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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Build roads better

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — *Phtump-tump, phtump-tump.*

Councilman Marty McMillan is driving through the city on rough winter roads. Every bit along the way his car bumps over a little ridge and goes *phtump-tump*. It's like slamming across wavetops on a speedboat but not in a fun way.

Ridges are caused by a troubling triumvirate to smooth winter commutes: water, cracked road surfaces and the freeze-thaw cycle. Water

See ROADS, page 3A

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POINTES OF VIEW

What's on every-one's mind in Grosse Pointe?

Get in on the conversation.

Section A

New forester is a cut above

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE CITY, FARMS & PARK — The new city forester wasn't an "arbortrary" hire.

"Collectively, the Park, City and Farms interviewed him," said Nick Sizeland, Park man-

ager.

"We recruited him," said Matthew Baka, Farms public services director. "He is certified as an arborist and has TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) certification."

They were talking about Mike Gilmore, hired to pick up where the late urban forester Brian

Colter left off 11 months ago in the Park, Farms and City of Grosse Pointe.

"Mike has almost the same work arrangement as Brian Colter, two days per week (Monday and Wednesday) in the Park, two in the Farms and one in the City," Sizeland said.

"I'm going to try to do some of

the work Brian was doing," Gilmore said. "Obviously, Brian left a big footprint on all three of these cities. I'm going to start slow and be myself. And go from there. I'm going to start at the beginning."

"Brian Colter provided a really

See FORESTER, page 2A

Show of support

Emilea Zingas, a graduate of Grosse Pointe South, and her ice dancing partner, Vadym Kolesnik, are skating in the 2026 Olympics. Monday, Feb. 9, they performed a rhythm dance and earned a score of 83.53, placing sixth among 20 pairs.

They were set to return to the ice after press time Wednesday, Feb. 11, for a free dance. South students painted the school's rock to show support for Zingas and Kolesnik.



PHOTO BY
RENEE LANDUYT

Council remembers longtime resident

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Monday night's council meeting took a somber tone, beginning with a tearful moment of silence for resident Mike Bernard, who died Sunday after being struck by a truck while riding a bike in Siesta Key, Fla.

"The Bernard family has been an intricate part of the fabric of the City of Grosse Pointe for as long as I've known the City of Grosse Pointe," longtime Councilman Chris Walsh said prior to the moment of silence. "... It's a tremendous loss for his family and a loss for all of us."

Bernard was heavily involved in giving back to the community and served on a number of boards, including as president of the city's pension board.

"We should all try to be more like Mike Bernard," Councilman Chris Moyer said.

The meeting closed with city officials remembering their friend and colleague.

"Mike was a great friend (and) mentor, who has helped me in so many different ways," Councilman Terence Thomas said. "His tragic death at a young age is a reminder that tomorrow is not promised. We have to live for today. We need to be kind to one another. For me, it means I need to strive to live like Jesus

See RESIDENT, page 2A

Cooperation is the name of the game

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Just as the Grosse Pointe Park City Council did, the Woods council voted unanimously to let a portion of Farms residents use the pool at Lake Front Park this summer while the aquatic facility at Pier Park is rebuilt.

A letter to council from City Manager Sue Como and Parks and Recreation Director Owen Gafa explained the Farms pool data showed average daily attendance at its large pool was 36 people per day, including swim team practice from 4 to 6 p.m. A maximum of 78 users was recorded July 4.

They anticipate these numbers

will decrease significantly in 2026 due to several factors, "including the relocation of the Farms swim team to Grosse Pointe South, synchronized swim being held at Grosse Pointe Shores, the elimination of guest privileges and the pools being located outside of their community," the letter read.

"Conservatively, they estimate an average of approximately 15 additional users at both pools at any given time, with peak usage reaching up to approximately 30 additional users."

The Farms plans to issue park passes in two different colors, splitting users evenly between its two voting precincts giving access to one or the other city's pools.

"We don't see this being a burden," Como said. "There might be

some additional users on particularly hot days, but it will be manageable."

In exchange, the Farms will pay each city \$20,000 and share contact information for its lifeguard roster of over 40 in hopes they will reach out for employment this summer.

The pool at Lake Front Park opens May 23, and closes Sept. 7.

Como added the five Pointes have a long history of working together via reciprocal agreements.

For example, a few years ago Grosse Pointe Shores agreed to sell a garbage truck to the Woods not for money, but in exchange for use of the Woods' portable stage once a year for four years for the Shores Fourth of July party.

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Andrew Sliwinski

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
A journey in the growing sports world of men's volleyball

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Shores public safety makes promotion

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Jeff Roybal was sworn in as the public safety department's newest sergeant during city council's meeting Tuesday, Jan. 20. The promotion backfills an opening created when Ryan Wilson was promoted to lieutenant late last year.

Roybal joined the department in late 2019, after serving in the U.S. Army and working as a paramedic with the Detroit Fire Department. "Jeff brought a ton of EMS experience to our community," Chief Ken Werenski said.

Roybal grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods and graduated from Grosse Pointe North

High School in 2001. After studying at Ferris State University, he joined the U.S. Army in 2006, and served nine years, including 2008 to 2010, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While in the Army, Roybal worked in construction and demolition and did convoy security. He also received training in tactical combat casualty care, which he likened to being an EMT on the battlefield.

After his time in the service, he attended the firefighting and EMT academies and then put himself through the paramedic academy while working in Detroit. "I originally wanted to be a firefighter, but then this opportunity popped up and I was looking for something more stable,"



PHOTO BY TED O'NEIL

Jeff Roybal receives his sergeant's badge from his wife, Danielle, after being promoted during the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting last month.

Roybal said.

After four months at the police academy, he joined the Shores.

"I really enjoy it because this is my community," said Roybal, who still lives in the Woods. "I have a lot of friends and family here, my parents are here."

He added that while working as a paramedic in Detroit, he realized he could have more of an impact as a police officer.

"I looked around and evaluated what was out there and I liked the model the Shores uses," Roybal said. "You get to satisfy a little bit of everything, but I think I enjoy being a police officer more than anything, which is funny because I never saw myself going into law enforcement."

According to Werenski, Roybal was selected to oversee the department's motor division, which included 80 hours of motorcycle training, and also serves as a field training officer to provide mentoring to new officers. In addition, Roybal is one of two Shores officers serving on the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Crisis Intervention Team, which handles people dealing with mental health issues.

"That takes a lot of patience, which Jeff has," Werenski added.

He also 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.



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Officer Bradley Jones, left, with Public Safety Director John Hutchins.

Officer sworn in

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Bradley Jones was sworn in as a Grosse Pointe Farms public safety officer Tuesday, Jan. 27, at city hall.

With degrees in both law enforcement and business, Jones previously worked in business, asset protection and, most recently, the Clinton Township Police Department for eight months.

"I originally went for law enforcement," he said. "Even in high school, I took law enforcement classes and in elementary school I was in the Explorers pro-

gram with Sterling Heights PD. I wanted to get another degree just to put me forward and obviously there's business in law enforcement, too."

He was drawn to the career by an uncle who served in law enforcement and further drawn to the Farms by recommendations from friends who work in the department.

"I've heard great things about it," said Jones, who heads to the Macomb Fire Academy later this month before officially starting duty.

— Laurel Kraus



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. STEPHEN THIEL

Twenty-two-year Grosse Pointe Park veteran Lt. Colin Connaire, left, received Supervisor of the Year honors from Chief Jim Bostock during the Feb. 2 city council meeting.

Super supervisor

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Officers reporting to Lt. Colin Connaire learn to do things right.

His favorite quote is, "Let's run it back and do it again tonight."

"Colin is a steady, trusted leader," Chief Jim Bostock said.

Connaire was named last week the public safety department's Supervisor of the Year.

"The award goes to someone who has demonstrated consistent leadership and management skills and contributes to the success of the department and personnel," Bostock said.

"We are very grateful," Mayor Michele Hodges told Connaire during an award ceremony at the Feb. 2 city council meeting.

The award also is a benchmark for fellow officers.

"The criteria for

Supervisor of the Year is meant to set a high standard for supervisors to aspire to at Grosse Pointe Park," Bostock said.

Connaire began his law enforcement career in Detroit, then signed on to the Park more than 22 years ago. He's been a lieutenant since 2017.

He has a history of outstanding performance:

- ◆ In 2022, Connaire was part of a team that received a department citation for saving the life of a workman overcome by noxious gas while restoring a residential basement flooded by a sewer backup.
- ◆ In 2023, Connaire and four other officers received a Park unit citation for tracking down suspects in a series of larcenies from autos.
- ◆ The next year, Connaire accompanied Bostock to the biggest law enforcement conference of the year, the

See SUPER, page 3A

RESIDENT:

Continued from page 1A

every day. Mike did that. He was kind, considerate, so giving.

"I only serve on three boards, not including council, and all three of those I served with Mike. It matters as a community when we give of ourselves and participate and engage. That's how we get to know each other. Mike did that and did it in such a way, where he never sought

attention. He was just a very good man. I'm going to miss him a lot."

"This is one of the most somber meetings we've ever had and for good reason," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. "The shock of a sudden tragedy is tough to process and I have great faith that this city and this community will rally and show support for the family and those who are left behind and hurt by the tragedy."

— Laurel Kraus

City passes virtual currency machine ordinance

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City in late January became the second Pointe to put in place a virtual currency machine ordinance for consumer protection against scams — essentially copy and pasting the state's first ordinance of this type, which originated in the Farms last July.

Just as in the Farms, the City currently does not have any such machines operating within its jurisdiction. Rather, the intent is to govern any further implementations, while

simultaneously increasing the number of southeast Michigan communities with such protections.

"This is something that's relatively new, but has gained attention recently with adjoining communities," City Manager Joe Valentine said. "And the ordinance basically provides a mechanism to try to manage these devices, as they can have a negative context for the community in the sense of the transactions that are handled through them having problematic and scamming situations."

See VIRTUAL, page 5A

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FORESTER:

Continued from page 1A

important service," Park Mayor Michele Hodges said. "Him being gone has punctuated how much the community relied on his expertise and ability to maintain our stock. To know that gap is going to be filled, and done in collaboration with our peer communities, is good news for everybody."

Although Gilmore plans to start at the beginning, he's no novice.

He retired as St. Clair Shores' municipal arborist.

"I was the arborist for St. Clair Shores for 27 years, a certified arborist since 1999, with a tree risk assessment qualification the last 10 years," he said.

"Mike was largely responsible for making sure the St. Clair Shores arboretum in Brys Park received accreditation from the Morton Arboretum

Society, which is the top-notch accreditation you can get," said Pat Deck, senior member of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission.

The arboretum has 46 types of trees.

"It's a feather in your cap," Deck told Gilmore. "You should brag about it."

"I spent most of my time in the background," Gilmore said. "I'm not a spotlight person."

Colter died last March of heart problems.

"We'd been looking for a forester," Sizeland said. "We advertised through the Arboriculture Society but weren't getting a lot of feedback."

Colter, a retired full-time Park employee, was contracted collectively by the three cities to continue working.

Sizeland said the Park's portion of the new forestry contract will total about \$30,000 per year in wages.

"We're saving a little money," he said.

Notre Dame resurfacing set for spring

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — After it was strategically pushed back last fall, the City now is moving forward with the resurfacing of Notre Dame between St. Paul and Jefferson, set to take place this spring.

City council, Monday, Jan. 26, awarded the work to the lowest of five bidders: Pro-Line Asphalt Paving Corp., which previously successfully partnered with the city in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

“We have had experi-

ence with them in the past as a good contractor who has done good work for us,” City Manager Joe Valentine said.

The project scope encompasses milling and asphalt resurfacing of the stretch of Notre Dame, as well as the replacement of applicable curbs, gutters and driveway approaches.

Funded by the voter-approved road millage, the project comes with a price tag of \$879,685 and

See SPRING, page 4A

Adding water for park gardens

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The installation of water spigots toward the back of Patterson Park will be the best buds a gardener could have.

Spigots, plus plans to reactivate sprinklers near the lakeside boardwalk, mean volunteer gardeners, such as Lisa Kyle, won’t have to lug water from an outlet in the center of the park to flower beds and hedges on the fringes.

“I was filling a wheel-

barrow with water,” said Kyle, chairwoman of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission.

“We have absolutely no water resources,” said Commissioner Pat Deck last month about obstacles to tending Patterson.

“That is a major obstacle.”

“There was the sprinkler system and one spigot by the bocce courts and that was it,” Public Works Director Tom Jenny said.

This month, however, Kyle and Deck learned

See WATER, page 4A

‘Miracle Mack’ reunited with owner

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — When someone brought an injured cockatiel into Lou’s Pet Shop last October, no one was sure if it would need a wing amputated or even survive.

“They found him at Mack and Cook toward the end of the month during our first big snow,” said Donnie Cook, shop owner. “It dropped from about 50 degrees to 20. He definitely wouldn’t have made it.”

After several visits to Platz Animal Hospital, the bird made a full recovery and did not need the amputation, so the store’s staff started calling him Miracle Mack.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Donnie Cook, owner, Lou’s Pet Shop, and Cherie Anderson. Donnie returned her bird after it got scared when it was on her shoulder when she went outside to talk with the people from DTE, got spooked by something and took off.

“We put photos on some lost pet Facebook pages and a few people tried to claim him,” Cook said. “But we asked them to send photos and none of them lined up, so I became pretty skeptical.”

Around mid-January, Cherie Anderson popped into the store, where she had purchased the bird two years ago.

“My physical therapist told me about a parakeet she owned for several years that escaped and how she got a replacement,” Anderson said. “I thought if she could get over her trauma, maybe I could, too, so I went to Lou’s to reminisce and tell them what happened.”

As soon as Anderson entered, Miracle Mack — whose real name is Buddy — recognized her.

“He lit up like a light bulb and started making sounds we hadn’t heard him make before,” Cook said. “It was kind of like when you see a dog’s reaction when their owner comes back from serving overseas in the military.”

Anderson was able to provide photo evidence that Buddy was hers and was able to take him home Tuesday, Feb. 3, after he finished recuperating.

“I was heartbroken,” she said. “I spent days and days looking for him and would run outside every time I heard a bird chirp. I prayed so hard that I’d find him.”

Anderson said Buddy made his escape when she went outside to talk to some DTE employees who had been working on power lines in her backyard.



Buddy, aka “Miracle Mack,” was safely reunited with his owner.

“Buddy was out of his cage and we were playing when I saw them start to leave,” she recalled. “As soon as I opened the door he flew onto my shoulder and we sort of startled each other. I guess I sort of spooked him. I just kept praying to God not to let him die because it wasn’t Buddy’s fault.”

He eventually flew from Anderson’s Harper Woods home on

See MACK, page 4A

SUPER:

Continued from page 2A

International Association of Chief of Police Conference in Boston.

Bostock characterized Connaire as a blue-uniformed jack-of-all-trades.

“On every type of run — criminal investiga-

tions, mental-health runs and community-service events — he is someone our employees can turn to for support and his ability to listen and guide others has a direct impact on morale,” Bostock said. “His shift truly begins and ends with him; first to arrive and last to leave. One of his finest

abilities is his availability.”

Connaire has an undergraduate degree from Hope College, a Juris Doctorate from the Wayne State University Law School and an FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Award, which represents 120 hours training in super-

vision, command and executive leadership.

His duties at Park headquarters extend to overseeing training for the Law Enforcement Information Network and National Crime Information Center systems, being a liaison with the Michigan State Police and coordinating fire and police training.

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, FEB. 16**
- ◆ Presidents’ Day
 - ◆ Municipal offices closed
- TUESDAY, FEB. 17**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- THURSDAY, FEB. 19**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

ROADS:

Continued from page 1A

seeps into cracks. Temperatures drop. Seeped-in water freezes and expands with an overriding force of physical law. Something’s got to give. Expansion pushes up the road surface. Ridges form.

“Temperature cycling is a big problem, the swelling and expansion of joints in roadways and sidewalks,” said Tom Jenny, director of public works. “It’s been a challenge for every community.”

The same process causes potholes when temperatures rise. Ice melts and leaves voids under road tops that the weight of passing vehicles smash into holes.

“I drive around looking at this stuff,” McMillan said.

He’d like to curtail the problem before it begins. He thinks the city ought to make road construction contractors do a better job rebuilding and resurfacing motorways.

“When a contractor comes in — and we’ve seen them do this for 50 years — they mill the road surface, fill it, roll it and are out of here,”

McMillan said. “They leave little gaps in the center strip and along curb lines.”

He figures allowing gaps from the get-go are a built-in invitation to water incursion. They set the stage for deteriorating roads.

“It is almost like planned obsolescence,” McMillan said. “They don’t worry about that

center (seam). Water gets in there and we’re redoing our roads every four or five years. If it were caulked when built, I think we’ll get more use out of it.”

City administrators agreed with his recommendation to assert the requirement during upcoming rounds of soliciting road contractors.

“Let’s put in the contract that they have to caulk seams right then and there — and the curbs,” McMillan said.

“Yes,” said Tom Jenny, director of public works.

“We’re going to get longer life out of our roads by caulking the center strip and the curb line,” McMillan said. “Put it in the contract and make them do it.”



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Woods native joins the growing world of men’s volleyball

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

When one thinks of volleyball, what primarily comes to mind are women’s teams and female athletes. However, there are many out there, like Grosse Pointe Woods native Andrew Sliwinski, who are trying to grow the game of men’s volleyball to a larger audience.

Sliwinski currently is in his senior year with the men’s volleyball team at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. He has been playing throughout his entire collegiate career, but still considers himself relatively new to the sport. He always has been an athlete and has tried his hand at just about anything, but is proud of his decision to join the growing number of male athletes getting into volleyball.

“I did basketball for a while and I swam for a while and did track in high school,” he said. “It wasn’t until my sophomore year (of high school) that I just did not have as much passion for basketball anymore and my mom mentioned that a local club was starting a men’s volleyball program. I figured I would try that because my mom had coached for a long time and I had been around the sport basically my whole life. ... I tried out and ended up really liking it and I made it on the team. Ever since then, I’ve just been loving the sport and playing as



COURTESY PHOTOS

Andrew Sliwinski began playing volleyball his sophomore year at Grosse Pointe North and now is in his senior college volleyball season at Aquinas College.

much as I can.”

With his mom being a volleyball coach and his sister having played, it felt like a natural fit for Sliwinski. He joined the club team at Michigan Elite while at Grosse Pointe North and continued to grow and develop his skills.

Since North did not have a boys volleyball team, Sliwinski had to rely on working with his club team and going to various camps to try and prove himself to college

Michigan, so no coaches would really come out and see how you play. ... It was mainly just me reaching out and trying to earn that opportunity to prove myself to them.”

Sliwinski initially joined the men’s volleyball team at Siena Heights University. He played the first few seasons of his college career with the Saints, but some shocking news near the end of last season had Sliwinski scrambling to find his next opportunity.

“Our athletic director got us on a call and told us they were cutting the men’s volleyball program and we were shocked,” he said. “... It was my mom who really pushed me to start emailing other coaches and asking who was interested. It was all sporadic because we hadn’t planned for any of it. ... Aquinas had the best deal for me that I could get and I really liked the coach they have here. It felt like a great fit with the team, so all of those things led me here.”

With Siena Heights closing as a school soon and the men’s volleyball team being cut after the 2025 season, Sliwinski is beginning his first season with Aquinas. He will earn his Master of Business Administration degree in May and has one year of eligibility remaining after this season, due to time missed for an injury early in his career — meaning he has the chance to play one more year of volleyball

and continue his education if he chooses.

No matter where the sport or life leads him next, Sliwinski is grateful for every moment he has gotten to share on the court with his teammates. The chance for more male athletes to experience those great moments on the volleyball court is coming, with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) adding boys volleyball as an MHSAA-recognized sport this spring.

This move by the MHSAA means more schools may begin to build boys volleyball programs and make the sport more widely available to athletes who might be interested in

giving volleyball a try. Sliwinski did not have that privilege when he was in high school, but is glad to see the game he loves growing for the next generation of athletes.

“It’s really exciting to see it, compared to the opportunities that I had,” he said. “I would tell them all that you don’t have to be amazing at the sport to just try out. ... With the sport just starting out, you’re kind of at the same level as everyone else. I’d say just try to put yourself out there and see if you like the sport, because it is fun. I encourage a lot of younger people to try out and even push their schools to try putting together a team.”



Sliwinski began his college volleyball career at Siena Heights University, but transferred to Aquinas after the 2025 season when Siena Heights shut down its men’s volleyball program.

WATER:

Continued from page 3A

that fresh watering facilities were part of this year’s water main replacement program.

“It’s a work in progress, but it will happen,” Jenny said.

He said construction is scheduled to start after July 1.

“Instead of bringing 5-gallon buckets from wherever you were, we’ll have a spigot,” Jenny told commissioners recently. “I can put in three or four. I’ll probably get with you guys before the process happens to see where you’d like a couple.”

“There was a sprinkler system at the boardwalk where we could draw water from,” Deck asked. “Is that going to be restored or replaced?”

“It will be reconnected like it was,” Jenny said.

“Capital improvement planning is important,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “As we’re made aware of needs, such as a lack of water where we need it to support some of the great work being done by our boards and commissions, we need to provide for that. Now that we’re aware there’s a deficit there, it’s time to fix it.”

“I’ll be working with Tom Jenny on this project to make sure staff and volunteer groups have the resources they need for efficient ground and landscaping work,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

Installation coincides with upgrading and extending an existing water main linking Bedford and Grand Marais, which border the

west and east sides of the park, respectively.

“We also are going through Patterson Park to create a loop so if a main fails on one side, we have redundancy,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

The existing pipe is old.

“We had a couple weeps and breaks near the putting and chipping green over the years,” Sizeland said. “This is one of those things we need to tackle and the time is now.”

He said adding outlets near ornamental gardens has nothing to do with supporting construction of a meadow, as a couple of commissioners have been advocating.

“No,” Sizeland said. “Currently, volunteers are dragging 100-foot hoses to water. We’re looking to make it easier for our staff and everyone. That is not for a meadow.”

Officer of the year

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The public safety department’s Officer of the Year is one of the chief’s go-to guys.

“He’s always ready to go and willing to take on an assignment,” said Chief Jim Bostock about PSO Jason Lockwood, a member of the department since 2019.

Lockwood also led the department for at least the last two years in traffic enforcement. He topped out the force one year with 66 traffic arrests.

Bostock announced Lockwood’s award during this month’s meeting of the city council.

“To be considered for this award, several criteria are considered,” Bostock said. “Overall, the officer earning this award repre-

sents the spirit and embodies the values and commitment of the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department.”

Lockwood was on a scheduled vacation and wasn’t at the meeting.

In addition to having the same law enforcement and firefighting duties of every officer in the department, Lockwood is an emergency medical technician. He already has two department commendations and a lifesaving award.

“Jason’s work ethic strongly inspires new officers coming into the department, as well as sets an example of how Grosse Pointe Park officers should aspire to be on a day-to-day basis,” Bostock said. “He consistently but quietly brings out the best in his fellow officers and leads by example.”

The officer of the year is chosen by the recipient’s supervisors and peers.

“The criteria for Officer of the Year sets a high standard for officers to aspire to at Grosse Pointe Park,” Bostock said.

— Brad Lindberg

SPRING:

Continued from page 3A

a 10 percent contingency, for a total of \$967,653.50.

Bidding out the work at the beginning of the year is a financial strategy the city recently implemented to take advantage of early-bird pricing and to increase the number of competitive bidders, given many won’t already be booked.

“We used to go out to bid for these projects later,” Mayor Sheila

Tomkowiak noted, “and we wouldn’t get four bids. We’d get maybe one, sometimes two, and they (were) always higher than the engineer estimates.”

“We changed it up so we go out to bid way earlier before people get busy. That has brought the costs down overall quite a bit and we’re closer to the engineering estimates.”

The city engineer’s estimate for the Notre Dame project was \$872,400.

— Laurel Kraus

MACK:

Continued from page 3A

Woodcrest, about three blocks west of I-94, to the Woods. Cook said he isn’t sure how Buddy got injured.

“He beat all the odds,” Cook added.

Cook also only asked Anderson to pay half what he spent on vet bills, \$500, and offered to give Buddy free wing trims for life, saying he hoped she would have

him for 20 years.

Anderson said when she first started visiting Lou’s two years ago, she wasn’t sure what kind of pet she should get.

“I never had a bird before,” she said. “I think he kind of picked me.”

Anderson said she’s trained Buddy to say, “Thank you, baby,” “Give me a kiss, baby” and “Hello.”

“He’ll also imitate me when I whistle a song,” she said. “It really is a miracle.”

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Came calling

A 55-year-old Farms man learned a fraudulent Credit One Bank account was opened in his name when a collection agency reached out to him Tuesday, Feb. 3, regarding a balance of \$2,005.

Finders keepers

After a contractor conducting home renovations on Moross was terminated Tuesday, Feb. 3, because of a dispute with the homeowner regarding the work’s progress, he left with approximately \$6,100 worth of tools and equipment that were purchased by the homeowner for the project.

Jaywalking

A 37-year-old Detroit man was stopped for walking across the Mack/Moross intersection during a steady red signal at 1:57 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4.

After telling the officer he did not have time for the interaction, he ultimately was arrested on a probation violation warrant out of Wayne County for assaulting, resisting and obstructing police.

Suspended

Among those cited last week for driving with a suspended license was a 31-year-old Detroit man, who was pulled over at

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Mack and Bournemouthe for illegally tinted windows at 2:38 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5.

A 28-year-old Detroit woman was cited for the same after she was pulled over at Mack and East Warren for a non-functioning headlight at 9:52 p.m. that evening.

Early the next morning, a 39-year-old Detroit man was cited for having a suspended license when he was pulled over at Mack and Kerby 12:44 a.m. for an expired plate and broken rear windshield.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Fraud

A Park resident was the target last week of someone impersonating a bank employee.

“The victim received a phone call stating their bank account was hacked and they needed to provide information on their account,” police said.

The victim complied. “A total of \$476 was removed from the account before realizing it was fraud,” police said.

Credit theft

Unauthorized credit cards opened fraudulently in the name of a Park resident last week were cancelled before any charges were racked up.

“The victim was not out of money,” according to police.

Identity thieves had opened the accounts online.

Lost & confused

A lost and sloppy drunken driver got himself arrested this week by making himself known.

At 1 a.m. Monday, Feb. 9, the suspect, a 58-year-old man from Harrison Township, parked in the driveway of a house in the 900 block of Barrington and knocked on the door, prompting the resident to call police.

“The (man) was driving away when officers arrived,” an officer said. “(He) was unaware of where he was, slurring his words and smelled of intoxicants. (He) failed field sobriety tests and was arrested.”

Stolen auto

Despite being parked at the back of a driveway in the 1100 block of Harvard, a 2025 Lincoln

Corsair was stolen overnight Monday, Feb. 9. The key fob was in the vehicle.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

If the shoe fits

An ex-boyfriend is suspected of having stolen approximately \$39,000 in high-end shoes and other high-value items from a woman’s home on Neff between Friday, Jan. 30, and Saturday, Feb. 7.

An investigation is ongoing.

Fool me once

Five individuals each passed fraudulent checks at a business in the 17000 block of Waterloo Tuesday, Feb. 3.

An investigation is ongoing.

Severance package?

Upon being fired, an employee of a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval stole multiple items before leaving the location at 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Time to lock your door

A \$500 Shinola gift card was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 17000 block of Mack between 4 and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Plowing more than snow

A Wayne County snow plow driver made too wide of a turn going from eastbound Vernier to southbound Lakeshore around noon Sunday, Jan. 25, and knocked down a light post in the median.

No tickets were issued.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Wanting to go to jail

A 41-year-old Detroit man admitted to entering unlocked vehicles and taking change when questioned by officers around 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, in the 900 block of Vernier.

He told officers he wanted to be taken to jail and later told them he has a diagnosed mental illness.

Attempted fraud

A resident in the 2000 block of Hunt Club avoided an even worse telephone scam than he already fell for when he hung up on a fraudster around 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

The man told officers he received a call from someone claiming to be with AT&T who said he needed to pay \$10 to speed up his internet. After paying the money, he received a call from someone claiming to be with Microsoft who said his \$10 bill was entered as \$10,000 and that it couldn’t be undone, then instructed him to withdraw that amount from his bank.

He hung up on the person at that time.

Smash and grab

A business in the 2100 block of Mack lost thousands of dollars in merchandise after someone smashed the glass of the front door and grabbed the items. Officers were dispatched via an alarm around 8 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 8.

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

VIRTUAL:

Continued from page 2A

Among additional measures, the ordinance now requires registration and licensing for virtual currency machines; the operator to provide a customer service helpline; and for warnings and disclosures to be posted on the device advising users of the associated risks.

To further prevent

fraudulent situations, the ordinance states new customers to the machine cannot process more than \$1,000 in any 24-hour period, nor more than \$5,000 during the first 14 days of being a new customer.

It further states, “In connection with the first transaction with a new customer, if such first transaction is in an amount exceeding \$500, a verbal confirmation from the customer must

be secured by a live telephone or video call between the customer and a trained natural person employed by or on behalf of the operator of the virtual currency machine.”

Harper Woods and Sterling Heights also have passed similar ordinances, following the example of the Farms. In concept, a buffer of communities with such ordinances is necessary so scammers become inca-

pable of sending a victim to a machine anywhere near their residence, which would make the scam’s success far less likely.

“That would basically start putting consistency among our machines throughout the greater community,” Valentine said.

City of Grosse Pointe City Council passed the ordinance 6-0, with Councilman Chris Walsh absent, Monday, Jan. 26.

Checks are in the mail

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A councilman is getting two more opportunities to stick by his mantra of hoping for the best while expecting the worst.

The gloomy mindset keeps Councilman Max Wiener grounded as he and fellow municipal representatives await more than \$3 million combined in a federal environmental grant and state allocation. Both were promised and approved but not delivered.

There’s precedent for the lags.

City Manager Nick Sizeland said five years passed between the federal government earlier this decade awarding the city a Federal Emergency Management Agency flood cleanup grant and handing down the funds.

Wiener said, “It’s one of those, you hope for the best and expect the worst.”

Big carrots are dangling at the end of the Park’s current hiatus.

In February 2024, Michigan Democrat Congressman Shri Thanedar announced at a

council meeting the city would receive a \$1,050,000 federal grant for construction of flood-protection infrastructure, specifically the extreme emergency relief valve, a connection to the city’s overflow outlet into Lake St. Clair off Patterson Park.

Two months later, Thanedar announced the grant was increased to \$1,666,279 — 70 percent more than originally forecast.

The \$2.8 million valve, installed late last year, was designed to divert excess storm water into Lake St. Clair rather than backing through the sewer system into thousands of basements, as happened with heavy rains during the summer of 2021.

The city’s cleanup and related costs totaled just over \$1 million.

“FEMA reimbursed us for about \$900,000,” Sizeland said. “We lost about \$100,000 for what we spent on flood cleanup and remediation.”

Park officials are hankering to post the latest federal grant in the financial records, but can only keep it in mind until the real thing comes along.

The same with state environmental funding to help handle stormwater runoff.

In October last year, the Grosse Pointes’ State Sen. Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores, included \$1.7 million in the state budget to manage runoff and mitigate stormwater flooding associated with construction of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery on Jefferson, straddling the Detroit city limits.

“This new \$1.7 million investment in Grosse Pointe Park (will) expand retention space and prevent flooding during heavy rains,” Hertel said at the time.

Yet the lag between announcement and action has stayed the same.

Sizeland said he hasn’t heard from the state about the status of the appropriation.

“We still don’t know the exact terms or the city’s portion,” he said.

“Just like the federal grant, we’ll have to stay on top of it,” Wiener said.

See CHECKS, page 8A



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Let GPPSS decide

(Editor's note: This is the testimony given by Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Trustee Sean Cotton, who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, before the Michigan House Education and Workforce Development Committee Wednesday, Feb. 4, on a package of bills that, if signed into law, would force every district in the state to participate in schools of choice.)

Good morning, chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
My name is Sean Cotton. I am a trustee of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, one of seven elected school board members, but I want to be clear that I am speaking only for myself today and not on behalf of the board of education.

This legislation surfaced quickly and, to be frank, I do not believe any school boards would have had time to meet and provide formal input.

I am an elected official representing a community of about 50,000 residents. I strongly believe in local representation and in decisions being made as close to the community as possible. I am also a corporate attorney, a local business owner and a newspaper owner.

I generally lean conservative and support legislators when they make decisions grounded in accountability, local control, respect for the rule of law and representative government and respect for taxpayers.

I am here to strongly oppose House Bills 5310, 5311 and 5312.

These bills would mandate schools of choice statewide, eliminate the ability to opt out and strip districts of nearly all discretion beyond capacity. This is not a minor policy adjustment; it is a sweeping structural change to public education in Michigan.

What is also troubling is how these bills have been advanced. Based on testimony you received last week, it is clear the sponsors did not meaningfully engage with districts that have opted out of schools of choice or with neighboring districts that would be directly affected. No one reached out to the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Districts that have opted out of schools of choice educate tens of thousands of students and employ thousands of teachers. Policy of this magnitude should not be built on anecdote rather than data.

For important context, the Grosse Pointe Public School System has voted against participation in schools of choice every year since it was created in 1996. It is my understanding that those votes have always been unanimous, across trustees of differing political views and without regard to partisanship. That long-standing local decision would be wiped away by these bills.

A central flaw in this legislation is the concept of capacity. In GPPSS, facilities studies suggest space for approximately 4,000 additional students. That number has nothing to do with staffing. Is that capacity? Michigan already faces a teacher shortage. If students move between districts, where do the additional teachers come from?

More importantly, what happens to the districts that lose students, staff and funding? What would

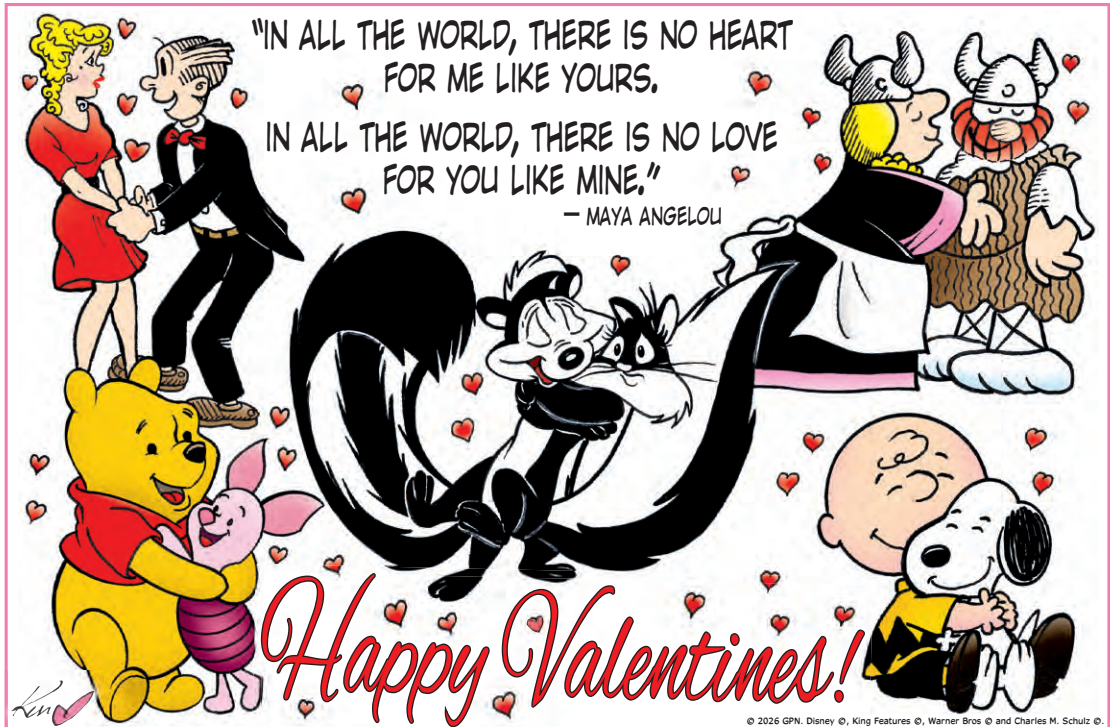


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP



COURTESY PHOTO

Sean Cotton testifies before the Michigan House Education and Workforce Development Committee Feb. 4.

the impact be on neighboring districts like Eastpointe, Harper Woods and Detroit if thousands of students were suddenly pulled away? Every district carefully balances its finances, staffing and programming based on stable enrollment. This legislation would create massive disruptions not just for districts gaining students, but for those losing them as well.

School districts fund school buildings through voter-approved bonds and sinking funds. School district boundaries are not arbitrary as stated last week. They are taxpayer boundaries. Those lines determine who pays for long-term obligations and school millages. That is a principle I would expect legislators to respect.

These bills also eliminate district discretion over program type and grade level admissions. Many districts achieve strong outcomes by educating students consistently from kindergarten

through graduation. That continuity matters. This legislation does not allow for limited or program-based choice. It forces open enrollment based solely on capacity and disregards educational models built over decades.

Additionally, something that I find troubling is that my constituents have been told by staffers of the bills' sponsors that this legislation is about transparency or applies only to districts already participating in schools of choice. That is not true based on the bill language. The fact that these misstatements are circulating is deeply concerning.

Finally, what I am struggling with, and what many constituents are asking me, is why this effort is being driven by the Republican Party. I have been asked repeatedly why Republicans are advancing a policy that eliminates local control, disregards taxpayer boundaries and centralizes decision making at the state level. I do not have a good answer for them, because this approach runs counter to the conservative principles I have always understood.

Taken altogether, it appears that well-funded special interest groups are pushing a policy of disruption for its own sake. The result is chaos and instability imposed on public education systems that are already working to balance budgets, staff shortages and student needs. That is not reform of public education; it is chaos.

If there are problems with schools of choice, I believe they would best be addressed by working with districts that have opted in. Forcing participation statewide is not reform; it is disruption.

I respectfully urge this committee not to advance these bills.

Thank you.

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.

Local schools, local decisions

To the Editor:

Michigan State House Bills 5310-5312 threaten GPPSS's local control over participation in Schools of Choice (SOC) and our community must act to protect its right to decide.

For decades, our district has thrived because of thoughtful leadership and deeply engaged families. A state mandate would carry immediate and long-term consequences.

Since Proposal A passed in 1994, our board of education has consistently rejected SOC. That decision reflects careful judgment, fiscal responsibility and a sustained commitment to student success. A one-size-fits-all statewide requirement would override our community's authority, dismissing the priorities of the residents who fund and support our schools.

GPPSS is a high-performing 20j district supported by a community that repeatedly invests in its schools. Voters approve bonds and sinking funds that provide resources beyond the state maximum and local foundations generously contribute additional funding. This ongoing investment demonstrates our shared belief that strong local schools depend on local stewardship and accountability.

Local control is essential to GPPSS's success. Decisions about enrollment, budgeting, staffing and student support should be made by leaders who live here, listen to families here and answer to this community. A blanket SOC mandate would erode the flexibility that allows GPPSS to meet students' unique needs and maintain the high standards our families expect.

Communities across Michigan face the same threat to local decision-making. Residents must understand what is at stake.

Now is the time to stand united to protect our local vote. A state mandate should not replace the judgment of families who know and support their schools best. Parents, teachers and residents alike must defend the autonomy that has made GPPSS a model of educational excellence.

KATE HOPPER
Grosse Pointe Farms

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Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain & Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	0%	10%	60%	10%	0%	10%
SUNRISE 7:33 am SUNSET 5:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:32 am SUNSET 6:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:30 am SUNSET 6:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:29 am SUNSET 6:03 pm	SUNRISE 7:27 am SUNSET 6:05 pm	SUNRISE 7:26 am SUNSET 6:06 pm	SUNRISE 7:25 am SUNSET 6:07 pm

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

I SAY By Jody McVeigh

The antisocial butterfly spreads her wings



Partly out of boredom, but also partly inspired by a friend on a quest to “try new things,” I’ve been a member of This Month’s Craft since fall 2024.

The same friend signed up with me and as we eagerly awaited our first boxed craft, I wasn’t quite sure what to expect. Would I learn a wealth of new skills? Find fun and creative ways to spend the long winter months? Become an expert crafter to some degree?

I attempted the occasional sewing project as a child and took art classes all four years of high school, so I had hoped

that maybe I’d retained a skill or two from my youth. Even if I hadn’t, the kits were meant for beginners, so how hard could they be?

Each kit came with more than enough materials and any tool or supply necessary for completing the craft. And while the instruction booklets, in my opinion, seemed more fitting for intermediate-level crafters, we did the best we could with what we had.

Of the 10 crafts we received — we took four months off last spring/summer and paused the kits in December for the holiday — here’s what I learned:

- ◆ My fingers are meant for typing, not crocheting.
- ◆ Diamond painting is surprisingly just as relaxing as it is easy and fun.
- ◆ The cross-stitching skill my mom taught me as a child did not get lost in adulthood.
- ◆ Paint-by-numbers projects are only fun

when I get to select the painting.

- ◆ The pottery skills I learned in high school (Thank you, Mr. Faszholz!) did not translate into adulthood (Sorry, Mr. Faszholz!).
- ◆ Making beaded necklaces is relaxing, as long as you keep your fingers tight on the wire; if you don’t, prepare to spend ample time with your face pressed against the floor searching for stray beads.
- ◆ The best part about nature collages — you know, dried flowers, rocks and chunks of wood — is getting to play with a hot glue gun.
- ◆ Making lip balm is incredibly quick and easy — and they make good gifts.

We have yet to tackle the candle-making kits we received in November; there never seems to be a good time to make that big of a mess.

We got together earlier this month for our final project: needle felting. I

created a potted succulent about two inches tall and, while it took a really long time — and I snapped all but one 40-gauge needle — the final product is proudly displayed among the real succulents in my house. And who knows? I may just make a few more.

However, as we painstakingly poked needles into felt — and occasionally into our fingers — we decided we’ve had just about enough of This Month’s Craft. It was a fun experiment, but we agreed to move on to something different. What that may be remains to be seen ... although in the meantime, the words “cross-country skiing” have been banded around.

In retrospect, I gained a few things from this experiment and not just a boxful of crafts — some of them wonderful, some of them half-made and some of them so hideous I will never show another living being.

Creating monthly



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

The author’s needle felting project, nestled among the succulents after which it was modeled.

crafts necessitated introverted me — who would rather do most, if not all, activities by myself — to spend time with another human. Thankfully, she’s a human with whom I like spending time, but as we did our best to learn — or at least try to learn — new skills, we also cheered each other on and up; asked for and offered advice; provided guidance and support; even set aside the crafts for heartfelt conversation — or to ride out hearty fits of laughter.

I will always strive to be a better friend and this experiment helped me further along that path. Apart from building a better friendship, I also built a fairly sizable collection of crafting tools I hope to put to use someday.

Except for the crochet hooks; I hope I never need those things again.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1951

75 years ago this week

BON SECOURS DRIVE OVER TOP: Contributions substantially over the original goal of \$121,120 needed to furnish and equip the new Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe have made the drive a complete success, Lou R. Maxon, chairman of the Bon Secours Special Gifts Committee, announced. The drive, which began last Dec. 1 and ended today, is expected to yield the hospital between \$155,000 and \$160,000 when all checks are in.

CITY BUSINESSMEN GIVE APPROVAL TO NEW PARKING PLAN: Kercheval shopping district property owners and business men approved an “off-street parking” project at a special meeting before the Grosse Pointe City Parking Authority Committee. The project would provide four parking lots for approximately 600 cars, Norbert Neff, committee member, said. It would also direct all future business enterprises to include adequate off-street parking space adjoining the property.

POINTE’S NEWEST SCOUT TROOP ORGANIZED: Boy Scout Troop 703 of District 3 has just been organized under the sponsorship of the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church. The first eight Tenderfoot scouts were accepted at ceremonies at the church.

1976

50 years ago this week

YSD EXPANDS SERVICE TO GP MIDDLE SCHOOLS: The Youth Services Division is expanding its service to The Pointe’s three middle schools, Brownell,

Parcells and Pierce, by having its personnel at each school for a set time at least one half day a week. Both division detectives and school officials feel this expansion will only result in positive benefits for all concerned, principally the youngsters themselves.

HER FOOD DRIVE KEEPS MOVING: More than five months and 2,000 cans of food later, 15-year-old Gayle Queller is still going strong on her Hunger Coalition food collection in the schools. It was last September that the North High School student, the only teenage member of Grosse Pointe’s Hunger Coalition, set out on her task of collecting high-protein canned foods from all the public schools. The goods are then taken to Saint Bernard Church in Fairview, Detroit, and distributed to needy Detroit area families.

POINTER THROWS IT PRETTY FAR: Western Michigan University senior shot putter Mike Schomer turned in a record-shattering performance for his school’s track team at the prestigious Michigan Invitational in Ann Arbor by copping first place honors with a throw of 57-1/4”. The mark established a new school and fieldhouse record and ranks as the best effort in the Midwest so far this year.

2001

25 years ago this week

FARMS TO FENCE IN PARK POOLS: Grosse Pointe Farms residents may notice something new in the Farms Pier Park when they visit the park after it opens in May. The city council has approved spending \$35,000 for new fences around the main pool, the wading pool and the tot lot. Parks and Recreation Director Richard Huhn said

these areas are already surrounded by fences. While some of the fencing is ornamental, most of it is chain link. Once the work is completed, all the fencing will be ornamental.

FREE PARKING ON THE HILL — FOR A WHILE: For a brief time those who parked in The Hill shopping district in Grosse Pointe Farms last week got to enjoy free parking as something other than a square on the Monopoly board. The ticket dispenser to the Farms municipal lot off of Kercheval was knocked over just after 9 a.m. Jan. 30. As a result, those wishing to use the lot had no way to get a ticket.

ANTONIO’S ‘IN THE PARK’ NOW OPEN: A little taste of Italy has opened in Grosse Pointe Park. Antonio’s in the Park, owned by veteran Grosse Pointe restaurateur and Italian native Antonio Scerri, is open in the location occupied formerly by Sparkey Herbert’s on lower Kercheval between Maryland and Lakepointe.

2016

10 years ago this week

PARK LAUNCHES OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE: The newly formed Communication Committee is living up to its name, thanks to the efforts of committee chair Councilwoman Laurie Arora. The committee has launched an official Facebook page, City of Grosse Pointe Park, and is already attracting “likes” and “friends.”

PARK COUPLE ARRESTED FOR SALE OF BODY PARTS FOLLOWING FBI RAID: Arthur Rathbum and his wife, Elizabeth, have been indicted on several charges in U.S. District Court involving the illegal sale of human body parts. The indictment followed several years of investigation by the FBI,

including raids on a warehouse in Detroit where Rathbum stored the body parts and their house in Grosse Pointe Park. According to the indictment, Arthur Rathburn owned a business, International Biological Inc., and the primary source of income for that business was “renting human body parts ... to customers who used

the remains for medical or dental training.”

LIBRARY FACELIFT BEGINS APRIL 4: Since opening in 1953, the Grosse Pointe Public Library’s Central Branch has undergone a few minor updates and changes. It’s been re-carpeted and rearranged, but it’s held onto its midcentury modern feel for decades. April 4 the library will

close for eight to 10 weeks to undergo an extensive redesign — its first in more than 60 years. When it reopens, it will boast new shelving and carpeting throughout, as well as a new program room, two study rooms, a first-floor children’s room, an area for teens, a cafe area and seating along the windows facing Kercheval.





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Jefferson Chase Bank building addition tabled

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The book has yet to close on the former Jefferson Chase Bank building, which was considered for a carryout restaurant and ultimately approved for personal office use last April.

The property is unique, being that it’s in the middle of a residential neighborhood and required a special use variance to retain its commercial nature and therefore preserve the historic structure.

The new owner, Shores resident Michael Aubrey, appeared before the city’s zoning board of appeals — which doubles as city council — in January, with a request to amend the previously approved variance to allow for an addition to the existing 3,200-square foot building.

His plan takes the form of 2,920-square-foot indoor, half-sized basketball court built over the current parking lot, as well as a 450-square-foot covered patio adjacent to the court and facing Jefferson.

“The addition will not or does not change or intensify the approved office use and will not increase traffic, parking demand, noise or hours of operation,” Aubrey said. “In fact, by locating the activity indoors, the project minimizes potential external impacts.



COURTESY DESIGN IMAGE

Proposed is a half-sized indoor basketball court that would nearly double the size of the building, as well as a covered patio.

“The design of the addition has been carefully developed to match the architectural character and scale of the existing historic structure, allowing the building to remain functional and preserved over the long term,” he continued. “The city’s master plan encourages the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and this project directly advances this goal.”

Members of the ZBA did not share the same level of enthusiasm about the design drawings they were provided. “I recognize in 2026, what an office looks like sometimes takes different shapes,” Councilwoman Maureen Juip said. “We hear about Google and the slides they have from floor-to-

floor. My husband just did his law office and he put it in a gourmet kitchen, so having recreational facilities attached to a high-end office, I don’t have any problem with the concept of that, but ... I was disappointed when I saw the plan, because it really feels very much like we’ve taken a beautiful building that has a lot of architectural significance and plunked a box right next to it.”

The city’s planner, McKenna, recommended the ZBA deny the variance amendment on the basis it does not meet any of the four required criteria for approval.

First, the proposed use must be of such location, size and character that it will be in harmony with the appropriate and

orderly development of the surrounding neighborhood.

City planner Laura Mangan, vice president of McKenna, said the addition nearly doubles the size of the existing footprint and the architecture appears institutional amid the residential neighborhood, without anything to visibly break up the mass.

Second, the proposed use must be of a nature that will make vehicular and pedestrian traffic no more hazardous than is normal for the district involved, taking into consideration traffic flow, parking and pedestrian traffic.

The addition likely would extend the hours of operation and alter arrival and departure

times, Mangan said. The parking areas also lack screening from adjacent properties.

Third, the location, size, intensity, site layout and periods of operation must be designed to eliminate any possible nuisances.

Noise generated and the lack of buffering between the site and adjacent residential buildings should be considered, Mangan said.

Fourth, the location and height of buildings and the height and nature of walls and fences must not interfere or discourage the appropriate development, use or value of adjacent properties.

The planner’s report noted the proposed facade lacks variation, setbacks or design fea-

tures that would help integrate the expanded building into its surroundings.

“I feel like we have an idea here or a concept of an idea that is not executed as well as it could be,” Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said.

Another major component of approval required by city ordinance is demonstration that, without a variance, the owner would suffer practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship.

It was through this avenue, the board approved the variance for an office use last April.

“The variance we granted initially recognized that adaptive reuse of the building was a best practice and in keeping with the master plan,” Tomkowiak said. “It would be a hardship to try to convert that building to residential without tearing down the building, so we granted a variance to allow office use in the existing structure.”

The returning applicant argued the amendment request should be subject to the same established hardship, which was met with hesitation by board members and the recommendation of denial by the city planner.

“The current proposal does not seek relief to make reasonable use of

See TABLED, page 9A

High bond rating helps lower bond cost

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — If all goes right, come April the city will deposit up to \$7 million worth of bond proceeds to upgrade water and sewer systems.

Improvements scheduled to start thereafter consist of relining sewers in select areas and citywide water meter replacement.

Rehabilitating the sewer system — removing gunk and debris from pipes, plus inserting new lining where necessary — is intended to increase the system’s capacity and rate of flow, thereby improving efficiency and reducing the odds of backup flooding.

New water meters replace old ones that don’t accurately tally water usage, costing the city more than \$1 mil-

lion per year in lost revenue, according to city officials.

“The bond sale is March 26,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “April 16 is when we receive the funds.”

“The bonds will mature in annual installments not to exceed 25 (years),” according to a public notice.

Members of city council this month approved a resolution permitting a competitive bond sale. Terms give the city flexibility to reduce the bond amount if construction bids come in lower than expected.

“The resolution authorizes a competitive public sale of the bonds,” said Patrick McGow of the city’s legal advisors at Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone. “We’re waiting for engineering bids before we take the final step to finalize the size before

we advertise the bonds for sale.”

“Final construction costs will be available in March,” Sizeland said. “We are scheduled to sell the bonds, assuming everything comes in correctly from the engineers in terms of bids for sewer lining, on March 26 at 1 p.m.,” said Steven Hayduk, a CPA and vice president of Bendzinski & Co., the city’s bond counselors.

Interest

Park officials and their advisors met recently with Standard & Poor’s credit rating agency about the city’s creditworthiness, which impacts a bond’s interest rate.

“Everything went very smoothly,” Hayduk said. “They had done a surveillance call last spring and were pretty up to speed. We should be getting the rating this week.

I don’t expect any surprises.”

The Park’s high-quality AA- credit rating helps the odds of getting a relatively low rate.

“I think you’re going to be under 4 percent, barring something crazy, but you never know,” Hayduk told the council. “There haven’t been many sales this year, but rates have been coming down a little. There was an AA sale Jan. 26 — 20 years at 3.74 percent.”

The city’s improved financial condition, as documented in the latest audit, plus increased spending controls and managerial oversight also are favorable factors in evaluating the city’s level of risk, according to Sizeland.

“Adopting the fund balance policy was something we talked to (S&P’s) about,” he said. “Our recent general

fund audit was also part of the discussion. The rating agency liked that. The purchasing policy also provided them with documentation.”

Contractor costs

“It is the city’s intent to wait for the construction costs to be available prior to the bond sale in late March,” according to McGow.

Sizeland said the city can thereafter adjust the bond amount before the sale or at the time of sale depending on construction bids.

Some of the costs are already known.

The city’s engineering consultants, OHM Advisors, received a \$15,000 contract this month to oversee sewer relining, according to Sizeland.

“That money will be paid out of bond proceeds,” he said.

“We are going to get

sewer lining prices from OHM in a month,” Sizeland said. “We’ll bring those to city council. Afterwards, we’ll know the exact price we need from the sewer lining aspect. We already have our dollar amount from (supplier) Core & Main for water meters, which is roughly \$1.6 million.”

“So, far, (costs) are coming in favorably, slightly below where we estimated,” said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee. “This (bond) is fully paid for by water-sewer rates. At this point everything, knock on wood, is smooth sailing.”

Plans

Plans to issue bonds date to at least January of last year. The idea at the time was to raise \$6 million. Approximately \$4 million would be for lining sewers, the \$2 million balance to replace water meters throughout the city.

By September 2025, the projected bond request was increased to \$7 million, then trimmed to \$6.5 million due to eliminating the purchase of a specialized truck to clean sewers.

In September, the initial consensus was to seek \$6.5 million in bonds. The figure was reduced by \$500,000, for a maximum \$6 million, by eliminating purchase of a heavy-duty jetter truck, the everyday name for a vehicle outfitted with high-pressure pumps and related equipment to clean sewer lines, drains and pipes.

This week’s reversion to the \$7 million figure

CHECKS:

Continued from page 5A

“It’s one of those, ‘It’ll be nice when we get it.’”

Invoices associated with the relief valve are

accumulating.

“We’ll try to push preventative maintenance into that (federal) grant,” Wiener said. “The money’s supposed to come.”

Sizeland is preparing to bang his head against

the wall again trying to secure low-interest, Michigan Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans and grants for further improvements to storm and wastewater infrastructure.

Past applications were rejected. The city was consistently rated too financially well off to qualify.

“EGLE (the state Department of Environment, Great

Lakes and Energy) has changed a couple parameters that actually makes things better,” Wiener said.

“Knock on wood, we’re going to try,” Sizeland said.



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See BOND, page 9A

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The cast

Ron Bernas, Gavin DeFillippo, Kelley Donnelly, Bridget Hillyer, Jackie Michl, Sarah Miller, Robby Mullinger, Danielle Patterson, Sal Rubino and Laura Ver Beek.

The crew

Emma Vreeland, director and co-set design; Danielle Caralis, stage manager; Charles Kruse, assistant stage manager; Arlene Schoenherr, producer; Gordon Richardson, tech director; Stella Woitulewicz, properties; Marie Boyle Reinman, costume design; Eric Vreeland, sound design and co-set design, Eric Leszczynski, lighting design; Christine Campbell-Cormier, choreography; Valerie Mould, dialect coach; Kimberly Elliott, hair and makeup design.

Danielle Patterson stars as Lizzy Bennet and Robby Mullinger stars as Mr. Darcy.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE THEATRE

‘Pride and Prejudice’ opens GPT season Feb. 19

Performances take place at Parcels through March 1

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe Theatre makes its long-awaited return to the main stage with “Pride and Prejudice,” to be performed Feb. 19 through March 1, at Parcels Middle School.

Set in Regency-era England, “Pride and Prejudice” glimpses the lives of the Bennet family — a father, mother and four daughters. At risk of losing their estate when Mr. Bennet dies, Mrs. Bennet sets out to marry off her daughters.

Enter wealthy bachelor Mr. Bingley and his even wealthier friend, Mr. Darcy, the latter of whom fails to make a good first impression on the Bennet girls.

“It’s the quintessential enemies-to-lovers story,” said first-time director Emma Vreeland, “but it also says a lot about friendship, sisterhood, family and how people grow when they’re forced to confront their own blind spots.”

Vreeland has been a fan of author Jane Austen — whose classic works also include “Emma” and “Sense and Sensibility” — since her early teens.

“I’ve always thought Jane Austen was very funny,” she said. “I would laugh out loud when I read her books. It can be surprising to people who are not Austen readers that these are romantic comedies; they’re mar-

riage comedies.

“... It’s an iconic story, but many people don’t realize it’s actually a laugh-out-loud comedy,” she added. “That’s what excited me so much about bringing Kate Hamill’s version to the stage.”

Hamill’s adaptation of the Austen novel is a fast-paced, witty and modern take on the classic version.

“Kate Hamill’s version really leans into updates for modern audiences,” Vreeland said. “It’s physical, accessible and wildly entertaining. The humor, the relationships and the emotional stakes are universal.”

Vreeland and her cast and crew have had to make adaptations of their own while preparing for “Pride and Prejudice.” When rehearsals began in November, they had expected to be performing at the Schaap Center for the Performing Arts, the opening of which remains delayed.

“I was excited for the technical capabilities at Schaap,” she said, noting the planned fly system, which allows crew to quickly, quietly and safely “fly” scenery and other stage components out of view. “When you lose the ability to move the set without people, you have to be creative. We had to change the choreography of the scene transitions and make it all smaller. This could be a black-box pro-

The details

What: “Pride and Prejudice” by Kate Hamill, adapted from the novel by Jane Austen

When:

- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19, 20 and 21
- ◆ 2 p.m. Feb. 22
- ◆ 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26, 27 and 28
- ◆ 2 p.m. March 1

Where: Parcels Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

How: For tickets and more information, visit gpt.org/pride or call (313) 881-4004.

duction; it’s an intimate show. There are only 10 actors. We’re fortunate Parcels suited our needs.”

Vreeland and her husband, Eric, designed the set to fit the stage, which still will be able to accommodate at least one “wow” moment, she added.

“I’m excited to share that with audiences.”

The first-time director has faced a few other tests taking on “Pride and Prejudice,” including staging dialogue while all 10 actors are onstage dancing at the same time.

“There’s dancing — ballroom scenes,” she said, “which is different for a non-musical play. Staging dialogue while dancing was challenging, but fun. I think the audience will enjoy it. There’s so much to see; everyone’s engaged.”

She thanked her talented cast — Ron Bernas, Gavin DeFillippo, Kelley



Donnelly, Bridget Hillyer, Jackie Michl, Sarah Miller, Robby Mullinger, Danielle Patterson, Sal Rubino and Laura Ver Beek — for bringing authenticity to their roles.

“These actors are so incredible,” she said. “I could not have had a better cast.”

Some of her cast have taken on the challenge of playing two or three roles. Bernas, for example, plays all three villains.

“He really brings a totally different energy to each of them,” Vreeland said, “different body language, different voices, different pace of speaking. It’s fun to see an actor really sink his teeth in like that.”

The cast has been working with a dialect coach to perfect their British accents as well.

Additionally, costume designer Marie Reinman has built every article of clothing from the ground up for this play.

“My vision was to be very colorful,” Vreeland

said, noting typical costumes of the era involved whites and pale pastels. “These characters are so big, I wanted their clothing to reflect that.”

Vreeland said the production will please fans of the book and its adaptation, “but even if you’ve never seen or read it, it’s accessible,” she added. “You don’t need to be familiar with it to enjoy it.”

“... Grosse Pointe Theatre really needs support right now,” she added. “It’s been a challenging year. We were not expecting the first main stage show to be ‘Pride and Prejudice.’ We hope this gets the season back on track.”

Who better to get the ball rolling than Vreeland, who’s love for Austen is further exemplified with her dog, Mr. Knightley, a character from the author’s “Emma.”

Since she first stepped foot on the GPT stage with the 2002 cast of “The Sound of Music,” Vreeland has been in

love with theater. She also found love through theater; she met her husband, Eric, through GPT.

“I’ve been in Grosse Pointe Theatre since I was 10 years old,” Vreeland said. “It’s always been a part of my life. As I’ve gotten older, I’ve gotten more involved backstage. I was assistant director twice. It felt like this was the next step. When I was assistant director, it was more logistics and operations. It’s been exciting to lean more into the artistry and creativity of this production.”

“... Everything I learned about directing and theater I learned from Grosse Pointe Theatre,” she added. “It’s cool to see this group in the community and to now see the dividends from it two decades later. I’m one of many in the group who knew nothing about directing and are now taking on that challenge. It’s all about mentorship and community at Grosse Pointe Theatre.”



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Corewell exec named ‘CNO to Know’ by Becker’s Healthcare

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Sheri Testani has never felt more at home.

She calls Grosse Pointe the “best-kept secret in the world” and has dedicated herself to caring for the community — through her job as chief nursing officer at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, as well as her devotion to volunteering.

Her professional efforts have not gone unnoticed. Testani recently was recognized by Becker’s Healthcare among the top “hospital and health system CNOs to know” for 2025. The list recognizes outstanding CNOs who are shaping the future of patient care. CNOs address staffing shortages, manage nursing budgets and create professional development pathways for the next generation of nurses, among other duties.

“I’m responsible for nursing operations, quality of practice and good outcomes and having the right complement of staff,” Testani said.

Known in the industry for having exceptional communication skills, emotional intelligence and the ability to foster high-performing teams, Testani said she was surprised to learn of the nomination, let alone the fact three people individually nominated her for the honor.

“It’s pretty prestigious, so I’m very honored,” she said. “There are over 5,500 hospitals in the nation, so to be on a list of 274 CNOs makes me proud, humbled and honored.”

Testani, who has more than 30 years of nursing experience, has served as CNO at Corewell Grosse Pointe two years; however, this isn’t her first stint at the hospital.

“I started here when it was Bon Secours,” she said, adding she also worked at St. John Providence and Detroit Receiving hospitals. “I’m Canadian and now a proud American. When I lived in the Park, I used to run by (Beaumont Grosse Pointe). I thought (former CNO) Ann Stewart was never going to retire. When the open-

ing came, I had to come back.”

Testani’s career in healthcare was inspired by an aunt who was an infection control nurse at the National Institutes of Health.

“I was fascinated with what she used to do,” Testani said. “She really inspired me at a young age. I’ve always cared for people and I’ve always been the nurturing type.”

However, in high school, Testani set her sights on teaching physical education. She earned an undergraduate degree in human kinetics from the University of Windsor before having a change of heart.

“I finished nursing school in Canada and didn’t look back,” she said. “I’ve loved this profession from a young age and it’s been good to me my entire career.”

Testani has carried many titles throughout her career — from bedside clinician to director of nursing, among others — and has held the title of CNO for more than a decade.

“I try to give back through my clinical



COURTESY PHOTO

Sheri Testani recently was recognized by Becker’s Healthcare among the top chief nursing officers in the country.

knowledge, my time and mentorship,” she said. “I give back to the profession and cultivate an open environment with students.”

In addition to her work at Corewell, Testani operates RNmotiv8, a consulting business through which she bridges the gap from graduation through one’s first clinical practice role. She’s also the founder of Briella Health, a health,

wellness, coaching and mentoring business.

A Pointe resident since 2008, Testani has lived in all the Pointes and currently calls the City home.

“It’s been beautiful that I’ve been able to come and go,” she said. “I’ve been a CNO in a few different states (Florida and Georgia), which I feel has made me a better leader.”

Her love of the Pointes and commitment to giv-

ing back keep her busy during work hours, but also in her spare time. Testani serves as treasurer of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and on the Neighborhood Club Board of Trustees. She also volunteers with the Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market each summer.

“We had a phenomenal Community Impact Day,” she said. “We spent the day cleaning up the Moross Greenway. I love volunteering and giving back wherever I can. “It fills me up personally and professionally.

“My personal brand is, ‘Empowering people, transforming culture and leading with purpose and positivity,’” she added.

Of the 274 CNOs from across the country on the Becker’s list, six are from Michigan. Of those, three are with Corewell Health: Testani; Tali Edge, CNO of Corewell Health Dearborn Hospital; and Kelli S. Sadler, BSN, RN, senior vice president and chief nursing executive for Corewell Health in Southeast Michigan.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Veterans

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the Veterans Room at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The program will look at how the U.S. Army is transforming to a new system of fighting, looking at arms of the future, technology and close combat in the 21st century.

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.

◆ The movie “Our Souls at Night” is shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.

◆ Premier World Discovery presents “Landscapes & Lighthouses of Coastal Maine” and “National Parks & Canyons of the Southwest,” 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.

◆ The movie “The Beautiful Fantastic” is shown at noon Friday, Feb. 20. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.

◆ Yoga, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays with Carol Guither; 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays with Darlene Lovelace; and 9 to 10 a.m. Fridays with Jessica Kodanko. Cost is \$8 per class.

◆ Chair Yoga, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays with Carik Guither; and 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Fridays with Jessica Kodanko. Cost is \$8 per class.

◆ Active Fit, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays with Stacey Panduren. Cost is \$8 per class.

◆ Enhance Fitness, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays with Paul Clark; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays with Rosa Hunter.

◆ Tai Chi Beginner Class, 9 to 10 a.m.

See EVENTS, page 6B

The more you know

Larry Stocking, a specialized firefighter in Grosse Pointe Farms, stressed the importance of residents clearing the area around fire hydrants near their homes and businesses.

“It’s very important that hydrants are clear of snow or vegetation,” he said. “Fire doubles in size

every 30 seconds. As an engineer, I have to get water to the engine as fast as I can. If the hydrant is buried with snow or covered by shrubs, it can make a difference in getting the fire out or causing more problems and damage to the structure if we have to clear the snow from

the hydrant.

“Another issue can be landscaping companies who plow the snow,” he continued. “They need to be aware of the hydrants as well, because a lot of times they cover up the hydrants or push the snow from parking lots or driveways up against and over the hydrants.

“Firefighting is not as easy as some may think,” Stocking added. “You can get exhausted very

quickly. Clearing snow, as we all know, can be exhausting as well and then you have to fight a fire after afterwards. We can get to the fire quicker if the area around the hydrant is cleared and we don’t have to spend time clearing the snow or shrubs. Usually clearing three feet around the hydrant is enough to give us room to work around it.”

— Renee Landuyt



Left, a hydrant along Grosse Pointe Boulevard, near The Grosse Pointe Academy, that needs to be cleared. Right, a hydrant along Grosse Pointe Boulevard, down the street from The Grosse Pointe Academy, that is cleared of snow.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LARRY STOCKING

Left, a hydrant near Christ Church Grosse Pointe covered with snow and shrubbery. Right, the same hydrant near Christ Church clear of snow, with the shrubs cut back, so firefighters have room to get to the hydrant.



Crews that plowed the S lot behind Grosse Pointe South High School covered a fire hydrant with snow. “How are the firefighters supposed to get to it if they need the hydrant?” Stocking said. “This happens all over the city where snow removal services plow snow right up to and over the hydrant.”



A hydrant near Stephens on Grosse Pointe Boulevard mostly covered by snow.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



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St. Clare’s centennial

Multiple activities planned to celebrate church’s 100th anniversary

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

There is much cause for celebration at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church and the parish hopes the community will celebrate with them.

The iconic church at Mack and Whittier in Grosse Pointe Park is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year — and the school next year — with a calendar of events that spans well into 2027.

“The way I envisioned this, celebrating 100 years, one weekend is not enough time to eat, drink and reminisce,” said Father Andrew Kowalczyk, who has pastored the church the last 12 years. “This is to allow the Augustinian fathers to be present on different occasions to be part of our celebration. They are our founding fathers.”

The Augustinian order served St. Clare for 86 years before departing in 2012; the church now is overseen by the Order of Michaelites.

To coincide with the



St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, located at the corner of Mack and Whittier in Grosse Pointe Park, will host numerous events in 2026 and 2027, to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

first organizational meeting of the church in February 1926, St. Clare will kick off its centennial with special weekend Masses Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 14 and 15.

“We chose this weekend, the last weekend before Ash Wednesday, to kick off the celebration,” Kowalczyk said.

“These will be special Masses commemorating the founding of St. Clare of Montefalco Parish. All Masses, all weekend. We’ve invited the Augustinian fathers; they are the ones who founded it.”

During each Mass, the Centennial Committee will present a plaque to

the Augustinians in attendance. Social gatherings in St. Clare’s social hall, The Vineyard, follow each Mass.

This weekend is just the start of what Janet Abdenour Dabney and her husband, Brian, have been planning. They serve as co-chairs of the centennial, which also

Centennial celebrations

- ◆ Feb. 14 and 15 — Special weekend Masses to commemorate the opening of the parish. Mass times are 4 p.m. Saturday, and 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ March 8 and 9 — Parish Mission, 7 p.m., featuring speaker Jon Leonetti
- ◆ March 22 — Celebratory spring concert, featuring Mozart’s “Requiem”
- ◆ May 17 — Parish picnic
- ◆ May 24 — Special Pentecost Sunday Mass honoring parishioners, 11 a.m.
- ◆ May 31 — Say Hi Sunday, with America’s 250th anniversary concert at 4 p.m.
- ◆ Aug. 15 and 16 — Blessing of the 100th anniversary tree following Masses
- ◆ Sept. 12 and 13 — Weekend celebration of Pope Leo XIV’s ordination to the Diaconate at St. Clare
- ◆ Oct. 11 — Official centennial anniversary Mass with Archbishop Edward Weisenburger, 10 a.m.
- ◆ Oct. 11 — Official centennial anniversary dinner at The War Memorial, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Nov. 14 — Knights of Columbus Vocations Dinner
- ◆ Dec. 5 — Ladies Christmas Coffee
- ◆ Dec. 6 — Grosse Pointe Community Chorus concert
- ◆ Dec. 12 — Detroit Concert Choir celebratory Christmas concert

Additional events are being planned for 2027. For more information, visit stclarem.org/100th-anniversary.

includes numerous committees and volunteers.

“We’ve been planning this for three years,” she said. “The focus I had was to have a wonderful and blessed time to reflect with gratitude and awe on the history of St. Clare and the historical contributions St. Clare has made to the community.”

The community surrounding St. Clare has changed since the parish was founded.

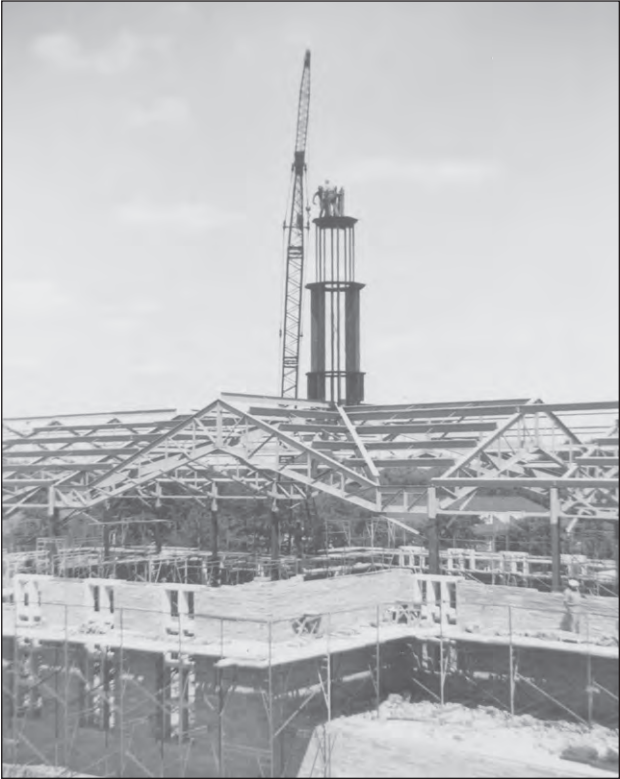
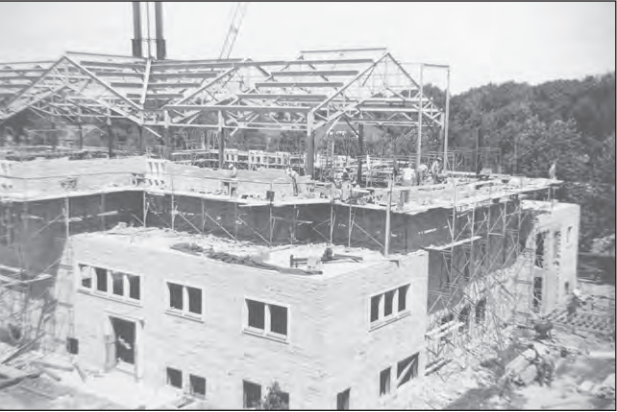
“The parish is not the same as it was,”

Kowalczyk said. “The school, the community is not the same as when it was founded. The demographic has changed considerably.”

To think of the church remaining steadfast, serving the community and sharing faith on its campus for 100 years, he said, is a marvel.

“We as a Catholic community in this neighborhood have gone through good and not so good times ... and never

See ST. CLARE, page 6B



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. CLARE OF MONTEFALCO

Phases of the church under construction.

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club continues season with Folias Duo, Hummel Trio

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club presents the third concert of its 27th season from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit.

The program features the Folias Duo — flutist Carmen Maret and guitarist Andrew Bergeron. This trailblazing composer-performer ensemble is known for blending classical music with jazz, world music and improvisation. The duo will perform a new set of music that celebrates the landscapes and stories of the Great Lakes region.

The March 8 program



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, violinist Joseph Deller, cellist Sarah Cleveland and violinist John Madison.

also features violinists Joseph Deller, along with John Madison and cellist Sarah Cleveland,

performing a string trio by Austrian composer Johann Nepomuk Hummel. These three local musicians all perform in the Detroit Opera Orchestra and with many other major ensembles in the area.

Each piece will be introduced by one of the musicians and refreshments will be served following the concert.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door and \$10 for students. Purchase tickets online at bit.ly/CMSC382026.

For more information, visit scarabclub.org or call (248) 921-3193.



The Folias Duo, guitarist Andrew Bergeron and flutist Carmen Maret.

Early registration open for Mini Picassos summer camps

Mini Picassos recently opened early registration for its full-day art camps, which run June 22 to 26; July 20 to 24, and July 27 to 31; and Aug. 17 to 21 and Aug. 24 to 28.

Ages 5 to 13 are welcome to sign up for classes, which take place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe

Woods.

Early-bird registration is \$395 per camper, per week; \$295 per sibling.

Register at minipicassosstudio.com and use the code “EarlyBird26” to get the discount.

Mini Picassos also is accepting registration for its Mid Winter Break Art Camp, which takes

place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Feb. 16 to 18, at First English. Activities include drawing, painting, clay, tie-dyeing, print making, beading, games and more. Cost is \$195 per camper, \$95 for additional siblings.

For more information, email mini.picassos.gp@gmail.com or call (313) 757-5055.

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OBITUARIES

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

Marlene Mayer Harle

Marlene Mayer Harle, 89, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026, with her family by her side.

Marlene was born July 16, 1936, at Cottage Hospital in Grosse Pointe Farms. She was raised on the Eastside of Detroit. She attended Nichols Elementary School, Barbour Intermediate and Eastern High School.

Marlene was proud of being a “Miller Canfield Girl.” She was a legal secretary there for 16 years, both before and after raising her children. She “retired” in 1989 to pursue her Shaklee business. She was an active member of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church (GPUC) and served as the church’s Arts Committee chairwoman for 20 years. She was the dresser for the GPUC Gaieties musical revues put on by members of the choir, outfitting the men in tuxedos and the ladies in lovely, long evening gowns.

Marlene enjoyed being a member of Fox Creek Chapter #216 of The Questers for more than 45 years. As such, she had the opportunity to help organize many vintage fashion shows for charity through such organizations as the American Heart Association, Grosse Pointe Lawyers Wives, Wayne State University Faculty Wives, Women of Wayne, Women’s Aquatic Club, Daughters of the American Revolution and St. John Hospital Fontbonne Auxiliary.

Marlene was co-chair with her friend Nancy Pacitto of the Michigan Quester State Convention in 1994 and again in 2012. She also delighted in dressing individuals for special vintage occasions, such as at The War Memorial’s Great Gatsby parties and Oscar Nights, as well as the 100th anniversary of the Country Club of Detroit in 1999. Marlene was a member of the League of Women Voters, Grosse Pointe Citizens for Recycling and Grosse Pointe Historical Society, where she was a board member, a docent and the greeter for several of its annual fundraising galas.

Perhaps the charity activity she relished most was the 16 years she spent creating vintage table settings through the Festival of Tables for the Daughters of Penelope, a Greek philanthropic organization, as well as for Grosse Pointe Theatre and GPUC’s Symphony of Tables. Marlene was most grateful for a life well-lived, using her creativity to do things she reveled in while also helping others.

She especially delighted during her retirement years in traveling by train to California with her husband, Kenneth, visiting family and friends, with side trips to Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, Hearst Castle and The Getty, among others. She and her husband liked noth-

ing better than a day spent antiquing, looking for that special something for her current table or one of her collections, followed by going out to dinner. Kenneth was a most loving and supportive husband.

Marlene and Kenneth were members of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club for many years and loved sailing on Lake St. Clair from Pier Park, just down the street from their home. They took many trips with their children from the Belle River to Tobermory, Ontario, Canada.

Marlene was the cherished daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Kaufmann Mayer. She was the beloved wife of 65 years to Charles Kenneth Harle Jr.; loving mother of Jonathan Edward Harle (Abby) of Tiburon, Calif., and Sabrina Louise Harle of Portland, Ore.; and proud grandmother of Nicholas Harle and Natalie Harle. She also is survived by her niece, Amy Omuro (Russell); nephew, Thomas Mayer; as well as many Hertel cousins.

In addition to her parents and husband, Marlene was predeceased by her dear brother, Carl Nicholas Conrad Mayer (Margaret).

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, Grosse Pointe.

Memorial donations may be made to Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230, gpuc.org/donate.html; or the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, gphistorical.org/support.html.

Henrietta Fay Jend

Henrietta Fay Jend, 91, passed away Friday, Feb. 6, 2026.

She was born Nov. 12, 1934, to Howard and Loy Welsh. Henrietta met her future husband, Wesley, while they were working together. Over time, their friendship grew into a lifelong partnership. They were married March 14, 1964, and raised two children, Mike and Martha.

In the mid-1970s, Henrietta and Wesley purchased the business where they first met and worked, becoming its new owners. Henrietta balanced her work life with deep devotion to her family. She was always there for her children as they grew. As they became adults, her role evolved from parent to trusted friend.

Henrietta was a woman of faith who loved the Lord and found comfort and guidance in her beliefs throughout her life. Her faith shaped the way she loved, served and supported those around her.

She loved warmth and sunshine, whether spending time in Florida or relaxing at the family’s summer cottage in Chelsea. She especially cherished time with her grandchildren, who brought her endless joy.

She also had a lifelong love for animals, with a special place in her heart for miniature schnauzers.

Henrietta will be remembered by all who knew her for her steady presence, deep faith and the love she shared so freely with her family and friends.

In her passing, Henrietta is reunited with her loving husband, Wesley Jend. She is survived by her cherished children, Martha Abraham (Ed) and Lee Michael Bryant (Lillian). She was a loving grandmother to her adored grandchildren, Adam (Kris), the late Lee (Amy) and Christopher (Tiffany); as well as eight treasured great-grandchildren.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Ray C. Williams

Ray C. Williams, 97, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026.

Ray was born Feb. 20, 1928, the second youngest of 11 children to William F. Williams and Jorna C. (nee Werner) Williams, both now deceased. He is survived by his wife of more than 75 years, Joan (nee Applin) Williams; sons, Neil Williams (Kristin) and Glen Williams; grandchildren, Lea Thompson (Andrew) and Ean Williams; and great-grandchildren, Evelyn Thompson and Owen Thompson. Ray was predeceased by his father, William F. Williams; mother, Jorna C. (nee Werner) Williams; and all of his 10 siblings, including nine brothers and one sister.

Ray attended South Lake High School, where he played center for the basketball team and was four-year varsity letter winner. Ray also served as a drum major at South Lake and later at Wayne State University. He led the Wayne State marching band on the field for collegiate games, as well as a Detroit Lions half-time show at Tiger Stadium.

Ray and Joan met at Faith Lutheran Church in Detroit. They were married three months later on March 4, 1950, in Bowling Green, Ohio. They created many memories on trips and cruises, with their favorites being the Caribbean, Florida, Hawaii and Alaska. They spent the summer months on their own boat on the waters of Lake St. Clair.

Ray worked at Chrysler Corp., for 42 years before retiring in 1989 as the manager of Dodge Truck special bids, fleet sales division. In his retirement, Ray and his son, Glen, founded Haunted Garage Productions, a Halloween attraction in Grosse Pointe Farms that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local schools.

Ray will be remembered for his deep commitment to his community, care for his family and lifelong love for his wife, Joan.

A private ceremony was held. A celebration



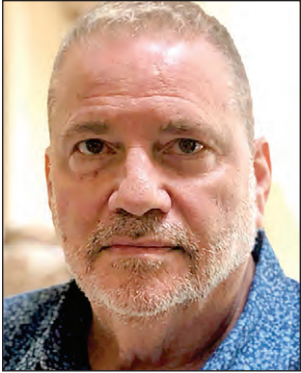
Marlene Mayer Harle



Henrietta Fay Jend



Ray C. Williams



Thomas A. DiLuigi

of life will be held in the future.

Thomas Anthony DiLuigi

Thomas Anthony DiLuigi, 73, passed away suddenly Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026. His death was unexpected, but his life was rich with love, laughter, generosity and beauty.

Thomas was born Dec. 10, 1952, in Detroit, to Duilio and Virginia (nee Housey) DiLuigi, both now deceased. Thomas earned a master’s degree in education and taught elementary school in Detroit for more than 30 years. His classroom was a place where children felt safe, challenged and known. Long after leaving his classroom, former students wrote to him with heartfelt notes, crediting him with changing their lives.

Thomas came from a loud, loving, Lebanese-Italian family full of strong opinions and big personalities. In the middle of it all, he was Switzerland — the peacemaker with blonde hair and blue eyes. He never took sides, choosing instead to remind his loved ones of each other’s strengths and beauty.

The oldest brother and second-born of six children, he was a steady presence — a great brother, wonderful son and deeply loyal friend. His passing marks the third profound loss among his siblings in the past five years.

Thomas found enormous joy in his pugs, whom he spoiled shamelessly. Those high-bred, snorting, wrinkled balls of fur brought him pure happiness. Anyone who knew Thomas knew exactly how loved they were.

Thomas was predeceased by his parents, Duilio and Virginia (nee Housey) DiLuigi; and sisters, Cherie DiLuigi and Laurie Azouri-Zakowich. He is survived by his sister, Renee DiLuigi Holme; and brothers, Joseph DiLuigi (Jill) and James DiLuigi (Krista).

Visitation will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. Sharing stories will begin at 6 p.m. until a 6:45 p.m. Rosary prayer. Visitation will continue at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, until a 1 p.m. funeral Mass at St. Bonaventure Capuchin Monastery, 1740 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207.



Ioannis “John” Pappas

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

Ioannis “John” Pappas

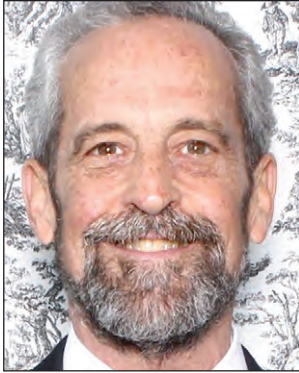
Ioannis “John” Pappas, 82, passed away peacefully at home Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

John was born in Greece and arrived in America in the 1960s. He became a cornerstone of Detroit’s Greektown. For more than 40 years, he was the beating heart of Pegasus Taverna, where he greeted every stranger like family, served authentic Greek food and shared endless laughter, warmth and stories that stayed with people long after they left the table. A natural entertainer with a heart as big as his personality, John lived to make others smile, giving joy, quiet strength and memories that became part of who people are.

A pillar of the Greek community, he carried the immigrant spirit in the most human way: through face-to-face moments, eye contact across a crowded restaurant, a hand on a shoulder and stories told over plates of food that turned customers into lifelong friends.

Above all else, John adored his wife, Lisa, and was profoundly proud of his children. Family was the center of his world. He taught them that love, loyalty and family come before all else, a lesson that will live on through them forever. Some of the family’s most treasured memories were poker games around the dining room table, always led by him, where laughter came easily and he never minded letting his children win. He was an affectionate father in the truest sense and raised six children through cuddles, rocking and holding them close. The last few years, he got to enjoy his new role as “Papou” to his cherished grandchildren.

John was predeceased by his parents, Gregory and Athina Pappas. He is survived by his devoted wife of 35 years, Lisa; their six children, Gregory, Alexandra (Adam), Kristina (Jake), Athina (Zac), Andreas and Elena; grandchildren, Pheonyx, Oliver,



Todd Alan Brooks

Gabriel, Scarlett, Xavier and Katalina; brothers, Dr. Spyro Pappas (Despina) and Dimitrios “Jim” Pappas (Viola); and many nieces and nephews who will forever cherish him.

Services took place Saturday, Feb. 7, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St. Clair Shores.

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Todd Alan Brooks

Todd Alan Brooks, 74, a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026. He leaves behind a legacy rooted in family and a deep love for the community he proudly called home.

Born April 10, 1951, in Detroit, Todd grew up in and spent his entire life in Grosse Pointe Farms. He was the beloved husband of Kathryn Brooks; devoted father of Alexander Brooks; and proud grandfather of Maximilian and Vivienne Brooks. His grandchildren were the joy of his life and he cherished their daily phone calls on the way to school. Those simple moments meant everything to him.

Todd was predeceased by his parents, George and Patricia Brooks; and brother, Craig Brooks. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Brooks; son, Alexander Brooks (Sarah); brothers, Garry Brooks (Susan), Mark Brooks (Jacqueline) and Trent Brooks (Debbie); as well as many extended family members and lifelong friends.

Todd established Brooks Transportation and found great purpose in his work and the relationships he built over the years. Outside of work, Todd was an avid golfer who relished every opportunity to play, especially during his beloved trips to Scotland and Ireland with his brothers. He approached life in his own way — independent, loving and genuine — with a twinkle in his eye those who knew him will never forget.

Above all, Todd was a loving family man who took the greatest pride in those he loved. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and his Grosse Pointe community, who were such an important part of his life.

A memorial service will be held this summer.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Caroline Bokios Blomeyer

Kiriakoula “Caroline” Bokios Blomeyer, 86, of St. Clair Shores, died peacefully in her sleep Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026.

Caroline was born June 20, 1939, in Chicago. She was the second of four children and the only daughter of Steven and Victoria Bokios, Greek immigrants from Argostoli, Kefalonia, Greece, an island on the Ionian Sea.

Caroline was a beautiful woman inside and out, earning the affectionate nickname “Dolly” from her brothers, George (Teddy), Michael (Debbie) and the late James (Nicky) in Chicago’s Greek community, where Greek was her first language. Education was strongly emphasized in her household and she embraced that value throughout her life. She attended the University of Illinois Chicago at Navy Pier for two years before completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education while also studying art history at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She also was a breast cancer survivor.

Caroline had three children from her first marriage, Noelle Carolyn Fitzgerald (Daniel) of Boston, Denise Stephanie Alban-Kern (Tony) of Chicago and Paula Harriet Draper (Andrew) of Grosse Pointe; and a stepson from her second marriage, Roland Keith Jr. (Lisa) of Milwaukee. Her legacy continues as “Yia Yia” through her five beloved grandchildren, Elizabeth “Liza” Francis Fitzgerald, Kevin Shea Fitzgerald, Daniel Alban Draper, Scarlett Rose Draper and Isabella Victoria Draper; along with her 10 beloved nieces and nephews.

Caroline embodied a lifelong attitude of never ceasing to learn, which was reflected in her diverse and accomplished career path. She began as an elementary school teacher and later devoted time to being a stay-at-home mother. She went on to work as a salesperson for Simplex. She earned her Series 7 license and became a stockbroker with Dean Witter, followed by a role as a trust account executive for Centerre Bank. In retirement, she continued to share her love of art and education as a docent at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Ark.

Retirement also brought Caroline one of her greatest joys outside of her family — travel. For more than 25 years she explored the world with her family and created treasured memories that will live on through generations. Above all, she was a devoted mother, grandmother, educator and lifelong learner whose contagious laugh, warmth, intelligence and curiosity enriched the lives of all who knew her.

Caroline will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her family, friends and all those whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer



Caroline Blomeyer

Foundation, bit.ly/4qjGQ7w.

John Randolph Axe

John Randolph Axe, 87, passed away Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, in Detroit, after a battle with cancer.

Born April 30, 1938, in Grand Rapids, John was a beacon of knowledge and expertise who left an indelible mark on his profession and those who had the fortune of knowing him.

John studied political science at the University of Michigan before continuing his education at Harvard Law School. His passion for law and governance was evident in his long and illustrious career, which spanned six decades. Throughout his career, John was revered as a well-respected expert in municipal law. His contributions were pivotal in enacting laws and practices that continue to guide the field to this day.

Beyond his professional achievements, John was a family man. He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda S. Axe; children, Cathie Axe (Chris), Peter Axe, Meredith Shanle (John), Sara Axe Lucas (Steve) and Jay Axe; grandsons, Brady Shanle and Sawyer Lucas; stepchildren, Gregory Stroh (Christina) and Suzanne Gerber-Stroh (Amy); and step-grandchildren, Phillippa Gerber-Stroh and Charlotte Stroh.

John’s Christian faith was a cornerstone of his life, guiding his actions and providing comfort through the trials and triumphs he encountered. Those who knew John appreciated his intelligence, passion and analytical mind. A voracious reader, John’s love for history was evident in his extensive collection of books. He also was an avid collector of maps, whirligigs, antiques, war posters and sports ephemera. Each piece in his collection had a story that John was always eager to share with others, bringing history to life with his vivid storytelling.

As his family remembers John, they reflect on a life that was rich in knowledge, love and service. His legacy will live on not only in the legal frameworks he helped shape, but also in the hearts of those who knew him. John’s life reminds his loved ones of the impact one individual can have on the world. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 12, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A luncheon will follow at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.



John Randolph Axe

Geraldine Santangelo

Geraldine “Gerri” (nee Grimm) Santangelo, 92, passed away peacefully Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, in Grosse Pointe.

Gerri grew up in Campbell, Ohio. She was a registered nurse for more than 40 years. She practiced nursing at the former South Side Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, before finishing her career at the Mahoning County Public Health Tuberculosis Clinic.

Gerri was an independent woman in her era. She graduated as valedictorian of her high school class in 1950, then earned a nursing degree in 1954, from Youngstown School of Nursing.

Gerri was blessed with a large extended family, including 24 aunts and uncles, as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, mostly residing in the Youngstown area.

After moving to Boardman, Ohio, in 1972, Gerri and her first husband, Richard B. Grimm, raised their children, Dr. Richard A. Grimm (Lisa) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and Douglas J. Grimm (Sharon) of Naples, Fla. In 1986, Gerri married veteran Youngstown police officer, Dominic Santangelo. They retired in the Boardman area. Gerri moved to Grosse Pointe following Dominic’s passing.

In a 1991 article in the Ohio newspaper, The Vindicator, staff columnist and neighbor Jane Tims wrote that Gerri made sure her boys got to church and family gatherings, minded their manners and followed the rules. She was there for them and her children were fulfilled. She also noted that, for a mother, there is no finer reward.

Geraldine leaves behind her children; and four grandchildren, Leah Grimm Lovell (Alex) of Newtown Square, Pa., Katherine Grimm of Chicago, Julia Grimm of Chicago and Alex Grimm of Ft. Myers, Fla. Geraldine also was the very proud great-grandmother of Sophie and JJ Lovell. Geraldine was predeceased by her parents, John “Rosy” and Ann Brayer; her husband, Dominic; and her brother, Raymond Brayer.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Parish in Boardman, Ohio. She will be interred at Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown directly following the funeral service. A luncheon will be held after interment.

Her family would like to thank everyone at The Rivers Grosse Pointe for their care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Care Team Hospice, 5401 Gateway Center, Ste. D, Flint, MI 48507.

Share a memory at wujekcalcaterra.com.



Geraldine Santangelo

Douglas Andrew Boehmer

Douglas Andrew Boehmer, 76, passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Hospice.

Doug was born Feb. 24, 1949, in Detroit, to Kenneth and Elizabeth (nee McGrath) Boehmer.

He is survived by his sister, Diane Thom; brother, Paul Boehmer (Susan); stepdaughter, Heidi Wise Gogate (Rahul); and his beloved nieces, Jessica and Natalie Boehmer.

Doug attended St. Gregory the Great Parish and School, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School, Austin Catholic Preparatory School and Michigan State University. He remained a proud Spartan throughout his life.

After college, Doug began his career in the wine and spirits industry before joining his father in a direct mail advertising business as vice president, working closely with Ross Roy Advertising. He later founded Technicom Graphics, initially in the Rivertown Warehouse District and later in Highland Park. The company specialized in mailing list maintenance and large-scale direct mail projects for major organizations including the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Symphony Orchestra and The Palace of Auburn Hills. Doug especially valued his work with nonprofit organizations and built many lasting professional relationships.

For many years, Doug was a well-respected member of the Detroit Athletic Club. Most important to him were the people with whom he interacted on a regular basis. He was known and loved by the staff and never left the club without stopping to talk with them. There wasn’t a pretentious bone in his body.

Doug lived much of his life in Grosse Pointe. He was involved in the community as president of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. After extensive renovations by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, Doug purchased the historic Cadieux Farmhouse. He later spent many years in his happy place, Harbor Springs near



Douglas A. Boehmer

Nubs Nob Ski Resort, where he enjoyed cycling, downhill and cross-country skiing and northern Michigan’s beauty. In recent years, he returned to the Detroit area, settling in White Lake to be closer to family and friends.

Doug was greatly concerned about the environment and welcomed thoughtful debate. He cared deeply about Detroit and the riverfront, loved the DIA and admired art by John Singer Sargent and Norman Rockwell. Music fed his soul, from The Beatles and Paul Simon to Joni Mitchell and Brandi Carlile. He appreciated great design, loved the Detroit Auto Show and was an avid sports fan, especially Michigan State athletics and the Detroit Tigers. He rarely missed an opening day.

Motivated by new challenges, Doug earned his private pilot’s license and owned a Cessna 177 Cardinal. He spent years learning German in honor of his heritage and taught himself to play the drums.

He was passionate about theater and film and could quote lyrics and lines from many of his favorite musicals. He was a member of The Players, a historic Detroit theatrical club, for many years, and never feared the spotlight as he performed in several plays.

He was bright, thoughtful and quick-witted, with a deeply kind heart. A loyal friend and firm believer in second chances, he never hesitated to help someone in need. Fun, down-to-earth and easygoing, Doug made people feel comfortable wherever he went. His life was defined not only by what he loved, but by how he loved: with loyalty, humor, generosity and a heart always open to others.

Visitation will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, until a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, solanuscasy.org/help-us-serve/donate/.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.



Martin McDonald

Martin McDonald

Martin “Marty” McDonald, 66, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026.

Martin was a kind and gentle soul who will be greatly missed by his many friends and family members. He was a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School and the University of Michigan. After graduation, he worked in antique sales and then joined his father, Tom, at Crown Realty.

Martin was an active supporter of the Karmanos Cancer Institute and a number of other organizations. He also was of great assistance to his mother and father in their later years.

Martin was predeceased by his parents, Dorothy and Tom. He is survived by his brothers, Tom, Jim, Michael and Patrick; many friends, including Maureen Curran, Nancy Belluomo and Keith Weber; and his extended family.

A viewing will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute, 4100 John R, Detroit, MI 48201, karmanos.org/karmanos-foundation/donate-to-karmanos-foundation; or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, cskdetroit.org/en/donate/.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael’s Church in Grosse Pointe Woods sponsors Lunch, Laugh, and Learn at noon Thursday, Feb. 19. Roger Garrett, a trustee of the Moross Greenway Project, will share its history, development and future projects. A freewill offering will be collected. The event is open to the public, but reservations are required by Tuesday, Feb. 17, for lunch. Call (313) 884-4820 to reserve a seat.

Worship Service

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church

240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms
313-884-3075 • www.gpccong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY



PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY FREY

Service work

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, volunteers with the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club prepared dinner for Shelter Week, which takes place at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. Pictured, from left, are the Rev. David Eardley, Diane Strickler and Barb Carlier.

Garden Center’s Legacy Seminar slated March 7

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center’s fifth annual Legacy Seminar, “Impact Nature by the Little Things You Do,” takes place 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Dr. Doug Tallamy — professor, ecologist and

advocate of promoting sustainability in home gardens — will conduct two sessions: “Nature’s Best Hope” and “A Guide to Resorting the Little Things that Run the World.” For additional information and to register, visit gpgardencenter.org.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Thursdays with Susan Smith. Cost is \$8 per class.

- ◆ Continuing Tai Chi, 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays with Susan Smith. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Strength and Balance, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays with Erika Page. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Guided Meditation, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays with Jonathan Itchon. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Restorative Yoga, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and 19, and March 5 and 19, with Allie Short. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Fitness center, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Library

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

- ◆ Understanding the Holocaust, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Virtual Strategic Plan Engagement, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, via Zoom.
- ◆ Book Discussion with Author Wendell Brown, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Forced Bulb Workshop, 2 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Forced Bulb Workshop, 3 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Forced Bulb Workshop, 4 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Drop-In Afternoon Kids’ Craft, 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ 1,000 Hours Outside: Great Backyard Bird Count, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Heritage Collection Building: Boxes in the Attic — Know Your Collection, 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre Youth on Stage, “The Wizard of Oz,” 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Storytime, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Michigan Science Center Presents: Kaboomistry, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Drop-In & Craft with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Book Party: Agents of S.U.I.T., 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Family Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Crafternoons @ the

Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Drop-In Afternoon Kids’ Craft, 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Brave Belle’s Bookclub, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ “Korea: Land of the Morning Calm,” 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org.

- ◆ Veterans Resource Fair, 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.
- ◆ Caricature Night, 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Cost is \$30.
- ◆ Sing to Love: Valentine’s Day Dinner and Concert, featuring Olivia Van Goor, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Ticket prices vary.
- ◆ Second Saturdays at TWM: We Love the Olympics, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Tickets are \$12.50.
- ◆ Candlelight: Romantic Jazz featuring Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra & Ella Fitzgerald, 6:30 to 7:35 p.m. OR 8:45 to 9:50 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. Tickets range from \$51 to \$72.
- ◆ Candlelight: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. Tickets range from \$53 to \$76.
- ◆ Candlelight: Tribute to Queen and The Beatles, 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. Tickets range from \$40 to \$72.50.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Ford House After Dark, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Cost is \$25 for Friends.
- ◆ Trivia Night, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. Cost is \$10 for Friends, \$12 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, St. Margaret Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcross-blood.org.

POST Detroit

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

- ◆ Botanical Collage Workshop: Framed Pressed Flower Art, 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Cost is \$85.
- ◆ Mixed Media Abstract Collage Workshop, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Basket Weaving Workshop: Small Market Baskets for Beginners, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$70.
- ◆ Hand Lettering Workshop: Intro to Pointed Pen Calligraphy, noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Drop-In Workshop: Bead Bar Necklaces, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$95.
- ◆ Self-Portrait Workshop: Mixed Media with Shug, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. Cost is \$75.

ST. CLARE:

Continued from page 3B

stopped,” he added. “... We stand on the shoulders of the giants of previous generations who built this school, built these classrooms, supported this building, this school, this community in good times and in challenging times.”

Added Abdenour Dabney, “And the sacraments celebrated here, just think. All the baptisms, the weddings, the funerals. The number of people celebrated here is inspiring.”

In addition to the celebratory Masses this weekend, the church has a full calendar of events planned. Highlights include:

- ◆ Sunday and Monday, March 8 and 9, the church will celebrate its parish mission, welcoming international speaker Jon Leonetti at 7 p.m. both nights.
- ◆ A celebratory spring concert featuring Mozart’s “Requiem” takes place 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22. “‘Requiem’ will be our prayer for the deceased members of the parish,” Kowalczyk said.
- ◆ “Say Hi Sunday” on Sunday, May 31, will see parishioners canvassing the community and invit-



ing people to the church for a 4 p.m. concert celebrating America’s 250th anniversary.

- ◆ Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 13, the church hosts a weekend celebration of Pope Leo XIV’s ordination to the Diaconate at St. Clare of Montefalco.

“We cannot miss our claim to fame,” Kowalczyk said. “The Holy Father became a deacon when he was ordained to the Diaconate. This September is the 45th anniversary of his ordi-

nation. Many of our children have written letters to the Holy Father, inviting him to St. Clare.”

- ◆ A centennial anniversary Mass with Archbishop Edward Weisenburger takes place 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, followed by a dinner at The War Memorial at 5 p.m.

“There will be both social and spiritual things,” Abdenour Dabney said of the celebrations, to which the entire community is invited.

“We’re a very welcom-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. CLARE OF MONTEFALCO

Left, Edward Cardinal Mooney lays the cornerstone of the new church. Above, Father Sweeney, Father Clark, Father Colgan and Father Godsil participate in the groundbreaking ceremony.

ing parish,” she added. “You don’t have to be parishioners to come and celebrate.”

Added Kowalczyk, “Anyone can celebrate something as a community. We want to tell the story of 100 years of this parish, this community. To share the story, you become stronger.

“... Come and be a part of that story we want to tell. It’s a story of Grosse Pointe and Detroit. Rejoice with us; cele-

brate with us. Give thanks for that 100 years.”

For more information about upcoming centennial celebration events, visit stclarem.org/100th-anniversary.

“This is to commemorate, celebrate, remember and be grateful, but also look to the future, to the new generations who are coming, the younger couples with their children,” Kowalczyk said. “We hope for the next

years to come, this parish and this community will strive and be strong. That’s what this celebration has in mind. We want to celebrate, rejoice and hope to bring a rejuvenation of faith.”

The Grosse Pointe News will delve further into the history of St. Clare, as well as share more specifics about events celebrating its centennial, in future editions.

LIFE & LEISURE



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Shoreline restoration work expands at Ford House

Ford House recently announced it has begun the second restoration phase of its federally funded Lower Lake St. Clair Habitat Restoration Project, which will advance a nationally recognized effort to restore and protect the Lake St. Clair shoreline focusing on Ford Cove.

Following the first phase of restoration, which included the completion of a new wetland boardwalk in fall 2025, Ford House is moving from early improvements into a period of highly visible shoreline transformation. The work marks a major step forward in the Lower Lake St. Clair Habitat Restoration Project, which is funded by a \$7 million Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant awarded to Ford House by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation.

“These next steps move us from vision to action,” said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. “Visitors will begin to see meaningful, lasting changes along Ford Cove, from restored natural habitats to creating a resilient shoreline. This work is about creating lost aquatic habitat to support the lake’s diverse ecosystem, protecting the estate for future generations while thoughtfully expanding how people experience the lake. It reflects Eleanor Ford’s vision of stewardship, public engagement and care for this extraordinary place.”

Restoration and construction activities will concentrate along the shoreline, from the northwest corner of the parking lot, around Bird



COURTESY PHOTOS

Following the first phase of restoration, which included the completion of a new wetland boardwalk in fall 2025, Ford House is moving from early improvements into a period of highly visible shoreline transformation.

Island and Ford Cove, all the way to the power house near the main residence. During this time, access to shoreline-adjacent pathways, the berm along Ford Cove and Bird Island will be temporarily closed as work progresses. The road from the visitor center to the main residence and other historic buildings will remain open for pedestrians and shuttle service. Once construction is completed, visitors will be able to enjoy a newly constructed, universally accessible pathway from the visitor center to the main residence.

Visitors should expect to see tree and concrete removal, earthwork and natural stone installation over the winter. During the spring and summer, construction will continue to build new pathways and habitat structures, as well as

plant more than 200,000 native plants and trees. Planting and ecological restoration will continue through 2026 and into 2027, reinforcing the project’s long-term environmental and public-access goals.

GEI Consultants completed the engineering and design work in late 2025 and Catskill Remedial has been awarded the contract for construction. Catskill successfully completed

the wetland and boardwalk project during phase one of the construction. Ford House looks forward to a continued partnership on this important and nationally recognized coastal restoration project.

Supported by the NOAA grant, the Lower Lake St. Clair Habitat Restoration Project will reduce the impact of waves and flooding, decrease runoff and

nutrient loads, and improve habitat conditions that support Lake St. Clair fisheries and coastal ecosystems. The project also will expand public interaction with the lake and shoreline for future educational and recreational use.

Ford House will continue to share updates as the project progresses and appreciates the community’s patience and support during this critical restoration work.



Visitors to Ford House enjoy the restored shoreline in this rendering.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Janelle Azar

Why winter in Michigan is the perfect time to declutter

As the temperatures stay cold and the days stay short, it’s easy to feel a bit “stir crazy” within our own four walls. When it’s sub-zero outside, we naturally retreat indoors — but if your home is filled with piles of “stuff,” that retreat can quickly become a source of stress.

Research consistently shows that physical clutter is directly correlated to increased cortisol (stress) levels. In these dark, gloomy months, “lightening the load” of the items you look at every day can instantly lift your mood and provide a much-needed sense of control. Why wait for a beautiful, sunny spring day to be stuck inside decluttering? Now is the perfect time to tackle your home so you can be free to enjoy the outdoors later.

To get started without feeling overwhelmed, try three of my favorite strategies:

- ♦ Be realistic and start small: Pick one specific spot — whether it’s a single junk drawer or a small closet. Remember, clutter didn’t accumulate overnight, so don’t expect to undo years of collecting in 30 minutes. Setting achievable goals prevents burnout.
- ♦ The “Categories First” Method: Before you throw anything away, pull everything out of the space and sort items into categories. It is much easier

to decide to let go of a spatula when you realize you actually own six of them. Seeing the “total volume” of a category is a powerful reality check.

- ♦ Audit for your current life: Ask yourself: Does this item fit my life today or am I holding onto a “fantasy self” (like hobby gear for a project I haven’t touched in years)? If it’s broken, needs repair or hasn’t been used in 12 months, it’s time to let it go.

By clearing your physical space, you’re clearing your mental space, too. Take advantage of the cold Michigan winter to create a home that feels like a breath of fresh air.

Janelle Azar is a professional organizer and owner of A Meaningful Space. A recognized authority in home organization, her expertise has been featured in national publications including “Martha Stewart” and “Better Homes & Gardens.” Based in metro Detroit, she specializes in helping people transform overwhelming spaces into organized homes that work specifically for their unique lifestyles and families. For more tips and local resources, visit ameaningfulspace.com.

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

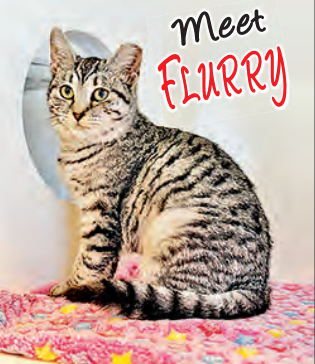
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Male, 7 months old, Beagle/English Bulldog, Tricolor Merle, 35 lbs.



Next Open Houses Saturday, Feb. 21st & March 7th. 10-Noon



Female, 6 months old, Shorthair, Gray Tabby.

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GROSSE POINTE

Gabby

POINTING YOU IN
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REAL-LIFE ADVICE!

Set boundaries with daughter who overshares

Dear Gabby: My adult daughter insists on sharing every detail of her marriage problems with me. I love her, but I'm exhausted and worried I'm becoming her therapist. I also don't want to give advice that could be harmful to their relationship or ours. How do I set boundaries without

hurting her feelings? — TMI in the Park

Dear TMI: You can love your child without carrying her marriage on your shoulders. Tell her kindly that while you care deeply, some issues are best worked out with her spouse directly or a counselor who is much more neutral. Reassure

her that your boundary is about protecting your relationship — not distancing from it.

— Gabby

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



This Presidents Day, be the change you seek

DEAR READERS: Presidents Day isn't the flashiest holiday. There are no fireworks, no heart-shaped chocolates, no songs you can't escape in the grocery store. It tends to arrive with a shrug, a long weekend and a mysterious sale on mattresses.

But I've always liked it for what it can quietly be: a reminder to think about character.

Not the big, dramatic kind that shows up in movies. The everyday kind. The kind you practice in slippers.

Because real life is happening in kitchens,

carpools, offices, hospitals, schools and living rooms. And most of what holds us together doesn't come with applause.

It looks like the parent who keeps showing up, even when they're exhausted. The friend who calls back. The neighbor who shovels the extra walkway without being asked. The co-worker who says, "I've got this," when you're stretched thin. The teenager who stands up for someone being teased, even though it costs them social points. The person who admits they were wrong and tries

again. That last one may be the rarest form of bravery we have.

If you're feeling discouraged lately, consider this your holiday reset: You don't have to do something huge to make a difference.

You can steady your little corner of the world with small, stubborn decency.

And it's often the smallest things that land the biggest impact: A teacher who learns a student's name quickly. A stranger who returns a dropped glove. A family member who says, "Tell me again, I want to understand,"

instead of "We've been over this." A person who doesn't just offer help but offers *specific* help: "I can pick up the kids Tuesday," or "I can sit with you at the appointment," or "I'm bringing soup, and no, you don't have to clean first."

Hold a door. Offer a sincere apology. Tip well. Let someone merge. Put your phone down when someone is talking. Write the thank-you note you keep meaning to write. Check on the person who "seems fine." Invite the quiet one into the conversation. Be the first to soften. Assume



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

good intent once, and choose a calmer response even when you could win the argument.

None of this makes headlines. But it makes home.

And if your home is shaky, if your heart is heavy, if you're doing your best and wondering whether it matters, let me tell you something in plain language: It matters more than you think. Kindness is never

wasted. It goes somewhere. Sometimes it goes right back to you when you least expect it.

So, your simple assignment for the long weekend is to be the kind of person you wish you saw more of. Then do it again tomorrow.

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF REBEL ROAD FILMS AND YOUNGER DAUGHTER FILMS.
Left, Phillip Forest Lewitski as Link, Joshua Odjick as Pasmay, Avery Winters-Anthony as Travis and Michael Greyeyes as Smokey in the 2021 movie "Wildhood," written and directed by Bretten Hannam.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Wildhood"
2021 - Not Rated
1 hr 48 min
★★★★☆

This is another one of those films that's hard to categorize. It embodies several themes including buddy film, road trip adventure, coming-of-age and coming out of the closet drama, self discovery, as well as learning about one's cultural roots. It's one of the rare movies that Rotten Tomatoes has given an astonishing 100 percent Critics Score as well as an 86 percent Audience Score — and IMDb rated it 6.9, which is high.

It's also the feature debut for non-binary, two-spirit filmmaker Bretten Hannam. Apparently "two-spirit" is a term used by indigenous LGBT members who identify as having both a male and female spirit. (You learn something new every day — at least one hopes to). Hannam not only directed the movie, but wrote it as

well. What a powerful film they've created.

"Wildhood" was filmed in Canada and the cinematography of Guy Godfree portrayed the country beautifully. Not only did he capture the action of the movie unobtrusively, he did a brilliant job of showcasing the bountiful nature of the country. His masterful inclusion of closeups of the country's flora was akin to something out of a National Geographic special.

We first meet our protagonists Link (Phillip Lewitski) and his young brother Travis (Avery Winters-Anthony) stealing copper piping out of an abandoned building. They're apprehended by the local constabulary and thrown into jail. After being bailed out by their alcoholic dad, he immediately goes to town beating Link. It's obvious that this abusive relationship has been going on for most of Link's life. One evening, Link discovers a cache of envelopes in a box his dad has hidden. To his great

shock, he finds several letters including a birthday card from his mother — who he's been led to believe was dead.

This leads to a final confrontation between Link and his father. He and Travis decide to run away and search for their mother. As a final act of defiance, they lock their dad in the house and proceed to light his truck on fire. Then they're off on the adventure of a lifetime. They hit the road with almost no money and no clear direction of how to find their mother except for the return address on an envelope.

The brothers soon get a lift from a unique character Pasmay (Joshua Odjick). He's Mi'kmaq like them, except he's more attuned to his indigenous roots including the ability to speak the native tongue. He's a professional tribal dancer and he travels around the country performing at pow-wows. At first the brothers are wary of him, but they slowly become



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"

friends. And Link starts to become physically attracted to him. The two connect on several levels. Over the course of the movie, we learn that he was shunned by his family because of his sexual orientation. Here he's ridiculed by Travis, who simply doesn't know when to keep quiet. He's constantly blurting out whatever's on his mind and is warned by Link to keep his trap shut.

Pasmay decides to take a break from his route and aid the boys on their quest. However, their luck quickly runs out when his truck breaks down. So they decide to do a bit of hitchhiking. It isn't long before they're picked up by Smokey (Michael Greyeyes), a professional baker who's on his way to deliver an elaborately decorated cake surreptitiously to his family. There's an amusing scene when Link is coerced into going into Smokey's family's store and create a diversion.

"Wildhood" is a movie that takes its time telling the story. It's gently paced, so don't expect a lot of action. Hannam moves the film along slowly and doesn't hesitate to focus on moments when the actors do nothing more than stare at a

campfire. I thought the three leads did a wonderful job and I'm quite sure we'll be seeing them in more films in the near future. There are only a couple small faults I found with the film. In the beginning of the movie, Travis is seen with a patch over his eye. As the film progresses, and he spends about 90 percent of his time outdoors, the bandage remains perfectly white. I also felt the one sex scene was unnecessary.

(Spoiler alert) Obviously, the brothers eventually find their mother — they wouldn't have made a movie where they didn't. However, it's the journey that's more important than the actual destination. That's what this film is ultimately about.

If you're looking from something a bit different, I highly recommend "Wildhood." It could have been a copycat film like so many other road trip, coming-of-age dramas, but it isn't. It's truly an original and unique piece of filmmaking.

Note to parents: The film is unrated but I'd probably give it an "R" due to language, the subject matter and one tastefully done sex scene. Use your discretion.

Currently streaming on



Prime Video, Plex, Tubi, The Rokku Channel, and to rent on 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.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I am a huge popcorn person. Like, I could eat it every day and not get sick of it.

The problem is, I do not love what comes with a lot of microwave popcorn: tons of butter, tons of salt and, let's be honest, probably a million other ingredients I cannot pronounce.

So when my dear friend and coworker, Julie Sutton, gifted me the Cuisinart Pop and Serve Popcorn Maker

for Christmas, I was immediately intrigued. Popcorn I can feel good about? In my own microwave? With less mystery ingredients? Yes, please.



And I have to say, I absolutely love it.

This popcorn maker is basically a collapsible silicone bowl in which you pop kernels, then serve right out of. It does not require oil to pop, which already makes it feel like a healthier option than a lot of prepackaged bags.

To use it, I simply pour about three tablespoons of popcorn ker-

nels into the bowl, put the lid on and microwave it. A few minutes later, I have fresh popcorn that actually tastes crisp and clean, not greasy.

The best part is customizing it. Since the popcorn comes out plain, you can top it however you want. I usually spray mine with a little avocado oil and add salt, or whatever seasoning I am feeling that day. The kids love it, too, and they

think it's fun to watch pop into a full bowl.

What really makes this a kitchen win for me is how easy it is to clean and store. I rinse it out, wash the silicone, collapse it down and stick it in the cupboard without it taking up any real space.

If you love popcorn but want an easier, cleaner, more customizable option, this is such a good buy.

This product gets five out of five alligators from us. Thank you, Julie!

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@grossepointe-news.com.



5 Out Of 5

Palmiers

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

For me, Valentine's Day seems to be kid focused and centered around anything sweet. So this year, I'm making them an easy and simple treat that feels special and decadent. Palmiers are French pastry cookies made out of puff pastry. They're shaped like hearts and can be filled with any flavor you'd like. They are typically rolled in sugar and then baked until browned and flaky.

Often known as "elephant ears" these can be savory or sweet. I've made them with a layer of parmesan, garlic and herbs for a dinner party and they were an absolute hit. Puff pastry is one of the best kitchen hacks available. It's a very labor intensive process to make it from scratch, rolling hundreds

of layers of butter into the dough. For \$8 you can buy it and just defrost it.

For this recipe, I made both chocolate and vanilla flavored palmiers. I spread an even layer of Nutella over one sheet of pastry for chocolate palmiers. For the vanilla, I spread a layer of butter mixed with vanilla paste then sprinkled a layer of sugar over the top. You can find vanilla paste, a concentrated vanilla extract, at most grocery stores. If you can't find, substitute a teaspoon of vanilla extract. After rolling the cookies, I skewered them so they kept their heart shape. Then I had the kids stick berries on the ends to resemble Cupid's arrow. Thank you to the Internet for the festive idea.

The key to cutting the

palmiers is letting the dough chill in the fridge to firm up before slicing. This helps them hold their shape and makes it easier to skewer.

These would be a great addition to a Valentine's Day breakfast. A fun-filled, handheld treat to start the day is always welcome.

Cheers, Mombeau

Chocolate and Vanilla Palmiers

2 sheets puff pastry, room temperature

¼ cup sugar

1 tsp vanilla paste

½ stick butter, softened

⅓ cup Nutella

16 oz strawberries, washed and trimmed

1 pint raspberries, washed

16 bamboo sticks

In a small bowl, mix together the butter and vanilla. Set aside. Unfold one sheet of pastry dough and gently roll out into about a 10x12 inch rectangle. Sprinkle about 1 tablespoon of sugar evenly over the top. Press the sugar into the dough and then flip over. Spread the butter mixture over the dough reaching each edge. Sprinkle the remaining sugar over the top.

For the chocolate, unfold and roll out the dough then evenly spread over the Nutella reaching all the edges.

Start rolling each long edge into the center. You will have two rolls that meet in the middle. Gently press each roll together so they slightly form one cohesive log. Refrigerate the dough for 30 minutes.

Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

parchment paper. Slice each log, starting in the center into about seven to eight equal pieces. They should be about one inch thick. You should yield about 14 to 16 pieces. Lay each one down leaving room for them to spread out in the oven. You may want two sheets. Place a bamboo skewer into the center

of the side of each one. Bake for about 15 minutes until puffed and golden. Keep a watch to make sure the sugar doesn't burn on the edges or the bottom.

Remove from the oven and let cool for about five minutes. To finish off, place a strawberry and two raspberries on the end of each skewer.

Enjoy!



Giant bottles

In wine terms, a magnum is two 750-milliliter bottles in one vessel. It holds 1.5 liters. As a double-size bottle, it holds 50.7 ounces — or more than 10 five-ounce glasses of wine.

These days, magnums are all the rage at some wine auctions, where special bottles containing special wines are sold to the highest bidder.

But even bigger bottles are rarer and more sought after. Dedicated wine collectors love wine auctions where they can bid on magnums and larger bottles. Many of these are charity affairs, often accompanied by a black-tie dinner.

Wine is liberally served at various places in the auction because a well-lubricated bidder is more likely to raise a bidding paddle than one who's had only water.

The biggest attraction at these festive events is the giant-sized bottle. A double-magnum may be the prize of the charity set, but I see it as the albatross for wine collectors.

Imagine the bottle called an imperial residing unassumingly in its cozy wooden chest, lid in place. This innocent bottle filled with more than 300 ounces of wine is a chamber of horrors, a destroyer of marriages, a latter-day Excedrin headache No. 3.

No one tells bidders on

imperial-sized bottles that a mental stability test is recommended before buying one of these monstrosities.

Imagine this scenario: The bidder at a charity wine auction sees a nine-liter bottle, a whole case worth of fine cabernet, in an auction catalogue. Sure, the price is high, but what a prize to show off. It'd blow away his neighbor, the wine snob. And he can get it for a donation to the worthy cause hosting the auction, which includes a tax break.

He is willing to pay a lot, but something goes haywire. He gets caught up in bidding-room frenzy, which is more addictive than heroin. And he ends up paying an exorbitant sum for the bottle.

His tribulations are just beginning.

After paying for this prize, he realizes the bottle could wind up costing him the price of back surgery if he tries to move it to his car by himself. After trying to figure out how to even grab hold of this leviathan, he asks a friend for help.

Walking sideways through the parking lot, they meet Sgt. John Rentacop, who asks who's in the box. It is then that the winning bidder realizes his box looks like a coffin.

Once home, the spouse

asks, "You paid HOW MUCH for this?" Once the tension has eased, the bidder now tries to get this thing into the wine cellar. It doesn't fit. Under the coffee table? Nope. If used as a plant stand, it must be stood on end, but to keep the cork moist, it must be inverted, stood neck down. That makes it top-heavy. And every so often, it crashes to the floor.

It's too bulky to use as a hall table to hold outgoing mail. So our lucky bidder reaches the inevitable conclusion. "I can always drink it."

But where and with whom? This single bottle has enough red wine for a party of 24 to 30, assuming a half bottle per person. The bidder doesn't know 24 people who like wine well enough to serve it to. Let alone 24 who'd be

impressed by it.

Months or years later, a neighbor suggests the bottle be donated to charity. The bidder will get a tax deduction, after all.

At the insistence of the spouse, who has been walking around it in the

service porch for a year now, our lucky bidder relents.

This brings us to the one great truth about charity wine auctions: big bottles at wine auctions are Not for Drinking. They Are for Auctioning.

No Wine of the Week.

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

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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

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

"AUDITIONING FOR 'BAKING BAD'?"

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

"YOU'RE MY VALENTINE, MOM! DAD'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER ONE."

Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY

COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



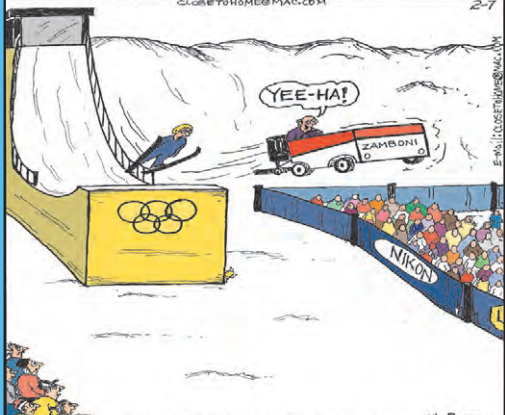
Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



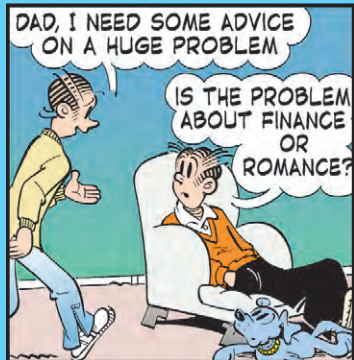
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



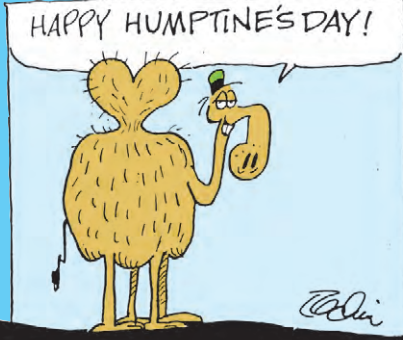
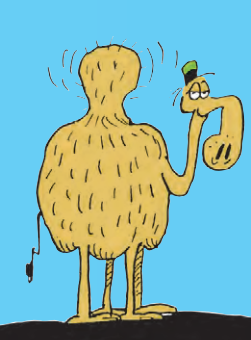
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



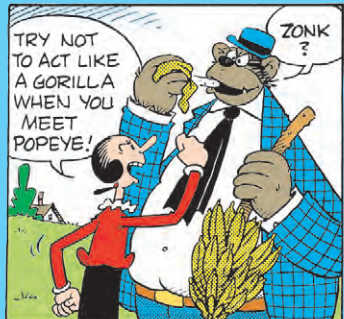
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



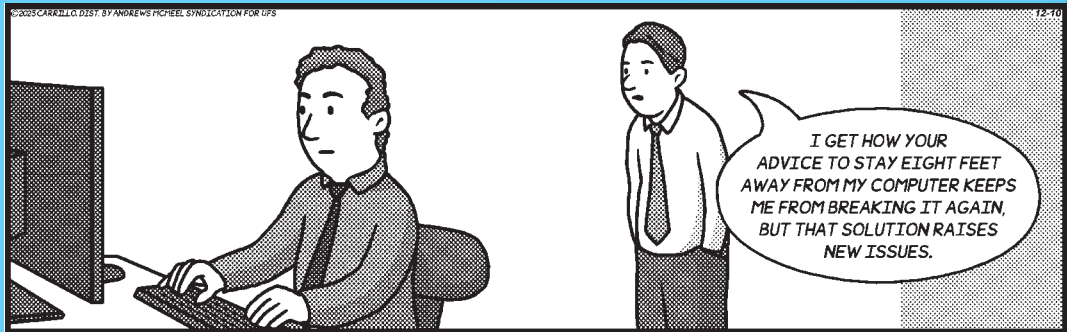
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



"I'm hangin' this on the tippy-tippy bottom."



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL
Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

2/12

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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2/5 Solution

Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below.

CHOCOLATE
CUPID
FEBRUARY
FOOTBALL
GROUNDHOG
HEARTS
ICICLE
LOVE
SNOWMAN
VALENTINE
WINTER

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

Royal Stars
Weekly Horoscopes

MOON ALERT: Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) or important decisions from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST today (11 a.m. to 12 noon PST.) After that, the Moon moves from SAGITTARIUS into CAPRICORN.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, February 12, 2026:

You're a natural leader with concerns for social justice. You're objective and progressive. You appreciate the finer things in life. This is a year of service, perhaps service to family. Take care of yourself so you can be a resource to those who turn to you for guidance, comfort and encourage.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You might need ignore the news, because today the media, foreign countries, publishing or higher education might depress you. This is a fleeting dark cloud on your horizon. Relax. Tonight: You're admired!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, and today financial news about inheritances, shared property, taxes or debt might disappoint you. Hey, this is temporary. Tonight: Explore!

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Be patient with partners, spouses and close friends today, even if they're cold or insensitive. In fact, separations might even occur. It's just a temporary thing. It will be gone by this evening. Tonight: Check your finances.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Don't ask bosses, supervisors or authority figures for permission or approval today if it is connected with your work, your health or a pet. The answer will probably be, "Talk to the hand." People are tough to deal with. Tonight: Cooperate.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Romance is in the toilet this morning. Even relations with your kids are strained. Rise above these difficulties. They are temporary. By this evening, things will look different! Tonight: Get organized.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Family discussions might disappoint you this morning, especially discussions with a parent or an older family member. You might feel criticized, misunderstood or dismissed. This negativity is gone by the evening. Tonight: Socialize!.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but gets you nowhere." Try not to fall into negative thinking today, which is easy to do. Keep smiling! Tonight: Relax.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Financial matters look discouraging today. This could pertain to your salary or a financial deal you might anticipate. By evening things look different. Tonight: Chatty conversations.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This morning the Moon is in your sign at odds with Saturn, which makes people feel lonely and out of touch with each other. Life will look worse than it is. Relationships are stressed and some will separate. But this is temporary! Tonight: Check your money.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Although this morning might be a struggle, later today after the Moon moves into your sign, things end up in a lovely, positive way! Discussions with relatives, siblings and neighbors will be warm and reassuring. Tonight: You win!

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Don't worry if you feel disappointed in a friend or member of a group this morning. This is due to a negative influence that everyone feels. People seem to be cold, insensitive and uncaring. Just wait this out, because later in the day, you'll have a warm feeling in your tummy. Tonight: Privacy.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Don't ask for permission or approval from an authority figure this morning. It won't go well. Later in the day, after the Moon changes signs, relations with friends and groups are warm and friendly. Tonight: Be friendly.

BORN TODAY
16th U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (1809), geologist, biologist Charles Darwin (1809), actor Josh Brolin (1968).

Contract Bridge

SCIENCE OF CARD-READING

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 6
♥ A Q 10 4
♦ Q J 10 8 4
♣ A 9

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

EAST
♠ 8 7 5 3
♥ J 9 6 3
♦ 7 3 2
♣ J 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q J
♥ K 8 2
♦ K 9 5
♣ 10 8 7 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT			

Opening lead — four of clubs.

When declarer starts the play of a hand, he usually doesn't know much about how the defenders' cards are distributed. This is especially true when the opponents have remained silent during the auction.

This does not mean, however, that declarer must rely on a lot of guesswork when the opponents haven't bid. In many cases, the lie of the opposing cards can be inferred by drawing conclusions from the early plays made by the defense. This is where much of the skill in declarer play comes to the fore.

Today's hand provides a relatively simple exercise in card-reading. West leads a low club against three notrump. How should South proceed?

To begin with, it is reasonable to assume that West does not have the K-Q-J of clubs because, if he had that holding, he would have led the king and not the four. It follows, therefore, that East must have at least one of the missing club honors.

It is also almost certain that West has led from either a four- or five-card suit, which marks East with either two or three clubs.

The contract is not in danger if West has only a four-card suit. The most that can be lost in that case is three clubs and a diamond. Declarer's primary concern, therefore, is to guard against West's having a five-card suit.

This can be accomplished by going up with the ace of clubs at trick one and immediately driving out the ace of diamonds. West will then be unable to cash four club tricks, because East's now-singleton club honor prevents the suit from being run.

Observe, though, that if declarer plays a low club from dummy on the opening trick, he allows the defenders to untangle their clubs. In the actual deal, he would be defeated after East won with the jack and returned a club.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg February 12, 2026

ACROSS

1 Defeat

5 Societal issues

9 Minor disagreements

14 Home of the NHL's Mammoth

15 Biblical rescuer of animals

16 "The Hunger Games" setting whose name is Latin for "bread"

17 Music's Marvin

18 Driver's shout?

19 Houston batter

20 Activity eased by universal child care (In this answer, note letters 1-3, 7-8 and 10-11)

23 ___ or later

25 Soft cheese

26 Pennsylvania nuclear accident site (... letters 3-4, 6-7 and 12-13)

32 It's about 78% nitrogen

33 Spiel

34 Cape Cod

35 Big name in beans

37 Droop

38 Orgs. that spend big in November

39 Permit

41 "As if!"

44 Resound

45 1987 psychological thriller (... letters 1-2, 5-6 and 12-13)

50 Hosp. area

51 Degree for a pro painter

52 Low-quality AI content

53 America, per "The Star-Spangled Banner" (... letters 1-2, 4-5 and 11-12)

57 Poet St. Vincent

58 Millay

59 Posh British school

59 Royal domain

62 Cake layer

63 Rice-A-___

64 Singer

Lavigne whose first name is a French month

65 NaCl, e.g.

66 Letters on the Thunder's logo

67 Allows to borrow

DOWN

1 Programmer's problem

2 Flight guess: Abbr.

3 "Apologize!"

4 Perfect match

5 Give the facts to

6 Roller coaster feature

7 "Tomb Raider" protagonist

Croft

8 Ice cream relative

9 "Nationality" of a famed set of Italian steps

10 Baby blue, e.g.

11 Not for

12 Bird aptly found in "water native"

13 LA air concern

21 Gymnast Suni

22 George Orwell's real first name

23 Unpartnered

24 Pennsylvania neighbor

27 Craft beer variety, in short

28 Sun output

29 Beaded counters

30 Cheesy chip

31 Vacuum brand

36 Pie ___ mode

37 Campaign worker

38 Dogs in restaurants, for some

40 Red Muppet

42 Poisonous element

43 10/20, e.g.

45 ___ mignons

46 French colony that some Louisianans trace ancestry to

47 Road feature that may interfere with a GPS

48 Your partner's name on your arm, say

49 Livestock pen

54 Move like a water strider

55 Clown nose sound

56 Take home

60 Top of a pot

61 New England Revolution's org.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

2/5 Solution

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2/12

Tritones by Anna Harkins

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
			20		21					22				
23	24								25					
26							27	28			29	30	31	
32							33				34			
35				36		37					38			
				39	40			41	42	43		44		
45	46	47					48				49			
50					51				52					
53				54					55				56	
57							58				59		60	61
62							63				64			
65							66				67			

SPORTS

2D GIRLS HOCKEY | 3D WRESTLING | 4D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

South narrowly escapes with girls hoops rivalry win

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The varsity girls basketball teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North met for the second time this season Wednesday, Feb. 4. With the Blue Devils playing host this time, the second meeting between the cross-town rivals was a much closer matchup than the first, but the outcome was the same, with South winning 46-43.

“I thought North played inspired basketball and were way more physical than we were,” South girls basketball head coach Kevin Richards said. “We didn’t come ready, but made a few more plays when it mattered most.”

The beginning and end of the game saw low-scoring, defensive quarters, with much of the scoring coming in the middle. The two rivals traded baskets in the opening quarter, with the Blue Devils holding a narrow 8-6 lead after the first eight

minutes.

Offense picked up more in the second quarter. South was able to build up its lead a bit more, but never got too comfortable, leading 27-20 as the teams went into halftime.

It was North that stepped up in the third quarter coming out of the break. The Norsemen were able to catch up to the Blue Devils’ pace and tie things at 37 apiece going into the final quarter, setting up an exciting finish.

Both sides tightened up on defense in the fourth quarter, but continued going back and forth for the lead. The game was tied 43-43 late, but a couple of key plays in the final minute for South ended up being the difference.

“What won us the game was the two offensive rebounds Maddie Schwesinger had in the last 40 seconds,” Richards said. “We scored on both of them. Without them, I’m convinced it would’ve been

a different outcome.”

Senior Morgan Duff continued her strong season for South by leading the team with 19 points along with seven steals. Sophomore standout Evie Baer also reached double digits with 12 points.

The win for South snapped a four-game losing skid. However, the team lost its next game 72-41 against Eisenhower Friday, Feb. 6. The Blue Devils return home to host Henry Ford II Thursday, Feb. 12, with tip off at 7 p.m.

For North, the loss to South was followed by a close win Friday, Feb. 6. The Norsemen pulled off a narrow victory over Port Huron 53-52 to get back in the win column, with senior Eva Borowski surpassing the 1,000-point mark for her career during the game.

The Norsemen returned home Monday, Feb. 9, falling to Regina 63-61. The team goes on the road to take on Eisenhower Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

North’s Aaliyah Brown gets a shot up and over South’s Ciara Pongratz.

Borowski joins 1,000 point club

Grosse Pointe North senior Eva Borowski, right, surpassed 1,000 career points in her varsity basketball career in the Norsemen’s 53-52 win over Port Huron Friday, Feb. 6. She entered the game needing 16 points to reach 1,000, and scored 19 while helping North to earn the win.

Borowski was presented with a basketball signed by North girls basketball coaches and teammates to commemorate her milestone after the team’s game Monday, Feb. 9.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Mueller raises the bar for North boys hockey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For a program like Grosse Pointe North varsity boys hockey, which has been trying to work its way back to success in recent years, finding a good leader is top priority. The Norsemen seem to have found just that with junior captain Charlie Mueller, who has stepped up in a major way this winter to lead North both in the locker room and on the stat sheet.

The Norsemen have a young team this season and Mueller, a junior, is one of the most veteran players on the roster. It is why he takes his responsibilities as captain seriously and knows his leadership could be what helps drive North hockey back in the right direction.

“Being a captain, everybody listens and they hear what you have to say,” Mueller said. “It’s been really nice that I get to teach the younger guys everything I know and they listen and look

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE
OF THE WEEK

Charlie Mueller

School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Ray Laethem Buick GMC

up to me.”

Mueller joined North’s team last year as a sophomore and already is building his legacy as one of the most outstanding players the program

has had in quite some time. In 24 games this winter, he has recorded 65 points with 26 goals and 39 assists. He also is on track to reach 100 career points with North

Marvelous Mueller

- Leads North boys hockey with 65 points (26 G, 39 A) in 24 games
- Recorded hat tricks in 6 different games this season
- Junior captain of North boys hockey

and would become the program’s first player since 2008 to earn the milestone.

While Mueller leads North in points this season, fellow junior Aidan Burney and senior Brandon Jarvis are right there with him on the leaderboard. It is no coincidence that all three players are on the same forward line, creating a group with perfect chemistry that has helped lead North to eight wins this season.

“When we win, every-

body’s going and everybody’s playing pretty well,” Mueller said. “The

linemates, Aidan Burney and Brandon Jarvis, really get me going if I’m down or anything. ... We have really good chemistry. We know where everyone is at all times and we talk perfectly out there.”

Mueller and his linemates hope that in the few remaining games of the regular season, they can help North surpass last year’s nine wins — the most for the program since 2019-20. The overall records may not look impressive, but they are big strides for a team

See *ATHLETE*, page 2D

See *ATHLETE*, page 2D



COURTESY PHOTO

North junior Charlie Mueller ranks among the top 15 players in the state with 65 points this season.

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Girls hockey teams search for key wins in final weeks of season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The regular season is winding down for varsity girls hockey and every win at this point of the year can be crucial. Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School all went into last week's games looking to build steam ahead of the play-offs, with some wins and losses coming along the way.

Grosse Pointe South
As the Blue Devils get closer to the playoffs and defending their Division 1 state championship once again, last week got off to a somewhat shaky

start. South suffered a 7-2 loss at home Wednesday, Feb. 4, against the St. Clair Shores Saints 19U team, with Ruby Lenhard and Sophia Husek notching the only goals for South. Things picked up over the weekend for South in a rematch of last year's Division 1 championship game. The Blue Devils met Mid-Michigan Alliance and were victorious for a second time this season over the team they defeated for the title last March, doing so in dominant fashion this time with a 10-0 win at home. Scoring was spread out for South in the big win. Lenhard and Tinley

Gram each recorded a pair of goals. Husek, Evie Wodzisz, Sydney King, Sydney Eickhorst, Audrey Reynolds and Charlie Harr all found the back of the net as well, while Rachel Farago earned the shutout between the pipes. South enjoys a long break before its next game, not taking the ice again until Saturday, Feb. 21. That is when the Blue Devils face Belle Tire 16U at the Taylor Sportsplex beginning at 4:30 p.m.

University Liggett
The Knights started last week with a game where the goals seemed almost never-ending.

Liggett hosted Sacred Heart Tuesday, Feb. 3, and dominated from start to finish in a 13-0 win. Every player in the Knights' lineup recorded at least a point in the win and nearly everyone found the back of the net. Kate Ricci led the way with four goals. Caroline Krall, Olivia Marcero and Avery Welsh scored a pair of goals each, while Stella Smiatacz, Ava Shock and Miranda Alcala netted goals as well. While Liggett scored plenty in the win against Sacred Heart, it was the opposite in the team's next game. The Knights took on Traverse City Saturday, Feb. 7, and lost

a close, low-scoring battle 1-0. The lone goal was scored by Traverse City's Sarah Budd in the first period. In their next game, the Knights are scheduled to take on Cranbrook-Kingswood Saturday, Feb. 14, with puck drop at 2 p.m. from Big Boy Arena.

Grosse Pointe North
North also began last week with a win, reigning victorious over St. Mary's 5-1 Tuesday, Feb. 3. Twila Shappy-Behn, who earned honors as one of the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League's January players of the month, scored twice in the victory for

the Norsemen, with other goals added by Mia Wilhelm, Ava Villani and Paige Martin. The win over St. Mary's was followed later in the week by a close loss for North, this time at home to Greater Flint United. The Norsemen came up short in a close 2-1 game, with Shappy-Behn scoring North's only goal in the second period to tie the game before Flint won in overtime. North visited Walled Lake Wednesday, Feb. 11, after press time. The Norsemen return home Friday, Feb. 13, to host Bloomfield-Birmingham at Eastside Foundation Hockey Arena at 7:30 p.m.



North, South take court in D Zone showcase

The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up Showcase returned to Grosse Pointe South Saturday, Feb. 7, with a full day of boys varsity basketball action. Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South both competed in the day's final games. North defeated Port Huron 44-40, while South fell in a close game to Detroit University Prep 45-44.

Above left: North's Jason Hubbel drives toward the basket and puts up a shot over Port Huron's Ivan Frazier. Above right: Sam Rouleau soars in the air looking for a rebound for the Blue Devils against Detroit University Prep.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

that won just a single game two seasons ago, right before Mueller joined. The mentality for Mueller and North hockey is much different now. The Norsemen no longer want to be viewed by other teams as an

'We have to be going hard on every single shift, because if we do that, we'll be a really good team and a tough team to beat.'

CHARLIE MUELLER, JUNIOR, GP NORTH HOCKEY CAPTAIN

easy win on the schedule and Mueller is one of the key players in changing the culture. With Mueller's skill and how he works to pick up the rest of his team, it seems to give everyone confi-

dence that they can compete with any opponent. "We want to be competing with everybody and be in a game having a chance to win as a team," Mueller said. "For me, my goal this year was to earn any sort of All-State. ... But the team goal is important and that is to always be in any game going into the third period. ... We just have to start working as a team and everybody has to get along. We have to be going hard on every single shift, because if we do that, we'll be a really good team and a tough team to beat." With the state playoffs set to begin next week, Mueller and his teammates will be looking to capture whatever momentum they can in the final regular-season



BY MIKE ADZIMA

Mueller is in his second season with North boys hockey this winter, joining as a sophomore in 2024.

games. The playoffs can be unpredictable and who knows what they might hold for North, but Mueller will have another chance to continue helping to build the North hockey program

next year as a senior. With how Mueller has played so far in just a couple of seasons with North, his future and the future of the program are getting brighter. Mueller's examples of leadership on and off the ice have helped set a new standard for the Norsemen. It is clear to everyone in the locker room that Mueller's presence is felt everywhere throughout the team. "I would say he's really the model high school athlete," North boys hockey head coach Rob Blum said. "He works hard and always does the right things on and off the ice."

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City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council adopted the following ordinance amendment at its meeting held on Monday, February 2, 2026. The ordinance amendment was adopted in accordance with the City Charter and is hereby published by title:

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

The ordinances are available for public inspection or purchase from the Office of the City Clerk, at the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or www.gpwmi.us.

Paul Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:2/12/26



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

South wins ‘Battle of the Pointes’ wrestling showdown

The varsity wrestling teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North met Tuesday, Feb. 3, for the annual “Battle of the Pointes” head-to-head wrestling matchup. While North played host, the Blue Devils ended up on top of the battle, winning 53-28. Above left: North’s Jessica Atchison works to escape a pin attempt by South’s Charlotte Kinyon. Above right: Liam Willson gets his arm raised after earning a victory for South over North’s Andrew Yeskey.

Boys hockey teams look for boost ahead of playoffs

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

By this time next week, the boys varsity hockey state playoffs will have arrived. The margin for error is growing smaller by the day as the teams from University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North look to reach their peak when the postseason arrives. Last week’s results for the Knights, Blue Devils and Norsemen in some of the final regular-season games of the winter showed there is still room for improvement.

University Liggett

After a months-long winning streak that had the Knights looking like the hottest team in Michigan, the last couple of weeks have seen University Liggett’s boys hockey team stumble a bit. The Knights lost their first game in more than two months to Houghton in the MIHL Showcase Jan. 31, and followed it with another loss in a 4-3 defeat against Gibraltar Carlson Wednesday, Feb. 4.

What made the loss last Wednesday to the Marauders sting even more was the fact Liggett let a large lead slip away. Nick Gould put the Knights ahead 1-0 in the first period and added another in the second period to extend the lead. Griffin Marchal made it 3-0 in favor of the Knights partway through the second period, but

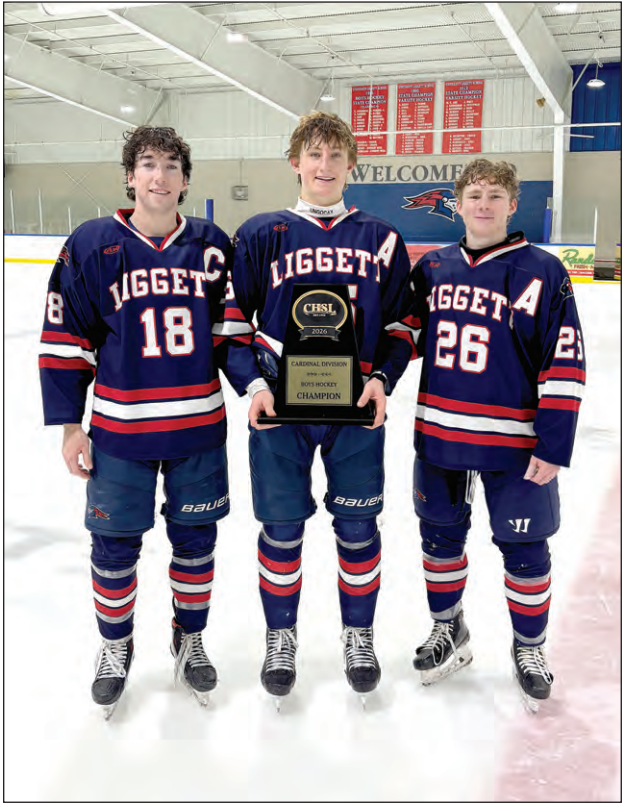


PHOTO BY MADELINE HEXTER

Top of the line — University Liggett boys hockey’s top forward line of Griffin Marchal, left, Luke Slanec, center, and Griffin Marchal have formed one of the top lines in the state this season, with all three players surpassing 50 points through 24 games.

the game became all about the Marauders after that.

Gibraltar Carlson scored twice quickly after Liggett extended its lead to three goals, making the score just 3-2 going into the third period. Liggett looked as though it might be able to hang on to its slim lead; however, the Marauders struck again in the final minutes.

Jager Whitten scored for Gibraltar Carlson to tie the game late. Caden Jones sealed the victory with another goal for the

road, Gould’s hat trick helped push Liggett to a 3-1 win over U of D Jesuit.

The Knights and Cubs battled through a scoreless first period, but Gould got things going in the second period with a pair of quick goals to put Liggett in front. U of D Jesuit cut the lead in half before the third period started, but another tally from Gould in the final frame was enough to help the Knights come away with the win.

Liggett hosted Divine Child after press time Tuesday, Feb. 10. The team visits Marysville Thursday, Feb. 12, at McMorran Place Sports Center. The Knights begin the Division 3 regional round of the state playoffs Friday, Feb. 20, against either Bishop Foley or De La Salle Collegiate. The regional tournament is set to be hosted at Wallace Ice Arena in Bloomfield Hills.

Grosse Pointe North

Last week started on a positive note for the Norsemen Tuesday, Feb. 3, as the team earned a dominant 14-4 win against New Boston Huron. Ben Clor, Brandon Shock and Andrew Phillips all recorded hat tricks in the win. Dominic Rubia,

Charlie Mueller, Evan Michalski, Blake Whittaker and Zach Keuten each found the back of the net as North cruised to the win.

A pair of games against Port Huron Unified later in the week did not bring quite the same results for North, however. The Norsemen first matched up with Port Huron Wednesday, Feb. 4, and the offensive momentum from the night before did not quite carry over as the team fell 5-3. Phillips, Mueller and Aidan Burney accounted for the Norsemen’s three goals in the loss.

The Norsemen and Port Huron met again Saturday, Feb. 7, and it was an even closer defeat for North in that game with a 4-3 loss. Mueller scored early to put North ahead, but Port Huron was able to tie the game 1-1 before the end of the first period. Port Huron then took a 2-1 lead after the second period, while Phillips tied the game for North early in the third. However, Port Huron had a pair of goals late to take the lead and one final North goal in the last seconds by Shock was not enough to complete the comeback for the Norsemen.

North hosted Bishop Foley Wednesday, Feb. 11, after press time. The

team visits the Capital City Capitals at the East Lansing Ice Cube Friday, Feb. 13, in the regular season finale.

Playoffs for North begin Tuesday, Feb. 17, as it is set to face Marysville in the opening round of the Division 3 regional tournament at Wallace Ice Arena in Bloomfield Hills, with puck drop at 5 p.m.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils looked to have things rolling in the right direction in late January, winning four out of five games to end the month. However, February has not been as kind to South.

South began last week with a loss Wednesday, Feb. 4, to De La Salle Collegiate, falling 6-0. That was followed by a 1-0 loss to U of D Jesuit Friday, Feb. 6.

The Blue Devils host Detroit Catholic Central Thursday, Feb. 12, at 5 p.m. at Eastside Foundation Hockey Arena. They end the regular season Saturday, Feb. 14, on the road against Walled Lake United.

South opens the playoffs in the Division 2 regional tournament Wednesday, Feb. 18, against Allen Park at Ann Arbor’s Veterans Memorial Park Ice Rink.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 2, 2026

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindie 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 21, 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 7:45 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 134259 through 134393 in the amount of \$517,447.35 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 BS & A Software in the amount of \$5,696.00 for the online system software for the period of February 2026 through February 2027. (3) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$5,312.56. for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of January, for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of computer accessories.
- (4) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,703.33 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of February 2026. (5) approve payment to City Insight LLC in the amount of \$16,224.00 for the annual licensing, maintenance, hosting and technical support for the mobile payment application. (6) approve payment to Wolverine Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$8,110.00 for the inventory replacement of sand and concrete for use on main breaks and for removal of dirt spoils during main breaks. (7) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$12,916.00 for sidewalk salting and snow removal in various residential and commercial areas of the City, and for lawn restorations needed where trees were removed.
- 2) to approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of \$358,313.50 for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Drain for the period of October through December 2025.
- 3) to approve the agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Waste Management for the transport and disposal of 30 yard roll-offs utilized for rubbish and leaf removal in the amount of \$472.36 for each roll-off for three (3) years, with an 8% increase to automatically begin with year four (4), and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.

Valerie Kindie, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, February 12, 2026

City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan

BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2026 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

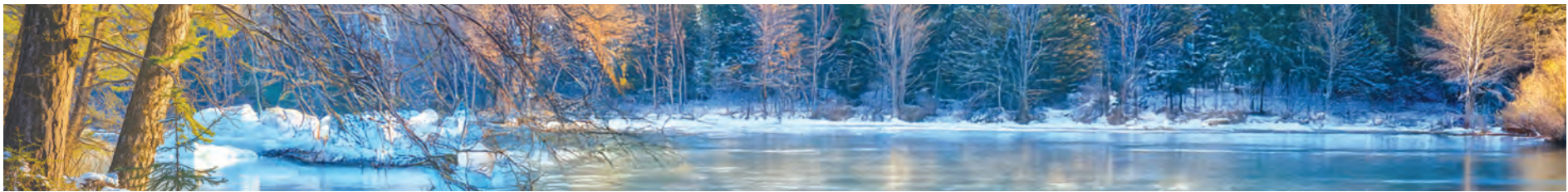
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
From 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
and
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

and
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026
From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
and
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313)-692-0081. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY 4:00pm ON TUESDAY, MARCH 24th.

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