgings
- Enjoyed a taro cake, say
- Fathers of colts
- Story that may prove innocence
- Gather slowly
- Striped Girl Scout cookies

DOWN

- Least distant
- Apple tracking gadget
- Took heavy steps, perhaps
- Karate blow
- "Paradise Lost" setting
- Tall bin on a farm
- Actress Mireille
- Exec who may create an AI strategy
- PreCheck org.
- German 101 article
- Color of Dorothy's slippers
- Post-wedding title
- Kibble alternative
- Resorts with steam rooms
- Pirate's cry
- Lovably awkward person
- "Tangled" actress Mandy
- At risk
- Place for smooth sailing
- Person put on a pedestal
- Goes out of business
- Wash
- soapsuds off
- Side with a sandwich
- Religious offshoot
- Little blunders
- Gen ___ (millennial)
- (Original writer's error)

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

12/25 Solution

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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
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
60								61				
62					63				64			

SPORTS



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SINE & MONAGHAN
REALTORS

2-3D WINTER REVIEW 2025 | 4-5D SPRING REVIEW 2025 | 6-7D FALL REVIEW 2025 | 8D CLASSIFIEDS

2025 Sports Year in Review

Dear Readers,

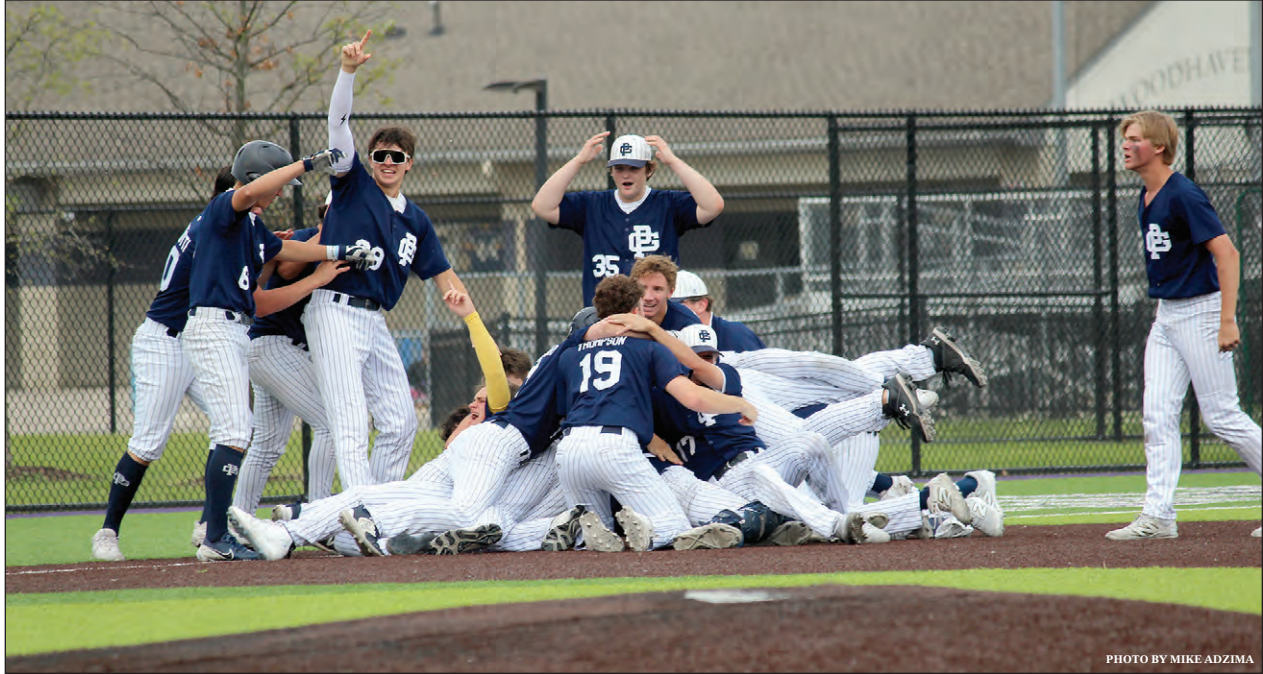
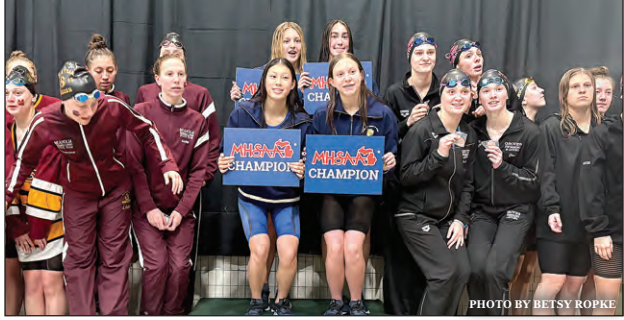
In our first sports section of 2026, we would like to take the opportunity to look back on an amazing 2025. It was another outstanding year for Grosse Pointe’s high school sports teams, all of which helped create so many memories for fans, friends and family.

This is a chance to look back at the trophies raised, the tough losses endured and the record-breaking performances achieved by the incredibly talented teams and athletes that represent the community with pride.

These are the moments that shaped 2025 into another unforgettable year in sports, and we are excited to continue telling the stories of these great athletes and programs in 2026.

Cheers to a very happy, prosperous and victorious new year!

Mike Adzim
Sports Reporter





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Winter 2025



PHOTO BY RENA LAVERTY

South’s Abby Evans celebrates after scoring what would be the game-winning goal in the 2025 Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 championship game.

Girls varsity ice hockey

Grosse Pointe South
The 2024-25 season saw South girls hockey add another trophy to its mantle, winning the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League (MGHSHL) Division 1 state championship for the second season in a row. The Blue Devils rallied from being down 2-0 against Mid-Michigan Alliance in the state final, with Abby Evans scoring the game-winning goal to give South a 3-2 win. Evans, along with teammates Rosie Smith, Charlie Harr and Molly Reynolds, was named first team All-State. Ana Zieleniewski also received recognition as second team All-State.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen made history for the girls hockey program in 2024-25. Senior Josie Cueter became the first North player ever to be named Miss Hockey by the MGHSHL, along with earning first-team All-State honors. Cueter led the state in scoring with 98 points in just 28 games, including 72 goals and 26 assists. The season ended for Cueter and the Norsemen with a loss in the second round of the Division 2 playoffs.

University Liggett
The Liggett girls hockey program overcame adversity in the 2024-25 season to still have a successful winter. The Knights experienced a coaching change in the middle of the season, but battled their way to a fourth consecutive Catholic League championship as a major highlight of the season. While Liggett fell short of a state championship, the team had five players receive All-State recognition, including Avery Welsh, Maggie Weiss, Kate Ricci, Miranda Alcala and goalie Madeline Hexter.

Girls varsity basketball

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen brought a young team made up of almost entirely freshmen and sophomores into the 2024-25 season and were able to still see strong results. The program celebrated a milestone during the season when longtime head coach Gary Bennett achieved his 700th career win with a victory over Romeo in January. North finished the season fifth in the MAC Red Division with an even record of 12-12, making it as far as the district semifinal round in the postseason.

Grosse Pointe South
Led by Division 1 first-team All-State senior guard Maddy Benard, the Blue Devils had their ups and downs throughout the 2024-25 season. Benard became just the fourth player in program history to surpass 1,000 career points, reaching the milestone during the season. South was fourth in the MAC Red with a 9-15 record, but made it to the district championship round of the playoffs before the season ended.

University Liggett
The Knights fought their way through a challenging season to an 11-11 record and were runner-up in the CHSL St. Anne Division championship. Liggett reached the district final in the playoffs, suffering a close loss to end the year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

North girls basketball coach Gary Bennett celebrates his 700th career victory with his team after the Norsemen’s win over Romeo Jan. 10, 2025.

Boys varsity basketball

Grosse Pointe North
North’s boys basketball team experienced one of its best seasons in recent memory in 2024-25. The Norsemen racked up 20 wins on their way to a MAC Blue Division title, with All-State honorable mention senior Leo Perettie helping lead the way. One of the biggest highlights of the year for North came in the district semifinal round of the playoffs. Senior RJ Williams hit a game-winning shot in the final seconds for the Norsemen to secure an upset victory over Detroit Cass Tech to move on to the district championship.

Grosse Pointe South
While the Blue Devils had high expectations entering the 2024-25 season, injuries and inconsistencies led South to just a 9-15 record and a sixth-place finish in the MAC Red Division, with a loss in the district semifinal round of the playoffs ending the campaign.

University Liggett
Liggett’s boys basketball team finished the 2024-25 campaign with a 9-11 record, led by leading scorer and breakout star Justin Gibson. The Knights made it to the CHSL St. Anne Division championship game and were eliminated in the opening round of the district playoffs.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Dequan Howell brings the ball up the court and sets up a play for the Norsemen in the 2025 district championship game against Detroit Martin Luther King Jr.



PHOTO BY SYLVIA KUBITZ

University Liggett goalie Ben Wehrmann earned an All-State honorable mention for his performance between the pipes in the 2024-25 season.

Boys varsity ice hockey

Grosse Pointe South
South’s boys hockey team faced its share of hardships in the 2024-25 campaign. The Blue Devils endured an eight-game losing streak early in the season and were unable to truly recover through the rest of the winter. The efforts of leading scorer Evan Bernard helped get South to seven wins, but the season ended with a loss in the regional semifinals.

University Liggett
The Knights climbed to 15 wins in the 2024-25 season, with help from leading scorers Griffin Marchal, Nick Gould and Gary Stacy. Goalie Ben Wehrmann and defenseman Andrew Johnson also earned All-State recognition for Liggett. Still, the team’s hopes of a deep postseason run were cut short with a loss in the regional semifinals.

Grosse Pointe North
A young North team saw steady improvement in the 2024-25 season, hoping to continue rebuilding the program’s reputation. Leading scorer Levi Olsey earned All-State recognition, along with tallying 50 points on the season. North was able to reach nine wins, but fell in the opening round of the regional playoffs.

Winter 2025



PHOTO BY HEIDI BRYAN

South boys swim and dive celebrates after winning the MAC Red Division championship for a 27th consecutive season in 2025.

Boys varsity swim and dive

Grosse Pointe South
South's boys swim and dive team used the 2024-25 season to continue one of the most impressive sports streaks in the state. The Blue Devils secured a 27th consecutive MAC Red Division title during the winter, doing it dominantly by finishing nearly 200 points ahead of any other team at the league championship meet. South also finished sixth at the Wayne County Championships.
The Blue Devils went on to finish 20th overall as a team at the Division 2 state finals. Some of the highlights from the state meet included a ninth-place finish in diving for Troy Richard and top-10 finishes by Brady Bond in the 50-yard freestyle and 100 freestyle.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen had a strong winter swimming season, with fifth-place finishes at both the MAC Red and Wayne County championships. The Norsemen finished 26th at the Division 2 state finals. Brady Winbigler had one of North's best showings at states with a 12th-place finish in the 200 freestyle relay.

University Liggett
On a small but mighty Liggett swim team, Brendan Beland had one of the best seasons of any swimmer in the Pointes. Beland qualified for the Division 3 state finals to represent the Knights, where he went on to finish fourth in the 100 fly and fifth in the 200 freestyle.



COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett swimmer Brendan Beland holds his awards commemorating his two All-State finishes at the 2025 Division 3 boys swim and dive state finals.



PHOTO BY MELISSA SPAIN

North wrestlers hold the district championship trophy after claiming the 2025 title over Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy.

Varsity wrestling

Grosse Pointe South
The 2024-25 season was the final season for some of the most accomplished wrestlers in South's program history. Wyatt Hepner came into the season on the heels of becoming the Blue Devils' first-ever state champion and went on to secure another regional title before finishing on the podium in third place at 150 pounds in the Division 1 state finals. His teammate and fellow senior Lex Willson also made it to Ford Field and the state finals, where he earned All-State status by finishing seventh at 190 pounds.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen had another strong year for the wrestling program during the winter season. North won the team district championship yet again and had several wrestlers excel at the individual district tournament. One of them was Grady Mead, who advanced to the regional and eventually Ford Field and the Division 2 state finals at 150 pounds.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

South wrestlers Wyatt Hepner and Josh Lemanski achieved milestone wins in the 2024-25 season.

Spring 2025

Boys varsity baseball

Grosse Pointe South
The 2025 season was another landmark year for South baseball. Not only did the team finish as MAC White Division champions, but the Blue Devils were able to make a return to the Division 1 state final four for the first time since 2018.

That trip to the state semifinals was secured in dramatic fashion with a 5-4 win over Woodhaven in the quarterfinals. Senior Adam Czarnik hit a two-run walk-off single when South was down to its final out to give the Blue Devils an emotional win. South would fall to eventual state champion Hartland in the semifinals, but adding district and regional championship trophies to the mantle still made it a highly successful spring for the program. To cap things off, Andrew DiLodovico, Jack Lupo, Dane Lezotte and Henry Domzalski each earned All-State honors.

University Liggett
Along with South, the University Liggett baseball team also represented the Pointes in East Lansing at the baseball state final fours. After a close loss in the state quarterfinals in 2024, the Knights made it back to familiar territory in the Division 3 final four in 2025.

Liggett added district and regional championship hardware to its packed trophy case. The Knights defeated Jackson Lumen Christi 2-0 in the state quarterfinals to make it to East Lansing, but lost to Traverse City St. Francis in the semifinals. Andrew Johnson received All-State recognition to end the year.

Grosse Pointe North
It was a year of change for the Norsemen baseball team with a young roster and a new coach taking over the helm in 2025. Phil Kozlowski took over as head coach of North baseball during the spring season, leading a young lineup that had its ups and downs. The Norsemen won 10 games and finished sixth in the MAC White Division. The season ended with a loss to Grosse Pointe South in the district final.

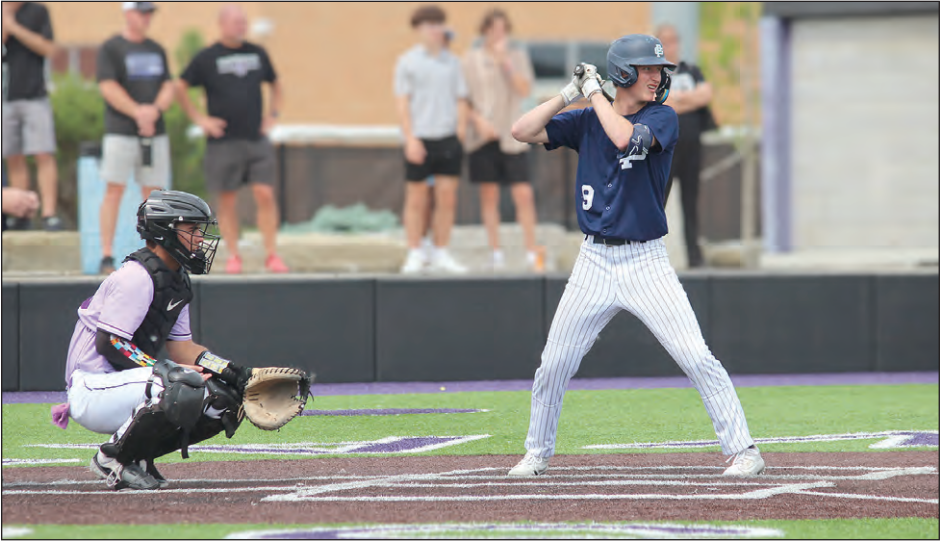


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Adam Czarnik had a walk-off hit for South in the Division 1 state quarterfinal to send the Blue Devils to the baseball final four in 2025.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South’s Colin Cotton, right, and Doc Reilly from Liggett go head-to-head for a faceoff in the regional playoff game between the Blue Devils and Knights.

Boys varsity lacrosse

University Liggett
The Liggett boys lacrosse team made winning a habit in the 2025 season. The Knights won 12 games and made their way to the regional championship round of the playoffs after securing a postseason win over crosstown foe Grosse Pointe South. While the team’s season ended in the regional final, the team had six players earn recognition for their performances throughout the spring. Nick Gould, Luke Slanec, Mac Costanzo, Bobby Harthron, Ryan Cordaro and Doc Reilly each received All-State nods.

Grosse Pointe South
South boys lacrosse stacked a dozen victories in the win column in a strong spring campaign. South’s defense, led by All-State goalie Lucas Valice, gave opponents fits all season long as the Blue Devils finished third in the MAC Red Division. The team’s season was ended by University Liggett in the regional semifinals, but Aiden Clark, Jack Smith and Eugene Agnone joined Valice on the All-State list at the end of the year.

Grosse Pointe North
The North boys lacrosse team will hope that 2026 brings better results than the 2025 season. The Norsemen finished fifth in the MAC White Division with a 1-17 record to end the spring.

Girls varsity softball

Grosse Pointe South
South softball experienced one of its most successful seasons in program history during 2025. The Blue Devils won more than 30 games and finished second in the MAC Blue Division while making a deep run into the postseason.

South defeated rival Grosse Pointe North in the district championship and earned a regional title by defeating Fraser. The Blue Devils came just short of a trip to East Lansing and the Division 1 final four, falling to Utica Henry Ford II in the state quarterfinals. Three Blue Devils — Mackenzie Simon, Sophia Husek and Viviana Ostrowski — received All-State honors to end the spring.

Grosse Pointe North
North softball had plenty of returning, veteran players coming back to the lineup in 2025 with hopes for another strong season. The Norsemen were able to best rival Grosse Pointe South in the regular season, but ended up falling to the Blue Devils in a thrilling district championship game. With 15 wins, North finished fifth in the MAC Red Division. Following the conclusion of the season, longtime head coach Ron Smith announced his retirement, with North softball alumna Amy Zaranek Gaidis poised to take over the program in 2026.

University Liggett
The Knights found themselves struggling at times to string victories together during the spring season. Liggett won seven games throughout the season, but still was able to fight its way to the district championship game, where the season came to an end with an extra-innings loss to Clawson.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South softball players hold the regional championship trophy high after a 9-5 victory over Fraser in the 2025 Division 1 regional final.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

University Liggett girls soccer celebrates after defeating Everest Collegiate to win the regional championship. The Knights would advance all the way to the Division 4 state championship game, finishing 2025 as state runner-up.

Girls varsity soccer

University Liggett
The 2025 season will be one the Liggett girls soccer program will remember for some time. With 14 wins, the Knights battled their way through the postseason in one of the deepest runs the team has experienced in years. Liggett strung together district and regional championships on its way to an appearance in the Division 4 state championship game, where it came just short of the state title with a loss to Kalamazoo Christian.

Despite the loss at the finals in East Lansing, the season still was an extremely strong one as three Knights, Kerith Short, Addie Ancone and Jazmin Diaz-Don, each took home All-State honors at the end of the season.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils earned a fifth-place finish in the MAC White Division after a regular season that had some strong wins and tough losses. However, South was able to ride a wave of momentum in the postseason for a few key victories, ultimately leading to a district championship. South defeated Dearborn in overtime to take the district title and continue the team’s track record of postseason success. Savannah Spangler, Lila Brundage and Ava Pappas ended up on the All-State list to round out the spring.

Grosse Pointe North
North’s girls soccer team hopes 2026 will offer an opportunity for more success than the team had in 2025. The Norsemen finished seventh in the MAC White Division and were eliminated in the opening round of the district playoffs.



Girls varsity lacrosse

Grosse Pointe South
Thirteen wins for the Blue Devils helped South girls lacrosse earn the title of MAC Red Division champions in 2025. Led by All-State attack Lyla Hampton and All-State goalie Jordan LeBlanc, South found itself routinely earning big victories and scoring 20 or more goals in a few games. The season ended with an early loss in the playoffs, however, to Bloomfield Hills.

University Liggett
The Liggett girls lacrosse team steamrolled its way through much of the competition during a majority of the spring. The Knights won 12 games, 11 of which came during a winning streak that stretched from early April into mid-May and was capped off by a victory in the Catholic League championship. Liggett went on to fall to Marian in the early rounds of the postseason, but multi-sport star Olivia Marcero received All-State honors for her performance during the season.

Grosse Pointe North
The 2025 season was a relatively strong campaign for the Norsemen, who finished with an 8-7 record. That was good enough to earn North third place in the MAC Red Division before a loss to Bloomfield Hills in the playoffs ended the season. After being named Miss Hockey in the winter, Josie Cueter also earned All-State recognition for her efforts with the lacrosse team.



COURTESY PHOTO

South varsity girls tennis players gather around freshman Dalina Kokoshi after her victory in the 2025 Division 2 No. 1 singles state championship match.

Girls varsity tennis

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils girls tennis team had a memorable spring that included a regional title for the team and a state championship for one of its top players. Freshman sensation Dalina Kokoshi won the Division 2 state championship in No. 1 singles for the Blue Devils as South's team took fifth place overall at states. Junior Katelyn Strong also finished as the state runner-up in No. 3 singles after making it all the way to the final match.

Kokoshi and Strong both received All-State honors for their strong play throughout the spring, with Olivia Kowal being recognized as well.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen had a solid spring on the court that included a trip to the Division 2 state finals for the team. North finished tied for second at the regional finals, which secured the team's berth at states. While there, North ended up 15th in the team standings, with Emma Dombrowski having one of the team's best performances at the finals by making it to the third round of the No. 3 singles bracket. When it came to postseason honors, Laila Aslam received an All-State nod in singles play.

University Liggett
Liggett's girls tennis squad competed throughout the spring to eventually earn a spot at the Division 4 state finals. The team made it to states by finishing second at the regional finals and ended up finishing seventh as a team at states. Nina Shinadze had one of the Knights' best performances at the state finals, making it to the semifinals in No. 3 singles.

Boys varsity golf

University Liggett
The Knights had strong efforts on the links this spring that helped the team secure a third-place finish at the Division 3 regional tournament. Senior Steve McMahon finished the regional tournament first overall among all golfers and helped the Knights make their way to the state finals.

Liggett finished 14th at states, with Charlie Cooksey leading the way with a 14th-place finish in the individual standings. Cooksey and McMahon each received All-State honorable mentions to finish the year.

Grosse Pointe South
South's boys golf team had some highlights this spring, including a third-place finish at the MAC Red championship and taking second place at the Division 1 regional championship. Sophomores Ben Bieri and Charlie Thomas tied for third place individually at regionals

and Thomas also finished second at the MAC Red championship. The Blue Devils earned a trip to the Division 1 state finals, where they finished 14th.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen missed out on making it to the Division 1 state finals on the links this spring, but still had some strong tournaments. North finished fourth at the MAC Red championship and was ninth at the Division 1 regional tournament.

Boys varsity track & field

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils had plenty of highlights throughout the track and field season. Senior Conrad Squitieri set a new school record in discus and earned All-State status with his third-place finish at the Division 1 state finals. South took third place at the regional meet, earning several qualifying spots at the state finals in the process.

Grosse Pointe North
North's boys track and field squad highlighted the season by finishing fourth in the Division 1 regional meet. Paul Stephens had a first-place finish in the 800-meter race at regionals and was one of North's representatives at the state finals. Stephens, Sam Parish, Neil Orlowski and Dylan Phillips earned a top-30 finish in the 4x800 relay at states as well.

University Liggett
The Knights had some of their biggest moments of the track and field season achieved by one of the team's top seniors. Santino Cicarella ended up as the Division 3 state champion in the 100-meter dash. Cicarella also took third place in the 200-meter race. Cicarella, Marvin Hartfield, Pierre Walker II and Sekou Manneh took 11th at states in the 4x400 relay.



University Liggett's Santino Cicarella became the 2025 Division 3 state champion in the 100-meter dash.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS



COURTESY PHOTO

South's varsity girls track and field team took first place at the 2025 Division 1 regional meet.

Girls varsity track & field

Grosse Pointe South
South's girls track and field team had some big moments in the spring, including a first-place finish at the Division 1 regional meet. The regional championship came days after the Blue Devils also took first place at the MAC White championship.

The Blue Devils had six individual champions win at regionals, as the team had plenty of athletes representing at the Division 1 state finals. At states, one of the best finishes for the Blue Devils came when Morgan Duff took ninth in the long jump.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen had strong performances in track and field during the spring. One of the postseason highlights was a fourth-place finish at the Division 1 regional finals, with Liliana Ivanaj taking first place and the regional title in the high jump. She would go on to finish 23rd at the Division 1 state finals, one of the best finishes for the Norsemen at states.

University Liggett
Liggett's girls track and field squad took second in the Division 3 regional meet and had senior Kerith Short win a regional title in the 3200-meter race. At the state finals, Mychala Penn earned top-25 finishes in the shot put and discus.

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Varsity football

Grosse Pointe South
The South football team had a lot to live up to in 2025 after a historic 2024 season that saw the team win 10 games for the first time in school history. The fall 2025 campaign did not reach quite the same heights, but was still another strong season for the Blue Devils.

South finished the regular season with an 8-1 record. The team once again earned the top spot in the MAC White Division and got an eighth consecutive win over rival Grosse Pointe North. Junior QB Sam Rouleau shined both through the air and on the ground, with eight passing touchdowns and 17 rushing touchdowns on the year.

The Blue Devils earned a win over MAC White Division rival Roseville in the opening round of the postseason, but were eliminated in the district championship by Lakeview.

Grosse Pointe North
After three straight seasons as MAC Gold Division champions, the Norsemen were unable to capture that same level of success in 2025. The season began with a four-game losing skid for North, but a 52-0 dominant victory over Warren-Woods Tower on homecoming night finally gave North a mark in the win column. The team followed up with a close win over

Lake Shore the next week, carried by emerging star running back Caleb Butler.

The momentum of back-to-back wins did not last long for North, however, as the team lost its final three games to finish with a 2-7 record and in fourth place in the MAC Gold.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Quarterback Sam Rouleau runs in for a touchdown for South against Roseville Sept. 26.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

University Liggett boys tennis reclaimed the Division 4 state championship in 2025.

Boys varsity tennis

University Liggett
The 2025 Liggett boys tennis team etched its name in the program’s successful history by becoming the Division 4 state champion. The Knights were dominant with 31 points as a team at the state finals to secure a third title in six years for the program.

Justin Platt was the state champion in No. 4 singles and the Knights also had three doubles teams win state titles. Griffin Marchal and Niko Cooksey took the crown in No. 1 doubles. Landen Maltby and Charlie Laethem ended up as champions in No. 2 doubles. Rene Quint and Lucas Ferguson brought another title to Liggett in No. 3 doubles.

All of those state champions earned All-State honors, with Tise Courtright and Yurii Polnyi also ending up on the All-State list for singles play.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils had another strong season on the court this fall, highlighted by reclaiming the MAC Red Division championship and winning the regional title. South went on to finish sixth at the Division 2 state finals. Matthew Bartoszewicz reached the state semifinals in No. 2 singles and Oscar DeLuca also made it to the semifinals in No. 4 singles.

Bartoszewicz found himself on the All-State list for singles along with teammate Matthew Holowinski, who finished the year as the state’s Mr. Tennis for Division 2. The doubles team of Max Prather and Henry Logan also had All-State honors.

Grosse Pointe North
A young Norsemen team this fall still managed to make it as far as the Division 2 state finals. North may have had some struggles in the regular season, but players stepped up when it mattered most. The Norsemen performed well enough at the regional tournament to make it to the state finals to end the season.

Boys varsity soccer

University Liggett
Similar to the school’s girls soccer team in the spring, the Liggett boys soccer program had an exceptional fall season that nearly ended with a state championship. The team finished with a 19-3-1 record that included a 13-game winning streak to start the season.

The Knights racked up accolades throughout the fall, winning the Catholic League championship along with district and regional titles in the postseason. Liggett made its way to the Division 4 state championship game in November, where the season ended with a narrow loss to Leland in a penalty-kick shootout. Ollie Cooley, Caden Martin and Brady Ancona represented the Knights on the All-State list after the team’s outstanding season.

Grosse Pointe South
In the first season under new head coach Joe Cada, the Blue Devils had ups and downs on their way to a final record of 8-9-3. The team finished sixth in the MAC Red Division to end the regular season, but earned some postseason wins in an attempt to make a run. South advanced to the district championship game with an exciting 1-0 win over Detroit Western in overtime, but fell in the district title game to U of D Jesuit. Cam Bartalino and Jonah Bukovec both received All-State honorable mentions at the end of the fall.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen finished the season with a 9-9-3 record and climbed their way to second place in the MAC Blue Division. North earned a playoff win over Center Line in the opening round of the district tournament in Division 2, but were knocked out in the next round by De La Salle Collegiate. Jack O’Dell earned an All-State honorable mention to close out the year.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Sekou Manneh celebrates after scoring for University Liggett in the 2025 Division 4 state championship game.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South volleyball hoists the Division 1 district championship trophy after defeating Detroit Renaissance in the 2025 district final.

Varsity volleyball

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils made program history this fall when the school had its first ever player named the state’s Miss Volleyball. Senior Gabby DiVita won the award as a final send off at South as she prepares to play collegiate volleyball with the University of Nebraska.

South finished the season third in the MAC Red Division with a 15-18-2 record. The team also continued its dominant run of district championships alive, defeating rival Grosse Pointe North and Detroit Renaissance along the way.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen had a lot of tallies in the win column to celebrate during the 2025 season, finishing with a record of 22-16-2 and taking second in the MAC White Division. One of those wins came in an emotional rivalry win over Grosse Pointe South in October. However, the Norsemen were unable to beat their rival twice, falling to South in the district playoffs to end the season.

University Liggett
Liggett’s volleyball team earned a 14-8-1 record this season and was able to add some hardware to the trophy case. The Knights once again captured the district championship in Division 3, defeating Mount Clemens in the final before being eliminated in the regional tournament.

Fall 2025

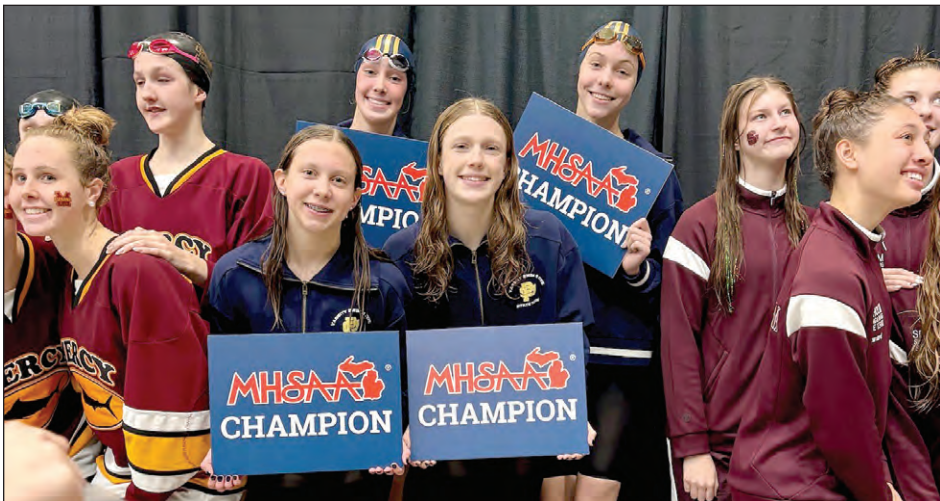


PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

South's 200 freestyle relay team of Whitney Handwork, Corinne Stencel, Nicole McEnroe and Caroline Bryan take the top spot on the podium as 2025 state champions in Division 2.

Girls varsity swim & dive

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils had another impressive season in the pool that ended just short of a state championship. South finished as the runner-up at the Division 2 state finals, coming in just two points behind first place. However, there was still plenty to cheer about this fall for the Blue Devils, including some individual state champs and a 25th consecutive MAC Red Division title for the team.

Whitney Handwork won the state title in the 50-yard freestyle. Sophomore sensation Caroline Bryan was the state champion in the 100 butterfly. Quinn Ryan took home first in the state in the 100 backstroke.

Handwork, Bryan, Nicole McEnroe and Corinne Stencel made up South's 200 freestyle relay championship team. McEnroe, Stencel, Ryan and Mischa Eng were champions in the 200 medley relay.

Grosse Pointe North
North's girls swim and dive team had a strong fall that saw the team finish second in the MAC Red Division and make its way to the Division 3 state finals. The Norsemen finished 17th overall at states, with a top performance coming from Cailey Hard, who finished eighth and earned All-State status in the 100-yard butterfly.

Girls varsity field hockey

University Liggett
The Knights' field hockey team saw another Catholic League championship as one of the highlights of the season. Liggett was able to win 10 games, including a close 2-1 victory over Marian to clinch the CHSL title. The Knights were eliminated from the playoffs in the second round of the regional tournament by Detroit Country Day. Olivia Marcero and Maisy Huebner received All-State nods.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils won 12 games in another strong field hockey season. South was able to stack together wins and saw both Harriet Kowalski and Evie Wodzisz turn in All-State-level performances. The team won its first playoff game over Regina, but was eliminated in the next round by Detroit Country Day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

University Liggett's girls golf team earned its first win in program history by defeating Grosse Pointe North in 2025.

Girls varsity golf

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils took fifth place in the MAC Red Division this season, with All-State honoree Lyla Hampton highlighting much of the team's success this fall. Hampton finished seventh overall individually for South at the regional tournament, advancing to the Division 2 state finals. Representing the Blue Devils at states, Hampton went on to finish 27th.

Grosse Pointe North
North's girls golf team will hope to build up to more wins in 2026 after finishing sixth in the MAC Red Division this fall. The Norsemen finished eighth at the regional tournament, but did not earn any spots at the state finals.



COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett field hockey defeated Marian 2-1 in the 2025 CHSL championship game, giving the Knights a second consecutive league title.

Boys varsity cross country

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen had some success in the first season for the program under new head coach Jim Fisher, a North alumnus and former runner who took over the program from longtime coach Diane Montgomery. North finished eighth in the MAC Red Division, but had a major highlight by coming in first place for Division 2 at the Wayne County championships.

North finished fourth at the Division 2 regional and had a pair of runners make it to the state finals. Neil Orlovski finished ninth and Paul Stephens was 15th at the regional race as both runners went on to represent the Norsemen at states.

Grosse Pointe South
South's boys cross-country team finished among the middle of the pack in the MAC White Division, coming in fourth place. The Blue Devils finished ninth at regionals to end the season, with no runners advancing to the state finals in 2025.



COURTESY PHOTO

South freshman Eleanor Pilsner runs in the 2025 Division 1 regional meet. Pilsner would go on to qualify for the state finals and represent the Blue Devils.

Girls varsity cross country

Grosse Pointe South
The South girls cross-country team finished the fall season on top of the MAC White Division. The Blue Devils had seven runners finish with All-League honors when the team secured the title. Freshman Eleanor Pilsner had a strong first season with the team, coming in 15th at the Division 1 regional meet and earning a qualifying spot at the state championships representing the Blue Devils.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen finished eighth in the MAC Red Division during the fall season. North did not have any runners make it to the state finals, but finished seventh as a team at regionals.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

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All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala – with top athletes winning scholarships!
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Grosse Pointe News

