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Grosse Pointe News

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VOL. 87, NO. 9, 30 PAGES
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FEBRUARY 26, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

BoE votes to appoint next sup't

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Monday night voted 5-2 to forgo any form of search process and move forward with the direct board appointment of the district's next superintendent.

The board majority further voted to place on the agenda of its March 9 meeting a vote to appoint Deputy Superintendent Dr. Roy Bishop as superintendent, as well as to authorize legal counsel and the board president to negotiate a contract.

Trustee Colleen Worden made the motion

See APPOINT, page 8A



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

Golden Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe Woods native Zach Werenski, left, and Detroit Red Wings captain Dylan Larkin celebrate winning a gold medal for the United States men's hockey team after a 2-1 victory over Canada Sunday, Feb. 22, at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan, Italy. We're beaming with pride over our hometown hotshot. We share our thoughts about the overtime win in Our View on page 6A and Mike Adzima's I Say on page 7A. And there's more coverage to come when the Werenskis return from Milan.

Shih Tzu rescued from Colonial house fire

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Operational smoke detectors were what made all the difference for a 36-year-old Farms man who woke to alarms just before 3 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, to find the family room of his home in the 400 block of Colonial Court had gone up in flames.

"Right now, all indicators point to a possible faulty space heater — one of those old box ones where the coils heat up — that was in the corner of the family room, as the source," Deputy Director Andy Rogers said. "It's not confirmed yet, but the charring on the walls is right in the same vicinity."

The department received the man's 911 call at 2:43 a.m. and had officers on-scene at 2:45 a.m., with a two-minute response time. Crews from the Woods and Shores also responded.

While the man was the sole occupant and made it out safely, his small black Shih Tzu was unaccounted for.

"The guys went back

See FIRE, page 2A

Contractor to share savings

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A no-cost municipal consultant could return thousands of dollars to the city in overpaid or mis-billed utility charges.

The prospect comes from city council retaining Tenurgy, a billing review company with a track record good enough to impress the Michigan

Chamber of Commerce. Tenurgy will review and confirm the accuracy of Park utility invoices, billing history and usage. If findings confirm overcharges, Tenurgy splits the savings with the city. The city posts no upfront fee. Nor is there a cost to the Park if no savings result.

"All we are required to do is provide them contacts with our utilities,"

City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

Doing the work in-house would take days, he said.

"If I were to thoroughly contact each utility — phone calls, set up meetings, follow up, back and forth — you're talking more than 24 business hours," Sizeland said. "For example, with DTE Energy, we probably have 20 different

accounts by different account numbers."

He said at least one other Grosse Pointe using Tenurgy saved \$20,000 in a year.

"There are no upfront fees as Tenurgy is only compensated when they find a refund, credit or savings for you," according to a Michigan Chamber of Commerce

See SAVINGS, page 2A

Chamber hosts Restaurant Week March 1-7

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

More than two dozen restaurants have signed on to participate in Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week, presented by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. And that number continues to grow, said Abigail Barrosso, the chamber's director of engagement.

"Our deadline for participation was Feb. 16, but we want to be able to include as many restaurants as possible," she said.

"If anyone wants to join in at the last minute, we are happy to work something out. The more options we can give our restaurant-goers, the more successful the week will be."

Restaurant Week, which takes place March 1 to 7, follows the theme, "A Taste of America," to correspond with the America 250 celebration.

"We felt embracing our nation's birthday early as we enjoy the diversity of the food scene in Grosse Pointe was the perfect theme for Restaurant

GROSSE POINTE RESTAURANT WEEK
A Taste of America

Week," Barrosso said. "Whether it's a delightful Italian dinner at Bucci, a Jordanian delicacy from Pangea Global Kitchen or an American classic at High Pointe, the variety of dining options in the Pointes is something we hope to bring to the top of everyone's minds."

The purpose of Restaurant Week is to drive residents and visitors to support local restaurants, as well as to try something new, she added.

"We know the winter months are challenging for our local businesses and being able to drive new customers into their doors to dine is very important to us," Barrosso said. "Putting together special offerings from each restaurant gives everyone an excuse to get out and try a

See RESTAURANT, page 3A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

David King

Home: Grosse Pointe Park Entrepreneur always looking for new opportunities.

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Sgt. Mike Ryan carries the rescued Shih Tzu out of the residence.

FIRE:

Continued from page 1A

in and the dog was found hiding underneath the bed in the master bedroom,” Rogers said. “When the guys reached to grab the little Shih Tzu, it kept on running to the other side, scared to death.” Officers moved what they had to move to get to the dog and then made good use of one of the department’s pet oxygen masks, which are kept on hand.

“Other than the dog being super dirty from the soot and smoky sounding, it appears like it’s going to be alright,” Rogers said. “The dog appeared fine after he got the oxygen.” Fire damage in the home primarily was confined to the living room and attic space above, as well as smoke damage throughout additional portions of the residence. “The good news is that it’s not a tear-down,” Rogers said. “The house will be salvageable with some reconstruction.”



The department’s pet oxygen mask, “helped out immensely,” Deputy Director Andy Rogers said.

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Torrey Road Pump Station complete

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A new generator at the city’s Torrey Road Pump Station is in place and ready to help the city avoid major flooding and basement backups such as what occurred in the summer of 2021. Council approved the project in 2021 at a cost of \$2 million. “With the rise in unprecedented weather, we decided it was something to look into,” said Jim Kowalski, director of public services, at the time. “We’re getting these 10-, 12-, 20-year storms more often.”

Kowalski said days after high winds swept through the Pointes in late July 2023, heavy rains dumped five inches of water on the Woods in a 24-hour period. “We didn’t have any flooding like 2021, but we want to be better prepared for what comes next,” he added. When council first approved the project, lead time was about 60 weeks, not so much due to supply chain issues but demand, as several municipalities were ordering similar equipment. Then-City Manager Frank Schulte said it would serve as an insurance policy. “We have two power sources there now, one underground and one



COURTESY PHOTOS

A new, diesel-powered generator has been installed at the Woods’ Torrey Road Pumping Station as a backup if electrical power to the facility is cut.

above ground,” he said in 2023. “In the last round of storms, we lost underground power and had to rely on the overhead lines. One limb can take that out. I hope we don’t have to use it, but it’s a great safety backup.” Ed Hall, who runs the station, said it hasn’t been needed yet due to storms, but the generator is run once a week as an exercise. “It’s a great peace of mind,” he said. “No one would expect something that big to be so quiet.” Hall said the generator weighs 50,000 pounds and is housed in a heavily insulated shed that sits atop of a 2,200-gallon diesel tank. “Running 100 percent, we could get about 22 straight hours of use out

of it,” he added. “If we do ever have to use it, I’d expect running it at 50 percent power.” Hall said the station has the capacity to send 122,000 gallons per minute of waste and storm water to the Milk River Drainage Basin. “We’ve done up to 37 million gallons in a day during the rainy season, but only about 16 million in say, November,” Hall added. There was some concern by council about noise because the pump station, at 1266 Torrey, is in the middle of a residential neighborhood. There was some discussion among council originally about how much noise the generator would make. Former Councilman Thomas

Vaughn joked at the time the project was approved he didn’t think people would complain about the sound while it was running because that would mean water wouldn’t be backing up in their basements. Mayor Art Bryant concurred, noting there would be plenty of homeowners running their own generators in the event of a power outage. The city in April 2023 applied for a low-interest loan from the state’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund, but was denied. It was noted at the time that more affluent municipalities generally don’t score high enough for approval. Money for the project came from the city’s water and sewer fund.



A look inside the switching gears that operate the generator.

SAVINGS:

Continued from page 1A

letter of recommendation. “They examine more than just electric and gas, too. They also look at phone, cellular, internet, water, sewage and waste removal.” “A couple months ago, I interviewed a competitor to Tenurgy,” Sizeland

said. “One of my first assignments to (new finance director) Ethan Haan was to look into a consulting services agreement with Tenurgy. He interviewed them. Within a week, he had a recommendation for me.” “Under the agreement, Tenurgy will audit, analyze and monitor (our) utility and operating expenses, including electricity, natural gas, telecommunications and other services,” according to a memo Haan wrote to Sizeland. “Tenurgy will review past

ills, monitor future bills and recommend ways to reduce utility costs.” “This is everything from telecommunications to who we buy paper from, who we buy jugs of water from — all the little utilities we could find,” Sizeland said. Council members on Feb. 2 approved the 36-month contract. Terms promise Tenurgy 50 percent of all savings, credits or refunds. The city gets the rest. “If they were to find \$50,000, we would retain \$25,000,” Sizeland said.

“Tenurgy retains the other \$25,000.” “Each month, which shall commence on the date savings are first realized by the (Park), Tenurgy will submit an invoice indicating savings on which its 50 percent fee is based,” according to the contract. “Before they take action, do they have to come back to the city?” Councilman Tim Kolar asked Sizeland. “What does the approval path look like for how we’re handling things internally?” “If it requires a council recommendation, we’ll be coming back to you guys,” Sizeland said. Kolar also wanted assurance that the contractor won’t tap into residents’ personal data. “I’ll work with the (city) attorney’s office (to see if) that’s in there and we’ll strike it off the contract,” Sizeland said. City of Grosse Pointe officials retained Tenurgy during summer of 2024. “We checked references with the other Grosse Pointes,” Sizeland said. “They were very happy with Tenurgy.”

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Park sergeant retiring after 27 years

By Renee Landuyt
Special Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Sgt. Mike Miller is retiring Saturday, Feb. 28, from the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department. Miller has been an officer in the Park for more than 27 years.

As a teen, he said, he hadn't found his direction yet and was working on figuring out what to do after high school.

"When I was 21, one of my old high school teachers told me I would make a great cop," he said. "I thought he was crazy, but he advised me to go for a ride-along with a police department to get a look at police work. I called a family friend in the Detroit Police Department and soon after that had my first ride-along in the 10th Precinct and fell in love with the job.

"I was amazed at how exciting it was and how everything was always changing day to day, even run to run," he continued. "I applied in Detroit, but it seemed like I wasn't getting a response quick enough, so I put myself through Macomb Police Academy. Grosse Pointe Park was the first to hire me and I was hired in July of 1998. Not long after I was hired, I knew



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Park Sgt. Mike Miller will retire this Friday after more than 27 years of law enforcement.

I wasn't going to leave. It's the perfect mix of a beautiful small city surrounded by a big busy city. Plus, I knew I found my second family and had so many great mentors throughout my career in the Park that I never even thought about leaving. The Park was my first law enforcement job and will be my last."

When asked if he was nervous his first day as an officer, he said, "I remember going out there alone without my field training officer the first time. I was excited, but I was also nervous. My nerves subsided

after a few hours, but my excitement never left. This job changes each day from call to call. You never really know what you are going to have to do, but it's amazing how you develop the skills to solve any problem that's in front of you.

"That's one of the reasons I love public safety so much," he added. "We get to wear a lot of hats and see many situations — not just law enforcement. My nervousness for making traffic stops was always there mainly because there are too many unknowns and things

can go wrong very fast." Miller began learning how to read people early on by noticing their body language, tone and inflection.

"I studied those things on a daily basis, which helped me to not just rely on people's words," he said. "This helped me relate to people better and at times see through lies that officers often get told in the field by people being deceptive."

Miller said one case in which he was involved that has never left his mind was a shooting in

See RETIRE, page 5A

Chilly Fest is Saturday

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — This year's Chilly Fest was delayed a few weeks to sidestep the winter weather it celebrates. "The point of pushing it back to late February this year was to see if it warmed a little, to have a winter feel but not negative temperatures or 5 degrees," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. "I'd like to have it be a little more enjoyable and easier to get around for everyone who attends."

Temperature readings validate Craig's strategy of delaying 2026 Chilly Fest until 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Entry is free and open to everyone.

Last year's annual fest, held early February, encountered temperatures in the mid-20s.

Temperatures this month ranged from 5 to 26 degrees on what would have been the festival's normal date. By comparison, as of this week's Grosse Pointe News deadline, a forecast for Feb. 28 is partly sunny with an afternoon high of 42 degrees.

Chilly Fest is spread across three of the city's business districts — Kercheval, Charlevoix and Mack Avenue — and includes a chili competition.

"We have a bus route so people can jump on and off (in districts)," Craig said.

There are five stops on a continuous loop:

- ◆ Kercheval at Maryland,
- ◆ Charlevoix at Maryland,
- ◆ Mack Avenue, the site of the chili cook-off,
- ◆ Charlevoix at Lakepointe and
- ◆ Kercheval at Lakepointe.

The chili cook-off is at Cabbage Patch Saloon on Mack. Instructions are below.

Chilly Fest is organized by the Park and sponsored by Brosnan Builders and O'Flaherty's Pub.

Activities

Among 14 attractions scheduled during the festival, at least two are favorites from previous years: pony rides and a petting zoo on Kercheval.

"We'll have Frozen Ropes, a mobile high-ropes course, on Charlevoix," Craig said.

Advanced registration is required for:

- ◆ carriage rides staged behind Atwater in the Park, at the corner of Kercheval and Lakepointe;
- ◆ tinsel hair at The Beauty Parlor, 15126 Kercheval, and
- ◆ B12 shots at Aesthetic Theory MedSpa, 15300 Kercheval.

Register at grossepoin.tepark.org. Go to Parks & Recreation, special events, Chilly Fest 2026 and scroll down to the

See FEST, page 8A

RESTAURANT:

Continued from page 1A

new place, invite a friend to take them to their favorite restaurant and, overall, it's positive to be able to get people out in their community. We like to make it easy on the restaurant owners by allowing them to determine if they will offer a single special or temporary menu for the week, but at the core, our hope is to see an increase in foot traffic and allow for our participating restaurants to see new business."

Returning this year to help promote the effort are three social media influencers — Nina Taormina, founder of the Grosse Pointe Eats & Treats Facebook page; Ned Impastato, with Ned Eats Detroit; and Lyndsey Fradeneck, on Instagram @winedinedetroit.

"Nina's 'Food Gossip' column in the Grosse Pointe News is graciously being dedicated to highlighting our 2026 Restaurant Week participants for the month of February," Barrosso said. "Nina has been an amazing resource as she's connected to so many restaurant owners and is a huge cheerleader for dining local. Ned's blog is also dedicating upcoming posts and promotions to Restaurant Week. His professional connections, paired with his passion for supporting local eateries, make him a great spokesman of Restaurant Week. We are excited to be introducing some new participants for 2026 based on his help in making new connections for the chamber.

"Lyndsey's Instagram account serves as a hub for tips on the hottest spots for a quick happy hour or where to go for a formal dinner with loved ones," she continued.

"Together, Restaurant Week is organically reaching 60,000 Facebook and Instagram users through the pages our influencers run, along with the chamber's social media."

Helping make Restaurant Week possible are several sponsor organizations, some of which also are participating dining establishments. Sponsors include Fresh Farms Market, High Pointe Burger Jointe, Maple & Mill, Pangea Global Kitchen, Pernicano Law, Pierce & Company, SMART Bus, The Continental at Ford House, The Daily Jam, The Whiskey Six, Watermark Bar & Grille and Z's Pub.

Also helping make Restaurant Week a success is the chamber's use of Proxi, a new mapping system that will help diners map out their options.

"The Grosse Pointe Chamber is thrilled to unveil Proxi, our cutting-edge, interactive digital map platform designed

to supercharge our mission of promoting local businesses, supporting community events and making it a breeze for residents and visitors to explore our vibrant community," said Jenny Boettcher, chamber president. "We've crafted a special map for Restaurant Week that spotlights our amazing sponsors, participating restaurants, their locations and exclusive menus. Get ready to dive into an exciting, easy-to-navigate adventure through our bustling business districts."

Hungry patrons may find the map by visiting grossepointechamber.com or scanning the QR code below.



Who's in

- As of Feb. 24, participating restaurants include:
- Alma Kitchen
 - Antidote Detroit
 - Atwater in the Park
 - Brine Oyster House
 - Bucci
 - Café Nini
 - Champs Rotisserie & Seafood
 - Da Edoardo
 - Flyleaf
 - Fresh Farms Market
 - Full Rack Barbecue
 - High Pointe Burger Jointe
 - Irish Coffee Bar & Grill
 - Jagged Fork
 - LeRouge Boulangerie
 - Lola's Taco Bar
 - Old Pony Martini Pub
 - Pangea Global Kitchen
 - Sidecar Slider Bar
 - SideStreet Diner
 - Sprout House Natural Foods Market
 - The Bricks Pizzeria
 - The Continental at Ford House
 - The Daily Jam
 - The Spice & Tea Exchange of Grosse Pointe
 - The Whiskey Six
 - Village Market
 - Watermark Bar & Grille
 - Z's Pub

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Seven businesses, 80 countries and counting

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

David King is on the go and won't stop until he gets there.

"I'm always looking for something else and new opportunities," he said.

The outlook served him well in the U.S. Navy as an electrical and radar technician aboard the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in the world.

King and the Big E were cut from the same jib.

"That ship had eight nuclear reactors," King said. "It could run forever on just two reactors. They truly overcompensated for what they needed."

Life aboard was loud during flight operations.

"A friend's bunk was right under where the planes landed," King said. "It was like the whole ship shook. Imagine someone banging on your bed constantly."

King also served on the USS Ingersoll, a Spruance-class destroyer, and the USS Reuben James guided missile frigate.

"The Navy would give you the best food when they were going to give you bad news," he said. "If we were going to stay in the Persian Gulf a few more weeks, they'd serve us steak, lobster or something. Whenever they serve really good food, something bad is coming."

Upon retiring from a 20-year military career — about half served at sea — 25 years ago as a lieutenant, King was content-

edly employed in the private sector as an information technology director. Then the entrepreneurial bug bit and never let go.

"I had an opportunity to create a business out of an IT company I was working for," he said. "That started me on this entrepreneurial journey, which I didn't know I had."

King now owns, operates or consults for seven companies.

"They're all diverse," King said.

Three are short-term rental businesses.

"One is Motown B&B, the largest in Detroit," King said. "We focus on visitors to the city."

The other is in Grosse Pointe Park.

"We nicknamed it Motor City B&B," King said. "Over 80 percent of our guests are here for weddings or family reunions. The War Memorial has been a blessing to bring in a lot of people. We host a lot of families that come in for local weddings."

The company he took over, a technology, cybersecurity and managed services provider called Red Level Group, earned a spot on Crain's Detroit Business' list of "Cool Places to Work in Michigan" due to a strong culture and flexible work options.

"You have to find what motivates people," King said. "Sometimes it's money, recognition, accolades, training or flexibility. We had a lot of long-term employees at Red Level. Some were there because we offered

unlimited paid time off. They wanted flexibility. Some had families that needed extra support and that was a good win-win for them."

King sold Red Level a few months ago to the20.com, a firm in Plano, Texas.

"Our staff transitioned over," he said. "I'm part of the transition team, transiting our customers to the new owners. I'm also engaged in support for artificial intelligence, sales and the technology team."

Sweet-toothed Pointers will be happy to know of his next project.

He expects to open Sweet Pointe Candy shop on lower Kercheval in April.

"I want it to be a destination candy store, where people visit a fun destination," King said. "We're going that have nostalgia candy, slushies and coffee for adults, but also plant-based candy, gluten-, sugar- and dye-free — more high-end options than a lot of places would consider."

King's life took a different course than he envisioned while growing up working for his father's carpet business and starting college at the University of Detroit before joining the Navy and earning a degree in management information systems at Wayne State University.

"In the Navy, I traveled the world, to more than 80 countries," he said.

In Africa, he was part of a U.S. Embassy team doing security services.

"Our experiences were pretty welcoming," King



David King of Grosse Pointe Park and fiancée, Angela Willson.

COURTESY PHOTO

said. "Human beings have certain innate desires. A father and mother in Iraq or Yemen care about their children as much as anyone from Michigan. The innate part of the family exists. Our cultures are different. The caring and humanities are universal. If you treat people the way you want to be treated, you can pretty much travel the world and find great people to share experiences with."

King said his fiancée, Angela Willson, also of the Park, told him he can't sit still.

"My underlying talent is being a visionary of sorts," King said. "I need help to execute. I've worked with a great group of people over the years who are much more talented than me in marketing and operations."

King still travels, but for pleasure, not duty. Portugal and Prague are on his and Willson's list for next year.

Beyond work, King has taught Junior Achievement to high school students in Detroit for about six years.

"I like encouraging kids to think about starting a business and work through those steps," he said.

He's gearing up for his first full season as a Blue and Gold Officers area coordinator for the U.S. Naval Academy.

"Blue and Gold Officers are volunteers who serve as reliable sources of information about the Naval Academy, Navy and Marine Corps," according to the academy website, usna.edu.

"(They are) essentially the U.S. Naval Academy's version of a college admissions officer, but they're on a local level and they're volunteers," according to a posting on CollegeVine, an online college admissions information site. "Their primary roles include promoting the Naval Academy to eligible students, conducting candidate interviews and serving as a vital link between the academy and applicants in their territories."

King said he volunteered for the program upon witnessing the appointment process

through which Willson's son, Lex, became a midshipman.

"I was inspired to see the results after visiting the academy and seeing the quality of students coming in," King said. "They motivate and inspire each other. They're very competitive individuals. Imagine the best from your high school competing with the best of every other high school, coming together to serve our country. It's inspiring to see the quality of people who make it to the service academies."

People may enter the military as individuals, but they come out knowing the benefits of teamwork.

"The military was such a good life skills builder," King said. "The military takes a bunch of young men and women, puts them together and they come out as a working team. That's hard to do. Once you're out in the world, you're forced to interact with people. It teaches you a lot of responsibility, accountability, professionalism, pride and character."

Unlocked cars spur easy crime

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — "Lock your car doors" has become the mantra for Pointe public safety departments, where detectives repeat the phrase on a loop.

One resident in the 400 block of Manor who heeded the advice now has home security footage of a suspect attempting to open his car door

at 3:11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. Finding the door locked, the suspect moved on and nothing was taken or damaged in the man's vehicle.

Many others who neglected to lock their car doors did not fare so well during a period last week that saw more than 12 incidents of suspects rummaging through unlocked vehicles in the Farms.

The crimes took place between Saturday, Feb. 14, and Wednesday, Feb. 18, and centered on the 400 blocks near Mack Avenue. Targeted streets included Manor, Colonial Court, Shelbourne, Lexington, Belanger, Hillcrest and Ridgmont.

According to a Nixle

community alert sent out by the Farms public safety department Wednesday, Feb. 18, the current crime pattern involves a single vehicle dropping off suspects, who quickly check the door handles of parked vehicles before leaving the area.

As of press time, no additional larcenies from auto offenses have been reported following those mentioned in the Nixle alert.

Officers encourage residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately by calling 911 or the department's non-emergency line at (313) 885-2100.

— Laurel Kraus



COURTESY PHOTO

Public safety released this image of the suspects via Nixle.



ULS
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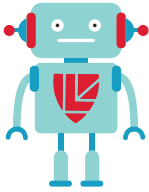
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Grosse Pointe Farms

Suspended

A 32-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for driving with a suspended license at 3:13 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, after she was pulled over at Mack and Marseilles for illegal window tint.

Swiped

A resident in the 400 block of Cloverly reported eight driveway markers stolen last week, though it's also possible they were accidentally swept away by a snow removal service.

Speeding

For speeding 46 mph on Mack at 4:27 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, a 23-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over and arrested for driving while license suspended.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Porch pirate

An Amazon package containing chafing dishes was stolen from a porch in the 400 block of Rivard at 1 p.m. Wednesday,

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Feb. 18.

Suspended

A 40-year-old Detroit woman was cited for driving with a suspended license, after being pulled over at Mack and Neff for an expired license plate at 10:05 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.

Repeat offender

A white man with long brown hair and a gray jacket stole multiple miscellaneous items from a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval and fled through the rear alley at 10:15 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.

The man appears to be the same suspect who stole from the business in January.

Assault

A 32-year-old Detroit woman assaulted two nurses at a local hospital at 4 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20 — punching one of them and spitting at the other. The woman was arrested for assault and battery.

Unlocked

Approximately \$50

was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 17000 block of Mack at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Unwanted visitor

A resident in the 500 block of Lakeshore called 911 Thursday, Feb. 5, after seeing what she thought was a raccoon in her house.

She told officers she saw a “small, dark figure” run into an upstairs bedroom. Officers reported checking the house and not finding a raccoon.

Lakeshore accident

A 51-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was ticketed for failure to yield causing an accident after she pulled from South Deeplands into the southbound lanes of Lakeshore around 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, and was hit in the driver-side

door by a 16-year-old female driver from the Farms.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Lovely couple

The female participant in a yo-yo relationship wound up arrested last week for maliciously destroying property, being disorderly, resisting and obstructing police.

“(An) on-again, off-again boyfriend and girlfriend were arguing,” said police of the incident a few minutes before noon Tuesday, Feb. 17, at an apartment in the 15200 block of Mack.

The girlfriend, a 30-year-old Detroit resident, reportedly broke into the apartment and started breaking things.

“When officers arrived, (she) argued and yelled profanities at officers,” according to police. “(She) tried to leave and began resisting officers.”

Hit and run

Police arrested a 66-year-old Detroit man the morning after he fled the scene of a nighttime hit-and-run traffic wreck at the intersection of Mack and Cadieux.

“(He) admitted leaving the scene (and) causing property damage,” police said.

At 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, the man, driving a Honda, failed to stop at a red light on westbound Mack and hit a motorist on Cadieux, according to police.

“The at-fault driver fled the scene,” police said. “The driver who was not at fault was checked by medics at the scene and refused transport (to a hospital). The at-fault driver was located the next morning.”

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Breaking and entering

A woman reported around 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, someone broke into her parents’ home in the 19000 block of East Ida Lane sometime over the past

several weeks.

Multiple rooms were ransacked and property is missing.

Unlocked vehicle

A cell phone was taken from an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of a residence in the 1800 block of Oxford sometime before 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Stolen vehicle

A vehicle with the key inside was stolen in the 19000 block of Blossom Lane sometime overnight into Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Crypto fraud

A resident in the 1800 block of Roslyn reported Saturday, Feb. 21, she is out \$175,000 after making what she thought were cryptocurrency investments with someone she met on a dating app.

Several banks refused to make transactions for her as they thought they were fraudulent, leading her to turn to crypto machines.

She cannot get a hold of the scammer and conversations on the app have been deleted.

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

RETIRE:

Continued from page 3A

2003. It was a traumatic incident and was in the civil court system more than seven years, but he was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing, for which he is grateful, he said.

One of Miller’s favorite memories is spending time with fellow

officers, especially over Sunday meals. Breaking bread together and talking through dinner, he said, really builds a bond between people.

“I will miss those Sundays with my crew.”

Miller said when he retires he hopes to find work that will allow him to continue to help people. In the meantime, he’ll have plenty of hobbies and side work

keeping him busy, like various craft projects and woodworking.

In addition to his own home-improvement projects, he plans to assist his daughter, who just bought her first home.

Miller has two other children he is involved with as well. He said he and his wife love to travel so they hope to have more time to go places.

“When I’m retired, I will miss the people in Grosse Pointe Park the most,” he said. “It’s my

second home and family. I won’t miss all the nights, weekends and holidays I’ve sacrificed away from my first family though.

“My last day is going to be a very difficult day as far as me leaving law enforcement and the family I’ve grown to love, but I’m looking forward to life’s opportunities that will help me in the transition to my next stage of life. I’m excited for whatever comes my way.”

Farms honors deputy treasurer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — As a dedicated member of the city’s treasury department 18 years, Michelle Hoch was honored in February as the first city employee to be selected for the Farms’ new employee recognition program.

“We’re going to do something new here at Grosse Pointe Farms and it’s exciting quite frankly,” Mayor John Gillooly said. “We’re going to begin every other month to (recognize) a city employee whose tasks often go unrecognized.”

Hoch was recognized at the beginning of the monthly city council meeting Monday, Feb. 9.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michelle Hoch

She has served as deputy treasurer since 2022.

In 2025, she achieved the Michigan Certified Professional Treasurer

See HONOR, page 8A



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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

SEAN COTTON: Owner

ANNE GRYZENIA: Publisher

JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief

OUR VIEW

Grosse Pointe’s golden boy

We hereby officially proclaim that Vernier Road in Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Shores should be renamed Zach Werenski Way.

And if you have to ask who Zach Werenski is, please stop telling people you live in the Pointes.

Such a change, even unofficially, would be fitting for a number of reasons:

- ◆ Werenski was raised in the Woods, where his parents still live;
- ◆ the road passes by Grosse Pointe North High School, which Werenski attended two years before finishing early so he could enroll a year early to play hockey at the University of Michigan;
- ◆ Vernier ends at Lakeshore, the northwest corner of which is occupied by the Shores city hall, where Werenski’s dad, Ken Werenski, serves as director of public safety and
- ◆ Vernier also is known as Eight Mile Road and No. 8 is the jersey number Werenski not only wears for the NHL’s Columbus Blue Jackets, it also was his uniform number for the U.S. Olympic men’s hockey team.

We also would like to give a shout out to Emilea Zingas, a Grosse Pointe South High School graduate, and her partner, Vadym Kolesnik, for their top five finish in ice dancing. We hope they continue to excel and enjoy success on the national and international stage.

Eyeballs all across the Pointes were glued to NBC’s Olympics coverage for two weeks, paying close attention to hockey. Over the course of the competition, Werenski recorded six points in six games with a goal and five assists.

None of those assists, however, were as important as the one he recorded in overtime Sunday against Canada in the gold-medal game.

Known as the “golden assist,” Werenski fed Jack Hughes one minute and 41 seconds into OT to seal the deal, 2-1. Overtime in Olympic hockey is sudden death, with just three skaters per side as opposed to the usual five.

The neat thing is, all of the players on the ice for the game winner have Michigan ties. Aside from Werenski, Jack Hughes, who scored the OT goal, moved to Canton during high school to join the national development program. Dylan Larkin, who also plays for the Detroit Red Wings, is from Waterford and Connor Hellebuyk, the team’s goalie,



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST OPINION By Sherry Betcher

Schools of Choice will hurt smaller districts

(Editor’s note: Sherry Betcher, a Grosse Pointe resident, certified teacher and coach of the all-girls Botmasterz high school robotics team, posted this to social media regarding a letter she sent to every member of the Michigan House of Representatives about a package of bills that, if enacted, would require all school districts — including the Grosse Pointe Public School System — to participate in schools of choice beginning this fall. It is reprinted here with permission.)



Dear Representative xxx, I am writing as a parent and educator for over 25 years who cares deeply about Grosse Pointe Public Schools, but also about students across our region — especially those whose families may be looking to districts like ours in hopes of improved academic outcomes.

I want to be clear that my concern is not about denying opportunity to students. I understand why families seek access to strong academic programs. As a parent, I

would want the same. My concern is about implementation and the broader impact this legislation could have on surrounding communities and on students themselves.

First, the regional impact on neighboring districts must be carefully considered. Grosse Pointe Public Schools has approximately 4,275 open seats. Nearby districts such as Harper Woods (about 2,700 students), South Lake (about 1,400), Lakeview (about 4,200) and Lake Shore (about 3,200) serve similar or, in some cases, smaller student populations. If enrollment shifts quickly toward GPPSS, even modest student losses could create serious financial strain in those districts, where funding is directly tied to per-pupil enrollment. This could mean reductions in staff, programs and student supports in communities that are already working hard to strengthen academic outcomes. Rather than lifting the region as a whole, rapid change risks deepening inequities.

Second, districts like GPPSS need ade-

See GUEST, page 7A

is from Commerce. Hughes’ brother, Quinn Hughes, also was on the squad.

Speaking of Michigan ties, Megan Keller of Farmington Hills scored in overtime Saturday to give the U.S. women’s hockey team the gold medal, also by a score of 2-1 and also against Canada.

Of course, actually renaming Vernier to Zach Werenski Way would be entirely ceremonial, but it still would be very cool. Hopefully the Woods and Shores could work out some kind of agreement with Wayne County, which owns Vernier. And of course, the signs would have to be red, white and blue.

It would be a bit similar to how during the holidays the City of Grosse Pointe renames Kercheval as Christmas Street.

We even have a potential design in mind (left). This large piece was crocheted by Maureen Carter, a crossing guard at Ferry Elementary School, which Werenski attended. It now hangs with pride on the playground fence at the school.

The gold-medal win hopefully gives Werenski and his teammates a bit of closure after losing to Canada last year in the finals of the 4 Nations Face Off, which also included Finland and Sweden.

The only thing left to figure out now is where to hold the parade for Werenski once the NHL season is over.

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.

Send in the clowns

To the Editor:

Send in the clowns.

Isn’t it rich. Isn’t it rare.

A Board of Education entrusted with its most solemn responsibility chooses to appoint a superintendent with no meaningful process, no statewide search, no transparent criteria and no structured community engagement.

Send in the clowns.

The selection of a superintendent is not a casual vote. It is the single most consequential decision a board makes. It shapes academic direction, fiscal stewardship, organizational culture and the future of every child in this district. Best practice demands a defined search profile, stakeholder forums, rigorous candidate vetting and clear evaluation standards. None of that occurred.

Instead, the board majority moved abruptly. Parents were not invited into the conversation. Teachers were not meaningfully consulted. The broader community was given no structured opportunity to weigh in.

Send in the clowns.

Clint. Valarie. Colleen. Laura. Tim.

When governance becomes improvisation, public trust erodes. When process is discarded, accountability follows.

See LETTER, page 7A

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(313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh:

Editor in Chief

Ted O’Neil:

Associate Editor

Mike Adzima:

Sports Reporter

Kyla Bazy:

Obituary Writer

Laurel Kraus:

Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt:

Staff Photographer

Brad Lindberg:

Special Writer

PRODUCTION

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Ken Schop:

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John Pigott:

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ADVERTISING

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

February 26 – March 4

LOCAL 4

Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
34° 20°	45° 33°	46° 20°	30° 17°	29° 21°	41° 29°	49° 22°
Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow	Windy	Cloudy
20%	0%	20%	20%	30%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 7:12 am SUNSET 6:17 pm	SUNRISE 7:11 am SUNSET 6:18 pm	SUNRISE 7:09 am SUNSET 6:19 pm	SUNRISE 7:08 am SUNSET 6:21 pm	SUNRISE 7:06 am SUNSET 6:22 pm	SUNRISE 7:04 am SUNSET 6:23 pm	SUNRISE 7:03 am SUNSET 6:24 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima

Olympic pride brings country, community together



Detroit Red Wings fans know that for a long time, Detroit affectionately has been known as “Hockeytown.” The area earned the nickname when the Red Wings were the prominent dynasty of the 1990s and 2000s in the NHL. While it was adopted because Detroit had such a great professional team, this year’s Olympic

Winter Games have shown how the Detroit area — and the state of Michigan as a whole — truly is Hockeytown. To see the impact Michigan had on helping both the United States men’s and women’s hockey teams win gold medals in Milan last week, you really have to look no further than right here in Grosse Pointe. Grosse Pointe Woods native Zach Werenski tallied a goal and five assists for the men’s team during these Olympics, including — most importantly — the primary assist on Jack Hughes’ game-winning goal in overtime against Canada in the gold-medal game Sunday, Feb. 22.

All four players on the ice for Team USA when the “golden goal” was scored have ties to Michigan. Werenski, of course, represented the Pointes. Hughes, while born in Florida, is billed on the roster as hailing from Canton due to his time with the USA Hockey National Team Development Program (NTDP). Red Wings captain Dylan Larkin from Waterford and Team USA goalie Connor Hellebuyck from Commerce Township made it an all-Michigan affair in the game’s deciding moment. It does not stop there. Megan Keller, who scored the golden goal in overtime for the United

States women’s team in the gold medal game against Canada Friday, Feb. 20, is a native of Farmington Hills. Her teammate, Kirsten Simms, also is a Michigan native, hailing from Plymouth. The United States left Italy with two gold medals in hockey, but without metro Detroit, it might have come away with none. Minnesota may like to call itself the “state of hockey,” but these Olympics showed why Michigan really is the hockey capital of America. There is a reason why the best junior players from around the country come to play with the NTDP in Plymouth and that pro-

gram is the reason why the United States had so much success at these Olympics. All but three players on the men’s team roster played for the NTDP. The NTDP alumni for Team USA may not have been there at the same time, but they all were familiar playing within a similar system designed to have success on the international level. One could say the NTDP, more than the Red Wings, is the real reason why metro Detroit is still Hockeytown to this day. The way the community in this area embraces the sport is the reason why USA Hockey brought the NTDP here in the first place. Now,

the players who came from around the country to develop their skills in this community are gold medalists. Not many places around America can say they are home to an Olympic gold medalist. Grosse Pointe can say that with pride this year thanks to Werenski. Nowhere else can claim the type of impact on Olympic hockey that metro Detroit has had. Whether you are reading this in Grosse Pointe or anywhere else, it means you probably have a connection to the Detroit area. It is a proud place to be from as a hockey fan, because we are Hockeytown and now the whole world knows it.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1951
75 years ago this week

MOCKBOMB ATTACK DATE SET: Grosse Pointe will be alerted for a mock “A-bomb” attack on April 16, George Elworthy, Grosse Pointe Director of Civilian Defense, said. Medical crews and field teams of volunteer work-

ers will join forces with Highland Park, Hamtramck and Detroit units in the home front drill. **COTTAGE BANS ALL VISITORS:** Cottage Hospital of Grosse Pointe was ordered closed to all visitors (except immediate families), beginning March 1, by Miss Carolyn M. Wicks, director. Although the number of cases of influenza in the

Pointe area has not reached epidemic proportions, this precaution was deemed wise to protect the patients in the hospital.

1976
50 years ago this week

WOODS EYES HW PROJECT: The possibility of getting “a piece of the action” regarding a possible senior citizens hous-

ing complex, which is part of a proposal by the City of Harper Woods to purchase land for a park development and seniors’ housing project in that city, is being investigated by Woods Mayor Benjamin W. Pinkos. Mr. Pinkos said he has been in contact with several city officials from Harper Woods regarding the possible participation of the Woods in such a complex. **PLAN COMMISSION DELAYS DECISION ON USE OF PARK:** The Park Council was informed that the Plan Commission will have to submit its decision and recommendation on a proposed construction of a Babe Ruth Baseball Diamond at the Three Mile Drive Park at

a later date. A study of the proposal was authorized by the city council and discussed by the commission Feb. 17.

2001
25 years ago this week

FINISHING TOUCHES BEGIN ON GP PARK CITY HALL: The final phase of the remodeling of the Park municipal building’s third floor is heading down the home stretch. During construction, the Park’s municipal court and city council sessions have taken place in the showroom of a former car dealership located next door to the city

offices on Jefferson and Maryland.

2016
10 years ago this week

BIDS JUMP 21 PERCENT: Road construction kicks off this year along the entire length of St. Paul, from Cadieux to Fisher. Additional resurfacing is scheduled for one-block sections of University Place and Roosevelt Place from Jefferson to Maumee. Construction costs \$1,280,983.81. This is the second of 15 years of roadwork in the City of Grosse Pointe being funded by the millage.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

quate time to prepare to serve incoming students well. Students transferring from under-resourced or academically struggling environments may require additional instructional interventions, social-emotional supports and transition services. GPPSS’s strong academic outcomes are the result of intentional planning, staffing and structure. Success for all students is not automatic. To responsibly serve students from day one, districts not currently participating in schools of choice would need time to hire intervention specialists and support staff, expand counseling services, develop academic bridge or

transition programs and plan for class sizes and course placement. Without that preparation, we risk placing students into a system that appears strong but does not yet have the capacity to meet their specific needs — which is not fair to them or to current students. Due to these, and so many other concerns, I pray this legislation does not move forward. However, if this legislation moves forward, I respectfully urge you to ensure thoughtful implementation and sufficient preparation time (2027-28 at the very earliest). Expanding opportunity is important, but it must be done in a way that does not destabilize neighboring districts and that truly sets students up for success. Thank you for your time and consideration.

LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

When community voice is treated as an inconvenient obstacle rather than an asset, the board ceases to represent the

people it serves. The irony might be amusing if the stakes were not so high. This is not community theater. This is the leadership of a public school system. If the board will not

honor and respect process, transparency and public engagement, then the only honest refrain left is the one written decades ago. Send in the clowns. CHERYL DENMAN
Grosse Pointe Park



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Honored for 16 years of service

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — For her 16 years of dedicated volunteer service on the City of Grosse Pointe’s Beautification Commission, Susan Budrys was recognized with a proclamation before city council in early February.

“Susan is very kind and has a huge heart,” beautification commission chairman Jeff Swantek said. “Her leadership on the beautification commission was invaluable.”

Budrys’ service to the city included countless hours of planting, weeding, watering and transforming city flowerbeds in The Village and Neff Park. She also led Project Bloom — the “sponsor a flower garden” initiative — ensuring vibrant gardens during a time when city resources were limited.

She also annually traversed city streets to nominate homes for the

beautification awards, fostering a spirit of civic pride and excellence.

“Through your vision, commitment and hands-on work, you have helped keep Grosse Pointe beautiful for all to enjoy,” Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak read from the proclamation. “Therefore, I proudly acknowledge your outstanding service and express the city’s deepest appreciation for all you have done to enhance the charm and character of our community.”

Budrys served more than a decade as chair and co-chair of the beautification commission.

“It’s been a privilege and pleasure to serve on the commission for all of this time,” she said. “I’m very proud of what we did, especially Project Bloom, but it’s time for me to pass this on.”

— *Laurel Kraus*



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Past beautification commission chairwoman Susan Budrys, left, is honored with a proclamation by Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak.

FEST:

Continued from page 3A

registration site, signup genius.com.

Activities on Charlevoix also include trackless train rides and timber art live wood carving.

Scheduled on Kercheval are a rock-climbing wall, rubber fish tossing, ax throwing and more.

Bed races

Back for a third year are bed races. They’re 3 to 4 p.m. on Kercheval at Lakepointe.

“They did a great job with them last year,” said Jim Brosnan of Brosnan Builders.

He and his employees built the beds.

“We made a bed last year out of wood, put wheels on it and made a few test runs to make sure it was safe,” he said.

Teams must have four

or five members.

Prizes for finishing first through third are gift cards: first, \$60, The Bricks Pizzeria; \$40, LeRouge Boulangerie; and third, \$20, Buscemi’s.

Participants are encouraged to dress in silly costumes.

The race format was changed this year. Instead of contestants in separate beds going head-to-head, this year teams go individually and race against the clock.

Chili cook-off

Register by emailing an entry form, available on the city’s website, to craigc@grossepointe-park.org.

Starting at 1 p.m., drop off pre-heated chili in a Crock-Pot to Cabbage Patch Saloon, 15130 Mack. The entrant’s name should be taped to the bottom along with a description of the entry.

Tasting starts at 2 p.m.

Chili-tasting bowls are sold at the door for a flat fee of \$10. Winners are announced at 5:45 p.m.

“There’s always about 25 or so chilis and a good crowd,” Craig said.

Winners and gift card prizes are named in two categories: judges’ and people’s choice.

First through third place in both categories receive gift cards: first, \$75, Brine Oyster House; second, \$50, Atwater in the Park; third, \$25, Cabbage Patch Saloon.

Retail raffle

More than a dozen businesses are scheduled to participate in a retail raffle.

“Business host a QR code at their places of business for residents to come in, look around and scan a QR code for a chance to win something awesome,” Craig said.

Businesses participating in the raffle are:

- ◆ Duffey & Co., 15120

- Kercheval;
- ◆ The Sprout House, 15233 Kercheval (also food and beverage samples);
- ◆ Atwater in the Park, 1175 Lakepointe;
- ◆ Coreander’s Children’s Bookshoppe, 15118 Kercheval;
- ◆ Aesthetic Theory MedSpa, 15300 Kercheval;
- ◆ HoofN’ Wood, 15001 Kercheval;
- ◆ Ripe Records Detroit, 15005 Kercheval;
- ◆ The Beauty Parlor, 15126 Kercheval;
- ◆ Rustic Cabins, 15209 Kercheval (also food and beverage samples);
- ◆ Buscemi’s, 15213 Kercheval;
- ◆ Park Barbers, 15210 Charlevoix;
- ◆ Howlers and Growlers, 15222 Charlevoix (also food and beverage samples) and
- ◆ O’Flaherty’s, 15119 Charlevoix (also food and beverage samples).

HONOR:

Continued from page 5A

designation after completing an “extremely rigorous,” Gillooly said, three-year training program through the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association.

“Michelle is often the friendly face residents encounter when they pay water and tax bills, always ready to assist with a warm smile,” Gillooly said.

She additionally oversees the entirety of tax process services, from

bill preparation to final settlement of taxes, as well as manages all of the city’s workers’ compensation claims and liability insurance claims.

“There is absolutely no doubt that Ms. Hoch’s extensive experience, her professionalism and unwavering commitment make her an invaluable asset to the city of Grosse Pointe Farms,” Gillooly said. “Ms. Hoch, we appreciate you, thank you for your leadership in the city and we hope you’re here for many, many years to come.”

— *Laurel Kraus*

APPOINT:

Continued from page 1A

for board appointment and first brought up Bishop’s name.

The board majority chose not to discuss any option other than appointing Bishop. Other options included both internal and external searches.

“It’s disrespectful to candidates who are applying when we kind of have a favorite in mind,” Trustee Valarie St. John said. “... We either wouldn’t get the best candidates because they would know that or they would apply not knowing and then have that resentment after realizing that the fix was in.”

Although highly unusual, the pros of going the board appointment route — according to the Michigan Association of School Boards — are that it’s expedient, cost-effective by not engaging a search firm, negates the need for an interim superintendent and promotes a candidate with established relationships and an understanding of the district. Cons include possible negative community perceptions if communication is poor and the possibility of other staff feeling overlooked.

lead the district and it’s our deputy superintendent right now,” echoed Clint Derringer, board president. “I would have a hard time facilitating a local search, a statewide search and a national search, knowing that it doesn’t matter what candidate you bring, it cannot be better than Dr. Bishop.”

However, trustees Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup, who voted against both motions, emphasized the importance of going through the transparency of a search process.

“This decision isn’t about who we like or we don’t like,” Jeup said. “It’s about protecting the integrity of the process. ... A full search does not eliminate internal candidates, it simply requires them to compete. Why would we limit ourselves before even beginning the process here? Especially with so much time.”

Current Superintendent Andrea Tuttle will retire from the district Aug. 31.

Cotton further brought forward the lack of community input before a decision was made.

“I agree with what people have said. There are great internal candidates, but you need to have them go through a process,” Cotton said. “... It’s unfortunate that the community was deprived of their ability to exercise their rights as stakeholders in this community.”

Jeup attempted to add mention of an interview process for Bishop into the next meeting’s agenda, which ultimately was voted down.

The board majority leaned on the stance that an external search is only necessary when an organization doesn’t believe there’s a strong internal candidate.

“Choosing the internal appointment process is linked to a person who I think is the best person to

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2026

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

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present aside from Mayor Pro Term Sawicki and Councilmember Cheryl Costantino

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To excuse Mayor Pro tem Sawicki and Councilmember Cheryl A. Costantino from tonight’s meeting due to a prior commitment.
- 2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held February 2, 2026 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Library Board held on December 20, 2025.
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 134394 through 134476 in the amount of \$523,675.48 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 Doxim, Inc. in the amount of \$5,207.83 for the processing and mailing of the January water bills. (3) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$24,962.62 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of January 2026. (4) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$40,025.91 for professional services during the month of February 2026 for the following projects: DWRF Lead Water Service Replacement #180-331; Temp Water Operator #180-303; Mio-Tac Grant #180-385; Harper/Van Antwerp #180-313; CWSRF Sewer Rehab #180-382; CWSRF FCIPP Sewer Rehab #180-383; CWSRF SCIPP Sewer Rehab #180-384; 2025 Storm Sewer Rep. #180-362; Distribution System Materials #180-357. (5) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$10,757.50 for contractual plowing and salting in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks. (6) approve payment to Wolverine Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$9,230.00 for the delivery of crushed concrete/rock, removal of main break spoils, and deliveries of inventory replacement for main break repairs. (7) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$20,400.00 for the removal of trees to facilitate water main break repairs, the invoice also includes site clean up and debris removal. (8) approve payment in the amount of \$42,400.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with 8 water main breaks and a service line replacement. (9) approve payment in the amount of \$128,851.51 to Grosse Pointe Woods for the City’s pro-rata portion of the operating and maintenance of the Torrey Road Pump Station for the period July 1 through December 31, 2025. (10) approve payment to the City of Grosse Pointe Farms in the amount of \$7,927.73 for general expenses associated with the Inter-Municipal Public Safety radio system. (11) approve payment to Oakland County in the amount of \$6,107.00 for fees relative to the CLEMIS computer system utilized by the Police Department. (12) approve payment to The Helm in the amount of \$14,000 for Senior Services and \$6,000 to Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services, Inc. for a total amount of \$20,000.00 for the city’s proportionate share of expenses relative to the senior services for residents of Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes.
- 2) To approve the updated Poverty Guidelines and Policy for the City of Harper Woods.
- 3) To approve the agreement between the City of Harper Woods and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Patrol Officers, Dispatchers and Detectives Unit covering the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028, and further to authorize the Mayor and the City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 4) To approve the Revised Grant Agreement to modify the scope of the original agreement to allow for the design change of the Community Center Dome Project.
- 5) To accept the grant from Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance Center in the amount of \$30,675.00 for the Vernier Road Water Main Replacement, and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 6) To appoint Pat McGow of the Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone firm as counsel for the potential issuance of bonds to finance the Clean Water State Revolving fund (CWSRF) in an amount to be determined and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary documents.
- 7) To approve payment to US Bank Trust Company, N.A. in the amount of \$199,687.50 for the principal and interest on the SRF Sewer Bond and \$2,301.52 for the interest on the DWSRF Lead Water Bond for a total of \$201,989.02.
- 8) 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 January through March 2026.
- 9) To approve the updated “Inter-Local Agreement” for the joint operation of police and fire radio systems, and further to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement.
- 10) To approve payment to Insituform Technologies USA, LLC. in the amount of \$90,738.26 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by FCIPP Lining Project #180-379.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

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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.

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.

University Liggett School Players present ‘Oliver!’

The University Liggett School Players present the beloved musical “Oliver!” this March, bringing together a large and dynamic ensemble of lower, middle and upper school students in one of the school’s most ambitious productions.

Presented by the University Liggett School Department of Creative and Performing Arts, “Oliver!” takes place 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 5 to 7; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8.

Reigan Ahomed and Kylie McClain make up the dynamic duo of Oliver and Dodger. Seniors Sishir Chamiraju, Lucy Wujek, Phoebe Rinaldi and Cami McClain are Players Board Leaders and also round out the cast. Backstage duties of lighting and costumes are handled by Elizabeth

Gough and Lydia Pang, respectively, with newcomer Libby Boyle as stage manger/assistant director.

The production highlights the strength of the school’s performing arts program and its commitment to cross-divisional collaboration. With students spanning three divisions sharing the stage, “Oliver!” reflects ULS’s emphasis on mentorship, leadership and community. Younger performers gain experience working alongside seasoned upper school actors, while older students model artistry, discipline and teamwork.

“This production truly showcases the depth of talent and collaboration within our school community,” said Dr. Phillip Moss, creative and performing arts department chair. “In this production, lower school students are

on stage, the middle school theater production class is designing the set and upper school leaders are handling choreography and so much more. This is the best of what makes the Liggett Approach so special. Bringing together students of different ages to tell a powerful and enduring story reflects what makes the ULS experience so distinctive.”

The production is led by Moss, a longtime ULS educator who has directed and produced numerous acclaimed performances during his four-decade tenure at the school. As he prepares to retire at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year, “Oliver!” represents another milestone in his legacy of fostering creativity, confidence and excellence in student performers.

Based on Charles



Pictured back row from left are Sishir Chamiraju, Madeline Taylor-Schirmang, Eric Hood III, Ava Noecker, Maxwell Brown and Zaire Polk; seated is Teresa Romanelli; and front row from left, Reigan Ahomed and Kylie McClain.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ULS

Dickens’ classic novel, “Oliver Twist,” Lionel Bart’s award-winning musical tells the story of a young orphan navigating the streets of Victorian England. Featuring memorable songs such as “Consider Yourself,” “Food, Glorious Food” and “Where Is Love?” “Oliver!” has captivated audiences worldwide since its 1960 West End premiere and subsequent Broadway success, earning multiple Tony Awards and remaining a cornerstone of musical theater history.

Tickets are available online only. All seats are reserved at \$8. Tickets may be purchased at uls.seatyourself.biz.

For more information about University Liggett School and its creative and performing arts programs, visit uls.org.

GPPSS showing good strides for elementary school reading

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — A revised way to monitor, and assist with, reading comprehension at the elementary school level in the Grosse Pointe Public School System has yielded good results after the completion of the first semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

During an update at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Monday, Feb. 9, Sara Delgado, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, said the number of students reading at the 30th percentile level dropped 31 percent.

“In fall 2025, we had 299 students reading at that level,” she said. “By winter 2026, that was

down to 214.”

The district uses what Delgado called MTSS, or a multi-tiered system of support. It includes three tiers based on how much help students need given how they perform on benchmark tests.

Tier I is the highest and the instruction given to all students. That number increased from 1,824 students last fall to 1,871 at

the semester break.

“All kindergarten students start off being considered in Tier I because they are just learning to read,” Delgado said. “So to have a jump in that category is very impressive.”

The number of students in Tier II fell from 158 to 132.

“These are students who need some type of intervention or support, but it can be done within the classroom either in small groups or individually with the teacher,” Delgado said.

Tier III are students, as described above, read at or below the 30th percentile.

“They require additional support outside of the classroom with a reading specialist,” Delgado added. “The more we can limit their time away from the classroom, the better.”

A third benchmark test will be given in the spring.

Delgado said reading coaches visit each school and talk through every student’s needs with each teacher.

She noted the next step is to replicate the system at the elementary school level for both math and

behavior, then do something similar for reading at the middle and high school levels, although she noted it might be more difficult beyond elementary school because students don’t stay in one classroom all day at the secondary level.

While just a snapshot in time, the news stands in stark contrast to statewide numbers, which show Michigan ranks 44th in fourth grade reading proficiency according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, often referred to as, “the nation’s report card.”



COURTESY PHOTO

South choir program shines at districts

Several members of the Grosse Pointe South High School choir program received high marks at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association district competition, held the first weekend of the month at Westminster Church in Detroit.

Moving on to the state competition in April are: Concert Choir Women, South Singers Mixed Ensemble, Men’s Ensemble, Pointe Singers Women, Pointe Singers Octet, Carolyn Adams, Julia Boyd, Oscar DeLuca, Dante Estephan, Willia Hanoian, Veronica Jones, Anthony Kaminski, Elaina Keagle, Gabriella Kish-Salkovski, Blaise Mathis Knuth, Liam Lored, Zachary Markijohn, Zachary Neme, Penelope Robinson, Kathleen Scott, Nora Shalhoub, Sage Suson, Verity Suson and Dillon Teskey.

Skylar Boomhower and Penelope Robinson received a second division rating in the duet competition.



ULS Summer Programs

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Ryuu Sushi closes

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — About eight months since it replaced Shift Kitchen & Cocktails in The Village, Ryuu Sushi quietly closed its doors Sunday, Feb. 22.

What was meant to be a solution to the lack of community interest in Shift fell to a similar cost-prohibitive sword.

“This was our first run at sushi and, unfortunately, with the cost of goods and the cost of labor to do sushi, it just didn’t make sense for us to keep that going,” co-owner Stephen Simon said. “ ... Running a multi-concept location is difficult and sometimes one works, one doesn’t.”

Simon and co-owner Mark Adamo also own Sidecar Slider Bar next door, which was intended to be a dual concept and shared a kitchen with Shift and then Ryuu.

“The kitchen setup in Grosse Pointe is a lot different than normal restaurants,” Simon said of the location. “It was set up as a French restaurant, so it’s hard to cross-train labor, because they basically work on separate areas of the kitchen. We still had to have guys cooking sushi and guys cooking Sidecar, where the model for success is them being able to

do both, so it unfortunately worked out this way.

“I think it fit great for what the community needed, but Sidecar is our long-term goal.”

The owners are refocusing their energy on the sports bar, where Simon said business is going well. Planned service improvements include featured weekday specials and lunch combos, as well as implementing a kids’ menu.

“Yes, we are a ‘sports bar,’ but we’re a family sports bar where you can bring your kids in and still enjoy the luxury of having games on and having beer and wine and all that good stuff and we have the arcade,” Simon said. “The food is kid-friendly, obviously, with sliders and tenders, but we’re going to create a kids’ menu where it’s a little bit more cost-effective for the family.”

For those craving a taste of what Ryuu had to offer, another location remains in Plymouth.

The building landlord for the former Grosse Pointe Ryuu location at 17051 Kercheval reportedly intends to fill the space with a new concept that is not restaurant related.

— Laurel Kraus

Lola’s Taco Bar off and running

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Branden McRill and his ownership team at Lola’s Taco Bar figured they would be busy when they began welcoming customers six weeks ago, but not like it has been.

“We’ve been much, much busier than we anticipated,” he said. “We ran out of food the first night, that’s how busy we’ve been.”

McRill said for the first few days they had to close after lunch to have time to prepare more food for the dinner rush.

“We’re up to full staff and that’s not an issue now,” he said, “but we’ve had people coming in once, twice a week every week.”

The restaurant, at 20195 Mack, describes itself as “bridging the gap between fast, convenient dining and real, high-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBY BARTES

From left, Lola’s Taco Bar owners Niko Moschouris, Brandon Zarb, Mel Fuechtmann and Branden McRill.

quality food that’s both fresh and affordable.”

“Our vision is healthy and affordable,” McRill said. “That’s not always the case in the U.S. If something is cheap, it is not necessarily healthy, and if it’s healthy, it isn’t

always affordable.”

McRill, a Grosse Pointe native, originally moved to Chicago after high school to study photography, but fell into the hospitality business working at a 3-Star Michelin restaurant there. That led him to New York City, where he opened his first restaurant, Pearl & Ashe, in 2012. In 2015, he opened Rebelle, which earned a Michelin star within a year. He later went on to open four restaurants in Philadelphia before returning to the Pointes in 2023.

“My mom, my brother and my sister are here,” he said. “I’d been wanting to open a restaurant in Detroit for about 10 years. Then I thought, why not right where I live?”

The rest of the ownership team includes McRill’s wife, Mel Fuechtmann, who oversees hospitality, chef

Brandon Zarb and growth strategist Niko Moschouris.

McRill said they share a belief that great food should be fun, accessible and community-centered.

“We all love tacos,” McRill said. “Everyone does, so we figured why not do what we like.”

Lola’s also offers scratch-made margaritas and salsas, as well as vegan and vegetarian options.

In terms of being community-centered, Lola’s will offer its “Good Taco” initiative, with proceeds from a rotating taco selection supporting local schools, sports teams and nonprofits.

McRill said the ownership team eventually wants to look into opening other locations.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, closed Sunday. Visit lolastacobar.com for menu information.

Chilling out

Dave Mocer snapped this photo of his granddaughters, Layla and Fiona Domzalski, who helped their parents build an ice fort, using food coloring to tint several of the “bricks.” The fort, which took two weeks to create, stands in their Saddle Lane yard in Grosse Pointe Woods.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE MOCERI



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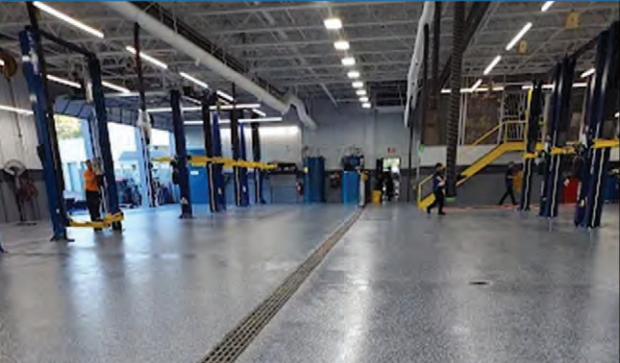


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FEATURES

2-3B OBITUARIES | 3B CHURCHES | 3-5B BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS | 6B AREA ACTIVITIES

Work done and more to come at Neighborhood Club

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Membership at the Neighborhood Club has been on the upswing since the pandemic. The community recreation center makes sure members get the most bang for their buck with cyclical upgrades and improvements.

“Every year we have a capital improvement plan,” said Stu Alderman, executive director of the Neighborhood Club since 2011. “Last year, we upgraded our Sports Enhancement Center with flooring, equipment and paint. We added a massage therapy room — our recovery room — before that.

“We’re trying to utilize all the square footage we have in the building,” he added. “We’re maximizing the space.”

The second-floor hallways were re-carpeted two years ago, while new carpet was installed in the

conference rooms and lower level last year.

The swimming pool recently received a new coat of marcite, while the pool area gained the addition of a 100-inch television, installed as a backup as the Neighborhood Club continues its search for an aqua aerobics instructor.

“We’re not alone in this,” he said. “Others around the state are saying aqua aerobics instructors are difficult to find. There’s a shortage through the entire state. The cities we’ve talked to are dropping the program, but we don’t want to do that. We’re still searching for an instructor.”

Through its capital budget, the organization also regularly replaces its fitness equipment.

“We’re on a three-year rotation of new fitness equipment,” Alderman said. “It’s key for us to always have our equipment in good working order.”

Among other new addi-

tions, the Neighborhood Club recently acquired ClickShare, allowing for wireless presentations and conferencing. The app lets users easily connect to the meeting room, as well as share any content on their devices with everyone in the meeting.

“It really helps with conference calling,” Alderman said. “We had it in our boardroom and now we’ve got it in our community room.”

On tap for 2026 is the replacement of the dehumidification unit for the pool, which accounts for a large chunk of the capital budget, Alderman said.

“It’s working now, but it’s near the end of its life cycle,” he added. “We’ll be doing that at the end of August.

“... We try to project out three to five years in the capital budget,” he continued. “There’s always work down the road. As the building ages, we’re looking way down the road as to what capital projects



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

Kristi Miller uses TRX bands in the Neighborhood Club’s Sports Enhancement Center, which was upgraded in August.

could be — such as a new roof, paving the parking lot, a new HVAC. We opened in 2013, but as things start to age, you can go between 15 to 20 years (for an HVAC system), but it depends on what kind of wear and tear.”

There is a line in the budget for emergency repairs; however, “We want to keep the building looking good, operating efficiently and making sure our equipment is in proper working condition,” he said.

“And we try to make sure it’s a benefit for our members,” he added. “We’re not just doing it to do it. We’re here for the public and our members.”

Speaking of membership, numbers look good for the Neighborhood Club. Prior to the pandemic, it served 1,959 households.

“COVID dropped us down to 1,349 households,” Alderman said. “We lost 600. Now, we have over 2,900 households. Times the number of people in those households, we have upwards of 6,000 members.”

He attributed the increase to his staff and the programming available.

“We’re not just a fitness center and pool,” he added. “Our capital projects are good for enhancing that, but we’ve also started other programs for families.”

Bizzy Bees, for example, meets Tuesday and Friday mornings in the gymnasium and regularly draws 40 to 50 participants.

Toddler Splash, which meets daily in the mornings, is for parents who are home with their preschool-aged children and looking for some time in the pool.

Several ongoing programs remain popular, too, including Parents Night Out, during which parents drop off their children for an evening of gym time and arts and crafts, as well as Family Fun Night, in which the whole family stays for a night of activities, pool

and gym time and snacks.

“We’re the only warm water indoor pool in the Grosse Pointes,” Alderman said. “Some of the schools have them, but those are geared for school activities; they’re a little cooler.

“... Programs for kids went through the roof last year with more kids than we’ve ever had,” he added, noting last week’s Winter Break Kids Club and the forthcoming Spring Break Kids Club. “Swim lessons are going well, too. Our youth athletic programs — we’ve got more teens than we’ve had in years.

“The staff is always looking for different trends and ideas that might be popular for the community,” he continued. “We started a lacrosse program a couple years ago. ... We have an introduction to pickleball class. We try to do whatever we can in this facility and we have a great relationship with the school district.

“It all goes back to enhancing the member experience. We’re lucky to have this type of facility in the community. It’s nice there’s a neighborhood near us so people can walk to us and The Village is right here, so people can find other things to do when they leave. Not many cities have the convenience we have. We’re lucky to have facility for the public.”



A new recovery room offers massages in a dimly lit, relaxed atmosphere.



A 100-inch television was added to the pool area to offer aqua aerobics classes.



Noah Hauswirth
Financial Advisor
15 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Phone: 313.343.6591
Email: noah.hauswirth@raymondjames.com
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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.

Derek John Stratelak

Derek “Rick” John Stratelak, 65, of Grosse Pointe, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, after a courageous 21-month battle with glioblastoma.

Born Dec. 15, 1960, to Ernest and Nadia Stratelak, Rick was raised in Grosse Pointe Woods alongside his older twin brothers. He graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1979, and later earned a degree from Michigan State University.

Rick went on to marry Eileen (nee Fleming) and together they built a beautiful life in Grosse Pointe, welcoming three daughters and two grandchildren.

Rick spent his professional career as an environmental scientist and landscape architect, guided by his deep respect for the land and love for the outdoors. That love shaped not only his work but his entire life, where nearly all his hobbies were rooted outdoors — golf, hunting and sport shooting, spending quiet hours by the water fishing, cycling and skiing long runs, camping, traveling and playing fetch with his cherished yellow Labradors.

Rick will be remembered by all who knew him for his love of the outdoors and exploring new places, skills with tools and fire, unwavering love for good food, scotch and wine and excellent teaching skills, both on the range and off. He leaves behind a legacy of wisdom, integrity and a life lived fully and authentically.

Rick is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Eileen Stratelak; three daughters, Jaclyn Birkholz (Brad), Nicole Stratelak and Jennifer Stratelak; and grandchildren, Hudson and Ava Birkholz. He also is survived by his older brothers, Gerard Stratelak (Patricia) and Taras Stratelak; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren and extended family members.

Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 7, until a 10:30 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. A celebration of life will immediately follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan, P.O. Box 214576, Auburn Hills, MI 48321, grrom.com/donate.

Robert William Graf

Robert William Graf, 91, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, after a long life filled with love and family.

Born Oct. 10, 1934, in Detroit, Robert was the beloved son of German immigrants Ernst and Maria “Mary” (nee Wolf) Graf, both now deceased. As a first-generation American, Robert carried forward his family’s legacy with pride and dedication.

Robert met the love of his life, Carol Ann Peters, on a blind date that led to a remarkable 71-year marriage. Together they raised three children, Wesley (Stephanie), Christine (Glenn) and Suzanne (Steve), first in Sterling Heights before moving to Grosse Pointe Woods. Over the years, Robert took great pride in his growing family. He cherished his grandchildren, Emily (De’Rhon), Erica (Tyler), Mitchell (Brooke), Jack, Kellan and Hadley.

A proud U.S. Army veteran, Robert served his country overseas before earning his journeyman card and beginning a long career in the tool-and-die industry. He was a hardworking, loyal employee of Distel Tool & Die, one of Detroit’s oldest and most recognized die makers until its closure in 1992. He continued his career and eventually retired from Active Tool & Die.

Robert’s technical mastery wasn’t limited to his career work. He found great joy in his basement workshop, where he poured his heart into countless projects. Whether building a two-story backyard playhouse, complete with a working doorbell, or an intricate dollhouse, Robert was a visionary who delighted his children and grandchildren with whimsical creations. His creativity and attention to detail left lasting memories and tangible tokens of his love in all who knew him.

Outside of his workshop, Robert loved photography, biking, swimming and taking his family on vacations, including annual camping trips to Pinery Provincial Park in Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada.

Robert was predeceased by his father, Ernst Julius Graf; mother, Maria “Mary” (nee Wolf) Graf;

brother, Ernest Herbert Graf; and brothers-in-law, William Henning Peters and Thomas Henry Peters. He will be remembered for his unwavering love, skillful hands and the strong legacy he leaves behind in his family and friends. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. “Für immer in unseren Herzen.”

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Residential Hospice Foundation, 5440 Corporate Drive, Ste. 300, Troy, MI 48098, residentialhospicefoundation.org/donate.

Audrey Leverenz

Audrey Leverenz, 94, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, surrounded by her family at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

Audrey was born July 21, 1931, in Markham, Ontario, Canada, to Velma and Robert Rawson, both now deceased. After graduating from nursing school, Audrey moved to the Detroit area, where she worked at Deaconess Hospital as an OB/GYN nurse. She and a group of fellow nurses attended a single’s dance at The War Memorial, where she met Jack Leverenz. It was love at first sight.

Jack and Audrey were married in Jan. 1956. They raised their four children, John, Sue, Sally and Amy, in Grosse Pointe Park. They spent many happy hours sailing on Lake St. Clair, as well as in the North Channel in Ontario, Punta Gorda, Fla., and the Grenadines in the Caribbean Sea. Jack was the instigator of many great adventures, but it was Audrey who pulled it all together. She loved people, parties and country music, and always showed up with her signature sparkle.

Following Jack’s death in 1999, Audrey continued to be active in the lives of her children and grandchildren. She attended many sporting events and concerts and loved hosting the family for Sunday suppers. She met and married Lee Gates in the fall of 2003. They continued to split their time between Florida and Grosse Pointe.

After Lee passed away, Audrey continued to live in Grosse Pointe and winter in Florida. In spring 2025, she moved



Derek John Stratelak



Robert William Graf



Audrey Leverenz

to American House Grosse Pointe and reunited with old friends. She was very happy there and thrilled when they gave her the title of Ambassador. She loved showing off her extended family during activities.

Audrey is survived by her sister, Roberta Broadbent; her four children, John Leverenz (Cathy), Sue Swegles, Sally Wittwer (David) and Amy Kish (Ken); 13 grandchildren, Lisa (Patrick), Johnny (Neena), Matt (Vanessa), Jimmy (Holly), Kimmy (Sean), Sally Kay (Jon), Julie (Hunter), Robby (Kyrian), David (Kristin), Danny, Richie (Kate), Katie (Austin) and Jack; and 16 great-grandchildren, with two more on the way. Audrey was preceded in death by her parents, Velma and Robert Rawson; first husband, Jack Leverenz; second husband, Lee Gates; and siblings, Muriel Dummer and Ronald Rawson.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, March 13, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Memorial donations may be made to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, onrealm.org/GrossePointeMem/-/form/give/GPMC; or a charity of the giver’s choice.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Nina Vandeginste

Nina Vandeginste, 77, passed away Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, from complications of a five-year struggle with Alzheimer’s disease.

Nina was born Sept. 1, 1948, to Walter and Alberta Kneisel. She attended Grosse Pointe High School, Michigan State University and the Detroit Institute of Music Education, where she obtained a piano teaching certificate.

She met Mike Vandeginste when they were both 5 years old as students at Defer Elementary School. They were married Aug. 2, 1969, and lived in Grosse Pointe Woods for 50 years. Nina taught piano privately for 30 years while raising three children and maintaining a home. She also directed the children’s choir at St. James Lutheran Church for several years.

Nina enjoyed exercise and sports, namely tennis, softball and volleyball, and was an avid walker. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother; family always came first among all other concerns.

Nina is survived by her husband, Mike; children, Emily Scharnott (Eric), Allison McClintick (Matt) and Michael P. (Kelly); her adored nine grandchil-



Nina Vandeginste



Janet Mary Toenjes

dren and one great-grandchild; brother, Thomas Kneisel; sister, Susan Schwartz; and several nieces and nephews. Her bright smile and sense of humor will be missed by all who knew her.

A private celebration of life will be held in the future.

Janet Mary Toenjes

Janet Mary Toenjes, 89, a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, in Farmington Hills.

Janet was born Jan. 31, 1937, to Mathew Smith Kubitsky and Helene Georgina Kubitsky of Grosse Pointe Farms. She leaves behind a loving family, including her husband, George; her three children, Paul, Claire and Peter; six grandchildren, Matthew, Jennifer, Victoria, Leah, Julianna and Lauren; and two great-grandchildren, Maia and Jonah. Known by many for her unwavering devotion to family, Janet leaves behind a legacy of friendship, care and generosity.

Janet grew up on McKinley Avenue in Grosse Pointe Farms. She was one of three siblings. She is survived by her sister, Anne, who lives in Sacramento, Calif., and her brother, Matthew, who lives in Elgin, N.C.

Janet attended St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School and later completed her high school years at St. Mary Academy in Monroe. She earned an undergraduate degree in education from the University of Detroit, followed by a master’s degree in early childhood education from Wayne State University. Janet began her teaching career at a preschool in Detroit associated with Bethany Christian School. She then taught in the Head Start Program in Detroit Public Schools, where her passion for early childhood development made a lasting impact.

Janet raised her family in Grosse Pointe Farms, where she lived for more than 60 years. After the passing of her first husband, Gerard Ferdinand Toenjes, at age 44, she showed remarkable strength and resilience as she continued raising their three children. During this time, she began a career at Charge Card Association, where she

excelled as an executive secretary. Her kindness, professionalism and dedication were well-known among colleagues and friends. A few years later, she met and married George Brandau, whom she met at Charge Card Association.

At her core, Janet was the pillar of her family. She passed down cherished traditions, especially through a love of baking she inherited from her mother, and was known for her chocolate chip cookies enjoyed by multiple generations. Whether tending her garden, feeding backyard birds or supporting her children and grandchildren at school events and local activities, Janet’s presence was a constant source of comfort and joy for all who knew her.

Janet enjoyed a life with George and was active in her community throughout her life. She volunteered with Crossroads of Michigan for many years and counseled numerous people in need. Her favorite activities included traveling, sailing, painting, dinner parties, book clubs and playing tennis. Janet and George enjoyed attending the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and concerts at The War Memorial. She also cherished picnics with family and friends at Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park. She touched and enriched many lives in her community.

A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, April 17, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. She will be inurned in the church following Mass. A luncheon will follow at a location to be announced at the end of Mass. Her friends and family are invited to gather in celebration of Janet’s nearly nine decades of life and the countless ways she touched the hearts of those around her.

Janet’s life was a testament to the enduring power of family, faith and love. Her influence lives on in her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and in every tradition she lovingly passed down. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew her.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

See OBITS, page 3B

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



OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

David James Neeme

David James Neeme, 77, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at Henry Ford St. John Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

David was born Dec. 23, 1948, in Cleveland, to Lois Horn and Edmond Thomas Neeme, both now deceased. David's paternal grandparent were first-generation immigrants to the United States from Lebanon.

David graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1968, and in true Detroit fashion, he took on opportunities in the automotive industry before moving on to a transportation logistics position in the growing arcade gaming industry.

David married his



David James Neeme

high school sweetheart, Susan Karen Ryan, on July 29, 1972, at Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church. They raised their children in Grosse Pointe Woods, where they remained lifelong residents. David always enjoyed engaging with others in the local community. He remained an active car enthusiast and avid at-home cook, participated in youth sports coaching and loved spending time boating and fishing on Lake St. Clair. David also was devoted to the

adoption group Retired Greyhounds as Pets, or REGAP, often attending advocacy events with his beloved dog, Rocky.

David remained devoted to his family throughout his life, cherished all family vacations and ensured they always had the best of everything. He also took on the role of caretaker for elderly relatives from time to time.

David is survived by his wife, Susan Ryan Neeme; and sons, Christopher Neeme of Los Angeles and Andrew Neeme of Austin, Texas, and Jonathan Neeme of Grosse Pointe Woods. He is lovingly remembered by his siblings, Edmond Neeme Jr. (Tom), Robert Neeme (Catherine) and Barbara Hedmark (James).

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Foundation, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023.

WEDDING



Mr. and Mrs. Markus Byron

Jackson—Byron

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark earned a Bachelor of Science degree in movement science from the University of Michigan, a Master of Nursing degree from the Frances Payne School of Nursing in Ohio and a Master of Science degree with a family nurse practitioner focus from Saginaw Valley State University. He is a nurse practitioner with Memorial Health in Owosso.

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

St. Clare of Montefalco to host centennial Parish Mission featuring Jon Leonetti

As part of its centennial celebration, St. Clare of Montefalco Parish will host a special Parish Mission titled "Surge of the Heart," from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, and Monday, March 9. The event is free and open to the public.

The mission will be led by nationally recognized Catholic speaker, bestselling author and radio host Jon Leonetti, who is known for his dynamic and relatable approach to sharing the Catholic faith. Organizers said the two-night event is designed to inspire attendees to deepen their relationship with God and live their faith more intentionally in everyday life.

Leonetti will present two distinct talks. The first evening, he will address the topic, "Who Is God and Why Does That Matter?" The second evening's presentation, "God's Dream for Your Life," will focus on discovering purpose and responding to God's call amid life's challenges.

Leonetti is the author of four books: "Mission of the Family," "Your God Is Too Boring," "The Art of Getting Over Yourself and Why You'll Be Happier When You Do" and "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Holiness." His work has been endorsed by prominent Catholic leaders, including Matthew Kelly, Chris Stefanick, Peter Kreeft, John Riccardi and Jennifer Fulwiler.

Each evening will begin with live music from 6:30 to 7 p.m., followed by Leonetti's presentation. Refreshments will be available afterward, providing an opportunity for fellowship and conversation.

Parish Mission coordinators said the mission is not only a highlight of the centennial celebration but also an invitation to the wider community to encounter Christ in a meaningful way during the Lenten season.

For more information, call the parish office at (313) 647-5060 or email secretary@stclarem.org.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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

◆ Digital Comics Making Workshop, 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 26 to March 19. Cost is \$150.

◆ Open Mic Night, 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27. Cost is \$6.50.

◆ Protecting Your Money: Big Purchases & Fraud Awareness, 6 to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, March 2 and 3. Cost is \$50.

Chamber

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce presents its next Building Your Business Bootcamp, "Make Your Small Business Look Reel Good," from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. Presented by Visual Cake, attendees will learn how video content, AI and the right tagline will help their business stand out. Cost is \$35 for chamber members, \$45 for nonmembers. Call (313) 881-4722.

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.

◆ Coffee and Pastries with Sen. Hertel, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27.

◆ Smartphone 101, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, March 4 to 25, with instructor James Giordani. Cost is \$10 per class.

◆ Drums Alive, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursdays, March 5 to 26, with instructor Rosa Hunter. Cost is \$10.

◆ The movie "No Pressure" is shown at noon Friday, March 6. Cost is \$4.

◆ Lunch and Learn: Hear Today, Think

Tomorrow, noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, with Grosse Pointe Audiology. Cost is \$10.

◆ St. Patrick's Day Bingo, 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, March 12, sponsored by Beline Obeid Realty and Grosse Pointe Moving and Storage. Cost is \$2 for one card, 25 cents for additional cards.

◆ Field Trip & Lunch: Hamtramck History Tour, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. Cost is \$118 per person.

◆ Electronic Device Tutoring, noon to 3 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month.

◆ Conversational French for Beginners, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, beginning Jan. 20.

◆ Conversational French for Intermediates, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays, beginning Jan. 20.

◆ Young Onset Parkinson's Support Group, 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. the second Monday of each month, with facilitator Angela Ferrara.

◆ Low Vision Support Group, 10 to 11:30 a.m. the third Monday of each month.

◆ Blood Pressure Screening, 9:30 to 10:15

See EVENTS, page 6B

Memorial's 'Living Color' concert March 1

The Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Sanctuary Choir and organist Dr. Logan Hamilton present, "Living Color," at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 1.

The afternoon event includes choral and organ music composed by black American composers and the traditions of the African-American spiritual.

As a concluding observance of Black History Month, the concert will feature Adolphus Hailstrok's "I Will Lift Up



Michael Fowler

Mine Eyes," with tenor soloist Michael Fowler, as well as Florence Price's "Communion Service in F," along with other works that celebrate black composers. A light reception will

be held afterward. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is located at 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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...And baby
makes three
for the Hydes

Personal touches add love to local shower

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

Family and friends gathered at the Country Club of Detroit for a joyful brunch in honor of Jenny and Andrew Hyde as they prepared to welcome their first child. Hosted by Jenny's mother and sister, the shower was a beautiful blend of classic elegance, personal touches and heartfelt excitement for the parents-to-be.

Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet-style brunch, with the club's signature dishes making the morning feel both celebratory and relaxed. Since Jenny and Andrew are waiting to learn the baby's gender, the shower included a playful prediction activity where guests guessed everything from the due date to boy or girl, plus shared their best pieces of parenting advice.

Another favorite moment was the “Guess How Many Teddy Grahams Are in the Jar” game, which sparked plenty of friendly competition. Two lucky winners took home Moroccan Oil hair-care sets.

The sweet details continued with a beautifully decorated cake from Holiday Market and handmade cookies crafted by Jenny's aunt and cousin as party favors, a sentimental touch that made the day feel even more special.

Surrounded by love, laughter and anticipation, Jenny and Andrew celebrated the beginning of a new chapter, soon to become a family of three. Their journey to parenthood is already off to a beautifully memorable start.



A luscious decorated cake, above, was created by Holiday Market in elegant, delicate florals.

Below, a game card for predictions about the upcoming arrival. New baby advice also was welcome!

BABY HYDE PREDICTIONS

GENDER _____

NAME _____

TIME OF BIRTH _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

WEIGHT _____

LENGTH _____

EYE COLOR _____

HAIR COLOR _____

BABY WILL LOOK LIKE:

MOM  DAD 

I HOPE BABY GETS MOM'S: _____

I HOPE BABY GETS DAD'S: _____

I IMAGINE BABY BEING ... _____

ADVICE FOR THE NEW PARENTS

with love from _____



The cake and game table, above, is set and ready for guests to arrive and start the festivities.



Flower arrangements, candles and party favors bedecked the classic linen-clad tables, above, for an elegant gender-unknown presentation.



The gift table, above, overflows with cuteness in the form of plush stuffed animals, gift bags and baskets and the always-welcome boxes of diapers.



Guests got to guess the number of teddy bear graham crackers that were in the jar, above, for a chance to win deluxe Moroccan oil hair treatments.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jenny Hyde, center, flanked by cousin, Christine Naber, left, and sister, Kelly Ansell, right.



UPDATE: The guest of honor made his arrival Feb. 3, 2026. Baby Henry, left, weighed in at 8 lbs and was 21 inches at birth. The little bundle of joy was the perfect gift to top off an amazing baby shower!



JLD, Lions legend Robert Porcher visit Brilliant Detroit’s Morningside Hub

The Junior League of Detroit, joined by Detroit Lions legend and 313 Reserve honorary chairman Robert Porcher, visited the Brilliant Detroit Morningside Hub on Balfour Street to highlight the organization’s continued investment in Detroit families and neighborhood-based programming.

The visit provided Porcher the opportunity to see firsthand how JLD volunteers support the home through literacy support, technology access and community programming designed to strengthen children and families.

At the Morningside Hub, the JLD provides:

- ◆ free tutoring and literacy support,
- ◆ meals and enrichment activities for children,
- ◆ computer and technology assistance in the tech center and
- ◆ holiday celebrations and family engagement programming.

During the visit, the group also heard from parent Karlita Johnson, who shared how the program has made a

meaningful difference for her child.

“I want to thank the Junior League of Detroit for helping my child learn to read,” Johnson said, underscoring the direct impact of the JLD’s work in the neighborhood.

Sandra Davis, JLD president, noted that the visit reflects the organization’s broader mission.

“Our partnership with Brilliant Detroit is rooted in our commitment to advancing opportunity for children and families across the city,” she said. “Seeing these programs in action reminds us why this work matters so deeply.”

Porcher, whose role as honorary chairman for the JLD’s upcoming 313 Reserve fundraising event supports these community initiatives, emphasized the importance of sustained local investment.

“When you see programs like this up close, you understand how powerful community support can be,” he said. “The Junior League is doing meaningful work that changes lives.”



From left, Community Engagement Manager Christina Stevens, Brilliant Detroit Executive Director Tarsha Gale, Junior League of Detroit President Sandra Davis, Detroit Lions legend and 313 Reserve honorary chair Robert Porcher, McDougall-Hunt Hub member Nicole Carter, 313 Reserve co-chair and JLD sustainer Shelia Minetola and Community Engagement Manager Makalah McDougal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JLD

The Helm March for Meals for Meals on Wheels begins

The Helm’s eighth annual March for Meals for Meals on Wheels begins Sunday, March 1. The virtual event, which raises money for the Meals on Wheels program at The Helm, runs through Tuesday, March 31.

“In 2025, The Helm delivered 33,000 nutritious meals to home-bound Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe residents unable to safely prepare meals for themselves. That’s 10,000 more than we delivered just five years ago,” The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said. “As our population continues to age, the need for Meals on Wheels keeps growing. And, we all recognize how food costs have increased so much in just the last year. There is more need in the community, more demand for the service and increased costs, which make this event important to the overall budget. This March for Meals fundraising helps to ensure we can provide meals to all those in our community who need it.”

There are options to support this event: Gather sponsors to donate based on your exercise; commit to an exercise routine and make a designated donation; or simply make a donation to The

Helm March for Meals program.

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church continues as lead partner on March for Meals and is instrumental in spreading the word and providing financial support of this event.

“We’re so thankful for this partnership and the generosity of the congregation,” Siddall said. “While March for Meals is a great way to draw attention to Meals on Wheels, donations for Meals on Wheels can be made anytime throughout the year. If you donate through our website or send a check, just specify the donation is for Meals on Wheels. We are so grateful for all donations supporting this essential program.”

Visit helmlife.org for more information.

For motivation, the site lists several three-mile walking/biking routes around the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communities. Participants may complete their exercises anytime between March 1 and 31.

All monies must be submitted to The Helm by Wednesday, April 1, to count toward this event. Donations may be made through the website or sent to The Helm, 158 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

a.m. the third Thursday of each month with Mary Jo Fresard of Sunrise Senior Living.

- ◆ Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group, 5 to 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month, with Carolyn Van Dorn of Nursing Unlimited.
- ◆ Living On, , hosted by Hospice of Michigan, 10 to 11 a.m. the first and third Fridays of the month.
- ◆ Share for Dementia, by appointment only, with care consultants LaTonya Connally and Deb Sloss.

POST Detroit

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

- ◆ Hand Lettering Workshop, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27. Cost is \$55.
- ◆ Weaving Workshop: Intermediate Techniques on Tapestry Looms, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 28 and March 7. Cost is \$125.
- ◆ Screen Print Workshop: Tea Towels with Scarlet Crane, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Mending Workshop: Loom Darning, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. Cost is \$75.

Library

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

- ◆ Teen Laser Tag Takeover, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 28, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, March 3, at Ewald, 15175 E.

Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Teen Anime & Manga Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 5, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ The Camp System: Holocausts Final Solution, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 5, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Yoga Storytime with Miss Mo, 10 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Storytime: “I Want My Hat Back,” 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in March.
- ◆ Maker Studio: Floral Workshop, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 14. Cost is \$35 for Friends, \$40 for the public.
- ◆ The Power of Memoir: How to Write Your Life Story, 10 a.m. Sunday, March 21. Cost is \$75 for Friends, \$85 for the public.
- ◆ Ballroom Dance: American Smooth Tango, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 25 to April 15. Cost is \$45 per person for Friends, \$50 per person for the public.
- ◆ Lecture: Treasures from the Trousseau: Eleanor’s Lucile Dresses, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 26. Tickets are \$12 for Friends, \$15 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe

Farms.

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 19, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Club member Dr. James Brown, a longtime dermatologist, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

GPAA

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

- ◆ Exploring Watercolor with Saveria Giovinnazzo, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays, March 6 to 27.
- ◆ Palette Knife Painting in Oils with Linda Boyle, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11 to 25.
- ◆ Silk Transfer Class with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21.

Garden Center

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center hosts its fifth annual Legacy Seminar, featuring presentations by Doug Tallamy, founder of Homegrown National Park. The seminar takes place 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cost is \$100 for Garden Center members, \$115 for nonmembers and \$50 for college students. Register by Thursday, Feb. 26, at gpgardencenter.org.

The Family Center

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

- ◆ American Red Cross CPR/AED Training, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3.
- ◆ Grief Support Group, noon to 1 p.m. March 10 and April 14, at the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper; and Feb. 24, March 31 and April 28, at the Ewald Library, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Narcan Opioid Rescue Training, 8 to 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Roy O’Brien Ford, 22201 E. 9 Mile, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ Community Book Discussion, “1-2-3 Magic,” 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Paxton/Spangler Band

The Paxton/Spangler Band will perform 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at Marge’s Bar, 15300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. The band plays a mix of jazz, swing, soul and “crooner stuff.” Visit margesbar.com for more information.

Sunrise on Vernier

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

Adaptive yoga

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

Toastmasters

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

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Left, the collective group of Rotarians. Above, from left, Doug Horst, Pat Moran and Mark Heppner.

Coming together Rotary hosts historic gathering

For the first time ever, members of the Rotary Club of Detroit, Detroit AM Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club gathered in fellowship and friendship at The Whiskey Six in the City of Grosse Pointe.

The gathering was the idea of the four clubs’ current presidents — Steve

Durant, Carolann Morykwas and Joanne Lamar, Jackie Dale and Mark Heppner — in hopes of developing more meaningful partnerships and fostering better understanding and support.

More than 60 Rotarians came together to celebrate the ideals of Rotary International and uplift their communities.



From left, Beline Obeid, Heather Smith-Mayernik, Valerie Moran and Beverly Curtiss-Walsh.



From left, Frank Palazzolo, Jackie Dale and Liz Vogel.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Barry Hull

Managing our ITs

One of the great unwritten “man rules” claims, “If I ignore IT, IT will go away.” It’s supported by the classics: “Big boys don’t cry.” “Don’t let ’em see you sweat.” “Offer it up.” “Stuff it down and get back to work.” And my personal favorite, courtesy of my mother: “Ahh, just drink your blood.”

But what exactly is an IT?

An IT is that twinge in your chest or that flutter in your gut. It’s the small tear that forms before you can blink it away. It’s the clenched jaw, the tight shoulders, the pounding headache. It’s the sudden sadness or emptiness that shows up at the exact moment you should be feeling joy. ITs are the internal alarms — physical, emotional or both — that tell us something important is happening beneath the surface. And yet, we push them aside because they might slow us down or distract us from “The Important Things.”

So what are these “Important Things”?

Our image. Our ego.

Our wins and promotions. The bonus at the end of the year. Staying the lead dog. Even the well-intended goal of “showing up” for our spouse and kids. We pour our energy into these pursuits, believing they matter most.

But here’s the truth: Focusing on the so-called Important Things while ignoring our ITs robs us of the ability to care for the REALLY Important Things.

And those REALLY Important Things are simple:

- ◆ Our health: seeing a doctor, understanding our baseline, taking preventative care seriously.
- ◆ Our relationships: marriage, friendships, children and grandchildren.
- ◆ Our inner world: naming the thoughts and feelings our ITs are signaling, understanding where they come from and choosing how to respond.
- ◆ Our sources of flow: the activities that ground us, energize us and reconnect us to who we are.

Listening to our ITs

doesn’t make us weak. It makes us wise. It makes us present. And, ultimately, it makes us more resilient, fulfilled and human.

Barry Hull is a Grosse Pointe-based psychotherapist who works with adults who are experiencing significant life change and are motivated to do something about it. He helps individuals, couples and business partners build a bridge from a clear understanding of where they are to a personally defined preferred way of living and/or performing.

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



Trey Greene, left, and Mike Carter.

PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
MARK HEPPNER

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Time to text considerably

Dear Gabby: My friends expect instant replies to our group texts. If I don't respond right away, they assume something is wrong — or that I'm upset. Sometimes I miss out on spur-of-the-moment social meet-ups too. Am I being unreasonable for wanting more space and expecting time to make plans?

— Not on Call in the Farms

that delayed replies are about your schedule, not your feelings. Regarding missed meet-ups, you can't expect your friends to forego impromptu plans just because you missed the boat. If the FOMO is that bad, you'll unfortunately have to check your phone more often.

— Gabby

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

Dear Not On Call: You are allowed to live offline. Let your friends know

Seeking rest and relaxation at last

DEAR ANNIE: My husband and I are at a full-blown spring break standoff and the kids are watching it like it's a sport. He wants to take our two kids skiing. He's already talking about "fresh powder," early lift tickets and how this is the perfect chance to make "core memories." He grew up skiing and it's his happy place. I can see how excited he is and I'm not trying to be the villain who cancels joy. But I want to go somewhere warm. Not "a light jacket" warm, but genu-

inely warm. Sun. Sand. The kind of weather where you can sit outside with coffee and feel your shoulders drop for the first time in months. I'm burnt out. Work has been relentless, the house has been non-stop and I'm craving the simplest thing in the world: not being cold. Here's the truth I'm embarrassed to say out loud: Skiing isn't relaxing for me. It's expensive, exhausting and somehow I end up being the pack mule while everyone else has fun. I'm the one managing gloves, goggles, snacks, hot chocolate,

sunscreen (yes, in snow), lost mittens and tired meltdowns while my husband gets the "best run of the day." By the time we're back at the hotel, I feel like I need a vacation from the vacation. He thinks a warm trip is "boring" and a waste when we could be doing something active. I think a ski trip is work with a prettier background. How do we decide without one of us feeling resentful? And how do we do it before the kids start placing bets?

— Sun Seeker in a Snow Lover's House

DEAR SUN SEEKER: You're not fighting about snow versus sun. You're fighting about who gets to actually rest on vacation. Your husband hears "ski trip" and thinks tradition and fun. You hear "ski trip" and think expensive chaos, cold toes and you running mission control while everyone else gets the "best run of the day." No wonder the beach sounds like heaven. It's not the warmth you're craving, it's the *break*. So say plainly that you're willing to ski, but not if it means you're the



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

default manager of gear, meals and meltdowns. If he wants to hit the slopes, he needs to carry the planning and the kid-wrangling like he carries his skis. And if you go somewhere warm, it doesn't have to be "boring." It can be restful, with plenty of active options for him that don't require you to organize a small army. If you're both smart, you'll alternate years or

pick a place that offers a little of both. If you're both stubborn, you'll keep arguing until the only thing you book is resentment.

DEAR ANNIE: I am a 69-year-old man who is still totally and madly in love with my wife of 49 years. I know many people would say I'm foolish for feeling this way after

See ANNIE, page 4C

Restaurant Week, part 2

Hopefully everybody read part one of what Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week is shaping up to be. So many great specials were announced, I could not imagine what part two would look like. Well, here we are! Let's kick it off with an amazing new event sponsor — and new Grosse Pointe Chamber member — Z's Pub, 22512 Greater Mack. I cannot speak more highly of this location, its ownership and menu. If you're familiar with Z's, then you agree. If you are not, I guarantee that will change immediately. Especially after its Restaurant Week special, Fairway to Heaven. You'll enjoy three of Z's classic Fairway beef sliders, served with fries for \$7.95. No need to rub your eyes or hold this article farther away to focus better — you read that correctly. And I would pay that price for just their fries alone! Let's not forget, kids love sliders, too, and this is one of the best neighborhood bar/restaurants in our area that's also family friendly.



COURTESY PHOTOS. Z's Pub Sliders & Fries.

Just up the road and new to the event this year is the wonderfully delicious Full Rack Barbecue. This place has my coworkers wrapped

around their finger. I was so excited when meat-smoking master (that's what I call him) Hayden informed me of what they would be offering. For \$13, how about a smoked reuben sandwich on marble rye. That's one-third of a pound of smoked corned beef brisket with Swiss cheese, your choice of sauerkraut or coleslaw, topped with house-made Thousand Island dressing. I'm drooling and I haven't even had one yet. He even mentioned they may keep it as a special the entire month of March, which pretty much guarantees how good this is going to be. Returning to the event this year is Grosse Pointe's legendary Irish Coffee. They threw a curveball as to what they're choosing this year as their specials and I'm here for it. "This year we are going to feature our Philly cheesesteak items," owner Mike Kennedy said. "The ones that know about our Philly will say it's their favorite, but the ones that don't know about it are surprised how good it is when they try it." He said for \$14.95, you have the choice of the Philly cheesesteak with fries, chicken Philly with fries or French dip with fries. And,



Irish Coffee Philly Cheesesteak.

by popular demand, Mike and his crew heard the requests for dessert, so they're throwing in a \$5 ice cream sundae too. This neighborhood favorite is sure to be an extra favorite come Restaurant Week. Over in The Village, another neighborhood gem, SideStreet Diner, is offering two of its most popular menus of the year. As Restaurant Week falls during Lent, its entire Lenten menu is on full display and includes delicious vegetarian dishes like stir fries, portobello mushroom wraps and vegetarian chili cheese fries, as well as multiple seafood dishes, from salmon and shrimp to cod and tuna. There are so many great options — even mac and cheese and breakfast, too. And since it's March, they're sharing their entire Celtic Celebration menu featuring comforting Irish dishes like shepherd's pie, Irish stew and corned beef with cabbage just to name a few. I've never had a bad meal from the ladies at SideStreet Diner and these two menus both sound amazing. Switching gears, for a finer dining experience, Bucci on Mack is on the list this year. I'm sure whatever they're preparing for the week will be divine. Also on

Mack, keeping it classic is Da Edoardo and its sister location, Cafe Nini on The Hill. Both offer dinner for two with a bottle of wine included. A few doors down, Flyleaf on The Hill is offering two of their favorites — a martini and fries — combined together for \$16. You get your choice of a vodka martini, gin martini or Flyleaf espresso martini with a cup of fries and a dipping sauce of choice: truffle aioli, lemon dill aioli or spicy ketchup. This has "girl dinner" written all over it. Down in the Park is our favorite healthy go-to. The ladies at Sprout House are debuting two delicious options for the week. Ann is rolling up her authentic Italian vegetarian meatballs, served with homemade marinara, as well as a vegan sweet potato kale curry served with coconut rice. When I spoke with Lisa, she said when they run non-menu specials like these, they often become new menu items, simply because of community reviews and feedback. They'll be paying attention! Their neighbors across the street, returning sponsor Atwater Brewery, is always up to something good for Restaurant Week! Just up the road on Mack is another flavorful location making its return to Restaurant Week: Alma Kitchen. Everything on the menu is spectacular, from brunch to dinner. This year they're offering an amazing entree — pretzel-crusted walleye with whole-grain mustard butter sauce, plus a Michigan salad with blue cheese, candied walnuts, dried cherries and raspberry balsamic vinaigrette — for \$27. Like I said, spectacular!



Flyleaf Martini & Fries.



Old Pony options.



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Fresh Farms Market on Fisher is joining the fun this year as a sponsor and participant, offering Fresh Faroe Island Salmon for \$14.99 per pound. This premium sushi-grade salmon, known for its rich buttery taste, comes in cold and fresh, six days a week, ready for you to take home and prepare how you please. Down in the Park is our favorite healthy go-to. The ladies at Sprout House are debuting two delicious options for the week. Ann is rolling up her authentic Italian vegetarian meatballs, served with homemade marinara, as well as a vegan sweet potato kale curry served with coconut rice. When I spoke with Lisa, she said when they run non-menu specials like these, they often become new menu items, simply because of community reviews and feedback. They'll be paying attention! Their neighbors across the street, returning sponsor Atwater Brewery, is always up to something good for Restaurant Week! Just up the road on Mack is another flavorful location making its return to Restaurant Week: Alma Kitchen. Everything on the menu is spectacular, from brunch to dinner. This year they're offering an amazing entree — pretzel-crusted walleye with whole-grain mustard butter sauce, plus a Michigan salad with blue cheese, candied walnuts, dried cherries and raspberry balsamic vinaigrette — for \$27. Like I said, spectacular!

Last but not least, there's a new kid on the block: Antidote Detroit, right down the street on Jefferson, making a grand entrance to Restaurant Week with a \$39 prix fixe three-course meal. The Opening Ritual: butter board or kale salad. The Main Moment: choice of mushroom fideo, roasted chicken or an Antidote burger. The Sweet Resolution: Basque cheesecake. How can you pass this up? There are so many delicious places to choose from this year, I can't wait to indulge and enjoy. This event would not be possible without generous sponsors, so a shout-out goes to the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce for all the hard work and dedication you put into this amazing week. And a special thank-you to our non-restaurant sponsors: SMART Bus, Pierce & Co. Insurance, Maple & Mill Design Build Studio and Pernicano Law. You're all much appreciated! * Fun Fact: Don't forget about the Restaurant Week interactive map. Scan the QR code here or find it on the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.



Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

We Tried It!

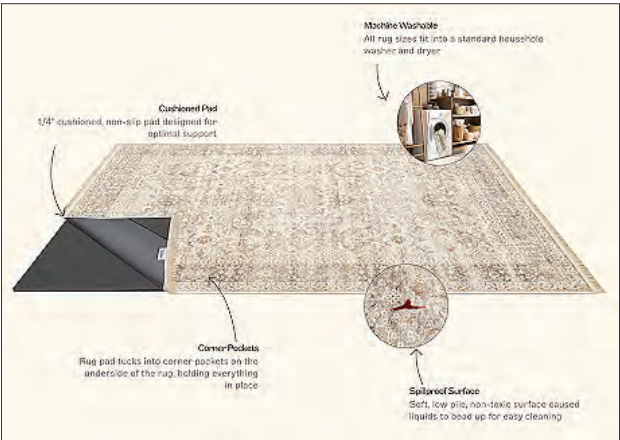
by Anna Lizer



When I started shopping for a living room rug, my list of must-haves was pretty simple. I wanted something that looked elevated, wasn't crazy expensive and could survive real life.

At the time, being machine washable was not even on my radar. I was focused on finding the right design and color palette. After searching high and low, I ended up on a website called Tumble Rugs and started browsing the sale section.

I ended up choosing the Tara rug, which has deli-



cate botanical and damask motifs in a calm blue palette with ivory and soft gray accents. It looks classic and

sophisticated, but still works in a busy family space.

Then it arrived and I immediately got the hype. Tumble rugs are a two-part system. You get the rug cover, plus a cushioned rug pad underneath. The rug pad is made of interlocking pieces that fit together like a puzzle and it is way more comfortable than a basic thin rug pad. It also has a nonslip design that holds everything in place and the rug cover fits neatly on top so it stays flat. The pad alone made the rug feel more expensive and cozy underfoot.

The rug itself is soft but not bulky, which is the

whole point. It is thin enough that you can actually pull it up, toss it in a standard washing machine and wash it on a cold cycle with regular detergent. You dry it on low heat and it is ready to go back down. In between full washes, it also has been easy to spot treat.

With kids, dogs and constant mess potential, it is nice knowing my living room rug is not a fragile investment. It feels durable, looks great and makes the space feel finished without stressing me out.

Also, price wise, I think it

is very reasonable for what you get. Most 8x10 rugs with pads run well under \$500. Find them at tumbleliving.com. Tumble Rugs gets 5 out of 5 alligators from me.

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

5 Out Of 5



Sweet, briny and back in time

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

It's amazing how certain tastes can unlock memories you didn't even realize were still there. That happened to me when I tried Chicken Marbella for what I thought was the first time. I was at a friend's house in Boston, took a bite and immediately thought, "How do you know my mom's chicken recipe?"

Suddenly I was picturing my aunt's wedding reception. I was in our childhood living room packed with guests, the noise, the warmth, the feeling of celebration. It all came rushing back. When my friend told me the name of the dish, my mom and I were able to piece it together. She told me she proudly was able to serve 65 people from her small kitchen, probably quadrupling the recipe.

And there I was, 30 years later, tasting it again without even realizing I'd known it all along.

I'm not quite sure why I chose to write about this dish this week. Maybe because it's classic. Maybe because it's iconic. It was first introduced in "The Silver Palate Cookbook" by Sheila Lutkins and Julee Rosso and was very influential in the early '80s. This book pushed the idea of

using fresh and globally inspired ingredients at a time when home kitchens were much more traditional. Chicken Marbella is a perfect example as it uses Spanish olives, capers and pitted prunes nestled together with vinegar, wine, garlic and lots of dried oregano. Its Mediterranean flavors are sweet, briny and savory. It was bold, at the time, but so practical and delicious.

The recipes in the cookbook were designed to be served buffet style for a crowd and they are all done ahead. This recipe marinates overnight to deepen the flavors and then is poured directly into a baking dish, marinade and all, before going into the oven.

In the end, maybe that's why I'm writing about this dish. It's really just chicken with olives and prunes. But it's also a reminder of how food can carry us through decades and cities, back to joyous occasions we haven't thought about in years.

Chicken Marbella was designed to feed a crowd, be made ahead and shared. And best of all, it tastes fantastic. Put this recipe in your back pocket for the next family gathering or celebration.

Cheers, Mombeau

Chicken Marbella (Serves 8)

- 12 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- 1 ½ cup pitted prunes or dates
- 1 cup pitted Spanish green olives
- ½ cup capers, plus 1 TBSP of the juice
- 6 bay leaves
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ cup dried oregano
- 2 tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 1 cup dry white wine
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- ¼ cup chopped parsley

In a large bowl, add all ingredients except the wine, brown sugar and chopped parsley. Combine the ingredients well and cover with plastic wrap. Set in the fridge to marinate overnight.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Lay the chicken in a single layer, skin side up, as well as all of the marinade, in a large baking dish (If it's too crowded, divide it into two dishes). Pour the wine over the top, then sprinkle with the brown sugar. Place in the oven, uncovered and cook for

45-50 minutes. The chicken skin should be browned and caramelized from the brown sugar. Make sure to remove the bay leaves before serving. Serve with rice or mashed potatoes and a big green salad. Make sure to spoon the juices all over as a sauce.

Enjoy!

Let's get cookin'!

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Grosse Pointe News

Gorgeous wines of Alsace

One of France's finest wine-growing regions, and one of its least understood, is the northern district of Alsace, a hilly region bordering Germany with a populace that's as comfortable speaking German as it is French.

Moreover, the grape varieties of Alsace (almost all of them white) are also found in Germany, with riesling, gewurztraminer and pinot gris at the top of the list, and pinot blanc, muscat and sylvaner right behind.

Germany occupied Alsace for nearly 90 years over several decades and wars, but the two wine cultures have different wine styles. Germany generally prefers to balance its naturally high acids with residual sugar, halting fermentations before all the sugars have been converted. Alsace prefers more of the dry approach. But both areas also make stylish off-dry wines.

Alsace has traditionally treated these wines

as accompaniments to one of France's most interesting regional cuisines. To that end, it has historically kept its wines drier.

As wine author Hugh Johnson wrote decades ago in his "The World Atlas of Wine," "Instead of grape sugar lingering delicately in the wine, the grower likes a dry, firm, clean flavor, fermenting every ounce of the sugar which the long dry summers of Alsace give."

This produced wine with heft, rich on the palate with 13 percent or even 13.5 percent alcohol. It was generally tart enough to cut through all the richness of pressed duck, foie gras and the like.

Alsace wine always was seen as a learned experience because of its high acidity, but with food the wines were brilliant.

It has long been the one fine-wine region of France allowed to use the name of the grape variety on the label. Other French fine wine regions use the names of their communes or other

geographic identifiers as the wines' names.

In terms of style, the dry approach in Alsace began to erode in the 1980s. A few producers started getting high scores from some wine publications for wines that were sweeter. That prompted other Alsace wineries to make some wines with sugar. Between the mid-1990s and about 2005, many Alsace wines were softer than they had been.

Recent vintages have reverted to the more classically dry. As the pendulum swings back toward dryness, the wines more resemble what they were in the 1970s.

Alsace also produces some gorgeous dessert-style wines — when Mother Nature cooperates. Some of Alsace's best sweeter wines are called vendange tardive, made from late-harvested grapes. They can be gloriously decadent and pricey.

Most dry Alsace whites are priced about \$15 to \$20 per bottle and carry the name of the

grape variety.

At least two dozen producers of wine in Alsace export their products to the United States. Of all the grapes they grow, the classic Alsace white wine is gewurztraminer, a wildly aromatic wine that often has a trace of residual sugar to offset the possibility of astringency.

The house of Trimbach continues to make classically styled dry Alsace whites. Its dry gewurztraminer is tart and crisp. I



prefer Trimbach's bone-dry riesling (about \$25).

attractive, medium-weight Alsace white.

Wine of the Week:

2019 Gustave Lorentz Pinot Blanc, Alsace (\$16) — Elderflowers, peaches and a hint of dried pineapple in the aroma, and a slight sweetness in the midpalate mark this

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

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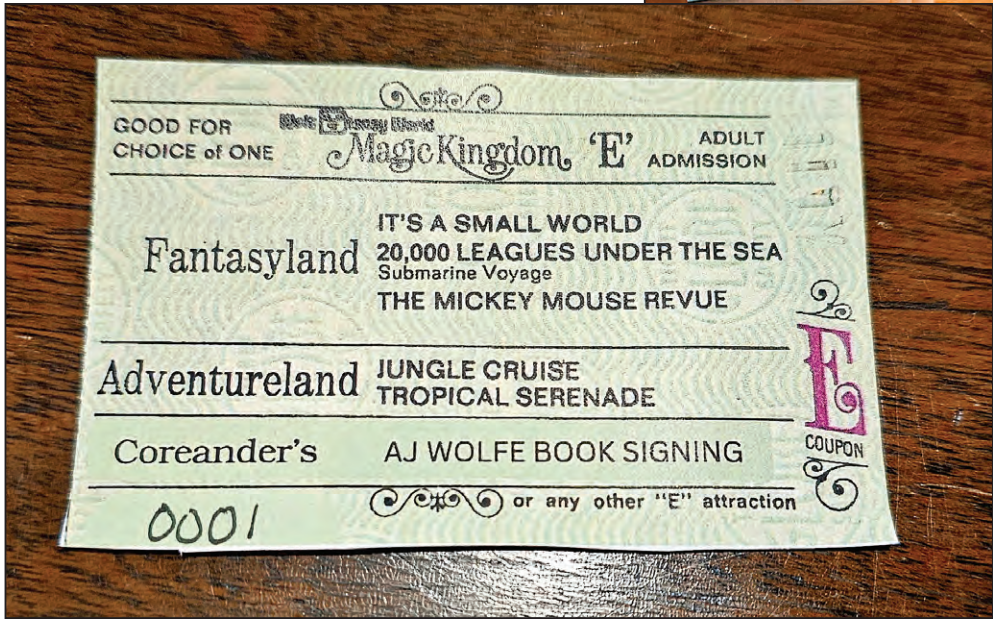
Author visit

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

New York Times best-selling author AJ Wolfe paid a visit to Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe Friday, Jan. 23. Coreander's hosted four sold-out book-signing sessions with more than 150 Disney adults and their children. The line started before she arrived and guests came from as close as Grosse Pointe and Windsor, and as far as Armada and Jackson. Wolfe paved the way for Disney bloggers and her book, "Disney Adults," is critical to people planning Disney vacations.



The author of "Disney Adult," AJ Wolfe.



Above, each guest received an eTicket at check-in holding their space in the queue while waiting to speak to the author. Just like the early days of Disney, when guests had a coupon book and the eTicket was used for the most popular rides, this eTicket was personalized to include the book signing with AJ Wolfe at Coreander's as a top-tier attraction for the day.



Joey Ewick was excited to meet author AJ Wolfe and they spoke about his time as a cast member at Disney. When Ewick was 18, he packed his car and, with \$300 and a dream, he drove to Disney and applied. He said he had the hardest and best interview he has ever had and ended up working at Disney seven years. He was an educator for Maharaja Jungle Trek and taught visitors about the animals in a walking tour.



Colleen Siegmund dressed the part, wearing her Mickey and Minnie Mouse ears, a Mickey Mouse shirt and a Tinkerbell backpack. Siegmund went to Disney with her parents when she was about 8 years old and has loved everything Disney ever since. After she got married, it took around 10 years to convince her husband about the fun one can have at Disney. After they went to Disney for his 60th birthday, he was hooked.



Eilene Barbacci and her daughter, Alexis, came to see AJ Wolfe and brought her a gift of Sanders' salted caramels. They wanted her to have something from Michigan, since the author is from Texas.

ANNIE

Continued from page 2C

she cheated on me several times during the early years of our marriage. At the time, I blamed myself. We were young, I felt responsible for providing for our growing family and I threw myself into work. I came from a broken home and my wife came from poverty. I was determined that neither of us would ever go through that again. Looking back, I think my long hours may have left her feeling lonely. After that, I made it my goal to spend all my free time with her and give her everything she

wanted. Most of the time, our life together is wonderful. But when she gets upset — sometimes over something small — she tells me she loves me but is no longer "in love" with me and threatens divorce. Then we make up, things return to normal and life feels good again — until the next disagreement, when divorce comes up once more. Recently, she has begun accusing me of wanting to be unfaithful, which hurts deeply. I have never stopped loving her and I don't want to live without her. Yet her words and accusations are tearing my heart apart, little by little. I feel trapped between loving her completely and being

hurt over and over again. — Still in Love

DEAR STILL IN LOVE: Threatening divorce every time she's unhappy is not an argument; it's a scare tactic. It keeps you apologizing, overcorrecting and walking on eggshells, while she holds your deepest fear over your head. That isn't how grown-ups solve problems and it isn't how a marriage survives with dignity. You are not foolish for loving your wife, but loving her does not mean tolerating emotional cruelty. The next time divorce comes up, don't panic and don't plead. Say calmly, "I love you, but I will not live under

constant threats." Counseling would help immensely. Love should make you feel steady, not afraid.

DEAR ANNIE: I am writing in response to "Hopelessly Rational," who is in love with someone she describes as "not a very logical man to love" and is questioning whether it's wise to be with him. After a 31-year marriage followed by four years of widowhood, I decided to take a chance on a man who, for most of my lifetime, I would have avoided at all costs. He was a recovering alcoholic and a military veteran who suffered from war-

related PTSD, both of which caused him to have a history of run-ins with the law and tendencies to be a risk-taker. I, on the other hand, had lived my life on the straight and narrow, following all the rules and generally being a goody two-shoes. Before his passing two years ago, we enjoyed a 14-year relationship (including an 11-year marriage), during which I often referred to us as "the most unlikely couple." Despite our very different histories, I believe that we enriched each other's lives in unexpected ways. I hope that "Hopelessly Rational" won't let overthinking prevent her

from a future life that might become unpredictably rewarding. — Twice a Widow

DEAR TWICE A WIDOW: Your story is a lovely reminder that love doesn't always arrive in sensible packaging — but it's worth noting that you chose a partner who had done the hard work of recovery and growth. Following your heart can be rewarding, but it's wisest when the person you choose can offer good judgment and emotional reliability, too.

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



I'll Be Right There
a film by Brendan Walsh

BRAINSTORM MEDIA AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH CITY BOY HANDS & TINY CASTLE FILMS PRODUCTION AN OPEN SWIM PRODUCTION AND A BIGGER BOAT PRODUCTION
"I'll Be Right There" EDIE FALCO JEANNIE BERLIN KAYLI CARTER CHARLIE TAHAN MICHAEL BEACH SEPIDEH MOAFI with MICHAEL RAPAPORT and BRADLEY WHITFORD
CALLEY BISSON REBECCA LUKE JAMES RICHTON ADAM PAUL ORTON AARON MEDICK EDIE FALCO JESSE EISENBERG SAMANTHA COZZA
ROSS MEYERSON & JULIE TUCKER BRENDAN WALSH BRADLEY J. ROSS PETER BLOCK CORY NEAL JIM BEGGARLY BRENDAN WALSH

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OPEN SWIM, A BIGGER BOAT AND (PRODUCED BY) TINY CASTLE FILMS.

Movie poster for the 2023 movie "I'll Be Right There," featuring Edie Falco as Wanda. Written by Jim Beggarly and directed by Brendan Walsh.

MOVIE REVIEW
"I'll Be Right There"
2023 - Not Rated
1 hr 38 min
★★★★☆

This is a perfect example of what indie films are all about. It features a number of great characters, smart dialogue, superb directing and editing, a modest budget and, of course, great performances from the leads. You can have your overproduced Hollywood blockbuster; I'll take a well-made film like this one any day of the week. "I'll Be Right There" is a character study. And what a character it's about. It stars Edie Falco, best known for her roles in "The Sopranos" and



Wanda played by Edie Falco.

the hit TV show, "Nurse Jackie." Here she plays Wanda, a helicopter mom that would be better described as a Black Hawk mom. She spends her days devoted to doing things not just for her family, but for her extended family as well. She's so focused on



Marshall played by Michael Rapaport.

them, it's almost exhausting witnessing how many times she comes to their rescue in the course of a typical day. The film was directed by Brendan Walsh, who worked with Ms. Falco on the hit TV series "Nurse Jackie." Writing credit goes to Jim Beggarly and the fine camerawork was handled by Aaron Medick. In addition to Falco, the cast includes several recognizable stars like Charlie Tahan, Michael Rapaport and Bradley Whitford. This is a slice-of-life, dialogue-driven film where Wanda puts the "fun" in dysfunctional



Sarah (Kayli Carter), Grace (Jeannie Berlin) and Wanda (Edie Falco) treating themselves to ice cream.



Sophie (Sepideh Moafi) with Wanda (Falco).



Grace (Jeannie Berlin) and Wanda (Falco) at the doctor.

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



family. She not only packs lunches for her grown kids who don't even live at home any longer, she looks after their every need. Her day begins with taking her mom, Grace (the delightfully wacky Jeannie Berlin), to the doctor's office where she's convinced she'll be told she has lung cancer and hasn't long to live. Well, the good news is she doesn't have cancer, but instead has leukemia. How is this good news? Well, she's in pretty decent physical shape so there's a good chance she won't suffer from the effects of the disease before she dies. She's so elated, she lights up a cigarette as soon as they leave the office, much to Wanda's dismay.

Then Wanda gets a panicky call from her daughter, Sarah (Kayli Carter). She's having a meltdown at the emergency room at the hospital.

Sarah's eight months pregnant and terrified the baby's dead because she hasn't felt it kick since the night before. She's sure that since she and her fiancée had sex, they killed their unborn child. Almost as soon as Wanda arrives, the baby starts kicking and everything's peachy keen and back to normal.

Well, that's just the second time of the day where Wanda's come to the rescue for her family. She's now late for an appointment with her son, Mark (Charlie Tahan), who's a recovering drug addict. In the session, it comes out that Mark has been lying to the therapist for the past six months. So the shrink tells him he's dropping him as a patient. You have to mess up pretty bad to have your therapist drop you. Mark is a total loser and can't even make his rent payments. Naturally, Wanda has been helping him out. He tells her he just got a job dog sitting, which doesn't turn out as planned.

But wait, there's more! She's visited by her ex, Henry (Bradly Witford), with his three children in tow. Obviously he's

remarried to a much younger woman, hence the younger brood. He has bad news for Wanda. Sarah has been dreaming of an extravagant wedding and Henry announces he doesn't have any money to help pay for it. When Wanda suggests he can sell his beloved classic convertible, it's a non-starter. Apparently, even though it's worth some major bucks, the East Coast market has been flooded lately with them and he couldn't get what it's worth. Not that he'd sell it anyway.

These events are just the tip of the iceberg of what Wanda goes through on a daily basis. Not only are her days taken up with helping family members, her nights are when she does her actual work work. She spends her evenings as a freelance bookkeeper, were she balances the books for various clients, which also happens to include her current beau, Marshall (Michael Rapaport). And he's got his share of problems as well.

Ultimately though, Wanda is perfectly happy looking after others. It's what keeps her going and gives meaning to her life.

I got a big kick out of this little gem of a film. I have to admit, I wasn't that familiar with Edie Falco's work. I'm probably one of a handful of people on the planet who's never seen either "The Sopranos" or "Nurse Jackie." So I really enjoyed her performance here. She played the doting mom absolutely perfectly. And I ask you, who hasn't had

a person like Wanda in their lives? I know I have! Note to parents: The film is not rated, but I'd probably rate it PG-13. Currently there are a bunch of streaming options. Watch for free on Kanopy (with your library card), Tubi and YouTube. Also on Prime Video, Fandango, Peacock, Plex and The Roku Channel and to rent on Prime, Apple TV and other streaming services.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually buy it!

If you have any movie suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com. Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkie.mark.blogspot.com.



A tender moment.



Wanda with an old high school pal Albert (Michael Beach).



Henry (Bradley Whitford) the ex.

Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY COMICS

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

Reg Smythe

Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

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

Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

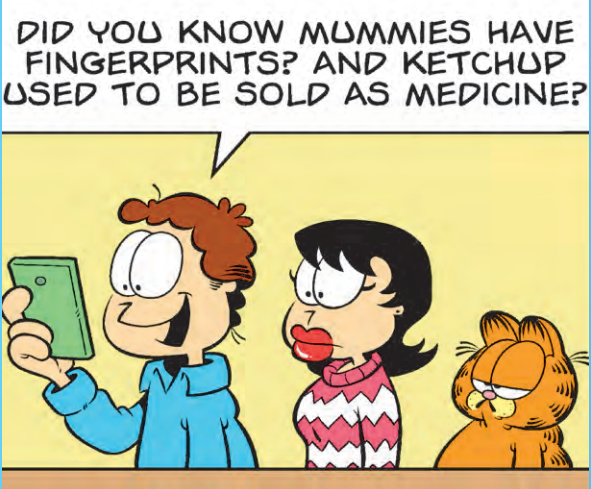
Grosse
Pointe
News

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



"Victoria eagerly awaits Rob's reaction to his new electric deodorant applicator."

Wizard of Id

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



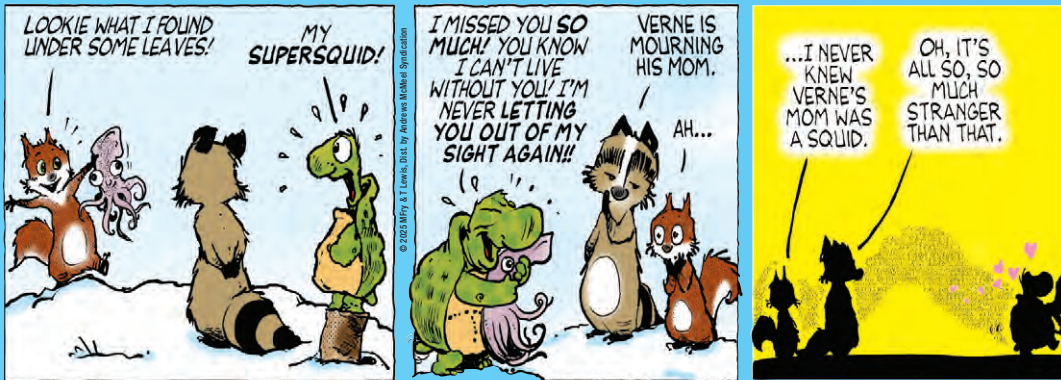
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



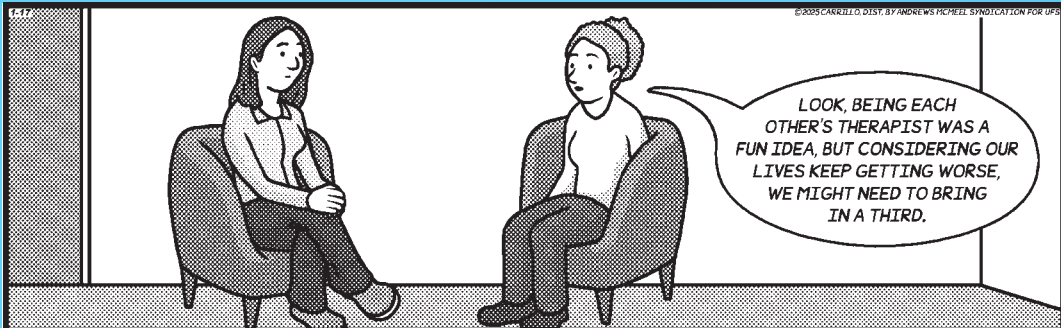
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



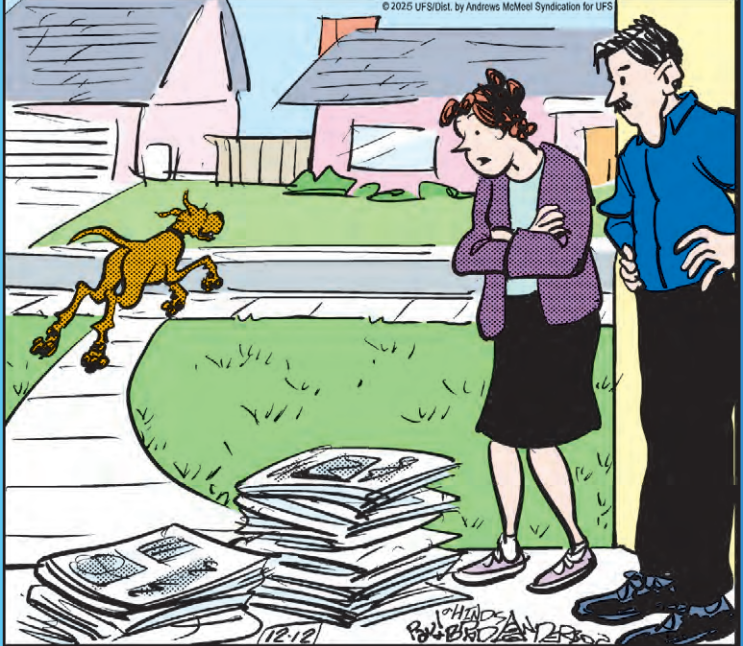
F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Today must be the day newspapers include dog food coupons."

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



"All present and accounted for! Four children and eight mittens!"



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PHOTO BY VADYM KOLESNIK

Zingas, Werenski bring Pointes pride in Milan

Grosse Pointe Farms native Emilea Zingas, left, and Grosse Pointe Woods' Zach Werenski pose together in front of the Olympic rings in Milan, Italy, as both athletes represented the United States at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. Werenski won a gold medal as part of the United States men's ice hockey team, recording an assist on the game-winning goal in overtime that propelled Team USA to a 2-1 victory over Canada Sunday, Feb. 22. Zingas and her ice dance partner, Vadym Kolesnik, finished fifth in the ice dance free dance competition Feb. 11.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

From figure skates to hockey skates, Owczarek does it all on ice for North

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The 2026 Olympic Winter Games captured the attention of the country over the last few weeks, and some of the events that seem to generate the most buzz are figure skating and ice hockey. While both sports involve ice skating, many might say they are pretty different, and it would be hard for an athlete to excel in both, but Grosse Pointe North senior Abby Owczarek would beg to differ.

Owczarek has spent years with the Grosse Pointe unified figure skating team, but decided as she wanted to shake

Grosse Pointe News



Abby Owczarek

School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Hockey and figure skating

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Sine & Monaghan Real Estate

things up a bit in her senior year. She took the ice this winter wearing a different pair of skates — along with pads, gloves, a helmet and a stick — as a member of North's var-

senior year, so I figured, why not try out a sport where I already have some experience on the ice? A lot of my family plays as well, so it just seemed like the right idea to try something new in my senior year."

Owczarek has been one of the most successful figure skaters in the Pointes in recent years. She has helped coach at the St. Clair Shores Figure Skating Club, and was one of three skaters

who represented the club at the U.S. Figure Skating Excel National Festival in Colorado last July.

The transition to hockey felt natural, and it was the thought of working together as a team with some of her best friends that really sold the idea.

There are a few other skaters who compete alongside Owczarek on the figure skating team; however, she often would take the ice alone in the sport. Now, Owczarek shares the ice with the North teammates with whom she has become close and who have helped bring her up to speed in the game of hockey.

"It's a great experience and environment with the whole team," she said. "We all get along really well, and it's definitely fun and a good team experience."

The impact that Owczarek has had on the Norsemen locker room in just one season has



COURTESY PHOTO

When the girls hockey season for North concludes, Abby Owczarek will return to competing with the Grosse Pointe unified figure skating team.

been clear to her team- mates and coaches. Even lead both on and off the as someone new to the ice.

game of hockey, Owczarek never seemed

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Excellence on Ice

- Member of Grosse Pointe North girls varsity hockey and GP Unified figure skating teams
- Recorded 8 points in 25 games in first varsity hockey season this winter
- Won Division 2 fastest skater competition at MGHSHL Showcase in January



SHANA SINE CAMERON

SHANASINECAMERON@GMAIL.COM



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

University Liggett’s Owen Delisle celebrates his goal in the second period of the Knights’ 3-2 victory over De La Salle Collegiate in the Division 3 regional semifinal round of the playoffs Friday, Feb. 20.

Double-OT win keeps Knights’ title hopes alive

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Overtime playoff hockey can be some of the most exciting action in all of sports. The University Liggett School boys varsity hockey team brought that excitement last Friday, Feb. 20, in the squad’s Division 3 regional semifinal play-off game against De La Salle Collegiate. It took

the Knights and Pilots two overtime periods to decide a winner, but Liggett had the decisive goal in double overtime go in its favor to win 3-2. “Everyone’s kind of playing above their game, and it showed toward the end,” Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said. “I thought we got out to a bit of a slow start, but once we came on, every-

one was going, and I thought that as the game went on, we got stronger and stronger.” Griffin Marchal helped give the Knights an early lead with a first-period goal, but De La Salle’s Zack Miller tied the game at one before the opening period ended. Owen Delisle helped Liggett regain the lead with a goal in the second period, and the Knights

took a 2-1 advantage into the final frame. The only goal of the third period came from Chris Pozios of the Pilots to tie the game at two with only a few minutes left in regulation. That goal sent the game to overtime, and the first overtime period passed without deciding a winner. Cam Stapleton ended up playing the hero for

the Knights when they needed it most. His goal in double overtime sealed the win for Liggett and kept the team’s hopes of playing for a state championship alive. “(Stapleton) has scored some big goals for us this year,” Smith said. “There haven’t always been a lot of them, but when he scores, they’re big ones.”

The win secured Liggett a spot in the Division 3 regional championship game. The Knights took on Cranbrook-Kingswood after press time Wednesday, Feb. 25. The winner of the regional championship will advance to the Division 3 state quarterfinal, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at Yack Arena in Wyandotte.



COURTESY PHOTO

Owczarek joined the girls varsity hockey team at North for her first high school hockey season as a senior this winter.

ATHLETE: *Continued from page 1D*

“Abby brought such a fun, unexpected spark to our team this year,” North girls hockey head coach Taylor Shaheen said. “She joined without any hockey experience, but you would never guess it watching her skate. She moves like it’s second nature because of her figure skating background.” “What’s been so impressive isn’t just her speed, it’s how quickly she’s learned the game and embraced being part of a team. She’s grown into a defenseman we rely on heavily, and that’s not easy to do in your first season. Watching her confidence as a hockey player build

has been really special to watch.” Owczarek recorded her first career point in just her third hockey game, back in November. She finished the regular season with eight points for North, not bad for someone who learned some of the fundamentals of the sport on the fly. Her abilities as a skater were never in doubt, either, as Owczarek won the Division 2 fastest skater competition at the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League (MGHSHL) Showcase in January. “I’ve gained a lot more confidence in my playing,” Owczarek said. “The skating skills came naturally because of figure skating, but I’ve gained a lot more confi-

dence in being in hockey skates and stickhandling and all of that. I’ve definitely improved a lot, and I think the main people to thank for that are my coaches and teammates for helping me in practices. I’ve gained a lot of confidence from them, playing games and just getting more experience.” The Norsemen are gearing up for the upcoming (MGHSHL) playoffs. Figure skating season for Owczarek resumes shortly after that. She will miss her hockey teammates when the season comes to an end, but Owczarek is ready to put some of the skills she learned from picking up hockey into her figure skating routines.

She came into the hockey season already an excellent skater, but there have been benefits to joining the hockey team as a figure skater that Owczarek may not have thought of at first. She believes her time with the Norsemen this hockey season has helped make her a better athlete overall, and that will translate perfectly to figure skating. “It’s been a big help already, I can already tell,” Owczarek said. “It’s kept up my endurance during the offseason of figure skating. It’s helped me develop my muscles more and led to me being able to do some high-level elements again. ... My skating has gotten faster and stronger. To be able to do hockey alongside (figure) skating has definitely helped a lot.”

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, meeting as the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 through 125.3702 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will consider a variance at 1050 N. Oxford Road (009-01-0059-000) in order to add an addition to an existing, non-conforming single-family residence. A variance is requested from Section 50-3.1.C: Rear Yard Setback:

A 28-foot rear yard setback is required.

A 14-foot, 9-inch rear yard setback is proposed.

A variance of 13-feet, 3-inches is requested.

The ZBA hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:00pm, at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236). The application is available for inspection at the City Clerk’s office between 8:30am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

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

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

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:02/26/26

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores,
A Michigan City

2026 BOARD OF REVIEW SESSIONS

The Assessments for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores in Wayne and Macomb County have been completed for 2026. The Board of Review will hear petitions on the following dates:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 1:00 P.M.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

795 LAKE SHORE RD.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026

1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Board will meet in the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building (first floor), 795 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. All property owners wishing to appeal their assessments must make an appointment or file a write-in appeal. Either appeal method must be accompanied by the petition form (L-4035) provided by the state of Michigan (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/l4035f_2658_7.pdf). Appointments may be made by calling 313-881-6565. **Petitions by mail must be received by the Board PRIOR to the last session (3/16/26) so they may be reviewed in a timely manner.** You may call 313-881-6565 for an appointment.

If there are any questions, please contact the Assessor’s Office at 313-881-6565 or email pbierzynski@gpshoresmi.gov.

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 2/19/26, 2/26/26, 3/5/26

South opens boys hoops playoffs with rivalry win over Norsemen

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The energy and intensity of the game is always heightened during play-offs, especially when the playoff game is between two rivals. The Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North varsity boys basketball teams met Monday, Feb. 23, with the season on the

line in the opening round of the Division 1 district playoffs. The energy was there for both teams at the beginning, but the Blue Devils dominated the second half on their way to a 70-45 win against the Norsemen. “We were prepared and we knew the first time that we played (North), they didn’t play very well, so I knew

Coach Rob (Johnson) would have them ready to go and they were,” South boys basketball head coach Stephen Benard said. “I knew they were going to have some fight in the first half and they for sure did. In the second half, we kind of blew it open.” Monday’s game was a tale of two halves. Both teams came out in the

first quarter trading blows. When one side made a shot, the other answered until the scoreboard was tied at 12 by the end of the opening frame. The momentum began tilting South’s way in the second quarter. The Blue Devils were able to pull ahead, but the game remained within single digits going into half-time with the score 27-20. Everything began going the Blue Devils’ way in the second half. South was able to heat up from behind the three-point line and began to pull away as the Norsemen were unable to keep up with the offensive pace. The lead grew to double digits, with South up 45-32, by the end of the third quarter. The fourth quarter saw the Blue Devils continuing to pull away. More shots kept falling as the lead expanded as South was on its way to a comfortable win by 25 points. “We were pushing it and getting to the paint, so they were putting some pressure up top,” Benard said. “When we could break that pressure and get to the paint area, it creates wide-open threes and we have



North’s Aidyn Brown, right, guards South’s Sam Conn in the corner.



South guard Kooper Richards drives toward the basket past North’s Cole Champine during South’s 70-45 playoff win over North Monday, Feb. 23.

PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

North girls basketball picks up key late wins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Every team wants to be playing its best when it’s late in the season and each game seems to matter more and more. The Grosse Pointe North varsity girls basketball team showed last week it might be reaching that level soon with three wins over five days, including a 53-47 win over Dakota Friday, Feb. 20, in the final MAC Red Division contest of the season. “I thought going into the week that if we won two (games), we would’ve had a really good week and we ended up winning three,” North girls basketball head coach Gary Bennett said. “... We’re



North sophomore Emma Barr sprints past two Dakota defenders while bringing the ball up the court in the Norsemen’s win over the Cougars Friday, Feb. 20.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

being more patient on offense and forcing the ball less than we did

earlier in the year. That’s where we’ve grown up a bit. ... I

thought we had some really good offensive possessions that showed

a lot of patience and trying to find the person who was the most open.” Last week started with a 45-25 victory over Imlay City Monday, Feb. 16. The Norsemen then squeaked out a narrow win, 46-44, against Port Huron Wednesday, Feb. 18, before their matchup against Dakota last Friday. North came out looking to be in control against Dakota right away. The Norsemen jumped to a 12-3 lead by the end of the first quarter and were able to grow their advantage to double digits before halftime, going into the break in front 29-15. The offensive patience and execution Bennett

mentioned continued to show in the third quarter, with North leading 43-28 by the end. Dakota was not going down without a fight, however. The Cougars were able to claw their way back into the game throughout the fourth quarter. Dakota outscored the Norsemen 19-10 in the final frame and reduced the deficit to just five points with around three minutes left to play. Dakota’s comeback fell just short though and the Norsemen hung on to win by six points. Senior Eva Borowski led the Norsemen with 15 points in the win. Sophomore guard

See NORTH, page 4D

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

2026 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The 2026 March Board of Review will convene in the City Hall at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

March 16, 2026 @ 1:00 PM

APPEAL HEARINGS

March 16, 2026 @ 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM

March 17, 2026 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2026 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Assessor’s Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer and done by a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor’s office. Written petitions must be received by the end of day Tuesday, March 17, 2026 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act”.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor’s Office at (313) 885-5800.

GPN: 02/26/26, 03/05/26, 03/12/26

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Losses send South and North home in boys hockey playoffs

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Playoff hockey has officially begun in Michigan as the MHSAA boys hockey playoff tournament began last week. Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North began their playoff journeys in their respective divisions during an exciting week of action, but both saw their hopes of deep playoff runs ended in the regional round.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils kicked off the postseason with a first-round win in the Division 2 regional tournament. South opened the playoffs against Allen Park Wednesday, Feb. 18, cruising to a 5-0 win to advance to the regional semifinal. Liam O’Donoghue scored his first goal of the night early to put South in front and the Blue Devils did not look back. Ben Sun and Charlie Wade helped build South’s lead to three goals in the second period. A goal by Charlie Bunn and another from O’Donoghue finished off the victory for the Blue Devils, with Avery Brooks notching the shutout in net. South moved on to the regional semifinal round, where it took on Dexter Saturday, Feb. 21. The Blue Devils fought hard to hang with the region’s top seed, but fell short



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South’s Charlie Thomas brings the puck out of the defensive zone against Dexter Saturday, Feb. 21.

with a 3-2 loss to the Dreadnaughts to end the season. “The guys responded so well when we talked about the playoff run we wanted to go on and were prepping for this run and building for it so well,” South boys hockey head coach Ben Warda said. “When it got to it, they performed and played our team game. I thought we dominated much of that game. ... We were snake-bit and couldn’t put the puck in the back of the net. I loved the

game our team brought strategically and from an energy standpoint. ... It was everything we could ask for as a coaching staff, but we just couldn’t get the result.” Two goals by Dexter’s Jeremy Schroeder put the Dreadnaughts ahead 2-0 in the first period. Ethan Zann helped create a huge momentum shift in favor of South with a goal in the final minute of the first period, cutting the deficit in half. The Blue Devils dominated much of the second

period. South put the pressure on Dexter in the offensive zone and finally broke through when O’Donoghue scored with just over 10 minutes left in the period to tie the game at 2-2. However, Jack Dubuque put Dexter back in front just a few moments later with what ultimately was the deciding goal. South had its share of chances to even the game in the third period, but an attempt at a comeback fell short. The loss ended South’s season with a final record

of 8-19-1. With a mostly young roster, the Blue Devils have plenty of players they expect to be back with the team next season, but the seniors on this year’s team are sure to have an impact on the program even after they played their final game in a South sweater. “The way they handled themselves and treated the younger players, it was such a good balance of leadership and respect,” Warda said. “Our guys were always together. The culture

changed and they were a huge part of that.” **Grosse Pointe North**
The Norsemen began playoff action Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the opening round of the Division 3 regional tournament. North was matched against Marysville in the opening round, where the season ended for the Norsemen with a 7-0 loss. North finished the season with a final record of 9-17-2. North’s team this season was largely made up of younger players, with only two seniors in the lineup. The Norsemen knew that there were some growing pains at times, but this season allowed for the opportunity to develop the team’s young talent and gain valuable experience for the future of the program. “They really figured out what it takes to come in and play high school hockey day in and day out,” North boys hockey head coach Rob Blum said. “We played some good teams at the end, and we were able to play with them. We may not have gotten the results we wanted, but we started to see kids do stuff on their own when they figured out what they needed to be doing on the ice...We’re only losing two seniors, so we have a lot of guys coming back and high expectations for next year.”

NORTH:

Continued from page 3D

Emma Barr also reached double digits with 12, and fellow sophomore Aaliyah Brown finished with 10 points.

Younger players like Barr and Brown make up the majority of North’s team this year. The Norsemen have just one senior and one junior, with a large sophomore class behind them. Even though the

Norsemen look young on paper, the experience and maturity they have gained on the court this season give North confidence it can compete with anyone in the upcoming postseason. “They’ve got quite a few games under their belt now,” Bennett said. “... A lot of times, the other team maybe has greater depth than us in terms of pure basketball talent and we’ve grown in the respect that I think we’re able to deal with certain situations better. We have the capability of playing some really good basketball. ... We’re a better basketball team than we were at this time last year and anything can happen.” North hosted Anchor Bay after press time Tuesday, Feb. 24. The team finishes the regular season at home



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

North’s Juliette Laurenceau battles against a pair of Dakota defenders.

Thursday, Feb. 26, hosting Warren Cousino at 7 p.m. Playoffs for the Norsemen begin

Monday, March 2, with the first round of the Division 1 district tournament. North will be matched up against

crosstown foe Grosse Pointe South to tip off the postseason, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Grosse Pointe South.

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City
795 Lake Shore Road
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236
313-881-6565

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, before the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council sitting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, Council Chambers at 795 Lake Shore Rd.

The petitioner at 79 Briarcliff is requesting the following:
A special land use request for solar panels

At the February 24, 2026, Planning Commission meeting, the Commission recommended to approve the petitioners’ request.

Plans for the proposed project are available for your viewing at the Office of the City Clerk, 795 Lake Shore Road, during normal business hours Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Courtney Smith,
City Clerk

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 2/26/26

City of **Grosse Pointe Park**, Michigan

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
2026 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of Grosse Pointe Park will be conducting the 2026 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Hall at 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Organizational Meeting
March 10, 2026 1:00 PM

Appeal Hearings
March 10, 2026 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 24, 2026 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. In person hearings are by appointment only and write in petitions will be accepted. **COMPLETED 2026 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS (L-4035 FORMS) ARE NECESSARY**, and must be filled out entirely prior to your appointment or petition drop off. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is by Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by a taxpayer representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor’s office. Written petitions must be received by the Assessor’s office end of day Tuesday, March 24, 2026 to be reviewed by the Board. **Postmarks are not accepted.** More information on Board of Review dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the city website.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act”. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor’s Office at (313) 822-6200.

GPN: 2/19/26, 2/26/26, 3/5/26

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

**PUBLIC NOTICE
2026 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will meet in the Conference Room at 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:			
Date	Day	Appointment Time	Petition
March 10, 2026	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 10, 2026	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
March 17, 2026	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	
March 24, 2026	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2026 Board of Review Petitions are required and must be submitted to the Board of Review upon arrival to your meeting. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in-person before the Board of Review is end of day Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Form 618 Petition to Board of Review L-4035. The Petition is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search Treasury - Forms [618]. Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper. All board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act.” If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor’s Office at 313.343.2452

G.P.N.: Publishing Dates
2/19/26, 2/26/26, 3/5/26

Eric Dunlap
City Assessor

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Grosse Pointe News

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HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it’s games, meets or matches, school winter sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the action. Some of the week’s biggest hits and highlights from include:



COURTESY PHOTO

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EVALUATIONS:
SATURDAY, MARCH 7

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SOUTH BEND BOUND

Grosse Pointe Shores native Don Jeidus DeSeranno — joined by parents Don and Cori DeSeranno and siblings Leander, Maveri, Seren, Odin and Vadin — recently signed his letter to join the men’s fencing program at the University of Notre Dame.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH 2026 SOFTBALL CLINIC

Saturday, March 14th
9:00am – 12:00pm

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

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

Scan the QR code below to complete the registration form OR print and complete the form on page 2 and return to Coach Fleming



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SOUTH SOFTBALL CLINIC

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

