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Grosse Pointe News

MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

VOL. 87, NO. 2, 26 PAGES
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JANUARY 8, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Woods appoints new city manager

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Sue Como was sworn in as the new city manager during council's meeting Monday, Dec. 15.

Her effective date was Saturday, Jan. 3, one day after Frank Schulte, who held the role the last four years, retired after more than four decades in public service.

"The swearing in occurred so early because there wasn't another city council meeting until after Frank's retirement date," Como explained.

"Tonight is truly humbling," she told city council after taking her oath of office. "I am incredibly grateful for the support and confidence that all of

you have shown in me throughout my years of service to this city."

Como has been with the Woods for two decades, the last four years as Schulte's assistant.

"I am proud to recommend Sue Como, our assistant city administrator, to succeed me," Schulte wrote in a memo to council in September, laying out his succession plan. "Over the past four years, Sue has worked closely with me, making significant contributions to key projects and consistently demonstrating her readiness to lead with competence, professionalism and integrity."

Voters in November approved a change to the city charter to rename the position of city administrator to city manager. Schulte also recommended that Jim Kowalski, director of public services, serve as acting city manager any time Como is absent.

In her remarks, she also thanked her husband, Mario, saying, "Your constant encouragement, patience and belief in me have made this journey possible."

Como said Schulte's "guidance, leadership and confidence in me over the years have been invaluable. I am grateful for your recommendation and trust in me to succeed you as the next

See NEW, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

After a little more than four years, The Bronze Door on The Hill closed permanently Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Bronze Door to become brunch spot

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The Bronze Door at 123 Kercheval on The Hill closed at the end of the year, placing this public notice on its website and social media:

"Thank you for your patronage and loyalty to The Bronze Door. Our last day of service is Dec. 31, 2025. A new, exciting concept will be launched in early spring of 2026, under new ownership. We look forward

to seeing you soon!"

The decision to close came because The Bronze Door has been an underperforming restaurant, said Joe Vicari, president of Joe Vicari Restaurant Group, which was a 50/50 partner alongside owner Anthony Soave of Soave Enterprises.

"It was just a break-even restaurant," Vicari said, "and an opportunity came to Soave Enterprises that a new concept would like to go in there, so we decided we would allow the new

concept to go in."

Said concept, Vicari added, is a brunch house restaurant set to open this spring.

"I thought it probably would be a good idea," he continued, "because I think between the country clubs and all the breakfast places in Grosse Pointe, breakfast is a popular meal today."

The Bronze Door opened in 2021, when it revamped The Hill Seafood & Chop House.

It was intended at the time to be an exciting

revival of a popular restaurant also called The Bronze Door, which operated in the same location from the 1960s to early '80s.

"We want to bring back what once was a great restaurant and we thought the name would be very catchy," Vicari said as it prepared to open in 2021. "I remember a lot of young people were going there for their high school proms and homecoming, so it was a place to go when you had an occasion to celebrate."

2025 IN REVIEW

Pool progress and a new clerk in the Shores

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Progress toward a new aquatic facility, a major donation to a local college and a new clerk marked 2025.

This is the year in review.

January

- ◆ Devon Dantai is

sworn in as a public safety officer.

February

◆ Some 89 percent of respondents say they feel "informed," "very informed" or "extremely informed" answering the city's third biannual communications survey. That is up slightly from 2023, when 88 percent said the same thing. The first sur-

vey, conducted in December 2020, showed just 48 percent of respondents felt the same.

March

◆ A house on Sunningdale is a complete loss after a gas leak started a fire, despite efforts by public safety officers from the Shores, Woods and Farms.

- ◆ Lt. Ron Coste, a

25-year public safety veteran, receives the Director's Award.

◆ Sgt. Jason Cook receives a certificate of merit for his actions helping a resident in cardiac arrest. Cook and paramedics from MedStar stabilize the man and transport him to the hospital where he makes a full recovery.

- ◆ PSOs Billy Howe and

Dillon Taylor receive department citations for their actions detaining a driver who fled a traffic stop and drove over sidewalks and laws along Lakeshore.

April

◆ Residents Jim and Patti Anderson give \$50 million to the Wayne

See SHORES, page 2A

Celebrating THE POINTE

Grosse Pointe News
Celebrating the Pointes

2026 CALENDAR

Get it in today's paper!

Week Ahead	3A
Opinion	6A
Schools	9A
Features	1B
Obituaries	4B
Sports	1D
Classified ads	3D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Margi Whittingham
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Passing along the pursuit of field hockey



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2A | NEWS

SHORES:

Continued from page 1A

State University College of Engineering.

May

- ◆ The 36th annual Great Lakes Boating Festival takes place at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.
- ◆ City council sets the 2025-26 fiscal year budget at \$8.1 million and lowers the millage rate for the second consecutive year.

June

- ◆ Resident John Lizza is honored with a proclamation for serving 32 years as chairman of the board of review.

July

- ◆ Bruce Nichols announces he is retiring as city clerk after 14 years.

August

- ◆ Council hears updates on progress toward a new pool and clubhouse.
- ◆ Courtney Smith is appointed city clerk.

October

- ◆ Council approves spending \$95,000 for the design and development stage for a new pool and bathhouse.
- ◆ Resident Chris Morgan guides a blind Army veteran during the half marathon at the Detroit Free Press Marathon. It's the second time he and Rob Sanchas teamed up for the event.

November

- ◆ Council amends the city's fence ordinance, allowing people to build 6-foot fences with written consent from their neighbor. The previous limit was 4 feet.
- ◆ A 21-year-old West Bloomfield man receives two tickets after driving his 2008 black Ford Escape into the back of and partially through the front of an empty landscape trailer on Lakeshore. The man admits to officers he was distracted while filming Lake St. Clair on his phone.



Ford House conducts its third controlled burn on the grounds because its ecosystems evolve with fire, reducing the number of invasive weeds which in turn allows less use of chemical herbicides.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



The Easter Bunny greets Grosse Pointe Shores City Manager Stephen Poloni and his grandson, Stephen Wheble.

- ◆ Councilmembers Sandra Cavataio and John Dakmak are reelected. Newcomer Scott Houghton is elected after Robert Barrette chose not to run again after 14 years on council.
- ◆ Ryan Wilson is promoted to lieutenant.
- ◆ Resident Marlene Boll and three other women with local ties, all former Radio City Rockettes, attend the dance troupe's 100th anniversary celebration in New York City.

December

- ◆ Home for the Holidays at Ford House finishes fourth in voting in the best holiday historic home tour category in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards. It ranked fifth in 2024.



The ice along the shore of Lake St. Clair pushed up against the pier at Osius Park in Grosse Pointe Shores and came right over the side onto the pier.



It snowed just enough last February for people to be able to sled down the hill behind Grosse Pointe Shores city hall and public safety department.

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Online park pass renewal becomes reality

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

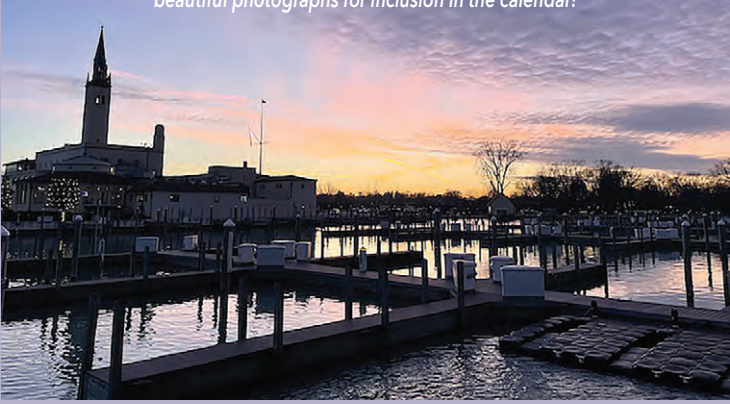
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — It's a Christmas miracle. Residents in the City now are able to apply for or re-

new park passes online. The parks and recreation department within the next week will begin accepting applications and renewals for the coming season via a new recreation platform accessible via the city's website. "They can do all the applications and renewals from their couch if they wanted to," Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Chad Murphy said of residents. It's a far cry from last year, and all the years prior, when city staff would send a mailer to the resident, who would receive it to prove their residency and then send it back to the office, so it could be processed. If a new pass needed to be printed, an appointment then would be made. "That was one of our

biggest frustrations last summer was people having to go through a long process just to update their park pass," said Murphy, who joined the department last year. "And we can still do it in person for the people who prefer to do things in person." The new ability comes with the parks and recreation department. See PASS, page 3A

CALENDAR DRAWING WINNER
KATIE HARNESS, Grosse Pointe Shores
Thank you, Katie – and all the participating photographers – for sending us your beautiful photographs for inclusion in the calendar!


PHOTO BY KATIE HARNESS



We had an outstanding response from local photographers, receiving dozens of amazing photo submissions to include in our 2026 subscriber gift calendar. Each participant gets a 3-month subscription to the Grosse Pointe News — and from a random drawing of all the photographers, this lucky winner will receive a \$50 gift card to a great local restaurant.

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Lt. Brian Conigliaro

Woods lieutenant retires

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Unlike the two previous times Lt. Brian Conigliaro stepped away from the public safety department, his last one was voluntary. The first two times were deployments while he was serving in the U.S. Navy Reserves. This time it was retirement after 25 years with the department and nearly 27

years total in law enforcement. Conigliaro served as a master-at-arms in the Navy’s military police, on active duty from 1992 to 1996 and in the reserves from 1996 to 2022. “Ever since I was little there were two things I wanted to do,” he said, “and that was join the military and become a police officer.” Born in New Jersey and raised in Detroit, Conigliaro told the Grosse Pointe News

in 2019 — shortly before his second deployment — that the military gave him structure, something he said he didn’t have much of growing up. On that deployment, he spent two years as part of Operation Aqea Al Qaeda East Africa Exord, a counterterrorism operation. The master chief was in charge of the base law enforcement unit that oversaw 5,000 U.S. troops and 1,500 to 2,000

civilians who were employed on the base. He also was deployed for two years after 9/11. Conigliaro joined the Detroit Police Department in 1998. “After about a year and a half, my field training officer told me there were openings in Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Woods,” he said. “We both applied and got hired, but he didn’t stay.” He joked that he didn’t know much about the Pointes when he took the job.

See RETIRE, page 5A

PASS:

Continued from page 2A

ation department’s transition to new software system CivicRec, which went live last month. The system can be used to:

- ◆ create and manage a household account,

- ◆ register for recreation programs and events,
 - ◆ reserve facilities and amenities online,
 - ◆ make secure payments with ease
 - ◆ and receive important updates and notifications.
- Alongside online renewal of park passes, the system also now welcomes online registration

for the pavilion, kayaks and recreational items such as cornhole sets. Platform tennis players, who currently are in the thick of their season, are learning to reserve courts online rather than the prior arduous manual process of emailing back and forth with parks and rec staff.

“The biggest thing, too, is this allows us to communicate via the tool they have in the software,” Murphy said, “so it saves us a lot of bulk emails that usually have a chance of slipping through the cracks into spam. This is a direct line of communication.” CivicRec also has

streamlined backend processes for city staff, bringing greater efficiency. Thus far, Murphy said, the department has only noticed one hiccup within the system: While it was meant to enable more individualized use within households, staff recently discovered only the head of the household is able to make reservations.

“We’re still troubleshooting that,” Murphy said. “We just heard about it last week so, fingers crossed, we can come up with a seamless process for that.” Looking forward, the CivicRec software comes with the ability to offer residents digital park passes, should the city select to take that route. “We have had conversations with the software company about what that would take,” Murphy noted. “We have not fully explored the idea enough to make a decision on it. We’re going step-by-step a little bit — crawl before

you walk. “... In the future, once we get settled in and everyone feels comfortable with the process, then we can start looking at things like that.” In the meantime, as residents look to begin using the new system, those who have previously held or currently have a park pass do not need to create a new account. Rather, they should select the “forgot password” option and enter the email address associated with their park pass to follow an email link and create a new password. New residents and those who’ve never had a park pass may simply follow the website instructions to sign up. Anyone having trouble or with questions should reach out to the department at parks@grossepointecity.org. “It took a little bit of work to get this thing built, but I think it’s paying off already,” Murphy said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sue Como, center, stands with, from left, council members Kenn Gafa, Angela Coletti Brown and Todd McConaghy, Mayor Art Bryant, and council members Michael Koester and Jim Motschall after she was sworn in as city manager.

NEW:

Continued from page 1A

city manager. I have learned so much from your example and I am honored to carry forward the work you have led.” Como also recognized

previous city administrators she worked for: Mark Wollenweber, Skip Fincham and Bruce Smith. “Each of you believed in me, challenged me and generously shared your many years of public administration experi-

ence,” she said. “The lessons you taught me continue to shape the way I serve this community.” She also thanked family, friends, coworkers and members of the public. “And finally, to you, mayor and council mem-

bers,” she concluded, “thank you for entrusting me to be the next city manager. I’m honored to be the first woman appointed to this role and will continue to serve with integrity, transparency and dedication.”

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 13

- ◆ Main Street Grosse Pointe Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

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Coach returns to hometown roots after life on the go

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Margi Whittingham wears a lot of hats.

The wife and mother of three is a nurse, field hockey and wrestling coach, vice president of the Kerby Elementary School PTO and sits on the board of the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation.

With so many pursuits, the dust rarely settles. But being on the go is second nature to the Farms resident; it's been engrained in her since childhood.

"My dad worked for Ford, so I lived on and off in Grosse Pointe for elementary, middle and high school," she said. "We moved a lot. Every two or three years, we moved."

The places she's called home include Taiwan, Brazil, South Africa and England, as well as Grosse Pointe, Indiana and California. She started high school in Brazil, spent a few years at Grosse Pointe South, then graduated in South Africa.

Despite all that roaming, one constant that has played a significant role in Whittingham's life is field hockey. She began playing as a University Liggett School middle schooler and fell further in love with the sport while at South, where she helped her team win the state championship her junior year.

While attending Tufts University and earning a degree in child development, Whittingham captained its field hockey team, leading it to two NCAA Final Four appearances and a Division III National Championship game. She also earned first-team All-American, New England Small College Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year and National Field Hockey Coaches Association



New England West Region Player of the Year honors.

She furthered her field hockey prowess at Johns Hopkins University, from which she earned a nursing degree while volunteering coaching its field hockey team.

"When I came back to Grosse Pointe, I helped with Grosse Pointe North's field hockey team for one season," she said.

Whittingham stayed local for a while, working downtown as a pediatrics emergency room nurse, while also coaching field hockey at Ann Arbor Huron High School. Her team there won the state championship in 2013.

"Then I moved to Hong Kong for seven years with my then-fiance, with a jaunt to Kenya for six months," Whittingham said. "We had our three kids there."

Whittingham and her husband, Dave, are parents to Victoria, 9; Teddy, 8; and Charlotte, 5.

"We came back to Grosse Pointe in 2018 to visit family and, at the time, South did not have a field hockey coach," she recalled. "I ended up

coaching field hockey while I was here on vacation."

The family returned to Hong Kong, intent on staying there, but political unrest and the pandemic brought them back to Grosse Pointe.

"It was a blessing in disguise with COVID," she said. "We moved back to be close to family. We love our community. There's something about Grosse Pointe."

Since returning to her hometown, Whittingham has become immersed in the community.

She joined the coaching staff at Grosse Pointe South, assisting varsity field hockey head coach Jessie Rouleau. Through that connection, Whittingham also joined the staff of Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey, a



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, the Whittingham family spent Thanksgiving 2025 in Italy, visiting sites like the Trevi Fountain in Rome. Above, Margi Whittingham poses with one of her Gym Class Takeovers at Kerby Elementary School.

nonprofit devoted to promoting the sport throughout Michigan, as its development program director.

"I came on board to help grow the sport," she said. "I enjoy teaching field hockey to new people."

The organization works closely with several partners to bring awareness and exposure to field hockey through sport sampling. While it offers a variety of programs geared toward young people, one of them earned Whittingham a nomination through USA Field Hockey.

"The Grow the Game Award is something they give out yearly," she said. "I was nominated in recognition of the Gym Class Takeover, which I directed."

"One of the struggles or challenges with field hockey is lack of exposure to the sport," she continued. "Not a lot of people know what it is. If you don't know what it is, you're not going to sign your child up for it. ... We meet students where they are. We partner with schools to bring field hockey to them at no cost. They learn about it and hopefully take interest in it."

The past year, more than 10 schools in and around Grosse Pointe have been treated to the program, which focuses on children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

"We took over, brought in all the equipment and ran gym class," Whittingham said.

She also started an afterschool program at Kerby, where her chil-

dren attend, teaching field hockey fundamentals.

"It's a team sport," she said. "It's very similar to other sports — a combination of soccer, ice hockey and lacrosse. It's a technical game, so learning the skills is helpful, but anyone can play it."

She said she hopes the extra exposure makes an impact.

"Maybe someone who didn't fall in love with another sport will fall in love with field hockey," she said.

As for her lifelong wanderlust, Whittingham has brought her young family into the fold.

"We, as a family, like to travel and try to visit two to three new countries a year," she said. "This past year we went to Australia and Italy."



Whittingham lead a Gym Class Takeover at Kerby Elementary School last spring.

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Shores earns clean audit

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — As was the case in the other four Pointes, the Shores received an unmodified, or clean, audit for its 2024-25 fiscal year budget.

"That's the best possible opinion you can get," Jordan Smith of Maner Costersian told city council at its meeting Tuesday, Dec. 16.

He added that the city's revenue exceeded expenditures for a fifth consecutive year. Revenue was \$7.9 million, a 12 percent decrease from the previous fiscal year, while expenditures were \$7.7 million, a 13 percent decrease.

The city also added \$192,600 to its unrestricted fund balance, which overall sits at 37 percent, or \$3.1 million. It was 39 percent in 2022-23 and 31 percent in 2023-24.

Investments in various corporate bonds and U.S. Treasury Bills total just over \$9 million, with a weighted average maturity of 2.25 years.

"The Government Finance Officers Association recommends

Grosse Pointe Park

Theft attempt

Evidence indicates the year 2025 ended with a failed car theft in the 600 block of Barrington.

At 6 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, police logged their investigation of a 2020 Kia Soul with a broken window and damaged ignition column, both signs of attempted wrongdoing.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Infotainment system theft

The infotainment system was stolen from a 2026 Dodge Ram parked in the 300 block of Kerby overnight into Tuesday, Dec. 30.

Jaywalking

After being stopped for walking in the street on Mack and obstructing traffic at 9:31 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, a 61-year-old Detroit man was arrested on a warrant out of Detroit for felonious assault.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Big expenses

A 47-year-old Farms man discovered a vehicle fraudulently was purchased from Carvana using his name when he received a bank notification Sunday, Dec. 28, stating he had a new credit inquiry from the business.

As the vehicle had not yet been delivered, the man was able to cancel the order with Carvana and report it to its fraud department.

Days later, he received a package from T-Mobile containing two phones he hadn't ordered.

Shoveling service

An officer on patrol stopped a 23-year-old Eastpointe man who was walking door-to-door on Moran offering to shovel snow at 10:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2, because solicitation is against city ordinances in the Farms.

After he was identified, the man was arrested on warrants from several other cities.

At what cost?

A 29-year-old Detroit

woman received a fifth driving while license suspended citation while she said she was driving to get her child medicine from CVS at 8:27 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2.

Panhandling

After panhandling at a local gas station and refusing to leave at 1:34 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, a 31-year-old River Rouge man found himself arrested for assault and battery against an officer, obstructing police and disorderly conduct.

Obstructing emergency

A 44-year-old Detroit man was pulled over for remaining in the middle of the Mack and Moross intersection as an ambulance with activated lights and sirens approached and had to go around him at 9 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4

The man then was arrested for a third offense of operating while intoxicated.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe

Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

City of Grosse Pointe

Insult to injury

A man's credit card was stolen while he was admitted to a local hospital in mid-December, then used at numerous places, totaling approximately \$1,300.

Attempted theft

In an attempt to either steal the vehicle or the infotainment system within, someone broke the rear driver's side window of a 2020 Dodge Ram in the 800 block of Lincoln overnight Monday, Dec. 29.

Another Ram vehicle also was targeted on Lincoln the same night.

Tailgater

An 18-year-old Farms woman was found to be driving intoxicated at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, when she was pulled over at Jefferson and St. Clair for following another vehicle too closely.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Attempted vehicle break in

A resident on Crestwood reported someone tried to enter his 2020 Dodge Ram sometime between 11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, and 8 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, while it was parked in his driveway.

The driver's side rear window was splintered but not shattered.

Expired plate

A 66-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was ticketed for having an expired license plate around 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29.

She told officers she didn't think it had to be renewed until February, even though she has an April birthday.

Late Christmas present

An Oxford resident

reported someone placed a Christmas tree in her driveway shortly after midnight Friday, Jan. 2

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen gun

A resident in the 2300 block of Allard reported someone stole a loaded Smith & Wesson 9mm pistol from her unlocked vehicle sometime overnight into Monday, Dec. 29.

Food fight

An unknown black male was caught on surveillance video throwing eggs and a bottle of ketchup at a vehicle parked in the driveway of a home in the 500 block of Perrien around 10 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29.

—Ted O'Neil

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

City kicks off campaign to plant 250 trees

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE—With the start of the year, the City's Urban Forestry Commission is kicking off a large-scale fundraising campaign to honor late city forester Brian Colter, celebrate the country's 250th anniversary and address the results of its updated forestry master plan.

"The Urban Forestry Commission this past summer did a survey of (street trees in) the entire city and we surveyed all of the gaps and trees that are undesirable or diseased," Urban Forestry Commission Chair Rick Whitney said. "We came up with a number of about 500 trees we think are in need of being planted and another 150 that are on Wayne County property, either Mack or Jefferson, but we can

include those in our little mini ecosystem."

The fundraiser, Releaf GP, has an ambitious goal of \$60,000, which would be enough to replace 250 trees and fill half of the city's need.

"Envision a 'no hat' canopy," Whitney said. "We want to not have anyone have to wear a hat except when it's cold out. We want to have the canopy cover all the streets with shade except perhaps on personal property."

Once upon a time, Grosse Pointe was known for its extensive tree canopy, arching across the roads and comprised largely of American elms.

Dutch elm disease first wiped out the canopy in the late 1950s. The elms were replaced in part with maple and ash trees, leading to the next decimation by the emerald ash borer in the early 2000s.

In response, the City's Urban Forestry Commission was established in 2017.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan was adopted that same year, serving as a guide to tree maintenance, preservation and growth.

"The plan requires updates every five years," former Public Services Director Pete Randazzo said, prior to his retirement.

"Unfortunately, COVID kind of got us off of that cycle."

Commissioners completed the plan's first update in late 2025, including an approved species list, which prioritizes diversity to protect the canopy from future species-specific diseases; a detailed record of gaps in the tree canopy on city-owned property.

See TREES, page 8A

RETIRE:

Continued from page 3A

"I didn't even know there were five Grosse Pointes," he laughed. "I just knew about the big mansions on Jefferson and we'd drive by at Christmas to see the lights when I was growing up."

Conigliaro had to attend the fire academy after joining the Woods.

"I didn't think I'd enjoy the fire end of it, but I did," he said. "But mainly

I enjoyed the police work and the interaction with everyone in the department. They became a second family."

He didn't waste much time jumping into retirement either. Congiliaro's last day was Dec. 18, and he moved to Texas, where his wife is from, the weekend before Christmas.

"She moved down in July with our youngest daughter to get her enrolled in school," he said. "I sure won't miss winter."

AUDIT:

Continued from page 4A

a minimum of 17 percent," Smith said. "If it gets that low, red lights should be flashing."

He added the average through Michigan is between 40 and 45 percent for municipalities. Shores council's policy is not to dip below 25 percent.

The vast majority of the city's revenue, 81 percent, comes from property taxes, which totaled \$6.4 million. Permit fees totaled \$262,000, up 36 percent from the previous year, mainly due to new construction on Lakeshore and in the Deeplands subdivision.

On the spending side, public safety accounted for 39 percent, or \$3.2 million. That also included a 10 percent increase in public safety

wages.

"There's no surprise there," Smith said, noting that public safety makes up the largest chunk of spending across all municipalities.

On the liability side, the city's pension fund is 84 percent funded, up from 78 percent the previous year.

"The state says a healthy amount is 60 percent, so you're OK there," Smith said.

Other post-employment benefits, often called OPEB, are 16 percent funded.

"The state likes to see 40 percent," Smith said.

When asked by council if there was any penalty for being below that threshold, Smith said no.

"The state will send you a nasty letter and then you'll have to respond how you're going to get there," he explained.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

SEAN COTTON: Owner
ANNE GRYZENIA: Publisher
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief

OUR VIEW

Trust law enforcement

We are deeply concerned that after months of discussion our local public safety departments still do not have access to security cameras in Grosse Pointe Public School System buildings.

The incident at Brown University last month, in which a gunman killed two students and wounded two others, makes this even more problematic. The media has reported that while the Providence, R.I., school has more than 1,000 security cameras around campus, the shooting occurred in an older building that lacks cameras.

As it stands now, without law enforcement access to GPPSS cameras, if an issue arose it would be as though there were no cameras.

First, some background. The GPPSS Board of Education approved the measure 7-0 at its meeting Monday, Nov. 24, with a resolution stating, “Law enforcement access is strictly limited to an ‘articulable and significant threat’ as defined under FERPA (Family Educational Rights Privacy Act), meaning an actual, impending or imminent emergency that threatens the health or safety of students or other individuals.

Routine security monitoring, minor disturbances or investigative purposes are not allowed.

Each activation must be documented by law enforcement and provided to the district within 48 hours. Logs shall include:

- ◆ date, time and school site,
- ◆ cameras viewed,
- ◆ name and agency of the authorizing official and all viewers,
- ◆ rationale for access and
- ◆ outcome or deactivation time.

The agreement does not allow for facial recognition, which Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said none of the departments have, nor can departments record.

The issue first arose when Dr. Tuttle said, after meeting with local public safety directors, she was surprised such access was not already in place.

Yet another example of the leadership she has brought to the district.

A straightforward, 1.5-page resolution on the matter was written by Trustee Sean Cotton and was on the agenda for the board’s meeting Oct. 6.

For reasons unknown to most, it was pulled from the agenda. Perhaps working with outside influencers — maybe those who were opposed to having uniformed resource officers in the schools in the first place — board President Colleen Worden introduced a much more restrictive five-page resolution that included a 14-page memorandum of understanding.

The new resolution broke down law enforcement into two tiers. Under Tier 1, police could automatically access the cameras in the event of an active shooter, a kidnapping or a bomb threat. Tier 2 would need prior approval from Dr. Tuttle or her designee in cases of threats, missing or endangered persons or ongoing acts of violence at a school.

How ridiculous. As Dr. Tuttle told the board at that November meeting, “They don’t love this MOU,” she said, referencing what the public safety directors told her.

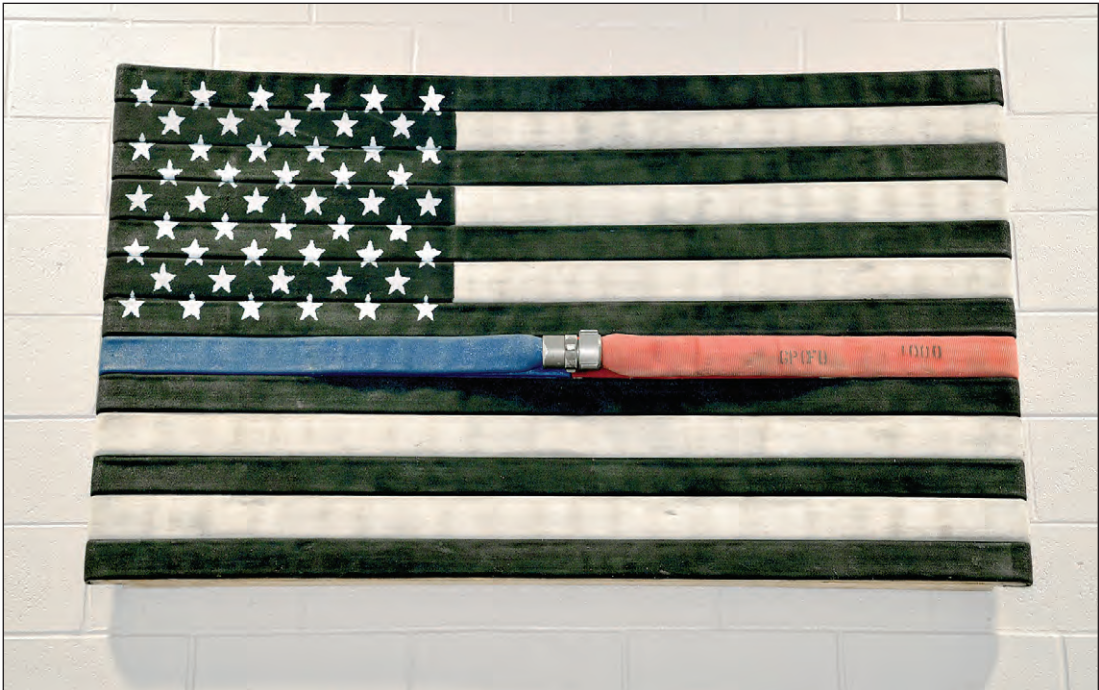


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Officer Jason Lockwood spent 21 years with the Lennox Township Fire Department and six years with the City of Grosse Pointe Department of Public Works before serving as a PSO in Grosse Pointe Park for almost seven years. After seeing a flag made of old fire hose, Lockwood decided to try his hand at it. While his first attempt was difficult, the project has become easier and more enjoyable. He has made 25 flags the last 10 years in his spare time. One of them, shown above, hangs in the City of Grosse Pointe fire station. Lockwood chose his colors wisely: blue to symbolize police and red to symbolize firefighters.

To build the flags, Lockwood calls local firehouses to see if they have hoses they aren’t using anymore. Using old fire hose keeps them out of landfills. Each flag takes around two rolls of fire hose.

“I use old fire hose because it represents service, sacrifice and protection,” Lockwood said, “and by turning the hose into an American flag, it gives that history a second life and honors the people that have served their community.”

“I was asked what my recommendation was,” she said. “I’m going to be blunt. I think you should pass a resolution without an MOU and give them access. Trust your police and be done with this.”

She also added that she does not think law enforcement access constitutes a FERPA violation.

We agree. An FAQ page regarding the law states law enforcement records do not constitute an educational record.

“But even if it was a violation,” Dr. Tuttle went on, “I’m going to take that risk to save students.”

She also said she was asked how she handled the matter in her previous district, Owosso Public Schools, where she was superintendent for 14 years.

“I gave them access,” she said bluntly. “This has become incredibly convoluted and the police are a little bit nervous now about when they can use it. I don’t want them to be nervous.”

For some odd, or obsessive, reason, the term FERPA appears 15 times in the MOU. It states that only officers who are trained on the law and student privacy restrictions are allowed to access the cameras.

How about just letting them focus on what they have already been trained to do? Saving lives and protecting us from the bad guys.

It also stipulates the types and amounts of insurance liability each department must carry. Sorry, board majority, you do not get to tell other governing bodies how to spend their tax dollars.

While we agree that camera access must be reserved only for emergencies and should not be used for surveillance or investigative purposes, Dr. Tuttle pointed out the district has the ability to shut down the feed if such an activity were discovered. We also think any officer who would cross that line would be reprimanded by their superiors.

Ultimately, Dr. Tuttle summed up the situation perfectly, saying, “I’m in favor of the police telling us rather than us telling them what we can do to protect our children.”

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.

Suitable suggestion

To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Margie Reins Smith’s column, Second Time Around, titled “Four random thoughts left over from 2025.”

Regarding there being no good commonly used name for an elder woman, I suggest the word “doyenne.” It suggests experience and respect and, to my knowledge, does not carry the stodgy baggage of the other synonyms. Thanks for identifying this need in our cultural vocabulary!

JACKIE BROOKS
Grosse Pointe Farms

For clarity

To the Editor:

I have followed our schools for many years and believe much of today’s tension comes from a lack of clarity about advocacy and transparency. I want to explain this plainly and without drama.

There are advocacy organizations involved with Grosse Pointe Public Schools and our school board elections and they operate with very different levels of transparency. That distinction matters to the public and should not be brushed aside.

On the progressive side are several activist groups. WeGP — short for Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe — focuses on LGBT issues and opposing what it characterizes as attacks on civil and human rights. It appears ideologically aligned with Black Lives Matter. Other groups emphasize diversity, equity and inclusion, including Communities United in Diversity (which appears to receive county funding), BAMN (By Any Means Necessary) and Change Is the Pointe, whose formal organizational status is unclear. The Grosse Pointe Democratic Club and Grosse Pointe Education Association are also active in school board elections, with limited public ability to track spending or donors.

What gives me pause is that Communities United in Diversity receives official district promotion, appearing in school emails, on the district website and Facebook. That

See LETTERS, page 7A

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EDITORIAL

(313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh:

Editor in Chief

Ted O’Neil:

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Mike Adzima:

Sports Reporter

Kyla Bazzzy:

Obituary Writer

Laurel Kraus:

Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt:

Staff Photographer

Brad Lindberg:

Special Writer

PRODUCTION

(313) 343-5573

Ken Schop:

Production Manager

John Pigott:

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
January 8 – 14						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
48° 40°	50° 33°	40° 25°	32° 24°	36° 31°	39° 24°	34° 24°
Rain Showers	Rain Showers	Chance Rain/Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy
40%	40%	50%	10%	10%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:16 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:17 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:18 pm	SUNRISE 8:0 am SUNSET 5:19 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:20 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:21 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:22 pm

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

I SAY By Brad Lindberg

Freighters take heed



When the 1,000-foot

freighter, Stewart J. Cort, made its maiden voyage through the Detroit and St. Clair river systems into the upper Great Lakes on May 2, 1972, thousands of people lined the U.S. and Canadian shorelines to watch and cheer.

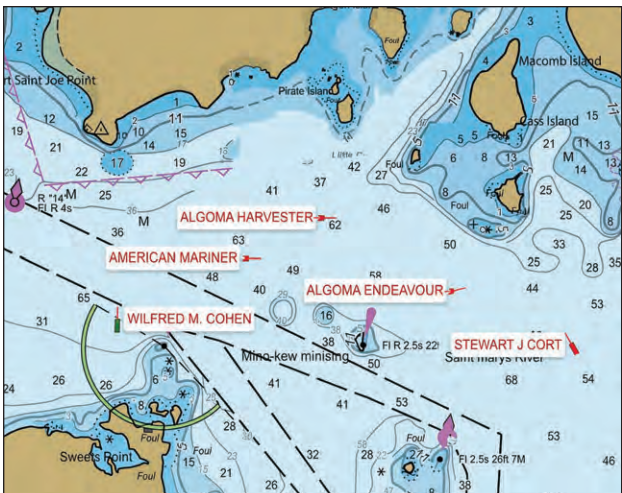
The Detroit fire boat added to the celebration by spraying water high into the air off what would become the Renaissance Center.

It was the only time Cort passed Detroit, having been built to haul iron ore between a loading dock in Superior, Wis., and the Bethlehem Steel plant in Burns Harbor, Ind.

On the outer pier at Windmill Pointe Park, an elderly woman was so excited by the Cort's arrival she cheered, "Go, team."

Cort was the first 1,000-footer on the lakes. Now there are 13, but at the time, the largest lake freighter was the Edmund Fitzgerald at 729 feet. We know how that story ended during a big storm in November 1975.

Captains of even the largest freighters know their vessels are susceptible to being sunk by storms. In deference to high winds forecast late last month, numerous freighters sought shelter.



Freighters anchored in the Saint Marys River during high winds late December.

"Massive Lake Superior waves could rival the largest ever recorded," according to a forecast posted on the website, boatnerd.com. "Waves are forecast to build to dangerous levels, potentially reaching near 30 feet in some areas. Gusts over Lake Erie could reach 70 mph and waves could reach 17 feet."

Cort and four others rode out the storm at anchor in the Saint Marys River linking Lake Huron and the Soo.

On Lake Erie, five freighters ducked gale western winds by hiding east of Long Point near the Ontario port of Nanticoke.

On eastern Lake Superior, three freighters, including the 1,003-foot Mesabi Miner and 1,004-foot Edgar B. Speer, respected the storm by sitting it out in Goulais Bay, sheltered by Goulais Point, not too far from where the Fitzgerald went down all

those years ago.

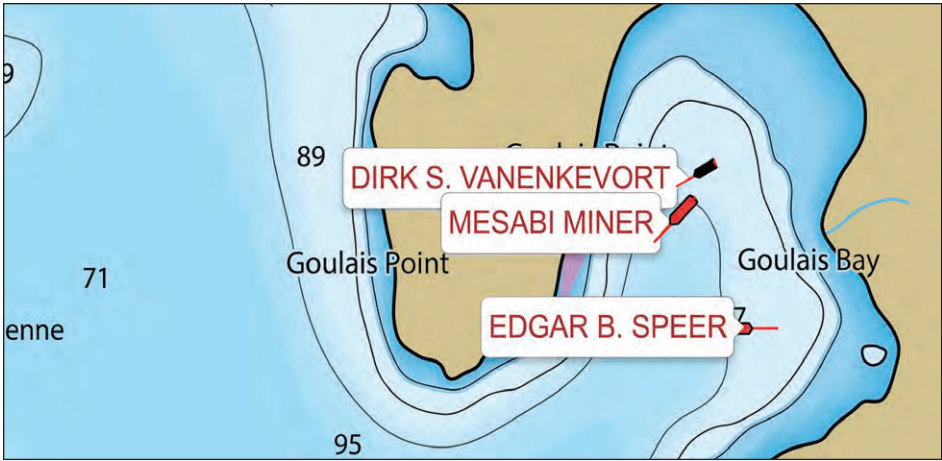
Most freighter locations can be tracked on boatnerd. The website has a feature called AIS, or automatic identification system. To access AIS, go to boatnerd.com, draw down from "Vessel Locations" and choose "AIS Map."

There's also an option, "Automated Vessel Passages," letting users track the passage of ships by location, from Alpena to the Welland Canal, including Detroit.

Accompanying images from the AIS option show freighters hiding from the storm Dec. 29, 2025.



Likewise in northern Lake Erie.



Two 1,000-footers, the Mesabi Miner and Edgar B. Speer, wanted no part of high winds and 30-foot waves.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

kind of visibility signals endorsement and influence, whether intended or not, and raises reasonable questions about neutrality.

If you track public statements and actions, the current board majority led by Colleen Worden and Valerie St. John, supported by Tim Klepp, Clint Derringer and

Laura Hull, appears aligned with WeGP, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club and Alliance for GP Public Schools.

Alliance for GP Public Schools is organized as a 501(c)(4), which is the traditional dark money structure in politics. By design, the public cannot see who funds it or how much is spent, even though it is active in school-related advocacy. In contrast, Pointers

for Academic Excellence is a political action committee advocating in our schools that is fully transparent. You can see who is involved and where money goes.

In 2024, the East Side Republican Club chose not to endorse school board candidates, recognizing that the school board is nonpartisan. The GP Democratic Club did not.

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Attributed to Michelangelo Guggenheim (1837-1910)
Venetian Bronze
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City aims to tackle 100 lead service lines

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City is aiming to get a bigger bang for its buck when it comes to new federal regulations requiring replacement of all lead service lines in eight years, by 2034. The prior deadline set by the state was 2041.

A recent investigation of all 1,375 suspected lead service lines within the city revealed there are approximately 520 which must be replaced. If all goes well, the city may achieve replacement of 100 lead lines this year — at the cost it budgeted for just 60.

Staff budgeted \$700,000 this fiscal year for lead line replacement and went out to bid in October for approximately 60 lines on Cadieux, Notre Dame, Maumee, St. Clair and Neff.

It, in turn, received nine competitive bids on the project, with the low bidder, Absolute Quality Inc., applying to do the work for \$335,400.

“We haven’t done any work with them,” former Public Services Director Pete Randazzo said prior to his retirement, “but we did do some reference checks with the city of Gibraltar and Hennessy Engineers, who is the engineer for the city of Hamtramck, and they reported positive work performance by Absolute Quality on some recent water service line and water main replacements.”

Based on the bid amount, the average cost per line is \$5,590.

“If we can do as many as we can under this contract, it would be more advantageous for the city,” Randazzo noted.

City council voted to approve the contract with Absolute Quality in December, with the intention that, should the initial scope of work be satisfactory, the contract would be expanded to support an additional 40 replacements at a total cost not to exceed the \$560,000.

“It’s not a guarantee,” City Manager Joe Valentine noted. “If we tend to have issues or things aren’t going well, we may have to stop at the initial scope of the project and move on to another vendor for another phase.

“But if everything goes well, the intention would be to offer them additional work under the current scope with the budget that we’ve already allocated for this year.”

Impacted residents can expect to have at least 30 days notice from the city before their line is replaced.

“We’ve been in a lot of houses and a lot of people have their Christmas stuff or seasonal stuff packed around the water meter, so that will have to be removed,” Randazzo said. “Or if there’s certain things that have to be removed, like the physical features of a drywall or a bench or whatever, we give them enough time that they can do what they have to do before

we get in there and make those repairs.”

Water main program

During its December meeting, city council also approved a \$203,247 contract and 10 percent contingency to low bidder All Seasons Underground Construction Inc., for the 2025-26 water main upgrade program.

On deck are the replacement of a 4-inch main on Village Lane with an 8-inch main, as well as the abandonment of an existing 6-inch main on St. Paul, from which services instead will be tied into a 12-inch main across the street. A new fire hydrant also will be added on St. Paul.

“This will help with the firefighting and the pressure going into the homes,” Randazzo said.

All Seasons Underground Construction was the low bidder among seven bids for the project and came with favorable references.

“We’ve never worked with All Seasons before,” Randazzo said. “So we asked our engineering department to do reference checks with All Seasons and they came back that the city of Fort Wayne just did a \$3 million project in water main replacements and a \$4 million lead service line replacement.”

The total project, including construction engineering and the contingency, will cost the city an estimated \$270,521.

Officials recap 2025

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City Manager Nick Sizeland’s choice of highlights for the year 2025 included:

- ◆ an audit showing the city’s fund balance equaling 22 percent of the general fund,
- ◆ completion of the Jefferson Avenue sewer separation, reducing sanitary flow into the Jefferson pump station;
- ◆ completion of the Charlevoix water main installation, which brought a dedicated water main to the business district and assisted in establishing a redundant supply to the neighborhood;
- ◆ completion of the lead water service line replacement and a water main on Beaconsfield south of Jefferson and
- ◆ the second year of sidewalk replacement.

Mayor Michele Hodges said, “We have much to accomplish in 2026, with important first steps, including a team retreat to coalesce around a set of goals; and embarking upon a goodwill tour designed to strengthen our social capital; and to further the trust that is imperative for any community serious about long-term sustainability.”

— Brad Lindberg

TREES:

Continued from page 5A

erty between the sidewalk and street; and street tree planting guidelines.

Namely, street trees should be planted 6 feet from a driveway; 10 feet from street lights and fire hydrants; 25 feet from an intersection; and 30 inches from the sidewalk and curb, centering the tree as much as possible in the space.

Spacing between trees should be 40 feet apart for large trees; 35 feet apart for medium trees; and 30 feet apart for small trees.

Also included in the master plan are revised commission goals to:

- ◆ preserve and maintain the health of the existing trees on city property and homeowner land,
- ◆ restore canopy-deficient areas,
- ◆ address growing environmental challenges, such as urban pollutants and increased frequency of extreme weather events,
- ◆ and establish an urban forest stewardship ethic, regarding engagement with the community and resident involvement.

“We’re starting to keep track of how many trees

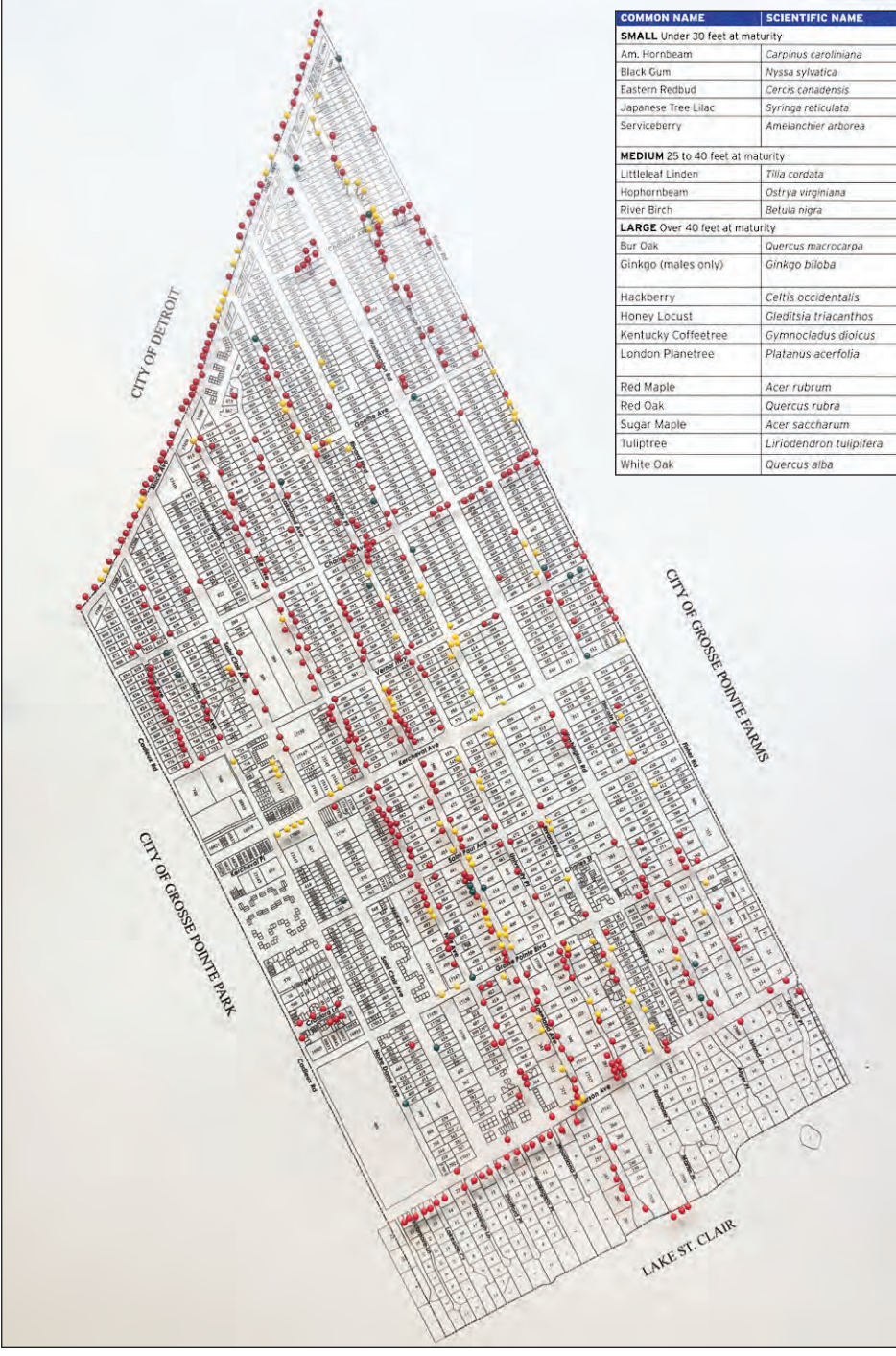
we are actually cutting down per year,” said Seth Krupp, M.D., council liaison to the forestry commission, “getting a little more of a balance statement of, OK, we’re getting rid of this many trees, we add this many, and we’re falling behind and where can we get ahead and get these gaps filled?”

“So I thought this was a really great step forward for us to have an assessment of needs and make plans for the future.”

The city also is exploring the hiring of another city forester.

“We are actually in discussions with the other Grosse Pointe communities to look at another individual to fill that role,” City Manager Joe Valentine said late last year. “It is somewhat unique, so we’ll hopefully have more to share on that in the coming month.”

Donations to the Releaf GP fundraising campaign are being managed via the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation and may be made online on the foundation’s website — tinyurl.com/2hhfyydc — or mailed to The City of Grosse Pointe Foundation, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230, ATTN: Releaf GP.



COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NATIVE?	ATTRIBUTES
SMALL Under 30 feet at maturity			
Am. Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Yes	Brilliant fall color; bluish-grey winter bark
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Yes	Brilliant fall colors in orange and scarlet
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Yes	Purple flowers cling to stems and bark
Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	No	Fragrant flowers; suitable under utility lines
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Yes	White fragrant flowers, suitable under utility lines
MEDIUM 25 to 40 feet at maturity			
Littleleaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	No	Dense canopy with fragrant flowers
Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Yes	Hops looking fruits in early summer
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Yes	Beautiful exfoliating bark
LARGE Over 40 feet at maturity			
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Yes	Impressive specimen with woolly acorns
Ginkgo (males only)	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	No	Shade and ornamental with fan-shaped leaves
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Yes	Hardy with interesting bark
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Yes	Golden fall leaf color
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Yes	Interesting bark and decorative seed pods
London Planetree	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	No	Less susceptible to anthracnose than native sycamore
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Yes	Fast growing, brilliant red leaves in fall
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Yes	Host to more than 500 native caterpillars
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Yes	Native maple with fantastic fall color
Tuliptree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Yes	Tallest tree in Michigan
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Yes	Slow growing majestic shade tree

COURTESY OF THE URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN

Above, the approved species list details which types of trees should be planted in the city, emphasizing diversity to avoid another major disease epidemic. The species are selected for planting considering width and height at maturity, soil conditions, light patterns, water availability, overhead obstacles, proximity to sidewalks and other impervious surfaces, aesthetics, required care, local availability and cost. Right, this map of the city was compiled using the results of a recent survey of all the city’s street trees. Red stands for a tree gap, yellow for an unhealthy tree and green for a newly planted tree.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNCILMAN SETH KRUPP, M.D.

FOR SALE

22429 LAKECREST
ST CLAIR SHORES

WATERFRONT

SOLD

20618 SUNNYSIDE
ST CLAIR SHORES

FOR SALE

1001 W. JEFFERSON
DETROIT

WATERFRONT

SOLD

22516 BEACH
ST CLAIR SHORES

WATERFRONT

SOLD

20727 MARTER
GROSSE POINTE WOODS

SOLD

26285 JACKSON
NEW BALTIMORE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND
SEASON'S GREETINGS

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
JANUARY 26, 2026, 7:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 110 of 2006 the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, as amended, and the Grosse Pointe City Code, that the Grosse Pointe Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing as noticed above at 7:00 pm at the Grosse Pointe Council Chambers at 17145 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI. The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing considering the following item(s), in brief:

1.

Consideration to amend the previously approved use variance granted for the property located at 17449 E. Jefferson Avenue (Parcel No. 37-005-05-0029-001). The subject site received a use variance in 2025 from Sec. 90-237, which stipulates that office uses are not permitted in the R-1B Single Family Residential District. The applicant seeks to construct a building addition, which will increase the footprint of the existing structure and expand the previously approved office use.

The property is located in the R-1B, Single Family Residential District. Standards for variance consideration are contained in Sec. 90-101 of the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinances.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on January 26, 2026. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to city@grossepointecity.org. If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

Liggett announces new merit scholarship opportunities for incoming students

University Liggett School is introducing four new merit-based scholarships for students applying for admission for the 2026-27 school year. The scholarships are available to new students and designed to reward students who exemplify the very best of the Liggett Approach: academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, leadership and a commitment to community and character.

“These merit scholarships reflect our commitment to supporting students who will thrive academically and contribute meaningfully to our school community,” said Stephanie Sikora, interim director of enrollment management. “Our merit scholarships honor students whose talents, values and passions enrich our school and embody the spirit of the

Liggett Approach.”

Scholarship opportunities

- ◆ Spirit of Excellence Award — New ninth grade students
Award: \$5,000, renewable annually
Honors students who embody ULS Core Values and demonstrate promise, compassion and engagement both inside and outside the classroom.

- ◆ The Knight’s Award — New students in grades six to 10
Award: \$2,500, renewable annually
Recognizes exceptional talent or achievement in academics, arts, athletics, leadership, entrepreneurship or other pursuits.
- ◆ Briarcliff Scholarship — New middle school students
Award: \$5,000, renewable annually through grade 12
Honors students with strong academic achievement, high character and citizenship.

- ◆ The Head’s Scholarship — New students
Award: \$2,500 to \$5,000, renewable annually
Recipients demonstrate excellence or promise in scholarship, leadership, innovation, service or character.

All applicants who complete the admission process by the published deadlines will be considered for these awards. These new awards are in addition to the Liggett Merit Scholarship, available to both new ninth-grade applicants and

current eighth-grade students, which honors students for academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, strong moral character and a demonstrated commitment to their communities.

The Liggett Merit Scholarship has supported high-achieving students since 2008, and has helped graduates gain admission to top universities worldwide, including Princeton, Yale and MIT.

Learn more about ULS’s merit scholarships at uls.org/meritscholarships.

Beauty commission is a perennial

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — At any time of day, a Park resident lives within the shade of Brian Colter.

Even at high noon, his shadow casts far from the thousands of trees he was responsible for planting or preserving during his more than three decades as the city’s certified municipal forester.

His death due to heart problems in March prior to the city’s Arbor Week celebration in April created a hole in the canopy that will be a long time filling.

“Losing our longtime forester and city liaison, Brian Colter, dealt quite a blow early on,” said Lisa Kyle, chairwoman of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission on which

Colter served. “We carried on his work by celebrating Arbor Week with 169 fourth-grade poster participants and ended the week on Arbor Day with a heartwarming tree planting and memorial service for Brian at Patterson Park.”

As the commission moves into 2026, proposed activities will be built upon those that made 2025 an emotionally difficult, but ultimately rewarding experience.

“Throughout the rest of the year, we held successful spring and fall plant exchanges, increased the number of volunteers and garden beds in our volunteer gardening program and held two very successful native plant sales at city hall — earning free native plants to install in city beds,” Kyle said.

Upon Mayor Michele Hodge’s first election as mayor in 2021, she folded the sustainability committee into the beautification group. Commission activities thereby occur under an expanded mandate.

“I look forward to continuing our work with the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge and volunteer gardening programs,” Commissioner Kelly Konieczki said.

The Monarch Pledge is an initiative backed by the Nation Wildlife Federation to create habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

“Not only do these initiatives help beautify the city, they provide community engagement as well as a framework for building a healthier, more sustainable com-

See BEAUTY, page 10A



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Orthodontists on The Hill awarded surprise small business grant

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Dr. Thomas Gebeck and Dr. Gregory Hummon were completely taken aback when a crew of people entered their orthodontics practice on The Hill with balloons and a giant check for \$5,300 first thing in the morning Thursday, Dec. 11.

“I equate it to the surprise is supposed to be like the Publishers Clearing House Prize Patrol,” said Gina Carrier, vice president of regional marketing & communications for Fifth Third Bank. “That’s what we try to do with these little surprises, is we come with balloons and our leadership team.”

As part of its “Love, Fifth Third” campaign giving back to small businesses, Fifth Third Bank presented the surprise grant to Orthodontic Associates, which opened on The Hill last year and is continuing the legacy of Gebeck’s father, who was a Grosse Pointe orthodontist for 45 years.

“I am speechless and people who know me know that I am never speechless,” Gebeck said when presented with the check.

More than 2,500 small businesses were nominated this year by Fifth Third employees, making Orthodontic Associates



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Dr. Thomas Gebeck and Dr. Gregory Hummon, center, are presented with a surprise \$5,300 small business grant as part of Fifth Third Bank’s “Love, Fifth Third,” campaign Thursday, Dec. 11.

one of 11 randomly selected winners from 12 states.

In the three years the “Love, Fifth Third” campaign has run, it is the first time a small business in eastern Michigan has won.

“Well, we ‘love Fifth Third,’ I’ll tell you that,” Gebeck joked.

The orthodontics office was nominated by Ned

Impastato, the financial center manager at the Fifth Third location on The Hill.

“When they first opened, they brought some pens down here and introduced themselves,” he said. “The whole process for our nominating these businesses was for us to drop off pens, so I just thought it was a nice connection,

so I did the same and it ended up with them winning a grant.”

To office manager Katie Jordan, the grant surprise was a sort of karma coming back around.

Hummon has donated his time and services for 30 years to the Gifted Smiles Program, through which children in need are given orthodontic services free of charge.

“I just am so proud of our doctors because first of all they love what they do so much,” Jordan said. “And they have done so much silently throughout the years.”

Upon learning they

received the grant, the doctors said they plan to reinvest into the community with outreach opportunities such as in the schools, teaching students toothbrushing education, oral hygiene and education about orthodontic service.

“We do little drills, like how long do you brush your teeth? We brush them for two minutes, so let’s do jumping jacks for two minutes,” Gebeck said.

In November, they visited St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School, The Grosse Pointe Academy — where Gebeck’s daughter is a third-grade

teacher — and Monteith Elementary School.

“This practice that we see here started in 1961 in Birmingham,” Hummon said. “Dr. Gebeck came in 1999, and joined me and about a year ago we started looking over here. Tommy’s got a long history with his father being an orthodontist for over 40 years in Grosse Pointe and so it was a great opportunity to have a chance to spread our wings. We could have gone anywhere in metro Detroit, but there was really only one place to go. And this is it right here.”

Tis the season for respiratory viruses



By Melissa Jennings, M.D.

We’re approaching the peak of respiratory virus season, which generally occurs between December and February, a time when many families experience more colds and flu-like illnesses. Upper respiratory viruses are extremely common in both adults and children. They include influenza, RSV, the virus that causes COVID-19, and rhinovirus. You can catch viruses through contact with mucus or saliva from infected people, and symptoms often

last up to 10 days before gradually improving. Cough, headaches, muscle aches, and congestion are common and can be uncomfortable. Things that have been shown to help ease this discomfort include Tylenol, Motrin, honey, zinc, saltwater sinus rinses, and select over-the-counter decongestants. For children under 4 years, avoid over-the-counter cold medications, and for children under 12 months, avoid honey. It is also important to remember that antibiotics can’t fight viruses and taking them when they’re not needed could cause side effects and hurt your chances of fighting a bacterial infection in the future.

Groups with a higher risk of complications from respiratory viruses include children younger than 5, adults 65 years and older, those with chronic breathing or heart problems, or those with an immune system which does not function properly. You should see your primary care doctor if you fall into one of these groups, or if you develop worsening symptoms like a fever higher than 101 degrees Fahrenheit, shortness of breath, productive cough or facial pain that does not improve. Reasons to go to the emergency room include difficulty catching your breath, dizziness, severe weakness, dehydration or persistent pain in the chest or abdomen. In children, watch for fast breathing or wheezing, bluish lips, dehydration, fever greater than 104 degrees or seizures.

Hand washing is the best way to prevent infections. Vaccines can also help prepare your immune system to combat viruses. Stay up to date on your vaccines and reach out to your primary care provider if you have concerns. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Dr. Melissa Jennings is a board-certified Family Medicine physician and serves as Chief of Family and Community Medicine at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital.

Dr. Jennings and her colleagues are currently accepting new patients at their clinic, located in the medical office building on the hospital campus. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (586) 498-4400.



BEAUTY:

Continued from page 9A

munity,” Konieczki said.

City officials also solicited direction from members about restocking traffic islands on lower Jefferson with low-maintenance, native species that are less expensive to maintain and whose growth habits won’t impede motorists’ sightlines. Likewise, commissioners have organized volunteers to maintain the Patterson Park shoreline

and pull invasive plants. There’s also a proposal to establish a meadow at the park.

“We finished off the year with our annual Beautification Awards ceremony, recognizing 32 residents, three businesses and three resident volunteers for their efforts to beautify our community,” Kyle said. “We look forward to beautification programming in 2026.”

Colter’s replacement hasn’t been chosen. The new forester likely will be contracted part time

among the Park, City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms with no set base of operations, according to Nick Sizeland, Park city manager.

“We intend to bring a forester on board as soon as possible,” Farms Manager Shane Reeside said in October. “Our public service director met with a potential candidate in an informal interview. We plan to follow up with another interview for somebody who has the credentials.”

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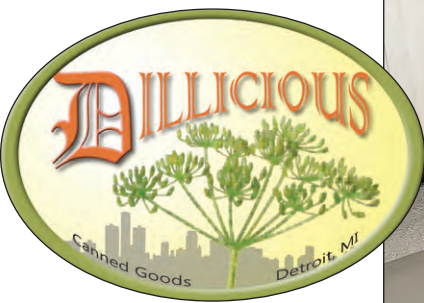
2&6B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4-5B OBITUARIES | 5B CHURCHES

Happy meals
Dillicious Canned Goods
offers pop-up cooking classes

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

As a child, Kirsten Hibbs not only enjoyed helping her mother prepare meals in the kitchen, but in doing so she also learned about making healthy food choices. “When I was growing up, my mother always had me in the kitchen helping out and learning techniques,” she said. “My siblings and I were always good eaters, from asparagus to Brussels sprouts, which stems from having that direct hand in creating. I do the

same with my son. The things he will try — it’s astounding. Whenever he has a hand in doing it, the more likely he is to try it.” These are the lessons she hopes to bring young people in the Pointes with monthly pop-up cooking classes through her business, Dillicious Canned Goods. “Before last summer, we had a lot of interested parties who wanted their kiddos to do cooking classes,” said Hibbs, who started Dillicious in 2017.



“I’ve offered private cooking classes, but then an opportunity opened at my community kitchen space at Christ Church.” Three weeks this summer, she and her sous chef, Sarah Jordan, offered youth cooking classes, each of which



Students enjoy the hands-on experience they receive during one of the pop-up sessions.

followed a cultural theme: Italian Renaissance, Latin American Adventure and Asian Fusion. The classes were so well-received,

she and Jordan decided to offer monthly pop-ups at the kitchen. “I’m passionate about teaching in general,” Hibbs said, noting she and Jordan both are certified upper school science teachers at University Liggett School. “Chemistry is the cooking.”

“... We thought this would be a great opportunity, because I love teaching, but it’s also an opportunity for the kiddos to learn a life skill,” she said, “and it increases healthy eating habits organically.” The pair offered a holiday cookie exchange pop-up for youth in December. Upcoming classes include Neapolitan Pizza Masters in the Making in January and Special Person’s Day in February. For adults, they’ll offer Taste of the Emerald Isle in March.

“I thought this was something missing in our community,” Hibbs said. “These are life skills, No. 1 — we all know adults who cannot cook, whether it’s an egg or mashed potatoes — but additionally, this creates healthy eating habits. “Something that’s important also is having classes which inspire students to want to cook themselves,” she continued. “Hopefully this will inspire families to cook together and gather for dinner at the dining table.”

Students sharing their excitement about what they’re accomplishing is part of the plan. During summer classes, Hibbs made sure participants not only cooked and enjoyed a meal with their classmates, but also had enough to take home for their parents. “Multiple times, they said they were excited that they could go home and recreate or partially recreate every step they took to get to that point,” Hibbs said. The take-home aspect will continue with each three-hour pop-up. “For the pizza class, there’s a community table where we all enjoy a meal together, but we’ll also have pizza or pizza kits for the kiddos to take home and enjoy with their family,” Hibbs said. “... There are not many cooking courses for kiddos or adults,” she added. “I really wanted to bring something I love that increases community and culture.”

Classes max out with 10 to 12 children, Hibbs said. “With two instructors, that’s a ton of one-on-one time.”

On the menu

- ♦ 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, for ages 8 to 17, Neapolitan Pizza Masters in the Making. In this class, students will make individual pizzas to take home and also work together to create a masterpiece to enjoy together at the community table.
- ♦ 4 to 7 p.m. Friday,



Pop-up cooking class students learn to make a meal this summer.



Kirsten Hibbs instructs students during one of her summer pop-up cooking classes.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIRSTEN HIBBS

See FOOD, page 2B



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COURTESY PHOTOS

Linda Boyle of Grosse Pointe Park has artwork displayed in the exhibit.

Poets, artists discussion at GP Congregational Church

The public is invited to “Call & Response 5: Poets and Artists in Dialogue,” a poetry reading and artist discussion from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Speakers will discuss the collaborations that resulted in the poems and art on display.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Copies of the book featuring all “Call & Response 5” artwork and poems will be available for purchase.

Ninety-four artists and poets have participated over the course of the five “Call & Response” projects. This year, 20 artists and 20 poets will describe their creative process and share their work with the public.

For more information, email arts@gpcong.org.



Carol LaChiusa of Grosse Pointe Farms stands by a pair of her pieces in the exhibit.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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.

- ◆ Willow Tree Workshop with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 8 to 22.
- ◆ Color Theory with Saveria Giovinnazzo, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 9 to 30.
- ◆ White Line Block Printing with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Material fee is \$20. Deadline to register is Wednesday, Jan. 28.
- ◆ Introduction to Black and White Scratchboard Art with Mary Taitt, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 11, 18 and 25.
- ◆ Golden Cloud Workshop with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 12 and 19.

Library

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

- ◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Yoga Storytime with Miss Mo, 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.
- ◆ From PAGE to Stage: Community Book Club: “Pride & Prejudice,” by Jane Austen, 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Beginning CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe

Park.

- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ In Hot Mug Book Discussion Group, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Le Rouge Boulangerie, 15215 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ From Page to STAGE: Community Book Club: “Pride & Prejudice,” with Grosse Pointe Theatre, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Jan. 15, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Crafternoons @ the Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Brave Belle’s Book Club, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ 101 Teas to Steep Before You Die, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ High School Exam Study, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 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.

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.

- ◆ Second Saturdays at TWM: 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.
- ◆ VetConnect Seminar Series: Support for Those Who Served, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22.
- ◆ Heroes’ Movement gala, 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24. Tickets are \$125.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during January. To sign up for the following, visit mutualadoration.com:

- ◆ Self-Portrait Workshop: Mixed Media with Shug, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Basket Weaving Workshop: Small Market Baskets for Beginners, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Cost is \$70.
- ◆ Drop-In Workshop: Matisse-Inspired Collage, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Cost is \$20.
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Puff Pipes, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Match Striker Set, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 17 and 24. Cost is \$125.
- ◆ Therapeutic Art Workshop: Neurographic Art Making, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Make a Goo with Melissa Dettloff, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 21 and 28. Cost is \$100.
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Botanical Nesting Plates, 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 1. Cost is \$125.
- ◆ Craft Cocktails Workshop: For Old Fashioned Lovers, 5:30 to

See EVENTS, page 6B



PIZZA MAKING MASTERS

Monday, January 19th 10am-1pm

\$125 PER SESSION

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Students will learn essential pizza-making skills, starting with preparing the dough and creating an epicly delicious sauce.

They will make a pizza to take home and also work together to create a shared masterpiece to enjoy at our community table.

Presented by Dillicious Owner, Kirsten Hibbs and Resident Sous Chef Sarah Jordan. In addition to their culinary aptitudes, they are also certified Upper School Science teachers at University Liggett.

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FOOD:

Continued from page 1B

Feb. 13, for ages 5 and older, Special Person’s Day. Students and their special guests will create a delicious and well-rounded Valentine’s meal to be eaten at the community table together. The meal will include heart-shaped chicken parmigiana — with vegetarian and vegan options available — homemade pasta with marinara sauce and an Italian salad, as well as individual trifles for dessert.

◆ 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14, for ages 21 and older, Taste of the Emerald Isle. Included in this class is a chat with a master brewer who will walk guests through each

perfect beer pairing for the meal and answer any questions about the brewing world.

Classes in April and May are still in the planning stages.

Cost varies for each class.

To register, visit dilliciousdetroit.com or scan the QR code.

Follow Dillicious on Facebook at DetroitPicklesRUs or Instagram @dillicious_detroit.





PHOTO COURTESY OF KIRSTEN HIBBS

Kirsten Hibbs, right, leads students through a pop-up cooking class over the summer.

GP Congregational Church hosts Day of Hope & Advocacy on Jan. 19

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church hosts its second annual “Day of Hope and Advocacy: Fulfilling Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s Dream,” from noon to 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Organizers said they are excited for the event, which honors King’s memory and message.

“Our hope, our intention, is to have an afternoon of communication and dialogue about what it means to strive for equality in our country,” said Lori Zurvalec, one of the co-chairs. “We’re hopeful, with all of us coming together, it will be upbeat and celebratory.”

Food and light refreshments will be offered from noon to 3:30 p.m. The free lunch includes gluten-free and vegetarian options.

Additionally, the open-mic event includes opportunities for people to express themselves — through art projects, music, yoga, poetry readings and other means.

“We are also hosting multiple community groups so persons can discover additional ways they can be involved in the community of care,” the Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver added.

More than a half dozen groups are expected, including representatives from the NAACP, League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe and Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe.

Zurvalec, who is deeply involved in the church’s Arts Ministry, will be in charge of the art portion; art supplies will be provided at no cost.

“There’s a need for people to tell their story and be heard,” she said. “For me, that’s what this event is about — to be heard and seen.”

Zurvalec’s co-chair, the

Hon. Nicole Castka, will lead Unity Yoga from 2 to 3 p.m.

A dance party follows from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

“Last year, there was crazy dancing,” Zurvalec said. “So there’s an opportunity for goofiness and, dare I say, love. That’s the setting we’re hoping for — feeling loved, cared about and seen.”

The public is welcome to drop in any time during the event, which welcomes all ages and is free of charge.

For more information, call (313) 884-3075.

— Jody McVeigh



PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI ZURVALEC

The Hon. Nicole Castka, left, stands with a father-daughter duo who attended last year’s inaugural event.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Four recognized

From left, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner stands with Steven Kosinski, Sandra Cobb, Patricia Gmeiner and William Jennings at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores Dec. 16.

Sunrise recognized four club members who were designated as Paul Harris Fellows due to their contributions to Rotary International. Rotary established the Paul Harris recognition in 1957, to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to its foundation, named after the founder of Rotary, which began in 1905. Many other notable figures have been named Paul Harris Fellows, including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. astronaut James Lovell, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk.

A local community service and fellowship club, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to join its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House. For more information, email the club at dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

Eastside Republican Club to host U.S. Congressional candidates

The Eastside Republican Club will host Republican candidates running for the United States Senate and House of Representatives in 2026, at its next forum Tuesday, Jan. 20, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Republicans have the potential to pick up a Senate seat where Donald Trump won in 2024, and Michigan is one of five pivotal states for the Republican Party to maintain its trifecta.

Candidates up for election in the Michigan Republican Primary on Aug. 4, include Mike Rogers, Genevieve Peters Scott and Bernadette Smith. This will be an open seat in the general election Nov. 3, as Gary Peters (D) will not run for a third term.

Republican candidates running for Michigan Congressional District 10 are Casey Armitage, Mike Bouchard, Steven Elliot, Cody Ingram, Justin Kirk and Robert Lulgjuraj. This seat is currently held by John James (R), who is running for Michigan governor.

“We have a competitive field for both offices,” said Renee Strobl, Eastside Republican Club chair. “It will be interesting to hear these candidates’ winning messages, including from the young, up-and-coming talent.”

The Republicans hold a thin majority in the U.S. Congress with all 435 House members and 33 Senate members up for election in 2026.

As of press time, Peters Scott, Kirk and Lulgjuraj will be attending.

Doors open at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Grosse Pointe Garden Center hosts annual meeting Jan. 16 at War Memorial

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center invites the community to learn about its 2026 events, programs, Trial Gardens theme and annual garden tour during its annual meeting 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

To close the event, professional gardener Alaine Bush will present “Grosse Pointe Garden Center ... 75 Years and Growing!”

Admission is free. Registration is required at gpgardencentre.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HELM

Commodore commemoration

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Commodore David Schaden and his wife, Amy, commemorated the 97th Commodores Ball with a donation to The Helm.

Amy Schaden presented the donation to The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall, Board of Directors President Dr. Cheryl Wesen and Vice-President Carol Klenow.

“We’re sincerely thank the Schadens for this generous donation,” Siddall said. “It will make a real difference for many seniors in our community. It means so much to know the community recognizes and supports The Helm mission.”

Pictured from left are Siddall, Schaden, Klenow and Wesen.

DSO’s William Davidson Neighborhood Concert Series begins

Subscriptions are on sale for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra’s 2025–26 William Davidson Neighborhood Concert Series.

In January, April and July, the DSO will visit six metro Detroit neighborhoods — Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Grosse Pointe, Southfield, Beverly Hills and Taylor — to share works of the classical repertoire and connect with audiences in intimate venues.

Local performances take place at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The schedule includes:

- ◆ Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons” at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan.

See SERIES, page 6B


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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.

William James Rooney

William J. Rooney, 92, passed away Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, surrounded by his family.

There is little Bill treasured as much as his family. The best times came the hour before dinner, when everyone was present. Family was all around — friends sometimes, too — and there was laughter, joy, tall tales and love. Inside with a roaring fire or outside with cicadas as background music, cocktail hour was the time Bill — with a Manhattan close at hand — was surrounded by family.

In turn, Bill was adored by his family, whose members converged on Grosse Pointe innumerable times to visit. His children and grandchildren have countless memories of visits to Neff Park, Fourth of July Gymkhana Games in the backyard and the annual Christmas Pollyanna gathering. There also were visits just to check in and say hello.

Bill was born in Chicago, in 1933, to Gerald and Helen (nee Cahill). He was the eldest sibling of Geraldine, John and Gene and grew up in Austin on the west-side. While he moved away from Chicago in the late 1950s and lived in the Detroit area for the last half century of his life, he always considered himself a Chicagoan. He was happily stunned in 2005, when the Chicago White Sox won their first World Series since the Wilson Administration — something he was fairly certain he would never see.

After high school, Bill attended Mundelein Seminary, but though his faith remained a vital

part of his life, he had a change of heart about becoming a priest and decided to enroll in Loyola Law School. After finishing law school, Bill was selected as a member of the U.S. Army JAG Corps and worked at The Pentagon.

More importantly, during his time in the Army, Bill married Marguerite Ann McGrail, whom he had known since elementary school and who lived on the same block on Washington Boulevard. Bill and Marg cherished each other for 53 happy years, raising six children and traveling many places. They had a standing Saturday night date for years at The Elbow Room and later at The Blue Pointe. They lived in Washington, D.C., Chicago and Philadelphia before landing in Grosse Pointe, where Bill worked as an attorney in the office of the general counsel at Ford Motor Co., for more than 30 years.

Bill specialized in labor relations at Ford and enjoyed an engaging and rewarding career, highlighted by the always-interesting UAW contract negotiations. Bill relished his job and was proud of his talents he maximized and the effort he poured into his career during three decades at Ford. His time there also gave him access to many Ford cars, most notably red Mustang convertibles — favorites of both him and his children.

Bill enjoyed handball, tennis, sailing on Lake St. Clair, walking for miles at a time and a very firm handshake. He savored good bread, good cheese, a good Manhattan by the fire and reading for hours at a time. His children fondly remember

Saturday mornings with him at the library, with Bill engrossed in a book while they found other forms of entertainment, such as tag and hide and seek, much to the dismay of the librarians.

A “stylish” dresser, he was a big fan of cashmere sweaters and plaid, sometimes wearing different plaids at the same time. He claimed they matched because they were both plaid. Bill was also extraordinarily generous. Giving gifts was one of his great joys.

After Marguerite’s death, Bill married Shirley Smith. They enjoyed 11 happy years together, including trips up north, movie nights at home, attending Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church and dinners at Lochmoor Club.

Bill is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Mary Rooney, Nancy Rooney (John Anderson), Meg Rooney Lapinski (Greg) and Bill Rooney (Laura); daughter-in-law, Ellen Rooney; 11 grandchildren, “The Eleven,” Willie, Molly, Maggie and Katie Lapinski, John, Ben and Katie Anderson, Emma and Elizabeth Rooney and Brendan and Clare Rooney; three great-grandchildren, Theodore, Nora and Jack; brother-in-law, Jack McGrail (Susan); sister-in-law, Kathy Rooney; many loving nieces and nephews; and stepson, Jim Reifsnyder-Smith (Frank) and Jim and Frank’s children, Milo and DiDi. Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife, Marguerite, and dear sons, John and Chris.

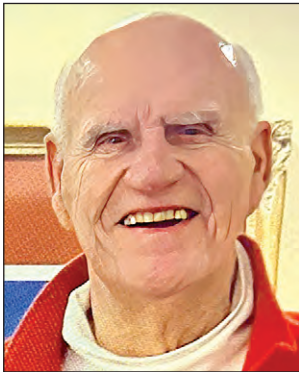
A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe



William James Rooney



Janet Baetz Ferguson



Carl Hartman

Farms. Family and friends may begin gathering at 9:30 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation annual fund, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, mygiving.net/donate/Support-GPLF; or the Pope Francis Center, 438 St. Antoine, Detroit, MI 48226, popefranciscenter.org/#donate.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Janet Baetz Ferguson

Janet Baetz Ferguson, 86, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 1, 2025, after a five-year struggle with Alzheimer’s disease.

Born Janet Elizabeth McDonald, in November 1939, in Pontiac, Janet lived a life marked by grace, intelligence and generosity of spirit. She was known for treating everyone she encountered with kindness and respect, while also carrying herself with professionalism and quiet confidence throughout her career.

Janet was predeceased by her parents, James C. McDonald and Jean Brown McDonald; and sisters, Mary Ellen VanCanneyt and Carolyn M. Irwin.

Janet was married twice and widowed both times. Her first marriage was in 1961, to John Baetz Jr., whom she met while attending Wayne State University. John passed away in 1980. In 1986, she married Lowell Ferguson, who passed away in 2012. Through her second marriage, Janet became a step-mother to Mark and Kent Ferguson, both of whom predeceased her.

She is survived by her two sons, Craig Baetz and Robert Baetz, who were the center of her life. Janet also was a devoted grandmother to six grandchildren, Francis, Kaitlyn and Kelly Baetz, the children of Craig, and Zachary, Jordan and Gabriel Baetz, the children of Robert.

Janet graduated from Birmingham High School and then earned a degree in marketing from Wayne State University, where she also was a life member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Early in her career, she worked for the J.L. Hudson Co., before becoming a business owner and partner in the graphic design firm Frank Moran Associates, where she combined creativity with strong leadership.

Outside of work, Janet lived life fully. She was an avid racing sailor and downhill skier and cherished years of friendship and travel with her Alpha Gamma Delta sorority sisters and their husbands, fraternity brothers in Theta Tau. She was a skilled and enthusiastic knitter and dedi-

cated supporter of the arts. She served in numerous roles at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and was a past president of IBEX Art Appreciation, reflecting her lifelong love of creativity, culture and community involvement.

Janet will be remembered by all who knew her as a woman of warmth, integrity and quiet strength, as well as a loving mother and grandmother, a respected professional and a friend to many.

A celebration of life will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A reception will follow at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan, Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601, bit.ly/499UaEZ, in honor of Janet’s Alzheimer’s and dementia research.

Carl Hartman

Carl Theodore Hartman, 84, a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully in his sleep Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, in Sterling Heights.

Carl was born June 10, 1941, in Detroit. He was the longtime owner and manager of Meatcutters Inn on Orleans Street in Detroit’s Eastern Market, where he welcomed the livestock, meat packing and other market workers, as well as customers and friends throughout the Eastern Market community from the 1970s into the 1990s. The bar and restaurant became a familiar gathering place known for its warmth and camaraderie.

An avid sailor, Carl spent many happy years on his 25-foot Catalina sailboat, named Acceptance, and enjoyed sailing on Lake St. Clair and around the Mackinac Island waters when he owned a condominium on the island. Carl was a proud and accomplished pilot; he held a private pilot certificate with an instrument rating for many years and co-owned aircraft with close friends. He also was a graduate of Michigan State University and forever a Spartans fan.

Carl’s extended family members were the men and women of Alcoholics Anonymous. Sober more than 50 years, he helped countless individuals find and maintain their sobriety. He was a steady presence at meetings throughout the Grosse Pointe community, including gatherings with the Early Birds at St. Paul Lutheran Church, meetings at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Sunday mornings at the City of Grosse Pointe waterfront park, meetings at On The Rise at First English



Keith Cunningham

Evangelical Lutheran Church and many breakfasts and lunches shared with friends. This fellowship and extended family was a profound source of love and support throughout his life.

Carl is survived by his cousin, Kris Pfaehler (Ruth) of Grosse Pointe and Naples, Fla.

Memorial donations may be made to First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.

Keith Cunningham

Keith Cunningham, 74, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Keith is survived by his loving wife, Joyce; cherished children, Corinn (Richard) and Hillary (Mike); and four adored grandchildren, Bryce, Brooke, Luca and Owen, who were the light of his life. He also leaves behind his brother, Gary (Shelia), along with numerous dear nieces and nephews. Keith was predeceased by his parents, Bruce and Joyce; and brother, Bradd (Josette).

Keith spent his career in advertising sales, where he formed countless lifelong friendships. Known as the life of the party, Keith never met a stranger. With his outgoing personality, quick humor and unmistakable laugh, he had a rare gift for bringing people together and making every gathering more fun.

A devoted fan of all things Detroit sports, Keith often could be found cheering loudly for his favorite teams. Whether attending a Lions or Tigers game, telling stories with friends or spending a day on the golf course, he embraced life to the fullest and made sure everyone around him did too.

Above all, Keith will be remembered by all who knew him for his generous heart, deep love for his family and the joy he brought into every room. His presence was larger than life and his absence will be deeply felt by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of Keith’s life will be held from noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Karen Joan Cazabon



Karen Joan Cazabon, 87, of St. Clair Shores, MI, rounded the windward mark and set the spinnaker. An amazing woman and force of nature, has passed on to her next adventure, the next leg of her journey. Karen started her journey on this Earth in South Bend, Indiana in 1938, born to Carl and Kathryn Bergen. The family soon moved to Detroit where Karen attended Dominican High School. Karen met and married Dennis C. Cazabon.

Karen, mother of 7, grandmother of 6, great-grandmother of one, returned to school to obtain an Associate Degree in Medical Technology, Bachelor of Science in Science and Humanities from Wayne State University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Detroit-Mercy. She was Bio-medical Lab Manager, a Computer Systems Consultant &

Business Owner, sailor extraordinaire, chef capable of coming up with fantastic meals for 4 or 40 at the last minute, Mother and mentor, taught her children to be accountable and to think critically. She showed them how to cook, to clean, to drive a car, to trim sails and drive the damn boat. She let them explore themselves and encouraged introspection. She lived a life of compassion and love. She was a life long painter, active in the local art scene and served as President of the Mount Clemens Art Association. She was at home both painting and installing hospital management software systems for many large hospital organizations including the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, John’s Hopkins and Trinity. She touched countless lives during her path on this earth. She forged pathways

for women at CSYC and was a staunch supporter and activist for women’s rights at home, at the office or in the clubhouse.

Karen was predeceased by her parents, Carl and Kathryn, her sons Paul and Robert and her daughter Catherine Myrick. She is survived by her sons Michael (Lauren) Cazabon, Patrick Cazabon and daughters Carol Johnson and Lynn Cazabon as well as Granddaughters Mary Cazabon, Theresa Lugo and great grandson, Sirius; Grandsons Zachary and Dylan Myrick and Nick and Alex Johnson.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Catherine Janette Mazzola LoVasco

Catherine Janette Mazzola LoVasco, 92, of St. Clair Shores, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

She was predeceased by her parents, Joseph Mazzola and Rosalie Bologna Mazzola; her brother, Anthony Mazzola; and her beloved husband, John Leonard LoVasco.

Catherine is survived by her sisters, Marie Amore and JoAnn DiCresce; and 10 children, Jo LoVasco, Rosalyn Coury (Jack), Gene LoVasco (Jeanne), John LoVasco (Donna), Antonio Francesco (Ed Popovitz), Angela LoVasco, Mary LoVasco (Pasquale Garcia), Margaret Rahaim (Douglas), Andrea LoVasco (Adolfo Campoy) and Frank LoVasco (Carolyn Fox). She also is survived by 19 grandchildren, Adrianna Ahee, Anthony Ahee (Megan), Alex Ahee (Nicole), John Coury (Jamie Argento Coury), Christina Aubrey (Michael), Catherine Coury Bermuda Gil (Mario Bermuda Gil), Michael LoVasco (Ana), Laura LoVasco Hogan (Alan), John LoVasco (Hanna), Tressa LoVasco Buffano (Thomas), Luke LoVasco (Olivia), Douglas Rahaim (Lauren), Michael Rahaim (Samantha), Nicholas Rahaim (Julian), Marina LoVasco-Campoy, Mario LoVasco-Campoy, Gabriella Damerow (Blake), Alexandria LoVasco and Giuliana LoVasco; as well as 35 great-grandchildren.

Catherine was born Jan. 5, 1933, in Detroit, the third of four siblings, and grew up in a home filled with piano, prayer and wonderful food. Her father owned a grocery store and faith was central to family life.

She attended St. Ambrose High School and was committed to a contemplative life and serving others. As a teenager, she volunteered as a candy striper at Bon Secours Hospital (now Bon Secours Cottage Health Services). She later joined the Third Order of St. Francis and worked as a nurse's aide and served as a secretary for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Catherine was deeply involved in her faith throughout her life. She was a member of the Cursillo Movement, a CCD facilitator at St. Joan of Arc and St. Lucy Catholic churches, president of the Anti-Abortion League of Michigan and member of Legatus, a Catholic organization, alongside her husband. She prayed the Rosary daily.

She met her husband, John LoVasco, at a May crowning ceremony at St. Bonaventure Capuchin Monastery in Detroit.

Catherine loved children, nature and beauty. She was blessed with 10 children, including a set of twins. She was the quintessential mother, teaching her children to sing, dance, create and pray the Rosary together. Her home was joyful and peace-filled. She laughed easily at the ups and downs of life and was a



Catherine J. LoVasco

natural peacemaker.

Catherine was a devoted friend, often playing cards with her card group. She also was a loving neighbor, brought soup and cookies to those in need and listened deeply. She was an exceptional cook and baker. She also was a floral watercolor painter and played the piano. Melodies filled her house until the very end.

Her marriage to John was loving and faith-centered. Together they prayed, danced in the kitchen, attended annual married-couple retreats and traveled. Church life and the Men of the Sacred Heart were central to their lives. Most of all, she cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Catherine will forever remain a beam of light, faith and goodness to all who knew and loved her.

A funeral service was held at Chas. Verheyden Inc., in Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral Mass was held at St. Lucy Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores.

Memorial donations may be made to Gianna House, 21357 Redmond, Eastpointe, MI 48021, giannahouse.org/donate.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Susan Catherine Dewey

Susan Catherine (nee Bandy) Dewey, 72, passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 26, 2025.

Born Sept. 16, 1953, Susan was the eldest child of Maryann and Chester Bandy, both now deceased. Susie was a nurturer from the start. She was known for her gentle nature and giving above and beyond in every situation — which, as she would always say, “is from my heart.” Susie truly lived by heart in all of her actions. She gave much of herself and made sure everyone she knew was taken care of. Susie also was a “girly girl” and loved all things beauty and fashion.

Susie grew up on the east side and spent her whole life there. She wouldn't have wanted it any other way. At age 16, she began working for George Panourgias at Mack 7 Restaurant, where she eventually met the love of her life, Grosse Pointe Farms police officer Donald Dewey, to whom she was married for 43 years before his passing June 24, 2025.

Susie also worked in retail and cared for her now-adult nephews and step-grandchildren until they became school age. Following her retirement from Mack 7 in 2018, Susie dedicated her life to caring for her niece, Lively, who kept both her and Don active in their final years. The three of them were inseparable and found so much joy in all the time they had together.

Susie was prede-



Susan Catherine Dewey

ceased by her husband, Donald Dewey; mother, Maryann Bandy; father, Chester Bandy; daughter, Katherine; uncle, Jerome Boik; and aunt, Sally Boik.

She leaves behind her brothers, William Bandy and John Bandy (Cheryl); nephews, Shaun Bandy (Ameera) and Jason Bandy (Victoria); great-nieces, Lively and Summer; Don's children, Barbara (Roger), Deborah (Brett) and Kevin; grandchildren, Samantha, Sarah, Heather, Amy and Aaron; and great-grandson, Oliver.

A memorial service for Susan and Donald was held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home. Susan was laid to rest in a private ceremony.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Victor Michaels

Victor Michaels, 71, passed away peacefully at home Monday, Dec. 29, 2025.

Vic was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather and a cherished brother, uncle, cousin, coach, mentor and friend. He touched countless lives through his kindness, wisdom and unwavering dedication to young people.

Born Nov. 9, 1954, in Detroit, Vic was raised by his widowed mother, whose love of sports shaped his own passion at an early age. That passion became a life-long calling. After playing basketball in high school and college, Vic devoted his career to education and athletics, serving as a coach, educator, administrator and ultimately the longest-tenured director of athletics for the Detroit Catholic High School League. He took great pride in working with students and student-athletes and made a lasting impact on generations through his leadership, integrity and encouragement.

Vic's personality was larger than life. He had an infectious smile, a gift for knowing exactly what to say and a remarkable ability to make everyone feel seen and valued. He was a trusted problem-solver and peacemaker, often the first person others turned to for thoughtful advice and steady guidance.

Above all, Vic was deeply devoted to his family. In recent years, his greatest joy came from watching — and coaching — his grandsons as they played multiple sports, beautifully blending his love of athletics and family. Through 48 years of marriage, Vic and Linda enjoyed traveling, entertaining and spending time with family and friends.

Vic was predeceased by his parents, Victor and Victoria; brother, Joe; and sister, Eleanor. He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda;



Victor Michaels

brother, Gari; sister, Sharon “Shoo Shoo”; sons, Marc (Lia) and Brad (Stephanie); and treasured grandsons, Victor (11), Evan (9), Drew (7), Jack (5) and Cam (2). He also is survived by many loving in-laws, cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Visitation was held Sunday, Jan. 4, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, St. Clair Shores. He lied in state Monday, Jan. 5, before a funeral Mass at the church. Interment followed at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Catholic High School League, 12 State, Detroit, MI 48226.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.



Norma T. Burnham

Norma Theresa Burnham

Norma Theresa Burnham, 97, passed away peacefully and surrounded by her family Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Norma was born Oct. 28, 1928, in Grosse Pointe Park, to Italian immigrants, Eugene and Alice (nee Arditto) Burnham.

Norma was the beloved wife of the late Richard Roland Burnham. She was the cherished mother of Richard Burnham (Marla), Susan Watz, Joan Rhodes (Robert), Kathleen Dobozy (Thomas) and Mary Cedar. She was the loving grandmother of Robert Cedar, Melissa Heimbaugh (Hayes), Samantha Salazar

(Alexander), Nicole Furukawa, Lindsay Rhodes, Lauren Rhodes, Alexis Rhodes and Jake Dobozy; and the dearest great-grandmother of Leighton Heimbaugh, Maddox Rodriguez, Charlie Salazar and Ford Heimbaugh. Norma also is survived by her sister, Dorothy Bloomhuff. She was predeceased by her sister, Francis Fredal.

Norma will lie in state at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, before a 10:30 a.m. funeral Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

MEMORIAL

Joyce Giffer Doyle

Passed away Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025.

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

‘In Conversation: An Evening with Margaret Atwood’ Jan. 26

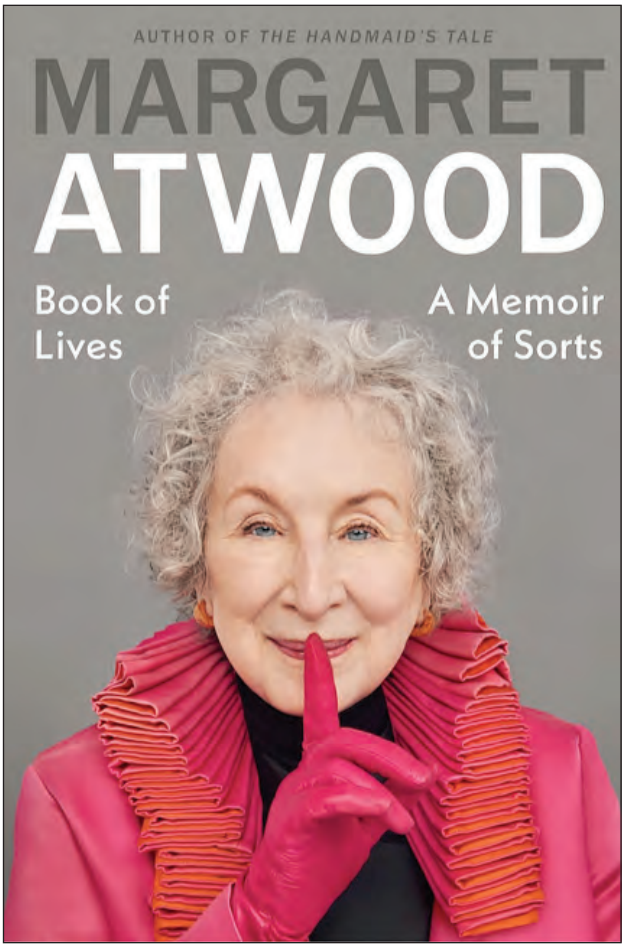
Margaret Atwood will participate in an intimate 75-minute conversation about her storied career at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the Detroit Opera House.

The award-winning author will read a short selection from her best-selling 1985 novel “The Handmaid’s Tale” and describe her career as detailed in her new memoir, “Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts.”

The event, presented in partnership with Detroit Athletic Club’s Literary Club, comes in advance of Detroit Opera’s March 2026 production of “The Handmaid’s Tale,” the opera by Poul Ruders and Paul Bentley that is based on the novel.

Atwood is the author of more than 50 books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Her novels include “Cat’s Eye,” “The Robber Bride,” “Alias Grace,” “The Blind Assassin” and the MaddAddam trilogy. Her 1985 classic “The Handmaid’s Tale” was followed in 2019 by a sequel, “The Testaments,” which was a global No. 1 bestseller and won the Booker Prize.

Atwood has won numerous awards, including the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Imagination in Service to



Society, Franz Kafka Prize, Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, PEN America Lifetime Achievement Award and Dayton Literary Peace Prize. In 2019, she was made a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour for services to literature. She lives in Toronto.

This evening is a moderated conversation only. There will be no book-

signing line or meet-and-greet. Tickets begin at \$49, with an option to purchase “Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts” for an additional \$30. An all-inclusive price of \$99 includes up-front seating, plus a copy of the book.

Tickets are available at the Detroit Opera box office, by calling (313) 237-7464 or online at detroitopera.org.

Worship Service

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6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Southeast Michigan: A prime spot to put down roots

November 2025 housing data has been released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. Harper Woods: Predicting the November market here is a bit like trying to read tea leaves in a snowstorm — there just isn't enough data to see the full picture. Out of 11 closed transactions, two sales were such outliers they threw off the averages like a toddler at a grown-ups' dinner party. Case in point, after removing the outliers, dollar per square foot jumped 15.7 percent, the median sale price slid up 4 percent and the percentage of asking price soared to more than 101 percent! (Apparently, some buyers thought "asking price" was just a suggestion.)

Even with 17 pending sales lined up for November, we might have to wait a few more months before the numbers settle enough to offer a crystal-clear market forecast. Still, if you ignore those wild-card outlier sales, you'll see that more than half of the homes sold for their full asking price or more and the absorption rate is sitting pretty at 22.1 per-

cent — which means Harper Woods is rolling out the welcome mat for homebuyers. And just wait: As the sales of Fraser Square homes start to show up in next year's stats, we could see these numbers get even more jazzed up. Stay tuned — this market might just surprise us yet.

The Grosse Pointes: If you're a numbers devotee hoping for data fireworks, the Grosse Pointes might have left you waiting with your party hat. Sure, closed sales have ticked up 5 percent compared to last year, but the show's not quite headline news. Still, what the market does offer is impressive: an absorption rate topping 30 percent (hello, seller's market!) and a dollar-per-square-foot uptick of about 5 percent.

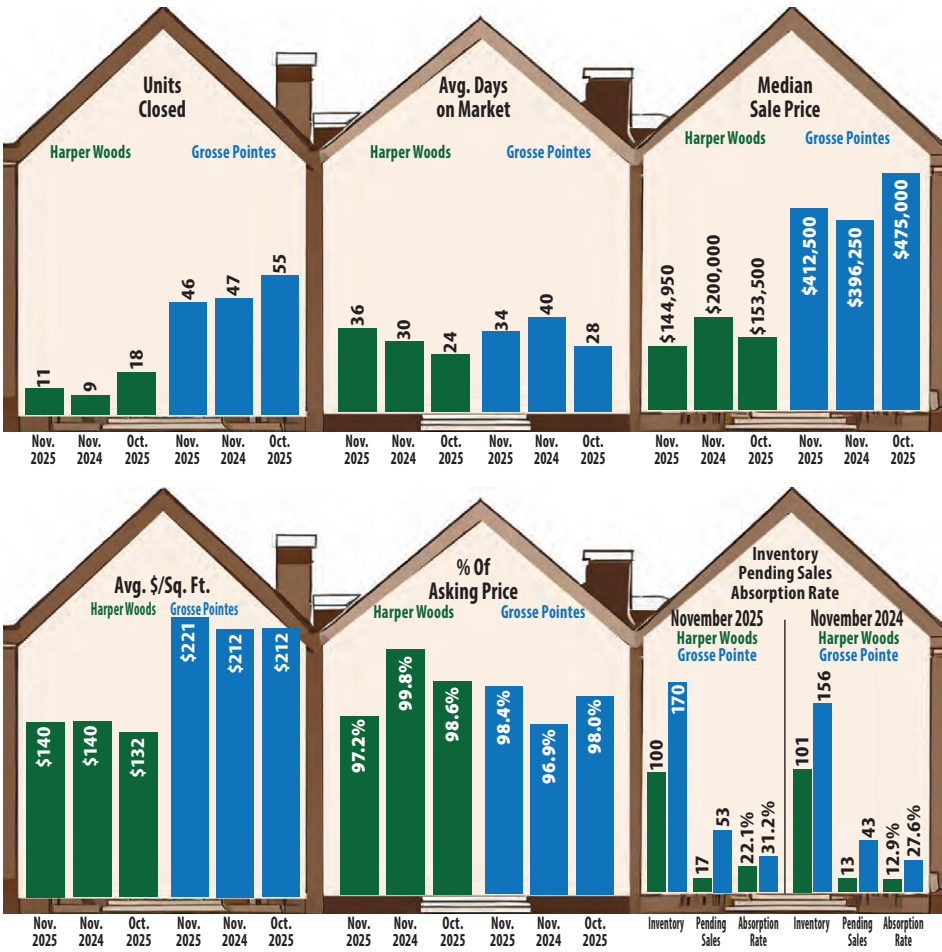
These gains aren't exactly turning the dial to "boom," but who needs pyrotechnics when steady growth means a solid, healthy market? Demand keeps humming along, even as more homes hit the scene, making this market less roller coaster and more smooth ride for now.

Conclusions: For first-time homebuyers, Harper Woods remains a top contender. Think of it as the trusty friend who always brings snacks to the party. Availability and value here could spark some impressive growth in your investment, maybe even enough to fund that dream backyard tiki bar.

As for those planting their flag in a Grosse Pointe home, steady price growth means your investment should age better than a fine Michigan cherry wine. All in all, this part of southeast Michigan is a prime spot to put down roots. Just don't be surprised if those roots come with a little extra appreciation.

And one final word to the wise: To squeeze every drop of value out of buying or selling, always team up with a pro — like the savvy folks at the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. They know their stuff and they might even share a humorous market story while they're at it.

— Information courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors



Notes:

Inventory: The number of homes for sale at the beginning of each month plus the number of homes listed during the month.

Pending sales: The number of accepted offers reported for the month.

Absorption Rate: The division of the number of pending sales in a month by inventory. An absorption rate higher than 18.3 percent is considered a seller's market. An absorption Rate under 15.3 percent is considered a buyer's market.



Green Living Science

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Mark Heppner, left, stands with Natalie Jakub of Green Living Science during the club's Nov. 18 meeting at Ford House. As executive director, Jakub oversees a nonprofit that provides environmental educational and training classes in Detroit. Among the rewarding aspects of her work, she said, are the educational sessions they sponsor with children, teaching them about recycling and waste reduction. The youngsters are encouraged to become student recycling ambassadors in their homes and communities, a grassroots way to help the environment. Green Living Science is a certified Zero Waste Advisor and also works with businesses to help them execute waste-reduction goals.

A local community-service and fellowship club, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes local residents to join its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House.

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

SERIES:

Continued from page 3B

- 24
- ◆ Vaughan Williams's "The Lark Ascending" at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 25
 - ◆ Haydn's "Clock" Symphony at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 25
- The Neighborhood Series features DSO artists including Ingrid Martin,

Robyn Bollinger, Kimberly Kaloyanides Kennedy and Hai-Xin Wu. Guest artists on the series include conductor Jeannette Sorrell and guitarist JJJJ.

The series is made possible by a grant from the William Davidson Foundation. WRCJ 90.9 FM also supports the series.

Subscriptions cost \$81 and are available for purchase at dso.org/neighborhood or by calling (313) 576-5111.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

- 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Mixed Media Abstract Collage Workshop, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31. Cost is \$75.
 - ◆ Jewelry Workshop: Brass + Bead Assemblage, 2:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31. Cost is \$75.

- ◆ Hand Lettering Workshop: Intro to Brush Pens, 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31. Cost is \$75.

The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

- ◆ Grief Support Group, noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10 and April 14, at the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper; and Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 31 and April 28, at the Ewald Library, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Health for Her: The Pelvic Floor, 6 to 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15,

at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. Register at helmlife.org.

- ◆ Women's Retreat: Beyond Resolutions: Cultivating Real Change, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24. Space is limited.
- ◆ Tightwads and Spendthrifts: Navigating the Money Minefield in Real Relationships, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28.
- ◆ Aging with Insight: Finding Local Housing Options for Seniors, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. Register at helmlife.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Ashley and Nicholas Batt, founders of the Bryson and Baker Batt Foundation, speak. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Family Workshop: Paper Marbling, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17. Costs vary.
- ◆ Trivia Night, 6 to 8 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.

Sunrise on Vernier

Sunrise on Vernier, 1850 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts a support group at 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call (313) 642-2000.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets in person at Wayne County Community College District's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods, as well as on Zoom, at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a special land use at 21800 Marter Road (Parcel ID 001 99 0001 000). The property is zoned the CF, Community Facilities District, and is located south of the border of St. Clair Shores, east of Marter Road and west of River Road, and is intersected by the Milk River. The applicant requests to develop a private indoor sport facility, which extends partially into Grosse Pointe Woods from St. Clair Shores.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, or at cityclerk@gpwmil.us up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at (313) 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmil.us.

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at (313) 343-2426 or e-mail: building@gpwmil.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 01/08/26

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100 Women makes first \$10,000 donation

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — In just its second round of giving 100 Women Grosse Pointe reached its goal of making a \$10,000 donation, with the WAVE Project being the beneficiary.

WAVE Project serves people experiencing homelessness and others in need around metro Detroit by operating a mobile shower service, a mobile clothing closet, the Macomb County Warming Shelter and pantries.

100 Women Grosse Pointe was formed by Lori Brophy, Marlene Heitmanis and Judy McGoughlin in 2016, and ran through 2020. Former members Lizza and Christie Scoggin led efforts to reestablish the group over the summer.

Its first meeting, in September, saw 75 members. A donation of \$7,500 was given to The Bryson and Baker Batt Foundation. Started by Farms residents Ashley and Nicholas Batt, it’s named for their first two sons who passed away without ever leaving the NICU.

The foundation provides four different types of care bags primarily to Children’s Hospital of Michigan, Henry Ford St. John Hospital and Corewell Health William Beaumont University in Royal Oak.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of 100 Women Grosse Pointe at their 2025 fourth quarter meeting, where they voted to give \$10,000 to the WAVE Project.

A NICU welcome package includes food delivery gift cards, travel-size personal hygiene products and a swaddling blanket.

A memory box, for parents who lose their children in the NICU, includes a DIY memory kit, a stuffed animal, a candle and a note from the Batts. Sunshine bags include a book parents can read to their baby, fuzzy socks, skin lotion

and snacks.

“It’s such a simple concept, I was enamored by it,” Lizza said at the time of the reboot. “Our goal is 100 women, but if we could get more that would be great.”

Scoggin said the local impact is what led her to join originally.

“I was drawn to it because of how easy it is to make an impact locally,” she said. “We think we can build up to

100 or more.”

As of late December, the group was up to 102 members.

“We’re competitive, so we want to get as many as we can,” Lizza said.

How it works:

- ◆ members gather once a quarter and pledge to donate \$100 per meeting to a non-

profit group,

- ◆ members nominate a charity and three are chosen randomly,

- ◆ representatives of those groups or the member who nominated them give a three-minute pitch,

- ◆ members vote and either write a check to the winning charity that

night or promise to donate on that group’s website within seven days and

- ◆ the winner comes to the next meeting to give a five-minute update on how the money was spent.

“Those who aren’t selected can be nominated again at a future meeting,” Lizza said. “Those who do win are eligible after a year.”

There also are rules winners must follow.

“They aren’t allowed to solicit members for future donations, although we’re free to give them more money,” Lizza said. “They also can’t create, sell or distribute any list of our information, so women who join can be confident in that. If they break the rules, they can never be considered again.”

Some of the nonprofits that received financial support during the first iteration of the group included Kevin’s Song, Motor City Mitten Mission, The Arc of Grosse Pointe Harper Woods and the WAVE Project.

The group next meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Whiskey Six, 646 St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe. See 100womengrossepointe.com for more information.

Renowned singer Marian Anderson performs in DAR Constitution Hall in 1943. Students studying music can apply for a one-time \$5,000 scholarship honoring her legacy through Jan. 31.



COURTESY PHOTO

DAR Marian Anderson Legacy Scholarship accepting applications until Jan. 31

Undergraduate and graduate students studying music can apply for the DAR Marian Anderson Legacy Scholarship through Saturday, Jan. 31. Sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the scholarship provides a one-time \$5,000 award to one student annually who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate study in music.

Marian Anderson was a groundbreaking African American contralto and an inspiration for civil rights.

“This scholarship pays tribute to Marian Anderson’s life and the Daughters of the American Revolution seeks to honor her legacy through aspiring musicians,” said Ginie Sebastian Storage, DAR

president general. “Her legacy lives on in others who aim for excellence in musical studies, are committed to their communities and willing to stand up for what is right.”

Applicants should be accepted or currently enrolled in an accredited university or college in the United States and have a concentration in music in their course of study. Music performance, composition, theory or education are areas in which students may specialize to qualify for the scholarship. They should have a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent GPA on the scale used by the institution.

Applications are available online at dar.org/outreach/education/scholarships.

Applications require references sent through the application system, so students need to request their references ahead of the Jan. 31 application deadline.

In honor of Anderson’s commitment to the community and willingness to share her talent, applicants are asked to write a personal statement describing their humanitarian or volunteer contributions on behalf of their community and/or country.

While this scholarship is not automatically renewed, recipients may reapply for consideration each year for up to four consecutive years.

The scholarship is supported by the Daughters of the American Revolution’s Marian Anderson Legacy Fund. Learn more at dar.org/MarianAnderson.

GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY



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(Lennon and Harper)
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www.gpaas.org



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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

In a pickle over pickleball group

Dear Gabby: Our neighborhood pickleball group has become extremely competitive. People are stretching like Olympians, getting in actual arguments and the tension level has gone nuclear. I joined for exercise, not psychological warfare. Do I have to quit or is there something I can say to stop the craziness? — Sidelined in the Shores

Dear Sidelined: This is tricky. You could always fake a minor but dra-

matic injury. A “tricky rotator cuff” has saved many a social life. Then go looking for a group who is significantly less competitive. It’s extremely difficult to change the vibe of an established sporting group, so find your tribe elsewhere and enjoy!

— Gabby

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



Spouse’s snoring interrupting my sleep

DEAR ANNIE: I I’ve been happily married for 18 years, and for most of that time I’ve slept poorly — but lately it’s become unbearable. My husband falls asleep within minutes and snores loudly and steadily through the night. I lie awake listening, nudging him, turning him onto his side, putting in earplugs, rearranging pillows and counting the hours until morning.

Nothing works for long. By the time the alarm goes off, I’m exhausted and irritable, while he wakes up refreshed and cheerful. I know he’s not doing this on purpose, but I can feel resentment creeping in anyway. I’ve suggested doctors, nasal strips and other remedies, but he brushes them off because *he* sleeps just fine. I don’t want to make this a big-

ger issue than it needs to be, and I really don’t want separate bedrooms; it feels like admitting some kind of failure after all these years. How do couples handle sleep problems like this without hurting each other or the marriage? — Awake and Alone

DEAR AWAKE AND ALONE: Chronic sleep deprivation is not a small

matter, and it’s not petty. The problem here isn’t snoring. It’s that you’re paying the price while your husband shrugs because he isn’t. That’s what needs addressing. Tell him plainly: “I’m not sleeping, and it’s affecting my health and well-being. I need us to treat this as *our* problem.” A loving spouse will hear the urgency. Separate bedrooms are not a marital failure; they’re a practical solution many strong couples use. But if that feels like too big a leap, insist — kindly but firmly — on medical evaluation. Snoring can signal other issues, and ignoring it because one person sleeps fine is not fair.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

You’re not asking for perfection. You’re asking for rest. That’s a reasonable request.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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Left, Emily Matthews as Sophia sharing a laugh with Glenn Close as Grandmother in the 2024 movie “The Summer Book,” directed by Charlie McDowell.

MOVIE REVIEW
“The Summer Book”
2024 - Not Rated
1 hr 35 min
★★★★★

I frequently check the streaming service Kanopy to see what films have been added. When I noticed a film starring Glenn Close, adding it to my queue was a no brainer. I don’t think Ms. Close has ever made a movie that was less than great. The legendary actor has made a career out of challenging roles in films such as “Fatal Attraction,” “Dangerous Liaisons” and “The Wife.” This is definitely up there with the best of them; actually it’s probably the finest performance I’ve seen from her. “The Summer Book” is based on the 1972 best-selling novel of the same title by Tove Jansson. The

screenplay was by Jansson and Robert Jones and the film was directed by Charlie McDowell (“The One I Love,” “Windfall” and “The Discovery”). Hania Rani contributed one of those subtle yet effective scores that beautifully enhances the overall tone of the movie. And the brilliant camera work of Sturia Brandth Grovlen, masterfully captured the breathtaking location—especially the glorious sunrises and sunsets. This is one of those magical films that gently washes over you like waves lapping against a rocky shore. There’s very little action and it’s character and dialogue driven. But that’s okay. We need a healthy dose of films like this to rejuvenate our souls once in a while. “The Summer Book” is a film that makes you a bit jealous of a family’s summer

vacation. How amazing would to be to spend a summer on a rocky island in the middle of nowhere?! A father (Anders Danielson Lie), his daughter Sophia (Emily Matthews) and her Grandmother (Glenn Close), return to their cabin on a remote island off the coast of Finland. As they enter their family cabin, they spot a straw hat hanging on a coatrack. Grandmother quickly snatches it and puts it away. It’s a subtle hint that the wearer (Sophia’s mother) is no longer with us. We learn later that she recently passed away. Almost as soon as they arrive, father sets to work on a project. He’s an artist and is usually to be found at his drawing board, working on a series of illustrations. He seems a little distant and

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

sad, and you feel he’s using his work to help put off dealing with his grief. He doesn’t intentionally ignore his daughter, he’s just totally engrossed in his work. While father toils away at his illustrating, Sophia and Grandmother spend their days exploring the island. The rich flora and fauna are a delight, and the cinematography is almost like something you’d see in a National Geographic TV special. Grandmother admits that she was largely responsible for bringing the Girl Scouts to the country and she proves to be a font of information, much to Sophia’s delight. She also tells amusing tales of her youth, especially the time she spent on the island. There are a couple scenes that I especially enjoyed. One is when Sophia and Grandmother take the rowboat out and visit a neighboring island. They’re greeted by a “No Trespassing” sign which they duly ignore. Then the owners, a young couple and their son, arrive. I was sure that they were going to prove to be annoying outsiders who were on a mission to modernize their island and destroy its natural beauty. I was pleasantly surprised when they proved to be strict conservationists. They invite them into their home for a snack and have a great time together. Another delightful

scene is when one afternoon Sophia and her dad leave the island for the day. Grandmother takes advantage of the situation and has a grand day to herself. She takes a dip in the ocean. Smokes a cigarette. Prances through the forest in the buff. And spends some time lying on her back, gazing at the sky and reminiscing about her youth. It’s a segment that you simply don’t want to end. When Ms. Close makes her first appearance in the film, I was shocked. “She can’t be THAT old,” I said to myself. Well, she isn’t. The makeup artists spent hours to make her appear in her mid-80s. If there’s an Oscar for makeup, the crew involved in this movie certainly deserve it, hands down! But a good deal of kudos also goes to Ms. Close. Her facial features did as much communicating as her voice — which had a perfect Scandinavian accent, I must say. She also nailed the stiff gate of an octogenarian. And her eyes just sparkle with amusement when she tells Sophia about her past. I absolutely love this sweet, gentle movie. It’s one of those timeless tales that could have taken place just about anywhere or any time in history. Everything in it was sheer perfection. It’s a film the whole family can enjoy. As with quite a few of the movies I review, I can’t for the life



of me figure out why it isn’t better known. I think once you’ve seen it, you’ll tell your friends about it.

Streaming for free on Kanopy with your library card and to rent on Apple TV, Fandango, YouTube and other streaming services.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you’re embarrassed to admit you’ve seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren’t any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you’d actually 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.



Grandmother played by Glenn Close.



Sophia (Emily Matthews).

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I don't know about you, but in our house the phone chargers disappear faster and more often than socks from the dryer. My husband mans the charging drawer like a prison guard, but the kids still manage to hijack the cords, never to be seen again.



This year for a stocking

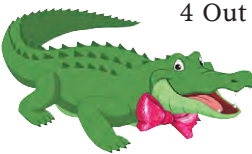
stuffer, I thought a charging brick for each of them might be the answer to our charging drama. I sprung for a fairly expensive one on Amazon, which had about 700 high reviews. It is a brick with retractable

cords (USB A and USB C), as well as slots for more cords, should they be needed. The retractable cords seemed like a great idea to keep things neat. Plus, now the kids have the ability to charge their AirPods, phones, computers and whatever else at the same time — up to four devices simultaneously. The total output is supposedly 120 watts, which is pretty good. When put to use, the kids initially liked the cords — and I think were

just excited to have their own property without having to sneak and hoard community cords. Most of them complained that the length of the retractable cords is not nearly long enough for their liking; they are about 28 inches long. That doesn't bother me much, but it deserves to be mentioned. A few commented that the charging goes much slower when more devices are plugged in, which makes sense. We have only had these for a short time, so I cannot

review the durability accurately at this point. According to most reviewers, the product holds up. However, 5 percent of the reviewers felt it petered out after a few months. At around \$30 each, this is a bigger investment than buying random cords on Amazon, but I'm hoping the kids don't lose them and this is the last cord purchase for a long time. Because they work well so far and are convenient, we are giving this four alligators, with an *

due to the fact we cannot personally verify longevity. Find them on Amazon at [tinyurl.com/4kxcdnum](https://www.amazon.com/tinyurl.com/4kxcdnum). We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com. 4 Out Of 5



Clean eating

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

I'm rolling into 2026 five pounds heavier, sluggish and unfocused, the predictable aftermath of a holiday season powered entirely by sugar, puff pastry and mayonnaise-based decisions. My house became a nonstop snack venue. My holiday drive was fueled by sweet treats, beef and enough dairy to keep the cheese business afloat. I need to get back to where I was in early December if I want to fit into my ski pants over February break. This isn't a New Year's resolution. It's a rescue mission. Clean eating starts now. Count on me to provide you with clean, whole and unprocessed recipes throughout the month. Lentil soup comes to mind when I need a reset. In this case red lentil soup. I like red lentils because they are nutrient-rich, spice adaptable and they cook very fast. This soup has a warm and smokey spiced tomato broth

with carrots and lemon. I used chicken broth in this recipe but if you want to make it vegetarian, use vegetable broth. This would be great with a dollop of greek yogurt on top as well. My family devoured it. It's a nice break from our standby chicken noodle soup. Though that's always a winner, sometimes they welcome the change.

Cheers, Mombeau

Red Lentil Soup

1 tbsp olive oil

4 garlic cloves, minced

1 medium onion, diced

1 large carrot, diced

2 Roma tomatoes, diced

1 tsp smoked paprika

1 tsp cumin

1 tsp turmeric

1 tbsp tomato paste

1 cup red lentils, rinsed

4 cups chicken broth

2 cups water

Juice of ½ lemon

1 tsp salt

1/2 tsp pepper

Heat the olive oil in a soup pot on medium heat. Add in the onion, carrot, garlic and season with salt and pepper. Cook for a few minutes until soft. Next add in the smoked paprika, turmeric and cumin. Stir and let the spices toast, then add in the tomato paste. Keep stirring and saute until the paste has worked its way through the vegetables. Add in the tomatoes, lentils, broth and water. Bring to a boil then turn down to a simmer. Simmer the soup for about 15 to 20 mins. The lentils should be very soft. To finish the soup, add in the juice of one half lemon. Check for seasoning and enjoy.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON



Authenticity

When we buy a bottle of a famed wine, we take it on faith that it's genuine and not a fake. In fact, fake wine is precisely why corks began to be branded with the name of a winery as well as the vintage date. It is also why most reputable wineries still use branded corks. When you order a bottle of wine in a restaurant and the waiter hands you the cork, the main reason is so you can inspect it and see if the brand is the same as the one on the label. If you order a bottle of Chateau Palmer and the cork is blank, for example, that alone is sufficient grounds for rejecting the wine. (Very inexpensive wines often are sold with blank corks that have no brands.) Is wine fraud rampant here? No, it's almost

nonexistent. But it happens elsewhere, and often enough that it has spawned lots of discussion and several books. It often takes the form of poor-quality wine with a falsified label that indicates it's a great wine. And fraudulent wine practices have led to scandals (and, rarely, even deaths). Decades ago, antifreeze was used in some Austrian wine. Another time, some wine in Italy was found to have been adulterated. In both cases, the wines were sold only locally and never made it to the United States. One famed scandal in Burgundy involved a producer bottling wines of two different quality levels in identically labeled bottles. He was caught. Wine scandals take many forms and have existed for hundreds of

years. The assumption by most fraudsters is that only experts can tell a great wine from an impostor. And wine fraud flourishes to this day. There have been numerous books on the subject. The first major book explaining wine fraud was "The Winemasters" by Nicholas Faith (1978), a terrific history of the French wine trade. That was followed by "Wine Scandal" by Fritz Hallgarten (1986), "Wine Snobbery" by Andrew Barr (1988) and "Is This the Wine You Ordered, Sir?" by Christopher Fielden (1989). What's interesting is that all the writers above are European. There are few books on American wine fraud because so little of it exists – or has been uncovered. Over the decades, there have been only a handful of trivial "wine scandals" in this country. Even author Ellen Hawkes, who wrote an unauthorized biography of Ernest and Julio Gallo ("Blood and Wine," 1993) never hinted at wine-making chicanery, even though her book did a lot of veneer-stripping. There are many reasons the California wine industry is so free of taint. One that's not well

known is the cooperative relationship between wineries and the government agency that regulates them, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). TTB gets a lot of barbs from winemakers, but most say they work closely with TTB inspectors and follow the rules. To do otherwise threatens their livelihoods. Licenses to operate are at stake. Moreover, inspectors generally are fair-minded, not the ogres some make them out to be. In Europe, most wine scandals are technical violations of complex regulations that mandate, among other things,



how much fruit may grow in a plot of land or how long a bottle of wine must remain in the cellar before it can be sold. Indeed, for the last several years many European wine regions have been rewriting their wine regulations to address grievances that producers or trade groups say are hamstringing them. Some of the violations are simply

because producers misread the new regulations. By contrast, U.S. wine regulations are far simpler and thus much easier to follow. To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM

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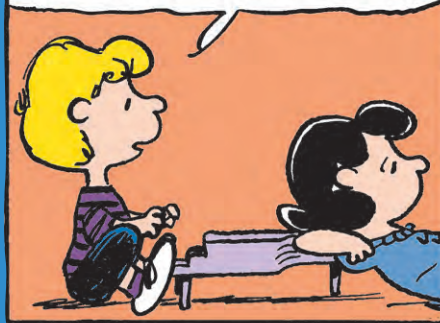
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THURSDAY COMICS

Charles M. Schulz

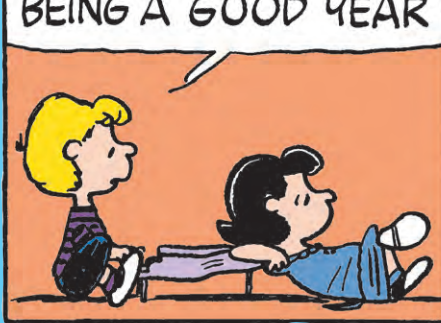
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE A GOOD YEAR



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?



I DON'T KNOW...IT JUST HAS ALL THE APPEARANCES OF BEING A GOOD YEAR



HAVE YOU LOOKED IN THE CORNERS?



CARTOONISTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do you find the jokes online?

Why have I never heard of you?

Can you draw The Peanuts?

TCH! HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEWS, ANDY?

I AVOID LOOKING AT IT, JACK. THAT WAY I DON'T WORRY MYSELF ABOUT THINGS

'MASSIVE HOP SHORTAGE... BEER SUPPLIES SERIOUSLY AFFECTED'

QUICK... HAND ME THAT PAPER!

YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR THIS YEAR WERE TO GET IN SHAPE AND LEARN FRENCH, SO YOU FAILED.

I PLANNED TO GET IT ALL DONE TODAY, BUT YOUR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN ME KILLED MY SPIRIT. NICE GOING.

HOPE Y'ALL HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR... I'M OFF TO FLORIDA!

SHE'S GOT THE IDEA.

JESSICA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE HER! I MEAN, SHE WAS YOU! I MEAN...

TYPICAL PENGUIN EXCUSE!

WHAT IS ALL THIS IN THE FILE CABINET?

MY SNACKS

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, FROM ALMOND JOY TO ZAGNUT

H. BLOG M.D.

"WELL, THAT'S A FIRST... GIVING THE DOCTOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE."

MINNIE SKIRTS

"BUT THAT WAS YESTERDAY I WORE OUT MY WELCOME. I GOT A WHOLE NEW ONE FOR TODAY."

I THINK DAD WAS REALLY PLEASED TO GET THAT HELMET FROM THE BLUE BOMBERS!

I'LL SAY.

MARKING OUT OUR TERRITORY ON THE MOON IS GOING TO BE A HUGE TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGE.

HOUND-NASA

WASN'T IT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO DRINK MORE WATER?

THERE'S WATER IN COKE, ALL RIGHT?



Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS



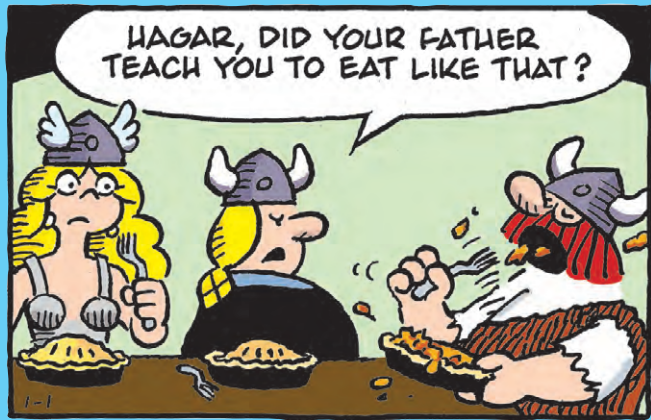
Garfield

Jim Davis



Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren



Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



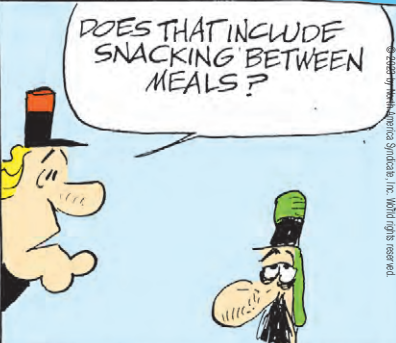
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



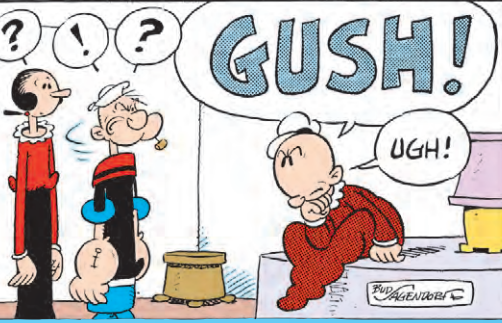
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

1/8 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

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

1/1 Solution

Contract Bridge

THE PERCENTAGE PLAY

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q J 9 2
♥ A 5
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ A 10 5

WEST

♠ 5 3
♥ Q 10 7 6 4
♦ K 6 2
♣ Q 8 3

EAST

♠ A 8 7 4
♥ J 8 2
♦ Q 7
♣ J 7 6 2

SOUTH

♠ K 10 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ A 10 9 5
♣ K 9 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — six of hearts.

Deciding which suit to attack first is often the key to success or failure of a contract.

Take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump. South is immediately faced with the question of whether to win the opening lead, and, if so, in which hand.

Let's say he follows the best course of allowing East to win the opening

heart lead with the jack, and that East returns a heart to dummy's ace.

Declarer must now decide whether to lead a spade to force out the ace, or whether to lead a diamond from dummy in order to take the first of two diamond finesses.

In the actual case, this is a critical decision, since if South attacks spades at trick three, he goes down, while if he attacks diamonds first, he makes the contract. Once West's king of diamonds is dislodged, his hearts are no longer a factor, and South finishes with 10 tricks.

It is easy to prove that playing a diamond at trick three is much better than playing a spade. The only time the spade play wins is when West has the ace of spades and neither diamond honor. As opposed to that, attacking diamonds first wins whenever West's only entry is a diamond honor — and there are two ways he can hold a diamond honor as opposed to only one way he can hold a spade honor. The odds are thus 2-to-1 in favor of attacking diamonds initially rather than spades.

Of course, if West started with the ace of spades and one of the diamond honors, as well as five hearts, no line of play will succeed.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions from 8 a.m. to 12 noon EST today (5 a.m. to 9 a.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from LEO into VIRGO.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 8, 2026:

It's a time of new beginnings and major changes. You're imaginative, diligent, single-minded and motivated. You thrive in the arts or scientific pursuits. This is a year of new beginnings and major changes in your life. Take initiative and define your goals. Prepare for leadership.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Tread carefully at work today or with any task related to helping someone else, or when dealing with pets, because communications are confusing. This is a poor day to make a decision related to your health. In fact, postpone any important decisions until tomorrow. Tonight: Get organized.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
This week romance gets a lovely boost, except for today. Today self-doubt, feelings of insecurity and genuine confusion might cloud important issues. Don't make an important decision that affects your kids or a romantic partner. You will have more clarity tomorrow. Tonight: Be observant.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
This is a poor day to ask for permission or approval from authority figures. No doubt their response will be, "Talk to the hand." Not only is your confidence weak today, you might not have all the facts. Confusion and even deception are at play. Keep a low profile. Tonight: Relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Steer clear of controversial subjects today, because they will go south in a New York minute. Judgmental attitudes and a lack of emotional flexibility will make cooperation with others difficult. Things look worse than they really are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Don't make important financial decisions today. This is also a poor day to shop, because confusion, deceit and indecision are in the picture. In addition to which, you might feel depressed, which will affect your take on things. Wait until tomorrow! Tonight: Protect your assets.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Play your cards close to your bosom today. This is not the day to push boundaries or take a chance. For starters, someone might be fast and loose with the truth. How do you know? In addition to which, negativity pervades everything. Sit this one out. Tonight: Go gently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Fortunately, you have a strong focus on home and family now, which is why you are best off hiding at home if you can. Issues related to your work and your health are subject to confusion and misrepresentation. You also might put the worst spin on things. Tonight: Watch from the sidelines.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Friends or members of a group might disappoint you today. This is par for the course, because conversations are confusing, even depressing. This could relate to sports, social outings or something to do with your kids. Postpone whatever you can until tomorrow, which is a better day. Tonight: Listen carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Be aware that you're high-viz, which means people notice you today. Try to be conservative, because if you make pronouncements from on high, you might regret it. Emotional confusion, even deceit, and certainly judgmental attitudes are in the air. Go gently. Tonight: Be careful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Avoid discussions about politics, religion or racial issues today. They will be pointless and possibly unpleasant. Nothing effective will be accomplished. Someone might stretch the truth or make judgmental allegations. Steer clear of this. Tomorrow is a better day! Tonight: Study.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Postpone financial decisions about inheritances, shared property, insurance issues and debt until tomorrow, because today there's too much confusion. It's hard to know what's real. You might even be deceived. Tonight: Check the facts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Today you might feel judged by someone. This might be the case, or not. What is important is how you feel. The truth of the matter is that today has an element of deceit and confusion, plus an air of depression. (Yikes.) Tomorrow is definitely going to be a better day. Tonight: Listen.

BORN TODAY
Singer, actor David Bowie (1947), singer, actor Elvis Presley (1935), singer Shirley Bassey (1937).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 8, 2026

ACROSS

- Dance version of a song, say
- Vessel for frying
- Uses a spatula while frying
- Nice smell
- Historic period
- Goosebump-inducing
- Italian fashion capital
- Modern believers in many gods
- Scratching post user (Note the last 3 letters of this answer + ...)
- "Ancient grain" that's actually a seed (... the first 6 letters of this answer)
- Part of a lowercase J "___ that special?"
- Treat rudely via phone (Last 3 letters + ...)
- Canadian \$2 coin (... first 4 letters)
- ___ vera jelly
- Make more lean
- Sphere
- Web destination
- Laughs extra-hard
- "Moby-Dick" antihero
- Peg in a golf bag
- Great delight
- Toy that rides the wind
- Don't spoil it! (Last 4 letters + ...)
- Having drunk enough (... first 2 letters)
- Drug cop
- ___ after another
- From California to New York, say
- Horn in a rack
- Squad with a spiel (Last 5 letters + ...)
- Slowly undermine (... first 2 letters)
- Now, in Spanish
- Name hidden in "A Star Is Born"
- What Type 2 hair has
- Sophia Wilson's American soccer grp.
- Rx item
- Exhausted

DOWN

- Building's accessibility feature
- Lake that sounds like 16-Across
- Shed some skin
- Big Apple?
- 1980 Olivia Newton-John movie
- Write
- Surface

Osaka of tennis

- "Don't be scared!"
- Smoothly, musically
- Tehran's country
- Unit at a pub
- Get-together, for short
- Rigatoni
- Irish coffee
- One-up
- Big old fusses
- Too much speed
- Totally unfamiliar
- "Duly ___"
- "Oh, wow!"
- Under, poetically
- Very well pitched
- Beyond annoyed
- Receded
- Pinkberry dessert, for short
- Little kid
- Letters before an alias
- Chews on
- Summer worker, perhaps
- What makes you you
- Gets more of a magazine
- Irish coffee addition
- Jacob's twin
- Massage parlor sounds
- Word before "down" or "dance"
- Be bold
- Snare, or a music genre
- Zero, in tennis
- Biblical paradise
- Chillax
- Not so hot, in slang

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/1 Solution

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www.upuzzles.com

1/8

Jumping Ship by Stella Zawistowski

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SPORTS



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2D I SAY — SPORTS EDITION | 3D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

The D Zone hoops showcase returns to South Feb. 7

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After a successful first event in Grosse Pointe in 2025, The D Zone once again is bringing some of the best boys varsity basketball talent from around Michigan to the Pointes for a day packed with hoops action.

The D Zone 2026 Playoff Tune-Up takes place Saturday, Feb. 7, at Grosse Pointe South, with seven games throughout the day, including games featuring Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North.

“It’s such a nice venue and so historic,” Jeff Corrion of The D Zone said about South. “We’re definitely paying homage to the history of Grosse Pointe by having both teams in the event. ... It’s nice to bring it back with both North and South playing in it again and also East English Village Prep, keeping things really focused on the local teams this year.”

East English Village

Prep will play in the first matchup of the day at 11 a.m., against Redford Thurston. Other games include Maple City Glen Lake taking on Dearborn Advanced Technology Academy, Birmingham Seahold facing off against Linden, Woodhaven against Livonia Stevenson and North Farmington going up against Ann Arbor Skyline. Matchups and teams are subject to change before the day of the showcase.

The Norsemen and Blue Devils will be featured in the final two games to end the day. North is matched up against Eisenhower and South will close the event by taking on Detroit University Prep.

The D Zone, a website and social media platform that covers high school football and basketball around Michigan, hosts basketball events and showcases throughout the year. The Playoff Tune-Up at South presents a chance for teams to play games outside of

their leagues or conferences late in the season and become more prepared for what they might eventually face in the state playoffs.

It was a welcome opportunity for many teams that played in last year’s Playoff Tune-Up at South and it is one of the main reasons the showcase is back for another year.

“We had a couple of really good teams who ended up going on playoff runs last year,” Corrion said. “Teams know what they might be facing in districts, but a couple of coaches who made it to regionals said the teams they played (in the showcase) were some that they expected to see in regionals and it paid dividends for them. ... It’s an opportunity for teams to see opponents from outside of their district and something they might see in the regionals or even beyond in the playoffs.”

For more information, visit basketball.thedzone.com/tournaments.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Kooper Richards brings the ball up the court for South in last year’s The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up Showcase game against River Rouge. The Blue Devils host Detroit University Prep in this year’s edition of the showcase Feb. 7.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Marchal does it all for Knights year-round

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When it comes to impact players, Griffin Marchal has become perhaps the most reliable athlete at University Liggett School. Whether it is helping the Knights clinch a tennis state championship, being part of the top line for Liggett’s highly ranked boys varsity hockey team or dicing up opposing defenses on the lacrosse field, Marchal is a key part in the Knights’ success wherever he goes.

The school year is not even close to being over, but Marchal’s senior year already has been one for the history books. He and teammate Niko Cooksey won the Division 4 No. 1 doubles boys tennis state championship in the fall while helping Liggett win the Division 4 state title as a team.

“Every single year we shoot for a state championship, so it was awesome to get one in my final year and go out on top,” Marchal said. “... On the court, Niko and I like to keep it loose and have a lot of fun out there, but when it came



PHOTO BY MADELINE HEXTER

Griffin Marchal lines up at the faceoff dot for University Liggett boys hockey.

to the big matches, we were able to lock in and I think that helped a lot.”

Following a memorable fall that brought state titles and All-State honors on the tennis court, Marchal now is fully focused on the hockey season. It has been a good one so far for the Knights, with the team sitting at 14-2 as the calendar flips to 2026.

Marchal has played a big part in that success. He currently is second on the team in points with 41, including 18 goals and 23 assists,

ent — elusive and shifty, able to make plays most kids couldn’t,” Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said. “Over the last few seasons, he’s taken his game to an entirely different level. He’s not just a goal scorer; he’s become a playmaker and, on top of that, one of our most reliable defensive forwards. From killing penalties to owning the defensive zone, he does all the little things that win hockey games. ... Off the ice, he’s grown just as much. He’s become a leader in our room, a fantastic student and one of the most competitive players I’ve ever coached.”

See *ATHLETE*, page 2D

Grosse Pointe News



Griffin Marchal

School: University Liggett
Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Ray Laethem Buick GMC

It seems to be going well, with the impact he has made as a senior leader seemingly being just as impactful as his talent on the ice.

“He came in as a natural athlete with raw offensive tal-

through 16 games, helping Liggett maintain a winning streak that began before Thanksgiving.

“It’s a lot of fun in the locker room,” Marchal said. “... Our coach and captains keep emphasizing to keep a level head and we just want to stay focused on the next game and keep it rolling throughout the season.”

Marchal is one of the leaders on the stat sheet, but he feels his most important growth as a leader has been in the locker room. Last year’s Liggett hockey team included plenty of seniors he looked up to, but now it is time for Marchal to step up and be a strong veteran presence in the locker room.

ent — elusive and shifty, able to make plays most kids couldn’t,” Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said. “Over the last few seasons, he’s taken his game to an entirely different level. He’s not just a goal scorer; he’s become a playmaker and, on top of that, one of our most reliable defensive forwards. From killing penalties to owning the defensive zone, he does all the little things that win hockey games. ... Off the ice, he’s grown just as much. He’s become a leader in our room, a fantastic student and one of the most competitive players I’ve ever coached.”

See *ATHLETE*, page 2D



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2D | SPORTS

I SAY— SPORTS EDITION By Mike Adzima

Pistons, Red Wings here to save the day after Lions’ disappointment

As of Sunday, Jan. 4, the football season is officially over. At least, it is for the Detroit Lions. This was not the season we had hoped for when it comes to the Lions. The standard had changed the past few years to where we expected to see the Lions in the playoffs this year, but instead we’ve been stuck in the all too familiar “same old Lions” position of being on the outside of the postseason looking in.

Even with the football season being over in early January, it does not need to be a cold, joyless winter without much to cheer for in Detroit. The Detroit Red Wings and Pistons are here to save the day.

Because the NFL has a monopoly on the sports calendar and our atten-



tion as fans for the fall and into winter, the Lions have been the main topic of conversation for months. However, while much of the focus has been on the Lions, the Pistons and Red Wings both have been experiencing some of their best seasons in years. With the Lions not in the playoffs and the Red Wings and Pistons looking like two of the best teams in their respective sports, 2026 is starting to feel more like 2006.

At the time of this writing, the Pistons are 27-9 and are at the top of

the Eastern Conference after just beating the New York Knicks in front of a national streaming audience on Peacock. Former first-overall pick Cade Cunningham has blossomed into the superstar the Pistons hoped he could become. With the playoff experience the young core of this team received last year by pushing the Knicks to an exciting six-game series in the first round, it is not crazy to think a deeper playoff run could be in the cards for the Pistons later this season.

The Pistons are firing on all cylinders. It is starting to feel like the culmination of a full rebuild for a franchise that set an NBA record for losing 28 consecutive games just two seasons ago. The Lions may have been a disappointment this year, but the Pistons

are anything but that. There still is a little more than half of the regular season remaining, but it does feel like “Deee-troit Basketball” is back.

The Red Wings spent much of the holiday season sitting pretty in first place in the NHL’s Atlantic Division. They just returned to first place after a win on the road over the Ottawa Senators Monday, Jan. 5, a victory that was much-needed after back-to-back losses to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first games of 2026.

As a lifelong, die-hard Red Wings fan, I would give nearly anything for the nearly decade-long playoff drought to be over and I’m becoming more confident that this year could be the end. Stars like Alex DeBrincat, Dylan Larkin and Lucas Raymond have been performing

the way the core of this team should. General Manager Steve Yzerman made the trade for DeBrincat in 2023, to bring a star with offensive firepower to the team, and he has been exactly that with 22 goals this season, currently landing him in the top 10 in the entire NHL.

Defensively, Moritz Seider should be a candidate for the Norris Trophy as the league’s best defenseman at the end of the season. He currently is fourth on the Red Wings in points with 34, but his impact off the stat sheet is what really matters. Anyone who watches a game can see the impact Seider has defensively whenever he is on the ice. He is the anchor and leader of this team on the blue line.

Perhaps most impressively, the Red Wings have gotten major con-

tributions from some of the rising young stars in the franchise. For years, it felt like we were listening to the team leadership telling us to “wait for the young guys” to be ready, as it became frustrating to see the Red Wings missing out on the playoffs year after year. Now, players like Simon Edvinsson, Emmitt Finnie and Axel Sandin-Pellikka have stepped up to provide some much-needed youthful depth in the lineup.

Sure, it is going to be hard sitting back and watching the NFL playoffs over the next few weeks without getting to cheer for the Lions. However, it is time to give the Pistons and Red Wings the attention they deserve, as they should give us plenty to root for throughout the winter and, hopefully, well into the spring.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Griffin Marchal makes a pass for University Liggett boys lacrosse in a game last season against Royal Oak.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

There are plenty of games left in the regular season, but Marchal and the Knights have things lined up for a successful season so far. It is no coincidence that Liggett’s three leading scorers are the three players who make up the top forward line, including Marchal, Nick Gould and Luke Slanec.

Marchal and his linemates have become as close as teammates can get over the years. They share the ice in the winter and the lacrosse field in the spring, which has resulted in excellent chemistry, as well as knowing exactly where each of them is going to be and what they are going to do in any situation.

“I’ve played with a lot of guys on the team for a long time, especially my

two linemates, Luke and Nick,” Marchal said. “It’s pretty awesome how we get to see each other all day at school and then go to the rink after. It helps us become really close as a group. With my line specifically, we all play pretty unselfishly and I think that helps contribute to our success and makes the chemistry really great.”

The best part of Marchal being a talented multi-sport athlete,

‘Off the ice, he’s grown just as much. He’s become a leader in our room, a fantastic student and one of the most competitive players I’ve ever coached..’

COLIN SMITH , LIGGETT BOYS HOCKEY HEAD COACH ON GRIFFIN MARCHAL

besides the accolades and championships, is it gives him more opportunities to play alongside his teammates, who have become some of his best friends. Marchal hopes both the hockey and lacrosse seasons will end with more trophies

added to his career resume at Liggett.

Marchal hopes to finish the winter and spring continuing to grow as an athlete and leader with the teammates and coaches who have been with him throughout his journey.

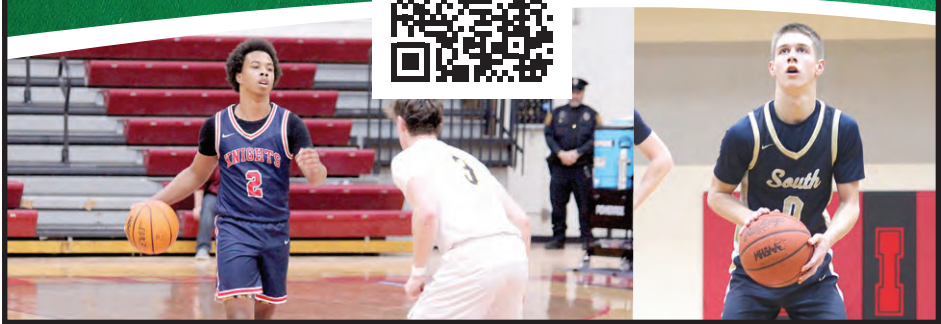
“It’s great to continue to bond with a lot of these guys through both sports,” he said. “The chemistry we have together and the way we’ve gotten so close not only helps in the locker room, but it really shows on the field too.”



The winter sports season is heating up. If you’re looking for a place to keep up with all the action, look no further than @GPNewssports on Instagram.

Our page is dedicated to providing fans around the Pointes and beyond with the latest news and features surrounding Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett sports.

Best of all, you can be part of the action too! Send your best sports photos and moments to our DMs for a chance to be featured on our page and in the sports section of the Grosse Pointe News. Follow us today!



Grosse Pointe News

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grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

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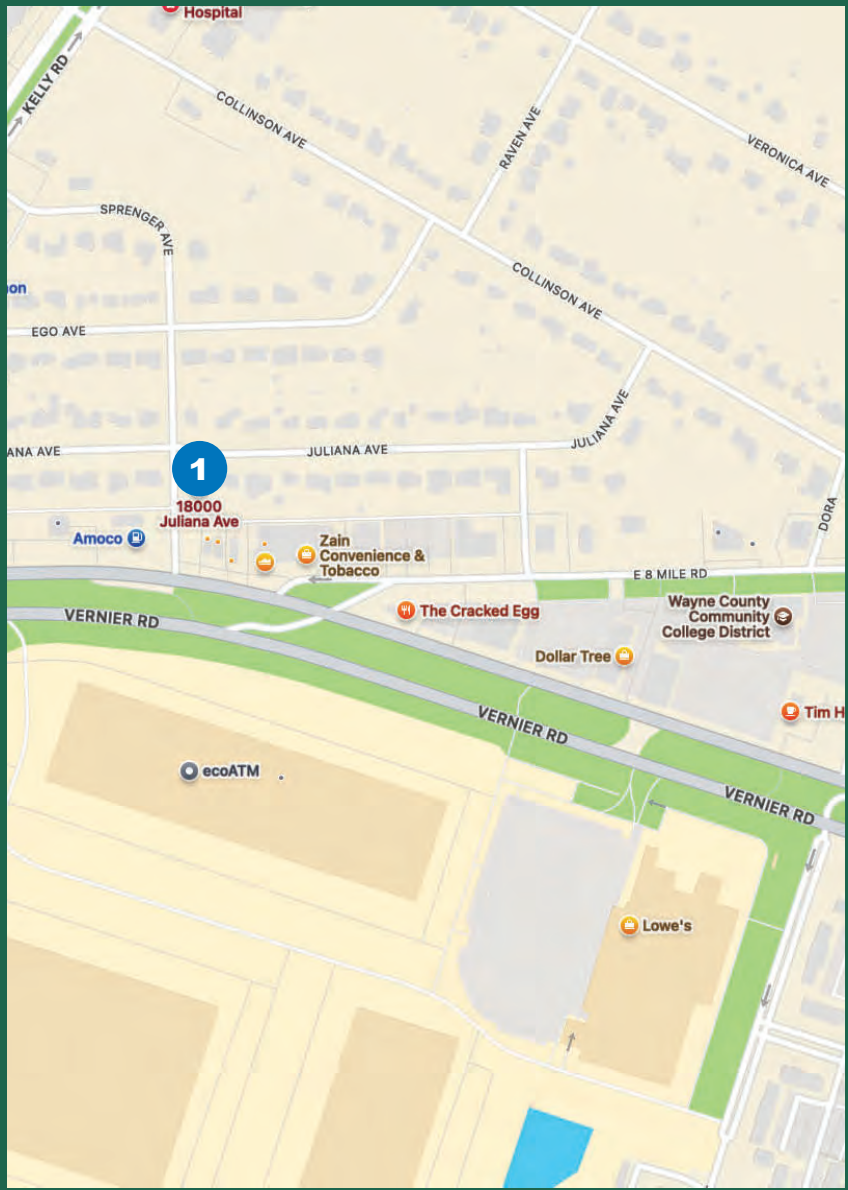
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Grosse Pointe News

Yard & Estate Sale Map



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1. 18000 Juliana, Eastpointe

 = ESTATE SALE  = YARD SALE See Classifieds for more details

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4D | SPORTS

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

SOUTH SOFTBALL CLINIC

Grosse Pointe South softball coaches and players will host their 2026 Softball Clinic Saturday, March 14, in the main gym at South. The clinic is open to athletes from kindergarten through 8th grade and will focus on fundamentals such as basic throwing, fielding and hitting techniques. The clinic costs \$75 and payment can be made in cash, by check or Venmo. For more information, contact coach Bill Fleming at Gpsouthsoftball@gmail.com.



GROSSE POINTE SOUTH
2026 SOFTBALL CLINIC

Saturday, March 14th
9:00am – 12:00pm

- Open to grades K-8 (register early the clinic always sells out)
 - Cost is \$75 – payment can be in cash, checks made out to “Grosse Pointe South Softball” or Venmo, @southsoftball23 (all proceeds benefit South softball). Please mail cash or checks (along with the registration form) to Bill Fleming, 568 Lakeland, Grosse Pointe, 48230. For Venmo payments the registration form can be emailed to gpsouthsoftball@gmail.com.
 - Instructors will be the Grosse Pointe South Softball coaching staff and players.
 - The focus of instruction will be on basic throwing techniques, basic fielding techniques, and hitting fundamentals
- Advanced players will be placed in one group and taught advanced skills. Please note on your registration form if you would like your daughter placed in this group (6th-8th grade only)
- If you have any questions, please email Varsity Softball Head Coach Bill Fleming at gpsouthsoftball@gmail.com

Will be held in the Main Gym at Grosse Pointe South High School
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms

HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION 2026

Hall Of Fame Induction Honoring:

The 2001 Division 1 State Championship Team,
Ed Wernet* ‘33 & Thomas Temrowski ‘79
*posthumous induction

MC for the evening : Ryan Ermanni ‘97

Friday, January 23, 2026
Assumption Cultural Center
21800 Marter Road
St. Clair Shores, MI

Tickets \$85 (Dinner & Open Bar)
\$600 Buys a Table for 8!
12 and under \$40
2 and under free
Doors & Bar Open at 6:15 pm
Dinner 7 pm
Induction 8 pm



SOUTH BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Grosse Pointe South baseball will host its 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Friday, Jan. 23, at the Assumption Cultural Center in St. Clair Shores. The 2026 honorees include Ed Wernet, Tom Temrowski and the entire 2001 Division 1 state championship team in honor of its 25th anniversary. The evening will be hosted by Fox 2’s Ryan Ermanni. Tickets are \$85 and include dinner and an open bar. For more information, contact Southdugoutclubpresident@gmail.com.



NORTH
WRESTLING

Grosse Pointe North JV wrestler Berkley Samyn reigned supreme as the 113lb champion at the JV Fight for the Freight in St. Clair last Friday, Jan. 2.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
GROSSE POINTE NORTH
ATHLETICS

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Expires February 28, 2026

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