

Rec plan dawdling along

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Whoever coined the phrase about everything starting at the beginning must have belonged to a recreation commission.

Members of the Park commission did one better during a visioning workshop Jan. 20, about planning the future of the municipal recreation system.

A consultant, OHM Advisors, guiding the session, dug at least 30 years into the past by petitioning commissioners why they joined the volunteer group — Commissioner Larry Haggart signed on in 1996 — and followed with questions that members already asked and answered during prior meetings.

“Discussions began almost 18 months ago,” Commissioner Howard Bouton said. “We have now had three presentations from OHM. All left the commission unsure what the process will be and how we can help.”

Last week’s session, held virtually via Zoom during the dinner hour, wasn’t the public forum some commissioners expected. Instead, engagement was question-and-answer style between commissioners and Alex Hritcu, OHM senior planner.

“The purpose of today’s session is to capture the perspective of the recreation commission, your experience, priorities and values, to help shape the vision and near-long-term direction of the park system,” Hritcu told every-

one.

He thereafter ushered participants through a 13-part questionnaire.

Questions asked why they joined the commission, their goals for the recreation system, its strengths and weaknesses and things needing to be improved in both the near and long terms.

Some questions were multiple choice. Answers appeared as options and concerned the condition of playground equipment at the city’s two lakeside parks, Patterson and Windmill Pointe.

“We have a (swimming) pool in dire need of maintenance,” Commission Secretary James Ceuninck said to Hritcu. “That is not an option on here. We had a brand-new playground installed last year (at Windmill). We’ve been working on the other playground (at Patterson). I don’t know why we would include playground modernization or replacement in this selection here.”

Haggart said he completed the questionnaire before the session began.

“Today we held a meeting that could have been handled in an online survey,” Bouton said afterward. “That was not what I was expecting. While I share the assumption that a process should start somewhere, this is not the start.”

Commission members have been asking recreation administrators for two years for a consolidated inventory of park system assets and amenities. At Patterson Park, the gazebo has been in disrepair for years, the

boardwalk needs attention and thistle is taking over the grounds.

“Do we have the maintenance list done so we can actually answer this based on the findings you have?” Ceuninck asked Hritcu. “I feel like I’m answering this question in the dark because I don’t have that information, other than my gut feeling with my familiarity of the park.”

“These are just initial assessments we’re getting from the recreation commission that allow us to drill down further in public engagement,” Hritcu answered. “We want to get your unbiased thoughts now of what you think is important as a group so we can bring back the aggregate of the recreation commission as a whole.”

Actual public engagement sessions are to be part of the process at locations and dates yet unscheduled.

Upon being appointed city council liaison to the commission in late 2023, Councilman Tom Caulfield in early 2024 asked administrators to compile a spreadsheet listing park department assets, their condition, relative value to the system and need of maintenance.

“It would be a living document,” Caulfield said. “It could be updated as we went along. But it hasn’t been done.”

Rather than doing it in house, the task became the province of OHM and its \$30,000 contract to guide the city’s five-year parks and recreation outlook, or asset management plan.

Caulfield is no longer liaison. Mayor Michele Hodges replaced him this year with Councilman Patrick Gleason, a former recreation commissioner elected to council in November.

Gleason, during the Zoom meeting, addressed communication shortcomings in the recreation planning process.

“One of the questions you asked us was what kind of feedback we’ve gotten from the community about what they feel was most important,” Gleason told Hritcu. “It’s already been shared in different ways. But, for me, the biggest takeaway is people are just happy for an update from us. They want to know where we’re at and what they can do to provide their insights as well.”

Chairman Michael Hindelang told Hritcu, “Alex, as you’re hearing from the commissioners here, everyone’s excited to see what initial materials you have and want to make sure we have as much information available as possible as we try to finalize some of these things. As things get ready, everyone would appreciate seeing whatever is available. Keep that in mind.”

“We’re going to get you guys the aggregate responses of the visioning session and look to have the existing conditions report very soon,” Hritcu said. “You’re going to have a couple things coming quite soon to look over.”

“If this is to be a purely administrative process, I will be disappointed,” Bouton said afterward. “I remain hopeful that there can sometime be some substantial input from the recreation commission.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Veronica Cashion receives her badge from her husband, Jim, a 39-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department.

Officers promoted

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — As the Farms public safety department continues its recent trend of numerous new hires and promotions to fill positions left by retirements, two more officers were promoted to supervisory ranks during the city’s council meeting Monday, Jan. 12.

Veronica Cashion was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant, with William Madsen then being promoted from a PSO to sergeant.

“We are so very, very proud of all the men and women of our public safety department who go above and beyond every day,” Mayor John Gillooly said. “... It’s absolutely amazing what they respond to on a weekly

basis, how they not only help us, but help residents of nearby communities, so we are indeed grateful.”

Cashion joined the Farms department in 2012, after previously working for both the Detroit and Harper Woods police departments; however, she was forced to leave the department in 2017, after being hit by a car while off duty and left with significant injuries.

The end of 2018 saw her return to the department as a dispatcher, before being sworn back in as an officer in 2021. Cashion was promoted to sergeant in March 2024.

“Since that time, she has attended fire command schools, worked as an

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CANCELS:

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Saturday, May 23, with an intentional focus on the true meaning of Memorial Day, which is to honor military members who died while serving in the U.S Armed Forces.

“I think a lot of times it’s been forgotten what the purpose of Memorial Day is, since it does signify the start of summer as well,” Murphy said.

His vision is to begin the morning with meaningful observance and acknowledgment — perhaps with veteran organizations and a flag ceremony — as well as peaceful programming like yoga or tai chi.

The afternoon is

intended to hold a plethora of family-friendly activities yet to be announced, before the event continues into the evening and may culminate in a band performance, marina parade of decorated boats and, ultimately, a laser light show once the sun sets.

“It’s kind of an homage to veteran-friendly experiences, given that it’s Memorial Day,” Murphy explained, “so being a veteran-friendly, pet-friendly, eco-friendly, neighbor-friendly way to have a celebration in the spirit of fireworks and maybe even cooler than fireworks.”

The laser light show only will be possible if the department successfully raises funds through sponsorships.

Those interested in becoming a corporate sponsor should reach out to parks@grossepointecity.org.

The event presently is intended to be free for residents this year.

“We want to make sure we plan the logistics and the layout of it so everybody — participants, neighbors, just regular park goers — can coexist comfortably,” Murphy also acknowledged. “I don’t want it to be necessarily something that overtakes the park and if you were planning on enjoying the park that weekend, I don’t want you to be pushed away. I want it to be something where people can coexist and still have a good time.”

Winterfest became a necessary casualty, given the city does not have the financial bandwidth to hold both events. Attendance records in recent years also have shown declining interest in the cold-weather event.

“That doesn’t mean we won’t bring back some sort of iteration in its place at some point,” Murphy said.

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Woods sendoff for Schulte

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Around 50 people showed up Thursday, Jan. 22, for a retirement party for Frank Schulte, who retired as city manager earlier this month after more than four decades in municipal government.

“Grosse Pointe Woods has been like my second home,” he said. “My colleagues have been an extended family and I have so many positive memories of both the people and the projects we worked on.”

A sign on the food table read “Frank’s Favorites” and included pizza, salad and goodie bags of shelled peanuts, peanut M&Ms and chewing gum. The bags also were scattered around a dozen tables,



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, former Grosse Pointe Woods City Manager Bruce Smith, newly retired Woods City Manager Frank Schulte and current Woods City Manager Sue Como, the first woman to be named city manager in the Woods.

each of which contained a picture of Schulte at city events and with family.

Attendees included city staff, friends, former colleagues and elected officials from around the Pointes. Sen. Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores, also presented Schulte with a proclamation thanking him for his years of service.

Schulte joked he’s been getting up at 8 a.m. each day in retirement.

“There might be a few 9:30s in there, but 8 is a lot

better than 5,” he said.

Schulte was with the Woods 10 years, including the last four as city administrator.

He started working for the City of Grosse Pointe in 1980.

“I started off part time collecting trash,” he told the Grosse Pointe News when he announced his retirement in October. “I worked on water mains, snow removal, code enforcement. I pretty much did it all.”

He eventually became a

supervisor before joining the Woods as director of public services in 2015.

“I never thought I’d end up running a city, but doors kept opening,” Schulte said. “Being in the Woods has been the best 10 years of my life.”

Schulte and his wife of 38 years, Betsy, intend to keep their house in the Farms, but also travel extensively. That includes visiting a daughter and two grandchildren in Chicago and a son and grandchild in California.

Woods Winterfest is Saturday

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The city is getting into the spirit of the upcoming Winter Games with an Olympics-themed Winterfest noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at Gesquiere Park.

Offerings will include crafts, pony rides, a petting zoo, live DJ and photo booth.

Heated tents will be available to warm up and ice skating will be available depending on the weather.

Inflatables and games will include hoverball archery, basketball hoops and slapshot hockey. New this year will be the Battle Light Dome Arena.

“Two players go head-to-head tapping lights on a wall when they light up,” said Owen Gafa, director of parks and recreation.

Food trucks from

Gambino’s Pizza, Stella’s Burgers and The Little Donut Factory will be on hand. Crafts will be in the Cook Schoolhouse.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation, in conjunction with the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, will hold a raffle to raise money for a new patrol vehicle outfitted for Arcos, the public safety department’s new K-9 officer.

It will include a “hot-and-pop” system that monitors the temperature inside the vehicle and automatically lowers its windows to equalize the internal temperature. It also allows the handler to release the dog from the vehicle via remote control. Cost is estimated at about \$100,000.

Tickets will be one for \$5, three for \$10 and seven for \$20.

Foundation President

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OFFICERS:

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assistant shift commander, field training unit supervisor and assumed control of our dispatch crew,” Public Safety Director John Hutchins said. “... We congratulate Lt. Cashion for a job well done.”

Madsen joined the Farms department in 2021, at 20 years old and with prior experience as a firefighter for the South Lyon Fire Department.

Throughout the last five years, he has served as a

productive member, Hutchins said, of both shifts and the traffic unit, along with overseeing the administration of vehicle impounds and, most recently, prisoner processing.

“His big smile, consistently positive attitude and willingness to step up in the performance of his duties, all contribute to his place here this evening,” Hutchins said.

The department promotions come following the retirement earlier this month of Lt. Matt Hurner.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

— Laurel Kraus William Madsen’s wife, Sarah, pins his badge.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, FEB. 2

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park TIFA meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Pension Board meeting, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Retiree Health Care Trust Fund meeting, 6:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Strategic Plan Team meeting, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

SHELTER:

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cally reduced the number of stray animals requiring transfer to an animal shelter by recently refining policies within their police response — namely, having officers take a proactive approach by first attempting to find the animal’s owner via new chip readers, advertising and even knocking on doors.

“The old practice of picking up every single dog without being proactive at all and just taking it straight to GPAAS, that’s how we ended up with those numbers up where they were at,” Police Chief James Burke said.

The city has been without a contract with an animal shelter since July, when it declined to continue with GPAAS; however, Burke emphasized the difference between animal control services and the facility where strays are sent.

“Corinne helped us out tremendously, but the police officers have been

primary animal control (since) I’ve worked here — 23 years,” he said. “Nothing’s changing. This is just a partnership with a new shelter.”

I Heart Dogs Rescue and Animal Haven and GPAAS both are considered no-kill shelters.

However, the new agreement requires officers to transport the animals to I Heart’s facility located on Grosebeck near 9 Mile in Warren, which is about a 15-minute commute from Harper Woods.

“Why take a police officer off their regular duty to get an animal and transfer it to another city, which at this time is Warren?” one resident questioned during public comment at the city’s most recent council meeting. “We already have a shelter in Harper

Woods. What we need is police to protect the residents and attend to emergencies, not transfer dogs.”

The severed relationship between Harper Woods and GPAAS also carries direct implications for the city’s K-9 officer program, which was established and funded for by GPAAS.

K-9 Officer Kaiser retired from duty in March 2025, and the city has yet to purchase another dog.

Though \$47,000 remained in GPAAS’ Harper Woods Canine Fund, Martin explained the nonprofit only can solicit and gather funds for a city with which it has a municipal agreement.

Therefore, the money alternatively was given to Grosse Pointe Woods

to begin its own K-9 program, which is kicking off currently.

As far as GPAAS’ sustainability without the previously anticipated income from Harper Woods, Martin said the shelter will be OK.

“Yes, we don’t have the income that would be coming from the city of Harper Woods, but we also don’t have the number of animals ... so our vet bills are lower and our numbers of managing animals is lower,” she explained. “We took in 331 animals in 2025, compared to maybe 500 the year before with Harper Woods.”

Harper Woods City Council unanimously voted to approve the new contract with I Heart Dogs Rescue and Animal Haven Monday, Jan. 5.



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Correction

The article, “WCCCD boosts healthcare courses,” published Jan. 22, should have identified the Wayne County Community College District trustee as Roy Edmonds.



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On the team behind the scenes of Olympic Games

By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

On any given morning in Grosse Pointe Park, Alex Patterson Tichy might be found walking along the lake with her husband and children, soaking in the calm before another day of school drop-offs, work and sports practices. In just a few weeks, however, her surroundings will look very different: the Olympic Games in Milan, where she will serve as the sole physical therapist for the United States Olympic Figure Skating team.

It's a role that blends elite sport, medical precision and lifelong passion — and one that brings Tichy's story full circle, from local ice rinks to the world's biggest stage.

Tichy, who lives in the Park with her husband, Petr, and their children, Misa, 9, and Amalia, 7, returned to the Pointes a year and a half ago after growing up in Grosse Pointe Woods. Her parents, Mike and Diane Patterson, still live there. Today, her children attend Defer Elementary School and family life revolves around school, sports and time outdoors.

"My favorite part of living in Grosse Pointe is the access to outdoor activities," she said. "The parks, the lake, the ability to walk or ride bikes together — it's a really special place to raise a family."

Tichy first stepped onto an ice rink at age 4. What followed was a 20-year competitive figure skating career that took discipline, resilience and countless early mornings. Like many elite skaters, her journey wasn't without pain.

"As an athlete, injuries are devastating," she said. "They can take away your ability to train, compete and reach your goals."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Alex Patterson Tichy soon will head to Milan, Italy, as the sole physical therapist for the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating team.

Those injuries, however, introduced her to physical therapists who helped her heal and return stronger. Watching their work planted a seed.

"I decided to become a physical therapist so I could help other athletes the same way I was helped," Tichy said.

What she loved most about skating wasn't just the competition — though she admits she thrived on the thrill — but the slow, painstaking process of mastery.

"Landing a new jump or skill after months or even years of training is an incredible feeling," she said. "That sense of accomplishment never leaves you."

Today, she channels that understanding into her work as a doctor of physical therapy, helping athletes manage injuries, prevent overuse and stay competitive at the highest level.

In November 2024, Tichy received news

that still feels surreal: U.S. Figure Skating had selected her as the official team physical therapist for the Olympic Games.

"I am the sole physical therapist for the U.S. Figure Skating Olympic team," she said. "We also have one team physician and one certified athletic trainer."

The responsibility is enormous. Tichy will care for 16 Olympic athletes across all four figure skating disciplines — women's, men's, pairs and ice dance. Overuse injuries are common in the sport, driven by intense training demands and repetitive impact. Many elite skaters compete while carefully managing chronic injuries.

Preparation for Milan has been meticulous. The past year, Tichy and the medical team have gathered athletes' medical histories, reviewed injury-prevention routines and coordinated with skaters' home providers to ensure continuity of care.

"We've traveled together to national and international events over the past four years," she said. "We know these athletes well."

They've also spent months planning for supplies and equipment, anticipating every possible scenario, from minor tweaks to urgent treatment, so care in Milan will feel seamless.

While Olympic logistics still are being finalized, Tichy expects to be away for about four weeks, from late January through late February. Whether she'll be housed with athletes or nearby remains to be seen, but her focus is clear.

"I'm most looking forward to experiencing the magic of the Olympic spirit," she said. "I've always been a huge fan — summer and winter, every sport."

As a former athlete, she understands the sacrifices behind each performance.

"Those dream moments that only hap-

pen at the Olympics," she said, "I'm so excited to be part of that."

Italy, she added, only heightens the experience.

"With its Olympic history and beautiful culture, it's an incredible place to feel that spirit."

The Games also will carry a local connection. Tichy is thrilled to see Emilea Zingas and her ice dance partner, Vadym Kolesnik, qualify for the Olympic team. Zingas grew up skating at the same St. Clair Shores Figure Skating Club where Tichy trained.

"It's so exciting to have a local ice dance team on the Olympic roster," she said. "They work incredibly hard and it's wonderful to see that pay off."

At home, sports are a family affair. While figure skating shaped Tichy's career, hockey dominates family life. Her husband, Petr, who grew up playing hockey in the Czech Republic, now owns 4D Hockey Training in metro Detroit. Their son, Misa, plays travel hockey, making rinks a second home.

So how did a figure skater and hockey player meet?

"Everyone assumes it was at an ice rink," Tichy laughed. "But it was actually at a concert at St. Andrew's Hall."

They did, however, put their own spin on tradition — literally. The couple got married on the ice, in their skates.

For young people considering physical therapy as a career, Tichy is an enthusiastic advocate.

"It's incredibly rewarding," she said. "Every day, you help people return to what they love."

The path is demanding: a bachelor's degree, followed by a 3.5-year, year-round doctor of physical therapy program and a national licensing exam. But for those drawn to science, movement and meaningful impact, she said it's worth it.

As for what most people don't know about her?

"I love traveling," she said.

With Milan ahead, she's eager to explore.



Alex Tichy, right, with her husband, Petr, and their children, Amalia, 7, and Misa, 9.

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FIRE:

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firefighters managed a first-floor sweep of the house before being halted at the second-floor landing.

Though they learned from the man's wife, who was not home initially, that he may be inside, fire conditions and structural damage prevented access to por-

tions of the second floor, where he later was found.

"As they got to the top of the stairs, there's 360 (degrees of) flames above their heads," Rogers said. "The ceiling is starting to collapse around them and they could only get as far as the top of the stairs, where they physically couldn't go any further."

At some point, a Grosse Pointe Woods officer partially fell through the floor of the second-floor landing, sustaining a sprained ankle.

"(The firefighters) bailed out of the house at that point," Rogers said, "so it went from an interior offensive attack, to unfortunately a defensive attack, which means we're outside, hitting it from outside and doing everything we can."

The fire was extinguished in approximately an hour and a half, at which point the resident was located in a second-floor bathroom. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

"It's been a while since the Farms had a fatal," Rogers said. "In '99 or early 2000, there was another fatal on Hillcrest. You never want to see that."

Fighting a fire in the middle of one of the coldest nights this winter had its challenges, but did not affect the outcome, he clarified.

"Our ladder froze at one point because of the extreme cold, but we still got it operational," he said, adding there were no issues with water supply or pressure. "The equipment worked. We broke a lot of equipment, but when it's that cold out, that's going to happen."

It was so cold that firefighters fought the blaze in frozen turnout gear, as they were instructed not to let it defrost or they would be saturated.

Crews responding to the fire included units from the Farms, Woods, Shores, City and Harper Woods.

As of press time, the cause of the fire and cause of death were yet to be determined.

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City of Grosse Pointe

In a flash

Two women stole \$2,700 worth of clothing from a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. They fled in a black Buick Lacrosse.

An unknown man then stole approximately \$540 worth of men’s joggers from the same clothing store in The Village at 2:40 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20.

He was in and out of the store in less than one minute.

An investigation is ongoing.

Stolen

A 25-year-old Detroit man was arrested last week for stealing, possessing and fraudulently using a woman’s credit card, after she lost her wallet at Kroger in mid-December.

Blending in

A white man in a camouflage jacket stole approximately \$50 worth of items from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 8:50 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Fleeing consequences

After rear-ending another vehicle stopped at a red light on Mack at 11:29 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, the unknown driver of a gray Ford Escape rolled down her window to express that she did not have insurance and fled the scene immediately.

Erratic driving

The 48-year-old Detroit driver of a white U-Haul box truck drew attention to himself at 3:54 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, when he rapidly accelerated upon noticing a patrol car as he drove along Lakeshore.

He then proceeded to drive in an erratic manner, at one point coming to a complete stop in front of The War Memorial where there is

no stop sign, signal or intersection.

A preliminary breath test showed the man to have a blood alcohol content of 0.208 percent, for which he was arrested.

Suspended

A 28-year-old Ypsilanti man was arrested for driving while license suspended at 10:47 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, after he was pulled over for driving 48 mph on Mack.

A 32-year-old Taylor man was arrested for the same offense at 10:53 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, after being pulled over for illegal window tint.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Breaks into car

Someone Monday, Jan. 19, smashed the passenger-side window of a woman’s parked car in

the 15000 block of Jefferson and stole her purse while she was at work.

“Charges were made on the victim’s credit card,” police said.

The suspect, an unknown male, could be charged with larceny and fraudulently using a financial transaction device, the credit card.

Car entered

Nothing was reported missing from a vehicle that was rifled through overnight Wednesday, Jan. 21, in the 800 block of Westchester.

Police said the vehicle was parked unlocked in a driveway.

Cellphone law

A 38-year-old Detroit man was arrested last week for violating the state law banning cellphone use while driving.

During a traffic stop Wednesday, Jan. 21, on Mack near Whittier, a public safety officer also determined the man was violating a suspended operator’s license.

In 2023, legislation outlawed drivers from holding a cellphone while driving.

“A driver cannot hold or support a phone or other device with any part of their hands, arms or shoulders,” according to a State Police notice.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Wrong-way driver

Officers received a call from a resident about a black Chevy Trax driving northbound on Lakeshore in the southbound lanes around 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14.

When they located a vehicle matching that description in the proper lane, the driver, a 41-year-old Detroit woman, said she did turn the wrong way off a side street but corrected herself. She was not tick-

eted.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Unlocked vehicles

Two unlocked vehicles in a driveway in the 1500 block of South Renaud were gone through and an undetermined amount of money was stolen from both sometime overnight into Thursday, Jan. 22.

Breaking and entering

Surveillance footage showed five to six people enter a store in the 19380 block of Mack just before 6 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. Their attempts to steal merchandise were unsuccessful.

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

FEST:

Continued from page 3A

Lisa Fuller said prizes will include gift cards to local businesses, lottery tickets, a \$200 cash prize and tickets to a future Detroit City FC game.

Fuller said the foundation will back away from funding for the effort after the event, since it is primarily a GPAAS project.

According to an agreement signed last year by GPAAS and the city, GPAAS will pay for:

- ◆ the dog,
 - ◆ ongoing training for the dog and handler,
 - ◆ food,
 - ◆ veterinary care,
 - ◆ insurance and
 - ◆ temporary boarding of the dog when necessary.
- The city is responsible for the salary and

benefits of Officer Duncan Gill, Arcos’ handler.

GPAAS Executive Director Corinne Martin said at the time her goal was to raise \$150,000 initially, with ongoing expenses of \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year.



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Civics 101

As our Guest View this week (right) points out, there are certain things that make this country great. Documents, beliefs, abilities, approaches.

On the microcosm, this is evident in the Pointes on a regular basis, including meetings of five city councils, the school board and a plethora of volunteer-led commissions and committees.

This exercise in democracy — or as Ben Franklin famously said, “A republic, if you can keep it” — is alive and well here and several noteworthy, recent examples come to mind.

Going back a few years, there was a major outcry over the Grosse Pointe Public School System spending around \$1 million to outfit a clinic, open to more than just students, at Grosse Pointe North High School. Cooler heads prevailed and quashed those plans.

We also have had special assessment millages passed recently for much-needed infrastructure upgrades in the Park, City and schools, in addition to, for lack of a better term, senior citizen services.

And then we have the issue of zoning and land use, which also affects all of us.

A two-story daycare facility on The Hill in the middle of a busy business, hospital and social district? The Farms’ city council rightly said thanks, but no thanks.

A similar multi-use building on lower Kercheval in the Park? Green light all the way.

Which leads us to another recent issue in the Woods. As we reported earlier this month, after plenty of meetings, public hearings and protests, a plan to redevelop 20160 Mack reached a conclusion. City council voted 7-0 at its meeting Monday, Jan. 5, to rezone the property — currently a vacant medical office — and allow entrepreneur Justin Buccellato to move ahead with his proposal.

His original plan for the property, located between Oxford and South Renaud on the east side of Mack, was to have three separate retail spaces. Nearby residents heavily protested, saying their main concerns revolved around health and safety.

That included increased traffic, parking congestion, crime, stormwater runoff, the possibility of a chain restaurant locating there and an influx of rodents if any type of restaurant moved in.

We applaud the concerns and efforts put forth by the neighbors of the property, attending several planning commission and city council meetings to voice their concerns, including gathering some 600 signatures in opposition. That, indeed, is a republic. We do, however, take issue with one concern raised by those neighbors.

The architect for the project, Woods resident John Vitale, also is a member of the city’s planning commission, which approved the concept of Mr. Buccellato for the property numerous times. Said opponents questioned a possible conflict of interest, but meeting minutes and our own observations show Mr. Vitale rightly recused himself from any votes on the matter.

Mr. Buccellato agreed to several changes to his original site plan in response to the outcry. Even with the changes, however, he lacked support from city council.

After a first reading last August, Mayor Art Bryant and council members Todd McConaghy and Angela Coletti Brown voted in favor. Council members Vicki Granger, Kenn Gafa, Michael Koester and Jim Motschall were opposed.

Per city ordinance, if more than 20 percent of property owners within 100 feet of a site to be rezoned object to the change, council needs a super majority of five votes, rather than a simple majority of four votes, to approve the change.

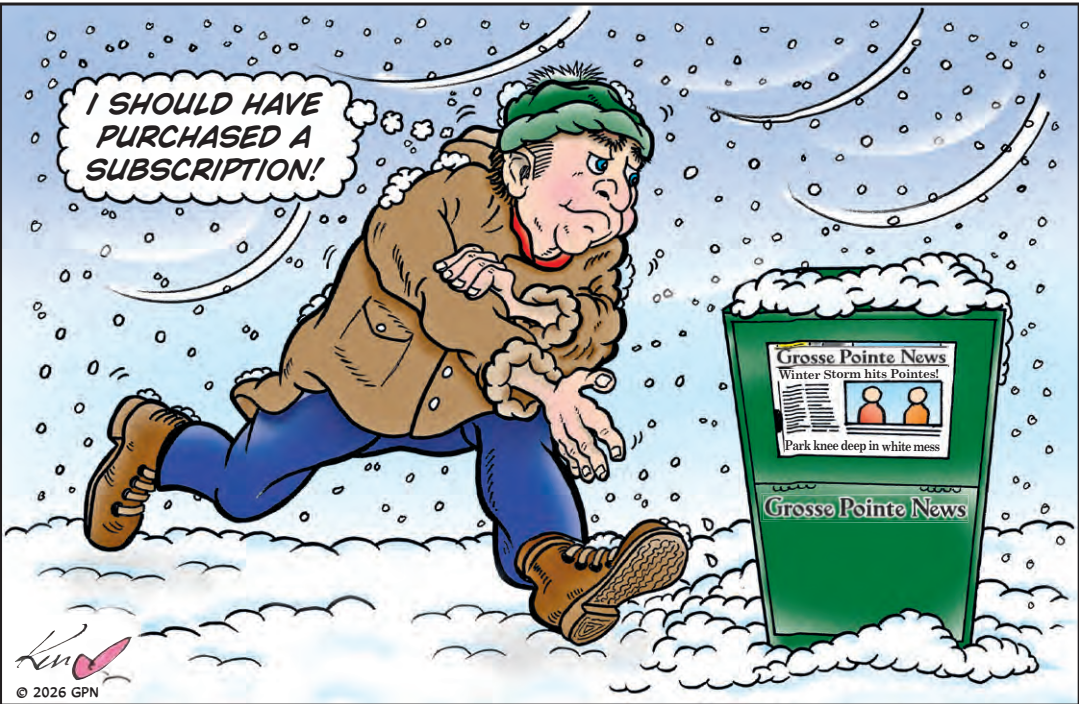


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST OPINION By Jeffrey D. Brasie

It is America’s birthday, so get ready to party

Fifty years ago, I lived in Washington, D.C., during America’s Bicentennial. Leading the 200-year event was the late Sen. John W. Warner, whom I worked for when he was Secretary of the Navy serving active duty on his public affairs staff.

The nation’s birthday celebration was not just limited to Washington and the Fourth of July week, but a year-long event across all the states and territories. On Sunday, July 4, 1976, I vividly recall a massive Washington parade. That evening, I viewed spectacular fireworks from the Potomac River’s shoreline.

This year America celebrates its 250th birthday, or sesquicentennial. We are not a perfect nation. We have made correct and incorrect decisions and experienced numerous ups and downs. America is a democracy designed to serve the people.

Our founding fathers crafted a document, the U.S. Constitution, which has maintained our democracy. This year there will be numerous celebrations across our nation, in Michigan, your hometown and right here in Grosse Pointe.

Recently, I learned there is a unique and important 250-year celebratory tribute crossing the nation and coming to Michigan. It is called the “Freedom Plane National Tour: Documents That Forged a Nation.”

The Michigan stop is slated for Thursday, July 9, through Sunday, July 26, at Dearborn’s Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation.

Beginning Friday, March 6, the tour begins in Kansas City, Mo., with subsequent stops in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Houston, Denver, Miami and Seattle.

The original National Archives records featured in the traveling exhibit for the first time

include:

◆ Original Engraving of the Declaration of Independence, 1823: One of only about 50 known engraved copies of the Declaration of Independence, printed from a copperplate of the original. This engraving captured the size, text, lettering and signatures of the original document.

◆ Articles of Association, 1774: Signed by all 53 delegates, the Articles of Association urged colonists to boycott British goods and was the Continental Congress’ first major unified act of resistance against Britain.

◆ Oaths of Allegiance of George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, 1778: All officers of the Continental Army signed these oaths during the Revolutionary War.

◆ Treaty of Paris, 1783: Signed by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Jay, the treaty with Great Britain formally recognized the United States as an independent nation.

◆ Secret Printing of the Constitution in draft form, 1787: A rare copy of the U.S. Constitution in draft form, with the handwritten notes of delegates made during the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

◆ Tally of Votes Approving the Constitution, 1787: The voting records of the Constitutional Convention reflecting the debates, resolutions and eventual vote on the final text that would become the Constitution.

The exhibits will be free and open to the public. For additional information, see freedom-plane.org.

Jeffrey D. Brasie is a retired health care CEO. He frequently writes feature stories and op-eds for various newspapers, magazines, and social media sites. As a Vietnam-era veteran, he served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Naval Reserve. He grew up in Alpena and resides in Grosse Pointe Woods.



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.

Listening, learning and understanding

To the Editor:

Each year in our community, families make thoughtful, often difficult decisions about how to educate their children. Some choose public school, others private or parochial. Some homeschool, explore hybrid models or enroll in online programs. These choices are deeply personal, made around kitchen tables late at night after long days, guided by love, worry and the hope of giving their children the best chance at success.

During my time as chair of the Community Outreach Committee, I heard these stories time and again. Now, alongside Trustee Sean Cotton, I am launching a 2026 initiative

See LETTER, page 7A

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

I SAY By Laurel Kraus



Detroit, but not as we know it

Not unlike our Detroit, this much, much smaller city’s history is simply fascinating.

At 0.95 square miles, the city rests about 50 miles east of Salem and at the time of the 2020 census had a population of just 203 people.

It originated in 1889, as a camp for workers building the Oregon Pacific Railroad and later became a timber town. It eventually would have to relocate in the early 1950s, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selected it as the site of a major dam, creating the Detroit Lake reservoir and submerging the original settlement under more than 100 feet of water.

The city’s economy then became driven by tourism and boating, though droughts spanning the 2000s at times have dried up the reservoir and caused the city to struggle.

In 2020, Labor Day wildfires burned more than 1 million acres across Oregon and burned to the ground nearly 80 percent of the homes and businesses in Detroit.

The city has since been working to rebuild, but just last month, was placed under a state of emergency when a major wind storm destroyed 12 structures and left 18 with major damage and 47 with minor damage.

“Seventy percent of town effectively was on the ground after the wildfires of 2020,” Mayor Jim Trett said. “It’s been a five-year process; we were just beginning to get on top of it.”

“Now it seems like a lot of the houses that were still standing from the 2020 fires now are destroyed or have major damage,” added Laura Harris, a lieutenant for the district.

There also is a more amusing side to Detroit, Ore.’s history.

In 2010, the city considered changing its name to Detroit Lake, specifically to distance itself from the reputation of Detroit, Mich.

The proposal was brought forward by a builder and motel owner who at the time told The Detroit News that “Detroit” carries an unsavory image, but that no offense was meant to the city in Michigan and its association with “crime, corruption, failing schools and a shaky auto industry.”

Offense certainly was taken.

Michigan residents reportedly flooded city officials with angry calls and Detroit, Mich. Councilman Gary Brown was quoted as saying residents out West would regret making such a decision, as Detroit one day would return to its previous glory.

The issue went to ballot and, thankfully, voters turned down the name change by a margin of 47 to 37 votes.

Here’s the real kicker: There is also an Oregon, Mich.

The township in Lapeer County was organized in 1846 — 13 years before Oregon officially became a state.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

TO BLOOD-TYPE ALL RESIDENTS: All Grosse Pointe residents will be blood typed as soon as facilities and manpower can be provided to handle the task, George Elworthy, Civilian Defense Director of Grosse Pointe said. Elworthy said he had received a directive from the State OCD office in Lansing to blood type every resident in the community as soon as possible. The directive also included extensive plans for the home front defense in the event of an enemy attack.

SCOUT CARS CAN OPERATE OWN SETS: Grosse Pointe’s new two-way FM radio station which went into operation at 7 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, became an important milestone in the history of the Pointe and promises to play an extremely important role in our Civilian Defense program if the need arises.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MUST DECIDE

DISPOSITION OF RESIDENCE OF MURRAY SALES: The death of Murray W. Sales makes necessary a decision by the Grosse Pointe Board of Education, the sole owner of his residence at 17743 E. Jefferson, on what disposition to make of the property. Mr. Sales dedicated the building to the School Board several years ago with the request that it be converted to a library after his death.

1976

50 years ago this week

YSD CLOSES RECORD YEAR: Since it became fully operational in August 1970, the Youth Services Division encountered its heaviest case load ever when the division’s four detectives investigated a total of 819 incidents last year. This was an increase of 94 cases over 1974. The total load in 1975 wasn’t only a record in itself, but the year featured the heaviest month the division has experienced since it was established — November, when 88 offenses were forwarded for investigation.

JAYCEES SERVICE AWARD GIVEN TO JOHN BRUCE: John M. Bruce Jr., 32, was the recipient of the Grosse Pointe Jaycee Distinguished Service Award, as the outstanding young man in the community last year. A five-man senior selection committee selected Mr. Bruce, director of the Neighborhood Club, from a group of seven nominees, all of whom received certificates for outstanding community service.

PROBE FIRES IN LOCKERS AT PIER PARK: Arson is suspected in a two-alarm fire that broke out in the Farms Pier Park boat lockers late Wednesday night. The fire was first noticed by a patrolling Farms police car and the fire department was immediately notified. All off-duty Farms firemen plus four men and a chief from the City of Grosse Pointe Fire Department were called in to handle the blaze.

2001

25 years ago this week

WOODS RESIDENT’S

IDEA MIGHT STREAMLINE PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS: Thanks to suggestions from residents, water consumers in one of the Grosse Pointes can look forward to the prospect of paying their water bills by automatic withdrawal. “It would be a big cost savings and convenience to residents,” John Young, a Woods homeowner, told the Woods city council. Young’s idea perked up a lot of ears.

CITY FLOATS \$2.5 MILLION ‘BALLPARK’ FIGURE FOR NEFF: City of Grosse Pointe officials are going ahead with plans to upgrade Neff Park. On Dec. 19, a special information meeting was held at the Grosse Pointe Neighborhood Club to update residents as well as get their input on possible park plans. On Jan. 8, the city council scheduled a special bond election for May 1, to provide the funding needed to go head with the pool project. Brian Vick of the city manager’s office

said that the exact dollar amount of the bond will be determined in February, but he cited \$2.5 million as a “ballpark” figure.

2016

10 years ago this week

GENTZ CHANGES STORY: Joseph Gentz, who confessed to the January 2012 murder of Jane Bashara, but said he did it at the behest of her husband, Bob, has filed papers in Wayne County Circuit Court to recant his statements against Bob Bashara. The papers were filed by Bashara’s attorney, Ronald Ambrose, who is representing the former Grosse Pointe Park businessman in his appeal motion and hearing to overturn his conviction in the death of his wife.

WOODS LINE WORK SET: “This is a huge undertaking.” That’s how Woods city engineer Scott Lockwood

described the upcoming DTE gas line replacement project set to begin next week. The work is part of DTE’s Gas Renewal Program that will eventually result in DTE installing all new gas mains, service lines and new gas meters to every home in the Woods.

WATER IS SAFE HERE: At the water filtration plant, there’s water, water everywhere and all of it’s fit to drink. No worries cooking with it, bathing in it or squirting it at your sister. In addition to daily testing for purity, a chemical — orthophosphate — is mixed with drinking water to prevent lead leaching from pipes. Moreover, there are no lead mains. Only some service lines from mains to older houses have lead. The absence of lead mains and presence of the chemical additive are two differences between water systems in Grosse Pointe Farms and Flint, where lead pollution rates a state of emergency.

LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

called “How We Educate our Kids,” a community-wide effort to listen, learn and understand the many paths the families in our school district are taking when it comes to education.

We believe enrollment is not just a number on a spreadsheet. It is a reflection of trust. To increase enrollment in our public school system, we must understand why families stay, why they leave and what they need to feel confident in their choices.

Over the next several months, we will be collecting stories, conducting surveys and holding in-person conversations to hear directly from parents and caregivers. We also will be sharing what we learn through podcasts and future reporting. If you would like to participate, I welcome you to reach out to me at virginia.jeup@gmail.com.

This project starts with listening, because that is how strong schools and strong communities are built.

GINNY JEUP
Trustee, GPPSS,
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Shores officers honored

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Nine members of the public safety department were honored for their actions during 2025 at city council's meeting Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Officer Billy Howe III received the Director's Award, which is given to the officer who "consistently exceeds the job description and performs at a level not bound by what is expected, but is required for the efficient operation of the department," Director Ken Werenski said. "Officer Howe is an asset to the department and has performed his duties in an exemplary manner."

Howe joined the department in 2022. The 2014 Roseville High School graduate began his first-responder career as a paramedic with Superior Ambulance Service, then went to the firefighter academy at Macomb Community College.

"I started off pursuing an engineering degree, but it wasn't for me," he said. "I have friends and family in this line of work, so it has always interested me."

Howe also went to Macomb's police academy after joining the Shores

"I like certain elements of all three parts of the job," he said. "We're a



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Lt. Ryan Wilson, Officer Jason Rengert, Sgt. Jeff Roybal, Officer Derek Wood, Officer Billy Howe III, Officer Celeste Harrington, Lt. Ron Coste and Officer Paul Morang with Public Safety Director Ken Werenski after receiving their unit commendations.

close-knit group. We help and support each other and that really stuck out to me when I was looking for a department to join."

Howe serves on the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team, which Werenski said requires eight hours of training each month and two week-long training sessions yearly.

"Those 40-hour training sessions are offsite and require the members to stay at the facility for the week, meaning they sacrifice their home life during those times."

Howe was elected pres-

ident of the Shores Patrol Officers Association last year.

"During contract negotiations we spent a lot of time together working to construct contract language for our policies and procedures that make our workplace more productive and safer for the officers," Werenski added.

Two groups of officers received unit commendations for their work on two house fires last year.

The first included Sgt. Jason Cook, Sgt. Jeff Roybal and Officers Celeste Harrington, Derek Wood and Howe

for a March fire on Sunningdale.

"These officers dealt with a large challenge but didn't back down," Werenski said. "This scene required them to establish a water supply, initiate suppression efforts, man the water lines and ventilate the structure."

Werenski added the reason the operation was successful was because of good leadership.

"Sgt. Cook used his 15 years of firefighting experience and training and attacked this fire," he noted. "These firefighters took Sgt. Cook's orders



PHOTO BY TED O'NEIL

Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Officer Billy Howe III, left, and his daughter, Rozlynn, stand with Public Safety Department Director Ken Werenski after receiving the Director's Award for 2025.

and implemented the plan as they were trained to do."

Although the house was a total loss, the fire did not spread to neighboring homes.

Lt. Ron Coste, Lt. Ryan Wilson and Officers Jason Rengert, Paul Morang and Howe received their commendation for work on an August house fire on Lakeshore.

Werenski said when

they arrived on scene they saw heavy black smoke coming from the roof of the house and used thermal imaging to see the fire spreading behind the walls.

"The success of extinguishing any fire starts with good leadership," he added. "Lt. Coste and his 25 years of experience initiated a plan that involved attacking the fire before it could spread further."

Farms PS granted emergency camera access to schools

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — After several months of discussions with the Grosse Pointe Public School System

and the other Pointe public safety departments, Farms city council this month agreed to a memorandum of understanding with the school district, which grants officers immediate access to live vid-

eo feeds within the schools in the event of clear and immediate emergencies such as lockdown alarm, verified active assailant, kidnapping, bomb threat or fire alarm.

It further is allowable with verbal authorization by the superintendent or a designee in the event of a credible imminent threat, missing/endangered student or violent act in progress.

"It's a little short of what we would have liked to have seen, but it's much more than we have right now, which is no access in the event of an active emergency," Farms Public Safety

Director John Hutchins said. "... Implementing new technology always has a starting point and like anything else, takes some getting used to. We

See CAMERAS, page 9A

Winter rec activity

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The recreation department has been busy.

Big-headline items, such as the half-million dollar rebuild of the marina entrance, which is scheduled to start this winter and conclude by the start of the boating season mid-April, have been reported.

Yet, a lot of other things are happening.

Maintenance

Some matters are almost behind the scenes, such as Recreation Director Chad Craig coordinating with the city's consulting engineers, OHM Advisors, about environmental systems in the year-round multi-purpose Lavins Activity Center at Windmill Pointe Park.

The center contains a gymnasium, workout center, swimming pool

locker rooms and two theaters.

"I am working with OHM on a mechanical, electrical and structural condition assessment, demolition and mechanical load calculations to assist with the replacement of the current rooftop HVAC unit on the Lavins Center," Craig said.

The center is so popular that two new employees were hired to keep it clean.

"The center sees a lot of foot traffic on a daily basis," Craig said. "Having two staff members cleaning the building seven days a week will bring the building aesthetics and cleanliness up to the standards and expectations of our residents and their guests."

Windmill's Tompkins Community Center also earns its keep in usage.

"The Tompkins Center is a popular amenity, especially around the holiday season," Craig said. "We had a busy December at Tompkins

with 20 events scheduled for the month. A few days were blocked off for deep cleaning and setting up for some of the events (and) rentals."

Fun stuff

Regarding the department's winter sports leagues and more, administrators are arranging programs for adult recreational volleyball, cornhole, pickleball and age 30-plus drop-in basketball; youth karate, yoga and more.

A highlight among forthcoming special events is an animal show

at Tompkins Center 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18. The date coincides with the Grosse Pointe Public School System midwinter break.

Chilly Fest

Chilly Fest is 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Activities are spread through business districts on Kercheval, Charlevoix and Mack Avenue. Included are gifts, raffles and a chili cook-off.

"Sponsorships and business participation are currently coming in," Craig said.

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No comment about water mains

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Whether by text message, by telephone or wishing and hoping, public works officials won't respond to interview requests about water main breaks.

A text message a week ago Thursday and telephone calls the next few days thereafter generated no response.

Breaks bedevil underground infrastructure this time of year because cold weather kicks in the freeze-thaw cycle.

"Breaks often occur when the outside temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, which cause water in the soil to freeze below the frostline," according to a posting by the Lansing Board of

Water and Light, the closest source available. "When the ground freezes from cold temperatures, this increases pressure on water mains."

Don't bother Park resident Sherette Cline with reasons for the inverse correlation of dropping temperatures and rising water main failures.

She's busy dehydrating her basement. A main break in front of her house early last week on Bedford below Jefferson flooded the place with more than two feet of water and sewer water, according to a TV news report.

Park officials a few years ago were chagrined to become experts in

thousands of basements flooded with sewer water and runoff during summer thunderstorms. Wintertime inundations due to broken pipes aren't as common or, at least, colloquially known.

Cline's case drew the cameras of WXYZ-TV Detroit.

"Something has to be done about these water problems," Cline told a news crew member. "This is not the first time something like this has happened. It's just hard to have to deal with in 3-degree weather in the middle of winter."

A telephone message for Cline went unanswered.

— Brad Lindberg

GPPSS maps out future projects

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Now that voters have approved a sinking fund millage and bond, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education will get to work spending the money on a variety of projects. Ben Matteson, executive director of buildings and grounds, outlined some of those details at the board’s meeting Monday, Jan. 12.

“Some of this spending has been approved by the

board and some are pending approval,” Matteson said.

Sinking fund projects slated for this summer include parking lot repairs at Barnes Early Childhood Center, including the addition of 40 spaces; step repairs at Kerby Elementary School and Brownell and Parcels middle schools; a new Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramp at Monteith Elementary School; sidewalk repairs districtwide and parking lot, fencing, roof and fire

alarm repairs at Grosse Pointe North High School.

One of the larger projects will include replacing the turf on the football field at Grosse Pointe South High School.

“We’re going to be very busy at our high schools this year,” Matteson said.

The board approved spending \$487,600 for the new turf at its meeting Monday, Jan. 26. That amount is for materials only. Bids for labor will be sought in February.

The district originally

planned to do the turf project in 2027.

More than a dozen people, however — including parents of current and former athletes and current and former coaches — asked the Facilities Committee last fall to speed up the timing of that project.

In addition to football, the field is used for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, physical education classes and youth teams. They explained the turf is so worn down it poses a serious health threat, sharing stories of

concussions, joint injuries and broken bones.

Rubber pellets, called infill and meant to provide cushioning, also cause problems due to blades of turf that have worn away. Parents said athletes bring the pellets home with them in cleats and on clothing and they can get in players’ mouths, eyes and ears.

Installation will occur in July and August.

Bond projects on tap for 2027 include a reenvisioned use for the Parcels pool, repairs to the Christian A. Fenton

Performing Arts Center at North and relocating the main office at South.

“I want to emphasize that South does have a secure vestibule and the students there are safe,” Matteson added. “This will provide a streamlined entrance for staff.”

Around \$1.5 million left from the 2018 bond has been used to pay for new windows at Trombly Elementary School.

“I’m very happy with how they are turning out,” Matteson said. “That should be finished by March.”



Plenty of participants visited Zanshin Karate to break a board and donate toys.

Not just for kicks

Saturday, Jan. 24, Zanshin Karate in Grosse Pointe Park hosted Donate a Toy & Break a Board to benefit the Team Jake Toy Drive, in honor of Jake Pennar, who passed away from cancer in 2021, when he was 9 years old.

Pennar started the toy drive in 2019, after seeing children who were sad and afraid in the hospital. In particular, his heart broke when he saw children receiving chemo whose parents couldn’t be with them. He wanted to make them smile, feel joy and not feel so alone.

His parents, Amy and Krzysztof Pennar, now continue the toy drive in

Jake’s honor. This is their seventh year hosting this toy drive. Last year, they started the It’s a New Day Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that was approved as a foundation in 2025.

For the board-breaking event, anyone who brought a toy was able to try to break a board — and everyone succeeded.

More than 155 toys were donated during the event and Zanshin Karate will accept new toys until Saturday, Jan. 31, with a goal of collecting 300 new toys.

New toys also may be donated until Jan. 31, at Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy in St. Clair Shores,



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Maddie Johnson breaks in half a board held by Sensei Sean Farnsworth, owner of Zanshin Karate.

Grace Community Church in Detroit or Zanshin Karate in the Park. All donated new toys will go to Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

— Renee Landuyt

CAMERAS:

Continued from page 8A

just want to keep kids safe.”

Prohibited actions are:

- ◆ continuous or routine monitoring,
- ◆ recording, photographing or exporting feeds,
- ◆ sharing access or allowing non-authorized personnel to view feeds
- ◆ and enabling any biometric, facial recognition or AI analytics tools.

“The livestream is intended solely to provide situational aware-

ness to law enforcement during health or safety emergencies,” the memorandum of understanding states.

Officers granted access also must complete additional training on student privacy restrictions and district security protocols, as well as log every access session, including officer name, agency, time of login, duration and emergency type.

Public schools within the Farms, where the agreement therefore applies, are Kerby and Richard elementary schools, Brownell Middle

School and Grosse Pointe South High School.

“I am in favor of this proposed use agreement,” Mayor John Gillooly said. “My daughter is a student at Brown University, who was a block away from the god-awful tragedy when it happened, literally, and as we heard from numerous commentators afterwards: cameras, cameras, cameras.”

“... I appreciate the cooperation of the Grosse Pointe Public School System in granting us access under very limited circumstances and think

that it will benefit the community as a whole, quite frankly.”

Farms city council unanimously approved the memorandum of understanding during its meeting Monday, Jan. 12.



Parcells to perform ‘The Wizard of Oz’

Parcells Middle School will perform “The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, and Friday, Feb. 6.

Run time is 60 minutes. The cast and crew of 64 are led by Director Sean Kifer, Musical Director Peyton Weil, Choreographer Cori Callahan and Assistant Choreographer Amanda Wong.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors and can be purchased at the door or at parcells.drama.ludus.com.

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Snowplow protocol

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Salt forms the base of a snowplow crew’s supply pyramid. Crews typically launch the plowing process by putting down a layer of salt. Thereafter they plow. It seems contrary to common sense — spreading salt only to push it aside. Yet the process, born of science and experience, works. “Salt helps the snow come up,” said Tom Jenny, director of public works. “Once it’s done, we have a salt base on which to clear the roads.” “Pre-salting is the process of applying salt to the surface before a snowstorm to prepare the surface for the snow,” according to Ninjadeicer.com, a seller of salt and brine products throughout the Midwest. “Instead of letting the first layer freeze to the surface, the salt lowers the freezing point of water and creates a thin brine film that stops bonding before it starts.” Salt doesn’t melt snow and ice, although it seems that way. “Salt impedes the ability of water molecules to form solid ice crystals,” wrote Julie Pollock, a University of Richmond chemistry professor, in “Salt Doesn’t Melt Ice,” reprinted by Scientific American in 2019. “Salt lowers the freezing point of water,” according to “The Science Behind Salt” on the self-named Morton Salt

website. “It prevents the formation of the bond between pavement and snow or ice so that roads can be cleared more quickly and easily, making them safer for driving. This water containing dissolved salt is called brine. Brine freezes at lower temperatures than regular water, so it remains a liquid at below-freezing temperatures.” Winter road maintenance in the Park kicks in with the first flake of snow. Accumulations of less than two inches generally are countered by a dusting of salt or spot salting. “During a spot salt, the city will fully salt all east and west main streets with spot salting being completed on north and south local streets,” according to a notice on the city website, grossepointepark.org. “Spot salting will also be completed at all intersections by completing two to three houses before, and through the intersection of all stop signs and two to three houses after.” “Sidewalks are not plowed unless there’s two or more inches of snow,” Jenny said. “Sidewalks are done after roads have been cleared for police, fire and the public.” Sidewalk plowing is technically a homeowner responsibility. “We plow sidewalks as a courtesy,” Jenny said. “Our No. 1 priority is getting streets open for police and fire protection and general vehicular traffic.” The Park’s snowplows are

deployed when depths reach two inches. “Streets will be plowed multiple times if needed,” according to the municipal posting. “We apologize for the inconvenience if we block driveways with roll-off snow. The city will not come out and plow out private driveways.” Contractors clearing snow from private property put themselves in hot water by dumping spoilage into thoroughfares. “Snow removed by contractors is the responsibility of the contractor,” according to the city. “Snow must be moved onto the homeowners’ lot or easement. If a contractor is found pushing snow across the street of other neighbors, they may be ticketed.” “Contractors are pretty much compliant with the rules,” Jenny said. “We’ve had to cite some people once in a while. Usually, we talk to them and they tend get the rules. For the most part, everyone keeps up with it pretty well.” Infractions rarely reach a level requiring investigation by the public safety department. “We get calls on it sometimes,” Detective Ryan Willmer said. “If it happened multiple times, would we issue a violation? Probably, but it would be more of a (job for) the department of public service.” Jenny indicated the city is ready for whatever winter brings. “We ordered 1,000 tons of road salt this year,” he said. “That’s about average.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY FREY

Connecting continents

On Jan. 21, Sherry Wells and David Yaki of Rotary Esperanto visited the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe to speak about the Esperanto Antauen Promise Project and the global reach of Esperanto, a planned international language designed to bridge cultures. Sharing personal stories, historical context and Rotary’s longstanding connection to Esperanto, the pair highlighted how the language, known for its simple grammar and accessibility, continues to connect speakers across continents and carries a hopeful vision for global communication. Pictured, from left, are Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner, Yaki, Wells and Rotary of Grosse Pointe President Jackie Dale.

Full Circle moment

Representatives from the Full Circle Foundation recently visited the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club at its Jan. 20 meeting. Pictured, from left, are Full Circle’s Mary Fodell and Stephanie DiVirgil, with Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner. Fodell, Full Circle founder and board vice president, and DiVirgil, director of operations, attended the meeting to accept a donation from Sunrise Rotary membership. Full Circle works in conjunction with the Grosse Pointe Public School System to support young people with disabilities, such as autism spectrum disorder. Its mission of fostering independence prepares participants for employment, either in local businesses or one of the foundation’s enterprises. Full Circle currently operates an upscale thrift shop at 15415 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

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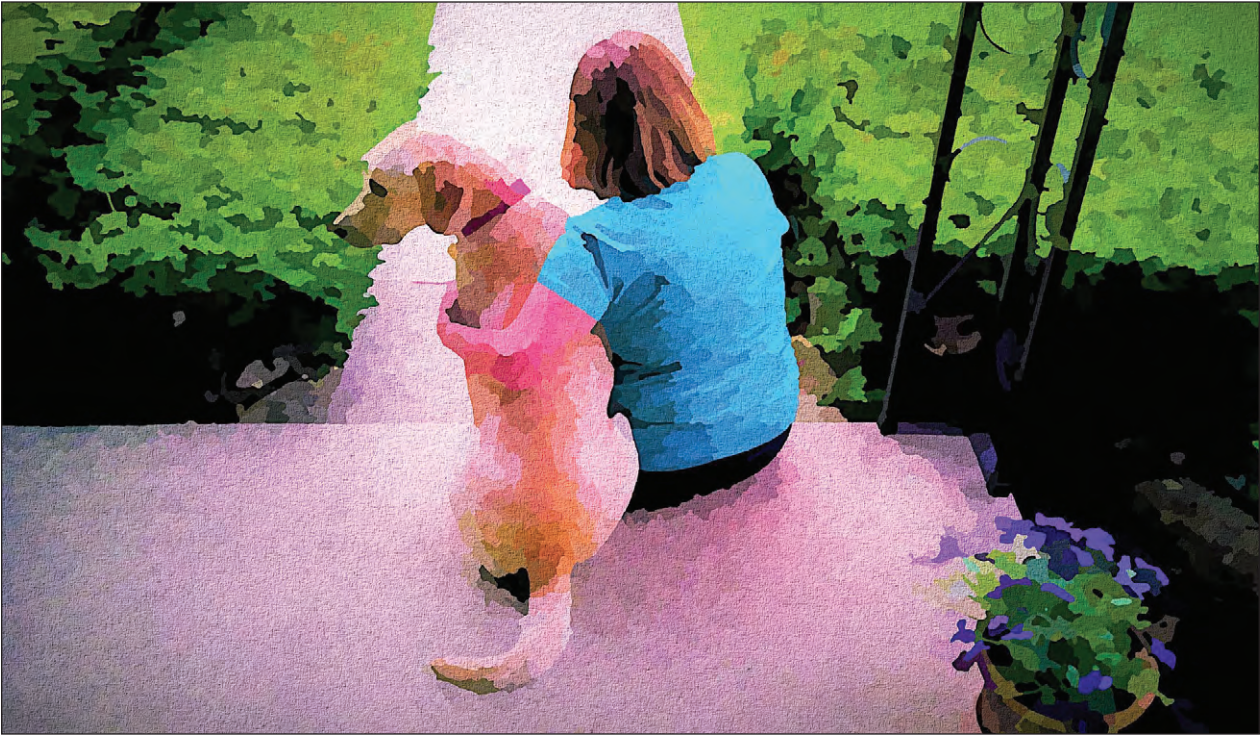


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PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

Left, “Two Girls on the Stoop” by John C. Barker. Above, “Autumn Leaves with Rocks and Flowers” by Mary Aro.

Love is in the air at the GPAA gallery
Lovin’ Feelin’ exhibition displayed through March 20

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

More than 60 works of art created by 50 artists are on display in the Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s latest exhibition, Lovin’ Feelin’.

“It’s connected to Valentine’s Day,” said Karen Pope, president of the GPAA. “It seems like the older I get, but also looking at these entries, Valentine’s Day has really just gotten to be about appreciating everyone in your life instead of just romantic relationships. It takes on a broader meaning and this show really indicates that. It’s exactly what we need in this period of so much dissension. We’re dialing it back to a personal level of appreciation for people in our lives.”

Once the theme was selected, Pope decided to ask The Family Center to recommend a juror for the show. MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration, recommended Miriam Engstrom, “a psychologist who specializes in relationships,” Pope said. “She has counseled people at high levels about complex relationships.”

Engstrom said her more than 30-year career has taken many different forms — in clinical settings and private practice, as well as internationally for the Peace Corps in Ukraine and Jesuit Refugee Services in Turkey. She

has also partnered with the UNHCR and World Health Organization on issues such as human trafficking in Ukraine and the refugee crisis in Turkey.

“Each chapter has shaped how I listen and how I understand people,” Engstrom said. “... Relationships show up in many different ways in my work. At the heart of it, I’m interested in how people connect: to each other, to themselves and to meaning. Lovin’ Feelin’ isn’t just about romance; it’s about attachment, longing, tenderness, rupture, repair and loss. Those are the same emotional territories I sit with every day in my practice, so the theme felt very familiar to me.”

Engstrom has been around artists her entire life and said art has always felt like a natural language. Though not a trained artist, she incorporates creative expression throughout her life and into her practice, when appropriate.

“I’m currently working toward an art therapy certification, which has deepened my appreciation for how art allows people to say things they don’t yet have words for,” she said. “Art can bypass the intellect and go straight to something essential.”

“... My work toward an art therapy certification really reflects what I already believe and know as a humanistic psychologist,” she added.



“Spun Sugar” by Jan Filarski.

“Creative expression and symbolism can access emotional truths in ways words sometimes can’t.”

Engstrom also has a background in theater, having earned a master’s degree in theater and performance from the University of Detroit-Mercy in 1991. She spent much of her 20s working professionally as an actress in Equity houses around Detroit, including the Attic, Meadow Brook and Performance Network theaters.

“That experience taught me a great deal

about presence, vulnerability and what it means to communicate feelings through form,” she said. “In many ways, that sensibility continues to shape how I respond to art and how I understand emotional expression today.”

This exhibition marked Engstrom’s first time serving as juror — an experience she found both exciting and humbling.

“I took the responsibility seriously, knowing how much heart and vulnerability artists bring to their work,” she said. “Even as a first-time juror, I felt very at home with the process of sitting quietly with pieces and noticing what stirred, what lingered and what asked to be seen again. It took me about two weeks to get through all of the submissions as they came in. In that time period, I reviewed and considered each piece several times.”

“I was genuinely moved by the range and sincerity of the submissions,” she continued. “Every piece spoke to me in some way, whether the connection to the theme was immediately apparent or more subtle. There was a real honesty in the work and I appre-

ciated how differently artists approached the idea of ‘love and feeling.’ I viewed multiple interpretations of joy and intimacy and also ambiguity and complexity.”

Engstrom selected pieces for the show based on their alignment with the theme and said

she was drawn to work that invited curiosity and emotional engagement, whether through narrative, abstraction or mood.

“I also tried to find a balance with pieces that would speak to one another and create a lively, layered experience for viewers,” she added. “Curating the show felt less about ranking and more about shaping a conversation.”

Though she has yet to select award winners, Engstrom noted the distinct emotional presence she noticed in each piece.

“When the time comes to choose, it will be about which works continue to stay with me,” she said, “and those pieces that reveal something touching or maybe create a quiet moment of recognition.”

Engstrom thanked Harris for recommending her to Pope to serve as juror. She also thanked Pope for guiding her through the process.

Those interested in meeting the artists, as well as learning more details of how Engstrom selected work for the show, are invited to a gallery talk at 2 p.m.

See LOVE, page 6B



“Doveeyes” by Mary Onifer.



“Primary Colors 2” by Tom Sherry.

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.

Marlene Brooks

Marlene (nee Feldmann) Brooks passed away peacefully in December 2025, after a six-year battle with cancer, surrounded by the love of her family. Her absence leaves a space in the hearts of her loved ones that can never be filled; however, her spirit, laughter and love remain everywhere she touched.

Marlene lived exactly the way she loved: fully, generously and with people always at the center. She was married to her husband, Arthur, for more than 60 years and together they raised two daughters. Family and friends were her greatest joy. She had an extraordinary gift for making everyone feel welcome, heard and cared for. Those who knew Marlene felt like family.

For more than 40 years, Marlene, alongside her beloved sister, Loretta Mink, poured her heart into My Sister's Place, their cherished consignment shop. It was never just a store — it was a treasure hunt, meeting place and second home for many. Customers quickly became friends and those friends became family. The shop, her "happy place," was a perfect reflection of Marlene herself: warm, vibrant, full of character and always buzzing with conversation and laughter.

Outside of her shop, nothing brought Marlene more pride or happiness than her grandchildren, Jack and Kennedy "KJ." She was their biggest fan and often could be found in the front row at games and school events. She was present for every milestone and always ready for babysitting duty. She loved being "Grammy" more than any title she ever held.

Marlene also had a life-long love of professional sports. She could hold her own in any NFL or college football conversation, often knowing more history and stats than the so-called experts.

Even while facing cancer, Marlene refused to let it slow her down. With her trademark humor and determination, she would say, "I have places to go, people to see and things to do! I don't have time for cancer!" Her strength, resilience and optimism inspired everyone around her.

Marlene's legacy lives on through the countless lives she touched with her kindness, generosity and loving care for others. Her daughters, Christina (nee Brooks) Youngblood and Hollis (nee Brooks) Griffin, invite family and

friends to gather in prayer and remembrance as they celebrate her life.

Visitation will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6, before a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores.

In true Marlene fashion, she would not want sadness or tears at her funeral. Instead, she would want togetherness, stories, laughter and color. In her honor, attendees are encouraged to wear lighter or brighter colors in celebration of Marlene's joyful, creative spirit.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, cskdetroit.org/en/donate/.

Robert Patrick Sossi

Robert Patrick Sossi, 68, passed away Monday, Jan. 19, 2026. He was a beloved husband, brother and friend who leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories.

Robert was born May 9, 1957, in Detroit, to John and Joan Sossi, both now deceased. Robert spent his life dedicated to his family, his passion for work and his love of dogs. He resided in Grosse Pointe Woods, where he lived a life surrounded by his loved ones.

Robert was the husband of Ljiljana Stankovic-Sossi, whom he had dated since 2002 and married in 2021. Prior to that, he was husband to his first wife, the late Beth Sossi.

Robert also was the brother of John Sossi (Donna), Michael Sossi, James Sossi, Thomas Clark and Elizabeth Wang; and proud uncle of Michael Sossi, Pamela Sossi, Thomas Jakubiec and Alexander Jakubiec. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Joan Sossi; niece, Jacquelyn Wang; and brother-in-law, Herman.

Robert had a career of which everyone he knew was proud. He enjoyed sharing many stories of great people and projects from his first jobs — working construction with IBEW Local 58, followed by his work as an electrician and union representative at the Detroit Free Press. He finished his career as an electrician at the Stellantis Sterling Heights Assembly Plant.

When he wasn't working, he loved spending time with his family and dogs, listening to jazz music and being an avid reader. Spending time

with the many dogs Robert had during his life and sharing those funny, and sometimes amazing, stories of what happened during his daily 4:30 a.m. walks are something his loved ones will all remember. His dog, Bailey, a field spaniel, is a joy to his loved ones and will continue to be a remembrance of Robert.

A funeral Mass took place Saturday, Jan. 24, at St. Blase Parish, 12151 15 Mile, Sterling Heights.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, bit.ly/4pYuVM9; or the I Heart Dogs Rescue, bit.ly/3M1vIxT.

Share a memory at wujekcalcaterra.com.

Theodore S. Zemenick

Theodore Zemenick, 102, died peacefully Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at his Grosse Pointe Woods home.

He was born Feb. 21, 1923, in Weirwood, W.Va. His parents, Joseph and Josephine Zemenick, were immigrants from southern Poland. Ted's father, Joseph, and his uncle, Frank, were coal miners. Both men were killed in a mining accident Dec. 12, 1923, when Ted was 10 months old.

Josephine moved to Detroit with Ted and his brothers, Cass and Charles. She went to work at her sister and brother-in-law's beauty parlor on the Eastside of Detroit. During their grade-school years, Ted and his brothers were boarded and educated at St. Francis Home for Boys. Josephine visited them Sundays and worked to support herself and her sons the rest of the week. Eventually, Josephine opened her own beauty salon on Chene Street. The family lived on the first floor of the building and Josephine rented out the upper flat.

Ted attended Northeastern High School. At age 16, he met Rita Koperski while waiting in line outside a bakery. The couple was married May 5, 1944, at St. Albertus Church in Detroit while Ted was on a short leave from the U.S. Air Force.

During World War II, Ted served as a navigator of a B-17 in the 340 B Squadron of the 97th Bomb Group. He flew 30 missions over Nazi-occupied Europe as lead navigator. In February 1945, his plane was shot down over northern Italy. He and his surviving crew



Marlene Brooks



Robert Patrick Sossi



Theodore S. Zemenick

members were taken prisoner. They were incarcerated in a prison camp in Germany and later liberated by Gen. Patton's Third Army as it drove east. Ted knew he was going to make it home when he saw Gen. Patton, complete with pistols, riding by in a tank.

At the end of the war, Ted was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant. In 2001, Ted was reunited with other surviving crew members while attending the posthumous presentation of a Silver Star to their copilot, Lt. Gerald Flannick, who died keeping control of the plane so the other crew members could bail out.

After the war, Ted and Rita wanted a better life for their family, which, over the years, grew to six children. They bought their first home in Harper Woods in 1951. Education was stressed in their home. Ted was very proud of his children's and grandchildren's achievements in pursuing a higher education and various careers, including health care, law, education and information technology.

Ted worked at Michigan Bell Telephone Co., and retired in his early 60s after 45 years of service. Ted and Rita enjoyed weekends at the cottage Ted built on Harsens Island and spending March in Florida, usually with assorted kids and grandkids visiting them. Ted loved gardening, reading (and listening to books when his eyesight began to fail), repairing, building and painting.

Ted and Rita celebrated their 75th anniversary May 5, 2019, with a blessing at the Capuchin Monastery in Detroit. Rita died Nov. 6 of that year. Ted and Rita created a loving family who will always remember their dad and mom, or papa and grandma.

Ted will be missed by his and Rita's six children, Gregory (Bernadette), Susan Dely (David), Deva Ludwig (Tom), Patrice Ticknor (Robert), Michael (Mary) and Laura Tassopoulos (Andrew). Ted also will be missed by their 12 grandchildren, Diana, Aaron, Mark, Asrael, Stephen, Katie, Zach, Alex, Alissa, Ash, Andreana and Ayla. Ted was predeceased by his beloved grandson, Matthew. Ted lived to know and enjoy his and

Rita's great-grandchildren, Aaron Christopher, Nicholas, Mark, Catherine, John, Samantha, Allie, Lauren, Ezra, Will, Addy, Jonathan, Elle, Theodore "Teddy," Isla, Emma, Maximus "Max," Sophie, Theodore "Theo" and Margot.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

James Fredric Boettcher

James Fredric Boettcher, 94, died peacefully surrounded by his wife and children Monday, Jan. 19, 2026. Jim was a kind, sociable and intelligent man of great faith. He was devoted to his family, enjoyed long-lasting friendships and took pride in building Airtec Corp., a Detroit-based manufacturing business now in its fourth generation.

Born Sept. 3, 1931, in Denison, Iowa, Jim was the son of William and Marie Boettcher and brother of Betty, Ruth and Margaret. His first job at age 7 was sweeping floors in his uncle's general store, which was the origin of his deeply ingrained work ethic. He spent his childhood in various Iowa cities and then moved to Muskegon, where his family and friends called him JF, Freddie or Fritz. He graduated from Muskegon High School in 1949, and began going by Jim when he arrived at the University of Michigan to study accounting. There he met a group of housemates who left him with unforgettable memories of his college experience and became lifelong friends. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1953, and worked for Ford Motor Co., before he was called up for two years of service in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Newfoundland and Labrador. He returned to the Detroit area and began working for Sun Life Insurance.

Jim was introduced to his future wife, Barbara, by her college roommate when they were all living in the Grosse Pointe area. After they married in 1960, Barbara's father invited Jim to join Air-Tec Metal Products Co., a door and window manufacturer he founded in 1936. Jim grew the business from a small company serving residential



James Fredric Boettcher

customers to Airtec Corp., a thriving commercial manufacturer of custom metal products where he served as owner, president and chairman of the board. He was active in the Construction Association of Michigan and served a term as chairman of the board. His son, Chris, joined Airtec in 1985. Today, three of Jim's grandsons work for the business. He continued to be involved until the end of his life.

Jim loved sports. He coached basketball and baseball and was an avid University of Michigan football fan who had season tickets for years. He was involved with St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church and relaxed by spending time outdoors, always with a rake in hand, taking care of the landscaping around the home where he and Barbara raised their five children.

They enjoyed traveling with friends to Europe, Australia and Mexico, but Jim said his favorite trips were the ones where he, his family of seven and his mother-in-law drove to Florida to spend two weeks at Christmas or Easter. His greatest joy was spending time with his wife and children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jim is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Monica Wilkinson (Keith), Sandy Nordahl (Dave) and Katy Lohmueller (Eric); son, Chris Boettcher (Jenny); grandchildren, Jake Boettcher (Julia), Luke Boettcher (Natalie), Ben Boettcher (Annette), George Boettcher, Joe Boettcher, Caroline Graham (Cory), Sam Wilkinson, Tom Wilkinson, Sadie Lohmueller and Tess Lohmueller; six great-grandchildren; and sisters, Ruth and Margaret. He was predeceased by his parents; son, Jeff, who passed away in 1985; and sister, Betty.

See OBITs, page 3B

St. Paul on the Lake Knights of Columbus host fish dinners throughout Lenten season

St. Paul on the Lake Knights of Columbus announces its 12th annual fish dinner during Lent.

The tradition started with Knights offering dinner on a single Friday. The program expanded to all Fridays in Lent — except Good Friday. This year, the first Friday of Lent is Feb. 20.

The featured item has always been baked salmon with a signature sauce. New this year is the option of baked cod. The full menu includes fish sticks, clam chowder, biscuits, coleslaw, fruit cups,

mac and cheese and beverages. Dinner is served Fridays, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

St. Paul on the Lake Knights of Columbus Fish Council 1212 was formed more than 25 years ago and has donated more than \$334,000 to various charities, including Mercy in Action Day, Casey the Bear Program, Food for Families, Coats for Kids, Full Circle Foundation, Kids on the Go and Special Kids.

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OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

George M. Uznis

George M. Uznis, 76, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Bay Harbor, Mich., passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was a former resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

George was born May 28, 1949, to John and Evelyn Uznis. He grew up in Dearborn, where he attended Sacred Heart Catholic School and Dearborn High School. There, he played football and excelled as a swimmer and diver. He was a rower, skier and an accomplished sailor, navigating both the Great Lakes and the open ocean.

In 1970, George married the love of his life, Mary Ann. Together they shared 56 wonderful years of marriage. He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary Ann; sister, Sharon; son, Mike (Caileen); daughter, Gretchen (Michael); and beloved grandchildren, Anna, Lauren, Andy, Jake and Therese. George was predeceased by his parents, John F. and Evelyn Uznis; and brother, John. George's life was defined by his deep love for and unwavering devotion to his family.

George made a lasting impact as a third-generation builder, working alongside his father, John F., brother, John C., brother-in-law, Tom, and nephew, John C., at John F. Uznis Builders. Together, they built and renovated beautiful homes throughout Michigan and Florida while also developing apartment complexes and subdivisions across Michigan.

George lived life to the fullest and was fueled by his passion for the water and sailing. A renowned sailor, he earned the coveted "Double Goat" designation by completing more than 25 Bayview-Mackinac races and more than 25 Chicago Yacht Club Races to Mackinac. George and his brother John owned the racing yachts, Hotflash and Nitissima, and together with close friends competed in numerous regattas and offshore races. He was highly respected within the sailing community and raced in the Southern Ocean Racing Circuit, as well as the Newport Bermuda Race. Many of his closest friendships were made through the sport of sailing. He loved teaching his children and grandchildren to sail and coaching them as they grew older and began to compete.

George was a member of the Detroit Golf Club, Country Club of Detroit and Coral Ridge Country Club, where he enjoyed countless rounds of golf with Mary Ann and their friends. He also was a member of the Bay Harbor Yacht Club, New York Yacht Club, Cruising Club of America and Lauderdale Yacht Club, where he was recognized for his support of the junior sailing program. Additionally, he was a longtime member of the Bayview Yacht Club, where he was instrumental in supporting and strengthening its junior sailing program.

George was a faithful parishioner of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Fort Lauderdale and attended Mass every Sunday morning. He also was a generous supporter of St.



George M. Uznis

Anthony Catholic School, Holy Cross Health Fort Lauderdale and Great Lakes Center for the Arts in Bay Harbor.

Above all else, George will be remembered by all who knew him for his profound love and devotion to his family, which remained the central focus of his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sailing Foundation of Florida, 1725 SE 12th, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316, lycsf.org/ways-to-help/#donate; Bayview Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program, 100 Clairpointe, Detroit, MI 48215, byc juniorsailing.org/donate; Cleveland Clinic, my.clevelandclinic.org/giving; or the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave, Boston, MA 02215, bit.ly/4rg6hl5.

Barbara Watts Asmus

Barbara "Barb" Watts Asmus, 93, passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, in Petoskey.

Barb was born March 19, 1932, at Cottage Hospital in Grosse Pointe, to Edward F. Bauman and Anita Goetzinger Bauman. She was her father's tomboy and had a love for all things sports. She graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1949, then went to Purdue University. She transferred to Michigan State University in 1951. Within months, she found herself in East Lansing as a chosen "Dream Girl" for one of the big fraternities and on the homecoming court, riding in an open convertible, which she always loved to do.

Barb was born and raised a devout Christian. She was heavily involved at St. James Lutheran Church, teaching Sunday school and starting its Vacation Bible School program. Later, she also was very involved with the Grace Church Bible Study Fellowship and Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, where she was chosen as Woman of the Year in 2014, at age 82, and honored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, along with others from Missouri Synod Lutheran churches all over Michigan. Barb was an inspiration to many.

In 1951, her parents set her up on a blind date with Frank Watts, who became her husband and father of her three children, Bill, Jon and Wendy. Barb became a full-time homemaker and was very involved in her children's academics, sports and church involvement.

After her divorce in 1976, Barb went to work in the nuclear medicine department at St. John Hospital (now Henry Ford St. John Hospital) in Detroit, doing medical transcribing for doctors and taking care of patients. She loved her job and the people she worked with,



Barbara Watts Asmus

and they loved her.

Barb was an avid outdoor and travel enthusiast who lived a full and vivid life. She planned many ski trips, out West with family and in Europe with friends. She learned to co-pilot a Cessna 210, taught blind skiers to ski and raced in five Bayview to Mackinac races. Barb won multiple gold medals skiing with the Ford Thunderbird Ski Club well into her 80s, traveled to Alaska five times — and once was chased by a brown bear — and biked from Germany to Austria. She also went on a yacht trip in Croatia, snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef, completed five whitewater rafting trips in Class V rapids and went paragliding in New Zealand. Her list of adventures goes on and on.

Barb was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, at age 60. The experience changed her life and made her grow even deeper in her faith. Barb's favorite Bible verse, Philippians 4:13, embodied her spirit throughout her life: "I can do all things, through Christ who strengthens me."

In 2002, Barb married her loving second husband, Marv Asmus, a wonderful Christian and owner of Asmus Spice Co. After getting remarried, the travels continued for Barb and Marv. However, they were happiest at home with their families and grandchildren. After Marv passed away in 2014, Barb's next love came into her life: her parti poodle, Sparty, named after the team she spent countless hours cheering for, the Michigan State Spartans.

In 2021, Barb moved to Petoskey to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law, son and grandson, and lived out the rest of her life along the beaches of Lake Michigan, riding in an open convertible and spending much time with her loved ones and beautiful great-grandchildren, whom she loved dearly.

Barb was predeceased by her husbands, Frank Watts and Marvin Asmus; and sister, Joan Baker. She is survived by her beloved children, Bill Watts of Clinton Township, Jon Watts of Harbor Springs and Wendy Morris (Jim) of Harbor Springs. She was the loving grandmother of 14 grandchildren and was blessed with 19 great-grandchildren and counting.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation will continue at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6, until an 11 a.m. memorial service at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit. A luncheon will immediately follow at the church.

Memorial donations may be made to Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit, MI 48207, historictrinity.org/give/.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

WEDDING

Jackson—Byron

Margaret Ann Cox Jackson and Markus James Byron were married Nov. 22, 2025, at St. Bonaventure Monastery, in a ceremony officiated by Br. Fred Cabras. A reception at the Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park followed.

The bride is the daughter of Joan Pfaendtner and David Jackson of the City of Grosse Pointe. The groom is the son of Scott and Kathy Byron of Brighton.

The bride wore a classic A-line, off-the-shoulder gown, with a train, from The Bride's Project, an Ann Arbor-based nonprofit that supports cancer support services. She also wore a Juliet-cap and veil that was worn by her grandmother and mother at their weddings. Her bouquet of pink and white hydrangeas, roses and bells-of-Ireland was created by Flowers for Dreams, a nonprofit in Eastern Market.

The bride's sister, Delaney Jackson, served as maid of honor, while the bride's friend, Veronica Crawford, served as matron of honor. Her sisters-in-law, Carly Jackson and Rachel Conner, served as bridesmaids. Her niece, Hadley Jackson, served as flower girl.

The bridesmaids wore a variety of black dresses and carried bouquets of pink and white flowers mixed with greenery that also were created by Flowers for Dreams.

The groom's brother-in-law, Noah Conner, served as best man. His groomsmen were his cousin, John Spryshak; brother-in-law, Patrick Jackson; and friend, Eric Riley.

Maggie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication studies and history from the University of Detroit Mercy. She is the manager of Medicaid and Medicare marketing at Henry Ford Health.

Mark earned a Bachelor of Science degree in movement science from the University of Michigan, a Master of Nursing degree from the Frances Payne School of



Mrs. and Mrs. Markus Byron

Nursing in Ohio and a Owasso.

The couple honey-mooned in New York City after the wedding and has planned a second honeymoon to Europe this spring. They live in Brighton.

ENGAGEMENT



Carson Kiely and Patrick Jackman

Kiely—Jackman

Edmund and Carol Jackman of Grosse Pointe Park announce the engagement of their son, Patrick Edmund Jackman, to Carson Barrett Kiely, the daughter of Clay and Ame Frook of Round Hill, Va.

Mr. Jackman graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in economics. He is a strategic alliance manager with Avalara.

Miss Kiely earned a bachelor's degree in business and communications from the University of Florida. She is in software sales with Nue.

Garden Center lecture is Feb. 26

Grosse Pointe Garden Center hosts "New Plant Introductions for 2026" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26.

George Papadelis, the energetic plant grower and owner of Telly's Greenhouse and Garden Center, will share his expertise in the Reception Room at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Registration is required for admission. The lecture is free for Garden Center members, \$10 for nonmembers.

Visit gpgardencenter.org.

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A YEAR OF Firsts

Embroidered memories make milestones extra special

By Olivia Monette
and Donna Zetterlund
Special Writers

In a world that sometimes moves too fast, it’s more important than ever to stop and celebrate life’s most precious moments in ways that help us remember. We are fortunate to have a local business that helps the community (and beyond) do just that.

GP Embroidery, founded by Grosse Pointe Shores resident Terese Castile, came to be to

serve a need for monograms that didn’t fit the standard offerings. The business has grown in only a few years to a brand known for high-quality creative customization.

From accents for weddings and new babies to all of life’s special events, GP Embroidery hopes to share these good times by providing the unique gifts and accessories that enhance significant moments and carry on memories for generations.

The shop can be reached at gpembroidery.com.



ANDREA LYNNE PHOTOGRAPHY



LINABELL WEDDINGS



Linens with intricate embroidery add panache and class to any event. Monogramming is the tradition that never goes out of style.



BACHELORETTE PARTY

Wedding details
Marriage is the ultimate new beginning. Whether it’s a gift for the new couple or enhancing the wedding celebration, there are so many ways to include embroidery in this special day. Monogrammed or personalized linen napkins add to the decor and make a beautiful and memorable party favor. Serving towels for the waitstaff with the new couple’s initials take the event to the next level.

New addition
There is nothing more special than newborn baby photographs with a young family. One way to create a unique heirloom is with a bow swaddle complete with the new baby’s monogram. You can remember older siblings too with a “big brother” or “big sister” sweater to include them in the fun.

Girls’ night
Bachelorette parties are a place for unique celebration ideas to shine. Making each bridesmaid feel special might be a bit of a daunting task — especially when they often have very different interests. Creating a theme sweatshirt including icons of each girl’s favorite items is the perfect gift to bond the group while creating a memorable gift they can wear for years to come.

NEW BABY

Cuteness knows no bounds with clever ideas for babies and big sibs from GP Embroidery.



ANDREA LYNNE PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST NEW HOME



COURTESY PHOTO

Housewarming gift
From a new personalized throw for these cold winter months to fresh, fluffy monogrammed towels for the bath, embroidery makes that new home gift more important and meaningful. Pro tip: Including the exact monogram from the couple’s wedding invitation really goes the extra gift-giving mile.

A soft monogrammed throw, left, is a welcome gift for almost any occasion.



FIRST
DAY OF
SCHOOL

Sweet custom backpacks, above, make school day one lots more fun! A+ for creativity!

KAT STEVENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Starting school

The quintessential new beginning for our special little ones is their first day of school — and what better way to celebrate their new accomplishment than with a backpack made especially for them. It’s also an easy way for new classmates to learn their name and for kids and teachers to identify easily among all the other backpacks!

First real family vacay

While traveling to and from soccer practice may seem like a vacation, there’s nothing like the excitement of a first real trip as a family. Each family member will feel special with their own personalized luggage. Not only are individual personalities able to shine through, but everyone will be organized.



FIRST
FAMILY
VACATION

Baby’s first Christmas

Celebrating a new baby’s first Christmas with older siblings is a once-in-a-lifetime memory. Watching older siblings relive the Christmas magic through new little eyes is something that is never to be forgotten. Capture this moment with adorable matching embroidered holiday pajamas!

Baby’s buddy

Even babies need a buddy to navigate a world that is new and challenging. A personalized bunny of their own is the perfect companion. The Travel Bun Bun is road-ready for trips to Grandma’s house and more. In several color choices, this little pal is the ideal newborn or first birthday gift.



FIRST
FRIEND

COURTESY PHOTO



BABY'S
FIRST
CHRISTMAS

KAT STEVENSON PHOTOGRAPHY



KAT STEVENSON PHOTOGRAPHY



JUST
FOR
FUN

Party time!

Personalized linen cocktail napkins or coasters with creative phrases and icons are the gift that keeps on giving — becoming a conversation starter for so many future dinner parties and get-togethers! A cool idea for anniversaries, birthdays or hostess gifting.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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.

◆ 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 helm.life.org.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, membership in The Helm is waived for people living in Harper Woods, the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods. Residents of non-senior service millage communities must pay a \$180 per household membership fee to The Helm to use its services and participate in programming. For more information, call (313) 882-9600.

◆ Aging with Insight: Finding Local Housing Options for Seniors, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, with Donna O’Neill and Mimi

Koppang of Real Estate One.

◆ The movie “The Thursday Murder Club” is shown at noon Friday, Jan. 30. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.

Library

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

◆ Pizza & Panic: Teen Scary Movie Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ The Love and Legacy of Black Photography, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 3, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Leadership Council meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Drop-in & Craft with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Anime & Manga

Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 5, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ The True and Live History of Techno Music, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Colonialist Richard Cranch, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Ford House

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

◆ 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.

◆ Storytime: “Giraffes Can’t Dance,” 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3.

◆ Drop-In Studio: Decorate a Heart, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Northeastern Toastmasters welcomes public, guest speaker
Open house is Feb. 9

Northeastern Toastmasters Club 573 hosts an open house and guest speaker during its next meeting, 6:45 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the WCCCD Mary Ellen Stempfle-University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods.

Guests are invited to meet Toastmasters members, learn about the club and listen to guest speaker LaShon Bowers, a retired IT specialist who will talk about the importance of communication skills for today’s professional.

“Northeastern Toastmasters Club 573 provides a supportive and positive environment where members have the opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills,” said Terrence Allen, president of Northeastern Toastmasters 573.

After Bowers’ presentation, members and guests will have a regular Toastmasters meeting that includes Table Topics — impromptu speeches — and evaluations. Club member D. Dillon, who has served in

various club positions, will be the Table Topics Master.

“Table Topics are one of my favorite parts of the meeting,” club member Tara Truitt said. “This is where guests and members are randomly selected to speak for one to two minutes. It helps you think and speak clearly on your feet.”

Toastmasters Club 573 meets twice a month at 6:45 p.m. at the WCCCD Mary Ellen Stempfle-University Center. For more information, visit 573.toastmastersclubs.org or email Truitt at topnotch tara58@gmail.com.

POST Detroit

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

◆ Craft Cocktails Workshop: For Old Fashioned Lovers, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30. 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 War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers pro-

grams and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit war memorial.org

◆ SMART Goals & Time Management: The Balance Blueprint, 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4. Cost is \$75.

◆ Gilda’s Club Snacking in Season, 11 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month, Feb. 4 to Dec. 2.

◆ Why? Write Now! A 90-Day Writing Experience, Wednesdays, Feb. 4 to April 22. Cost is \$120.

◆ Vet-to-Vet, 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5.

◆ Middle School Dance: Sweetheart Soiree, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 5. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 the week of the dance.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Rotarian John Mozena will speak about his rock ‘n’ roll tour last summer. Email grosse pointerotary@gmail.com.

Concert

The Planet D Nonet performs a trio of concerts Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5 to 7, at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visit dirtydogjazz.com for tickets.

The Helm offers free workshop to explain ins, outs of Medicare

Some things can’t be avoided. Turning 65 and signing up for Medicare is one such life milestone.

The Helm offers a free program that explains required steps, as well as various drug and supplemental plan options to make a smooth transition to Medicare.

Medicare counselors will be at The Helm, 158

Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, to provide a comprehensive overview of Medicare, including coverage, costs, pros and cons of different optional plans and how to sign up. The ideal time to take the class is three to six months before turning 65.

The class is free, but

space is limited, so call (313) 649-2110 or email talto villa@helmlife.org to make a reservation.

Typical post-presentation survey comments include, “This was extremely helpful” and “Everyone was very thorough. If I need further assistance, I would definitely call The Helm.”

The Helm offers the New to Medicare class three or so times each year. Preference is given to residents of Harper Woods and the five Grosse Pointes.

The Helm also offers free, individual appointments throughout the year with Medicare counselors to help people understand their options, choose the best plans and answer specific questions.

Contact Tony Altovilla at talto villa@helmlife.org or (313) 649-2110 to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a Medicare counselor.



“Love Knot” by Christopher Charron.

LOVE:

Continued from page 1B

Saturday, Jan. 31, at the gallery, located inside The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Best of Show and other prizes will be awarded.

Also currently displayed in the GPAA guest gallery is a solo exhibition by Jacquelyn Block, who earned the honor by being named Best of Show for the GPAA’s “Mindblowing” exhibition.

While the artwork selected for Lovin’ Feelin’ may be found on the GPAA website — grossepointeartcenter.org — Pope encouraged visits to the gallery.

“Art is best seen in person,” she said. “All the entries come to us online and the jurors look at them online, but every juror says it’s so important to see them in person, to see the nuances

you don’t get online.”

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call (313) 881-3454.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

“Tom and Rosy” by Mary Taitt.

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEE POSITION

There is one vacancy on the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees. The available position represents Grosse Pointe Shores. The term for this position will expire on June 30, 2028. Applicants must be registered voters and reside in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Applications are available at the Central Library Administrative Office (313-343-2325), 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday or on the Library’s website, grossepointelibrary.org.

Applications must be submitted to the Secretary of the Library Board, no later than February 26, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Submit applications to:

libraryboard@grossepointelibrary.org

Or:

Secretary of Library Board
Grosse Pointe Public Library
10 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Published: GPN, January 29, 2026

LIFE & LEISURE

2C GP GABBY | 2C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 4C - 5C COMICS

Living donors get \$10,000 tax break in Michigan, thanks to local advocates

Michigan residents who donate a kidney or a portion of their liver can now claim a one-time state income tax credit of up to \$10,000 to help cover their out-of-pocket expenses. This new credit — appearing as line 20 on the 2025 MI-1040 tax form — took effect Jan. 1, 2025. It is designed to reimburse living donors for costs not covered by insurance, such as travel, lodging, lost wages and child care related to the donation. Lawmakers and advocates hope this financial relief will encourage more Michiganders to consider becoming living organ donors, removing one more barrier for those willing to “give the gift of life.”

Mark Dybis, left, wears the medal his brother-in-law, David Galbenski, earned after running his first post-surgery marathon in 2023. Dybis donated part of his liver to Galbenski in 2019.



Local story behind the legislation

The push for Michigan’s living donor tax credit has a deeply personal origin in Grosse Pointe. Dave Galbenski, a Grosse Pointe Shores resident and local business owner, faced a life-threatening liver disease and received a lifesaving transplant in 2019, thanks to a living donor — his brother-in-law, Mark Dybis.

Dybis, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident, donated a portion of his liver to Galbenski. Both livers grew back to full size in about two months. Dybis’s kindness allowed Galbenski to walk his daughter down the aisle at her wedding.

“Mark’s gift to me was



COURTESY PHOTOS

David Galbenski provides testimony on HB4361 in 2024. HB4361 was sponsored by former Rep. Felicia Brabec and signed into law Nov. 13, 2024, by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

to give us moments in the future,” Galbenski reflected, crediting his donor for making such family milestones possible. Galbenski and his wife, Lynn, turned their gratitude into action. In 2022, they co-founded the Living Liver Foundation with a mission to educate the public about living organ donation and eliminate barriers for potential donors.

Seeing firsthand the costs and challenges that living donors shoulder, the family became determined to “pay it forward” by improving the system for future donors and patients. They worked

with Sen. Kevin Hertel to help pass a 2023 law which prohibits life, disability and long-term care insurers from discriminating against living donors. They shared their story, testified in Lansing and sought endorsements from key groups.

Next, they began working closely with former Rep. Felicia Brabec to focus on helping Michigan’s living donors recoup many of the expenses that previously came out of their own pockets. This work turned into the Living Donor tax credit.

The Galbenskis noted that while a transplant recipient’s insurance does pay for the donor’s test-

ing, surgery and follow-up medical care, it doesn’t cover many non-medical costs the donor may incur: missed paychecks, travel, hotel stays, meals away from home, parking or extra child care. Those out-of-pocket expenses can be significant enough that some willing donors hesitate. The new tax credit is aimed squarely at that gap.

The need is great

In 2025, Michigan saw 177 living-donor transplants (164 kidney and 13 liver), a 22 percent increase over the previous year, and advocates are hopeful the trend will continue upward in 2026 with the help of the new tax credit. There is a need for more living donors: More than 2,600 Michiganders currently are waiting for a transplant, including 2,327 candidates awaiting kidneys and 129 awaiting livers.

Living kidney and liver transplants have excellent outcomes and living donation can dramatically shorten the time a patient spends on the organ waiting list. And on average, a kidney transplant from a living donor lasts longer than a kidney from a deceased donor — approximately 15 to 20 years versus eight to 12 years.

In addition, this new tax credit will save taxpayers real dollars. According to the National Kidney Foundation, approximately one in four

Medicare dollars is spent on kidney patients — \$156.7 billion and growing. Many Michigan residents wait four or more years for a deceased donor kidney. Studies show the cost of a living donor kidney transplant can be recouped within two years compared to ongoing dialysis which can cost \$90,000 a year.

Michigan becomes top state for living donation

The enactment of the living donor tax credit already has improved Michigan’s standing in the eyes of national organizations that track support for organ donation. In 2022, the American Kidney Fund had previously given Michigan a failing grade on its “Living Donor Protection Report Card,” but thanks to job-protected leave and paid leave for state employees announced in 2023, the passage of the anti-discrimination insurance law in 2023 and now the new tax credit for 2025, Michigan’s grade jumped to a B, making it a top state for living donation.

Those who would like to consider living donation should contact their nearest transplant center, such as Henry Ford Hospital, Corewell Beaumont or University of Michigan Health. In most cases, donors need to be between ages 18 and 65, and be in good physical and mental health.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Deanna Freed, LMSW, CAADC

The quiet power of slowing down

We live in a world that encourages and values busyness, speed and immediate gratification. We are primed for receiving the “dopamine hit” we get from fast responses, quick results, instant updates, message alerts, constant stimulation ... but it’s temporary. We then need more and eventually the hit does not sustain, putting us on a path to exhaustion.

We are not equipped to keep up this pace, at least not without breaks. With constant stimulation, our bodies remain in a continual state of tension, prompting the body to secrete the hormones cortisol and adrenalin — the fight/flight hormones that flood the body when we are stressed. Chronic stress overstimulates these hormones, which can have a negative impact on physical, mental and emotional health.

Slowing down isn’t laziness. It’s wisdom. We may initially experience feelings of emptiness, boredom and unproductiveness when it becomes quiet. But some studies suggest that the busier we become, the less efficient and productive we are. Slowing down, recharging and reclaiming our attention are important to our physical and mental health.

The busier we keep ourselves, the more we also may avoid facing important or difficult life issues that need our attention. We sacrifice the necessary self-reflection and connections with others that can promote presence, direction and meaning in our day-to-day lives.

Slowing down and being present is something we can develop — slowly, with intention. Even small shifts can make a big difference with regular practice. Here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ Pair bathroom breaks with an opportunity to take 10 long, slow breaths, to reach a calm, slow breathing pattern. Check in with your body tension, soften and un-tense your muscles while you breathe. If you maintain this practice, it can become more natural throughout the rest of the day, without requiring as much intentional effort.
- ◆ Take a real lunch break instead of



eating while answering emails, scrolling, texting, etc.

- ◆ Leave your phone in another room for an hour.
- ◆ Walk without headphones, experience silence, listen to the birds or the sounds around you.
- ◆ Pause, count backward by threes from 100 in your head slowly before responding when feeling emotionally charged.
- ◆ Do one thing at a time — just one. Finish it and then go on to the next.
- ◆ Take intentional breaks from technology so your mind has time to rest. Try starting your day by waiting at least 30 minutes before picking up your phone, turn off some of your media alerts or see if you can wait an hour in between each time you check your phone.

When you slow your pace, something beautiful can happen: You start noticing real things again — the warmth of your coffee, the sound of wind in the trees, the smell of a sweet aroma, the sound of your child’s voice, the softness of embracing your pet, the taste of your favorite food.

Leaving space for your mind to wander and experience boredom can promote creativity, inspiration and coming back to yourself. A slower life is not lacking; it can be one of more depth, more memories and more joy when we slow down enough to be present.

Deanna Freed, LMSW, CAADC, is a therapist with All Things Possible Wellness Center. For more information, visit allthingspossiblewc.com/ or call (586) 213-5505.

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

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Gabby

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

Don't play the vacation game

Dear Gabby: Every time I mention a trip, my neighbors casually top it. “Oh, Napa? We winter in Tuscany.” “Maine? We summer in Nantucket.” How do I win this game without actually going broke? — Over it in the Woods

Dear Over It: You’re playing the wrong game. Stop naming destinations entirely. Next time, say you’re

going somewhere “very quiet” or “not on the internet yet.” If pressed, sigh and say, “We signed an NDA.” Nothing unnerves competitive travelers more than the idea they’re missing something exclusive and secret. But in all seriousness, “winning” a traveling competition when you don’t have the budget is irrespon-

sible and ridiculous. There are many, many beautiful vacations that don’t cost a lot — and you can bring your friends who aren’t one-uppers.

— Gabby

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



Missing intimacy in a good marriage

DEAR ANNIE: I’ve been married for 27 years, and by most measures we have a good, steady life. We’re healthy, financially secure and get along well. There’s no infidelity or drama. The problem is there’s no romance or passion either. I’ve started to feel deeply lonely in my marriage. My husband is kind and dependable but distant. He’s gone all day and

unwinds in front of the television at night. I crave conversation — about ideas, feelings, memories, even worries. When I try to talk about anything deeper than logistics, he listens but rarely engages. Over the years, I’ve stopped trying as hard. I’ve filled my life with friends, books, volunteering and hobbies, but there’s still an emptiness that shows up sometimes.

I miss being known by the person I share my life with. I don’t want to blow up a marriage that’s stable and decent. But I also don’t want things to continue this way. I don’t know exactly what changed. I care about getting our emotional closeness back, but I’m not sure where to start. My efforts so far have gotten me nowhere.

— Married, but Missing

Something

DEAR MARRIED, BUT MISSING SOMETHING: Your husband may not withhold conversation out of indifference. Some people are simply less fluent in emotional language. That doesn’t mean he can’t learn, but it does mean you might need to take the reins. Small changes can



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

matter, but they must be intentional: shared walks, one device-free evening, a simple habit of checking in. Emotional closeness rarely returns on its own; it grows from shared quality time. Wanting connection is not a youthful luxury.

It’s a lifelong need. The mistake would be deciding silently that it’s too late to ask.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dear annie@creators.com.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAGC STUDIOS, IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT AND FORTE CORP PICTURES.

A tense moment with left, Daniel Brühl as Heinz Wittmer and Jude Law as Dr. Friedrich Ritter in the 2024 movie “Eden,” written by Noah Pink and Ron Howard and directed by Ron Howard.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Eden”
2025 - Rated R
2 hr 9 min
★★★★☆

From his early days playing “Opie” on “The Andy Griffith Show” to producing and directing an incredible number of blockbuster films, Ron Howard has truly become a Hollywood icon. I mean, just look at the wide range of films he’s been responsible for. They range from serious dramas like “Apollo 13” and “A Beautiful Mind” to hit comedies including “Splash” and “Parenthood.” A quick check on IMDb reveals that he’s been involved in over 150 projects. Now that’s a mind boggling figure!

“Eden” is the latest from this master filmmaker. It’s his retelling of the remarkable true story of events that took place in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The tale was written by several of the people who were involved, so it’s not totally clear just how accurate the retelling is. I’ve read about a recent documentary on the subject called “The Galapagos Affair: Satan Came to Eden.” After seeing “Eden,” I’ll definitely have to check it out and see how close Mr. Howard came to faithfully presenting the

actual events. The setting is Floreana, a remote island in the Galapagos archipelago, off the western coast of South America. A physician turned philosopher/writer Friedrich Ritter (Jude Law) has settled on the island with his lover, Dore Strauch (Vanessa Kirby). She’s suffering from multiple sclerosis and feels island life may help cure her. And they’re escaping the Great Depression and the slow rise of fascism in their native Germany. The good doctor is working on a philosophical treatise that he feels will change the world. His dispatches are collected by the occasional fishing boat that visit the island and are published in widely read magazines and newspapers. His beliefs closely resemble those of his fellow countryman Friedrich

Nietzsche, full of despair and nihilism — expressing little hope for humanity. Needless to say, Ritter has an immense ego, which is masterfully embodied by Jude Law. The part was made for him. Actually, I thought both he and Dore were really irritating characters. Their idyllic setting is soon interrupted when Heinz (Daniel Brühl), Margret (Sydney Sweeney), and Harry Wittmer (Jonathan Tittel) arrive. Heinz has read some of Ritter’s writings which has inspired him to sell off their worldly goods and relocate to the island to make a new life for his family. They’re an optimistic, well-meaning couple and they hope the change of scenery will have a positive effect on their son who’s recovering from tuberculosis. Are they ever in for a surprise.



Dore Strauch played by Vanessa Kirby.



Jude Law as Friederich Ritter.



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

It becomes quite clear that Dr. Ritter and Dore resent the intrusion on their paradise. They reluctantly offer advice to the newcomers but leave them largely to their own ingenuity to survive. And survive they do. The family toils away until they’ve built a formidable shelter, planted a vegetable garden and captured a much needed cow as a source of milk. We share their excitement when the first vegetable appears. However, the tension between the two families is always there. Then an arrival occurs that will change the narrative even more dramatically. Enter the self-titled Baroness Eloise Bosquet de Wagner Wehrhorn (Ana de Armas). She appears with her three boy-toys and immediately sets up shop. She has a master plan to build a luxury resort on the remote island. The Baroness is quite a character. She’s always dressed as if she’s attending a royal ball, her hair is perfectly quaffed and she’s almost like something out of a Disney movie — she takes the phrase “putting on airs” to the next level. Even

her posh accent is comical. You can tell at this point that there’s going to be a great deal of friction in the offing between the three parties. The turning point occurs about half way into the movie. The Baroness underestimated just how much food she needed to bring with her. Heaven knows she couldn’t be bothered creating a garden or hunt any of the island’s wild animals. So she instructs her sidekicks to raid the Wittmer’s pantry and steal their canned goods. The family doesn’t let on they know they’ve been robbed until a bit later, at an elaborate dinner the Baroness throws for the gang. As the tensions rise, things slowly devolve amongst the three parties. The movie could easily be subtitled “Paradise Lost.” It becomes a bit of a guessing game of who’s going to team up with who, and how is the story going to end. It will sure keep you guessing. Obviously, someone survived to write the story of what exactly occurred. I thought the writing by Howard and Noah



Pink, directing and acting were wonderful. And the cinematography by Mathias Herndl and the perfectly understated score by Hans Zimmer were exceptional as well. If you’re in the mood for something a bit different, do check this one out. Currently streaming on Netflix and to rent on Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, and Prime Video.

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.



Ana de Armas as the Baroness.



Heinz Wittmer played by Daniel Brühl.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I have been seeing ads for the BoomBoom Nasal Stick everywhere: Instagram, Facebook, you name it. I kept scrolling and honestly did not think much of it. It looked like one of those trendy products that pops up overnight and disappears by next season.

Then the colds hit our house — the nasty, stuffy, cannot-breathe-through-your-nose kind. The teenagers had heard about BoomBoom and insisted



we try it, so I ordered the variety pack and we tested it out.

Using it is simple. You twist open the small stick, hold it under one nostril and inhale for one to two seconds, then repeat on the other side. It is made with a natural blend of menthol and essential oils like peppermint and eucalyptus. The set comes with four scents: Mint, Wintermint, Tropical and Lavender.

The brand promises

what they call “vapor flow technology,” which is basically a wick system designed to release strong vapors that stay fresh and potent for up to 30 days. It is also marketed as helpful for congestion, focus, workouts, study sessions and staying alert.

So, does it work?

Yes, in the short term. The second you inhale, you get that cooling sensation that makes you feel instantly more awake and refreshed. It really does

help with the feeling of congestion, like your nose opens up and you can finally breathe again.

But for me, it did not last long. I felt like I could use this thing every hour of the day and that is not realistic. It is not a long-term congestion solution, but in cases of extreme stuffiness or before a sports game, I can see how this would be a useful little trick.

It is easy, portable and safe — just not a miracle.

I rate BoomBoom Nasal Stick three out of five alligators.

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.



3 Out Of 5

High protein, fudgy and delicious

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

High protein meals and recipes are everywhere on social media with good reason. Eating more protein can support fat loss, help build and repair muscle, and, best of all, keep you feeling full longer.

What really caught my attention, though, was the rise of high-protein desserts. Plain Greek yogurt, for example, is thick and creamy and can easily be sweetened with honey, fruit, or granola.

When I’m being strict, it’s a great option when that middle of the day sugar craving hits.

The plan unraveled the day I discovered how good caramel sauce tastes drizzled on top. Absolutely delicious.

Unfortunately, “drizzled” quickly turned into pouring about half the jar over a small bowl of yogurt. I started to miss the point.

This week, I tried a

high protein brownie recipe. I had low expectations but these were really good.

The main bulk ingredient is cottage cheese. It sounds odd but not if you think about how much ricotta cheese or cream cheese is used in desserts. It’s a great base for flavor.

These brownies are super chocolatey, moist and sweet. Sweetened with maple syrup, these do call for some nut butter. I happened to have peanut butter but almond butter would be great as well. Use unsweetened if you want.

Reviews around my house went something like this. “Oh, yum, I think I like it!” And, “I didn’t know I liked it until I stopped eating it!” All wins in my book. Give these easy treats a try.

Cheers, Mombeau

- High Protein Brownies**
- 2 cups low-fat cottage cheese
 - 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 - 1 cup maple syrup
 - ½ cup nut butter
 - 4 large eggs
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - ½ tsp baking soda
 - ¼ tsp salt
 - ½ cup dark chocolate chips
 - Cooking spray
- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line an 8x8 inch baking dish with parchment paper and spray with avocado oil. In a blender, combine all ingredients except for the dark chocolate chips. Blend until smooth. Pour into the baking

dish and then sprinkle in the chocolate chips. Use a knife to swirl in the chips. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes.

The middle should be puffed and a knife should come out clean. Carefully remove

from the pan and let cool for about 15 minutes before removing from the pan and slicing.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON



Ideas to better enjoy wine

You buy a bottle of wine, toss it in the trunk with the tomato sauce and pasta and when you get home, you chill it, open it and pour a few ounces.

That’s a typical scenario in many homes. And it almost assuredly provides enjoyment. When I’m cooking, I almost always do so with a glass of something nearby. Sometimes it even goes in the bubbling pot.

But there are several suggestions to improve not only your wine experience, but also how the wine is perceived. And although I have mentioned these ideas at various times, I’ve never put them all in one place. Here are a few recommendations.

Buy Ahead: Endeavor to keep a few bottles in a personal stash at home. Transporting wine home on the day you’re consuming it shakes the liquid up. A wine at rest is usually better than one that rolls around in the back of the car.

Aerate: Almost every wine, young and old, benefits from a few minutes or an hour of air.

The simple act of decanting a wine usually expands the aroma and allows it to show more complexity.

Use large wine glasses: Thimble-sized juice glasses cannot do justice to the aroma of a good wine. I suggest using larger tulip-shaped stemware that allows for swirling the wine. This lets wine lovers get a noticeably more distinctive aroma.

Don’t serve at the wrong temperature: Most wines are best served cool, such as about 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Overchilling most white wines blunts the aroma and wipes out any of the wine’s delicacy. (Rosés, sparkling wines and rieslings can take a little additional chilling.)

Pick wines that are compatible with the food: Rigid rules are unnecessary, but I generally pick red wines with meat and white wines with seafood. Red meat has lots of protein and red wines’ astringency can be reduced with protein. No such problem exists with most seafood. The only variation here is salmon,

which I prefer with pinot noir, a lighter red.

Don’t forget dessert wines: A light ruby Port, a cream sherry or a delicate riesling can creatively conclude an elegant, or even a simple, dinner. Most dessert wines made in the United States are frequently underpriced because they are so often ignored.

Bubbly enlivens the palate: Brut-designated sparkling wines usually are made with sufficient acidity so they pair nicely with cheese and crackers during the aperitif period. They are cleansing and preparing the mouth for further treats.

Respect the water glass: If a meal starts with sparkling wine, includes a white, a red and a dessert wine, the total alcohol intake, maybe problematic. Two to three glasses of water keep the head clearer so you can better enjoy the flavors.

Bring a pen and paper: Occasionally, one or more of the wines served is one you have never heard of before, so it might be a good idea to take note of the brand and especially the vintage so you can track the wine down.

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

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Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

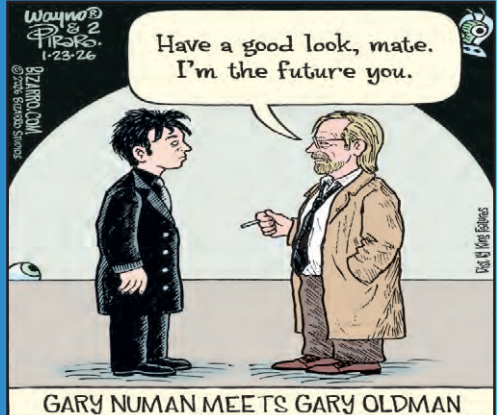


Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

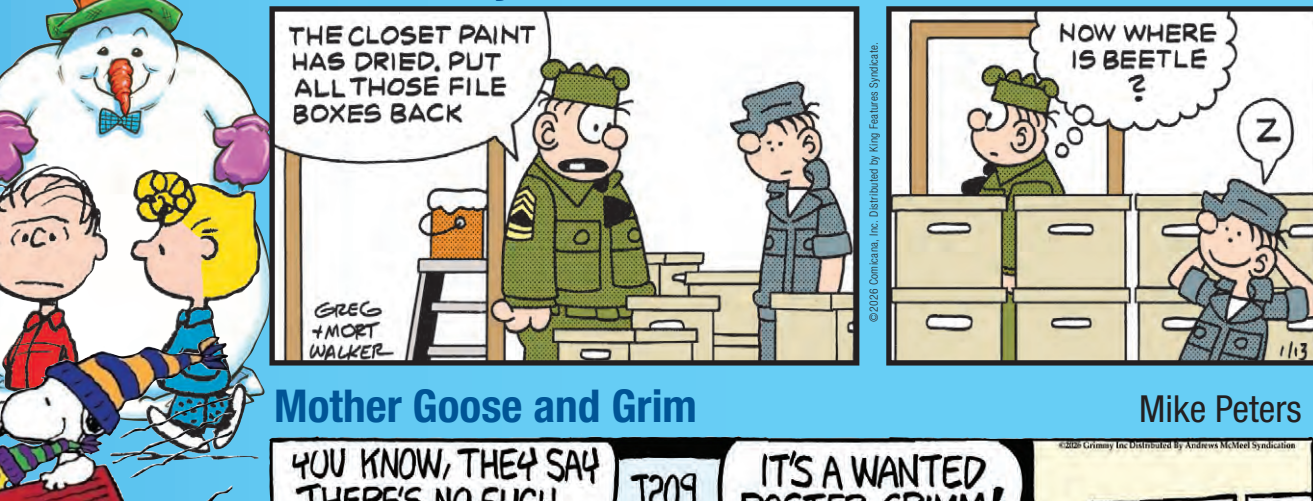


Reality Check

Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

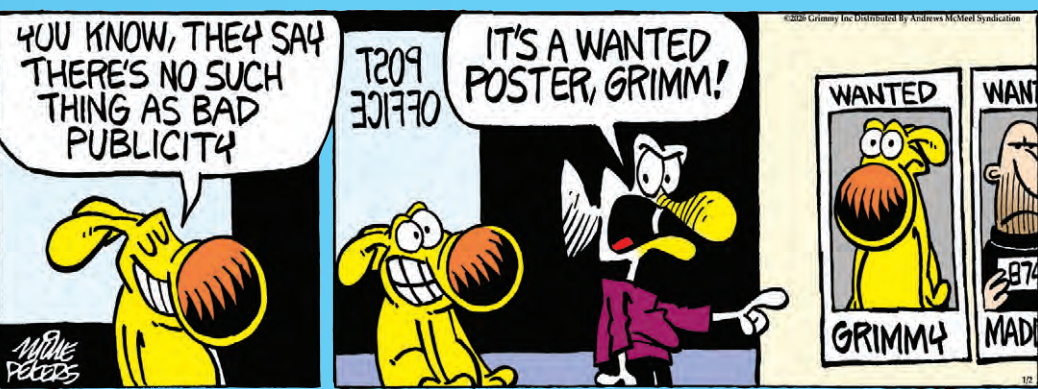


The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

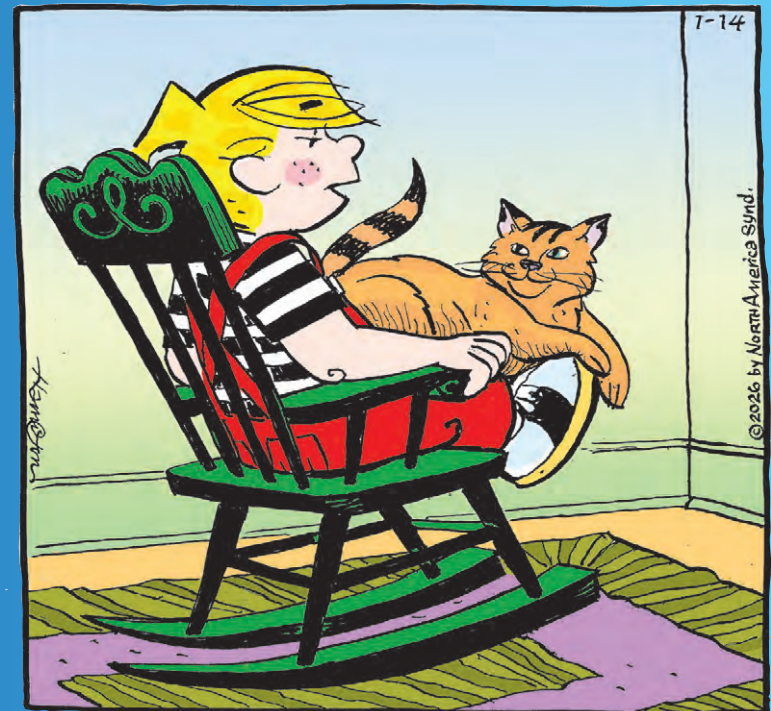


Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

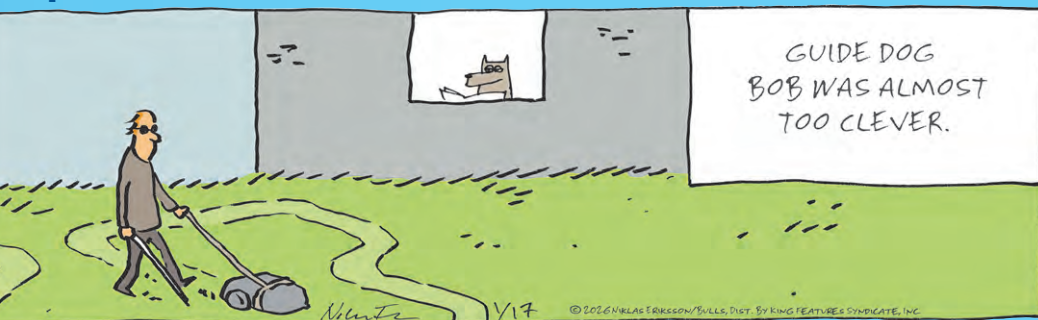
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

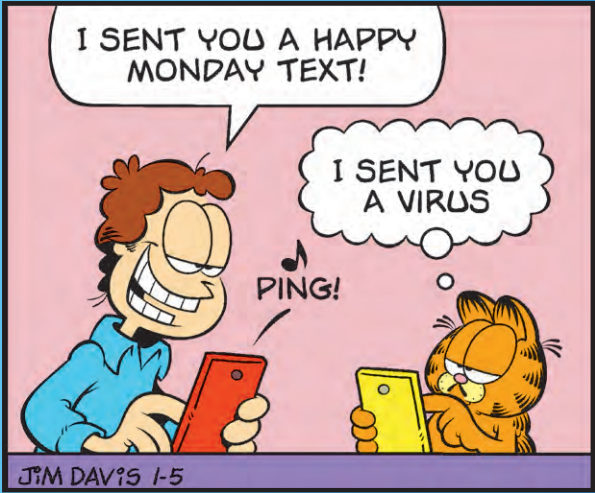
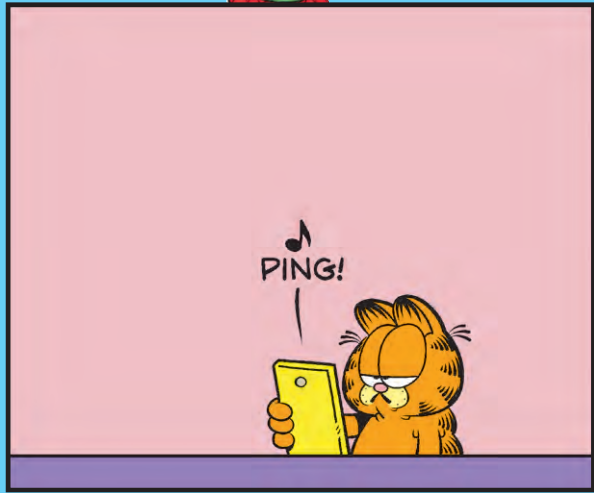


Grosse
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News

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



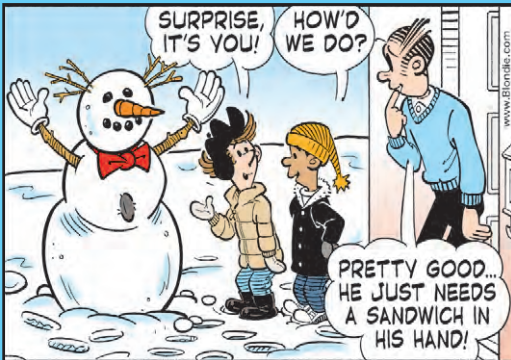
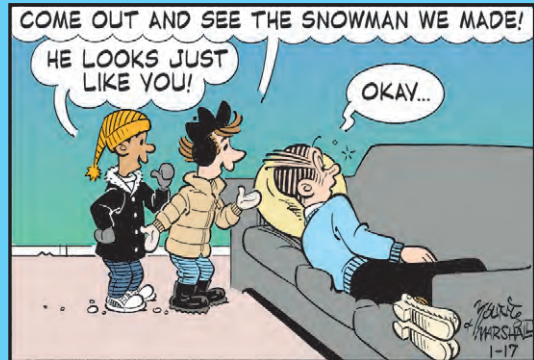
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



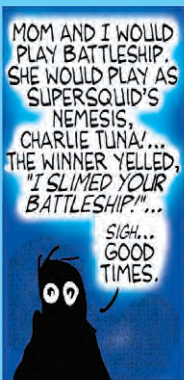
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



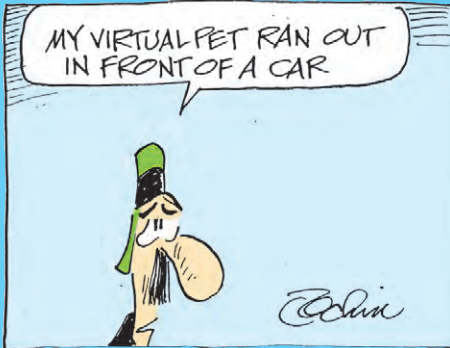
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



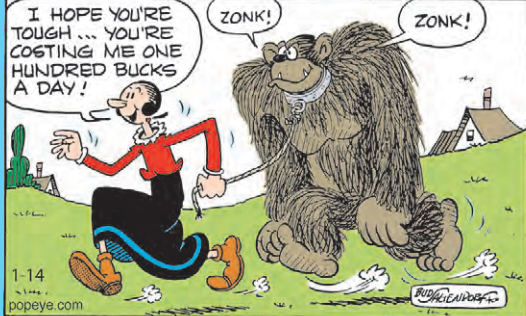
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



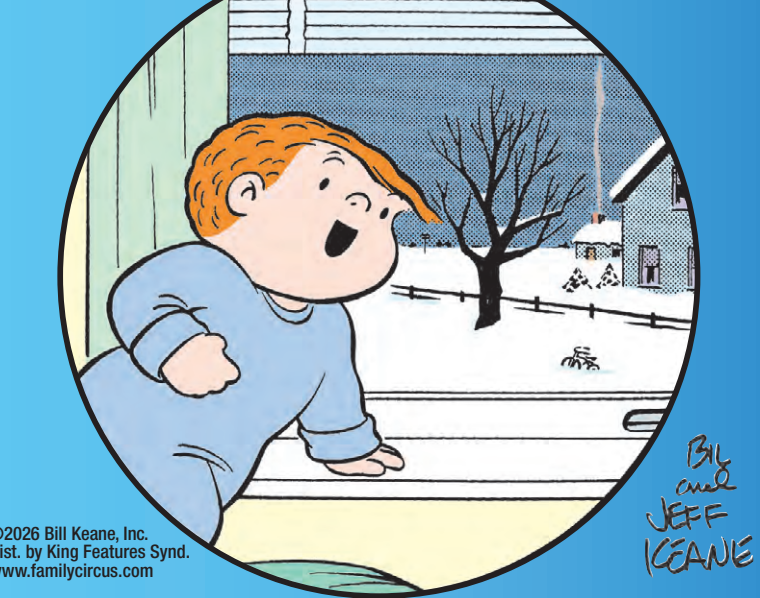
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

1/29 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

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

1/22 Solution

Contract Bridge

BRIDGE'S PRACTICAL SIDE
West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 8 5 3
♥ K 9 6 2
♦ Q 10 3
♣ J 10 4

EAST
♥ 7 6 2
♥ Q J 4 3
♦ K 6 5 2
♣ K 9

SOUTH
♠ A K J 4
♥ A 10 7
♦ J 9 8
♣ 8 5 3

The bidding:
West **North** **East** **South**
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — two of hearts.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads the heart deuce. It's not difficult to make the contract if you see the East-West cards. All you have to do is win the heart with the ace and play the A-2 of clubs. Nine tricks, easy as pie.

But making three notrump is not that easy if you see only the North-South hands. You might, for example, win the third heart and finesse the queen of clubs. East would win with the king

and return a heart, and whichever defender won the heart would probably shift to a diamond. Eventually, you'd go down two.

However, there is a much better way to play the hand, if you put your mind to it. To begin with, you note that West's opening lead is the deuce of hearts. If West is a player who leads fourth-best, it is reasonable to assume that he and East each have four hearts. On this basis, therefore, you should win the opening heart lead with the ace.

Your next play is also important. You should lead a low spade to dummy's nine and return the deuce of clubs! In the actual deal, there is a good chance that East will go up with the king — rightly or not — and thereby hand you the contract.

The point is that by leading a low club from dummy at trick three, instead of taking an immediate finesse, you give East the chance to make a mistake if he has the doubleton king of clubs. And the more opportunities you give the defenders to make a mistake, the more likely they are to oblige.

Of course, if your low club play from dummy loses to the nine, ten or jack, you can still try the club finesse when you regain the lead.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping and important decisions from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. EST today (11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from GEMINI into CANCER.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 29, 2026:

You have profound convictions. You are empathetic to the plight of others, ardent, quick-witted and inspiring. This year is about work, building and construction. It's time to create solid foundations in your life, both physically and internally. Simplicity is key. Take charge of your health.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today you might more easily tell a friend how much you care for them or how much they mean to you in your life. Or perhaps you will tell a group or a member of a group how much you appreciate your involvement with a club or an organization. This is also a good day to set goals. Tonight: Cocoon.

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

If you've been waiting for the right time to ask for a favor or permission from a parent, boss or anyone in a position of authority -- today is the day. (However, avoid the window of the Moon Alert!) Your words will be sweet and you will instinctively know how to make your approach. Tonight: Warm conversations.

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

It's a great day to make travel plans or study something. You'll appreciate the elegance of different philosophical and religious ideas. You might tell someone from another culture how much you care for them or, perhaps, how much you appreciate what you learn from them. Tonight: Enjoy your possessions.

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Financial discussions about shared property, inheritances and anything you share jointly with someone else will go well today because your words will be exactly what you want to say. You will express your ideas with finesse and heartfelt, genuine intent. Tonight: You win!

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Because Mercury is lined up with Venus opposite your sign today, it will be easy for you to tell someone that you love them. In fact, you might be surprised at how articulate you can be at expressing your emotions in a meaningful way. This is a good day to settle differences. Tonight: Pleasant privacy.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You'll be effective at work today because you'll be quick to see patterns as well as ways to boost money and efficiency. Not only that, your ability to communicate with co-workers is excellent! You also might learn something related to your health today. Tonight: Bonded friendships.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are a social sign, and many of you have top-notch word skills. Today you can use your verbal talents to tell a romantic connection how much you care for them. You might tell your kids how much you love them. Tonight: You're admired.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Pick today for an important family discussion, because you will choose your words carefully, and they will reflect exactly what you want to say. You might tell a family member how much you care for them. You'll enjoy redecorating your home. Tonight: Learn.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today you will truly appreciate the beauty of your daily surroundings. You will also have a warm feeling in your tummy about hanging out with daily contacts, siblings and relatives. It's a feel-good day! Tonight: Check your finances.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have the advantage today in financial discussions because you're in command of your ideas and your words. Whatever you say will be expressed perfectly with subtle nuance and perfection. Trust your money-making ideas. Enjoy shopping for beautiful things. Tonight: Cooperate.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your words are like gold today because Mercury, the planet ruling your speech, and Venus, the planet ruling the arts, are aligned in your sign. Discussions with others will be particularly warm and mutually supportive. Enjoy your day! Tonight: Get organized.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a quieter, more laid-back day; however, later in the day, you will feel more like socializing. Enjoy interactions with friends and especially romantic partners, because you'll have no trouble telling someone how much you care for them. Tonight: Socialize.

BORN TODAY
TV host, producer, actress Oprah Winfrey (1954), actress Heather Graham (1970), actress Katharine Ross (1940).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 29, 2026

ACROSS

- 1 Modern baseball bat wood
6 Caitlin Clark's birth state
10 Hats, slangily
14 Outdo slightly
15 Lose fur
16 Give off
17 With
19 Blood in some movies
20 Internet ____ (period since the '90s)
21 Supermarket vehicle
22 Quadriceps exercise
23 Geographically named drink made with Southern Comfort
27 Aluminum recyclable
28 Yiddish "Oh, brother!"
29 Diamond or pearl
32 Julia of "The Addams Family"
34 Exchange
37 Traditional baseball bat wood
38 See
41 17-Across
42 "Yes," on a ship
44 Humdrum
44 Texter's "However ..."

- 45 "Bye Bye Bye" boy band
47 One-on-one teacher
49 Tree with tough wood
50 Geographically named drink made with cherry liqueur
56 Joints used when cycling
57 Butt-dial, say
58 Big galoot
60 Gumbo green
61 Geographically named drink made with ginger beer
64 Guns, as an engine
65 Tiniest amount
66 Maneuvered gently
67 It's a slog!
68 Show appreciation at a show
69 Put clothes on
DOWN
1 Burrowing mammal
2 2025 Best Picture winner
3 ____ colony
4 Tote around
5 Prefix with "center"
6 Imam's faith
7 Catherine of "Beetlejuice"
8 Deteriorated
9 Throw in
10 Peas and peanuts

- 11 "Heading over now"
12 Mournful song
13 Guide, as a bumper car
18 Digitize, as a photo
22 Loo
24 Great serve or pitcher
25 Indonesian honeymoon destination
26 Crocodile of kid-lit
29 Shot in the arm?
30 Adult ed. course
31 "The gall of it!"
32 Back in fashion
33 "Much ____ About Nothing"
35 Writer Rand
36 Upper-bod muscle
39 Where to poach an egg?

- 40 Persnickety
43 Massive favor
46 Take a cross-country trail
48 Profs' aides
49 Scandinavian capital with over 300 lakes
50 Portmanteau golf garment
51 Graphic novel artist
52 Jamaican believer in Jah and livvy
53 Yosemite peak, for short
54 Purposeless
55 Winds that are 7 to 10 on the Beaufort scale
59 ATF agents, e.g.
61 Drop it!
62 Join in matrimony
63 Mo. to beware the Ides

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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1/22 Solution

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1/29

It's Five O'Clock Somewhere by Adam Shapiro

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SPORTS



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South bests North in high-scoring rivalry win

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

A dozen combined goals between the Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North varsity boys hockey teams Saturday, Jan. 24, gave the fans who packed the East Side Foundation Hockey Arena plenty to cheer for. While both teams have struggled at times this season, the rivalry game brought out the best in both sides, with the Blue Devils ultimately pulling away for an 8-4 win.

“We saw the crowd and the students there and it’s what we envisioned as one of the highlights

of taking this job and being part of this atmosphere and community,” South boys hockey coach Ben Warda said. “... Our boys came out fired up and you could tell it was a rivalry game. We let the emotions maybe get to us a little bit and we gave them some opportunities to get back in the game that we could have controlled. It’s a rivalry and we were prepared. ... It was definitely fun to be part of and the win was a big step for our team.”

With 12 goals scored in the game, it makes sense that the scoring started right away. Before anyone in the arena Saturday

night could blink, the Blue Devils already were ahead 2-0 with a pair of goals by Lucas Reynolds and Cole Zaccagni in the game’s first two minutes.

Charlie Mueller scored his first of three goals in the game for North to help narrow the deficit to one, but Marty Wayman and Liam O’Donoghue extended the Blue Devils’ lead to 4-1 by the end of the opening period.

It was the Norsemen who struck quickly coming out of the locker room in the second period. Mueller netted his second of the game to make it 4-2, but South widened the gap again. Reid McGuckin extended South’s lead to three and Will Gryzenia made the score 6-2 in favor of the Blue Devils in the final seconds of the second period.

Two more goals for South by Reynolds completed his hat trick in the third period, while another Norseman goal by Mueller in the third gave him a hat trick for the night as well. Brandon Jarvis also found the back of the net for North in the third period, but South’s lead already was too much for the Norsemen to overcome.

Reynolds finished the night with five points for South, adding two assists to his three goals.

O’Donoghue ended up



PHOTOS BY LEON HALIP

South’s Cole Zaccagni leaps into the boards to celebrate scoring in the first period against Grosse Pointe North Saturday, Jan. 24.

with four points, dishing out three assists along with a goal.

The win marked a third consecutive victory for the Blue Devils, who were in the midst of an

mindset at the right time, with the playoffs now less than a month away.

“We had to teach them winning habits and winning hockey,” Warda said. “... It was a lot of

‘It was definitely fun to be part of and the win was a big step for our team.’

BEN WARDA, GP SOUTH BOYS HOCKEY COACH

11-game losing streak before winning four of their last six games. It was rough going for South earlier in the season. However, the team feels like it might be turning things around and developing a winning

teaching and conversations and video and showing them how this game can be played at the highest level. They’re fully bought in and learning what it takes to play winning hockey together and we can see it.”

Up next for South is a pair of games in the annual MIHL Showcase, one of the state’s biggest boys hockey events of the season. The Blue Devils take on Bowling Green (Ohio) at 3:20 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29. Their second game of the showcase is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, against Plymouth. Both games will be played at the Kennedy Recreation Center in Trenton.

For North, the team visited Woodhaven after press time Wednesday, Jan. 28. The Norsemen are set to take on Anchor Bay Friday, Jan. 30, with puck drop at 7 p.m. at Suburban Ice Macomb.



South’s Charlie Thomas and North’s Aidan Burney battle for a loose puck.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Duff steps up when Blue Devils need it most

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Taking over the starting point guard role from one of the best players in the history of the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball program would not be an easy task for anyone. However, Morgan Duff is not just anyone.

While she has taken over the mantle of starting point guard this year as a senior, Duff was more than prepared to follow longtime starter Maddy Benard.

The two Morgan Duff



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

‘As good a player as Mo is, she’s a better person. Our program is lucky to have a player and leader like her.’

KEVIN RICHARDS,
GP SOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

made up South’s main backcourt duo the past couple of seasons, teaching each other how to lead and making sure Duff was more than ready to lead the Blue Devils her senior year. “Last year, (Maddy) was like, ‘Morgan, this is going to be your job next year. You’re going to have to lead our team,’” Duff said. “She had me running point sometimes last year in games and encouraged me to take on more responsibilities so I could step into this role now with more confidence and know what

to do.”

The confidence is there for Duff and can be seen on the court any given night. She is leading the team with 16.4 points per game this season, along with 5.8 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 5.2 steals. She has come close to 30 points in a game a couple of times this season, including a 29-point performance in South’s close loss to MAC Red Wednesday, Jan. 21.

“Morgan has had a

positive influence on our team since her freshman year,” South girls basketball coach Kevin Richards said. “Her relentless defensive pressure is infectious to our team. As good a player as Mo is, she’s a better person. Our program is lucky to have a player and leader like her.”

It is games like the one against Eisenhower that exemplify how Duff and her teammates are approaching this season. The MAC Red can be one of the toughest and most competitive divisions in the state, and the Blue Devils know other teams might be underestimating them. It is the perfect motivation Duff needs to be able to leave it all on the floor each game and score in

Magnificent Morgan

- Leads South girls basketball with 16.4 PPG, 5.8 RPG, 2.6 APG, 5.2 steals
- Four-year member of South varsity girls basketball
- Made 2025 Division 1 track & field state finals in long jump

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Morgan Duff

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Basketball

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

bunches.

“This year, we’d love to dominate the MAC Red,” Duff said. “The last few years, there have been some really strong teams in our division. ... It really helps because we have an underdog mentality and we can walk into every game willing to put it all out on the floor.”

While Duff is in one of the most crucial posi-

tions at starting point guard, she does not have to lead the team alone. Fellow seniors like Alex Lupo, Madelyn Schwesinger and Kalie Page have come together with Duff to form a strong veteran core for South. Most of them, including Duff, have been together on South’s varsity team since they

See ATHLETE, page 2D



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Girls hockey teams battle at Traverse City showcase

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The girls varsity hockey teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North braved the cold winter weather last weekend to make the trip up north to compete in the Traverse City Challenge. The showcase brought together some of the top girls hockey teams from around Michigan, with the teams representing the Pointes each able to

pick up some victories during the road trip.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils began the showcase with a matchup Friday, Jan. 23, against Livonia United, dominating their way to a 5-0 win to kick off the weekend. Ruby Lenhard scored twice for South, while Ana Zieleniewski, Evie Wodzisz and Sophia Husek found the back of the net as well to give the Blue Devils the victory. Saturday, Jan. 24,

brought a meeting with Traverse City, the team to whom South lost twice in its last trip north in November. The Blue Devils were able to get revenge for those losses with a 2-0 win on Traverse City's home ice. Lenhard and Zieleniewski scored the goals for South and Kate Denomme recorded the shutout in net. South is back on home ice for its next game Friday, Jan. 30. The Blue Devils will host Greater Flint United at East Side

Foundation Hockey Arena, with puck drop at 7:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen started their weekend up north with a win Friday, Jan. 23. An outstanding game by sophomore Twila Shappy-Behn helped propel North to a 6-1 win against the Grand Rapids Amateur Griffins. Shappy-Behn had a career day with four goals in North's win. Leah Burney and Charlotte

DeCraene added the other Norsemen goals in a dominant effort by the team. The momentum from Friday's win, however, was short-lived for the Norsemen. North went up against Downriver United the next day, Saturday, Jan. 24, and fell short in a close 4-3 loss. Shappy-Behn and Ava Villani helped the Norsemen tie the game at 2-2 going into the third period. Downriver United took the lead in the final

frame and a late goal by North's Mia Wilhelm left the Norsemen just short of a comeback. The weekend ended for North with another loss Sunday, Jan. 25. The Norsemen fell to Copper Country 19U 5-2, with Shappy-Behn and Kate Kasuba scoring for the Norsemen in the loss. North returns home Thursday, Jan. 29, to host Sacred Heart. Puck drop is set for 4 p.m. at East Side Foundation Hockey Arena.

South falls in close game with Dakota

Nolan Gross weaves through the Dakota defense in South's 52-46 loss to the Cougars last Thursday, Jan. 22. Gross finished the game with 11 points, while Kooper Richards led South with 18 points in the loss.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

were freshmen, building an unbreakable bond in the locker room and on the court. "We have such great energy and chemistry," Duff said. "We've been together all four years. ... We're friends, so that

always helps. It helps us lead our younger players. ... We all have really big roles to play and we have to work together, so to have great co-captains is really important." As Duff and her teammates hope to bring South a MAC Red title and a deep playoff run to finish the basketball sea-

son, she has more opportunities ahead to build her legacy in South sports. Duff once again will compete with South's varsity girls track and field team in the spring, with her sights set on making it back to the Division 1 state finals. Last spring, Duff qualified for states as part of

the 4x200-meter relay team, as well as in her signature event, the long jump. She was last year's Division 1 regional champion in long jump and finished just shy of an All-State placement at the state finals. A perfect ending to Duff's athletic career at South could be having her name in the record

book and on the All-State list by the end of spring. "My personal goal is to break the South long jump record, because I'm only three or five inches off, I believe," she said. "Last year, I made it to

states and was just a quarter inch away from getting All-State and that's all I've been able to think of like all year, so hopefully I can go back to states this year and get All-State."



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Morgan Duff currently leads South girls basketball in several major statistics this season, including points, rebounds, assists and steals.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 21, 2026

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held January 5, 2026.
- 2) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 134175 through 134258 in the amount of \$866,257.11 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$51,951.12 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of December 2025. (3) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$48,289.86 for professional services during the month of January 2026 for the following projects: Harper/VanAntwerp Redevelopment #180-313; City Hall Generator #180-291; 2025 Sidewalk Replacement #180-367; 2024 Joint Crack/Seal #180-341; Misc. Concrete Repair #180-338; Eastland Center Redevelopment #180-244; Roscommon Pocket Park #180-329; DWRP Lead Water Svc. Replacement #180-331; Temp Water Operator #180-303; MIO-TAC Grant; 2025 San. Sewer FCIPP #180-364; 2025 Storm Sewer Replacement #180-362; 2025 Sanitary Sewer Lining #180-379 and the CWSRF FCIPP Sewer Rehab #180-383. (4) approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of \$6,344.22 for the processing and mailing of the December water bills and envelope supplies. (5) approve payment in the amount of \$15,090.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks and the replacement of 2 stop boxes. (6) approve payment in the amount of \$6,643.00 to Kennedy Industries for maintenance and repairs of the Bournemouth and Balfour pump stations. (7) approve payment to Statewide Electrical in the amount of \$5,682.05 for upgrades to the electrical panel and circuits in the courtroom and the Judge's office. (8) approve the reappointment of Susan Hammel to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term ending January 2029.
- 2) to adopt the attached resolution hereby accepting conveyance of the two parcels of real property by quit claim deed from Renovare Robertson Harper Woods LLC for the consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) for each parcel, and further to authorize the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to accept such conveyance on behalf of the City of Harper Woods, and upon recordation, said property shall become property of the City, to be held and used for municipal purposes as permitted by law.
- 3) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$123,709.43 for Progress Payment No.3 on the 2025 Storm Sewer Repair Project, #180-362.
- 4) to approve the payment to the Michigan Department of Transportation in the amount of \$36,035.29 for the city's proportionate share of the TAP Grant, Sidewalk Program.
- 5) to approve the proposal submitted by City Insight for the water app enhancements as outlined in an amount of \$13,600.00, and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 6) to authorize those Council members interested to attend the Michigan Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference March 10-11, 2026, in Lansing, Michigan, with the City paying all necessary and related expenses.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Published: GPN, January 29, 2026

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will be considering the following proposed Ordinance amendment for a second reading at its meeting scheduled for February 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers/Court Room of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center. The proposed Ordinance amendment is available for public inspection at the Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS, CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION; ARTICLE IV. – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS; DIVISION 2. – RETIREMENT SYSTEM; SECTION 2-305. – NONDUTY DEATH, TO UPDATE CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

Paul Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:1/29/26

North, South swimmers rule the pool with winning week

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last week was cold outside, but the tropical conditions in the pools at Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South saw the action heating up for both schools’ boys varsity swim and dive teams. The Norsemen and Blue Devils made last week a success as they both picked up wins in their respective meets.

Grosse Pointe North
It has been a strong start to the season for the Norsemen, who sit at 4-0-1 and are yet to lose a head-to-head meet. That fourth win came Saturday, Jan. 24, when North hosted De La Salle Collegiate, coming away with a 98-87 victory over the Pilots.

“We’ve been facing some fast teams lately, which has been very beneficial for our group of guys,” North boys swim and dive coach Carl Scozzari said about his team’s strong start to the season. “We have a highly talented bunch of individuals, and the work shows in the water. They get in, and they trust the grind of whatever we have prepared for them.”

One of the best performances of the day came from Brady Winbigler, who earned a state cut with his first-place time of 59.00 in the 100-yard backstroke. Winbigler also was part of the Norsemen’s 200 medley



COURTESY PHOTO

North’s 200 medley relay team earned first place in the team’s victorious meet against De La Salle Collegiate Saturday, Jan. 24. From left: Tyler Collins, James Gusmano, Paul Stephens and Brady Winbigler.

relay team — along with James Gusmano, Tyler Collins and Paul Stephens — that took first place. The 400 freestyle relay team of Winbigler, Collins, Thomas Kezhaya and James Jewell also won its event.

Gusmano, Stephens, Kezhaya and Eli Kociba made up North’s first-place 200 freestyle relay team. Gusmano also

won the 50 freestyle, while Kezhaya took first in the 200 freestyle. Alejandro Delgado earned a win for the Norsemen in the 100 butterfly.

The Norsemen hosted Fraser in a MAC Red Division clash after press time Tuesday, Jan. 27. North is home again for its next MAC Red meet Tuesday, Feb. 3, hosting Eisenhower at 6

p.m.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils came away with wins over both Eisenhower and University Liggett School in a meet Tuesday, Jan. 20. South earned wins despite having only a few first-place finishes in various events.

One of those top finishes was achieved by

Brady Bond, who took first place in the 50 freestyle with a time of 21.71. Bond, Nadeem Haurani, Lucas Curtis and Joseph Fodell finished first in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:32.62. Myles Meldrum won the diving competition for the Blue Devils, earning 212.9 points.

Liggett also earned a first-place finish at the

event. Brendan Beland represented the Knights and won the 100 butterfly with his time of 51.31

South visited L’Anse Creuse North for a MAC Red Division meet after press time Tuesday, Jan. 27. The Blue Devils return home to host a quad meet against Ferndale, U of D Jesuit and Detroit Catholic Central Thursday, Jan. 29, beginning at 5 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

Zingas, Kolesnik win gold en route to Olympics

Grosse Pointe Farms native Emilea Zingas, right, and her partner, Vadym Kolesnik, earned a gold medal for the United States in ice dance at the 2026 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Beijing, China, Friday, Jan. 23. Zingas and Kolesnik will represent Team USA in ice dance at the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Milan, Italy, beginning Feb. 6.

Originally from Ukraine, Kolesnik has started an effort to help raise funds for various travel and training expenses surrounding his Olympic journey, including helping his family travel safely from Ukraine to Italy in order to attend the games. To help support Kolesnik, visit GoFundMe.com/f/support-vadym-olympic-dream-and-family-reunion.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

ATHLETIC FIELD TURF REPLACEMENT

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, Wayne County, Michigan, will receive sealed bids for the athletic field turf replacement at Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. The work generally consists of:

- Unloading of materials supplied by others at the project site
- Removal of existing synthetic turf, infill material, shock pad, wood turf nailer, etc.
- Miscellaneous aggregate base and laser grading as required to attain proper planarity
- Installation of field boxes and conduits for future communications
- Installation of new wood turf nailer
- Installation of new Shaw NXTPlay Performance pad (material supplied by others)
- Installation of new Shaw Game ON synthetic turf and infill (material supplied by others)
- Installation and removal of track protection bridge

Specifications and Bid Forms will be available to Prime Contractors beginning **Tuesday, February 3, 2026** by contacting the office of the Architect, Ehresman Architects, via email at architects@ehresmanarchitects.com. The Architect will issue the requesting company(s) electronic (.pdf) files of the Contract Documents including drawings and specifications. The cost of document reproduction will be the responsibility of the requesting party.

Bid documents will also be available for examination (no purchase) at the following locations:

- Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Dodge Data & Analytics, Construction Market Data (CMD), and Construction Data Company (CDC)

A **Virtual Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid** meeting will be conducted for this project on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (local time)**. It is also the contractor’s responsibility to review and become familiar with the job site, conditions, etc. prior to submitting its bid to the district. Contact the Chief Engineer, Mr. Andrew Praedel @ 313-283-0243 to arrange any site visit(s) to review the project conditions prior to the bid due date.

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24723493298104?p=LhCcyNcQPG46osowA2>
Meeting ID: 247 234 932 981 04 / Passcode: wv3Q2Rg6

Sealed bids will be due **Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. (local time)** at the Administration Building of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, 20601 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, at which time and place the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

The School Board will not consider, accept, or open a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission in this advertisement for bid.

The bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond valued at five percent (5%) of the proposer’s maximum bid amount.

The bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement.

The bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance - Iran Economic Sanctions Act representing and warranting that the Contractor (including its officers, directors and employees) is not an “Iran linked business” within the meaning of the Iran Economic Sanctions Act, Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012.

Grosse Pointe Public School System’s Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, or to award the contract to other than the contractor(s) submitting the best financial Bid Proposal (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

This project will not be funded by federal or state monies.

Please direct questions to:

- Joe Cangemi, Senior Project Manager at (248) 244-9710 (ext. 106) or joe@ehresmanarchitects.com

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